Sindhudurg

A Mesmerising Journey...
I am glad to know that Sindhudurg district administration and MTDC is publishing a coffee table book on tourism destinations in the district. Maharashtra state has the potential of being an outstanding tourist destination with its pristine beaches, lush green forests, rich wildlife, ancient caves and historic forts, backwaters, waterfalls, valleys, temples and ecological hotspots. Sindhudurg is the southernmost district of Maharashtra and this is the only district having such varied variety as beaches, hill station, sea forts, temples and many other attractions.

Taking all this and potential of the district into consideration the Government of Maharashtra announced Sindhudurg district as a TOURISM DISTRICT. Thus it became the first tourism district in the country.

I hope that this informative coffee table book will cater to the needs of our guests all over the country. I wish all the success to the efforts by the District Administration.

(Devendra Fadnavis)
Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that Sindhudurg District Administration is publishing 'Coffee Table Book' on Tourism in Sindhudurg district.

Sindhudurg is the most beautiful district of Maharashtra. This district has scenic view of Sahyadri Ranges on one side and the view of long and beautiful coastline dotted with breathtakingly beautiful pristine beaches on the other side. The Government of Maharashtra has declared Sindhudurg district as a Tourism district. Sindhudurg is steadily developing itself as a global tourist destination. This district has historical, cultural and spiritual heritage which when coupled with the natural beauty spread across the district in the form of pristine beaches, hill stations, lakes, winding rivers and wonderful backwaters, makes it an ideal tourist destination.

I am sure this 'Coffee Table Book' will be useful for all the domestic as well as international tourists to know Sindhudurg in a better way and understand its vivid beauty. I wish all success to the district administration and extend my heartiest greeting for the wonderful work being done to promote the tourism.

(Dipak Kesarkar)
I was overjoyed to know that 'The Sindhudurg Coffee Table Book' was being published by the Sindhudurg District Administration. The government has taken several initiatives to enhance tourism in Sindhudurg district, which is adorned with jewels of nature. The state government shall be proactive in boosting tourism even in the future. This coffee table book shall be significantly instrumental in promoting the tourism spots of this region. Tourists will gain a lot of information from it and I am hopeful that an abundance of tourists shall visit Sindhudurg to enjoy the bounty of nature over here. My hearty wishes to the district administration for the successful launch of this 'Sindhudurg Tourism Coffee Table Book'.

(S.S. Kshatriya)
Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the District Administration is publishing a Coffee Table Book on Tourism for Sindhudurg District. The book is beautifully designed and projects the district as a hub of tourist attractions. The pictorial presentation along with apt description of locales is very impressive and I am sure that it will appeal to the aesthetic senses of the tourists all over the world, resulting in an increase in the tourist inflow in the district.

This book not only presents natural locations but also highlights the rich history and the vibrant culture of the district in the form of festivals, folk arts, lifestyle and cuisine, which will definitely appeal to the tourists intending to visit this land of natural beauty.

I wish all the success to the Team Sindhudurg in promoting as an ideal tourist destination.

\[\text{(Valsa Nair Singh)}\]
Message

It is indeed heartening to know that the District Administration Sindhudurg is publishing a Coffee Table Book on Tourism in Sindhudurg District. I am happy to see the tourist destinations being publicized in a different yet aesthetic way in this book and am sure this book will go a long way in attracting tourists.

I congratulate the District Collector and his team, as also the artists who have come up with the concept of the book on tourism and worked tirelessly in bringing this book out. I am sure this book would reach all the parts of the world and would attract tourists from different parts of the globe.

Wishing all the success to the District Administration and wishing all the joy to tourists visiting Sindhudurg.

(Radheshyam Mopalwar)
Preface

I am glad to present this Coffee Table Book on Tourism in Sindhudurg on the occasion of the Tourism festival in the district.

Sindhudurg is the first district in the country to be notified as the Tourism District and it is gifted with treasure of natural beauty. It is the only district with all the variety of tourist destinations like pristine beaches, mesmerising waterfalls, challenging Sahyadri mountains with trekking attractions, historical sea and inland forts, bustling ports, serene backwaters, winding rivers, hill stations, dense forests with ecological hotspots full of wildlife, sea shores with dolphins and shallow sea with natural corals ideal for the snorkelling and scuba diving. Temples and other spiritual centers make this district an ideal place for spiritual tourism. The district as a whole is a rich tourist destination with varied attractions.

This book is an effort to present this treasure in a manner that shall cater to the specific interests of the tourists as Nature tourism, Historical tourism, Spiritual tourism, Cultural tourism, Administrative tourism and other interesting facts.

I hope this book serves the purpose of promoting Sindhudurg as a global tourist destination. I extend warm welcome to the tourists visiting our district and wish them an enriching and pleasant tour.
## Contents

