KUMBH
MELA 2013
PRAYAG, ALLAHABAD

Uttar Pradesh
Amazing Heritage Grand Experiences
UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM

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the faith

THE KUMBH MELA 2013

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कलशस्य मुखे विष्णुः, कण्ठे रूद्रः समाश्रितः
मूले त्वस्य स्थितो ब्रह्मा, मध्ये मातृगणाः स्मृताः
कुक्षौ तु सागराः सर्वे, सप्तद्वीपा वसुन्धरा
ऋग्वेदोऽथ यजुर्वेदः, सामवेदो ह्यथर्वणः
अंगैश्च सहिताः सर्वे, कलशन्तु समाश्रिताः

Uttar Pradesh

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|| Kalashasya mukhevishnuh kanthe rudrah samaashritah ||

|| Muletvasya sthitobrahmaa madhye maatah ganaah sthitaah ||

|| kukshautusaagaraasarvesaptadvipaavasundharaa ||

|| Hrigvedo yajurvedosaamavedohayatharvanah ||

|| angaishcasahitaah sarvekalashantusamaashritaah ||

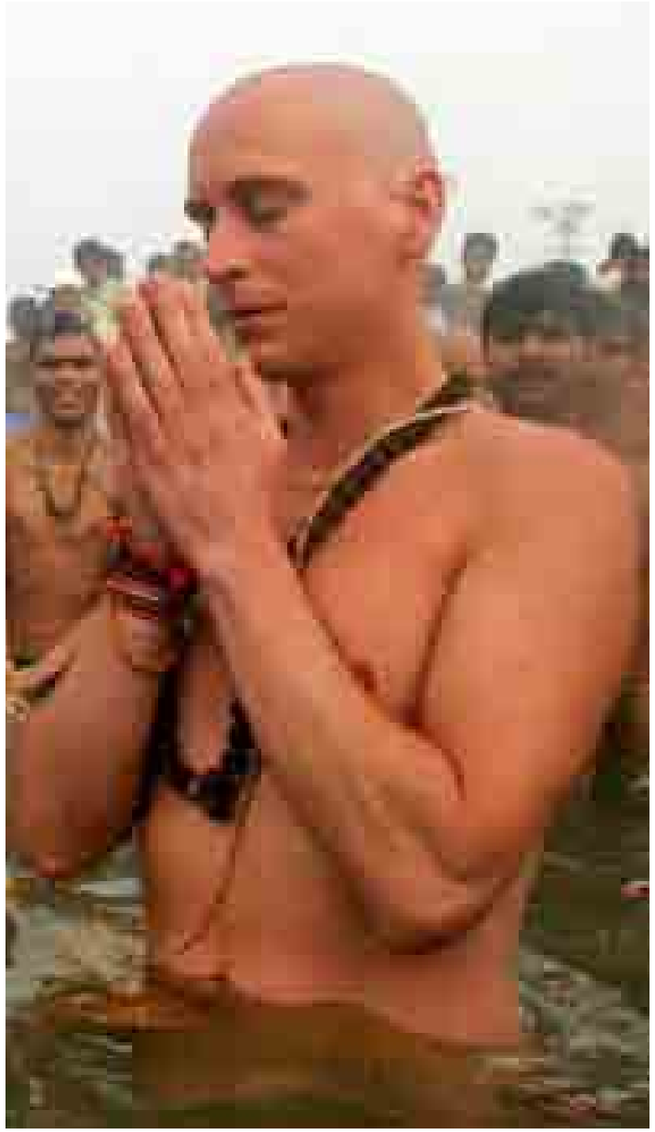
This Sanskrit sloka tell us that the trinity of gods – Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the sustainer and Shiva the destroyer– in addition to all the Goddesses, Mother Earth with her seven islands, and all knowledge in the form of the Rigveda, Yajur-Veda, Sama-Veda and Atharva-Veda exist in Kumbha. Thus, Kumbha is the symbol of all that is, and all that exists. The Kumbha Mela is a celebration, a festival of the glory of Kumbha. It is, therefore, a celebration of all knowledge and all life.

Kumbha Mela symbolises divinity and knowledge. In mythology, the 'Kumbha' or pot of nectar was churned from the ocean and meant for distribution – not hoarding. Likewise the nectar of knowledge and spirituality must be churned from within us and shared with humanity.
In keeping with that philosophy, the holy occasion is aptly named Kumbh Mela

The Purna (complete) Kumbh takes place every twelve years, at four places Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik. The Maha (great) Kumbh Mela which comes after 12 'Purna Kumbh Melas', or 144 years, is held at Allahabad.

Kumbh is enthralling as it is witness to the largest human gathering in history for a similar cause on a single day irrespective of any worldly barriers of caste, creed, colour and religion. It is a once in a lifetime experience seeing millions of pilgrims and tourists from all over the world come together for spirituality and salvation .

This festival is held in highest regard as the ritual bath in the sacred water on this day saturated with flower & incense amidst chanting of Vedic hymns and mantras liberates one from all suffering and miseries of life. The Kumbh Mela is considered the greatest religious concourse in the world. On this occasion countless pilgrims from every nook and corner of the land, speaking different languages and dialects, wearing distinctive sectarian marks, observing varying manners and customs meet together for a holy dip in the sacred waters of river Ganga and Godavari. It is believed that bathing on the auspicious days cleanses one of all sins and paves the way for Moksha (meaning liberation from the cycle of Life, Death and Rebirth).



