

Kumbh Mela

June 23, 2019

Kumbh Mela (the festival of the sacred Pitcher) is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river. Devotees believe that by bathing in the Ganges one is freed from sins liberating her/him from the cycle of birth and death.

The Kumbh Mela is held every three years, and switches between four different locations –

- **Haridwar** (river Ganga)
- **Prayag** (Triveni sangam of Yamuna, Ganga and Saraswati)
- **Ujjain** (river Kshipra)and
- **Nasik** (river Godavari).

The mela returns to each location **after a span of 12 years.**

Apart from this, there are three other types of Kumbh.

- The **Ardha Kumbh Mela**: This is held in Haridwar and Prayagraj once in 6 years.
- The **Purna Kumbh Mela**: This is held only at Prayagraj once in every 12 years.
- The **Maha Kumbh Mela**: This is held only in Prayagraj once in every 144 years.