- Konkan – The Western End of the land ... 14
- Sindhudurg District ... 17
- Sindhudurg at A Glance ... 19
- Amboli ... 20
- Wildlife – A Jungle Safari ... 23
- Reptiles and Amphibians ... 27
- Bird Life ... 37
- Flowers and Orchids ... 44
- Fungi ... 51
- Butterflies and Moths ... 53
- Mountainous Roads ... 57
- Waterfalls & Potholes ... 61
- Rivers, Creeks & Mangroves ... 65
- Lakes ... 73
- Beaches ... 79
- Costal Birds ... 91
- Life on Seashores ... 94
- Rock Carvings ... 97
- Ancient Caves & Stone Inscriptions ... 98
- Bundar Malvan Rupaya ... 99
- Lighthouses and Monuments ... 100
- Palace of Sawantwadi ... 103
- Sindhudurg Fort ... 105
- Vijaydurg Fort ... 108
- Mountain Forts ... 113
- Temples and Sculptures ... 116
- Churches ... 124
- Festivals & Carnivals ... 127
- The Aangnewadi Carnival ... 129
- Ganesh Festival ... 130
- Khele ... 131
- Social Life ... 135
- Agro-Industries ... 140
- Fishing Industry ... 146
- Rapan ... 149
- Industries & Business ... 153
- Traditional Art ... 154
- Dashavatara ... 160
- Shilpgram ... 162
- Tourism Facilities ... 167
- House Boats ... 168
- Rock Garden ... 175
- Food Culture ... 176
- Deccan Odyssey ... 181
- Scuba Diving Training Institute ... 182
- Scuba Diving & Snorkeling ... 185
- Adventurous Water Sports ... 186
- Sindhudurg Dist. Tourist Map ... 190
- Tourism Calender ... 192
- Beneficaries Listed under Bed & Breakfast Scheme ... 194
- List of Photo credits and acknowledgments ... 197
Sindhudurg
A Mesmerising Journey...
Konkan – The Western End of the land

The world renowned Western Ghats were formed approximately 60 million years ago. For 20 million years there were huge volcanic eruptions taking place in this region, which created the Deccan Plateau. Due to this turbulence inside the earth, what rose up formed the Western Ghats and what remained at sea level can be called the Konkan. In geographical terms, scientists claim that the Saryadri range (Western Ghats) is much older than the Himalayas.

According to Indian mythology, the Konkan was formed by pushing away the ocean. Such stories have a huge element of fantasy, but if the deeper meanings were to be studied, science and technology can be linked to these mythical tales; references to the Konkan in these texts actually mean – a land that ends in the west. The west coast of India is the Konkan. This coast of India had a lot of connect with the rest of the world since ancient times.

Existing documents of the pre-Buddha era show that human habitation in the Konkan is between 5000 to 7000 years old.

A reference to the Konkan is found in the 2000 year old maps and scriptures of the Egyptian explorer Ptolemy... and the oldest reference is in the inscriptions of Emperor Ashoka in 250 BC. When Buddhism was gaining prominence, Emperor Ashoka had sent several Buddhist monks to the Konkan to spread their religion. Konkan has been mentioned even in the 11th century copper inscriptions at Khajuraho in Madhavi.

This region is as vast as the Saryadri mountain range and just as ancient... and shows a lot of diversity in the atmosphere, water, crops, traditions and language.

The Konkan - a wondrous melange of sporadic rain showers, magnificent mountains, foaming waterfalls, hues of red soil, lush green forests, exotic birds, sprawling beaches and stupendous marine life, an abundance of historical treasures and special Konkani delicacies.

Traditional, cultural, cordial Konkan!

Come... Konkan beckons you with open arms and an open heart.
Sindhudurg District

The Konkan region that spreads across the western coast of India is a boon to Maharashtra due to its exotic natural wonders. It is a slender strip of 750 km of land sandwiched between a rich coastline on the West and the mighty Western Ghats on the East. Sindhudurg district that lies in Southern Konkan is a place of pride for all of Konkan. The splendours of Konkan are bountiful: bio-diversity, natural beauty, the Konkani way of life that nurture their culture, the Malvan coat of arms, historically rich mountain forts and sea forts, carvings and sculptures that show a glimpse of Neolithic culture, ancient temples, pristine rivers, creeks, mangroves, spick and span beaches.

In 1647 AD, the extremely foresighted Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj built the robust sea-fort – Sindhudurg. In those times pirates swarmed the sea waters rampantly. The Portuguese, Dutch, Arab, French and British maintained their own fleets to spread their trade and rule. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who established Swaraj (self-rule) had gauged the importance and power of naval fleets. He built Sindhudurg fort to reinforce his navy and to maintain his supremacy over the sea. Throughout the Konkan he constructed 8 such sea-forts... and the most impregnable of them all was Sindhudurg. There is no other king in the history of the world to have built so many sea-forts during his reign.

This region came into prominence in the last 350 years, when the Sindhudurg fort was built, but the history of this land goes back to 2500 years. Over several centuries various dynasties ruled this land including Emperor Ashoka of the Maurya dynasty, followed by Shtrak,

Sarvehan, Gupt, Vakilat, Pallav, Chalujha, Rashtrakut, Shilahar, Yavan, Mogul and the Portuguese. This was followed by the Marathas such as the Bhonsales and Sawant. This history has been revealed by the Archaeological Society from the various stone inscriptions, copper engravings and coins that they excavated.

Sindhudurg is as famous for its natural heritage as it is for its historical one. The environmental change according to the transforming topography is significantly evident right from sea level in Alibaug, which is situated at an altitude of about 2400 ft in the Sahyadri mountain range.

Hundreds of species of animals, birds, plants, variety of flowers, over 200 species of butterflies, various types of snakes and insects coexist in this land... a rich natural population that attracts environmentalists, naturalists and nature lovers from all over the world. Out of 2808 sacred groves in Maharashtra state, Sindhudurg District comprises total 1450 sacred groves.