THE SAGA

The early evidence of the Kumbh Mela can be found in the accounts of Chinese traveler, Huan Tsang or Xuanzang (602 - 664 A.D.) who visited India in 629 -645 CE, during the reign of King Harshavardhana. However, similar observances date back many centuries, where the river festivals first started getting organised. According to medieval Hindu theology, its origin is found in one of the most popular medieval puranas, the Bhagavata Purana. The Samudra manthan episode (Churning of the ocean of milk), is mentioned in the Bhagavata Purana, Vishnu Purana, the Mahabharata, and the Ramayana.

The account goes that the Devas (demigods) had lost their strength by the curse of Durväsä Muni, and to regain it, they approach Lord Brahma and Lord Shiva who directed all Devas (demigods) to Lord Vishnu. He instructed them to churning the ocean of milk Ksheera Sagara for amrita (the nectar of immortality). This required them to make a temporary agreement with their arch enemies, the demons or Asuras, to work together with a promise of sharing the wealth equally thereafter. However, when the Kumbha (urn) containing the amrita appeared, a fight ensued. For twelve days and twelve nights (equivalent to twelve human years) the Gods and Demons fought in the sky for the pot of amrita. It is believed that during the battle, Lord Vishnu (Incarnate as Mohini-Mürti) flew away with the Kumbh of elixir spilling drops of amrita at four places: Allahabad, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nashik.

Since then, when the planets align in the same position, pilgrims and devotees converge to commemorate this divine event. Purna (Full) Kumbh Mela takes place every three years in rotation in the four sacred places. Therefore Kumbh Mela in each location takes place every twelfth year.

THE TIMING

Kumbh Mela is celebrated at different locations depending on the position of the planet of B□haspati (Jupiter) and the sun. When Jupiter and the sun are in the zodiac sign Leo (Simha Rashi) it is held in Trimbakeshwar, Nashik; when the sun is in Aries (Mesha Rashi) it is celebrated at Haridwar; when Jupiter is in Taurus (Vrishabha Rashi) and the sun is in Capricorn (Makar Rashi) Kumbha Mela is celebrated at Prayag; and Jupiter and the sun are in Scorpio (Vrishchik Rashi) the Mela is celebrated at Ujjain. Each site's celebration dates are calculated in advance according to a special combination of zodiacal positions of Sun, Moon, and Jupiter.

Every transition in the planetary movements defines the times scale and is, therefore, observed as "parva" in the Hindu customs. As these changes in the planetary configurations give rise to the cycle of season, they also affect human life. Ancient Indian seers have studied all these effects, and customs are set in accordance the natural phenomena and their effects on our life.

A "parva" in Sanskrit, literally means a bridge connecting a time-gap. Every planetary movement is cyclic and its completion creates a new division on the timescale. Such cosmic transitions are regularly observed with the Hindu rituals and festivals. Rituals also have their mythological connections and spiritual connotations.

Jupiter takes about 11 years, 10 months and 14 days to complete its revolution around the sun; it comes back to any specific position on its orbit on completion of nearly 12 years. Thus all these planetary configurations are repeated every 12th year and, thus, Kumbh Mela also comes after the same interval.

The mythological story of the appearance of Amrit (Nectar of life) from the churning of the ocean is related with the occurrence of Kumbh Mela and has a ritualistic importance. The spiritual symbolism is significant. Sun and Moon respectively stand for human rational intellect and mind.

Known as "Guru" in Sanskrit, Jupiter is the spiritual master. When the sun (rational Intellect) having definite relation with Jupiter (Guru) guides the moon (human mind), the result is the realization of the immortality (Amrit) of self. Therefore, the Indian tradition gives importance of being at specific places, having a dip in the river, performing religious rituals and attending spiritual discourses during the Kumbh Mela.

THE AMBIENCE

Chiming of bells, perfume of incense, fragrance of flowers, chanting of Vedic hymns, throb of drums, parade of horses, camels, and elephants, processions of naga (naked) sadhus from different akhadas (orders) in their gold and silver chariots pulled by devotees – The Kumbh mela, is saturated in spirituality.
The Mela is a blend of religious and cultural activities - discussions, devotional singing, mass feeding of holy men and women and the poor, and religious assemblies where doctrines are debated, dance dramas depicting the vagary of man and God, beautiful tableaus.

Kumbh Fair is an once-in-a-lifetime experience. The aroma from food stalls merge with the scent of attars. The cry of hawkers calling their wares blend with the music of bhajans. The saffron, the white, the ash smeared bodies of sadhus and yogis mingle with the profusion of colours of the mela. The native devotees, the curious tourists, the seekers and the faithful bound together by the exotic uniqueness.

To witness the procession of holy men and women on chariots, horses, elephants, camels, and palanquins is not only awe inspiring but also blissful as palpable spirituality and shakti (energy) pervade the atmosphere. Devotees await the darshan and blessings of yogis who come out of their retreats only once in 12 years. While the parade of saints marches towards the Ganges River, the sounds defy description -- the shouts and cries of sadhus mingle with the neighing of horses, trumpeting of elephants, grunting of camels, bellowing of bulls. Gongs and drums beat, trumpets blare, conch shells blow and bells ring. In the midst of this cacophony, musicians and dancers perform.

