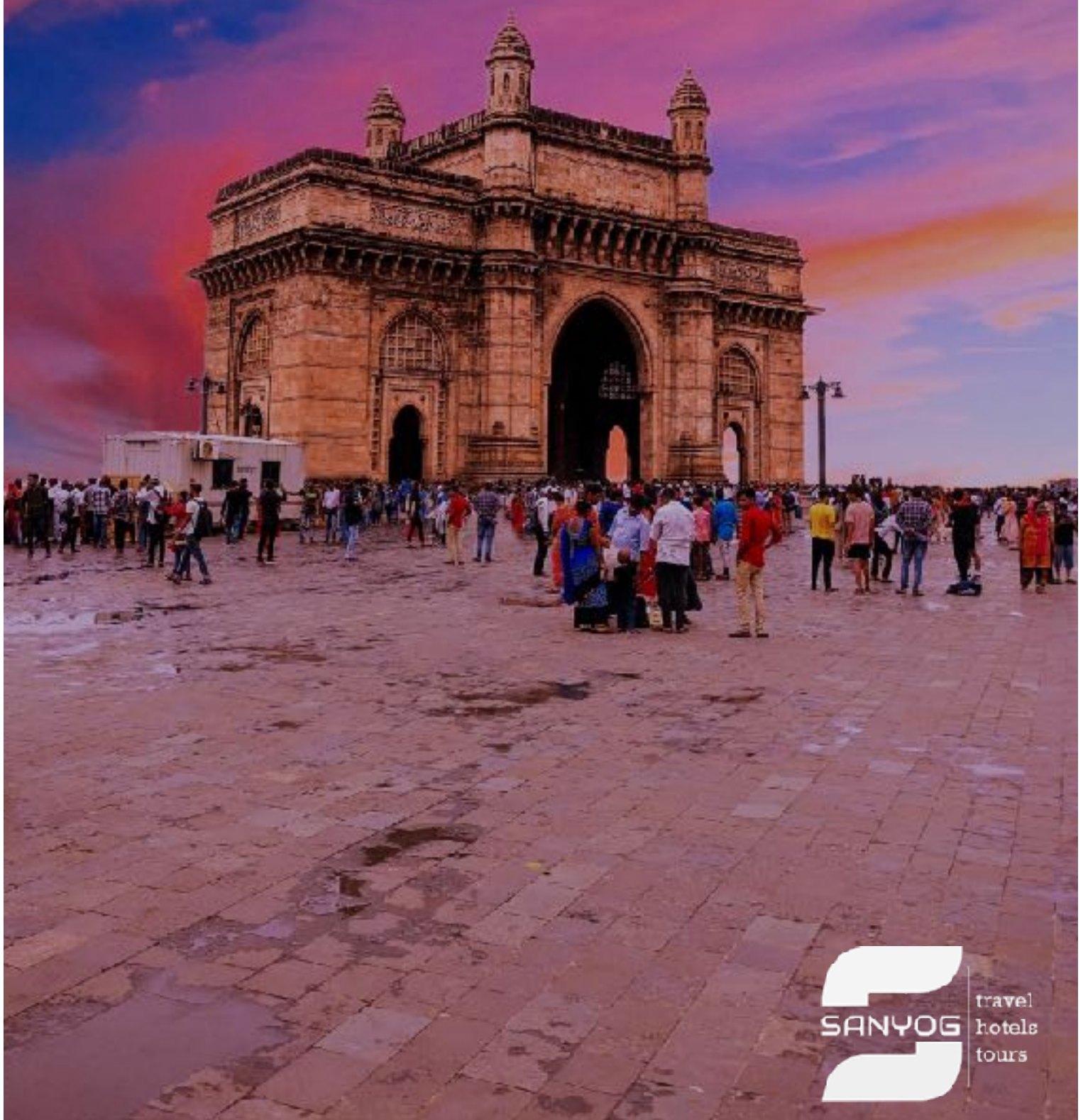


MAHARASHTRA

West India





Welcome to Maharashtra
Unlimited

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Sanyog Gupta Voyages

Luxury Destination Management Company

As we have evolved as a company, we have come to realise that our love lies not in booking tour packages, but in showcasing the unique experiences across the nations we serve. We realised that there are many secret corners of our world, rare moments, mysteries and stories.

Our company owned by a family, but run professionally. We have hierarchical systems which are driven by our core family values. We have come to understand we do not want to be the largest company globally. We have never tried to be the richest or the most influential. I say, we just want to be the bestest in what we do.

We are a family tradition for over three decades that have been highlighting this part of the planet. All over Indian sub-continent, we have grown to become a popular, valued and autonomous DMC providing the finest cultural experiences, personal immersions and natural wonders. We are here to build stories for our clients, tales of love, of wonderful excitement. We are proud of our past and its legacy.

‘We are real voyagers and love varying voyager’s

THE LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERTS.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, ALWAYS.

Sanyog Gupta Voyages brings to you finest luxury holidays in all over India and Asia. Indulge your passion, arrive in a private jet, travel in a limousine or a yacht, the Opulent Routes Concierge services will weave magic in your holiday experience.

www.sanyog.travel



Sanyog Gupta
President - Sales & Marketing

THIS IS THE TIME
THIS IS THE PLACE
THIS IS MAHARASHTRA

MAHARASHTRA



Maharashtra is the second most populous, and the third-largest state in India. It houses some of the most prominent cosmopolitan centers, as well as cultural hubs of the nation. Maharashtra tour packages are quite popular as they enable people to experience an excellent amalgamation of modern city life and the traditional, Indian heritage and culture.

IT ALL STARTS WITH NAMASTE

The colonial architecture, shopping centers, movie industry, beautiful beaches, and active nightlife are some of the key highlights of holiday and even honeymoon packages in Maharashtra.

There are several UNESCO World Heritage Sites and religiously significant structures present in this state as well. Maharashtra houses an array of colorful shrines, an intriguing collection of ancient caves, as well as emerald hill stations belonging to the lush Western Ghats and hence is an ideal vacation destination for any type of traveller.

Maharashtra features a number of attractive tourist destinations.

Holiday packages in Maharashtra typically include a tour of Mahabaleshwar, Mumbai, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Nashik, and Pune.

Tourists can find many iconic attractions of India in this state, which includes several UNESCO World Heritage Sites as well. Maharashtra tour packages also let you witness the state's opulence in terms of natural beauty and splendor, which comprises of attractive palm-fringed beaches and lofty, cool-green mountains.



The Oberoi, Mumbai

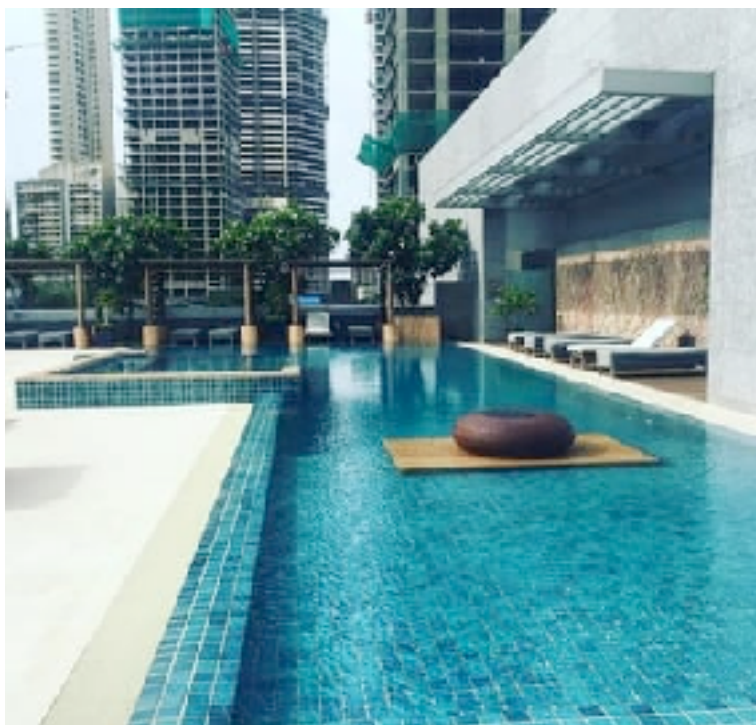
The Oberoi, Mumbai is a striking example of modern architecture that lifts you up over Marine Drive to enjoy magnificent views of the ocean and 'Queen's Necklace' lights along the shoreline. Only at the best 5 star hotel in Mumbai.

Spacious accommodation, fine cuisines and our genuine hospitality are complemented by a range of services for all guests; with special care taken for single lady travellers at the best hotel in Mumbai. We aim to ensure that your stay with us will be as comfortable, convenient and pleasant as can be.

Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

The Taj Mahal Palace opened in Mumbai, then Bombay, in 1903, giving birth to the country's first harbour landmark. The recently trademarked flagship hotel overlooks the majestic Gateway of India. This legendary 5 star hotel in Mumbai has played host to kings, dignitaries and eminent personalities from across the globe, and is acknowledged as a world leader in hospitality.

Each of the rooms 285 rooms & suites are a striking blend of nostalgic elegance, rich history and modern facilities. Strategically located in Mumbai's prime historical and commercial hub, The Taj Mahal Palace is walking distance from Colaba Causeway, known for its touristy tiny roadside shops.



Four Seasons Hotel, Mumbai

Towering above Mumbai's upscale commercial hub, Four Seasons combines chic modern style with an intimate, boutique atmosphere and panoramic sea views.

Discover our powerhouse collection of dining, spa and swimming experiences. Let our expert team connect you with local culture, shopping and entertainment. At day's end, return to our rooftop AER – Bar and Lounge for sunset cocktails and mingling with Mumbai's elite.

The St. Regis, Mumbai

Enjoy luxurious staycations at The St. Regis Mumbai. We invite you to choose your favourite staycation package from our offers page. Situated in Lower Parel, our 5-star hotel brings the storied history and exceptional service of St. Regis to this vibrant area.

Discover sophisticated elements crafted to make you feel at home, blended with luxuries such as on-call Butler Service, traditional Afternoon Tea and Champagne Sabering ceremony. Relax in the beautiful designed rooms, suites and apartments, each with stunning vistas of the city or sea.



Taj Mahal Tower Mumbai

Designed by American architect Melton Bekker, this luxury hotel in Mumbai opened its door to guests in 1973, instantly carving an identity into the cityscape.

Bekker incorporated Indian design elements like Tanjore pillars from the south and arched balconies from 14th century imperial Rajasthan into the distinctive tower which is crowned with a jagged diadem. Four decades since, our 5 star hotel in Colaba continues to dazzle patrons with luxurious suites, iconic restaurants and sublime views of the city's famed seafront.



Trident Nariman Point

Nestled in the heart of vibrant and bustling Mumbai lies our hotel Trident, Nariman Point. Soaring 35 storeys high, it offers panoramic views of Marine Drive or the Queen's Necklace, as the beautiful promenade is lovingly called. An iconic Mumbai landmark, featuring some of the best accommodations in the city, this is the luxury hotel address to be seen at.

The 555 rooms and suites at Trident, Nariman Point, offer stunning views of the ocean and the five star Mumbai city skyline.





Taj Lands End, Mumbai

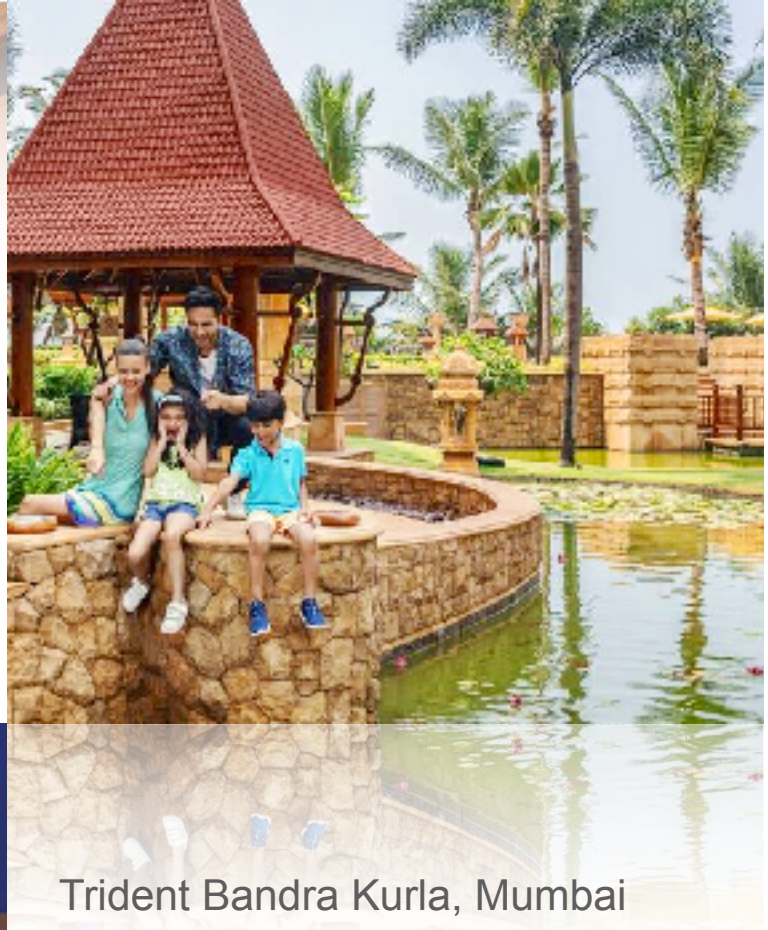
With a view overlooking the Arabian Sea and the Bandra Worli Sea Link, Taj Lands End, Mumbai is a luxury 5-star deluxe hotel, located in the midst of the pulsating life of Bandra.

Its close proximity to the airport, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Lower Parel, Andheri and Worli business districts, our hotel in Bandra makes it an ideal choice for business as well as leisure travelers. The hotel boasts of the city's finest accommodations, dining experiences and elegant conferencing and banquet facilities. Although contemporary, it reflects India's warm and heartfelt tradition in hospitality.



JW Marriott Juhu, Mumbai

Nestled along the beach, JW Marriott Mumbai Juhu is a 5-star haven where luxury reigns supreme. Upscale comfort awaits in stylishly appointed hotel rooms and suites, showcasing featherbed mattresses, chic décor, high-speed internet, marble bathrooms and 24-hour room service. Thrill your palate with diverse fine dining at our distinctive restaurants and bars. Energize in our well-equipped fitness center and refresh in the sparkling waters of our outdoor infinity and salt-water pools.



Trident Bandra Kurla, Mumbai

Welcome to a world of stylish accommodation, fine dining and gracious hospitality in the heart of North Mumbai's business district: Bandra Kurla Complex, or BKC.

The epitome of elegance and efficiency, Trident, Bandra Kurla is located near Mumbai airport and close to many of the major corporations, financial institutions and within easy distance of many of Mumbai's famous shopping and sightseeing destinations, as well as Navi Mumbai.



The Leela, Mumbai

The Leela Mumbai is a 394 room 5 star hotel with several acres of lush landscaped gardens, waterfalls and a lotus filled fountain.

The hotel is conveniently located just 5 minutes away from the Mumbai International Airport and is close to North Mumbai's commercial centre and export zone.

This award-winning 5 star hotel in Mumbai is an ideal venue for banqueting events of any scale as it has a range of function rooms, elegant meeting rooms, and large areas for grand events.



Sofitel Mumbai, BKC

The flagship of Sofitel Hotels & Resorts in India, Sofitel Mumbai BKC is the gem of Mumbai's luxury 5-star hotels, celebrating a perfect mélange of the French way of life and warm Indian hospitality. Strategically located in the central business district of the city - the Bandra Kurla Complex, Sofitel Mumbai BKC is designed specifically for the global traveller, offering multifaceted experiences in cuisine, entertainment and relaxation. Situated in Bandra Kurla Complex, Sofitel Mumbai BKC enjoys easy access to consulates, the Bharat Diamond Bourse, Bandra West, major tourist attractions, entertainment & shopping centres in north & south Mumbai, as well as the Mumbai Airport.



ITC Maratha, Mumbai

Inspired by the Maratha dynasty, ITC Maratha brings you world class luxury in an experience that resonates through a range of cuisines, accommodation and recreation options. Built over an area of 5.5 acres in the heart of Mumbai, ITC Maratha is a 5 star business hotel, comprising of 380 elegantly appointed spacious guest-rooms, 5 fine dine restaurants, luxury wellness services and majestic settings for meetings and events.





ITC Grand Central

Inspired by Victorian architecture of Old Bombay, this landmark hotel is situated in the business and recreational centre of Parel.

The hotel offers breath-taking views of the city, award-winning cuisine, elegantly appointed rooms and suites, signature wellness experiences and more.

A beautiful romantic central courtyard called the 'Millsquare', discreetly divides the hotel into two zones – the towering 'Peace Zone' and the low slung 'Celebration Zone'.

Hilton Hotel, Mumbai

Featuring palace-style architecture, our hotel is three kilometers from Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport. Oberoi Mall and the Andheri business district are within a 20-minute drive. Enjoy our winter garden, and relax in the spa and outdoor pool. We're home to multiple dining options, including a coffee shop, Chinese restaurant, and 24-hour brasserie.

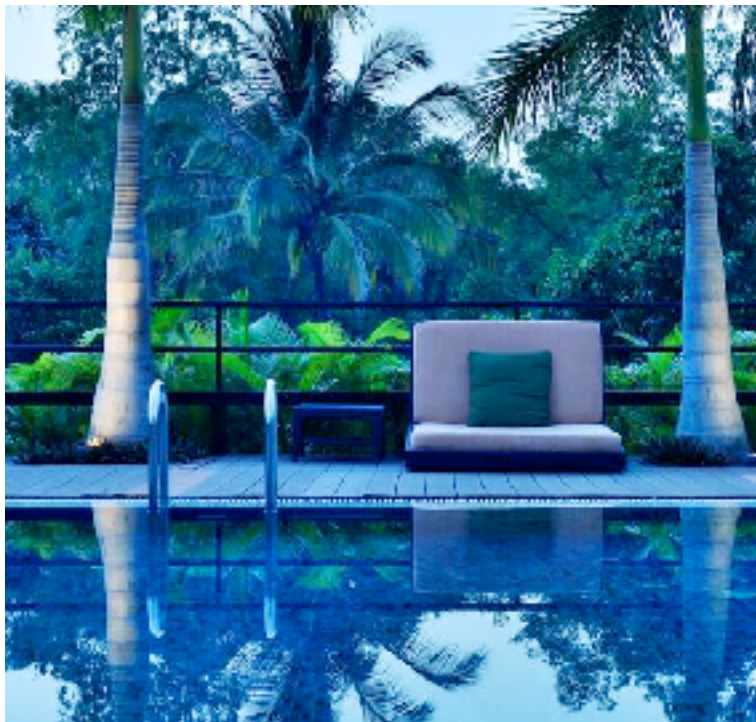
Both bars are elegant and inviting, serving up light bites, cocktails, tea, and coffee. The Brasserie is open 24/7 with a midnight buffet and an outdoor seating area. Imperial China is our signature restaurant serving up classic Szechuan cuisine.



JW Marriott, Pune

Experience an award winning service and sophisticated style at JW Marriott Hotel Pune.

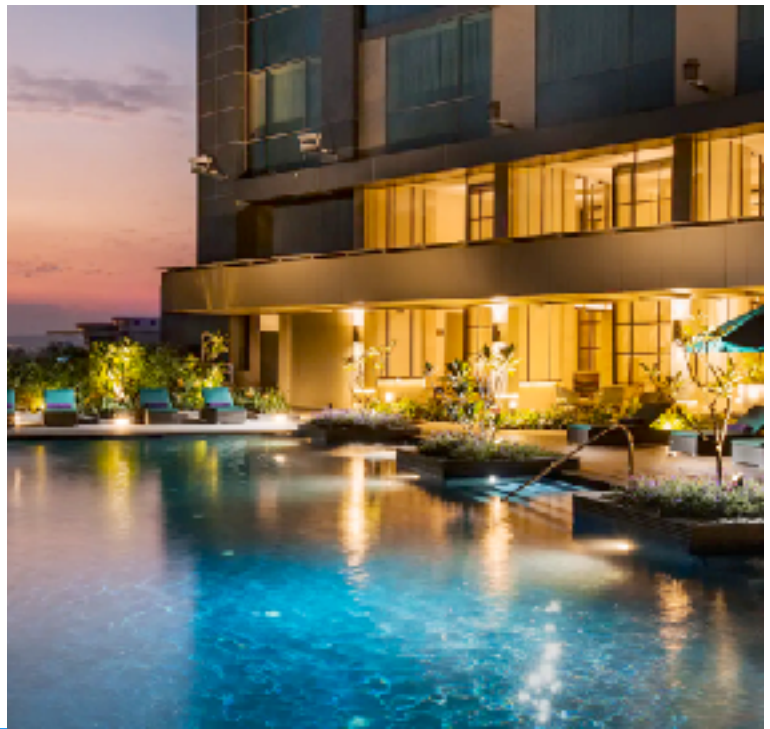
Situated between the airport and Mumbai-Pune Expressway, our 5-star hotel is an ideal escape to India for both business travellers and vacationing families. After exploring the city, return for our delightful dining options, including Italian fare and a chic rooftop bar. Challenge yourself to a workout in the hotel fitness centre or take a swim in the outdoor pool, followed by a tranquil treatment at Quan Spa.



Conrad Hotel, Pune

Echoing the glamour of the Art Deco era, our Central Business District hotel is two kilometers from Koregaon Park. We feature a luxury spa, beauty salon, outdoor pool and bar, and eclectic dining options. Our concierge is on-hand to curate local experiences, reserve limousine travel, and more.

Discover fine dining, our international buffet, Asian specialties, patisserie favorites, poolside bites, and more. Choose from our six restaurants and bars or dine in the comfort of your room.



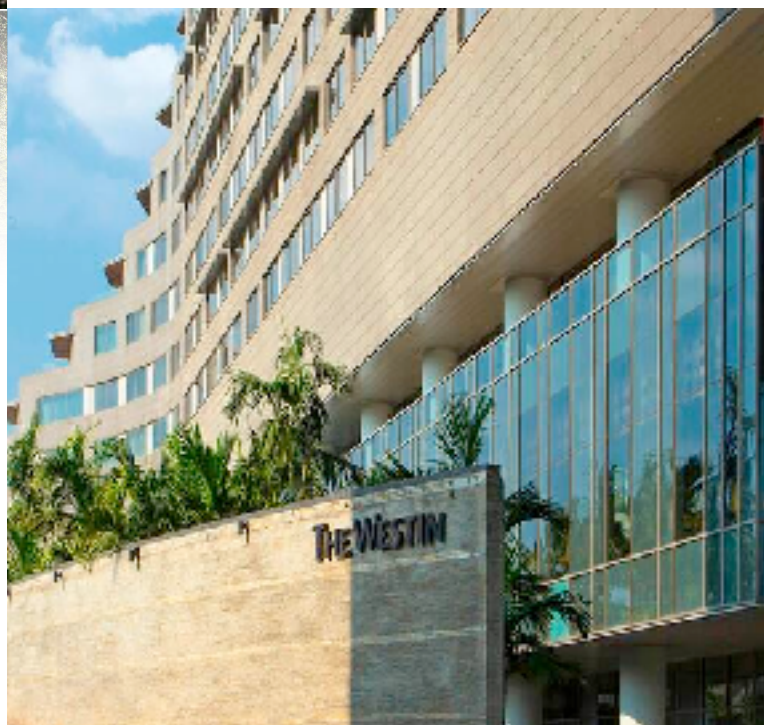
The Ritz Carlton, Pune

The Ritz-Carlton, Pune is a 5-star hotel overlooking the 100-acre, 18-hole Poona Club Golf Course, with easy access to both the airport and business and leisure destinations in downtown Pune.

The hotel embraces local heritage through culinary experiences, an infinity pool and a luxury spa with bespoke pampering rituals that foster elegant escapes in the heart of the city. Enjoy an exclusive experience for an unforgettable family staycation including scavenger hunts, board games, cooking or baking classes.

The Westin, Pune

Situated amid celebrated attractions, The Westin Pune Koregaon Park is a 5-star haven of wellness and renewal. Experience effortless relaxation in tastefully designed hotel rooms and suites with signature comforts, sleek marble bathrooms and inspiring views. Thrill your senses at five on-site dining options, including a chic bar and nightclub. Enjoy a coveted location in Koregaon Park near Pune Airport, Magarpatta, Hadapsar and many industrial parks. Work well in 45,000 square feet of sophisticated, flexible hotel event space, enhanced by modern AV equipment, on-site event planning and custom catering services.





Sheraton Grand, Pune

Located in the center of the city, Grand Pune Bund Garden Hotel is a 5-star haven for business and leisure travelers.

Artfully balancing contemporary comfort with India's old-world grandeur, our stylishly appointed accommodations welcome you with signature amenities, modern essentials and the refreshing Sheraton Sleep Experience.

Ignite your senses with authentic Awadhi cuisine, bountiful buffets and inspiring views at our hotel's fine dining restaurants.



Radisson Blu, Pune

Our award-winning Radisson Blu Hotel Pune Kharadi sits just 20 minutes from Pune International Airport (PNQ) and less than ten minutes from EON IT Park and World Trade Center Pune.

Our prime location is also within a short drive of SEZ in Magarpatta and Phursungi, making it especially convenient for corporate guests. Leisure travelers can spend their days exploring the Dagadusheth Halwai Ganapati and Chaturshringi temples, touring the grand Aga Khan Palace, or shopping at Phoenix Marketcity.



Sun N Sand, Shirdi

Located in the pilgrim city of Shirdi, the 5-star Sun N Sand hotel features an outdoor swimming pool, a fitness club, as well as a spa and wellness centre.

Complimentary private parking is provided. The hotel is only 500 m from the Shirdi Sai Baba Temple. Kopargaon Railway Station and Bus Stand is a convenient 15-minute drive, while Nashik Airport is a 45-minute drive away.

Furnished with a seating area and a wardrobe, air-conditioned rooms come with an electric kettle, a personal safe, a satellite TV and a minibar. En suite bathrooms offer shower facilities.



Welcomhotel by ITC, Aurangabad

Recreating the magnificence of Ajanta and Ellora caves, Welcomhotel Rama International offers the perfect balance between modern amenities and the warmth of Indian hospitality.

Spread across 13 spacious acres of landscaped gardens, with recreational facilities and beautiful interiors, we invite you to discover one of the world's most vibrant cities through a comfortable stay at our property. We look forward to delighting you with unparalleled experiences that carry a deeper meaning.



Vivanta, Aurangabad

A palace style 5 star hotel in Aurangabad, it is set in the midst of landscaped gardens. Discover a multi-cuisine fare at Latitude or indulge in Chinese tea and delicacies at The Tea House.

Discover a wide range of drinks at the Tease Bar, and enjoy the best grills in town at Garden Cafe.

As for business, choose from our well-furnished conferencing and banqueting centers that are suitable for hosting the business events and meetings.

Ambassador Ajanta, Aurangabad

Ambassador Ajanta is renowned for its unstinting hospitality services and is ranked amongst the best luxury heritage hotels in Aurangabad. It is situated just 10 minutes from Aurangabad Airport and 18 minutes away from the Aurangabad Railway Station.

Ambassador Ajanta is a blend of modern comforts and rich tradition and ranks as one of the finest stays property among the hotels near Aurangabad Railway Station. The hotel is only a few minutes away from the main business district.





The Gateway Hotel, Nashik

The Gateway Hotel Nashik in Ambad is surrounded by 20 acres of lush, landscaped gardens. The facilities and amenities at our 5 star hotel in Nashik are designed to give modern travellers a new-age experience that resonates with their upbeat lifestyle.

At close proximity from the bustling city, our hotel in Nashik is the most preferred choice of stay among both business and leisure travellers.

Courtyard by Marriott, Nashik

Get to know the "Wine Capital of India" from your base at our contemporary hotel. Situated at Mumbai Naka, Courtyard Nashik offers a seamless blend of comfort and convenience for business and leisure travelers.

