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## Geringer Global Travel Offers Tour to India's Kumbh Mela Fair

By [David Cogswell](#)  
July 19, 2012 11:15 PM

[Geringer Global Travel](#) is offering a 14-day tour to the Kumbh Mela Fair, celebrating the holiest of Hinduism's festivals and pilgrimages. Founded on Vedic legend, the Kumbh Mela Fair takes place in its complete form only once every 12 years and attracted 70 million devotees at its last gathering.

This year, worshippers will gather at Allahabad, a town at the convergence of the Yamuna, Saraswati and sacred Ganges rivers -- a holy spot selected according to legend. The itinerary passes through Delhi, Haridwar, Agra and Kharajuraho on the way to Allahabad. The Kumbh Mela Fair Tour lasts from Jan. 14 to 27, 2013, correlating with the dates of the religious festival. The price starts at \$3,060 per person, double occupancy.

Highlights include a visit to Swargashram, a spiritual hermitage in Rishikesh that runs schools, hospitals and disaster relief programs; an aarti ceremony in Mathura, where thousands of ornate oil lamps are floated down the river, burning in worship of Hindu deity Lord Krishna; and a learning experience about the bathing ceremonies for the purification of sin in Allahabad and Varanasi.

The tour begins in Delhi, capital of modern India; travels north to Haridwar; visits the Hari-ki-Pairi, where Hindus gather to bathe, worship and set off floating aarti lamps down the Ganges; heads to Mathura to observe another aarti ceremony before coming to Agra, famed for its lavish Mughal architecture including the Taj Mahal. Winding its way back through Khajuraho, the tour comes to Allahabad, thronged with millions of lively worshippers. All Hindus try to make a journey at least once in their lifetime to Varanasi, the final stop on the itinerary, to offer up an aarti tribute and submerge their bodies in the purifying Ganges.

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