The Kumbh Mela is pure enchantment for the soul.

THE HOLY BATH

The essence of the Kumbh Mela is for pilgrims to bathe at certain sacred spots on certain auspicious days. Holy Snan or bathing in the river Ganges is of great importance. It is believed that it washes away all the sins and the cycle of rebirth and death ends as the soul becomes one with the Almighty.
Some of the bathing days are designated "royal." On all the major bathing dates, the naga sadhus (naked mendicants) will parade and bathe.

On the main bathing dates at sunrise there is magnificent procession of saints. As the saints pass, they impart blessings to people who flank their path. The saints take a dip (shahi snan) in the Holy River Ganges. This takes place according to tradition, each group proceeding to the river and then bathing in a particular sequence. It is only after all these groups of holy people have bathed, that other people will take their turn to bathe in the Ganges.

Main Bathing Dates in Allahabad, 2013:

Paush Purnima

January 27, 2013

The full moon in the Hindu month of Paush. This is the last full moon of winter.

Ekadashi Snan

February 6, 2013

Ekadashi is the eleventh lunar day (Tithi) of the shukla (bright) or krishna (dark) paksha (fortnight) of every lunar month in the Hindu calendar (Panchang). It is considered a spiritually beneficial day.

Mauni Amavasya Snan

February 10, 2013

This is "New Moon of the Saints." For the holy men and women this is their main bathing day. It is also a day when new members to various holy monastic orders receive their first initiation. More than fifty million people will bathe on this day.

Basant Panchami Snan

February 15, 2013

This is the fifth day of the bright half of the lunar month and is the beginning of spring in North India. It is day when people pray for a good harvest.

Rath Saptami Snan

February 17, 2013

Ratha Saptami is a highly auspicious day dedicated to Lord Surya, the Sun God in Hinduism. Lord Surya, riding a chariot driven by seven horses, is worshipped on this day. Rath Saptami festival is observed on the seventh day of Shukla Paksha in the Magh Month (January - February) in traditional Hindu calendar.

Bhishma Ekadasi Snan

February 18, 2013

It is believed that the Vishnu Sahasranama Stothram (thousand names dedicated to Lord Vishnu) was revealed to the Pandavas on this day by Bhisma, who was lying in a bed of arrows after the Great War in Mahabharata. On this day Bhishma Pithamaha, the oldest, wisest, most powerful, and most righteous person belonging to the Kuru dynasty (approx. over 5000 years ago), narrated the greatness of Lord Krishna through Sri Vishnu Sahasranama to Yudhishtira, the oldest brother of Pandavas.

Maghi Purnima Snan

February 25, 2013

This is the full moon in the month of Magha (January - February). Winter is a memory and the moon shines over the two holy rivers.

Maha Shivratri Snan

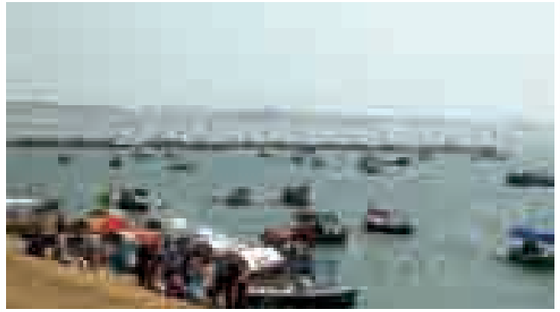
March 10, 2013

A Hindu festival, also known as padmarajarathri celebrated every year in reverence of Lord Shiva. It occurs on the 14th night of the new moon during the dark half of the month of Phalguna (February—March). It falls on a moonless February night, when Hindus offer special prayer to the lord of destruction. Shivratri is the night when he is said to have performed the Tandava Nritya or the dance of primordial creation, preservation and destruction. The festival is observed for one day and one night only.

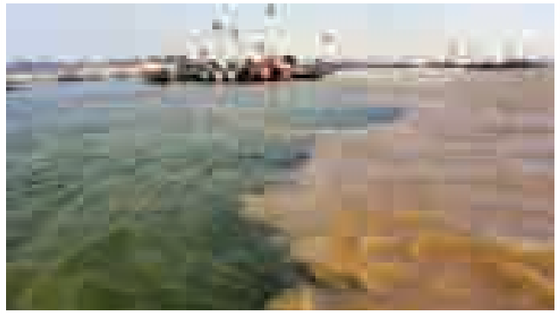
ALLAHABAD

Also known as the city of God, Allahabad, in Persian means Settled by God. It is for this reason, that it has been innumerably mentioned in the ancient Hindu texts. The history of the place, both mythological and factual, makes it one of the most fascinating and among the main holy Indian cities, special to Hindus in India and abroad. According to the mythological history, when Lord Brahma was done with creating the world, he offered his first prayer here. Hence the justification of its ancient name Prayag, meaning Place of Oblation. The place also has a special significance according to the Hindu scriptures for holding the confluence of three of the most sacred rivers of India: Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati at Triveni Sangam, which becomes the nucleus of all celebrations of Kumbh Mela.