Experience effortless relaxation in spacious, modern hotel rooms with signature comforts, complimentary Wi-Fi and panoramic Nashik views. Delight in our excellent location, just three kilometers from the railway station and 14 kilometers from Nashik Airport.



Della Resorts, Lonavala

Della Resorts, the ultimate getaway destination located in the verdant landscapes of Lonavala. A short drive from both Mumbai and Pune, this five-star, luxury resort offers guests a one-of-its-kind experience, coupling luxury with impeccable service and world-class amenities.

Our 50 Acre Sahyadri mountain facing property consists of 6 Resorts incl 250 rooms, 27 room types, 2 Presidential Suites, 4 Junior Suites, 16 Designer Suites.

Aamby Valley City, Lonavala

The supreme sense of being. The quest for conquest. The pride in belonging. The realisation of the self. Some need a lifetime of soul searching to find it all. And a privileged few, get to live it first. Aamby Valley City....

Where conquest knows no bounds. Where desire is a demand. Where art of living is an everyday ritual. Where every moment is a memory that is lived, relished, rejoiced, and revived. Welcome to a world created for the love of life.

Aamby Valley City - independent India's first planned hill city is a creative expression of ingenuity.



Hilton Shillim Estate, Lonavala

Our retreat is nestled in the Sahyadri mountain range, a five-minute walk from the small village of Shillim.

Connect with a personalized Dharana wellness program with yoga, meditation, conservation walks, and cooking lessons. Ayurveda-inspired dining, quiet zones, and private villas calm the senses amid views of the Western Ghats. Our award-winning spa is home to a meditation cave, relaxation center, salon, and yoga pavilion. Therapies include acupressure, reiki, pranic healing, and hydrotherapy — and multi-day wellness programs are available.



The Fern Ecotel, Lonavala

The Fern An Ecotel Hotel, Lonavala is a quaint, luxurious hotel; spread over 2 acres of serenity brought to you by the Anantham.

Located in Lonavala, brushing the back walls of the Valvan Dam off the Western Express Highway, it boasts of elegant restaurants, fully equipped bar, 24 x 7 coffee shop, conference rooms, banquet halls, lawn and a swimming pool with Jacuzzi if you so fancy.





Radisson Blu, Nagpur

Whether you want to dive into India's rich culture or simply enjoy five-star amenities on a corporate trip, choose the Radisson Blu Hotel Nagpur, located roughly three kilometers from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport (NAG).

Our stylish, modern hotel offers easy access to the city's Central Business District, as little as 10 minutes away, and key industrial hubs in Hingna and Butibori. If you want to make the most of your downtime or you're visiting for leisure, explore picturesque areas nearby such as Seminary Hills and the gardens alongside Ambazari Lake.

Le Meridien, Nagpur

Be exposed to the uncommon, encounter the unexpected and ignite inspiration at Le Méridien Nagpur in India. Discover the world of possibilities and enjoy a perspective of Nagpur complemented by chic comfort and gracious hospitality. Our hotel is conveniently located just six kilometers from Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport and is near business / industrial hubs such as SEZ MIHAN, Butibori MIDC and Hingna MIDC. If a business meeting or social event brings you to our hotel, our indoor venues and landscaped lawns serve as the ideal backdrop for any gathering, each complemented by creative catering and world-class services.



Le Meridien, Mahabaleshwar

A unique travel experience awaits at Le Méridien Mahabaleshwar Resort & Spa. Set amidst 27 acres of pristine evergreen forests in Western Ghats, our 5-star hotel offers a world of luxury unlike any other resort in Mahabaleshwar. Unwind in your contemporary room or suite, where you'll find a private balcony with incredible views, deep soaking tubs and luxury bedding. Take a swim in the outdoor pool or relax in the Infinity Pool overlooking the valley.

Fort Jadhavgadh, Pune

Take a journey through the 300 years of Royal Maratha legacy at Fort JadhavGADH with secret passages, dungeons, lush lawns, canons, and gun holes, escape routes, interesting stories of valour and royalty.

Located just 14 kilometres from Pune and at a 4.5-hour drive from Mumbai, this is the only heritage hotel in Maharashtra. The mesmerizing scenic beauty on the way from Mumbai and Pune will escort you to your regal vacation at our heritage resort in Pune.



Radisson Blu Resort, Alibaug

Boasting manicured lawns and sparkling water features, the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa - Alibaug, India provides travelers with a serene resort getaway. Whether your itinerary includes business or leisure, make time to explore the beautiful nearby beaches of Nagaon, Varsoli, and Alibaug. In addition to its stunning beaches, the coastal town of Alibaug boasts a storied past, which comes to life at spots like the Kolaba and Undheri forts. Hotel guests also appreciate being about 100 kilometers from the bustling city of Mumbai.

Atmantan Wellness Retreat, Mulshi

Nestled on a unique crystal hill, spanning 42 acres of lush green valley, Atmantan, has its abode in the Majestic Sahyadris, overlooking the pristine Mulshi Lake. Spectacular views of the lake and valley, with a minimalistic architectural design, the resort seamlessly converges into the foliated landscape. Most uniquely, here, every building has been so designed that one steps into the magnificent view as one enters the buildings!



Mumbai - The Capital

Mumbai is in all ways a mega-city driven by power, wealth, glamour and fame which attracts people to give shape to their dreams and aspirations. But it is also a city with strong historical links, wonderful British architecture, museums, beaches, places of worship, and above all, a true galaxy of stars where Bollywood reigns supreme.

It is said that every train that comes to Mumbai brings on it hundreds of people from across India who are not only drawn to 'experience' the city's mesmerising attractions but would also like to make it their home. A city of diverse cultures and a melting pot of commerce, industry, entertainment, enterprise, and politics, Mumbai's trysts with wealth and fame have, however, been recent. It wasn't a cosmopolitan finance centre to begin with. Its history has witnessed several shifts in power, and the seven islands changed hands frequently.



The seven islands that came to constitute Mumbai were earlier home to communities of fishing colonies. For centuries, the islands were under the control of successive indigenous empires before being ceded to the Portuguese and subsequently to the British East India Company. During the mid-18th century, Bombay was reshaped by the Hornby Vellard Project, which undertook reclamation of the area between the seven islands from the sea. Along with construction of major roads and railways, the reclamation project, completed in 1845, transformed Bombay into a major seaport on the Arabian Sea.

Bombay in the 19th century was characterised by economic and educational development. During the early 20th century it became a strong base for the Indian independence movement. Upon India's independence in 1947 the city was incorporated into Bombay State. In 1960, following the Samyukta Maharashtra movement, a new state of Maharashtra was created with Bombay as the capital. The city was renamed Mumbai in 1996. And in this short period of development, the city has transformed into the commercial and entertainment capital of India.

REGIONS



Vidarbha

Maharashtra has on its eastern part, the region which is known as Vidarbha and comprises of divisions of Amravati and Nagpur. Previously, this was known as Berar and composed 31.6% of area in the state and shares 21.3% of population. The borders of this region are having Madhya Pradesh towards its north, Chhattisgarh in the eastern side, south is covered by Andhra Pradesh, while the west is having Khandesh and Marathwada regions of the state.

Vidarbha is somewhat located towards central India, with its share of rich history and cultural background, bit different from other areas of Maharashtra. In Vidarbha, Nagpur is the biggest city, Amravati being the second biggest, while the city of Akola ranks third and thereafter are the cities of Yavatmal, Chandrapur, Wardha, Bhandara and the city of Gondia. Much of the vernacular dialect is Vahardi and Marathi, the former being one of the dialects in Marathi.

There are 10 seats from region of Vidarbha for Lok sabha representation. The district of Nagpur, which is having the densest population, has 2 seats as the constituency has been divided into the zones of Ramtek and Nagpur, while such districts as Gadchiroli and Chimur are clubbed to make one single constituency, due to the lesser population.

Marathwada

With the Marathwada being one of the five Maharashtra regions, it has the division of Aurangabad. Origin of the name of this region lies in the term Marhatti-vada, which is the meaning of one of the communities in Maratha. Aurangabad is the city which is also the headquarters of this region, this name having been derived from Aurangzeb, who had his rule in this region for a small period.

Plenty of monuments belonging to the communities of Sikh, Muslim, Hindus and Jains are found in Marathwada. Some of the important ones are Jyotirlingas in Nagnath, Grishneshwar and Vajjanath, Shaktipeeths such as in Ambejogai, Tuljapur and Mahur and the Ajanta and Ellora caves.

From historical times, this region was way behind in terms of economical advancements. This revelation was done in 2000, when the Human Development Index was derived using the parametric measurements by United Nations Development Programme or UNDP.

Major development has occurred since then in the Marathwada, with high pace of industrialization. Audi and Skoda car makers have started their units for manufacturing in Aurangabad. Other major projects having their presence in Marathwada are Siemens, Parle, Radico and Hindalco.

Desh

The region of Desh is having the borders with Sahyadri or Western Ghats in the west, Khandesh in the north, Marathwada in the east and southern part is covered by Karnataka state. This particular region has hilly landscape and has an eastern slope, with drainage by rivers Krishna and Godavari along with their branches.

When the context of the state of Maharashtra is taken into consideration, the Desh term has been derived from Maharashtra-Desh and this region comprises of the part of Deccan Plateau towards the west central region and the historical areas of Aurangabad or Pune and Marathwada.

Desale surname is one of the popular titles originating from this region. After passing away of Aurangzeb, when the Marathas extended their spread towards the north, some of the people from the region of Desh also shifted northwards.

Due to this region, those with the surname Bhosale changed it to Desale as they left their Desh and hence, many of such surnames are found in the Khandesh region in North Maharashtra.

Khandesh

Khandesh forms a region of Maharashtra, located towards the central India, taking up a major part of northwestern region of the state. This region became the boundary to separate Maharashtra from Deccan.

Khandesh region comprises the areas of Dhule, Jalgaon and the Nandurbar districts in the state of Maharashtra.

Tapti River in this region is the remarkable natural feature. This specialty is that the Tapti starts from eastern part of Maharashtra and flows into the western side, which is quite different from other rivers of the Western Ghats, which have eastern flow into the Bay of Bengal. While passing through Khandesh, the River Tapti is joined by about 13 tributaries.

Farmers belonging to the Khandesh region are quite hardworking. Despite not having highly advanced facilities of irrigation, prior to the commissioning of the Hatnur and Girana dams, there was good produce, with the semi arid and arid region.

Konkan

Karavali or the Konkan Coast is also simply called as Konkan and is marked by the coastline in the west, with plenty of rugged regions, extending from district of Thane to that of Mangalore.

Mention of this division of Konkan has been done in the Skanda Purana, which is believed to be the Parashurama Srishti.

The division of Konkan is one of the subdivisions of administration in the state of Maharashtra, consisting of almost all the districts in the state, which are bound by the coastline of India.

This region comprises a major part of the western coast of the state, with two districts belonging to Mumbai, also included in this division.





AJANTA & ELLORA CAVES

These ancient rock-cut caves with beautiful paintings and finely-carved sculptures are among the top tourist destinations not only in Maharashtra but across India. Ajanta Caves exhibit the brilliance of the earliest Buddhist architecture, sculptures and paintings.

On the other hand, Ellora Caves (104 km from Ajanta Caves) house Hindu and Jain temples, Buddhist monasteries and sculptures inspired by the three religions. As a UNESCO World Heritage site, these popular caves attract tourists from around the world.

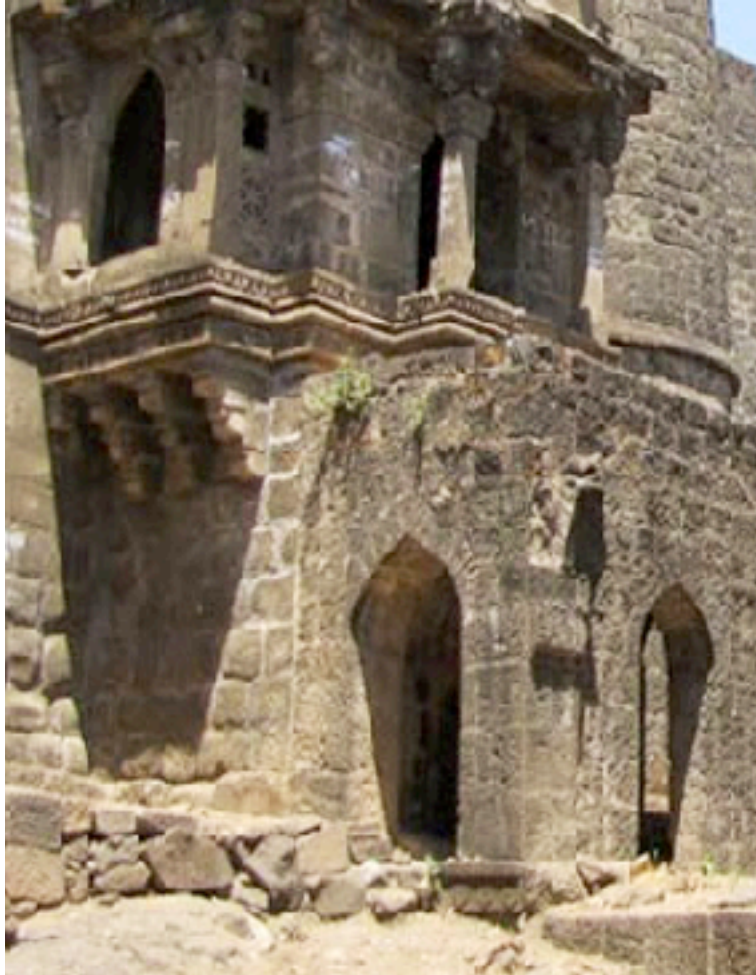
FXPI ORF



Ahmednagar

Ahmednagar is a place where Mughal-era forts and tombs, shrines of saints, temples of gods, a wildlife sanctuary for blackbucks and a defense establishment come together to give the tourist an experience of a different kind. It is also a city from where you can plan other excursions to make your holiday more enjoyable.

Located 120 kilometers from both Pune and Aurangabad, the town of Ahmednagar was established in 1494 by Ahmad Nizam Shah on the site of a more ancient city, Bhingar. With the break-up of the Bahmani Sultanate, Ahmed set up a new sultanate in Ahmednagar, also known as the Nizam Shahi dynasty. It is no wonder then that you will find here many Mughal-era buildings.



Akola

Akola lies in the western part of Nagpur Division of Maharashtra State surrounded by Amravati district in the north and northeast, Yavatmal in the southeast, Parbhani in the south and Buldhana in the west. Akola region is situated in the Vidarbha region of the Central India. In 1998, Akola district was divided into two separate districts as - Akola & Washim.

Akola has a plethora of historical, archaeological, religious, wildlife and natural scenic tourism potential. However, the district has seldom promoted or marketed itself as a tourist destination. Most of the tourists visiting Akola are from neighbouring districts of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, making it a domestic tourist destination. The tourists are restricted to the specific days of religious importance or holidays.



Amravati

Literally meaning 'the city of immortals', Amravati has long had its place of honour in both legend and history. Tradition links it to the abode of the goddess Amba (mother), whose shrine is located here. It was the capital of the legendary Vidarbha Janapada and the name of the capital city, Kundinapura, is still preserved in the form of a place called Kaundinyapur. We turn the spotlight on the long heritage of Amravati and its many tourist attractions.

Kaundinyapur was excavated archaeologically by the state's Directorate of Archaeology & Museums in the late sixties of the last century, as well as more recently. The results revealed the archaeological importance of the site dating right from the pre-historic period up to late mediaeval times. The Vakatakas ruled over this area between the third to the sixth centuries of the Christian era. Though they followed the Vedic-Puranic religion, they gave equal patronage to other faiths.

Aurangabad

Globally known as a favourite destination because of its proximity to the Ajanta and Ellora caves, Aurangabad serves as a major tourist hub that offers a wide array of network services to visit some of the most important attractions around it. Also, as a city, Aurangabad fascinates with its culture and lifestyle, offering discerning tourists a wide gamut of hospitality.

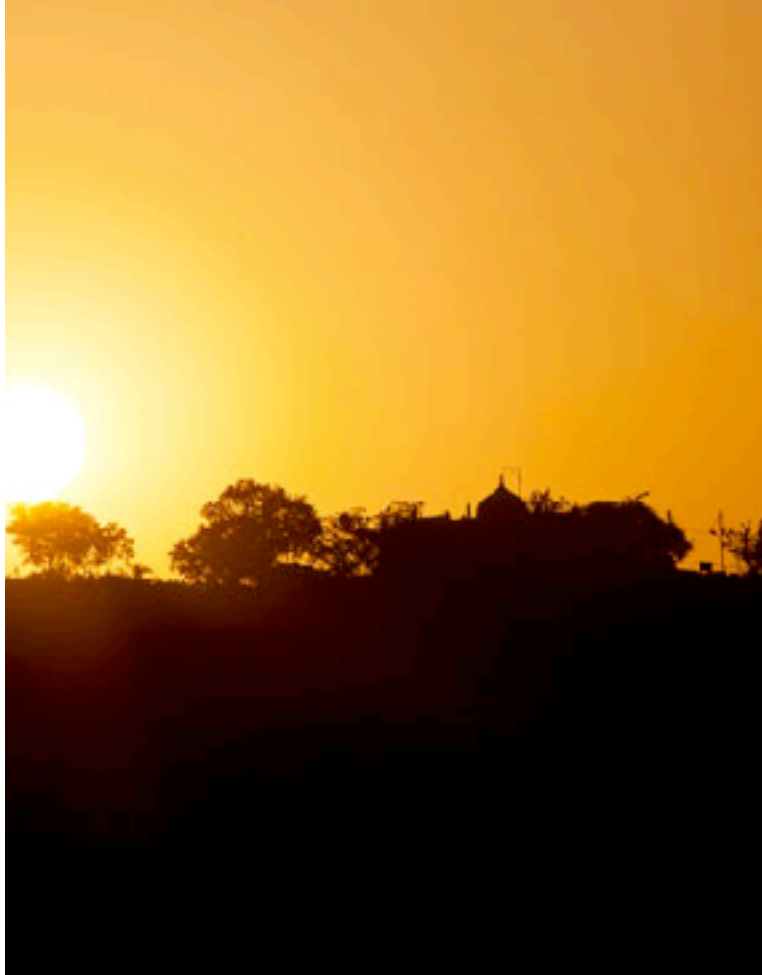
Tourism Capital of Maharashtra', Aurangabad is an important hub in the state's tourism sector with its close connection to such significant tourist destinations as caves of Ajanta and Ellora which have been declared 'World Heritage Sites' by UNESCO as well as the famous Mughal monument BibikaMaqbara. One of the fastest growing cities in Maharashtra, it is also emerging as a prime industrial city. The city is linked with Mumbai by air, rail and road and an excellent road network connects Aurangabad with the rest of the state.



Beed

Beed district is located in central part of Maharashtra state in central India. The district is bounded by Aurangabad and Jalna in the North, Parbhani and Latur in the East, Ahmednagar and Osmanabad in the South and Ahmednagar in the West. Godavari is the most significant river that flows on the borderline of Georai and Majalgaon Tehsils. The physical settings of Beed district shows a contrast of immense dimensions and reveals a variety of landscapes influenced by relief, climate and vegetation.

Beed has a plethora of historical, archaeological, religious, wildlife and natural scenic tourism potential. However, the district has seldom promoted or marketed itself as a tourist destination.



Bhandara

Bhandara district is a district of Maharashtra state in central India. Bhandara town is the administrative headquarters of the district. The district is an administrative district in the state of Maharashtra in India. The district headquarters are located at Bhandara. It is fondly called as the 'District of Lakes'. Bhandara town is also known as 'Brass City' owing to the presence of a large brass products industry. The entire region is surrounded by the hills, rivers and dams, and other natural resources. The district is located on the coasts of river Wainganga.

The district is rich natural resources like forest. It has one of the largest teak forests in India. More than half of the area of the Bhandara is covered by jungle. These forests are full with medicinal herbs, fruit and nuts, honey, edible fruits, lac, and the mahuci blossoms.



Chandrapur

Chandrapur is a district rich in natural beauty, historic places and temples with religious and archaeological significance.

Chandrapur is a home of places like Anandwan & Tadoba Andhari Tiger reserve forest. It is also known for its which are well known nationally and internationally.

Chandrapur is also known for its important religious places like Mahakali temple at Chandrapur city Jain temple at Bhadravati. Compare to other districts in vidharbha features like coal mines, dense forest & water bodies make it unique in its own way.

According to tradition and legend the name of the place was 'Lokapura' which was first changed to 'Indpur' and subsequently to Chandrapur. During the British colonial period it was called Chanda district, which was again changed to its original name 'Chandrapur' around 1964.



Gondia

Gondia is situated in the western Indian state of Maharashtra. It was created out of the Bhandara district. It is located in the north-eastern part of the state and is bordered by the states of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

According to historical evidences and reports, Gondia district was included in the seventh century in the territories of the Haihaya Rajput kings of Chhattisgarh whose kingdom was known as Maha Kosala.

Gondia or Gondiya was a part of Bhandara district retains some recollection of Hindu kings who ruled from Nagardhan. The 12th century saw the rule of Ponwars who were subsequently ousted by Gondchiefs who asserted their independence of the Ratanpur dynasty.

This was followed by Raghoji Bhonsle of Vidarbha who established himself as the king of Chanda, Deogarh and Chattisgarh in 1743.



Hingoli

Marathwada was initially under Nizam's regime. Hingoli was the tehsil of Parbhani district and part of Nizam's regime. It was actually Nizam's military base as it was border place with Vidhrabha. In that era military troops, hospitals, veterinary hospital were in operation from Hingoli. Residents of Hingoli had experienced two big wars between Tipu Sultan and Maratha in 1803 and in 1857 between Nagpurkar and Bhosale.

Being a military base the city was one of the important and famous places of the Hyderabad State. Some of the names like Pultan, Risala, Tophkhana, Pensionpura, Sadar Bazaar are famous today. In the 1956, post-independence period when the state were reconstructed Marathwada was attached to Mumbai State and in 1960 Hingoli became part of the Maharashtra State as part of Parbhani district. Later on 1st may 1999 Hingoli district came in to existence by division of Parbhani.



Jalgaon

The Jalgaon district is one of the smallest districts of Maharashtra, located at the edge of Maharashtra's northern boundary enveloped by Madhya Pradesh on the north Dhule and Akola districts on the west and east respectively. The district is bounded by undulating landscapes of the Satpura ranges on the north and the Ajanta mountain ranges in the south. The district has abundant water resources with Tapi and its tributaries flowing through the district. The district also has Bhusaval town which is a major rail yard. Jalgaon city is the district headquarters.

Jalgaon includes varied topographical features and a landscape, consisting of wild hills and forests, rich gardens and groves, stretches of barren plain, low rolling rocky hills and intensely gullied (bad land) topography near major river banks.



Jalna

Jalna district is approximately situated at the center part of Maharashtra state of Republic of India and in northern direction of Marathwada region. Specifically district lays between. Jalna was formerly a part of Nizam State and after the Marathwada Mukti Sangram, became part of India, as a tahsil of Aurangabad district.

Jalna district is well known for its hybrid seed industries, steel re-rolling mills, Bidi industry & Agro based industries like Dal mill. The district is also known for the highest production of Sweet Lemon (Mosambi) in the state. The peoples of Jalna district played an important role in the Marathwada Mukti Sangram, in which Shri. Janardan Mama Nagapurkar of Jalna laid down his life for motherland.

The district forms the eastern part of Marathwada region of Maharashtra and is bordered by Aurangabad district in the west,



Kolhapur

Kolhapur is one of the most easily approachable cities in Maharashtra that offers abundant tourist attractions and also serves as an important travel hub to explore other places. Not only does the city have its famous Mahalakshmi Mandir that draws millions of pilgrims each year but is also a nodal point to visit Panhala Fort and a wildlife sanctuary just a few kilometers away.

Located 377 kilometers from Mumbai and 237 kilometers from Pune, Kolhapur is very well-connected with most of the cities in Maharashtra by a good network of roads and railway. For the devout, it is the temple of Goddess Mahalakshmi in Kolhapur that is a big draw, it being the most revered shrine in the state. That apart, Kolhapur also serves as a base for making single day trips to many other places, all of them unique in their own ways.



Latur

It is the 16th largest city in the Marathwada region of the state of Maharashtra. The district headquarters are situated at Latur City. The district is situated on the Maharashtra Karnataka boundary.

Latur was home to a branch of Rashtrakutas which ruled the Deccan from year 753-973AD. It was over the centuries, variously ruled by the Satavahanas, the Sakas, the Chalukyas, the Yadavas of Deogiri, the Delhi Sultans, and the Bahamani rulers of South India, Adilshahi, and the Mughals. Later in the 19th century it became part of the independent princely state of Hyderabad under the Nizam.

The chief of Nizam's Razakar army Qasim Rizwi was from Latur. Earlier known as Naldurg tehsil, in 1905 it was merged with surrounding areas and renamed as Latur tehsil belonged to the part of Osmanabad district.



Nagpur

Nagpur District forms the north-eastern part of the present state of Maharashtra. The district is roughly triangular in shape and is rich in geological and mineral wealth. Along with minerals, fossils of flora and fauna both have been reported from this area in large numbers. It is interesting to note that the veins of semi precious stones, agate, and rock crystal forms were used to make beads in the prehistoric times.

The easy availability of natural resources and climate might have attracted human settlement from the pre-historic era. A good number of lithic tools left behind lend credibility to this theory. Hundreds of Megalithic burials of various types have been documented and important remains have also been unearthed.

An iron-smelting furnace belonging to the megalithic period was found at Naikund providing important clues to understand the material culture of the megalithic period.



Nashik

One of the most popular destinations for the pious Hindus, Jains and Buddhists and also known for its association with the epic 'Ramayana', Nashik not only has an ethereal and spiritual quality about it but is also a touch point for tourists who wish to explore its interesting forts and a unique centre that offers courses in 'vipassana'. It's also one of the most up-and-coming cities in Maharashtra with a vibrant culture and entertainment ethos.

Located in north-west Maharashtra, 171 kilometers from Mumbai and 210 kilometers from Pune, Nashik is the third-largest city in the state after Mumbai and Pune. It is also a city that has lured people from distant regions for hundreds of years. In fact, the antiquity of the city goes back to prehistoric times and archaeological excavations carried out here on the banks of river Godavari have revealed the evidence of habitation from the Chalcolithic age dating back to approximately 1,400 – 1,300 BCE.

Pune

There was a time when Pune was known as a Pensioner's Paradise – home to those who had retired and wanted a peaceful life in a salubrious environment. Now of course Pune has grown into a vibrant metro, a hub of education, industry, information technology, entertainment, and so on. But what makes Pune still more significant is that it is a place from where you can plan several exciting trips to hill-stations, forts, and places of pilgrimage, not to forget an adventurous package too.