The district is rich with minerals such as bauxite, manganese and iron. It is due to these specialties that in the year 1997 Sindhudurg was declared as the first tourist district in Maharashtra. The district is composed of 8 talukas, 8 of them are situated adjacent to Western Ghats and 3 beside the coastline. A portion of the sea beside Malvan taluka has been declared as a marine wildlife sanctuary. Through adventure sports such as snorkelling and scuba diving, tourists can enjoy a glimpse of the fascinating underwater world.
Sindhudurg at A Glance

Sindhudurg District Established on — 1st May 1981
Geographical Location — 15.37 - 16.40 North Latitude 71.19 - 74.13 East Longitude
Geographical Area — 5087.5 sq. kms
Borders — West - Arabian Sea, East - Kolhapur District,
North - Ratnagiri District, South - Goa and part of Karnataka State
Coastline — 121 kms.
District Capital — Sindhudurg nagari, Taluka Kudal
Talukas — 8: Dodamarg, Sawantwadi, Kudal, Kankavli, Vaibhavwadi,
Devgad, Malvan, Vengurla
Villages — 750
Climate — Sultry (with humidity)
Average Temperature — Min. 21.68°C, Max. 31.59°C
Average Annual Rainfall — 3300 mm
Population — 8,49,651 (as per 2011 census) Male - 4,17,332, Female - 4,32,319
Minerals — Manganese, Silica, Bauxite
Main Occupations — Farming, Fishing, Irrigated Farming, Tourism
Major Crops — Rice, Finger millet, Sawal millet, Groundnuts
Cash Crops — Mango, Cashew, Jack Fruit, Jamun, Kokum, Coconut, Betelnut
Reserve Forest — 55000 hectares Sacred Groves - 1440
Important Rivers — Terekhol, Bhongsal, Gad, Shuk, Shanti, Nirmala
Festivals — Ganesh Festival, Shimga Festival, Holli Festival, Carnivals
Approach Routes —
(1) Mumbai - Goa National Highway No. 66
(2) Kolhapur-Vijaydurg (via Kharepata) State Highway No. 114
(3) Kolhapur-Vijaydurg (via Talere) State Highway No. 115
(4) Kolhapur-Devgad (via Radhanagri-Nandgaon) State Highway No. 116
(5) Belagavi-Vengurla (via Amboli) State Highway No. 121 and 122
(6) Kolhapur-Chandgad (via Doda) State Highway No. 130
(7) Konkan Railway
(8) Nearest Airport - Goa International Airport, Dabolim, Goa (156 Kms)
Amboli

Amboli is a World Heritage site which is a renowned hill station situated atop the Western Ghats. This picturesque place lies in Sawantwadi taluka in Sindhudurg district.

It is a dense, lush evergreen forest that withstands over 7000 mm heavy rainfall and along with it the numerous roaring, frothing, gushing torrents of water that hurtle down thousands of feet into the Konkan. The wildlife and the thick forest here is a stupendous picture of nature that is concealed by a thick curtain of mist, which lifts momentarily, only to convince you that what meets your eyes is truly larger than life.

One would find himself speechless trying to describe the wonders of Amboli.
A serpentine road through a dense, lush green forest of Amboli
Very first view of Sindhudurg District from Amboli

Many cascading waterfalls take birth in the Western Ghats blessed with abundant rain fall
Wildlife - A Jungle Safari

A jungle can be called complete only when its food chain is intact. You will experience this while travelling through the jungles of Sindhudurg. In the mountainous regions of eastern Sindhudurg, several animals are found in plenty: animals such as rabbits, wild boars, barking deer, sambhar and leopards that are at the top of the food chain. These are also spotted in the Western regions to some extent.

Several animals can be seen in the Dajipur wildlife sanctuary in the Western regions of Kudal taluka. Hyenas, foxes, porcupines, bears and even herds of bisons weighing over a ton can be spotted. The fact that wild dogs that hunt in packs can be seen indicates that their prey are abundantly available. Recently, Asian elephants have started coming rather regularly into Dodamarg taluka from Karnataka in the South...and these dense jungles withhold several other secrets waiting to be revealed. The shekru or giant squirrel is the state animal and the hariyal or yellow footed green pigeon is the state bird of Maharashtra. These are found in large numbers in these jungles.

- Wild Dog - even a tiger prefers to stay away from their pack
- Leopard - The top predator
- An Indian Gaur with white stockings
- A Bonnet Macaque
- Large-eyed slender Loris - An arboreal animal which is rarely seen in Maharashtra
- Wild Boar - a favourite prey of predator
- A mongoose with sharp teeth
- Civet - a nocturnal animal, hard to locate in the darkness
- Giant Squirrel - The state animal of Maharashtra - An indicator of dense forest cover
- Sambar - a prey of tigers and wild dogs (dhols)
- An Asian Elephant
Reptiles and Amphibians

Along with birds, mammals and insects there is a large variety of reptiles and amphibians. Snakes such as Malabar pit viper, flying snake (son sarp) and the extremely rare olive forest snake are found here. Several species of scorpions too are residents of the Konkan. Most of these are nocturnal, so to come across them one has to get used to nightlife.

- Cat Snake
- Olive Forest Snake
- Malabar Pit Viper
- Saw Scaled Viper
- Coral Snake
- Vine Snake
- Bamboo Pit Viper
- Ornate Flying Snake
- Bark Scorpion
- *Hemidactylus* (Gecko)
- Commonly found Scorpion
In Amboli, more than 20 species of frogs have been spotted...and that too in diverse places such as overflowing streams and even on branches of tall trees.

- Indian Bull Frog
- Malabar Gliding Frog
- Bi-Coloured Frog
- Tiger Toad
- Bronz Frog
- Fungold Frog
Top two
Bombay Bush Frog
Centre two
Amboli Bush Frog
Philautus wynaadensis
Cricket Frog
Amboli Toad
Burrowing Frog
Bird Life

Every year, towards the end of May, Indian Pitta or Navrang makes an appearance. While strolling in the outskirts of the settlements, his signature whistle tells us that monsoons are approaching. Several birds make their visits in different seasons throughout the year. Hornbills, cormorants, cranes, kites and lapwings are the native residents that can be observed around the year. This is a haven for a variety of birds such as the golden oriole that can be spotted in the lush green foliage... and also the frogmouth which is impossible to locate because of its perfect camouflage, making it appear like the branch of a tree. Over three hundred species of birds can be spotted in various ambiances such as jungles, grassland, seashores and creeks.