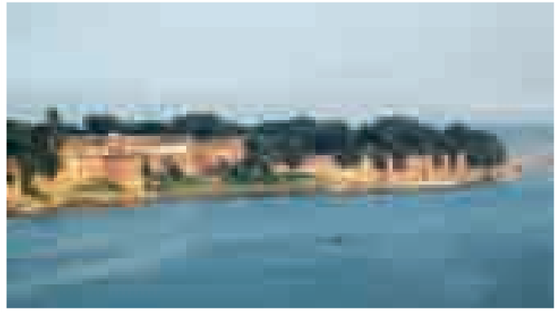
Apart from being a part of the awe-inspiring Kumbh Mela, where you will be able to witness the Hindu culture and religion at its best; you will also be able to visit the various tourist attractions in and around the city. Allahabad, the second oldest city in India is replete with an enriching history from the mythological times to Mauryan and Gupta Empires to the Mughal Empire.



Sangam



Distinct Colours of Ganga & Yamuna



Allahabad Fort

ALLAHABAD - Places of Interest :

SANGAM
The famous confluence of the divine Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers at Allahabad is known as Sangam and has been a major attraction for pilgrims from the ancient times. The water of the two rivers is of different colours and their meeting point is distinctly visible. The mega fairs of Magh Mela, Ardh Kumbh and Kumbh are held on the banks of Sangam. Boats are available on hire to reach the Sangam. The evening Arti at the bank of Sangam is worth seeing.

ALLAHABAD FORT
The massive fort, built by Emperor Akbar in 1583 A.D. on the bank of the Yamuna, close to the Sangam, is presently used by the Army and only a limited area is open to visitors. The magnificent outer wall of the fort is intact and rises above the water's edge. Inside the fort there are revered unique Akshayavat or immortal Banyan tree, a 10.6 metre-high polished sandstone Ashokan Pillar - dating back to 232 B.C., having several rare edicts, the Saraswati Koop, the Palace of Jodhabai etc. Permission is needed from the Commandant, Ordnance Depot, Fort to visit these places.

PATALPURI TEMPLE
This underground temple, situated in the outer part of the fort, houses old icons of deities.

LORD HANUMAN TEMPLE (Bade Hanumanji)
Near the Sangam, this much revered temple is unique for its huge supine idol of Lord Hanuman, a few feet below the ground. The temple is widely known as Bade Hanumanji. When the Ganga is in spate, this temple gets submerged.

SHANKAR VIMAN MANDAPAM
Near the Fort and Lord Hanuman temple at the bund area, this 130 ft. high temple with four floors built in South Indian style, has the idols of Kumaril Bhatt, Jagatguru Adi Shankaracharya, Kamakshi Devi (with 51 Shaktipeeths around), Tirupati Balaji (with 108 Vishnus around) and Yogshastra Sahasrayoga Linga (having 108 Shivas around).

The temple is surrounded by many other temples, such as Shri Ramanandacharya Math, Laxmi-Narayan Temple, Radha-Krishna-Gopal Temple, Triveni Temple, Jagdish Bhagwan Temple, Gaddi Surdas, Deverha Baba Sevashram, Gaddi Kankardasji, Shri Dattatreyaji Temple, Ram Janki Temple, Handia Baba Ashram, Gangaji Temple, Shri Kaliji Temple etc.

SARASWATI GHAT-NEHRU GHAT
Saraswati Ghat, on the bank of river Yamuna, is an old ghat while nearby modern Nehru Ghat is an ideal picnic spot which is under the control of Army. The boats for Sangam are available here also.

MANKAMESHVAR TEMPLE
This ancient Lord Shiva Temple is picturesquely located near Saraswati Ghat on the bank of Yamuna.

MADAN MOHAN MALVIYA PARK (MINTO PARK)
The park is situated near the Mankameshwar Temple. In it stands a white stone memorial with a four-lion symbol on top. On November 1, 1858 the famous declaration of Queen Victoria was read here by Lord Canning.

BOAT CLUB / WATER SPORTS COMPLEX
The Boat Club-Water Sports Complex, situated in between the new hanging Yamuna bridge and UPSTDC Hotel Triveni Darshan at the Yamuna bank road, is a major site for the adventurous water sports activities. Here, the deep depth and long straight stretch of river Yamuna is most ideal for the water sports activities. The facilities available here are Scuba Diving, Water Scooter, Paddle-Canoe & Kayak-Motor-Speed Boats, Para Sailing etc. The both banks of the river and hanging bridge over the river provide a natural and massive spectator's gallery. One can also go to the Sangam by Motor Boat from here.

Bade Hanumanji & Shankar Viman Mandapam

Mankameshwar Temple

Madan Mohan Malviya Park

Bhishmapitamah Temple

Veni Madhav Temple

Alopi Devi Temple

ALLAHABAD - Places of Interest :

NAGVASUKI TEMPLE
BHISHMAPITAMAH TEMPLE
This famous temple in Daraganj locality, on the bank of the Ganga, is dedicated to Nagraj Vasuki. On Nag Panchami devotees come here in large numbers Adjacent to the temple is a unique big statue of Bhishmapitamah in reclining posture.

VENI MADHAV TEMPLE
As per scriptures, there are twelve Madhava deities at different places in Allahabad. Veni Madhava Temple in Daraganj is one among them. It is an old Lakshmi-Narayan Temple which, according to belief, was visited by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Nearby are Lord Nrisingh, Jagannath and Shiva Temples.