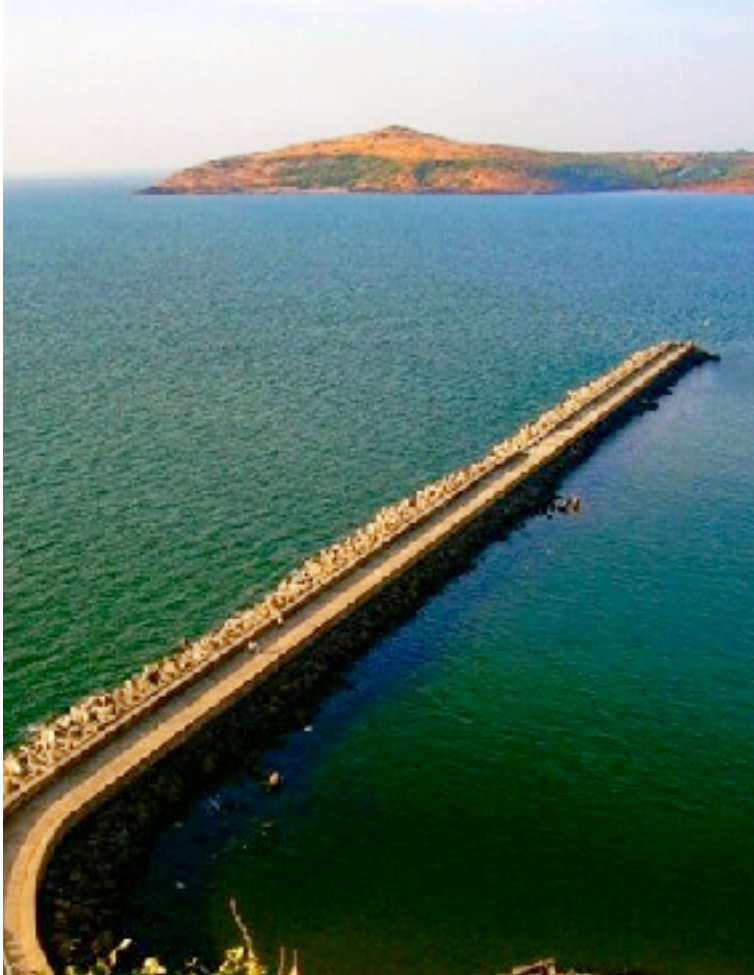
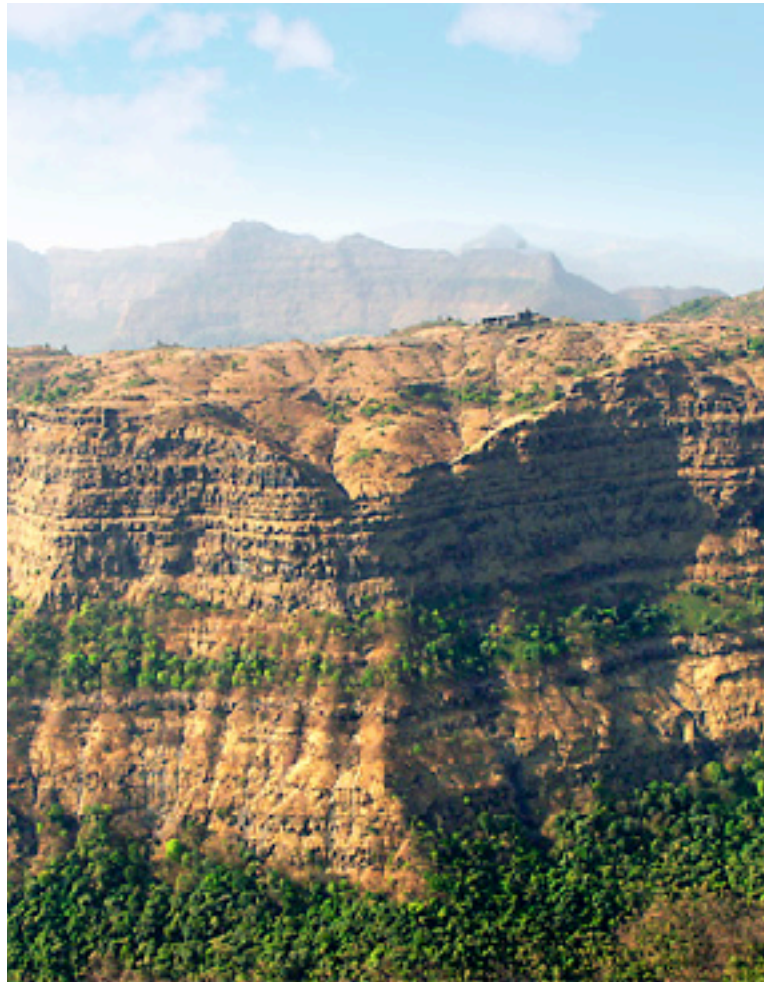
Apart from the many interesting places just beyond the city limits of Pune, such as the Sinhagad Fort or the backwaters of the Khadakvasla Dam, tourists always make it a point to visit the twin hill-stations of Lonavala and Khandala for its bracing weather and the wonderful views you get of the valley and the snaking highway that leads to Mumbai. Lonavla is about 64 kilometers away from Pune and has several 'points' that offer breathtaking views of nature at her best.



Raigad

High up on the hill of Raigad where the strong winds will buffet you and the valleys around will mesmerize you with their scenic splendour is the fort of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the great king of the Maratha Empire. This was the capital during his rule, also important for the fact that Shivaji's coronation took place here on June 6, 1674. It was also here that he breathed his last. The fort today is a favourite tourist destination, also high up on the popularity chart with avid trekkers because of its difficult terrain.

Raigad is situated in the taluka of Mahad and the fort rises 820 meters above sea level. As historical records show, the fort was known by different names at different times, including Tanas, Rasivata, Nandadeep and Rayari. It was initially under the control of Chandrarao More of Jawali and captured by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj when he defeated More in a fierce battle in 1656 CE, following which he re-named it Raigad.

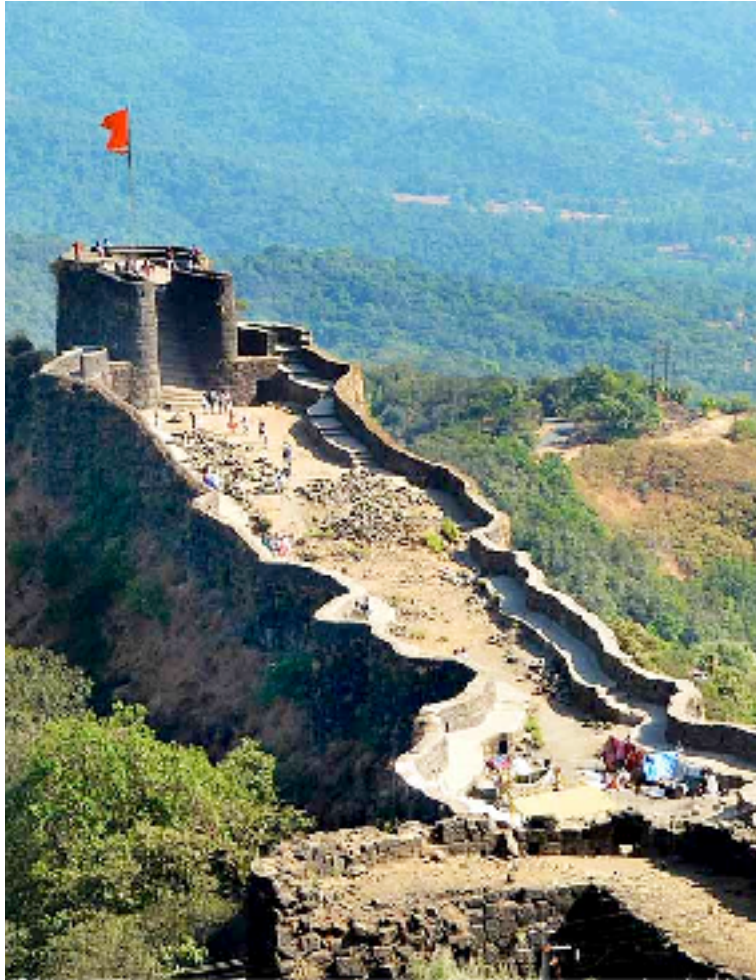


Ratnagiri

Famous for its Konkani culture and cuisine, not to forget the much coveted Alphonso mangoes, Ratnagiri is also the birthplace of the great freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak. A prominent port town of Maharashtra, it is a big draw for tourists who come here to enjoy the sand and surf while striking base here because of its many hotels to explore the other interesting tourist destinations of the Konkan region.

Located about 335 kilometers from Mumbai, the town of Ratnagiri is small and easy to navigate. Within the town's borders is an aquarium, the main attraction of which is the skeleton of a huge whale. There are also many specimens of exotic fish and turtles. However, one of the first places that most tourists like to visit is the Ratnadurga Fort which is spread over 120 acres and surrounded by the Arabian Sea from three sides.

A fascinating tunnel connects the north and south divisions of the fort. There is a lighthouse here, built in 1867 on 'Siddha Buruj', one of the fort's bastions.



Satara

Satara District is situated in Western part of Maharashtra. The district offers opportunities to the tourists to visit the most beautiful natural places and also reveal its importance as a center of cultural significance. Several temples, Forts, Lakes, Dams, Museums as well as Sanctuaries make the district a wonderful place to visit. The district has world famous hot beds of Ecotourism namely Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani as 2 listed destinations of "A" type category. The Kas plateau in Javli Taluka which has been listed on UNESCO Bio-Diversity Heritage Site is an additional advantage to the District Tourism.

All these features have led to an increase in tourism growth. At the same time the locations which are popular are getting over saturated with the tourists. As a dispersal policy, there is a need to provide appropriate infrastructure and facilities at these alternate places, to make the tourist experience worthwhile.

Sindhudurg

If indeed you would like to know how visionary, intelligent and resourceful the Maratha rulers were in Maharashtra, a visit to the Sindhudurg Fort in the Konkan region should be a must. It was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji on an island two kilometers into the sea and had the advantage of rock formations around it to give it natural protection. Apart from the beauty and historical value of this fort, the surrounding landscape in itself is a tourist's delight with several options for adventure too.

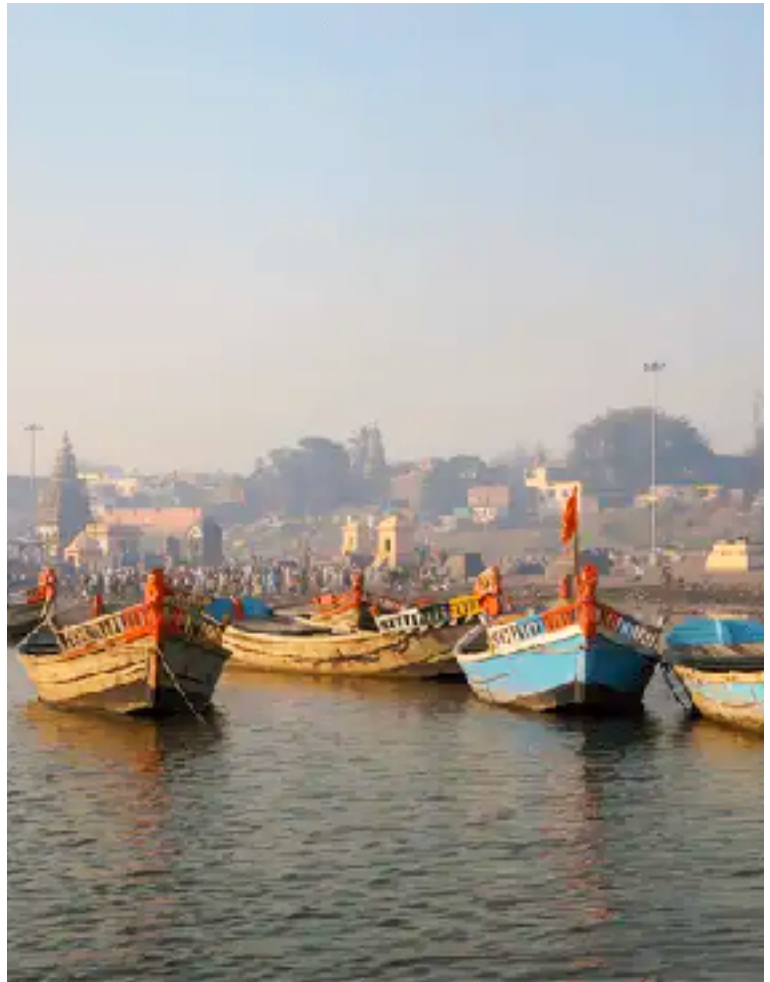
Located in the Malvan taluka, Sindhudurg is one of the excellent sea forts in Maharashtra whose construction was started in 1664 and completed in 1667. The structure of the fort continues to remain as strong as ever, maybe because its foundations were laid down in lead. The fort is situated on an island called Kurate which is two kilometers from the Konkan shore. Surrounded by rocks, it provided natural protection from enemy ships and gave the Maratha naval ships a secured base in the western sea.



Solapur

While most cities in India have taken the route of rapid urbanisation, Solapur has managed to retain its traditional charms that include places of historical interest and several ancient temples. That apart, it has also acquired prominence for its production of bed-sheets and towels and of course the famous Solapuri chutney. The city also serves as a nodal point for many other excursions, the most interesting being a visit to Nannaj to see the Great Indian Bustard.

Solapur, one of the four districts that form the region of Western Maharashtra and known for its textile industry, is located near Maharashtra's borders with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. A city with a rich cultural heritage and lots of ancient monuments, it is served by the rivers Bheema, Seena and Mann that are its lifelines. Above all, it is a place revered by Hindu pilgrims for it is believed to have been showered with blessings from Lord Vitthala of Pandharpur who is worshipped by millions of 'warkaris' (pilgrims).



Panchgani

If it hadn't been for the constant search of the British for scenic hill stations with invigorating climate, Panchgani probably wouldn't have been discovered. It was developed as a retirement place but soon became one of the most popular hill stations in Maharashtra. Its beauty is enhanced by a flat piece of land which is called the 'table top'.

The credit for discovering Panchgani must go to a British superintendent named John Chesson who was placed in charge of the hill station in the 1860s. Fond of gardening, he planted many species from the western world in Panchgani, including silver oak and poinsettia, which have flourished since then.

To develop the infrastructure, Chesson encouraged various professionals - tailors, dhobis, butchers, vegetable vendors, building contractors, etc. to also settle in Panchgani. The area below the bazaar was allotted to them, and is known as the 'gaathan'.



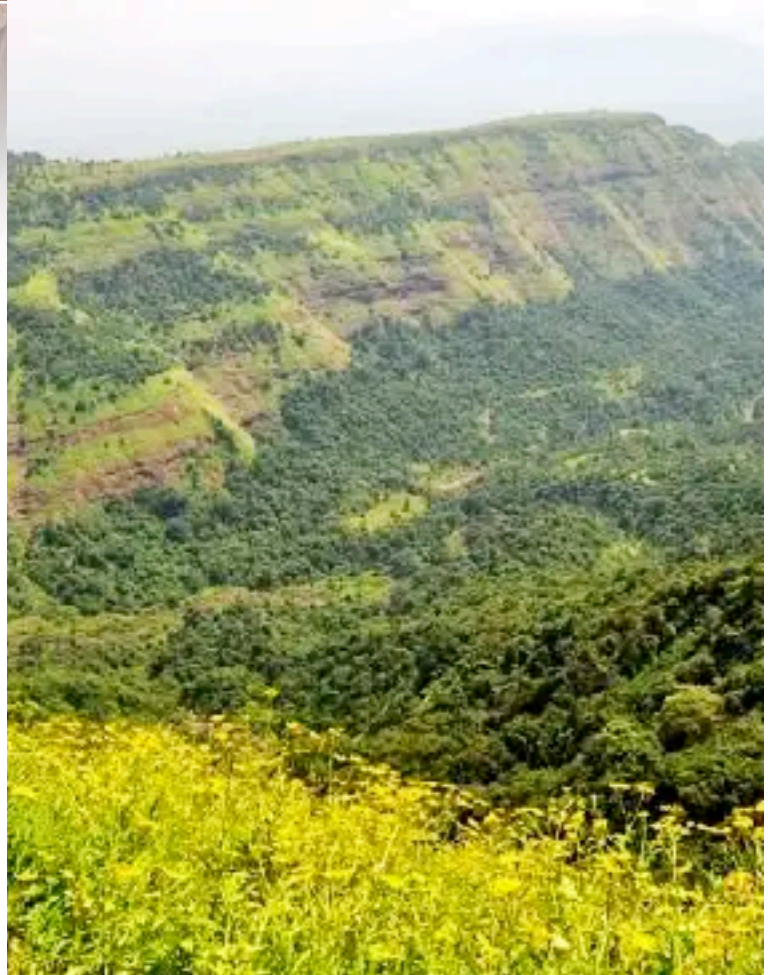
Alibaug - A Peaceful

Get to Alibaug – one of the peaceful places to visit in April in Maharashtra, if you want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the metro cities in India, especially Mumbai. More of a quiet and peaceful town, Alibaug is home to some of the best beaches that makes it one of the best places to visit in Maharashtra in summer.



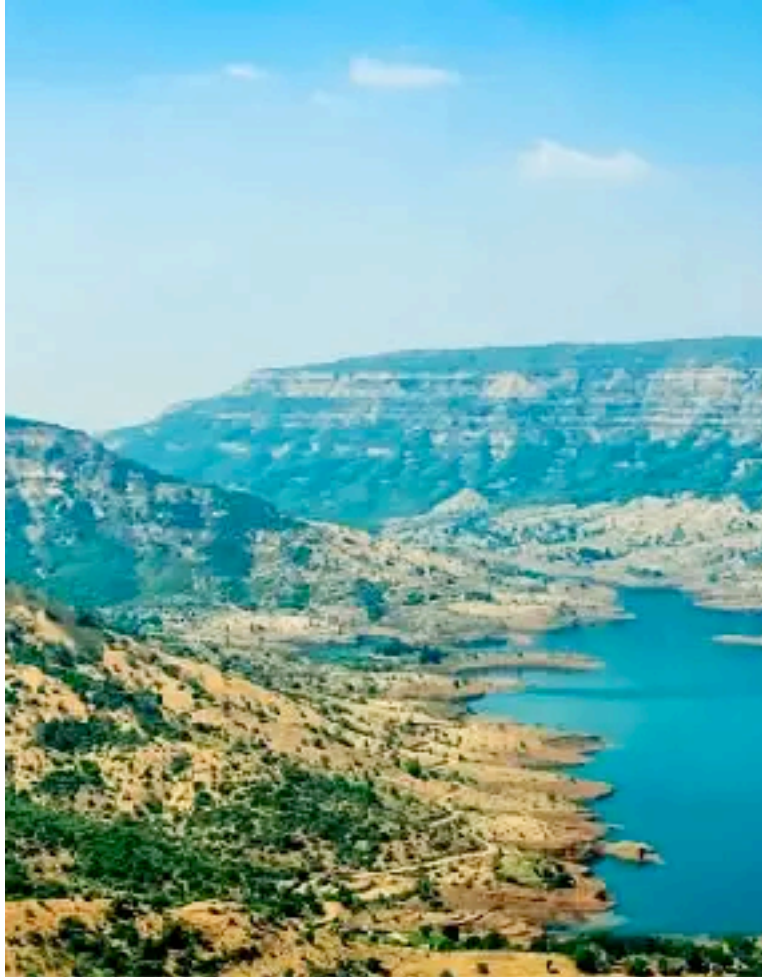
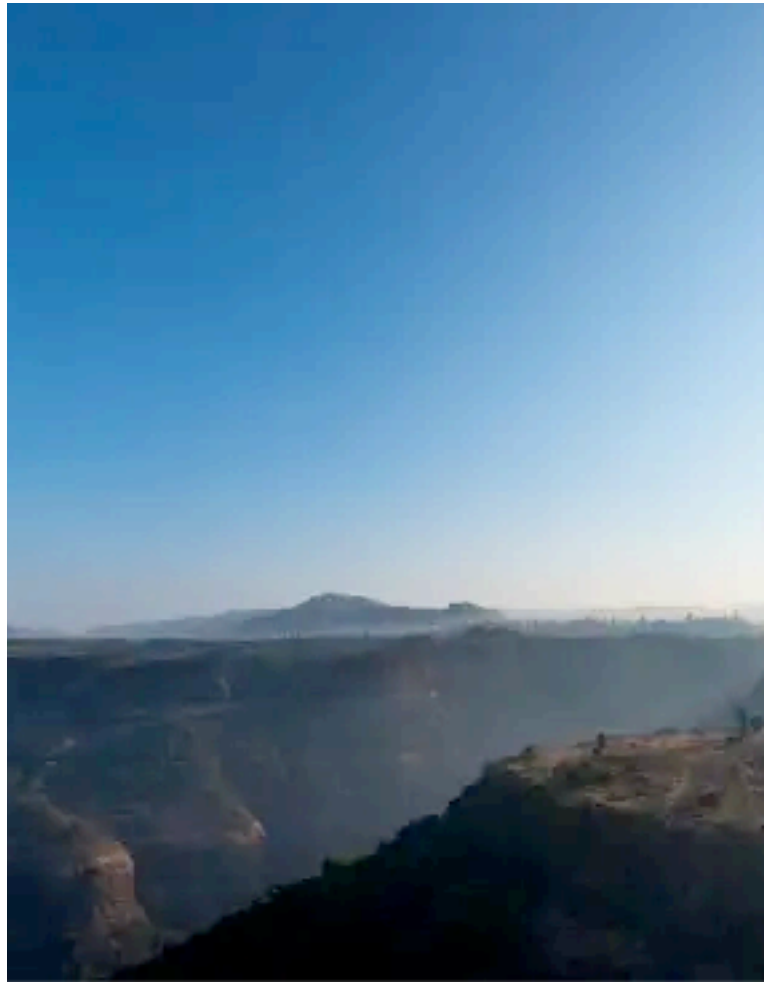
Matheran - Smallest Hill Station In India

Despite being the smallest hill station in India, Matheran has a lot to offer when it comes to places to visit in Maharashtra in summer. Located in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, Matheran treats the adventure souls right with its lush green and forested routes that are rich in wildlife and best for trekking and hiking. It is one of the best hill stations in Maharashtra that you ought to visit on your next trip.



Khandala - Admire The Natural Beauty

Located just 3 kilometers away from the above mentioned Lonavala, Khandala also is a stunner when it comes to places to visit in Maharashtra in May. Enjoying a pleasant climate during the summers, the natural beauty of Khandala makes it one of the best summer vacation places in Maharashtra and it will be worth spending your vacation in this nature's marvel.



Mahabaleshwar - A Romantic Getaway

Nestled in the Sahyadri Mountain ranges, Mahabaleshwar is yet another place to explore in summers which is also a romantic getaway for all the love birds. Once a summer capital of Bombay, quiet and enchanting places to visit in Mahabaleshwar are nothing less than magic.



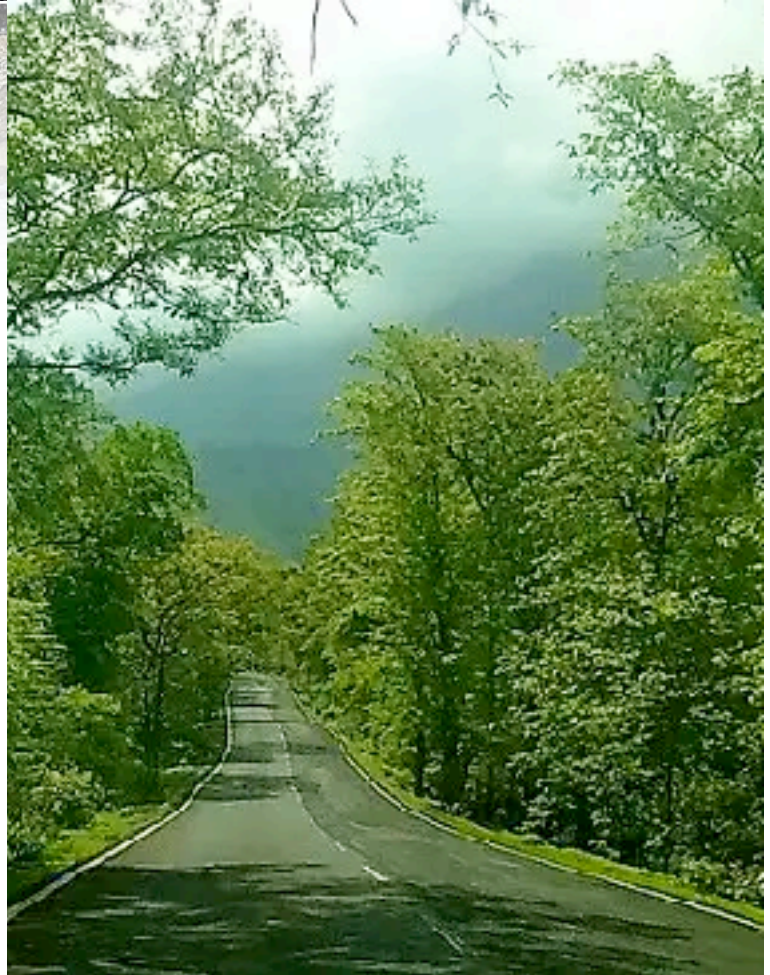
Harihareshwar - Soak In Serene Vibes

Known for being a popular beach destination by the locals, this place is nothing less than blessed with the famous temple of Harihareshwar in the vicinity. Not only the majestic four hills protecting the region proudly add more charm to this place's serene vibes, it also has river Savitri through the town and dense forests around the beach that make this a perfect holiday spot to unwind. It is one of the best tourist places in Maharashtra.



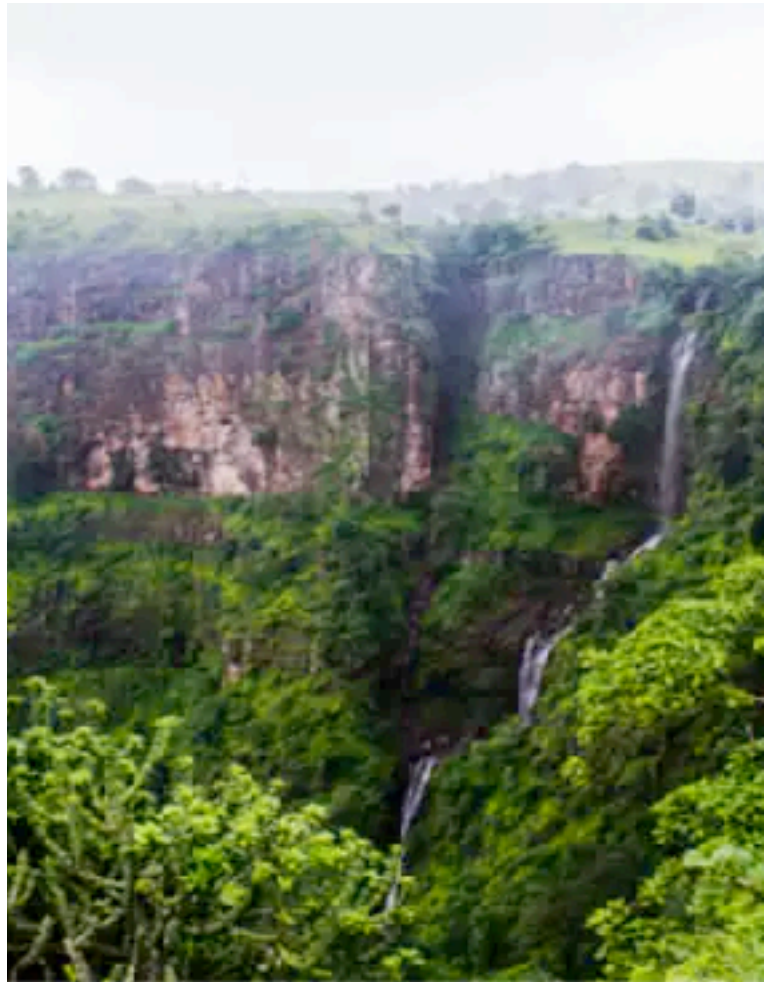
Malshej Ghat - A True Nature's Paradise

Nestled amongst the majestic mountains, serene waterfalls and numerous enchanting lakes, Malshej Ghat is what you call a true nature's paradise. Famous amongst the locals for being a perfect weekend getaway from Pune, Mumbai and Thane, this place is also known for trekking and hiking activities which is why it is counted among the top places to visit in Maharashtra in summer.



Toranmal - Lush Landscapes

Toranmal is one of the best places to visit in summer in Maharashtra. The name of this place has been adapted from the word 'Tarona', a goddess worshipped by the tribals of the region. This small hill station is best for nature lovers. There are several beautiful lakes, less-explored caves and view points in Toranmal.