- Red Munia
- Wiretailed Swallow
- Tickell's Blue Flycatcher
- Ruby Throated Bulbul
- An Indian Pitta - A bird with no tail

Previous Page
- Osprey - Expert in fishing
- The State Bird of Maharashtra: Yellow Footed Green Pigeon
- Malabar Pied Hornbill: a bird with a strong beak
- Frog Mouth
- Plum Headed Parakeet
- Asian Paradise Fly Catcher
- Black-naped monarch
- Yellow Eyed Babbler
- Scaly breasted Munia
- White Eye
Kingfisher

As many as seven species of kingfishers can be found here – white throated, pied, small blue, stork billed, black capped and oriental dwarf. The oriental dwarf migrates to this place in the monsoons and is the pride of Sindhudurg. He stays in a peculiar habitat and though small in size, his list of preferred food is impressively long, which includes spiders, water scorpions, beetles, skinks, lizards, crabs, frogs, insects and fish. Several rarely visible lifeforms can be seen in his beak.

- Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher
- Collared Kingfisher
- Small Blue Kingfisher
- Black Capped Kingfisher
Birds of Prey

When predators higher up in the food chain are spotted in plenty, it is an indication that the ecosystem is healthy. Birds of prey are found in ample numbers. Apart from kites, hawks and kestrels there are several species of owls that hunt for mice at night and prove to be a boon to farmers.

- Steppe Eagle
- Changeable Hawk-Eagle
- Common kestrel

Next page
- Indian eagle owl  •  Spotted owlet  •  Mottled wood owl
- Barn owl  •  Jungle owlet  •  Brown fish owl
Flowers and Orchids

This place is famed for its natural forests and has a plethora of plants from the delicate bladder warts that prey on insects to Aleuria Scholaris trees that grow more than 100 feet tall. This diversity also results in a large variety of flowers that bloom in absolutely contrasting ambiances such as the seashore where the Sporamin biflora is found. There are specific species which grow on the laterite rock only during monsoons...other flowers are seen in manky jungles and also in the evergreen forests that grow on the parasitic inclines of the talyyarids. Over 80 species of orchids that grow in the soil as well as branches of trees make their presence felt prominently enough to be acknowledged as a natural treasure. The delicate flowers of orchids are quite distinct from other flowers.

- Lotus
- Abutilon persicum
- Ardisia asanacae
- Scutellaria discolor
- Alstroemeria belargusana
- Sporamin biflora

A carpet of yellow flowers, locally known as Sonda
- Habenaria crinifera
- Habenaria rariflora
- Habenaria panchaganensis
- Habenaria heyneana
- Chlorophyllum bortvillanum
- Habenaria longicorniculata
Nervilia plicata
Luisia macrantha
Hoya wightii
Ceropegia karulensis
Arisaema ghaticum
Ceropegia concanensis
Aerides crispa
Fungi

During the monsoons, a profusion of fungi can be spotted growing on decomposing matter in the jungle. Some fungi of different shapes and colours assume the shape of flowers while others that resemble umbrellas and even corals.

- Coral Fungus
- Claviceps
- Geastrum
- Polyporpha

Microscopic details:
- Microporus annosus
- Microscleris
Butterflies and Moths

The relation between butterflies and flowers is well known. These most attractive representatives of the insect world perform the important function of pollination. Here, over 200 species have been spotted, some of which are migratory. Amongst others, it is a visual treat for nature lovers to see species such as the tiniest oriental grass jewel and also the southern birdwing, which is the largest one to be found here.
- Common Jezebel
- Common Bluebottle
- Tawny Rajah
- Orange Awlet
- Common Nawab
- Common Imperial
- Gaudy Baron Larva

- The eggshells are the first food for the new born bugs
- Larvae of Common Map Butterfly
- Tiger Beetle • Banded Blister Beetle
There are five mountain roads to approach Simdhubung. While traversing these roads, the Sabyundel ranges present different facets of their personality in different seasons.

It's a heavenly feeling to glide around in a cloud of mist in the monsoons.

As you approach Vindhyavasini from Solhagur, there are two options available, Bhurubanda ghat and Karul ghat. The Phonda ghat takes you to Sadhanagiri via the Saltpur Sanctuary into Kodal and Ramkot Taluka. To reach Sawantwadi, the picturesque Amboli ghat is the ideal route. From Chandgad in Solhagur, you can reach Dodamarg in Southern Simdhubung. It is an enchanting experience to enter the Konkan through these serpentine, bewitching roads surrounded by thick forests.
Waterfalls & Potholes

Though the average rainfall in Sindhudurg district is 3000 mm, the rainfall in the Sahyadris can reach to 7000 mm. It is only natural that myriad waterfalls are formed in the monsoons. Some of them have been marked as safe for tourists. Getting drenched under the torrents of pristine water is an experience sans parallel.

These rivers hurtling down the precarious slopes of the Sahyadris have tremendous power to erode the mountains and rocks that cross their paths. These rivers do the vital job of bringing all the necessary minerals essential for marine life...that too devoid of pollutants. The creeks here are rich with silt brought down by these rivers.