DASHASHWAMEDHA TEMPLE
It is one of the revered places of city situated on the bank of Ganga (Dashashwamedha Ghat) in Daraganj. It is said that Lord Brahma had performed Ashwamedha Yajna here. Dashashwamedheshwar Mahadev-Shiva linga, idols of Nandi, Sheshnag and a big Trishul (trident) are enshrined in the temple. A marble slab bearing the image of a footprint in memory of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is also installed here. Nearby are the temples of Goddess Annapoorna, Lord Hanuman and Lord Ganesh.

SANKATMOCHAN HANUMAN TEMPLE
In Daraganj locality, on the bank of the Ganga, is the Sankatmochan Hanuman Temple. It is said that Saint Samarth Guru Ramdasji had established the idol of Lord Hanuman here. The idols of Shiva-Parvati, Ganesh, Bhairav, Durga, Kali and Navgrah are also enshrined in the premises of the temple. Nearby are Shri Ram-Janki temple and Harit Madhava temple.

ALOPI DEVI TEMPLE
Situated in front of the Shankaracharya Ashram in Alopibagh locality, this Siddhapeeth is unique in the sense that a wooden Jhula (swing) above a platform with a small Kund is worshiped. Both the Kund and Jhoola hold religious significance for the devotees who throng here.

ROOP GAURIYA MATH
In Tularambagh locality, it was established in 1929 by Bhakti Siddhant Saraswati Prabhupadaji. The founder of ISKCON, Shri A.C. Bhaktivedanta Maharaj got Deeksha here. The idols of Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Shri Radha-Krishna, Shiva and Goddess Annapoorna are enshrined here. Nearby is ancient Kal Bhairav Temple.

BHARAT SEVASHRAM SANGH
Also in Tularambagh, it was established in 1930 by Swami Pranavanandji Maharaj. Evening Pushpa-Shashtra Arti on Sundays is worth seeing.

CHITRAGUPTA TEMPLE
This temple, near K.P. Inter College, is dedicated to Lord Chitragupta. In front of the temple is Swami Narayan Temple.

LORD HANUMAN TEMPLE
It is one of the famous temples of the city in Rambagh area.

NAVGRAH TEMPLE
This novel and beautiful temple, in Rambagh locality, houses the temples of Navgrah, Khatu Shayam and Ram-Janki.

BHARADWAJ ASHRAM
Associated with Sage Bharadwaj, it is a renowned religious place. During the time of Sage Bharadwaj it was famous as an educational centre. It is believed that Lord Rama visited this place with mother Sita and Lakshmanji while proceeding to Chitrakoot during his exile. At present there are temples of Bharadwajeshwar Mahadeva, Sage Bharadwaj, Teertharaj Prayag and Goddess Kali etc. Nearby is the beautiful Bharadwaj Park.

Roop Gauriya Math

Bharat Sevashram Sangh

Bharadwaj Ashram

Swaraj Bhawan

Anand Bhawan

Jawahar Planetarium

ALLAHABAD - Places of Interest :

SWARAJ BHAWAN / ANAND BHAWAN
PLANETARIUM
Situated right opposite Bharadwaj Ashram. In 1930, Pt. Motilal Nehru donated Swaraj Bhawan to the nation, to be used as the headquarters of the Congress Committee. Former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi was born here. Now it houses a museum.

Adjacent is Anand Bhawan, which was the ancestral home of the Nehru family. Today, it has been turned into a fine museum. Many momentous decisions and events related to the freedom struggle took place here.

Next to Anand Bhawan is Jawahar Planetarium that takes one on a celestial journey which makes the eyes twinkle like stars.

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
In the year 1881, this society was established in Allahabad. Later on in 1936 the Annie Besant Library was formed by the society at Lowther Road-Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Statue Crossing where at present the Head Office of the society's Allahabad branch is situated.

UNIVERSITY
Allahabad University, established in 1887, has been a reputed centre of learning. Its science faculty, once known as Muir Central College, has a magnificent building. It has an arcaded quadrangle which is dominated by a 200 ft. minaret tower in cream coloured sandstone from Mirzapur with marbel and mosaic floors. The domes of the Indo-Saracenic structure are clad in Multan glazed tiles. This building was also associated with the Legislative Council meetings in its early years, three of which were held here. The Arts Faculty is also situated nearby. Its buildings, built between 1910 to 1915, are fine examples of architecture. Nearby is the place were Rudyard Kipling stayed during 1888-89.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
This rich museum is run by the Department of Ancient History, Culture and Archaeology within the premises of Allahabad University. Antique articles, fossils, statues, echo museum and excavation works of Kaushambi & Belan Ghati are major attractions here.

CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD PARK
This beautiful park, a walkers' favourite spread over a vast area, is dedicated to great martyr Chandra Shekhar Azad who laid down his life fighting British forces here. His statue has been installed in the park. Nearby are G.N. Jha research Institute and the publication centre from where renowned Hindi magazines - 'Saraswati', 'Balsakha' were once published.

MUSEUM
Located at the edge of the Chandra Shekhar Azad Park, this museum was established in 1931. It has an excellent collection of terra cotta artefacts and other rare articles. The valuable collections of the museum include the famed pistol of Chandra Shekhar Azad, the vehicle that carried Mahatma Gandhi's ashes to Sangam, manuscripts-books-citations donated by Pt. J.L. Nehru.

PUBLIC LIBRARY
Within the Chandra Shekhar Azad Park premises, this is the oldest library of the city. It houses a large number of rare books, manuscripts and journals. This library was established in 1864 at the Chaitham Lines area. After the construction of the present building in 1878, the library was shifted there.