Jawhar - A Mini Hillstation

Jawhar is a tiny hill station located in the Thane district. This is one of the most charming tourist places in Maharashtra in summer for a family or couple holiday. Rich with scenic beauty, Jawhar is simply a green paradise. There are spots to watch the stunning sunset, beautiful palaces and waterfalls.

Jai Vilas Palace, an architectural wonder from the past, is one of the major highlights of Jawhar sightseeing.



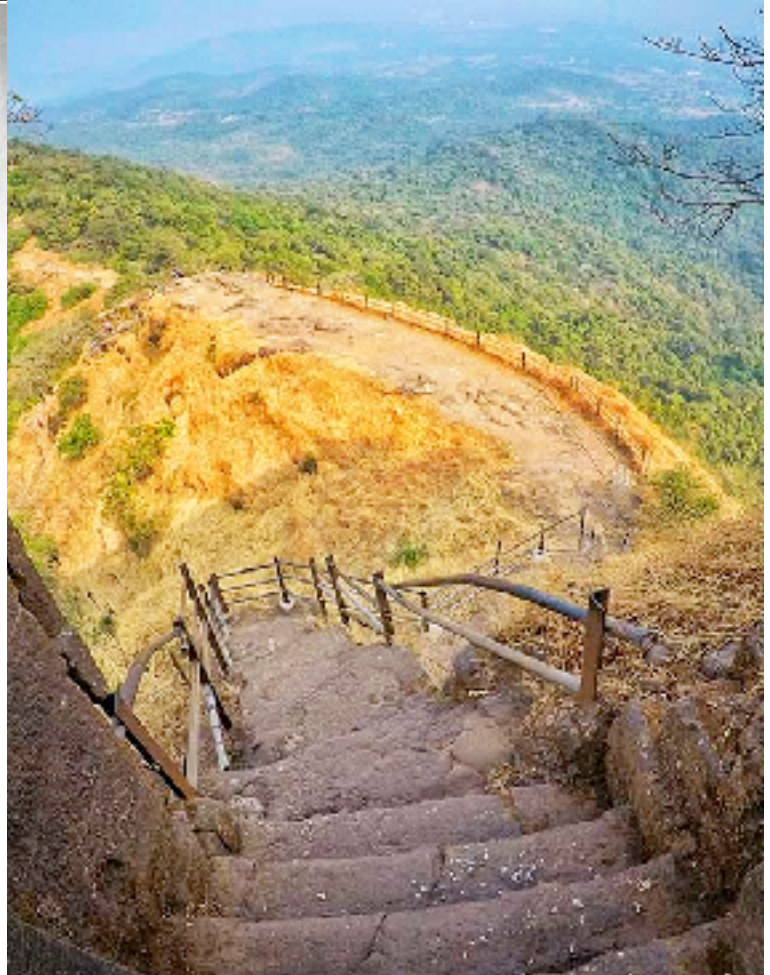
Bhandardara, Maharashtra

Also known as the Queen of Sahyadri ranges, this beautiful hill station boasts lush green landscapes, high mountains and cascading waterfalls. Bhandardara is situated in the Ahmednagar district and is a popular retreat for trekkers and nature lovers. Some must-visit attractions in Bhandardara are Umbrella Falls, Wilson Dam, Arthur Lake, Kalsubai Peak, Ratangarh Fort, Ratanwadi Village and the millennium-old Amruteshwar Temple. For adventurous souls, try trekking on Mount Kalsubai, the highest peak in Maharashtra.



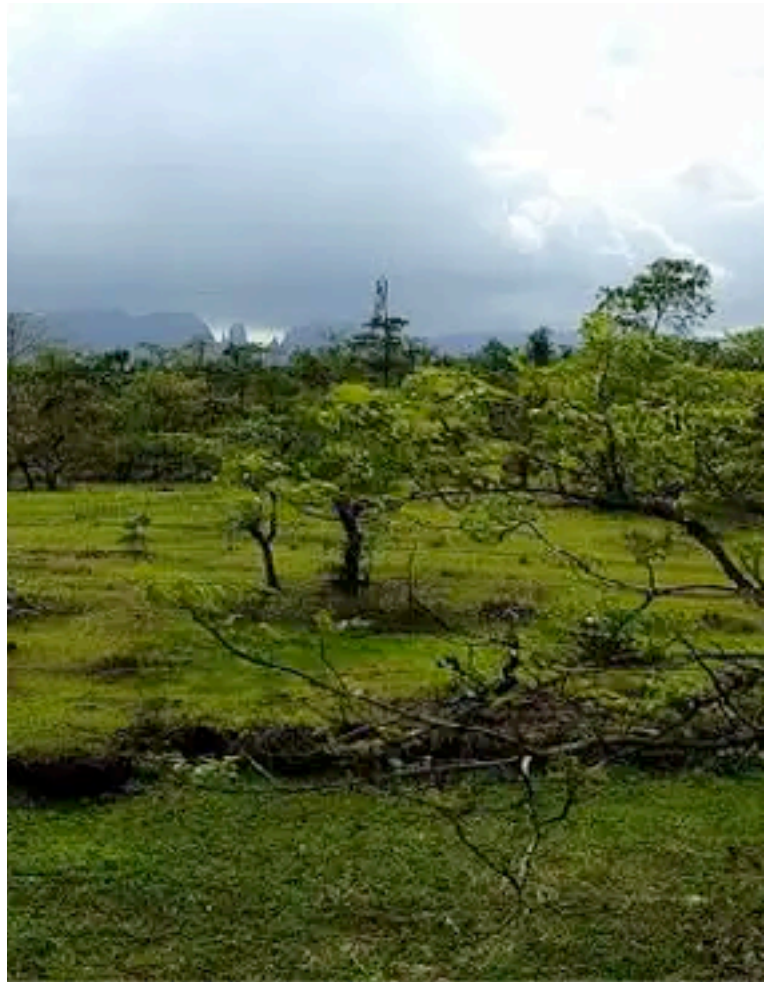
Karnala, Maharashtra

This beautiful city in the Raigarh district is quite a treat for nature lovers and architecture enthusiasts. The place looks lush green and inviting during the monsoons and offers much respite from the summer heat. Karnala Bird Sanctuary and Karnala Fort are the main attractions here. The bird sanctuary houses over 220 species of birds and many wild animals. The ancient fort lying within the bird sanctuary is a must-visit for history buffs.



Igatpuri - Escape To Nature

Igatpuri is perched in the heart of the Western Ghats and being surrounded by the highest ranges of the Sahyadri Ranges, the place offers spell-binding escapes to nature lovers. The serene ambiance of Igatpuri is certainly worth exploring. This is amongst the best places to visit in summer in Maharashtra.



Lavasa, Maharashtra

Modelled on the Italian town of Portofino, Lavasa is a private hill city that was built from the scratch. This well-planned, clean city boasts of stunning infrastructure and a European experience. Spread over seven hills, Lavasa offers enthralling views of the lakes, hills and valleys, making it one of the most popular tourist places in Maharashtra. Adventure lovers can try their hand at hiking, biking, rappelling, camping and raft building. Lakeshore Watersports, a top attraction in Lavasa, is a wonderful place to enjoy different kinds of water sports.



Kashid - Quaint Little Beach Town

A quaint little beach town nestled along the North Konkan region of Maharashtra, Kashid is one of the coolest places to visit in Maharashtra during summer. Famous for its white sand beaches, clear blue seas, and dense-forested mountains, Kashid is an apt place where all the beach bums should be heading this summer.



Lonavala - Best Picnic Spot

Lonavala not only serves as the best picnic spot in Maharashtra in summer but is also one of the best picnic spots near Mumbai for all those who want escape the clutter of city life. Known for its waterfalls and soothing greenery, get to Lonavala for a gala time during your summer vacations. This is one of the best cold places to visit in summer in Maharashtra.



Mulshi, Maharashtra

A clean and eco-friendly destination, Mulshi looks straight out of a postcard. Surrounding the stunning Mulshi Lake, the village offers breathtaking views of the Sahyadri ranges, lush green valleys and dense forests. What's more? You can enjoy camping and bonfire at the picturesque Mulshi Dam and take a peaceful boat ride at the lake. Other major attractions in the village include Tamhini Ghat, Temghar Dam, Koraigarh Fort and Dhangad Fort.



Mandwa, Maharashtra

This small village located in the Raigarh district is a stone's throw away from Alibaug. When travelling from Mumbai, you can take a ferry from the Gateway of India jetty to Mandwa Beach. This calm and charming beach is the main attraction here. Pleasant weather and clean waters play the perfect host to water sports enthusiasts seeking banana boat rides, kayaking, jet skiing and water scooters rides. Mandwa is also known for its churches, Buddhist caves and Portuguese historical site ruins.



Tarkarli, Maharashtra

This small town located at the convergence of the Arabian Sea and Karli river is known for its white-sand beaches and pristine water.

It is a newfound holiday destination and is untouched by commercialisation. Tarkarli is known for the fine talcum-powder like sand. The beaches here are perfect for relaxing and enjoying different water sports. While at the beach, do not miss the beautiful sunset and the sight of dolphins jumping around in the water.

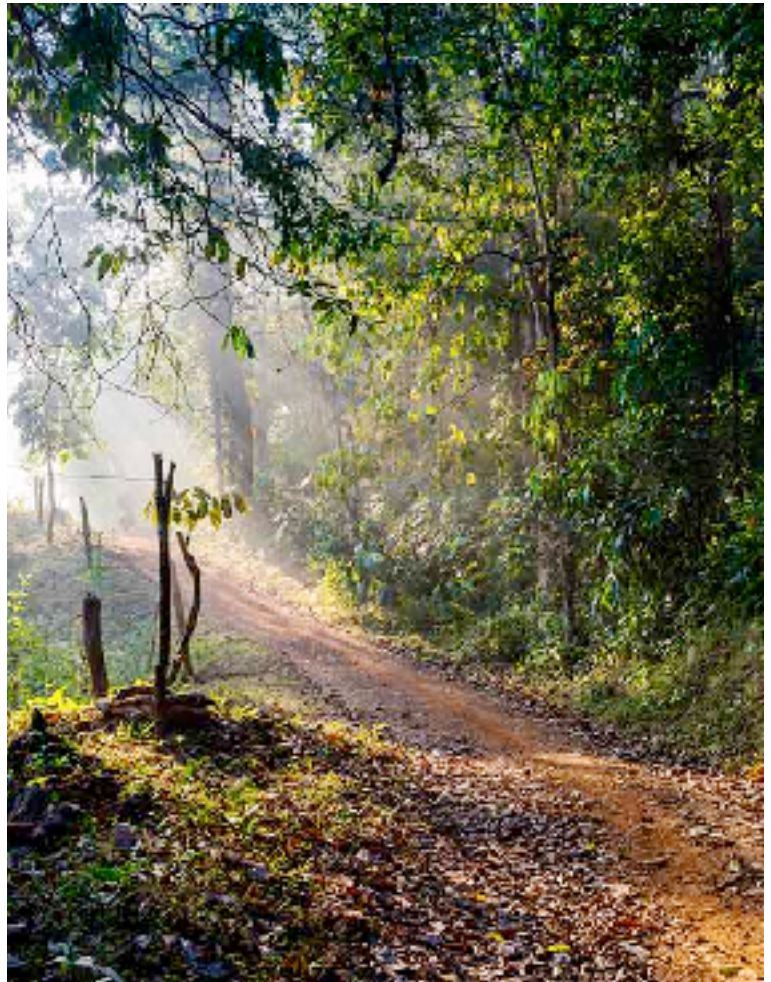
Ganpatipule, Maharashtra

A holy destination situated in the lap of nature, Ganpatipule is one of the top choices among beach lovers. This beach town along the Konkan coast is known for the 400-year-old, self-created idol of Lord Ganesha. Also, a hill shaped like Lord Ganesha behind the temple and the confluence of the sea and river are nothing less than natural wonders. When in Ganpatipule, you can enjoy different water sports at the beaches and visit popular attractions such as Jaigarh Fort, Jaigarh Lighthouse and Malgund village.



Durshet, Maharashtra

Nestled in the heart of the Sahyadri range, Durshet is famous for its abundant natural beauty. Apart from meandering rivers, gushing waterfalls and lush green environs, the town houses many ruins of heritage sites and ancient temples. Ballaleshwar Temple and Varad Vinayak Temple—two of the eight famous Ashtavinayak temples—are located in the vicinity. Other popular attractions here include Imagicaa Theme Park, Pali Fort, Durshet Forest Lodge and Uddhar Hot Springs.



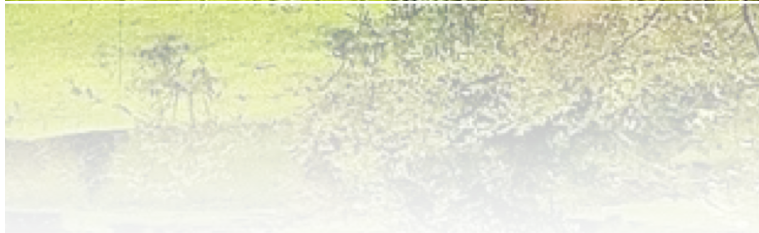
Dapoli, Maharashtra

Although popular as a beach destination, Dapoli has a lot more to offer. Located in the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra, Dapoli is 215 km away from Mumbai. Dapoli is known for its scenic beaches, beautiful landscapes and lush greenery. While here, you can also explore the historical forts, temples and caves, take a dip at Unhavare hot water springs and enjoy different activities such as water sports, trekking and hiking. Karde beach, Ladghar beach, Keshavraaj Temple, Parshuram Bhumi and Panhalekaji caves are among the top attractions here.



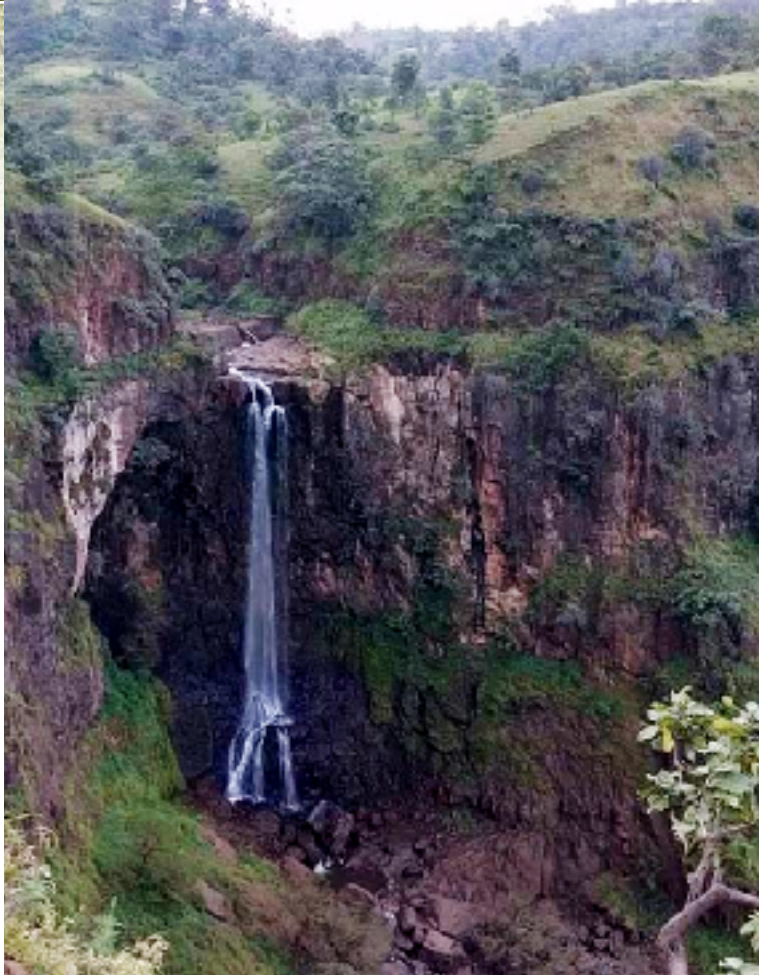
Koroli, Maharashtra

This beautiful hill station in Nashik is a treat for the eyes, mind and soul. Located 160 km away from Mumbai and 250 km away from Pune, Koroli is a perfect weekend getaway. Its scenic beauty is mesmerising and the place comes alive during the monsoon with verdant greenery all around. Koroli is surrounded by the Sahyadri Mountains and has Vaitarna Dam and its backwaters in the vicinity. Some top spots in and around Koroli are Trimbakeshwar Shiva Temple, Anjaneri hilltop fort and Talegaon Kachurli forest and lake.



Chikhaldara, Maharashtra

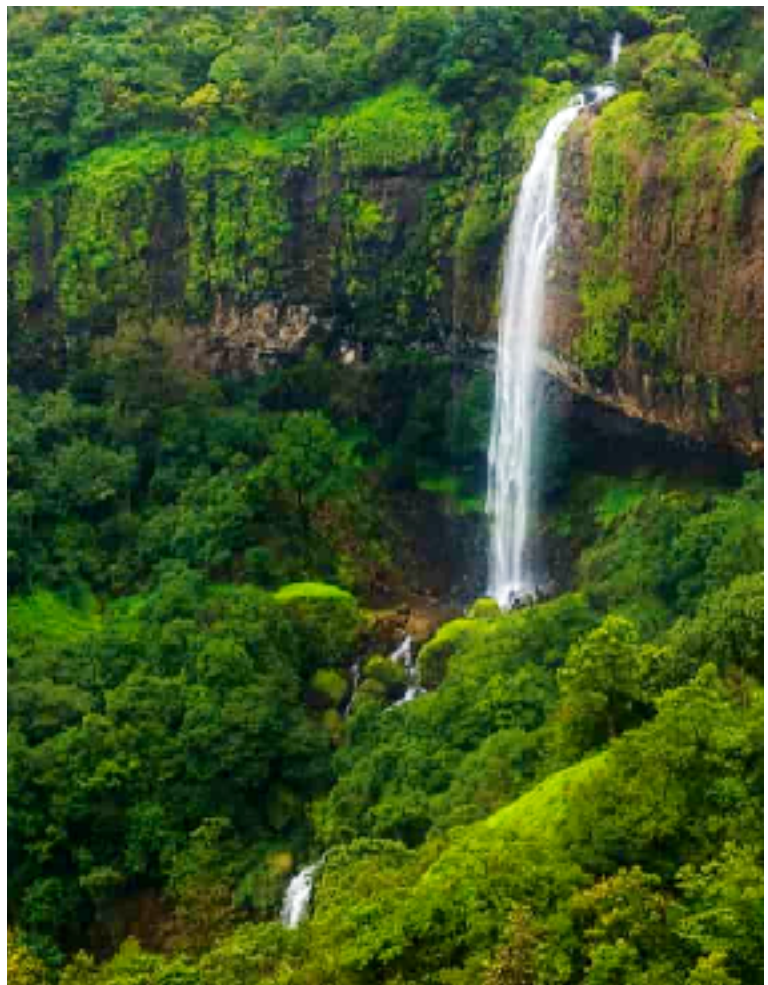
Chikhaldara is the only hill station in the Vidharba region and is a preferred summer retreat. It is also the sole coffee-growing area in the region; you can actually get the scent of coffee when you enter Chikhaldara. Bhimkund, the place where Bhim took bath after killing Kichaka, is a popular attraction here. You can also explore Gwaligarh and Narnala Forts, spend a peaceful time near Bir and Kalapani lakes and spot some wild animals at Melghat Tiger Reserve and Gugamal National Park. Muktagiri, a collection of 52 Jain temples is only 46 km away from Chikhaldara.



Amboli, Maharashtra

A relatively unexplored destination, Amboli is a perfect retreat from chaotic cities.

This hill station is located in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra, just before the coastal highlands of Goa. In Amboli, you can spend quality time amidst nature and indulge in outdoor activities such as trekking and camping. Durg and Dhakoba peaks offer a wonderful trekking experience while Shirgaonkar Point is perfect for enjoying stunning views of the valley. Amboli Falls, Madhavgad Fort, and Sunset Point are some of the other popular attractions here.



Panhala, Maharashtra

Located at an elevation of 3177 feet above sea level, Panhala offers scenic views of the mountains and valley below. It is the smallest city in Maharashtra and is only 22 km away from Kolhapur. Panhala Fort, the largest fort in the Deccan region, is the main attraction here. It has many structures and monuments that offer a glimpse of the great Maratha Empire's rich heritage. Parashar Caves, Sajja Kothi, Ambabai Temple, Sambhaji Temple and Someshwar Temple are also some of the must-visit places in Panhala.



Wai, Maharashtra

Enveloped in natural beauty, Wai is a picturesque hill station in Maharashtra's Satara district. It is a prominent attraction among religious travellers as Wai houses more than 100 temples and is also known as "Dakshin Kashi" (Kashi of the South).

Mahaganapati Mandir, Kalubai Mandir, Menawali Wes, Pandavgad Fort, Nana Phadnavis Vada and Vairatgad Fort are some important attractions here. You can also explore Rajpuri Caves and Wai Caves and enjoy scenic views from Harrison's Folly, Table Land, Sydney Point and Dhom Dam.

Tamhini Ghat, Maharashtra

A popular weekend getaway from Pune and Mumbai, Tamhini Ghat is all about panoramic mountain views, scenic lakes and beautiful waterfalls. This mountain pass in the Western Ghats looks particularly alluring during the monsoons. When in Tamhini Ghat, you can trek to Sudhagad Fort, Ghangad Fort and Sarasgad Fort for a thrilling experience, enjoy swimming and picnic at Tamhini Waterfall and participate in adrenaline-rushing river-rafting activities at Mulshi Dam. Andharban Trail Point is a popular and picturesque hiking trail here.



Sawantwadi, Maharashtra

This beautiful town in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra is a popular pit stop for tourists travelling to and from Mumbai and Goa. The place also has some popular attractions that one must explore. Nature lovers can enjoy a picnic at Hiranya Keshi Nagarta Falls and take a walk at Narendra Dongar Park. Sawantwadi Palace is a key attraction in the district. Also, do not forget to include Moti Lake, Narendra Hill, Hanuman Temple and Vithal Temple in your travel itinerary.



Lonar, Maharashtra

A small town in the Vidarbha region, Lonar is just 140 km away from Aurangabad. The town is famous for Lonar Crater Lake, the third-largest crater in the world and the only saltwater lake in basaltic rock. The lake is surrounded by low hills and is covered by a jungle on the sides. The forest is home to many migratory birds and animals including herons, shell ducks, baya weavers, chinkaras, peafowls and gazelles. Gomukh Temple and Daitya Sudhan Temple are religiously significant places in Lonar.



Kolad, Maharashtra

Famous for white water rafting, Kolad is a thriving tiny village in the Raigad district in Maharashtra.

Known for its cascading waterfalls, green meadows & picturesque backdrop of Sahyadris, Kolad is gaining traction as an adventure sports destination with provisions for rafting, rappelling, and kayaking.

Kolad boasts of natural beauty which blooms during the monsoons. Known as the Rishikesh of Maharashtra, the majestic valleys & picturesque backdrops make Kolad a treat for nature lovers as well as shutterbugs. The river Kundalika is a big attraction here especially for people who are interested in white water rafting.

The Kundalika River is one of the fastest flowing rivers of the South which makes it ideal for water rafting and other adventure activities. Along with that, there are a couple of forts, dams and waterfalls which make Kolad a good holiday destination with something to offer to everyone.

Kamshet, Maharashtra

Kamshet is a picturesque hill station in Western Ghats, renowned for paragliding and flying schools. Surrounded by Western Ghats, this place is regularly featured in the top 10 must visit destinations of India for an adventurous junkie.

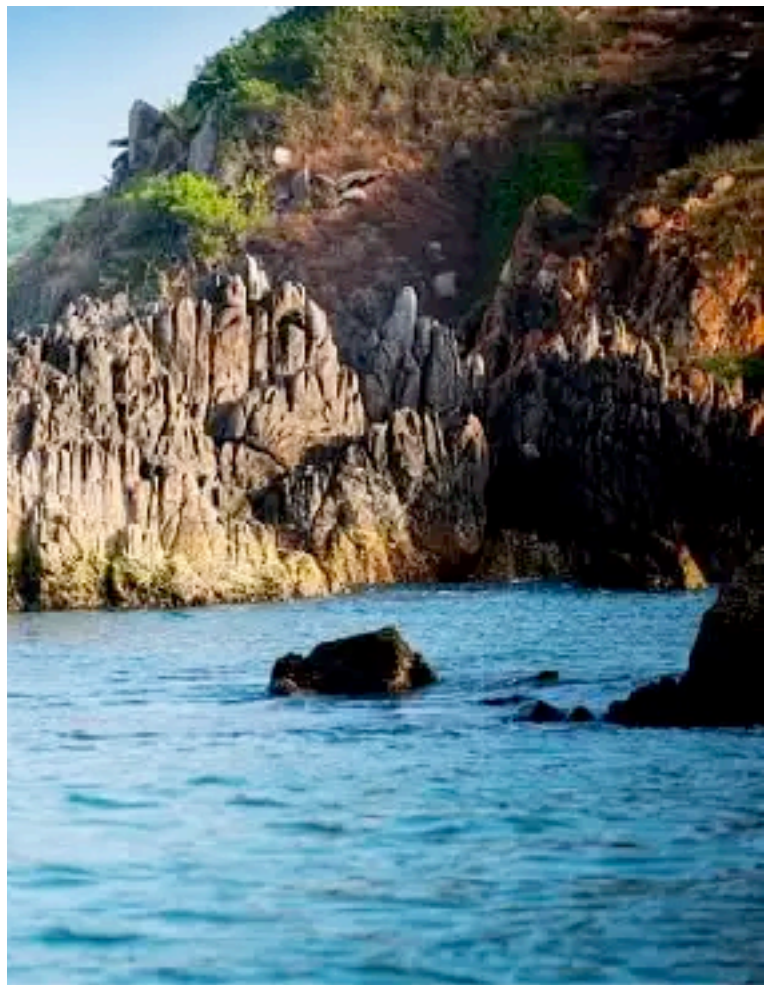
Located in Pune district, just 45 km from the main town, Kamshet is a paragliders paradise. It's a beautiful place with small villages with natural scenery and fresh air. You can enjoy the surroundings and also have a closer look at the village life of India with muddy huts and village markets. The area is surrounded by paddy and sunflower fields and it provides an awesome view while you are enjoying the world class paragliding facilities here. Among other important attractions in this region are the Bhairi caves, Bhedsa caves, Khondeshwar temple, Pavana lake and Shinde wadi hills. Due to its proximity to other hill stations like Lonavla and Khandala, one can include those places in this trip as well.



Malvan - Famous Fishing Ports

Painting a beautiful canvas for you with its stunning beaches, sprawling backwater and ancient forts in the backdrop, Malvan is indeed one of the best places to visit in summer in Maharashtra.

Renowned to be the most famous fishing ports in the state, Malvan is one of the places to visit in March in Maharashtra to enjoy some privacy, great sunsets, and adventurous watersports.



Karjat, Maharashtra

Karjat, a quaint little village is the last station of Thane district in Maharashtra. The river Ulhas finds its origin in Karjat and trekking and historical spots make it a popular destination for trekkers and adventure enthusiasts.

It is 90kms from Mumbai and has gained importance because it connects Pune and Lonavala station to Mumbai.

LUXURY TRAIN

Experience the unique landscapes, wildlife and wondrous historic sites of northern Maharashtra in regal style, travelling on one of the world's most opulent rail journeys. The undisputed highlights of our 'Deccan Odyssey' tour are the great cave temples of Ellora and Ajanta, but the trip also offers the chance of sighting tigers in the wild, and experiencing the unique atmosphere of an authentic Hindu pilgrimage site – all in the space of a week.