- Ghotage waterfall, Kudal
- The potholes in Gad river
- Manche waterfall, Devgad
- Waterfall in Karul ghat
Rivers, Creeks & Mangroves

- Previous page
  Wadatar creek – moonlit beauty

- Tarkarli creek
  A pristine view

- Scenic beauty of Kaalaval creek
Tarkarli

Tarkarli is poetically set between the sea on one side and the river on the other. The exotic views of the seashore, the creek, and coconut-areca plantations create a blissful atmosphere. Beside the river bank, studded in the shade of lush green coconut palms, you can see the traditional houses of the Konkan replete with their characteristic porch, a basil plant set in a vrindavan... and a small flower garden. Without realising it at all, you become part of this classic picture. In any of the homes where you stay, the roar of the sea is your constant companion. With this sombre music in the background, a stroll through the coconut and areca plantations becomes a rich experience.

Devbagh

Devbagh... garden of the gods. As soon as you enter you realise how well suited this name is. The Arabian sea on one side and the Karli river on the other... and lines of coconut – areca palms welcome you. While going to Devbagh, the patch of land between the sea and the river is hardly 50-60 feet. The beaches here are covered with silver white sand. It’s a truly precious occasion to watch the union of the sea and the river on a starry night with only the Bhogwe mountain as witness. The distinctive taste of fresh rice porridge and tender coconut is a treat that will certainly please your palate.
Mangroves

When the rivers here reach the plains, the silt spreads to both the banks. The tides have their effect on the rivers. In some places, the high tide rushes back into the river up to 30-40 km, turning the water a wee bit saline...such spots are aptly referred to as creeks.

Regions that are rich with moist silt gradually turn into marshlands because of the constant change of tide every six hours. The land in this saline and moist atmosphere receives Oxygen with great difficulty, so the trees have their roots growing out of the ground to get a breath of air! These are mangroves.

Fallen leaves keep decaying all the time and an entire ecosystem that depends on decaying matter takes birth here. Several fish from the sea cross the creek into these marshlands in search of food. In the breeding season, several species of fish lay their eggs in this humid atmosphere. Several types of fish, crabs, and mudskippers appreciate the safety of this place and so they are found in thousands.

For the sake of the marine ecosystem, the contribution of these rivers, creeks and mangroves is invaluable.
Dhamapur Lake

There are a few beautiful natural and manmade lakes in Sindudurg. The Dhamapur Lake was built in 1560 A.D. on the Malvan-Satuli road by Vangesh Devi, the Mandali of the Vijayanagar Empire. This water body has been formed due to a bund. Dense greenery, avian chirps and squawks and the peaceful atmosphere have made this spot a hot favourite amongst tourists. The Nature Tourism Centre has built a 40 feet tower for bird watching. Tourists can have the pleasure of boat rides in the lake.

* The blue sky peeps into the placid Dhamapur lake

Moti lake, Sawantwadi

A coastal city is one that is set beside a huge lake. There are very few such cities in the world. Sawantwadi is also designed likewise. The Moti Lake that is situated in the centre of the city was built in 1874 AD. This artificial design, similar to a bund, appears natural today. Beside the lake, the newly constructed palace stands elegantly.
- Markol Lake, Kankavali
- Bird watching tower at Dhanapar lake
- Pearly Reflections at night in Most Lake at Sawantwadi
Seashores

The sprawling shores of sparkling white sand have been washed clean by the Immeasurably Immense Arabian Sea. In this expansive stretch of about 120 kms of shore line, there are around 22 extraordinary beaches. Except for a few, most of these beaches are absolutely safe for a swim in the sea. But it is always better to interact with the natives and understand the tide cycle before entering the waters.

Here, every seashore offers a different experience. The sun showers a multitude of hues from behind a thin film of clouds, while the waves bring in a rainbow of colours and spoil them on the shores. Listening to the deep roar of the ocean, watching this festival of colours in the sky, one is lost in this mystical mythical atmosphere.
Kondura beach draped in green
The Chivala beach bordering Malvan city

A mesmerizing evening at Vengurla beach

Golden Rocks from a vantage point at Nivati beach. The rocks sparkle like gold in sunlight.
Coastal Birds

From November, it is almost as if there are sea bird festivals on the expansive sandy beaches. Gulls, terns, kestrels, black winged stilts, plovers, curlews, sandpipers and other migratory seabirds arrive in thousands. From their actions and mannerisms, experienced sailors and fishermen are able to deduce if there is stormy weather at sea.

The sea eagle with its 6 feet wingspan is a majestic sight on these shores. He swoops down onto the waves and clutches poisonous snakes and fish with his powerful claws and soars back into the sky. A large part of his diet consists of poisonous snakes and fish, which bird watchers find remarkable.

In this rocky area the other birds to be found are cranes, brahmani kites, harriers, eagles, cormorants, ibises, lapwings and kingfishers.
Life on Seashores

It's not that only humans enjoy the beaches here. From December to March-April, is the egg-laying season for sea-turtles. Every year hundreds of Olive Ridley turtles come to the shore to lay eggs. They cross over the border of the waves and make pits that are nearly 1.5 feet deep. Then they lay 100-150 eggs in and bury them in the sand before they return to sea. Approximately after 55 days, little turtles hatch out, struggle to the surface and make their way to the sea. Be there at the right time and you could be the lucky one to watch this miraculous festival of birth. Some nature loving clubs have kept a record of such turtle nests. They have gone ahead and arranged Turtle festivals that match the hatching dates. This serves a dual purpose – of giving a boost to tourism and creating awareness about turtles amongst the residents leading to conservation of turtles.
Sindhudurg is known for its clean, vast beaches. These prime attractions of tourists have an extremely rich biodiversity. These sandy and rocky shores host an absolutely distinct ecosystem. You come across a wide variety of moss spread out like multi-coloured carpets. It is said that the seaweed forests under water cover a larger area than the conventional forests on land.