This imposing building has been associated with another glorious chapter. The first Legislative Council of the State organized its first meeting in this building on January 8, 1887. Fourteen Council meeting were held here. Constructed in the memory of Lord Thornhill and Mayne (then commissioner & collector, respectively), this building is a beautiful example of Gothic architecture.

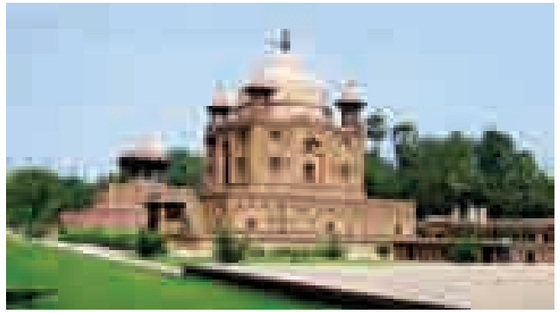
University

Chandra Shekhar Azad Park

Public Library

All Saints' Cathedral

High Court



Khusrobagh

ALLAHABAD - Places of Interest :

HANUMAT NIKETAN TEMPLE
In civil Lines area, this well known temple houses fine idols of Lord Hanuman, Lord Ram-Sita-Lakshman, Goddess Durga, Saraswati. Shiva lingas, a library and Vyaymshala.

SPORTS COMPLEX
Once known as Mayo Memorial Hall, the Sports complex has a very attractive building, built in 1879 with red bricks and a 180ft. high tower. Seventeen Legislative Council meetings were held in this building in its early period.

ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL
This magnificent Cathedral is near the Allahabad Junction Railway Station. It was designed by William Emerson in 1870 and is one of the finest Anglican Cathedrals in Asia. Built in the 13th century Gothic style, its stained glass panels and impressive marble altar are extremely beautiful. The Cathedral is also famous as Patthar Girja.

HIGH COURT
The high court was transferred from Agra to Allahabad in 1869. Located in an imposing stone building built in 1916, its Chief Justice's Court room is the biggest of all the High Courts in India.

KHUSROBAGH
Khusrobagh is a walled historical garden spread over in large area. Its grand gates, high stone walls, artistic monuments and greenery are worth seeing. Within the premises are located the tombs of Prince Khusro, the eldest son of Emperor Jahangir and his mother Shah Begum. It was also associated with the freedom struggle of India.

KALYANI DEVI TEMPLE
The temple, in Kalyani Devi locality, has great significance among the devotees. The Bhairav Temple, Khemamai Temple, Atri Ashram, Batuk Bhairav Temple etc. are other nearby attractions.

LALITA DEVI TEMPLE
It is a prominent Siddhapeeth in Meerapur locality dedicated to Goddess Lalita. Nearby are Takshakeshwar Mahadev and Bargadghat.

GURUDWARA PAKKI SANGAT
Situated in Ahiyapur-Malviyanagar locality, this much revered Gurudwara has been constructed to commemorate the visit of Guru Teg Bahadur ji who came here in 1666 and stayed for several months.

DIARA SHAH AJMAL
Allahabad is also famous for its ancient Khan Kahs and Diaras, the holy places related with Sufi saints, situated at the different places of the city. The Diara Shah Ajmal (1713) near the Kotwali and other Diaras situated at Kydganj, Bahadurganj, Himmatganj, Rani Mandi, Chak localities etc. are among them. There are many Imambaras also in the different areas of the city. Near to Diara Shah Ajmal are Jama Masjid, Chowk Church, Clock Tower etc.

SHIV KOTI TEMPLE - NARAYAN ASHRAM - NEPALI TEMPLE
Shivkoti Temples, on the bank of Ganga, has great religious significance. It is said that Lord Rama had visited here. The Narayan Ashram, situated nearby, is unique place as it is managed by the female saints. Not for away is the Nepali Temple or Shiv Kachehari which houses 108 Shiv Lingas.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS
Hatkeshwar Nath Temple, Kali Bari, Rishabh Dev Shwetamber Temple, Digamber Jain Temple, Sindhia's Veni Madhav Temple, Nimbark Ashram, Lord Ayappa Temple, ISCON Temple, Ganga Gallery, etc.

Gurudwara Pakki Sangat

Diara Shah Ajmal

Shiv Koti Temple

EXCURSIONS

JHUNSI	09km
ARAIL	11km
SHRINGAVERPUR	40km
SITAMARHI	57km
KAUSHAMBI	60km
KARA DHAM	57km
PADILA MAHADEV TEMPLE	16km
SHRI KRISHNA TEMPLE	52km
BELHA DEVI TEMPLE	60km
GARHWA FORT / BHITA / SUJHAVANDEV TEMPLE / MANKAMESHWAR TEMPLE / MASURIAN DEVI TEMPLE	55km
VINDHYACHAL SHAKTIPEETH	90km
VARANASI	125km
CHUNAR	128km
CHITRAKOOT	137km
AYODHYA	167km

INFORMATION

Area	:	5487 sq.km.
Population	:	5959798 (2011 Census)
Altitude	:	98 mtrs. above sea level
Season	:	November-March
Clothing (Summer)	:	Cottons
(Winter)	:	Woollens
Language	:	Hindi, Urdu, English
Local Transport	:	Taxi/Bus/Rickshaw
STD Code	:	0532
Festivals	:	Magh Mela (every year, Jan.-Feb.), Ardh Kumbh Mela (every 6th year), Kumbh Mela (every 12th year), Dussehra-Ram Dal (Sept.-Oct.), Water Sports Festival (Nov./Feb.)

