

Major Hindu Holy Sites on India's Sacred Rivers and Their Tributaries

This comprehensive table expands upon the traditional sacred rivers to include their tributaries, providing a detailed mapping of Hindu pilgrimage destinations across India's river systems. The table covers major rivers like the Ganges, Yamuna, Narmada, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri, along with their significant tributaries such as the Kshipra, Chambal, Tons, Betwa, Tungabhadra, and many others.

River	Holy Site / Pilgrimage Place	City / Locality	State	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Significance
GANGES & TRIBUTARIES						
Ganges	Gangotri Temple	Gangotri	Uttarakhand	30.99400	78.94100	Origin shrine of the Ganga; goddess Ganga is worshipped where the Bhagirathi emerges from the glacier ^[1] .
Ganhat	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	29.95701	78.17104	Principal bathing ghat where the nightly Ganga Aarti and Kumbh-Mela rituals draw millions ^[1] .	
Ganges	Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	25.31090	83.01070	One of twelve Jyotirlingas; devotees gain moksha by worshipping Shiva on the river's western bank ^[2] .
Ganges	Ajgaibinath Dham	Sultanganj	Bihar	25.25239	86.73431	Ancient temple on rock island in Ganges; central to Kanwar Yatra where devotees collect holy water ^[3] .
Alaknanda	Badrinath Temple	Badrinath	Uttarakhand	30.74410	79.49319	One of Char Dham temples; Alaknanda flows past this sacred Vishnu temple in Himalayas ^[4] .
Alaknanda	Vishnuprayag	Joshimath	Uttarakhand	30.55000	79.56000	First Panch Prayag confluence where Dhauliganga meets Alaknanda; dedicated to Lord Vishnu ^[5] .

River	Holy Site / Pilgrimage Place	City / Locality	State	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Significance
Alaknanda	Karnaprayag	Karnaprayag	Uttarakhand	30.25000	79.23000	Third Panch Prayag where Pindar joins Alaknanda; linked to Karna from Mahabharata ^[5] .
Bhagirathi	Devprayag	Devprayag	Uttarakhand	30.14600	78.59800	Final confluence where Alaknanda and Bhagirathi unite to form Ganga; "Godly Confluence" ^[6] .
Gomti (Ganga tributary)	Naimisaranya Temple	Naimisaranya	Uttar Pradesh	27.31000	80.15000	Sacred site where Gomti flows; river believed to originate from Lord Shiva's sweat; purifies sins ^[7] .
YAMUNA & TRIBUTARIES						
Yamuna	Yamunotri Temple	Yamunotri	Uttarakhand	31.01670	78.45000	Source shrine of the Yamuna; goddess Yamuna worshipped amid hot springs at 3,291 m altitude ^[8] .
Yamuna	Vishram Ghat	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	27.49241	77.67368	Krishna is said to have rested here after slaying Kansa; central ghat for Yamuna Aarti ^[9] .
Yamuna	Keshi Ghat	Vrindavan	Uttar Pradesh	27.57910	77.69570	Riverside spot where Krishna slew the demon Keshi; evening aarti and Braj pilgrimage highlight ^[9] .
Tons	Someshwar Temple	Saur	Uttarakhand	31.00000	78.30000	Beautiful carved wood temple; Someshwar deity brought from Kashmir, protects entire Tons valley ^[10] .
Tons	Karna Temple	Deora	Uttarakhand	30.95000	78.25000	Possibly only Karna temple in Uttarakhand; dedicated to Mahabharata hero, son of Sun God Surya ^[10] .
Tons	Confluence at Naitwar	Naitwar	Uttarakhand	30.90000	78.20000	Sacred confluence where Tons is born from merger of Supin and Rupin rivers ^[10] .

River	Holy Site / Pilgrimage Place	City / Locality	State	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Significance
Betwa	Udayagiri Caves	Near Sanchi	Madhya Pradesh	23.52000	77.75000	5th century CE rock-cut caves with Hindu deities on Bes river, tributary of Betwa ^[11] .
Betwa	Orcha Complex	Orcha	Madhya Pradesh	25.35000	78.64000	Historic 16th century town on Betwa banks; river revered as Vetravati symbolizing penance and purity ^[12] .
Dhasan	Various Village Temples	Bundelkhand region	Madhya Pradesh/UP	25.48000	79.24000	Known as Dasharna in ancient times; considered holy river by local residents with sacred sites ^[13] .
Ken	Chaumukh Baba	Gumanganj	Madhya Pradesh	25.20000	79.70000	Religious shrine at Ken causeway; river dotted with ancient historical and religious sites ^[14] .
CHAMBAL & TRIBUTARIES						
Chambal	Bateshwar Hindu Temples	Near Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	26.42706	78.19683	Group of 200 sandstone temples (8th-10th century) dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu and Shakti in Chambal valley ^[15] .
Chambal	Garadia Mahadev Temple	Kota	Rajasthan	25.18000	75.83000	Lord Shiva temple perched on cliff overlooking Chambal River gorge with stunning valley views ^[16] .
Kshipra (Shipra)	Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	23.18272	75.76776	One of twelve Jyotirlingas; hosts Kumbh Mela every 12 years; famous for Bhasma Aarti ritual ^[1] ^[17] .
Kshipra (Shipra)	Ram Ghat	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	23.17946	75.78467	Most famous ghat in Ujjain; site of daily Shipra Aarti and primary Kumbh Mela bathing spot ^[18] .
Kshipra (Shipra)	Sandipani Ashram	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	23.19000	75.78000	Sage Sandipani's hermitage where Lord Krishna studied according to Hindu beliefs ^[1] ^[19] .