Deccan Odyssey comprises of 21 luxuriously appointed coaches. Out of these 21 coaches, 11 are to accommodate guests and the rest are used for different purposes such as dining, lounge, conference car and health spa. Inspired by the imperial carriages used by the Maharajas of the yore for traveling, each of the coaches of this luxury train is inspired from a different royal eras of Maharashtra ruled by diverse dynasties.

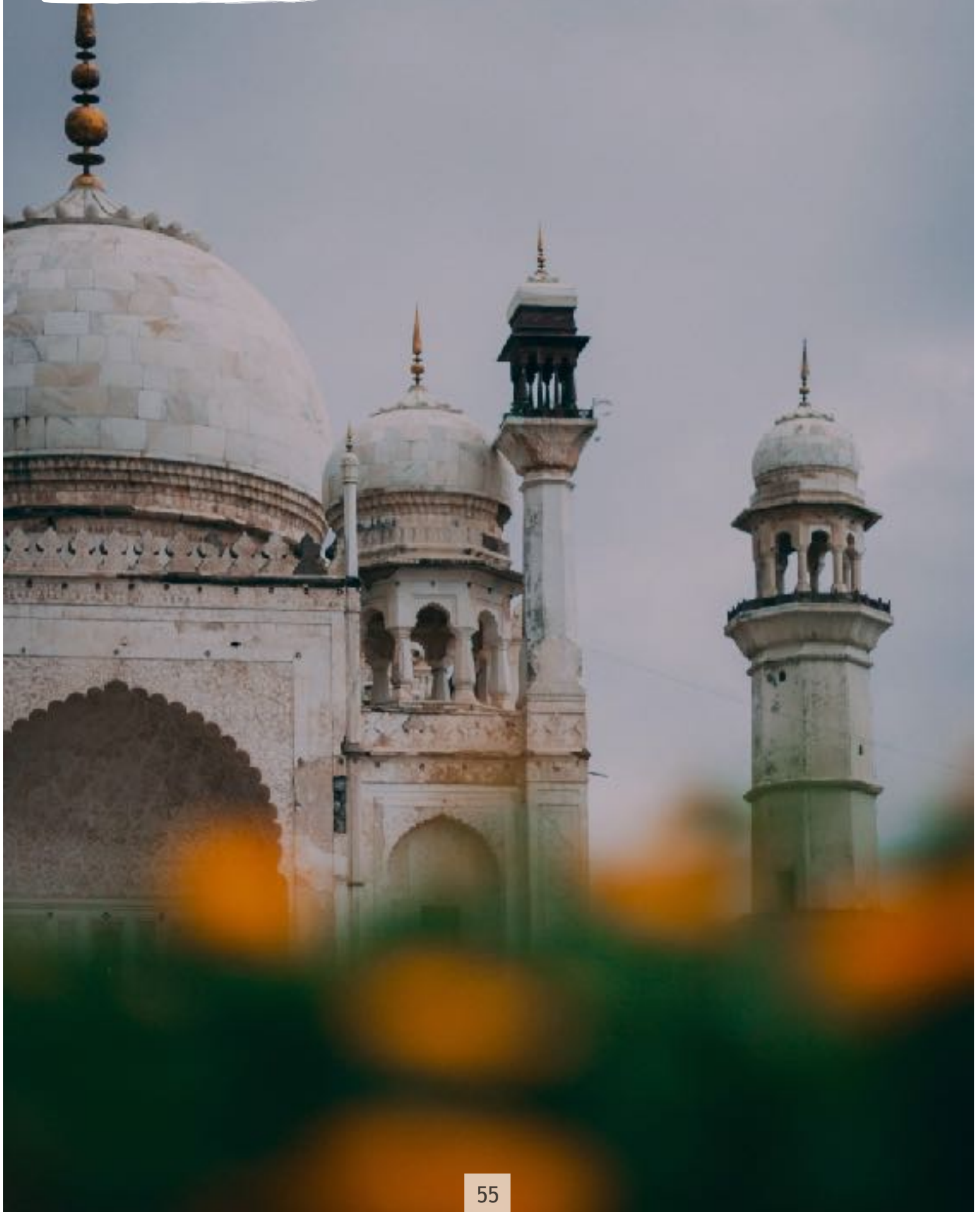
Maharashtra Splendor

Duration: 07 Nights / 08 Days

Places: Mumbai - Nashik - Ellora Caves - Ajanta Caves -
Kolhapur - Goa - Sindhudurg - Mumbai

Maharashtra Splendor tour spans for 8 days and 7 nights, offering you a great opportunity to enjoy the luxurious journey onboard Deccan Odyssey and visit the prominent tourist destinations in India. All the destinations and their attractions are well-planned for those who are looking for some memorable outing. While you tour, enjoy the luxurious amenities provided onboard such as spa, delectable and delicious cuisines and other interesting activities. The destinations covered include the holy city of Nashik, Aurangabad, Kohlapur, Goa and Sindhudurg.

EXPERIENCES





FESTIVALS

Maharashtra is the center of many religious and cultural traditions. In Maharashtrian villages, life revolves around fairs and festivals.

Each festival comes with its own colors and Cuisine. People do up their houses and surroundings and there is an air of celebration. The festival time is surely a must visit time in India. While the most hugely visible festival maybe the Ganesh Chaturthi, due to the large processions and the colourful images of Lord Ganesha, there are many festivals celebrated with as much enthusiasm and spirit.

Each festival signals the passing of old and beginning of new, and this in most cases is signified by the victory of good over evil. Each festival has a significance and its mark is always felt in the daily lives of the people in India, specially in rural India.

Each festival comes with its own colors and Cuisine. People do up their houses and surroundings and there is an air of celebration. The festival time is surely a must visit time in India. While the most hugely visible festival maybe the Ganesh Chaturthi, due to the large processions and the colourful images of Lord Ganesha, there are many festivals celebrated with as much enthusiasm and spirit.

SHOPPING

Maharashtra offers diverse options for shopping. Whether you enjoy the hustle and bustle of a colourful market or like to splurge on luxury buys, Maharashtra has something for every kind of shopper. Each region has its own specialty and something unique to offer.

Cities like Mumbai and Pune are known for their malls and markets. Kolhapur, Aurangabad and Nagpur are the perfect go-to places if you want to shop for traditional, Maharashtrian attire and jewellery and artefacts.



CUISINES

Beaches and mountains, caves and temples, forests and cities - Maharashtra is blessed with an abundance of natural wealth and cultural heritage. Food is an integral part of Maharashtra's cultural heritage, and no visit to the state can be considered complete without sampling a variety of its specialties.

Thanks to its varied landscape, the culinary heritage of Maharashtra too varies as you go from the golden sands of the Konkan, up through the gentle Deccan plateau, to the scorching heat of Vidarbha in the east. Unlike many other Indian cuisines, one rarely finds traditional Maharashtrian food in Indian restaurants outside the state, although it has as just much to offer.

Subtle and understated, the flavours of Maharashtrian food are heavily dependent on the seasons - raw mango (kairi), kokum and coconut make their appearance in the heat of summer, deliciously crispy gram-flour batter coated, deep fried vegetables in the monsoon and rich sesame and jaggery based sweets in the winter.

Fish curries and rice are a staple in the coastal belt, while spicy mutton curries are a favourite in the east. Every festival is an occasion to cook, and naturally eat, something special to that season. And of course, the street food traditions like the 'Bhel Puri' and sandwiches of Mumbai are without parallel.

Every meal should take you on a journey of exploration, and there is as much to meet your taste buds as there is for your eyes to feast on with the traditional cuisine of Maharashtra!

ADVENTURE

Maharashtra is blessed with tapering mountain ranges, raging rivers and deep oceans. What more does an outdoor adventurer need? Though the state is still in the germination phase for adventure sport, the authorities are spin-balling the procedures. For the adrenalin rush junkie, Maharashtra already has a bundle of joy.

Water babies: Tarkarli, the Konkan's oceanic gem makes the postcard-perfect water sport capital of Maharashtra. Here, the state government is encouraging you to come discover the unique marine life under the pristine waters of the gentle Arabian Sea. Whether you are a first-timer or a professional, the Sindhudurg coast with its warm clear waters, is inviting. Try snorkeling or scuba diving with professional trainers for assistance.

You will be mesmerized by corals, the wide Sargassum forest, the rockscape and the sheer colourful diversity of marine life. Apart from Tarkarli, Ganpatipule too offers a range of adventure marine sports from water-scooters to jet-skiing.

If it's the rush of the rivers that beckon, you don't need to go the Himalayas to raft. At Kolad, when the Bhira dam opens up each day, the serene Kundalika river transforms itself magically into full-blown river rapids. Apart from the breath-taking river-rafting here, companies also offer waterfall rappelling and trekking.

For the airborne: If you like to spread your wings and fly, Maharashtra's hills and skies welcome you. The Sahyadri ridges such as Panchgani, Kamshet, Bhandardara and Chikhaldara make for perfect lift and landing sites – with panoramic views. There are trained professional fliers to your free flights to abandon.

If touching the skies seems too much, try parasailing. Here you are airborne with a balloon but leashed to a moving jeep. Parasailing is a common sport across most Konkan beaches. Come along, spark the adventure bug!

BEACHES

Bordered by the Arabian Sea on its west, Maharashtra has as many beaches as the colours of the ocean. Here, the translucent waters of the Konkan gently lap onto pristine white sands. There, the azure blue-green of the Shreevardhan belt encourage the adventurous to plunge in. While Mumbai's plush waters dictate real estate prices even as they turn an angry grey and lash the city with salt waves during the monsoon. The state's 700 km stretch along the Arabian Sea, makes you experience love at first sight.

If you respect your peace but, need doses of energy, Vasai, Dahanu and Bardi are perfect weekend getaways. Lined with chickoo orchards and buzzing with the energy of coastal commerce. The Konkan which is picturesquely cradled between the Arabian Sea and the Sahyadri range, offers the best beaches. Harnai, for example, is calm yet busy with its famous loud fish auctions every evening.

CAVES



Deep, dark and mysterious -- there is a secretive lure to ancient caves that eludes the brightness of sunbeams and radiates ancient history. Maharashtra, home to the largest number of caves in India, snuggles within its awe-inspiring Sahyadri Range caves of all sizes, shapes and hues. From ancient rock-cut ones to ones with intricate sculptures that have housed reigning deities since time immemorial, these caves are fascinating archeological legacies.

Walk into the aura of times forgotten, eras lost in the passage of rites of yore. Testimony to the fact that the land has always been benevolent to a variety of different religions, whose monks made these caves their homes and shrines.

An aerial photograph of a Maratha fort built on a steep, green mountain ridge. The fort's stone walls and battlements follow the contours of the ridge, creating a series of terraces and defensive positions. The surrounding landscape is lush green with some rocky outcrops. In the background, more mountain ranges are visible under a hazy sky.

FORTS

On land and ocean, the strength of stone stands mighty over years. The Maratha heartland is fortified by over 350 forts – the largest number in any state in India. Here, the crimson-edged sword of the Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's gleams with the pride of a victorious warrior.

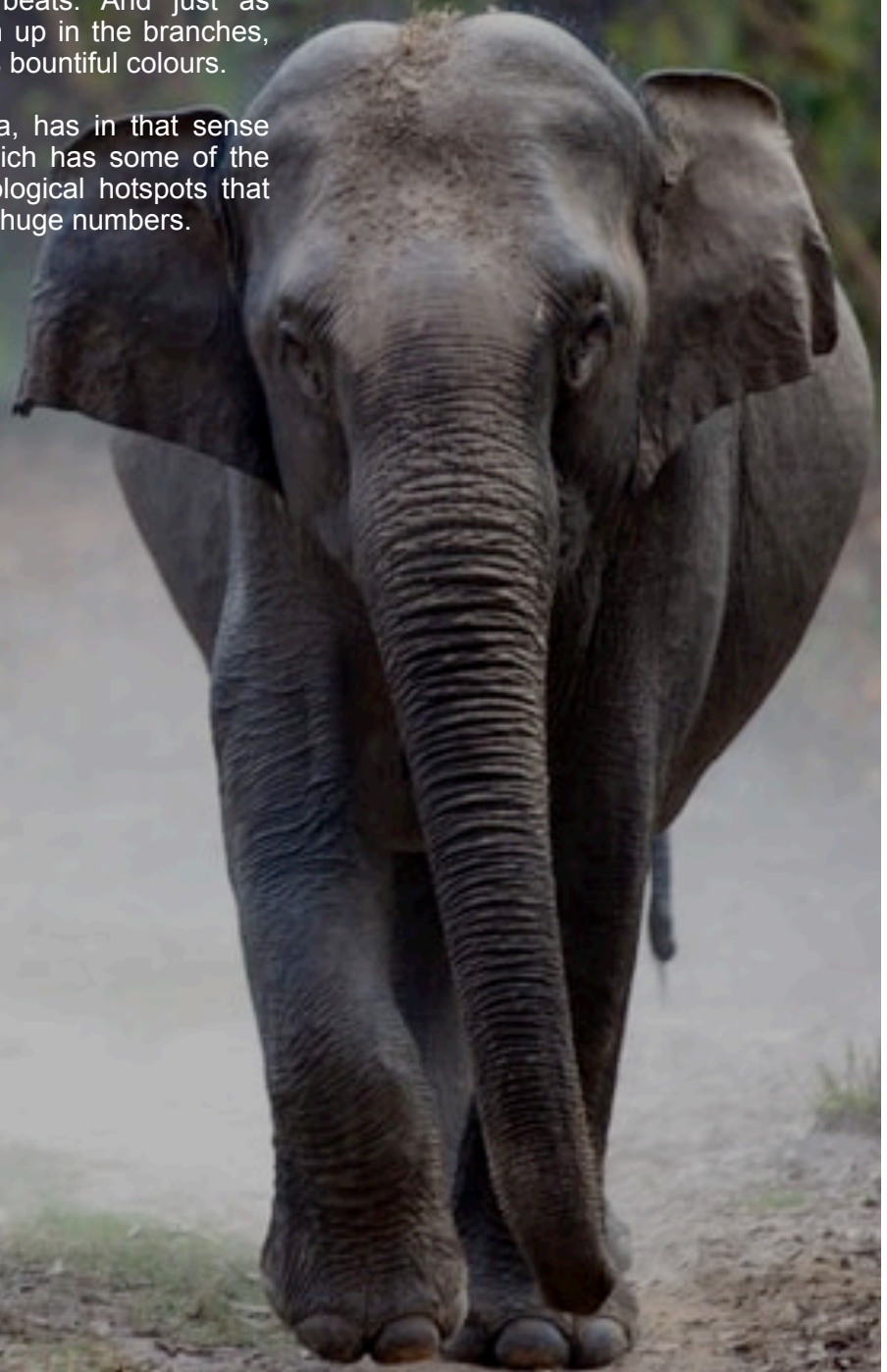
The once-proud bastions of army, today stand silent and dignified. Battered by the weather gods, often plundered, walls crumbling in sections and roofs blown away, yet the forts of Maharashtra exude power and inspire awe.

Maharashtra's forts speak of vision and authority. Whether it's the mountains that call out to you or the ocean, Maharashtra has a fort for all seasons.

FOREST & WILDLIFE

Honestly, there is nothing to beat the sight of a tiger crossing the very path on which your jeep has been travelling. It can actually make your heart skip a few beats. And just as fascinating can be the sight of a bird high up in the branches, dazzling the surrounding landscape with its bountiful colours.

Nature, which controls its flora and fauna, has in that sense been very favourable to Maharashtra, which has some of the largest wildlife sanctuaries located in ecological hotspots that attract both the researchers and tourists in huge numbers.





HOT SPRINGS

A hot spring is a spring produced by the emergence of geothermally heated groundwater that rises from the Earth's crust. There are geothermal hot springs in many locations all over the crust of the earth. While some of these springs contain water that is the correct temperature for bathing, others are too hot to do so and immersion can result in injury or death.

Water issuing from a hot spring is heated geothermally, that is, with heat produced from the Earth's mantle. In general, the temperature of rocks within the earth increases with depth. The rate of temperature increase with depth is known as the geothermal gradient. If water percolates deeply enough into the crust, it will be heated as it comes into contact with hot rocks. The water from hot springs in non-volcanic areas is heated in this manner.

MUSEUMS

Museums, some say, are for those who have a penchant for history. That is true to a certain extent but there also are museums which are delightful for the curiosity they generate and the way in which they offer a window to how people before our times lived. One such place is the Central Museum at Nagpur which is 150 years' old. And what makes it a perfect tourist draw is the huge and priceless collection of memorabilia it holds.

Then there is the astounding collection of artefacts at the Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum of Pune which is also remarkable for the fact that all the items were collected by just one person during his lifetime. The museum is delightful for its curios, ranging from beautifully embroidered textiles to sculptures and antique copper vessels to the swords of the Peshwas. At Kolhapur is the Town Hall Museum which has relics of the Brahmapuri settlement and paintings and portraits of some of the best known artists of the country.





HERITAGE SITES & PALACES

A nation is known by its history. To that extent, Maharashtra has some of the most well-preserved ancient heritage sites which continue to provide a link to the past. The caves at Ajanta and Ellora near Aurangabad, for example, are a striking reminder of an age of Buddhism at its peak.

There are about 800 caves spread across various districts but of these the 32 caves at Ajanta stand out distinctly because of their architectural splendour, legacy, and artistic masterpieces.

The caves include paintings and sculptures representative of Buddhist religious art with figures of the Buddha and depictions of the Jataka tales.

LAKES

Given a choice, would you like to sit by a lake under a tree and watch birds going about their activities in the unruffled waters or would you prefer to stand under a gushing waterfall and feel the thundering water striking your body with force? Actually, you can do both. Maharashtra has an abundance of lakes and waterfalls (especially the ones that come alive during the monsoon) which can make your trip that much more exciting.



HILL STATIONS

The Western Ghats, blessed by the altitude of the Sahyadri Ranges, envelop little sleepy hollows. These petite hill-stations, popularised by the British Raj to beat the Indian heat, are jewels in the hills.

In the mornings, sunbeams play hide-and-seek through the rolling dawn mist. By afternoon, they are still cool thanks to their height. As evening falls, they bundle up in blankets of fog, toasty aromas wafting from local pots.

From north to south, the Western Ghats rise steep. Some ranges dip straight into the Arabian Sea, while others meander around, jumping over waterfalls and lakes. Each of the major cities in Maharashtra has the bounty of a hill-station within a few hours' driving distance.

So rich and varied is the state's topography that each of these homes in the hills is unique. Let no cynic tell you that two hill-stations are similar; each have their characteristic charm, charisma and allure.



TEMPLES



Maharashtra is a land of temples. Whether it's the torrential waterfalls at Bhimashankar or hot water springs at Trimbakeswar, it's all in the name of god.

Of the 12 jyotirlingas in India, Maharashtra boasts five: At Aundhya Nagnath, Parali Vajinath, Bhimashankar, Trimbakeswar and Grishneshwar. God prevails across the state.

At Solapur, seas of people join the palkhi procession, some barefoot, others with no possessions. They come, from various routes, all heading to the home of the supreme god of the universe, Pandharpur's Vithoba. This gigantic temple dates back to the 13th century. Here, the banks of the river are flooded with faith in the incarnation of lord Shiva and Vishnu – they too ensure that caste and class are no barrier.



HERITAGE WALK

Walking Tours are available in Mumbai, Pune and other major cities in Maharashtra. They are largely run by private tour operators or non-government organizations. Although Walking tours started way back in late 1900s, their popularity among tourists is recent. Recently many new concept-driven tours have emerged. Heritage Walks are the most common concept-driven walking tours. In Maharashtra there is an eclectic mix of Heritage Walks and almost all are conducted in Mumbai and Pune.

Heritage Walks have different formats. Some Walks take tourists along a pre-determined route that may be around 2-3km long while others create a customized Walk to suit the needs of the tourists. Typically, selected heritage sites are visited. A trained guide tells stories and explains heritage value of the sites whether in architecture, history or culture.

Different historical experiences unravel in a story that may be scripted and evolves in the due course of the walk. By the way of these stories the guide creates an imagination of past while the tourists are interacting with the people and places from the present. Heritage Walks are best for history enthusiasts. It is a way to grasp the essence of the city.

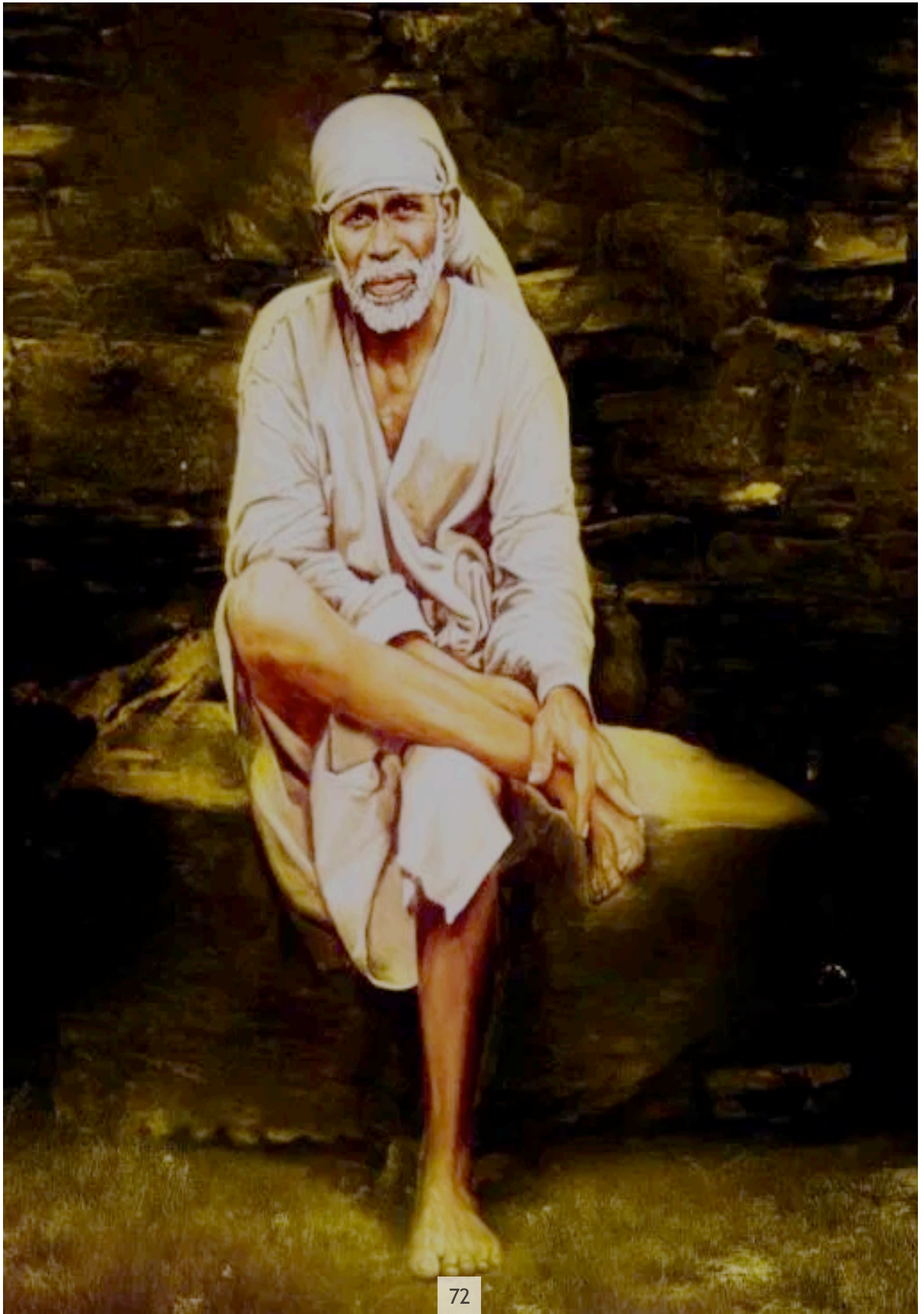
SHIRDI SAI BABA



The home of great saint Sai Baba, Shirdi is a religious site close to Nasik with various temples apart from the famous Sai Baba temple and a few historical sites.

Located in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, Shirdi holds a strong importance as a holy and pilgrim place by Sai Baba devotees. The small town is filled with religious spots and activities which will soothe and calm your soul on its visit.

The air here carries chants lingering with spirituality and the whole grandness about the same too will leave you spellbound. There are many religious places to be seen in Shirdi such as Chavadi, Samadhi Mandir, Dwarkamai masjid, Shani Shignapur, to name a few.

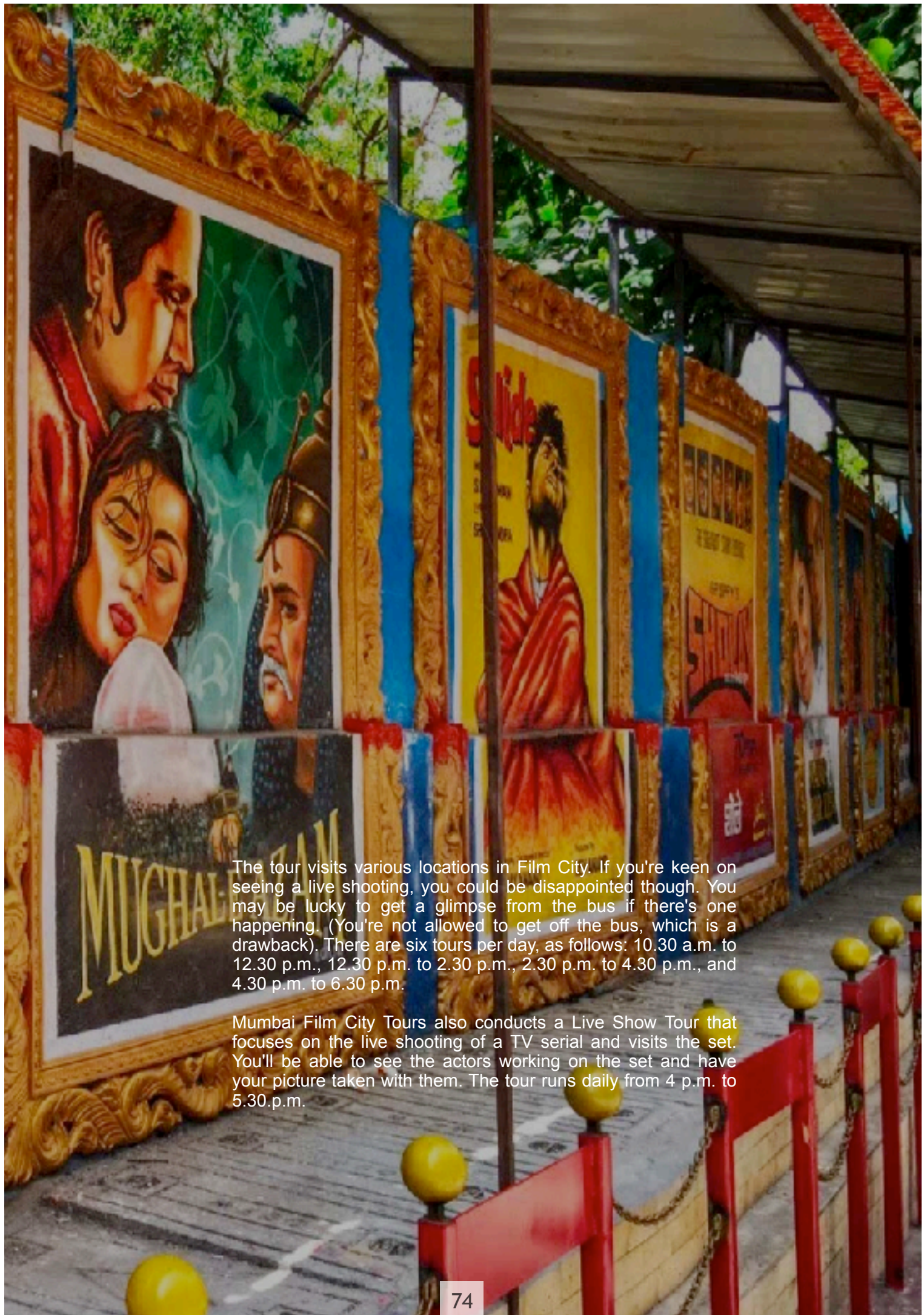


BOLLYWOOD TOUR

Mumbai is the center of India's booming "Bollywood" film industry. Over 100 films are produced each year there. It's possible to take a Bollywood tour to the heart of the action in Film City. If you'd rather be a Bollywood extra in a movie than simply see the set of one, that's possible too.