ACCESSIBILITY

AIR
Nearest airport is Bamrauli-16 km, daily flight for Delhi is available. Another nearest airport is at Babatpur, Varanasi-147 km.

RAIL
Allahabad is well connected by trains with all major cities of India.

ROAD
National Highways 2 and 27 connect Allahabad to all other parts of the country. Some important road distances are : Vindhyachal-93 km, Varanasi-125 km, Chunar-125 km, Sarnath-135 km, Chitrakoot-137 km, Ayodhya-167 km, Kanpur-193 km, Lucknow-204 km, Bithoor-215 km, Khajuraho-294 km, Naimisharanya-298 km, Patna-368 km, Jhansi-375 km,
Agra-433 km, Bhopal-680 km.

IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS

Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Sammelan Marg Tel. :2564191, 2564193
Hindustani Academi, 12-D, Kamla Nehru Road, near C. S. Azad Park Tel. : 2407625
Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Kamla Nehru Road
Bharti Bhawan Library, 54, Bharti Bhawan Marg, Chowk Tel. : 2240188
North-Central Zone, Cultural Centre, 14, C.S.P. Singh Marg Tel. :2423775, 2423698
G.N. Jha Sanskrit Research Institute, C.S. Azad Park Tel. : 2460957
Shri Ram Krishna Mission Sewa Ashram, Muthiganj Tel. : 2413369
I.I.I.T., Jhalwa Tel. : 2430001, 2430006
Khel Gaon, Jhalwa Tel. : 3203077, 3203119
Kabir Parakh Sansthan, Tel. : 2637520
Ishwar Prem Ashram, Preetam Nagar, Ishwar Prem Nagar, Naini Tel. : 2697155

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Kanha Shyam, (4 Star), 22/1 Strachey Road, Civil Lines Tel. : 2560123-32
Hotel Yatrik (3 Star), 33, Sardar Patel Marg, Civil Lines Tel. :2260923-24, Fax : 2614092-93
Hotel Milan Palace, (3 Star), Civil Lines Tel. : 2421505-06
Hotel Samrat (Deluxe), 49A/25A, M.G. Marg, Civil Lines Tel. 2561200-07
Hotel Milan (Deluxe), 46, Leader Road Tel. : 2403776
Hotel Grand Continental , Sardar Patel Marg, Civil Lines Tel. : 2260631-32
Hotel Allahabad Regency , 16, Tashkant Marg Tel. :2407519, 2407736, Fax : 2407835
Hotel Ajai International, Civil Lines Tel. : 2422870
Cafe Elchico - Bakery - Gelateria - Cafe - wood fired oven grilled, Civil Lines Tel.: 0532-2427696, 2427695, 24
Hotel Prayag-In, Daya Nand Marg, Ashok Nagar, Tel. : 3244942
Hotel Prayag, 73, Noorulla Road Tel. : 2656416, 2655596
Hotel Saket, Civil Lines Tel. : 2427677
Hotel Vashishtha, Johnstonganj Tel. : 2405470
Hotel Suncity, Leader Road Tel. : 2405130, 2405372
Hotel Ram Krishna, Civil Lines Tel. : 2407785
Hotel Sundram, Vivekanand Marg Tel. : 2400259, 2400779
Hotel Crown Place, Rambagh Tel. : 2557137, 8765428707
Ravisha Continental, near High Court Tel.: 2420764
Hotel Star Regency, L.B. Shashtri Marg, Civil Lines Tel.: 2420713

UP TOURISM ACCOMMODATION & PACKAGE TOURS

PRAYAG DARSHAN CITY TOUR
Rs. 500/- for Indian per person - Rs. 1000/- for foreigner per person
Tours for near by tourist places - Sitamarhi, Varanasi, Chunar, Vindhyachal,
Shringverpur, Ayodhya, Karadham - Kaushambi, Chitrkoot etc.

For more information & reservation contact :
Rahi Illawart Tourist Bungalow
35, M.G. Marg, Civil Lines Tel. : 0532-2407440, 2408374 E-mail: rahiilawart@up-tourism.com
Rahi Triveni Darshan Tourist Bungalow
Yamuna Bank Road, Kydganj Tel. : 0532-2558646 E-mail: rahitrivenialahabad@up-tourism.com
UPSTDC Swiss Cottage Colony
(during Kumbh Mela-2013-within the Kumbh Fair area), on line registration available : rahiilawart@up-tourism.com

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

Tourist information centre, Allahabad Jn. Railway Station - main hall, platform no. 1
UP Government Regional Tourist Office, Ilawart Tourist Bungalow Campus,
35, M.G. Marg, Civil Lines Tel. : 0532-2408873
website : uptourismallahabad@up-tourism.com

TRAVEL RESERVATION

AIR
Air India, Bamrauli Airport Tel. : 2581370 ; Airport office Tel.: 2581360
UPSTDC UPTOURS, Rahi Ilawart Tourist Bungalow, Illawart , 35, M.G. Marg Tel. : 2407440, 2408377

RAIL

Allahabad Junction Station	Tel. : 139
Allahabad City Station (Rambagh)	Tel. : 2557978
Prayag Station	Tel. : 2466831
Naini Station	Tel. : 2697252