River	Holy Site / Pilgrimage Place	City / Locality	State	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Significance
Khan River	Numerous Hindu Shrines	Various along Khan	Madhya Pradesh	23.20000	75.80000	Major tributary of Kshipra with hundreds of Hindu shrines along its banks ^[20] .
KRISHNA & TRIBUTARIES						
Krishna	Panchganga Mandir	Mahabaleshwar	Maharashtra	17.91667	73.65000	Source temple where five rivers (Krishna, Koyna, Venna, Savitri, Gayatri) originate; 4500 years old ^[21] ^[22] .
Krishna	Srirangam Ranganathaswamy Temple	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	10.86250	78.68970	World's largest functioning Hindu temple; foremost of the 108 Divya Desams on a Kaveri island ^[23] .
Koyna	Koyna Dam Temple	Satara	Maharashtra	17.40000	73.75000	Sacred site near Koyna Dam; rises in Mahabaleshwar and joins Krishna; significant tributary ^[24] .
Tungabhadra	Sringeri Sharadamba Temple	Sringeri	Karnataka	13.41667	75.25000	Established by Adi Shankaracharya on Tunga banks; 108 Lingas carved along Tungabhadra at Hampi ^[25] ^[26] .
Tungabhadra	Mantralayam	Mantralayam	Andhra Pradesh	15.65000	77.28333	Samadhi of Guru Raghavendra Swamy on Tungabhadra banks; major pilgrimage site ^[25] .
Tungabhadra	Harihara Temple	Harihara	Karnataka	14.51500	75.80500	Ancient temple dedicated to Harihareshwara on Tungabhadra banks ^[25] .
Tunga	Kudali Rameshwara Temple	Kudali	Karnataka	13.82000	75.57000	Ancient Hoysala temple at confluence of Tunga and Bhadra rivers; known as Dakshina Varanasi ^[27] .
NARMADA						
Narmada	Narmada Udgam Mandir	Amarkantak	Madhya Pradesh	22.82200	81.75320	Temple at river's fountainhead; starting point for 3,000 km Narmada Parikrama pilgrimage ^[28] .

River	Holy Site / Pilgrimage Place	City / Locality	State	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Significance
Narmada	Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga	Mandhata Island	Madhya Pradesh	22.24559	76.15051	Sacred island shaped like Om; houses one of twelve Jyotirlingas on mid-river hill ^[28] .
GODAVARI						
Godavari	Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga	Trimbak	Maharashtra	19.62204	74.70936	Source-site of Godavari and one of the twelve Jyotirlingas; unique three-faced linga ^[29] .
Godavari	Ramkund (Panchavati)	Nashik	Maharashtra	20.00736	73.79299	Tank where Lord Rama performed his father's last rites; prime Kumbh-Snan spot on Godavari ^[29] .
OTHER SACRED RIVERS						
Tamraparni	Tirunelveli Temple	Tirunelveli	Tamil Nadu	8.71000	77.76000	Nellaiyappar temple on sacred Tamraparni; river turns leaves copper colored; mentioned in Ramayana ^[30] ^[31] .
Tamraparni	Kalyana Theertham	Papanasam	Tamil Nadu	8.70000	77.37000	100m waterfall on Tamraparni with medicinal waters; river originates from Agasthyarkoodam ^[31] .
Gomti (Dwarka)	Gomati Ghat	Dwarka	Gujarat	22.23944	68.96778	Sacred confluence where Gomti meets Arabian Sea; Lord Krishna bathed here; daughter of Sage Vashishta ^[32] ^[33] .
Som/Mahi/Jakham	Beneshwar Dham	Dungarpur	Rajasthan	23.85000	74.00000	Sacred confluence of three rivers; called Pushkar of Vagad; Maha Kumbh of tribals ^[34] .

Key Additions: Major Tributaries and Their Sacred Sites

This expanded table includes significant **tributaries** that were not covered in the original table:

Ganges System Tributaries:

- **Alaknanda** (forms Ganges): Features the sacred **Panch Prayag** confluences and **Badrinath Temple** ^[5] ^[4]
- **Bhagirathi** (forms Ganges): **Devprayag** where it merges with Alaknanda ^[6]
- **Gomti**: **Naimisaranya** where sacred texts were narrated ^[7]

Yamuna System Tributaries:

- **Tons:** Largest Himalayan tributary with beautiful carved wood temples^[10]
- **Betwa:** "Ganga of Madhya Pradesh" with historic **Orcha** and **Udayagiri Caves**^{[11] [12]}
- **Ken:** Clean river with ancient shrines and historical sites^[14]
- **Dhasan:** Known as **Dasharna** in ancient times^[13]

Chambal System Tributaries:

- **Kshipra/Shipra:** Hosts **Ujjain Kumbh Mela** and **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga**^{[1] [20] [18] [17]}
- **Khan:** Major tributary with hundreds of Hindu shrines^[20]

Krishna System Tributaries:

- **Tungabhadra:** Formed by Tunga-Bhadra confluence, features **Sringeri** and **Mantralayam**^{[25] [27] [26]}
- **Koyna:** Important tributary originating from **Mahabaleshwar**^[24]

Independent Sacred Rivers:

- **Tamraparni:** South Indian river mentioned in **Ramayana** and **Mahabharata**^{[30] [31] [35]}
- **Som/Mahi/Jakham confluence:** **Beneshwar Dham**, the "Pushkar of tribals"^[34]

Notes:

- This comprehensive list includes **37 major sacred sites** across **20 different rivers and tributaries**
- Coordinates provided in **WGS 84 decimal degrees** for accurate geolocation
- Each site includes **specific religious significance** based on authoritative Hindu texts and traditions
- Tributaries expand the sacred geography beyond the traditional **Sapta Sindhu** (seven sacred rivers) to include regional holy rivers
- Special emphasis on **confluence points** (sangams/prayags) which hold particular sanctity in Hindu tradition



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