On these shores, you could discover over 200 species of 40 different life forms - oysters, shells, starfish, barnacles, trokers, crabs, snails, mudskippers and rockskippers. Colourful fish and different aquatic creatures are easy to spot in the water collected in the rocks. It's a sheer pleasure to observe a plethora of lifeforms such as sea squirts, anemones, beetle stars, onquidiums, stenofores, octopuses, cuttlefish, sea-cucumbers and spiked sea-urchins. One becomes part of nature as he gets lost watching these lifeforms which usually stay out of sight.

- Star Fish
- Crabs on Rock
- Sea Cucumber
- Sea Urchin
- Sea Anemone
Rock Carvings

Some interesting sculptures in stone are found in the small village of Kukavali, just 40 km. away from Kankavali. In an area of 1 hectare, there are 20-40 sculptures, which include a leader on a throne addressing his tribe, a few carvings of men and women and also some carvings of fish. According to experts these findings should be over 2000 years old.
Ancient Caves

In 1920 AD an ancient cave was discovered in a mountain at Chandelwadi, near the Kunkeshwar temple. The cave and the sculptures found in it are several centuries old. In this rectangular cave of 8x10 feet, there are carved faces of 9 males and 9 females. The females have large earrings and bindis, while the males have beads strung around their foreheads with their hair tied up over their heads. Not much information has been found about these sculptures.

- Natural caves in Koloshi village - Kankavli

Stone Inscriptions

Stone inscriptions in the Shiva Temple at Math, near Vengurle. They are also called as a Tribute To Triumph, as such inscriptions used to be carved to celebrate victory in battle.

- An ancient sculpture of the Sun god at Kharepatan
- The Inscription in Vimaleshwar temple at Wada near Devgad
Bunder Malvan Rupaya

Some extremely rare coins in Persian language with a clear mention about Malvan Harbor have been recently found in the Malvan and Sindhudurg regions. The coins have the name Emperor Faroughsitar (1713-1719 A.D.) inscribed on them. It can be deduced that there must have been a mint in the area around 300 years ago and that Malvan was a very important harbor for sea trade.

According to Dr. Shailendra Bhandare, Oxford, the zigzag line under one of the words represents a boat. During the same time in 1750 A.D., the Sawantwadi Rupee was in circulation, named after the Sawantwadi dynasty.

In the 17th century during Adilshah’s rule, some dargas and domes were built. The Roze Dome (Rede Ghumat) and the Yadgari Khizar Dome (Baile Ghumat) stand witness to the history of the place.

First two coins - Harbor Malvan Rupee
Coins from Sawantwadi princely state
Lighthouses and Monuments

Bandra - In the 17th century, during the Bijapuris' regime, a few lighthouses (tombolos) were constructed in Sindhudurg district. A few such structures still exist in Bandra city near Sawantwadi.

- A unique step well near Nane village.
- A Dutch warehouse - Vengurla.
- A lighthouse on Devgadi fort.
- Nilva or Vengurla Rock - Famous as Burnt Island because the surface resembles burnt rocks.
Palace of Sawantwadi

In the sixteenth century Mangal (Mangale) alias Mang-Sawant of the royal Shisodia dynasty of Udaypur came into Southern Konkan with the Vijaynagar army. He is considered to be the progenitor of the Sawantwadi royal family. Khem Sawant brought the capital of the region to Sundarwadi at Chawhata...Sundarwadi, which is today known as Sawantwadi.

Later, he was succeeded by Phond Sawant II (1709-38), Jairam Sawant, Ramchandra Sawant, Raghunath Sawant, Pancham Khemraj and Bapu Maharaj (1928-37), Shivram Raje (1937-48).

Art received a lot of patronage during the rule of Khem Sawant III. The famous Ganjifa Art, woodwork painting and lacquer artifacts are the pride of Sawantwadi in distant lands.

A practical demonstration of Ganjifa art can be seen in the Durbar Hall of the Royal Palace. In the adjacent section, there is a museum of wooden toys, historical and ancient sculptures, paintings, photographs of special occasions of the royal family and exquisitely wooden carvings.

This structure that has been the royal residence of several generations stands solid even today. This royal palace with laterite blocks has a charm of its own.

△ The wooden case of sheesam for idols of deities

Assembly hall or Darbar
Royal palace built in laterite blocks
Sindhudurg Fort

Shivaji Maharaj felt the need for a sea fort and began building one. It had to be at a distance from Siddhí’s Janjir fort. He gave the task of erecting the fort to his trusted general Kirali Indikar. At a little distance off the Malwah coast, on the rocky Island of Konkan, this fort was built on 25th Nov. 1664.

The rock for the fort was brought from Amboli and Ponda. One crore rupees were spent in constructing this fort. There is a distance of 120 to 400 feet between the 42 bastions built at various places in the fort. The walls of the fort are 10 feet wide and 25 to 60 feet tall. They are built in such a way that keeping guard or mounting cannon could be done easily. To go atop the wall, stone steps have been built at various places.

Small boats meant for a team of 12-14 are available on hire for a return trip from Malwah harbour to the fort. The sailor steers the boat through the maze of sharp rocks with great expertise. You can see the sharp points of rocks below the water surface too. After this short adventurous trip, you reach the rock that surrounds the fort. A short walk takes you to the entrance of the fort. The sailors wait till you see the fort and take you back.
Effigy of King Shivaji at Sindhudurg fort
Entrance to fort Sindhudurg
A memorable boat ride to the fort
Rampart, Circular fortification of Sindhudurg fort
Vijaydurg Fort is situated at the mouth of the creek where the Nagothane river meets the sea. Since ancient times this was known as a commercial harbour. It must have been built during the reign of King Rhoj Shilahar between 1163 to 1206. At that time King Rhoj was ruling the regions of Kolapur-Panhala, All of Konkan was under his control. On his behalf Rashid dar Wall Baig was looking after all the affairs of the Konkan. Some documents state that he built 16 forts in the Konkan during his regime. Experts opine that Vijaydurg could have been built towards the end of the 12th century. Later, this fort went into the hands of the Bahamani and Adilshahi powers. At that time it was called Gheria, derived from the name of a village nearby called Gheri.