BUS

UPSRTC Bus Stand , Civil Lines	Tel. : 2407257
UPSRTC Bus Stand Zero Road	Tel. : 2564009

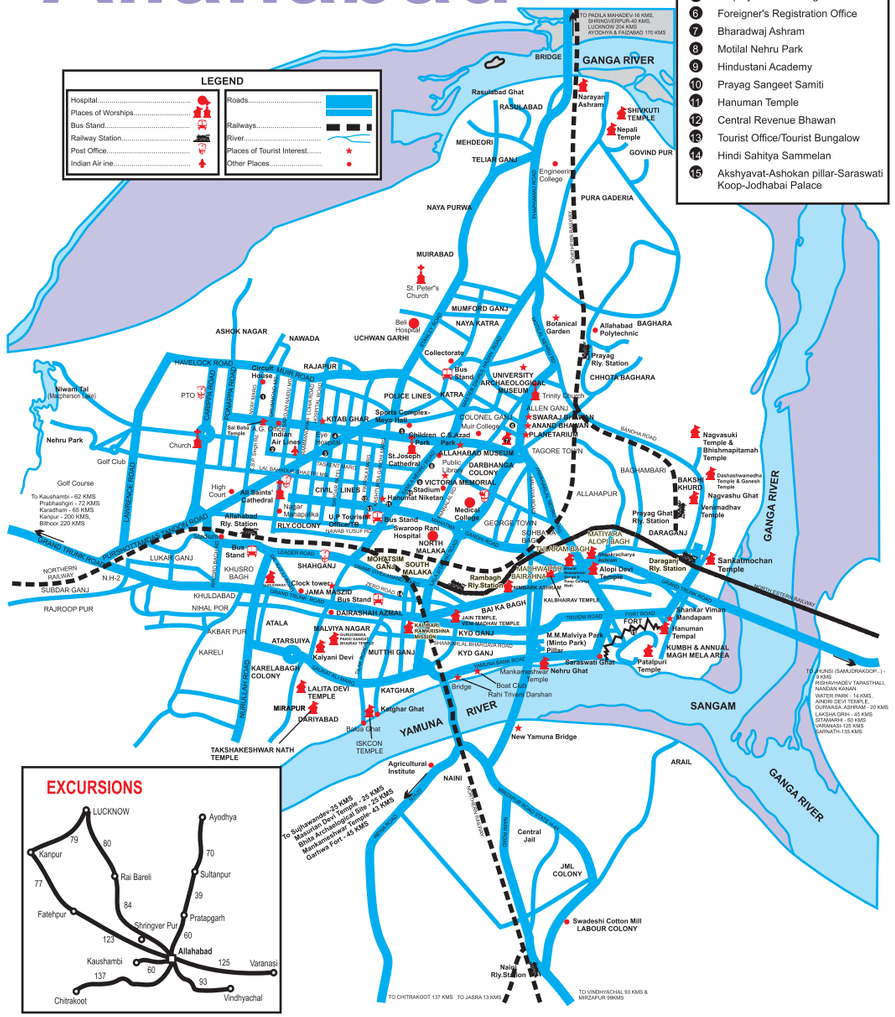
IMPORTANT TELEPHONES

D.M., Allahabad	Tel. : 2250300, 2440515
S.S.P., Allahabad	Tel. : 2440700, 2641902
Kumbh Mela Office	Tel. : 2509430

Foreigner's Registration Office, (LIU), Tel. : 2461097 Opp.- Anand Bhawan

Tourist Map Not to Scale

Allahabad



REFERENCES

1. PWD Rest House
2. Education Board Office
3. Methodist Church
4. Bible Society
5. Employment Exchange
6. Foreigner's Registration Office
7. Bharadwaj Ashram
8. Motilal Nehru Park
9. Hindustani Academy
10. Prayag Sangeet Samiti
11. Hanuman Temple
12. Central Revenue Bhawan
13. Tourist Office/Tourist Bungalow
14. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan
15. Akshyavat-Ashokan pillar-Saraswati Koop-Jodhabai Palace

TOURIST MAP

Some dos and don’ts for the devotees visiting Kumbh Mela 2013

Do's

- Pilgrims are requested to use the bathing areas/ Ghats that are authorized by the Mela administration for their safety and security.
- Pilgrims are requested to use the bathing places/Ghats nearest to their place of stay in Mela area or the city.
- If any unidentified or suspicious object is located, the Mela administration or the police control room should be informed about it.
- Pilgrims are requested to follow the traffic rules and regulations in the city and the Mela area.
- The directions and advice given through the Central Public Address System may be followed to avoid any inconvenience.
- Garbage should be thrown only in the dustbins.
- Pilgrims and travelers are requested to be appropriately attired considering the religious and cultural sensibilities of the event. The local service providers will be happy to give advice on this issue.

Don't's

- Use of plastic bags in Allahabad is prohibited by the Government and the Honorable High Court during the Kumbh Mela.
- Washing of clothes on the river banks should be avoided.
- Overcrowding of boats must be avoided.
- Pilgrims and travelers are advised not to encourage beggary.
- Use of soaps while bathing in rivers should be avoided.
- Throwing of the materials used for worship or rituals in the river should be avoided.

More information is available at the official site www.kumbhmelaallahabad.gov.in