Film City was built by the Maharashtra state government in 1978 to help the Bollywood film industry and provide facilities for it to flourish. The sprawling complex covers nearly 350 acres and comes fully equipped with almost 20 indoor studios, as well as outdoor settings for filming.

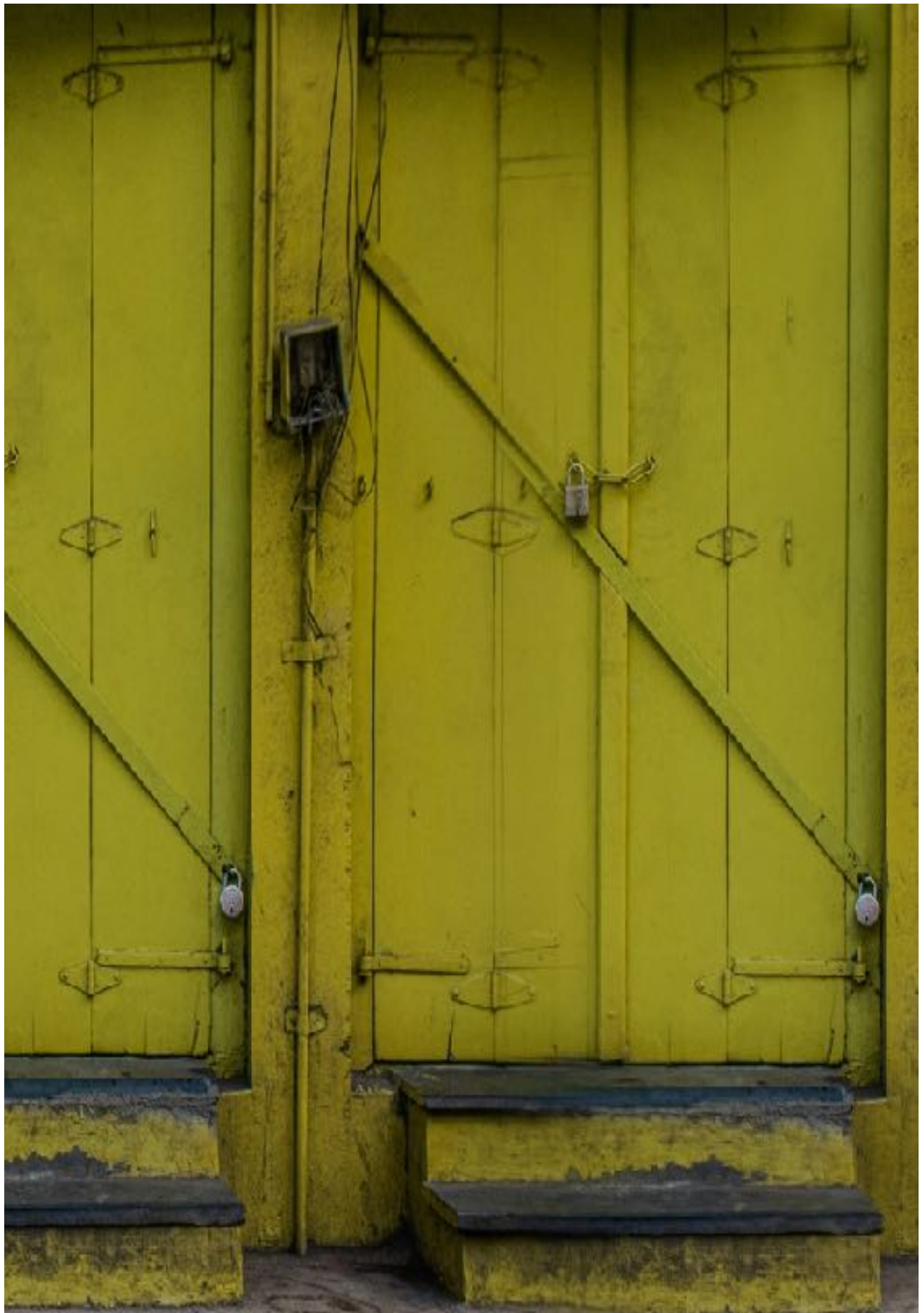
Film City is located in the western Mumbai suburb of Goregaon -- in the vicinity of the secluded and lush Aarey Colony on the outskirts of Sanjay Gandhi National Park. It's easily accessible from the Western Expressway. Unfortunately, Mumbai Film City isn't open for public admission unless special prior approval is obtained. However, it is possible to take a guided tour there.



The tour visits various locations in Film City. If you're keen on seeing a live shooting, you could be disappointed though. You may be lucky to get a glimpse from the bus if there's one happening. (You're not allowed to get off the bus, which is a drawback). There are six tours per day, as follows: 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., 12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Mumbai Film City Tours also conducts a Live Show Tour that focuses on the live shooting of a TV serial and visits the set. You'll be able to see the actors working on the set and have your picture taken with them. The tour runs daily from 4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.





ACTIVITIES

An aerial photograph of a mountain ridge covered in lush green vegetation. A series of ancient stone ruins, including terraces and walls, are visible along the ridge, leading towards a sharp peak. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Go flamingo-watching

Thousands of these brightly hued, long-limbed birds fly in from Kutch, Gujarat, every year to make Mumbai and areas near Pune their home for the winter. You can watch them at Thane Creek, Bhandup Pumping Station, Sewri, etc in Mumbai and Bhigwan Bhuleshwar near Pune.

You can head to the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Centre at Airoli and experience the boat safari and spot flamingos. March is the best time to go flamingo spotting, but you have time till May.



Explore the 13 caves of Maharashtra

Right from Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Aurangabad Caves, Elephanta Caves, Kanheri Caves, Karla and Bhaja Caves, Pandavleni Caves, Pitalkhora Caves to Lenyadri Caves, Kuda Caves, Kondana Caves, Baneshwar Caves to more unexplored gem that are being unearthed. Head there and be in awe of its glory!





Visit Asia's only automobile-free hill station

Nestled in the ghats with breathtaking beauty all around is the hill station, Matheran that has preserved its colonial architecture too well. When there, you wouldn't feel like you are in India. Its beauty is unmatched and there are so many things you could do in this automobile-free town. From zip-lining to taking a toy train ride to picnics near Charlotte Lake to rappelling and a lot more, there is so much to do in this quaint hilly town.

Visit the Tadoba National Park

Home to many tigers and rare species of animals, Tadoba National Park is located in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. It is one of the oldest and the largest national parks in the state. Also known as Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, this park is one of India's 47 tiger reserves in the country. Sprawling over an area of 1727 sq km, this gorgeous park was created in 1955. Later in 1986, Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary was formed and became part of the reserve in 1995, and hence it became Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.

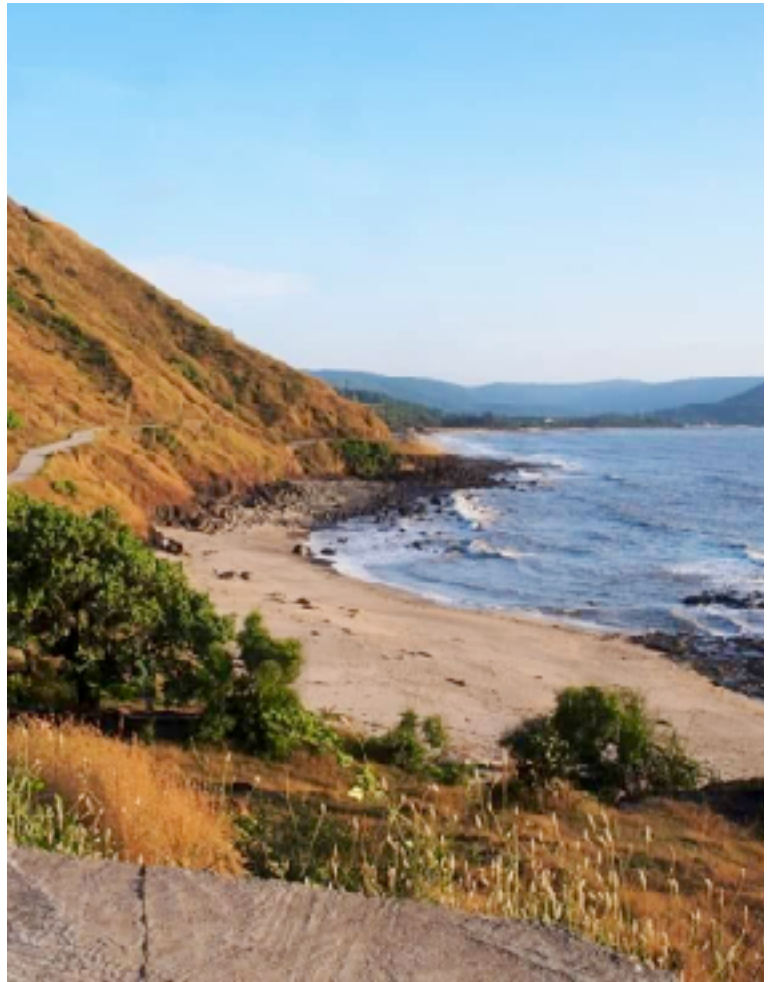
The national park is divided into three forest ranges - Tadoba north range, Kolsa south range, and Morhurli range. Morhurli lies right between the other two. At the park are two gorgeous lakes, Tadoba Lake and Kolsa Lake and the Tadoba river also flows by. The park opens up for safaris between the months of October and February.



Head to the turquoise sea village of Luso Indians

Just near Alibaug, Maharashtra lies Korlai village (Morro De Chaul). It is one of the lesser-known beach towns where the locals, Luso-Indians, speak Korlai Indo-Portuguese aka Kristi which is a creole language. This beautiful village has deep-rooted historical significance and is known for its turquoise-coloured sea with white and black sand shores. While Alibaug is the popular cousin of this beach village, Korlai is an unexplored gem that needs everyone's attention.

The lesser-known village is one of the few places in the world that has about 1000 Luso-Indian Christians keeping the Korlai-Portuguese Creole (also known as Nou Ling) language alive.



Visit this mystical black sand beach near Ganpatipule

Situated along the Konkan coast, is a black sand cove called Hedvi Beach. The mystical beach is a lesser-known gem, waiting to be explored. It is situated between two white-sand beaches of Guhagar, Velneshwar and the Ganpatipule, Maharashtra.

There is a Hedvi Ganesh Temple and the beach is located at Hedvi village in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra. The stretch is known for its rock formation and hence the black sand that is formed after coastal erosion. Unlike other beaches in the area where you can enjoy a dip, going into Hedvi beach is not advisable.



Ropeway ride that's 3000 feet above sea level

Ever wondered where in Maharashtra you can seek the thrill of taking a ropeway? Well, you can do so at Raigad Fort! Called the Raigad Ropeway, this project was established in 1996. It is the only ropeway in the region. The fort is steeped in history and is one of the crucial structures in the history of the Maratha Empire.

While trekkers still enjoy a steep trek to the fort from the base village, which takes hours on foot to climb 1450 steps, the ropeway takes you to the top in about 5 minutes. The ropeway length is about 760 metres (2493.44 feet), and the ascent via the ropeway is 430 metres (1377.95 feet).

Go paragliding at Kamshet

Paragliding at Kamshet not only promises you an uninterrupted view of the Sahyadris but you also get to get gush over beautiful valleys, quaint wooden houses, the Indrayani river and the Pawana Lake.

The large open spaces, ample flying and landing sites and steady and predictable weather conditions is what makes Kamshet one of the top paragliding spots in western India. The primary package is the joy tandem where the rider is accompanied by a professional and all he has got to do is sit back and enjoy the haseen vadiyan around him and the professional controls the glide.



Soak in the views at misty mountain called Gaganbawda

The name Gaganbawda means town touching the sky, and that is true in every sense. Situated 55 km near Kolhapur, this hill station is rich in history and mythology. It offers brilliant views of the Western Ghats.

The misty mountain range, covered with lush green forests offers tranquillity that one craves for. Each season here is special and the landscape adapts to it differently. There are scenic roads that you can drive around on and just soak in the nature around you.

The biodiversity of the forests here is unique and has more than 120 species of birds, 50 species of butterflies and 21 species of mammals that have homes in the forests.



Strawberry village near Wai

Hiding in plain sight, Parthawadi is a small village in Wai where strawberry farming is the main source of income for almost every family.

This hamlet has beautiful strawberry farms everywhere. In fact this is the only village in the Wai area where strawberries are grown in such sizable amounts. The farmers here are kind enough to let you take a walk in their plantation, pluck the strawberries and relish your favourite berry too.

If asked, the locals will tell you all about the plantation and irrigation process that they follow. Being a small village, Parthawadi doesn't have hotels or hostels for you to crash in. So either you can camp on the bank of River Krishna or opt for a homestay.



Tuscany experience at vineyards in Nashik

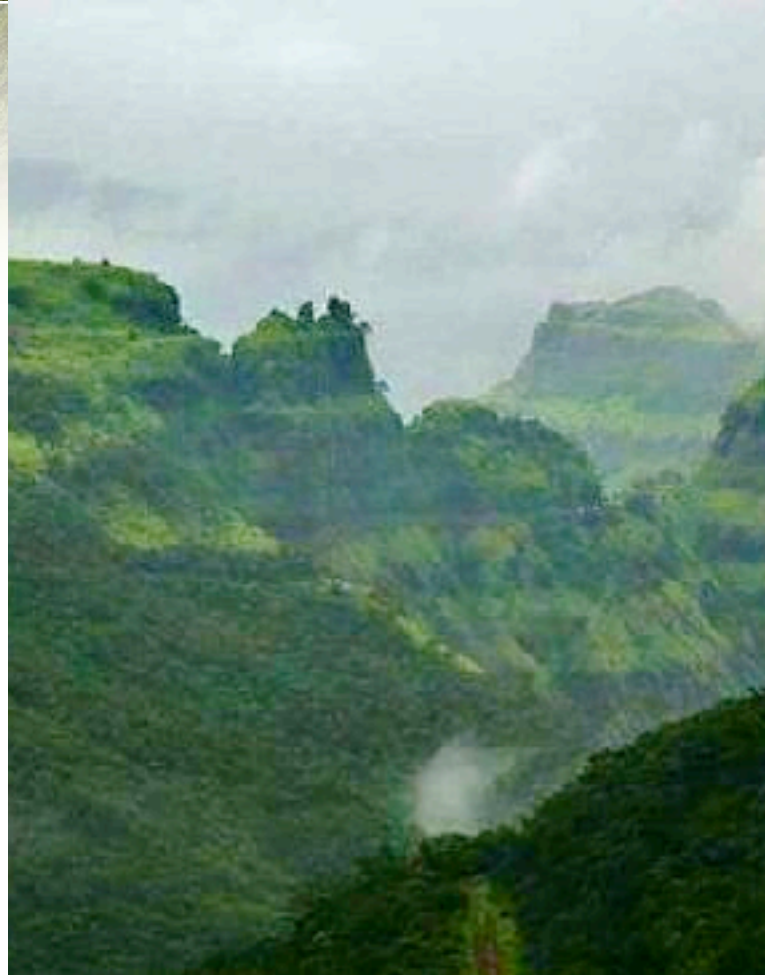
Yes, you know Sula. But do you know about York or Soma? In Nashik, there are vineyards like Sula Vineyards, Soma Village, York Winery, Grover Zampa, Chandon Winery, and more. Go sip some wine, do grape stomping, or simply stay in the unique villas, wine barrels, and stone house and more.

Maharashtra's only coffee hill station

Chikhaldara, is that one hidden gem we have all been wanting to know about! Nestled in the heart of Maharashtra's Amravati district, it is the only coffee growing area in the region. At an altitude of 1118m, it's perfect for a monsoon getaway or a summer retreat. It boasts of dewy mountains, beautiful lakes, amazing panoramic views and of course wildlife too.

You can also check out the beauty of this place from various viewpoints like Hurricane Point, Prospect Point, and Devi Point. The lush greenery will be a perfect way to relax and pamper yourself.

For all the adrenaline junkies, you can even trek upto few forts nearby, like Gawilgarh fort.

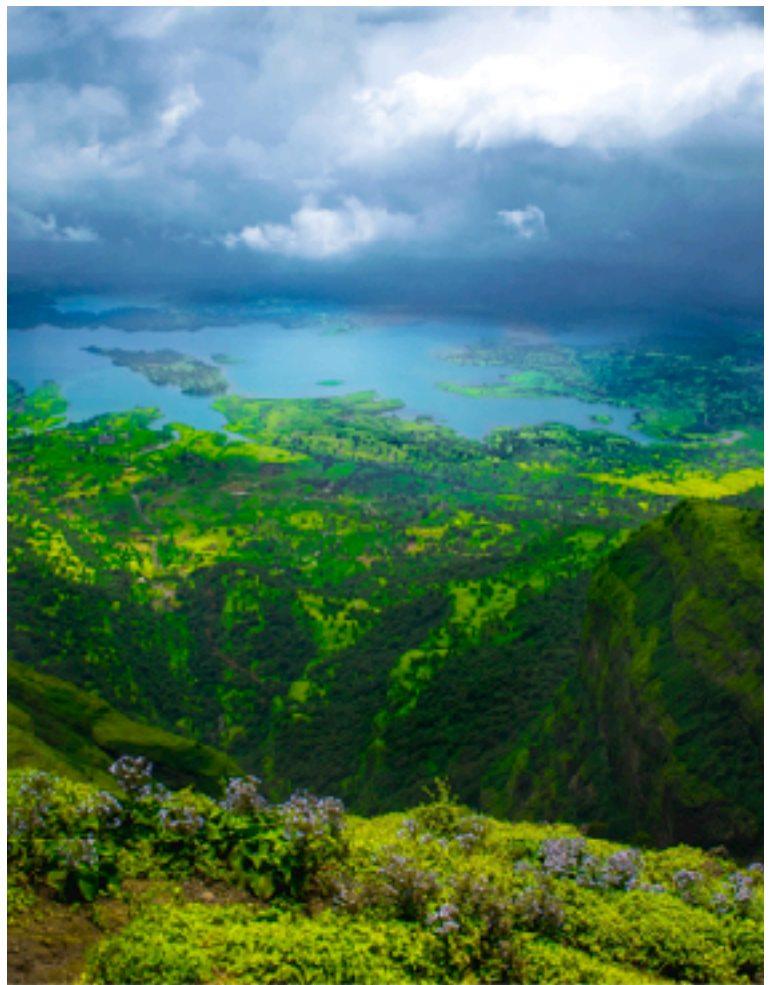


Holiday Resort Village of

It is called the holiday resort village of Maharashtra. I am talking about Bhandardara, guys. The picturesque town, which sits by the Pravara River, has a lot of tourist attractions nearby. The town is nestled in the Western Ghats and the view here is to die for. From watching fireflies to going trekking nearby, this town is at one strategic geographical location.

This town is in Akole district and is on the west coast of Ahmednagar. It is accessible by road (yay! road trip) and is 185 km away from Mumbai and 191 km away from Pune. The roads here are narrow so be careful. Now, coming to what all can you do there. Well, a lot!

The biggest (and most recent) attraction of this place is the fireflies camp that happens in the Purushwadi area.



Hill station where Warli paintings

If you have been charmed by Mahabaleshwar and wanna keep visiting the lovely hill station but can't, we got a 2nd Mahabaleshwar for you. It is closer to Mumbai and we bet after knowing about it, you wanna go there right now. Situated in the Palghar district of Maharashtra, Jawhar is known as the mini or second Mahabaleshwar of the state. Not only does it awe you with its picturesque view of the Ghats, but it has a rich cultural heritage that adds to the charm of the place.

Jawhar is one of the very few tribal kingdoms of Maharashtra and is quite famous for its Warli paintings. Yep! Those Warli paintings are this place's characteristic landmark. It was the capital of erstwhile Koli, which was the princely state of Jawhar.



Go white-water rafting at Kolad

The only river-rafting spot in the state, Kolad is much closer to an adventurer's heart. The Kundalika river is the fastest flowing river of Maharashtra, and reaches quite a vigour in Monsoon.

It is perfect for rafting and this Raigad gem is going to be sorely missed this year. There are many tour operators there, and you will have the time of your life.



Awesome coral reefs of Maharashtra

The beauty under the sea, the world down there is beautiful. While we can admire from afar, we can responsibly admire them under the sea too.

There are not many coral reefs in India, but the ones that are there are a sight to behold. The Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep ones are gorgeous and on every travel enthusiast's bucket list. But did you know that there are two coral reefs in Maharashtra?

They can be seen at Angria Bank, Malvan Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, Mirya Beach, in Malvan and Konkan region.



Go scuba diving

Scuba Diving is always on everyone's bucket list of 'things to do before you die'. And definitely more so after watching 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'! Well, you need not travel to Spain to experience life under the ocean.

After Malvan, Ratnagiri in Maharashtra has joined the list of places where you can go scuba diving near Pune and Mumbai. In December 2017, after some initial research on perfect spots for scuba diving, Kaustubh Sawant and Suhas Thakurdesai from Ratnagiri started a dive centre at Mirya Beach, Ratnagiri.

Additionally, you can also do scuba diving in Malvan and Konkan region.



Hot air balloon ride over Lonavala

We have all seen and swooned over lovely balloon rides of Cappadocia in Turkey but the good news is that you don't need to go to Turkey to experience one. A balloon ride is one of the most surreal experiences that you can have.

Imagine going up in the air and catching the sunset with bae. If you want to capture this sense of romance, then head to Hot Air Balloon Safari, Lonavala. Although this is a fun activity for adults, children are not allowed here.

So keep your little ones behind when embarking on this ride. Intrigued? You can learn more about this tour [here](#).



Boating at Venna Lake

Surrounded by lush green hills, Venna Lake is a gorgeous lake in the heart of Mahabaleshwar and is spread in an area of 11 hectares. Other than having the perfect view, there are multiple leisure activities to make the trip a little more fun.

If you are the adventurous kind then hop on to a horse and try horse-riding. So wait no more people, channel your inner Ibn Battuta, and fix up your impromptu plan now!



Go zip-lining at Malhar Machi, Mulshi

Now this one might come as a surprise to most. Known for being an oasis of beauty and serenity, Malhar Machi in Mulshi, makes for the ultimate relaxing getaway for most.

While valiant adventurers would not consider this resort for their escapades, Malhar Machi is on the brink of starting South Asia's longest zip-line! Oh yes! You heard right. This slice of heaven on earth has introduced a 720 metre long zip-line for all its guests to harness onto.

They hope to have you glide through and experience its beauty in a never seen before avatar.

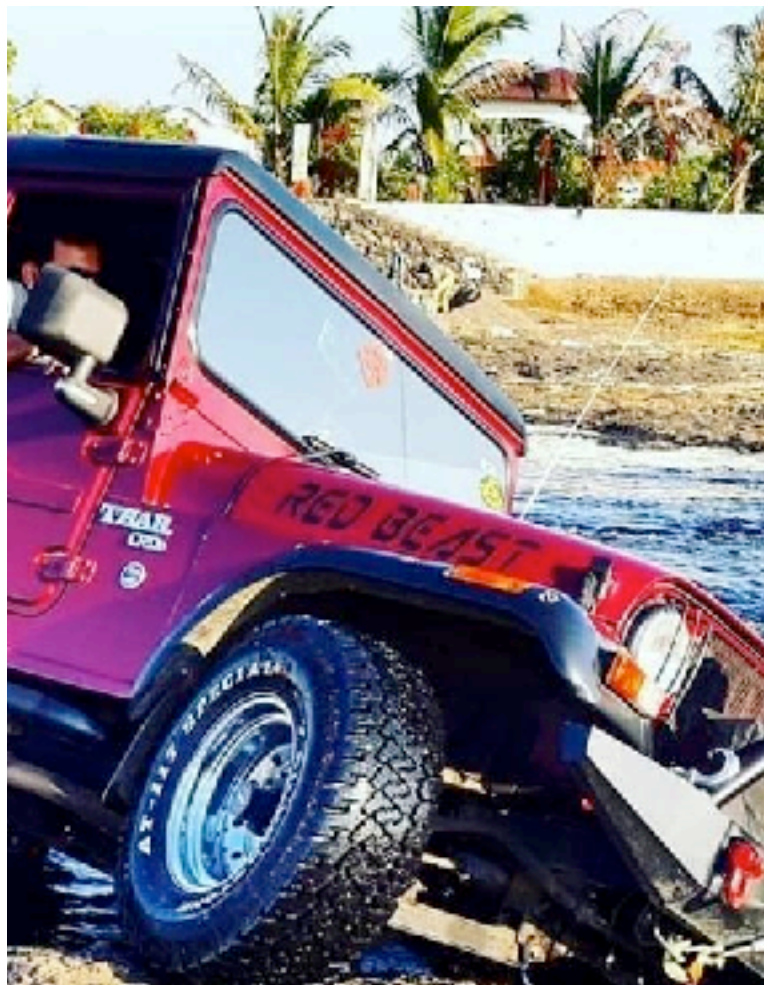


Go off-roading

For those who don't know what off-roading is, don't worry we are telling you everything! It is an extreme sport which involves rash driving or riding on unsurfaced roads on sand, gravel, riverbeds, mud, snow, rocks, and other natural terrains. Get the drift? Extreme Off-roaders, a Mumbai based group, was formed with the sole purpose of giving the audience a thrilling off-roading experience.

They organise a number of off-roading events near Mumbai and carry out the adventure sport at Panvel, Karjat, Lonavala, Palghar and many other places around Mumbai! People can use their personal vehicles for the activity.

And if you don't have one then they can provide you with theirs. The vehicles used for off-roading by them are usually jeeps and gypsies. It is super fun.

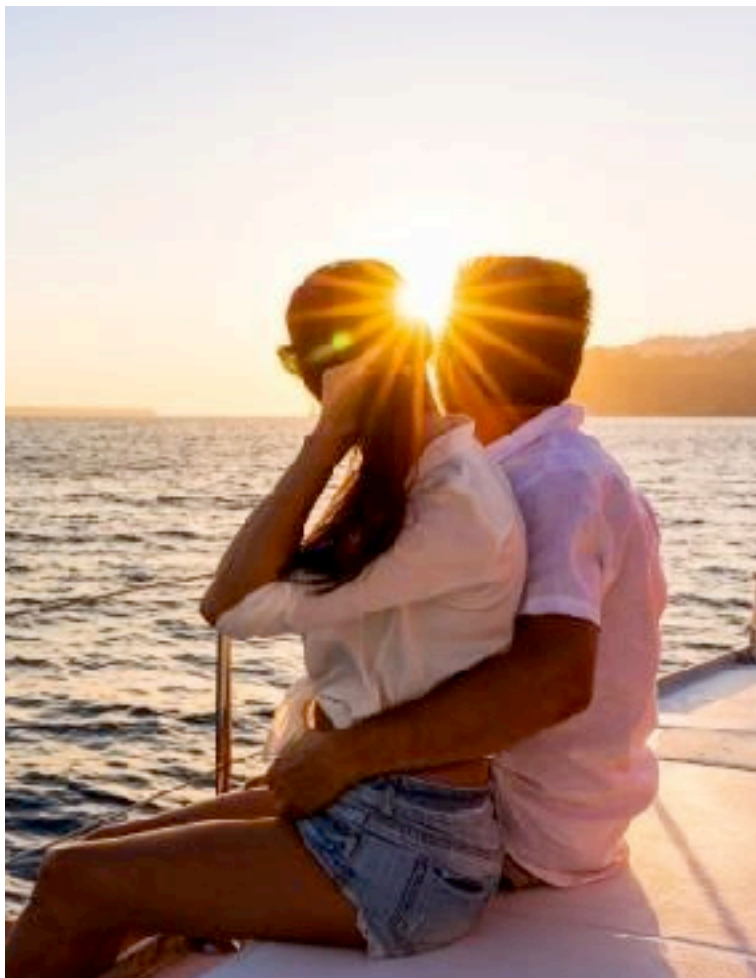


Go sailing in the Arabian Sea

This experience in Mumbai is one to remember. From a romantic dinner cruise date to an ultimate sailing experience, there are many cruises and yachts you can hire from Gateway of India that will take you on a ride on the Arabian Sea.