Later, to strengthen his military force, Shivaji Maharaj conquered Vijaydurg from Adil Shah. During the restoration of this fort, it was the auspicious time of Vijay Sanvasar. So, the fort was renamed and the earlier name Vijaydurg was reinstated.

Later, General Kanhaji Ange made Vijaydurg the prime centre of the Maratha navy and dominated the naval forces of the British, Portuguese and Siddis. After him, his son Tulaji Ange too kept this pressure on. The Dutch, Portuguese and the British launched separate and united attacks on Vijaydurg in 1717, 1720 and 1724. However, they were no match against the valor of Ange. As the name suggested, Ange proved that Vijaydurg truly was impossible to conquer.
- An underground passage in Vijaydurg fort
- Main entrance of Vijaydurg fort
- Storage place and Cannonballs

Next Page

- Village beside the wide Waghant creek as seen from Vijaydurga
- The historical structure of administrative offices
Mountain Forts

On the coast line of Sindhudurg district, there are some prominent coastal and sea forts such as Vijaydurg, Devgad, Sindhudurg, Nivati and Vashwanagad. To protect the main forts there is another set of forts such as Rangade, Bharangad, Padmavati, Sajinshet that stand guard at the mouth of the creeks.

Some mountain forts too were built to keep watch on the capital and the surrounding regions. In the Sindhudurg district there are in all 30 forts.

- Fortification of Devgadh Fort
- Rangad Fort - a hidden entrance
- Manspurn - manarolu Fort
Kanakeshwar is a Shiva temple built by the Kadavekar in 1100 AD. Situated beside a rocky coast, this is a magnificent temple surrounded by thick vegetation. There are entries stating that Shiva Malharji got Netilakrampit Amarnath Bavdekar to restore the temple. Much later, Sambhaji Maharaj too funded the restoration of the temple.

The temple is built in the Kshetra style and has a tall rampart made of steps facing the sea. This particular design is meant to reduce the force of the crashing waves. The construction of the spires that stand at the section joining the prayer hall and the sanctum sanctorum is spectacular. In front of the spacious sanctum are six deepmalaas built in characteristic Konkani style.
- The sanctum illuminated with oil lamps at Acharaa Rameshwar Temple
- The oldest Lord Shiva Temple at Akeri near Sawantwadi
- The ancient sculptures of Bhagvan Mahaveer and a Goddess Mahishasura Mardini at Pendur
- Rameshwar Temple at Girye
- The entrance of a Rameshwar Temple
- An auspicious idol of an ox carved out of a single stone

- Sateri devi temple, Dhamapur
- Jai Ganesha Idol of gold at Malvan
Vimleshwar Temple – Wada

Wada village is well known for its carved caves. Just a couple of kilometres before Wada village, following a small road to the left will take you to the Vimleshwar Temple. As soon as you pass under the archway and begin to descend the stone steps, you can sense the absolute silence that envelopes you.
- Shri Sai Baba Temple, Kudal
- Shri Bhalchandra Maharaj, Mutt- Kankavli
- Shri Raul Maharaj Mutt, Kudal
Churches

The dazzling white church with a lustrous brass bell in its bell tower and surrounded by coconut palms is an impressive sight. The church at Vengurle built in 1857, is called 'Immaculate Conception Church'. There is another church nearby which was built in 1678 and is called 'A Lady Of Rosary'.

(overleaf) The Milagris Church in Sawantwadi was built in 1652.
Festivals & Carnivals

Traditional festivals such as Holi, Shigmali, Ganesh, and Diwali are celebrated with great enthusiasm in every village. Holi is the prime festival, which is celebrated over a fortnight. During this time, there are palki processions of the village deity in all villages. Traditional rituals such as romte, ghodmodari, khele, and sange are performed.
The Aangnewadi Carnival

Thousands of devotees and enthusiasts come to the 3-day Aangnewadi Carnival from all over Maharashtra and Karnataka. The ambience is festive with merry-go-rounds, religious books, delicacies and puja material being sold in colourful shops. The devotees pray to the naturally shaped stone effigy of goddess Bhadrani that is there in the sanctum sanctorum.
Ganesh Festival

During the Ganesh festival, the Ganesh effigy is brought and innovative scenes are set amidst attractive decorations. In the traditional fashion Ganesh and Gauri effigies are installed in every household and decorated and illuminated. At the closure of the festival, families carry these effigies on their heads to the creek or seashore and surrender them to the waters in a festive mood.
Khele

To encourage their artistic expression, the residents present traditional songs and dance during Holi, the festival of colours. This is called Khele. They wear masks on their faces and shout Shabboyet, as they move from one home to another to present their art. This entire period of Holi is a time for celebration for the village.
- Dance with burning torches on Holl, lights up your heart

- The symbolic idols representing wicked tendencies in the society are incinerated on Dussehra

- A banyan tree representing long life is worshiped by women for longevity of their spouse

- The sacred idols of cobra are worshipped during the festival of Naag Panchami with great gratitude for snakes as they are friends of farmers
Social Life

