

TRAVEL



Photo courtesy: HEMA NARAYANAN



PUSHKAR

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Pushkar is one of the oldest existing cities of India in the desert state of Rajasthan. The Pushkar Mela that happens in this city, is probably the world's biggest livestock trading and buying fair. It's a five day annual festival which is full of color, chaos, vibrancy and dynamism. Most of the animals being bought and sold are camels, though there are horses as well. Traders and travelers come from all over, for this once a year gathering to the town of Pushkar. The aura of this festivity is enhanced by the dunes of the Thar desert. Apart from buying and selling of livestock, it has become a tourist and photographer's attraction. There are several highlights, such as unique competitions like 'Matka Phod', 'Longest Moustache', 'Bridal competition', 'Camel Race', 'Tug of war' and many more.

This festival is usually celebrated for five days from the Kartik Ekadashi to Kartik Poonima in October-November of a year. It is also very well known among the religious communities, as the legend associates Lord Brahma with its creation. Situated on the shore of Pushkar Lake, the date of its actual origin is not known, but it's one of the five sacred dhams (pilgrimage site) for the Hindus. According to legend, the Hindu god Brahma sprung up the Pushkar Lake. Thus, numerous people swim in its sacred waters. Pushkar, in Sanskrit, stands for 'Blue lotus flower'.

The full moon day is the main day when thousands of people go to the banks of the Pushkar Lake where the fair takes place.



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Hema Narayanan is a known Photojournalist & Writer from Bangalore. Having been short-listed in the top-25 in the National Geographic World Nomads travel scholarship, she is a Getty Images artist. Her work is published in leading Indian dailies, magazines & portals. She undertakes photo assignments and teaches genres of photography to students and adults in Bangalore.

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