There are many operators, many yachts, many cruises that will offer you this experience, which is an experience of a lifetime. If a seafaring experience is on your mind, you can check out some of these luxurious yachts.

Do note that the pocket pinch for this is quite high.





Go for a helicopter

You can take a magical ride over Mumbai, between Mumbai and Pune, over Pune, from Mumbai to Shirdi, and at some select locations in Maharashtra. It is an ultimate experience that will have you soaring high in the sky (all puns intended)!

This is quite an expensive experience, but one that you will remember for a lifetime. There are many operators offering who have curated this experience for you.

Panvel, Maharashtra

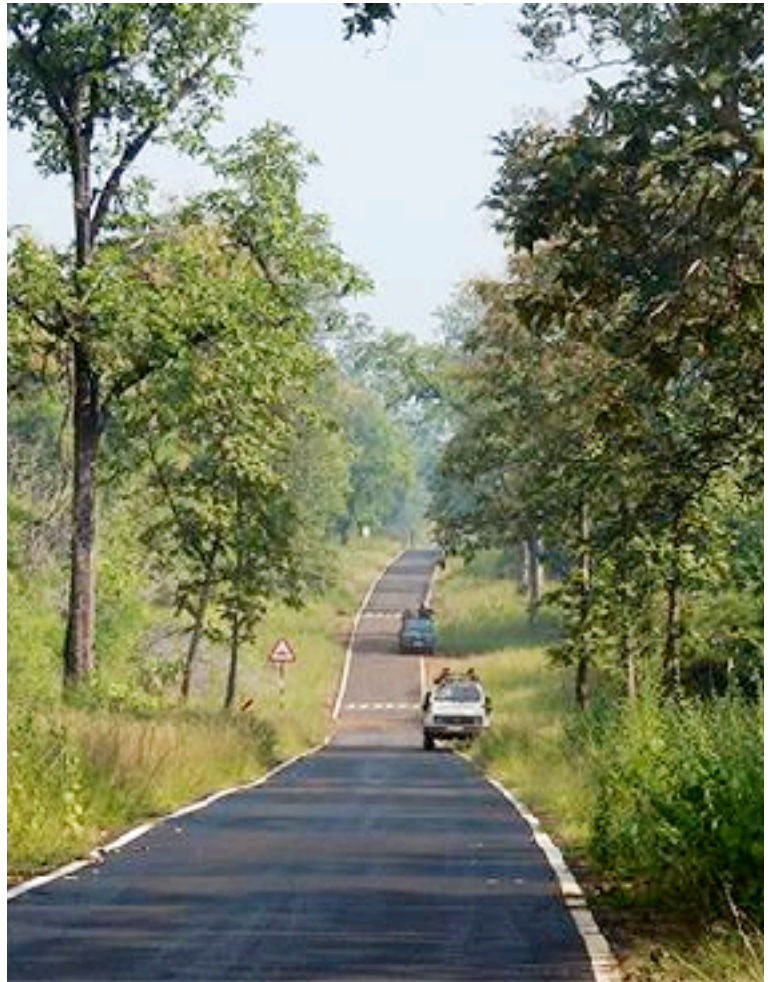
Best known as the gateway of Konkan coast, Panvel is the most crowded locality of Raigad District of Maharashtra. Located at a distance of 40kms from Mumbai metropolitan region, Panvel is highly populated. It is known for the forts in Raigad and Khopoli; and also the Karnala fort which is a popular trekking spot. Birds like Magpie Robin, the Malabar whistling thrush and Paradise flycatcher often migrate here making it the best spot for bird watching.

The city is situated on the banks of Panvel creek surrounded by the Matheran Hills. Panvel is also known for the two prominent Ganesha temples in Maharashtra - Ballaleshwar and Varadavinayak. With Hinduism being the major religion in the city, Panvel also has a mix of Agri smaaaj, muslims and koli community in the region.



Go for Jungle Safaris

While I have dedicated a whole point about Tadoba National Park, there are more spots in Maharashtra where you can get up close and personal with wildlife and go on jungle safaris. Like Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary, Pench National Park, Chandoli National Park, at Kamshet, Durshet, and more. Are you up for it?



Visit the smallest city of Maharashtra

One of the many hidden gems in the state is the city of Panhala. Known to be the smallest city in Maharashtra, the tiny place has a big heart. Steeped in rich history and culture, Panhala has deep ties to the Maratha empire. The small city was the Maratha State capital till 1782 and it later became a part of the British Empire.

The small hill station-city is about 18 km away from Kolhapur and is easily accessible by all modes of transport. The main attraction of the city is the majestic Panhala Fort, which translates into 'home of the serpents' is just 20 km away from Kolhapur city.

An ideal place for trekking, it offers a peaceful, pollution-free, and scenic atmosphere.



Go camping all over Maharashtra

From Pawna Lake, Bhandardara, Panchgani, Murud, Bhore, Bardi, to Kamshet, Durshet, Koyana Backwaters, Lonar Crater, Devkund, Malshej Ghat, Tikona Fort, Triund, to so many more places, the whole state is a camper's paradise.

There are so many picturesque and amazing locations all over the state that picking just one seems unfair.



Trek it out at the glorious forts

Like campers, trekkers too are spoiled for a choice when it comes to trekking spots in the state. There are several trekking spots in each city, each district and you will not be able to keep a count of the places.

Some of the popular treks are Rajmachi Peak, Prabalgaad Fort, Kalsubai Peak, Raigad Fort, Tikona Fort, Mahuli Fort, Asherlgad, Gorakhgad, Phaltan, Sandhan Valley, Lohagad Fort, Sinhaagad Fort, Dhak Bahiri, Ghangad Fort, Tailbaila Fort, Korigad Fort, Irshalgad Fort, Garbett Plateau, at Amboli, Bhimashankar, Bhandardara, and more.



Harishchandragad, Maharashtra

This ancient hill fort, situated at an altitude of 4665 ft, in the Ahmednagar district is popular among trekkers and tourists alike. Although challenging, the trek is one of the best ones in Maharashtra. It has multiple routes and each offers wide a range of adventures. The trek route has many caves, temples and a Pushkarni at the top—each representing different cultures from medieval times.

Local attractions include Harischandreshwar Temple which is carved from a single rock, Nageshwar Temple Kedareshwar Cave which houses a huge Shiva Linga, Taramati Peak and Konkan Kada.



Pratapgarh Fort, Maharashtra

Located at a distance of 21 km from Mahabaleshwar, Pratapgarh Fort is a popular mountain fort in Maharashtra.

It was built by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and stands tall at 3543 ft above sea level.

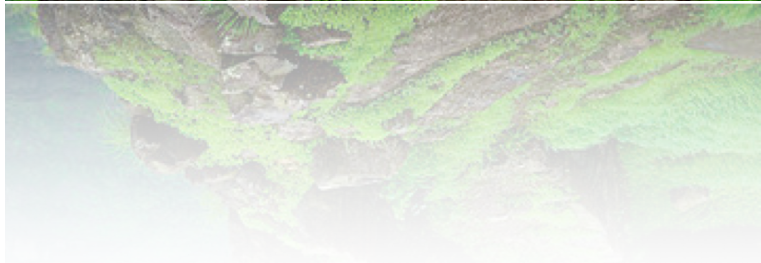
This popular hilltop with splendid architecture is divided into two parts—the upper and lower forts. Besides enjoying and capturing panoramic views of the Konkan coast, lakes and valleys, you can seek the blessings of goddess Bhavani at the lower fort.



Rajmachi Fort, Maharashtra

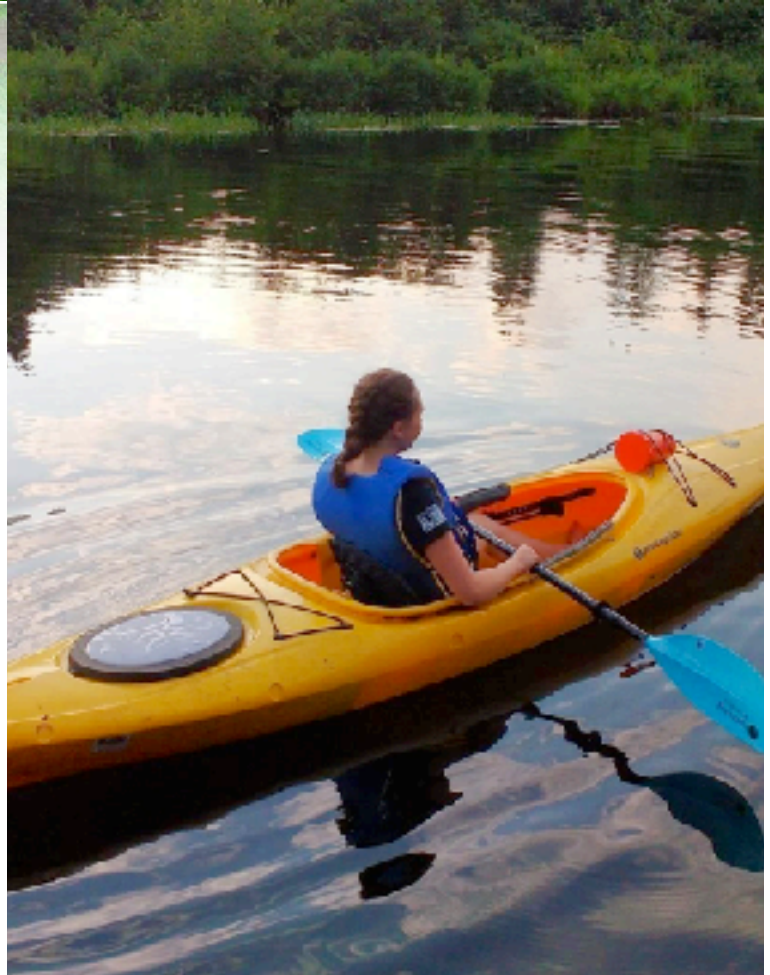
Rajmachi Fort is a famous trekking destination and a perfect escape from the city. It has two fortresses—Manaranjan and Shriwardhan.

Nestled in the Sahyadri range, Rajmachi is ringed by nature in its bounty. The trekking trail is amazing with views of Kataldhar and other waterfalls, Shirola Lake, deep gorges and valleys, and picturesque villages. Some popular places to visit at the fort include Udaysagar Lake, Mahadev Temple near the lake, and Bahiroba Temple on the plateau near the twin fortresses.



Go Kayaking!

All you adrenaline junkies out there, Maharashtra boasts of some amazing Kayaking spots that will leave you thrilled, quite literally. At Kolad, Shivsagar, Mandwa, Ambegaon Jambhulwadi Lake, Devbag, and more spots that boast of amazing backwaters, you can go kayaking and get that adrenaline pumping. There are many service providers for this activity at these spots.



Kalavantin Durg, Maharashtra

This beautiful spot near Mumbai (50 km away) awaits your presence with its thick floating clouds, lush greenery and rocky terrains. Kalavantin Durg is located near the famous Prabalgad Fort. During the old days, it was used as a watchtower by the Marathas to guard the fort against enemies. It is now a popular trekking destination but is also one of the most dangerous ones in the country.



Bhimashankar, Maharashtra

Bhimashankar, located about 100 km from Pune and 223 km from Mumbai, is a popular temple town. It is among one of the twelve traditional 'Jyotilingam' shrines of Lord Shiva in India.

Bhimashankar is located in the village Bhorgiri in the ghat region of the Sahyadri range. Situated at an height of around 3,250 feet, Bhimashankar is surrounded by hills and is covered by thick green rainforests. Legend has it that the name Bhimashankar was originated from the river Bhima which evaporated due to the generated between the war of Lord Shiva and the demon Tripurasura. It is considered to be one of the holiest places in India because of the jyotirlinga. Bhimashankar is also a popular destination for trekkers. Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary is another important reason why people come here.



Manori, Maharashtra

Manori beach, along with Gorai beach is a growing favourite among back packers and people who just want to cross over to the peace and quiet of the country side for a while.

One day off from work. No time to travel too far. Low on petrol and just enough hours to pack up and leave for a refreshing day out. Manori offers much more than just a day's getaway to the beach. The two kilometer long beach in Manori is the nearest to the hustle and bustle of the city of dreams, yet far away from it.

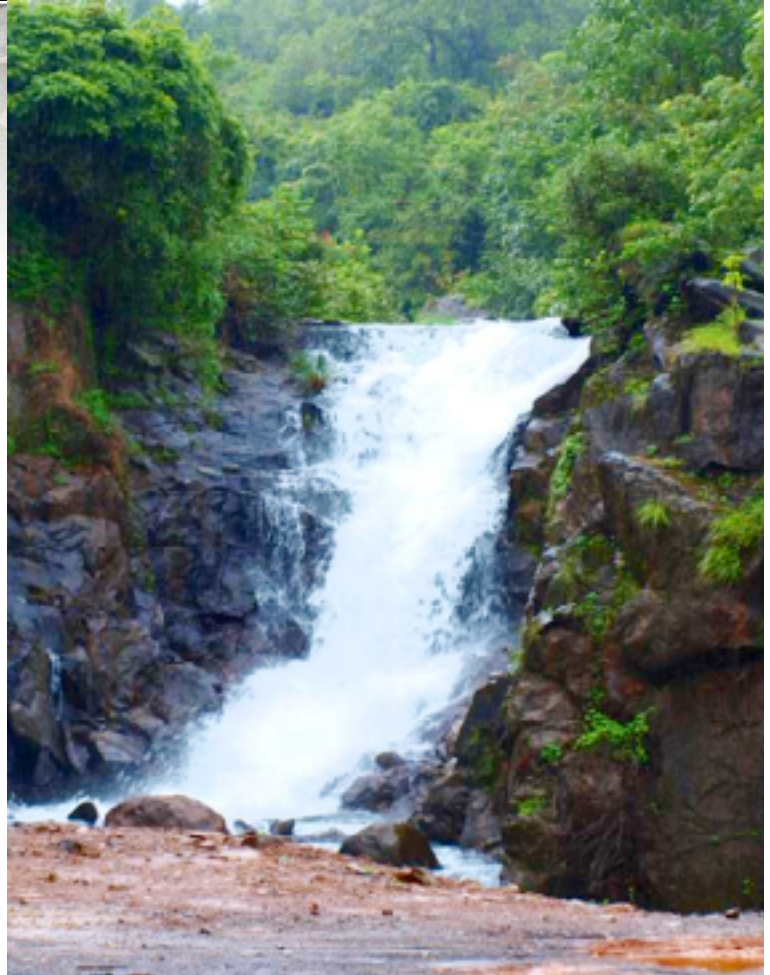
Manori is home to fishing communities, and a culture very reminiscent of Goa, the whole area given ample shade by a carpet of coconut and cashew trees that line the beach, hammocks tied to them, making you want to switch to your vacation side immediately.

Chiplun, Maharashtra

In the quiet, far away from the city port district of Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, lies Chiplun, the city that offers you time among mango groves next to the beautiful lake, Vashishti. This town is most known for its white sand beaches and beautiful mango and cashew groves by the Vashishti river.

Chiplun, meaning 'The abode of Lord Parashurama' got its name because of the famous temple it houses. Chiplun also happens to be an industrial town and most people coming to this side tend to go to the River view resort, a popular getaway on weekends.

The sunsets that can be seen from both the Vashishti river and Koyana Dam are so attractive that people book rooms to wake up to the sight of the brilliant scenery. Chiplun falls as an important station on the Konkan railway route for trains heading to Mumbai from Goa and South India.



Aga Khan Palace

The Aga Khan Palace in Pune occupies a prime position in the history of India's freedom movement for the fact that Mahatma Gandhi, his wife, secretary and others were incarcerated here from 1942. It now serves as the headquarters of the Gandhi National Memorial Society where the making of 'khadi' continues to be a prime activity. This imposing palace where one can feel an intense connection with the past is also known for its beautiful and serene gardens.

Covering a sprawling expanse of 19 acres on the Pune-Ahmednagar Road is the palatial Aga Khan Palace. But though it was built as a majestic palace fit for a king to reside, it is known more as the place where the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, was incarcerated during the time of British rule.



Elephanta Caves, Mumbai

As you stand at Mumbai's most well-known spot of tourist interest – the Gateway of India – the most overwhelming desire you will experience is to step into a boat and explore the Arabian Sea.

But this need not just be a whim. It can serve a purpose too if you take the ride to visit the Elephanta Island which is just 10 kilometers from Mumbai.

Not only is the island host to a bounty of nature in the form of lush plantations of palm, mango and tamarind trees but is also home to ancient cave temples that have been carved out of rock and which have been declared a World Heritage Site.



Trimbakeshwar

One of the holiest places that occupy a special position in the religious beliefs of every Hindu is Trimbakeshwar. One reason is that it is among the 12 'jyotirlingas' dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Located in the Trimbakeshwar taluka of Nashik district where the river Godavari originates at the adjacent hill of Brahmagiri, the place has both historical and mythological significance because of the presence of several caves which have had association with the 'Nath' sect.

A circumambulation of this hill in the Hindu calendar month of Shravan is treated as an extremely pious act.

Haji Ali Dargah

A tomb on an island in the middle of the Arabian Sea! Doesn't that immediately sound enticing enough? But there is more to the Haji Ali Dargah in Mumbai than just its location. Such is the reverence that this Muslim saint commands that his final resting place draws the faithful from all communities who come here with the firm hope that their prayers will be answered. With a mosque located adjacent to the tomb complex, the edifice is also a brilliant specimen of the Indo-Islamic style of architecture.

Located about 500 meters from the coast off the Lala Lajpatrai Marg at Mahalaxmi in Mumbai, the Haji Ali Dargah was constructed in 1431 in memory of a wealthy Muslim merchant, Sayyed Peer Haji Ali Shah Bukhari, who renounced all his worldly possessions before making a pilgrimage to Mecca. It is said that he had come to India from Bukhara in the ancient Persian Empire and had travelled around the world before deciding to settle down in Mumbai.



Bibi Ka Maqbara

Bibi Ka Maqbara in Aurangabad is a magnificent mausoleum that exhibits exceptional architectural beauty. Constructed by the Mughal ruler Aurangzeb as a memorial to his first wife Rabia-UI-Daurani aka Dilras Banu Begum, this 17th-century structure bears an unmistakable likeness to the Taj Mahal, which is the final resting place of his mother.

Standing against the scenic backdrop of the Sihaychal Ranges, this epitome of love draped in white offers a spellbinding sight and serves as one of the most prominent landmarks in the city. If you are chalking out your Aurangabad itinerary, make sure to include Bibi Ka Maqbara in your list of must-visit attractions.

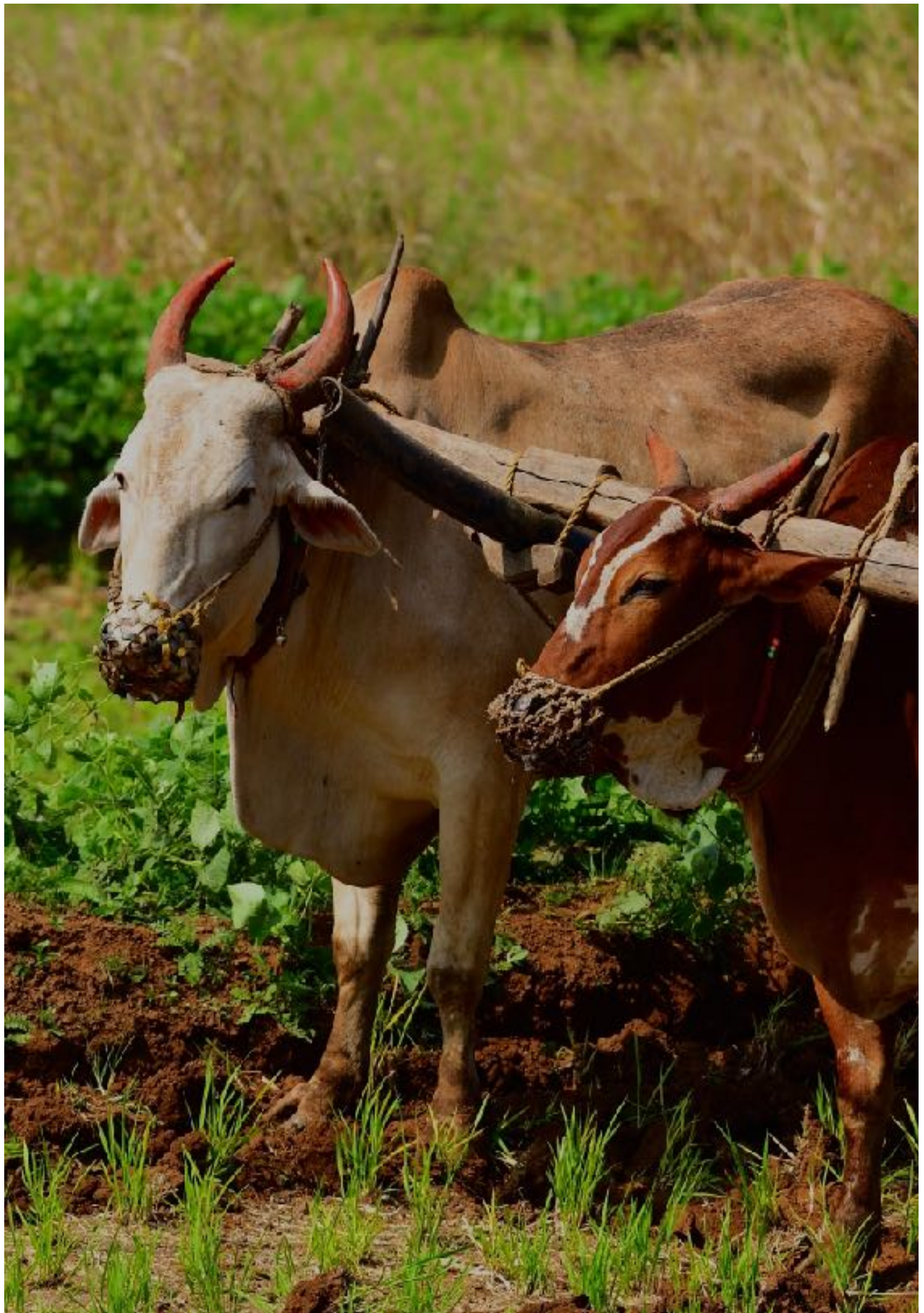


Kanheri Caves,

Kanheri Caves are an extensive network of prehistoric cave formations located in the suburban region of Borivali in Mumbai. This network of over a hundred caves dates back to the 1st century and it is believed that the construction of these rock-cut monuments continued well into the 10th century.

This passage of time can be traced in the intricacy of different caves as you can distinguish between the earlier ones from the new ones as being much simpler. The paintings, sculptures and carvings in the later caves are much more sophisticated.

The caves home Buddhist sculptures and the architecture is heavily inspired by ancient Buddhist motifs. Today, one of the caves has been converted into a monastery and holds an important place in the religion.





WINE TASTING

Maharashtra is the land of wines in India, here are the Vineyards that you must visit. The state is a dream destination for both serious wine connoisseurs and those with just Wine on their mind.

If you are a wine lover, then this is the perfect holiday for you. And even if you are not, taking this holiday will definitely turn you into one. Think about taking a holiday away from the hustle of the cities in a faraway location, surrounded by beautiful vineyards and sitting, sipping on a crisp glass of white or red wine and just relaxing with your loved ones.

Wine tourism is in Nashik, about four hours from Mumbai. There are almost 30 functional wineries around the area and many now have tasting rooms, which is exciting for wine lovers.





GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to Maharashtra

Maharashtra is often referred to as the land of revolutionaries, scholars, saints, and entertainers, as some of the most notable figures belonging to these domains have been from this state. Maharashtra was traditionally ruled by the Maurya Empire and the Satavahana dynasty, and the influences of these kingdoms can be found in the state's culture even today.

Attire

The traditional attire of the Maharashtrian men comprises of a dhoti, kurta or cotton shirt, waistcoat or bandi, and a pheta (headwear or topi). Women, on the other hand, wear a choli or blouse along with a distinct 9-yard long saree that is referred to as 'lugade' or 'nauwari saadi'. The traditional Marathi attire is worn by a majority of the people of the state during special religious events and festivals.

Food

There are a number of scrumptious local delicacies that can be found in Maharashtra, including puran poli, missal pav, vada pav, and pav bhaji. Kolhapuri Mutton and Shrikhand are two other important culinary delights found in Maharashtra.

People

They are ethnically heterogeneous. The Bhil, Warli, Gond, Korku, Govari, and dozens of other tribal communities—all officially designated as Scheduled Tribes—live on the slopes of the Western Ghats and the Satpura Range. Marathas and Kunbis make up the majority of the remainder of the people of Maharashtra.

Folk Dance & Music

The popular folk music and dances of Maharashtra are the Banjara Holi dance, Lavani dance, Koli, and Powada. The Powada is especially famous for showcasing the diverse achievements of Shivaji, the great Maratha ruler. Koli music and dance are known to have originated from the fishermen community of Maharashtra. The traditional Lavani dance of Maharashtra is known to showcase diverse topics, like romance, politics, and tragedy.

Best Time to Visit

Maharashtra lies in the western part of India. It is bordered by the states of Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, as well as by the Arabian Sea.

There are a number of internationally famous sites present in this state, which people can visit at any time of the year by booking comprehensive Maharashtra trip packages. The period between October to March is, however, known to be the perfect time to visit Maharashtra.

WEDDING

How do you make a wedding so memorable that it lasts a lifetime? It truly depends on the destination, event organizers, decorators, and others, who must coordinate to ensure the event goes smoothly.

Our team ensures that you have your big day celebrated in the very way you wanted.

Simple yet soulful, Maharashtrian weddings fuse traditions, emotions and family bonhomie effortlessly. In this installment of our Wedding Tradition Series, we explore the rituals of Maharashtrian weddings that showcase their culture so beautifully.

As more and more couples from diverse cultures and countries tie the knot, they desire a beautiful blend of memorable celebrations. This Wedding Tradition Series aims to answer all your questions about ceremonies in different Indian cultures and their significance, how to dress for functions, and more. Here, you are invited to step into the vibrant and traditional festivities, fashion and food of an authentic Maharashtrian wedding!



LUXURY JOURNEYS



Magical Maharashtra

Duration: 14 Nights / 15 Days

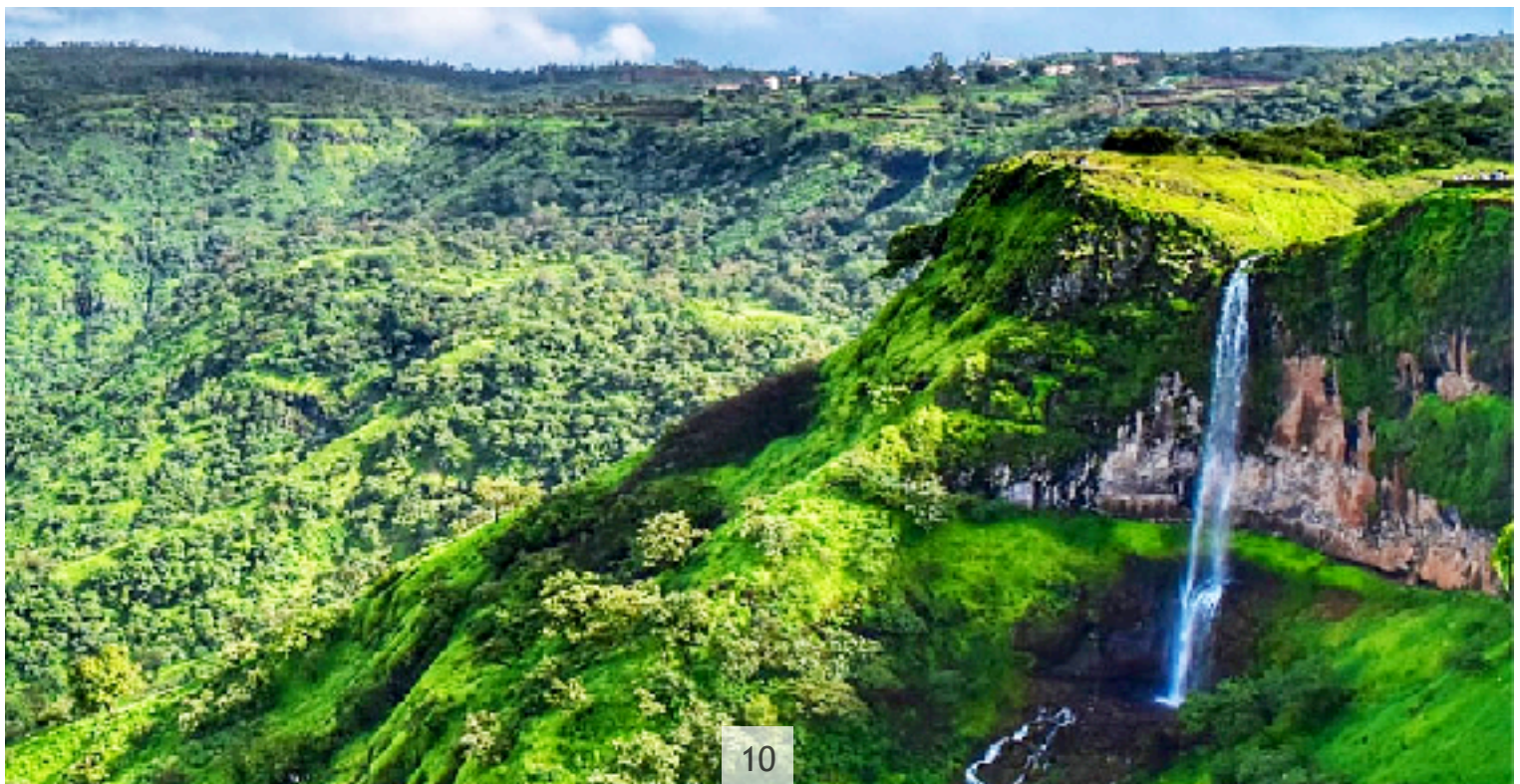
Cruises: Mumbai | Lonavala | Matheran | Nashik | Shirdi | Aurangabad | Pune | Mahabaleshwar | Mumbai

From: US \$ 11500 pp

Upon the shores of the Arabian Sea lies Mumbai formerly known as Bombay. A megacity, today this is India's financial capital. Starting out as a fishing village comprising seven islands, Mumbai grew to become the agglomeration of culture, textiles, art, music, dance and movies.

In 1845 reclaimed land from the sea connected the seven Isles and Mumbai became a major seaport on the western shores of India. Today the metropolis boasts of some of the wealthiest inhabitants in all of Asia.

The 15 days Magical Maharashtra Tour takes you on a visit to Mumbai popularly called as the dream city. The Maharashtra state is dotted with various temples, ancient forts and palaces, beaches, pilgrimages, hill stations and many more that attract various tourists from all over the world. It is the state where one can easily receive pleasure, attractiveness, serenity and glamour all at one spot.



Best of Maharashtra Journey

Duration: 10 Nights / 11 Days

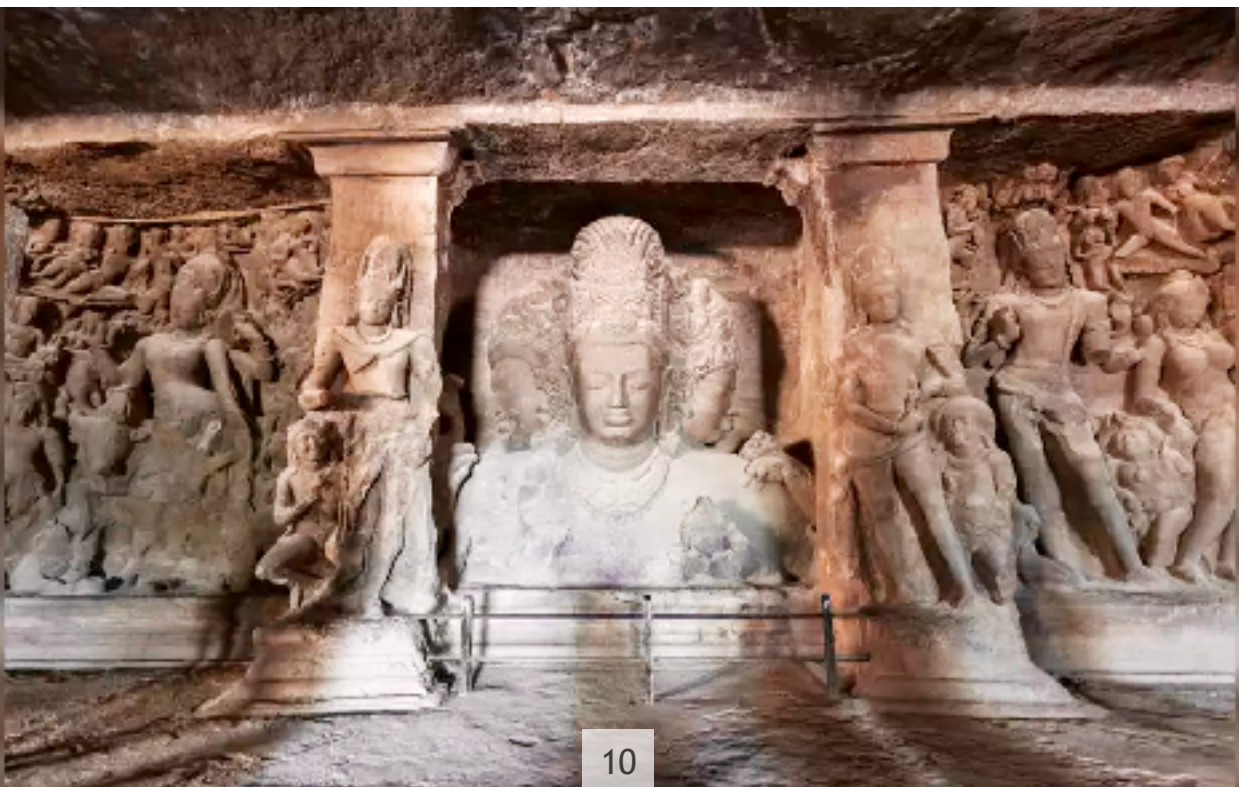
Places: Mumbai | Lonavala | Khandala | Matheran | Nashik | Shirdi | Aurangabad | Mumbai

From: US \$ 8700 pp

Maharashtra is one of the important states of India. The third largest state and the second most populous state in India - Maharashtra - is brimming with an array of colorful shrines; a remarkable collection of caves; golden beaches lined with swaying palm trees; historic hotspots with strong past connection; and oodles of emerald hill stations under the canopy of lush western ghats. With an incredible mashup of everything, there's no better place to go for a holiday in India than Maharashtra.

The state is primarily known for its ancient Ellora and Ajanta caves, and pilgrim destinations. Plan a holiday in Maharashtra to witness the dazzling range of experience, beautiful landscapes and years of history.

This 10 nights and 11 days Best of Maharashtra tour will take you through some of the most well-known and interesting places of this state. You will enjoy sightseeing in Mumbai, Khandala, Nashik and Matheran. You will also visit Shirdi, to get Darshan at the Sai Baba Temple. You will also go on an excursion to the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Hills of Maharashtra with Saputara

Duration: 07 Nights / 08 Days

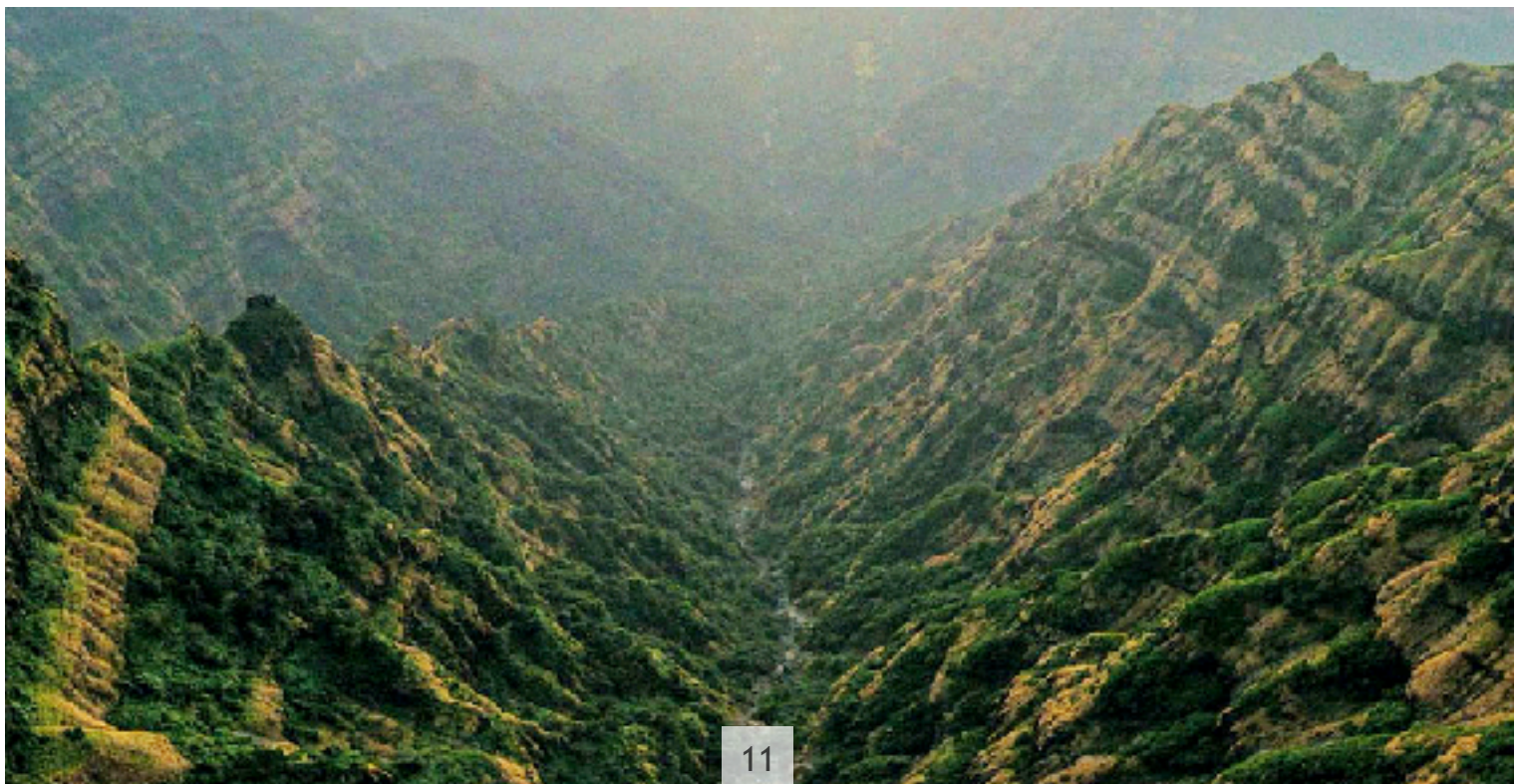
Places: Mumbai | Saputara | Matheran | Lonavala | Mumbai

From: US \$ 5800 pp

Enjoy the contrasts of Mumbai and its nearby attractions with our Mumbai heritage and hills tours. This tour will give you an imposing experience of the incredible beauty of nature and history.

Vast, varied, vibrant and extremely vivacious - Maharashtra has a thing when it comes to urbanization and rapid development that is hard to find anywhere else in India. It's a paradisiacal paradox -subtle yet energetic; wild but manicured, and hushes yet fueled by rapid urbanization. For a vacation in Maharashtra, there is abundance natural beauty to soothe the senses; beaches that are the best places to unwind; exceptional shrines that are the epitome of architectural excellence and rich flora and fauna that makes it a biodiversity hotspot.

During this Mumbai tour, you will unfold every layer of its attractions and make your holiday remarkable. Each moment of this tour will allow you to witness the different forms of beauty. From heritage museums to nightclubs, you will enjoy a rollercoaster ride that will never disappoint you. On this tour, you will feast your eyes and mind by enjoying a panoramic view from Saputara. It is one of the beautiful hill stations near Mumbai that keep you close to nature.



Maharashtra Honeymoon Journey

Duration: 10 Nights / 11 Days

Places: Mumbai | Lonavala | Khandala | Panchgani | Mahabaleshwar | Alibaug | Mumbai

From: US \$ 8500 pp

Looking for the perfect holiday destination for honeymoon? Search no more. With Maharashtra honeymoon tour package, you can assure yourself with a romantic and exotic honeymoon. This package by Indian Holiday has been specifically designed to brighten up those special moments with your partner. Amid destinations like Mumbai, Lonavala, Khandala, Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar and Alibagh, we promise you to give tons of memories which you will cherish for a lifetime.

Since all the hill stations and jungles of the Maharashtra are quite pristine, so to explore all these hidden gems, travelers are often seen heading to these places to take part in treks like Torna Trek, Raigad Trek, Visapur Fort Trek, Shivneri Trek, Harishchandragad Trek, Lohgad Trek, Kalsubai Peak Trek, Vasota Fort Trek, to name a few. Apart from trekking, rafting, caving, and paragliding are some of the activities that keep one on their toes and leave their hearts filled with thrill and elation. To further add a little thrill to the adventure vacation, one can sign up for a white water rafting over river Kundalika, near the western ghats.



Mumbai to Goa Journey

Duration: 08 Nights / 09 Days

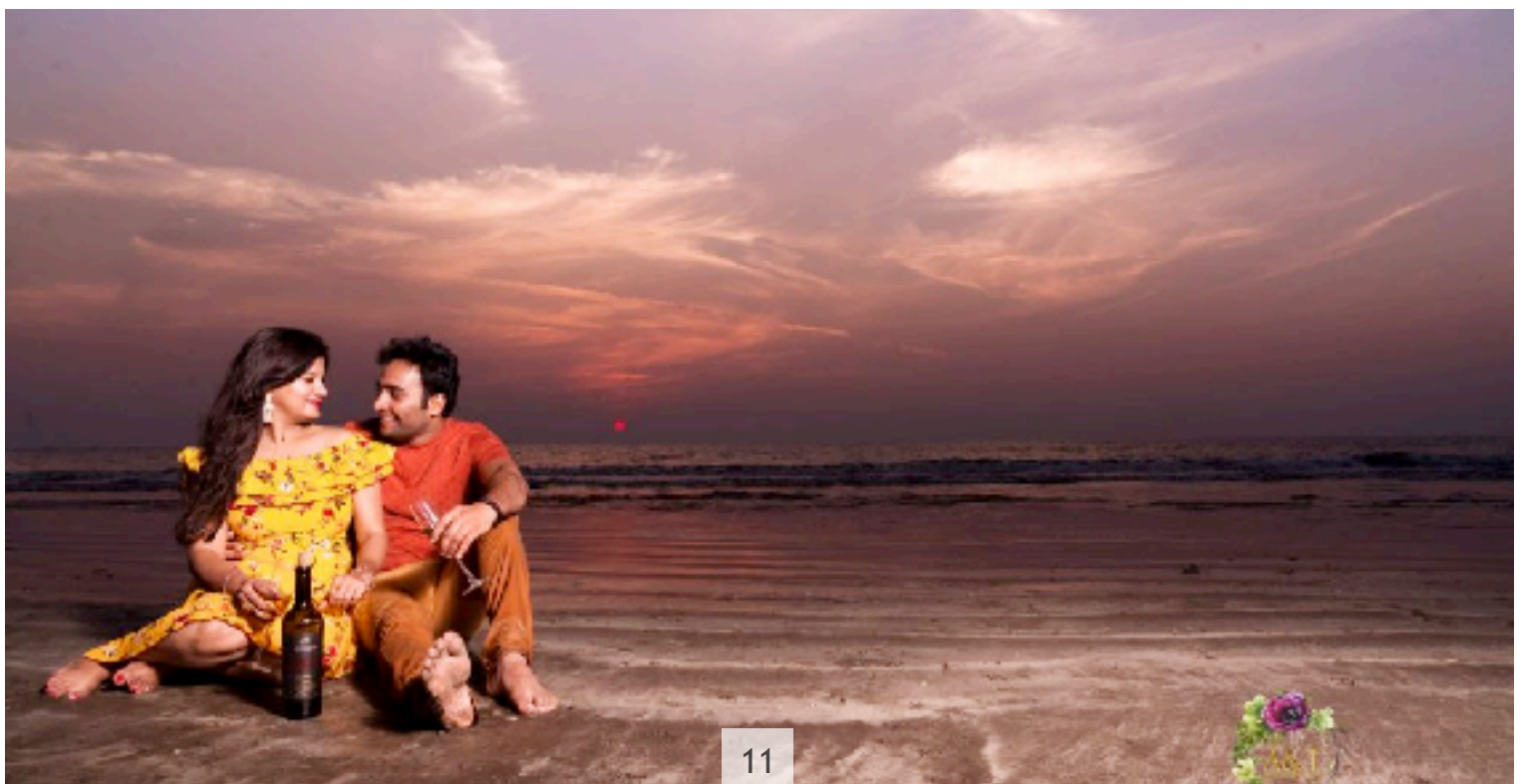
Places: Mumbai | Goa | Mumbai

From: US \$ 6900 pp

Mumbai, the City of Dreams and capital of Maharashtra rubs its shoulders with some of world's most developed cities. And the state of beaches, Goa, has the ability to attract massive crowd from all around the world; through the magic of its beaches, culture, history and youthful vibe. Both these cities are among the best destinations of India, and this is your chance to explore them. 8 Nights 9 Days Mumbai Goa tour package takes you the best of attractions of both these cities. Not just shopping and sightseeing, if you are an adventure seeker, fun sports activities in Goa are going to engage you during your Mumbai & Goa holidays.

The coastal paradise, Goa is not unknown to anyone. This tiny state in West India is famous for its plethora of beautiful beaches, great seafood, amazing nightlife, and thrilling watersports. Goa along with being a popular beach destination in India is a perfect honeymoon destination, a great getaway with friends, and an amazing family holiday place, which means, the place is filled with activities and attractions to keep all its visitors engaged.

The state is majorly divided into two districts - North Goa and South Goa. North Goa is famous for its lively beaches. South Goa, on the other hand is known for its quieter beaches.



Maharashtra Temple Journey

Duration: 09 Nights / 10 Days

Places: Mumbai | Bhimashankar | Shirdi | Shani Shingnapur | Aurangabad | Grishneshwar | Trimbakeshwar | Mumbai

From: US \$ 7500 pp

This journey takes you to the famous 3 Jyotirlingas Temples in Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Jyotirlinga package covers destinations like Bhimashankar, Shirdi, Shani Shingnapur, Grishneshwar, Trimbakeshwar, and Mumbai. With this tour, you can ensure yourself with a comfortable and hassle-free visit to the holy Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva.

The very sacred Trimbakeshwar Temple, which is one of the 12 jyotirlingas spread across the country, is situated in Nashik; the ancient holy city that carries many other popular temples and religious places that are soul enriching and peace giving.

Another popular temple that's covered in the package, was a unifying factor for Hindus and Muslims i.e Sai Baba Temple at Shirdi, which is devoted to a spiritual master revered by both Hindu and Muslim devotees equally. Dwell into the Maratha architecture in Aurangabad, and explore along the World heritage site - Ellora caves, sprawled amidst lush greenery that surely calls for a visit.



Classical India Journey

Duration: 17 Nights / 18 Days

Places: Mumbai | Aurangabad | Burhanpur | Maheshwar | Bhopal | Orchha | Gwalior | Agra | Delhi

From: US \$ 13800 pp

As one of the world's great nations, India has an unrivalled historic tradition with this itinerary exploring the ages of Indian history through religion, architecture and people. Leaving the Victorian grandeur of Mumbai in central India, journey to central India, home to the cave temples of Ajanta and Ellora, the 'lost city' of Mandu and the ancient Buddhist remains at Sanchi close to Bhopal.

Continuing north, visit beautiful Orchha and the dramatic forts at Datia and Gwalior before driving to Agra and its famed sites. Conclude the journey in Old and New Delhi, the modern-day capital of India.

Highlights

- The ancient Ajanta and Ellora Caves, close to the city of Aurangabad, are world renowned for their exceptional Buddhist, Hindu and Jain paintings, sculptures, frescoes and writings.
- Maheshwar lies on the north bank of the wide Narmada River and is a prosperous centre of weaving. Ahilya Fort offers a friendly and relaxed stay in a charming 18th century property.
- The historic city of Gwalior and its colourfully tiled fort have been ruled over by many Indian kingdoms and was the site of a major rebellion against the British during the events of 1857.



Passage through Central India

Duration: 16 Nights / 17 Days

Places: Delhi | Lucknow | Varanasi | Khajuraho | Orchha | Bhopal | Indore | Maheshwar |
Burhanpur | Ajanta | Aurangabad | Mumbai

From: US \$ 13200 pp

Journey through the heart of India and discover a world of rich culture and natural beauty on this spectacular 'Passage through Central India Tour'. If some places look familiar, scenes from the BBC drama, 'A Suitable Boy' was filmed in places like Lucknow and Maheshwar.

Explore the iconic city of Mumbai as well as Lucknow and Bhopal, visit the mesmerising sacred locations of Varanasi and Ujjain, discover a host of UNESCO World Heritage Sites steeped in fascinating history and experience local life in Maheshwar with a visit to the Rehwa Society weaving centre and local school.

The Central India tour will take you on a visit to some of the splendid hidden tourist destinations. The tour offers a great insight into the cultural vividness of India.

Explore the hidden treasures of Central India through our thoughtfully designed journey that spans in the duration of 16 nights and 17 days. You will get a wonderful opportunity to visit various popular destinations in this region.



Maharashtra Wildlife Journey

Duration: 09 Nights / 10 Days

Places: Mumbai | Nagpur | Tadoba NP | Nagzira NP | Pench NP | Nagzira NP | Nagpur | Mumbai

From: US \$ 7700 pp

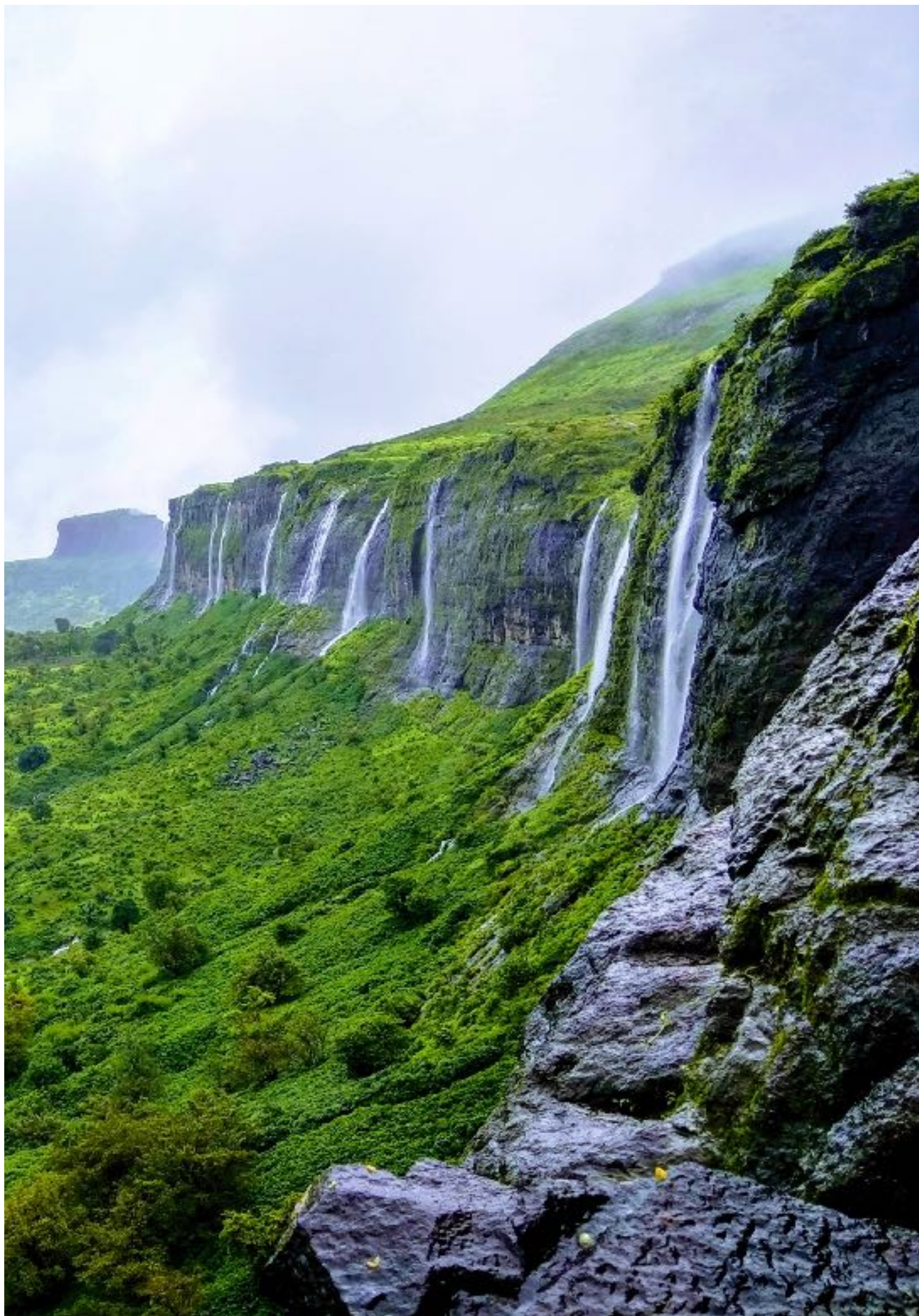
Tadoba, Nagzira and Pench National Park are the wonderful spot to visit for wildlife lovers and nature admirers. These national Parks are located in Maharashtra and attract a horde of tourists all the year round. The tiger population of these national parks is incredible and it is the major cause luring the tourists.

When these three amazing national parks bequeathed with exotic flora and fauna are explored together, it gives a unique and unsurpassed pleasure to the wildlife lovers. One can come close to nature and can savor its opulence in the best way by visiting these three verdant national parks in the same go.

This 09 nights and 10 days tour itinerary encompassing Tadoba, Nagzira and Pench National Park is a great trip to undertake for the tourists in quest of savoring serenity and exploring nature's grandeur.







MICE TOURISM

Maharashtra is known for business travel to Mumbai & Pune, and luxury or leisure travel to Mahabaleshwar, Konkan, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Nasik etc. People are increasingly looking for experiences that bring history to life in an engaging way. With its recent endeavors, Maharashtra Tourism eyes to offer a hands-on experience that will inspire and entertain people of all age groups.

Corporate Incentive Travel are proven business tools for motivating teams and individuals towards a desired behavior. Time-tested to drive sales, enhance employee engagement, boost morale and promote corporate loyalty. Incentive travel programs have helped countless companies achieve their biggest business objectives.

Maharashtra is one stop destination for all your MICE - Meetings, Incentive, Conferences, Events requirement and let us tell you that we have right solution for all your needs from your very first query to the materialisation of your event.







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