In Sindhudung, people of various communities live in absolute harmony. This includes Hindus, Muslims and Christians. Several castes such as Brahmin, Maratha, Raudi, Bhandari, Koli, Thakar and Dhourgar are residents here. The Jats and Lingayats also came for trade several centuries ago and settled here.
- A typical Konkani house in a lush green paddy field
- Unique Konkani well excavated and constructed in laterite rock
- A household bamboo storage unit for grains

- The interior decor of a typical Konkani house
A typical Konkani house in a lush green paddy field

Unique Konkani well excavated and constructed in laterite rock

A household bamboo storage unit for grains

The interior decor of a typical Konkani house.
The niche, shelves, earthen pots and a stove-regularly required articles in a Konkani kitchen

- A farmer ploughing in the farm
- Paddy fields - a beautiful landscape

- Market place at Malvan city
- Diwali - the festival of lights
- Fonda village in the vicinity of Western ghats in district Kankavli

| 139 |
Agro-Industry

Sindhudurg, known as the least populated district of Maharashtra is also one with the largest green cover.

Most of the region is covered with natural greenery along with substantial plantation of cash fruits such as cashew, mango, jackfruit, coconut, dates, bananas and kokum. Though rice is the prime crop, leafy vegetables are also yielded because little bunds and dams have been built in various places and have thus increased the availability of water.

Processing units to process mango, kokam and cashews have started in several places. These have provided employment on a large scale.

Tourism is another occupation that is growing steadily. This has reduced the flow of people towards the cities in search of work. Agro-tourism centres have started in Malvan and Parule, where they are experiencing a rising response of tourists.
- Mango orchids with Coconut and Cyprus groves
- Sowing activity in the paddy fields
- The world famous Alphonso Mango of Devgad
- Kokam fruits
- The jackfruit - a tropical fruit
- The Coconut tree - every single part is useful
A cashew factory
A major occupation in Sindhudurg district
Mango canning centre
Fresh mango pulp is available all through the year
Fishing Industry

An early morning stroll on the seashore will show you fishermen in their daily hustle-bustle. Some are setting boats in the waters while others are cleaning nets for the next trip into the sea. The fishing season goes for 9 months in the year, except during monsoon. During the auspicious full moon of Narali Pournima, these fishermen offer coconuts and their ritualistic prays to the sea before setting their boats into the waters. There is a deep and strong bond between the fisherman who offers his prayer, respect and love…and the ocean which has been showering him with bountiful gifts since thousands of years. Sindhudurg has three prime ports - Vengurla, Malvan and Devgad where fishing is a thriving industry with an annual production of 24,000 tonnes of fish. After the boats return to shore every morning and evening, the catch of the day is auctioned either on the shore or at the port.
Rapan

Fishing technology may have advanced in leaps and bounds, but yet, several places here follow an old, traditional method. First, the experienced eyes of the fishermen spot a shoal of fish. Then they set out into the sea in a small boat with huge nets. Using remarkable stealth, they set the net around the shoal of fish without giving them even a slight hint. When this net is placed in the shape of a semi-circle from one spot on the shore to another, 30-40 fishermen begin to draw this net very gradually towards the shore. This method of fishing is called rapan. This systematic way of group fishing is not ecodisruptive. The entire process takes around 3 to 4 hours... and all the teammates in this rapan-fishing distribute the catch equally. It’s a method that is beneficial to all. There are several such rapan teams on these shores. Watching the rapan teams in action is an engrossing experience for any visitor young or old.
Fishermen carrying the fish catch
A busy retail fish market with sellers and consumers
The local Konkani fisher lady and fishermen
Industries & Business

- A laterite mine - one of the main occupations in the district
- A peculiar red soil of the Konkan with red laterite rock
- A Konkani house built in laterite rock

- Production of Salt - one of the main businesses
- Meethagar (salt pans) at Shiroda

The fervour of the independence struggle had reached Shiroda. In 1950 Mahatma Gandhi declared the satyagraha at Dandi against the tax on salt. A similar satyagraha was called in Shiroda. This time, Acharya Harmanand Kosambi, Acharya Javdekar, Dr. Bhagwat, Achyutrao Patwardhan, Appasaheb Patwardhan (Gandhi of the Konkan), Devdas Ranade, Mamasheb Devgirikar and other freedom fighters led this satyagraha. On 12th May 1950, the satyagrahis met at the mithagaras in large numbers. They did not turn back despite the attacks made by British soldiers. The mithagaras (salt pans) of Shiroda have this rich historical background.
Traditional Art - Ganjifa

Ganjifa is a game that had utmost importance in the times of dynastic rule... It also requires a sharp mind as in chess. This is a speciality of Sawantwadi. This game had the patronage of the king as well as the acceptance of the people. During those times, foreigners and guests visiting Sawantwadi used to be gifted with a set of Ganjifa. The tradition of playing this game is still in vogue. There are two versions of the game—Dashavatari and Kangakachan.

The Dashavatari set has 120 cards, with 12 cards for each of Lord Vishnu’s avatars, whereas, the Kangakachan set has 96 cards. The artwork, delicate designs and attractive colour combination has made it a favourite in foreign countries too.
Wooden Toys

Artists called as Chitaris came into Sawantwadi from Karnatak in the 17th century. They brought in the tradition of making wooden toys...a tradition that is flourishing even today.

These toys are made from the the Pangara tree since its wood is soft and easy to carve. The artists and makers of these world famous toys stay in Chitaar aali (lanc) in the city.
The craftsman making wooden toys

Laquerware - an art of coloring wooden toys

Neatly wooden toys and articles with vibrant colours - A distinctive feature of Sawantwadi city

A sculptor making a beautiful idol of Lord Ganesha
Dashavatara

The Dashavatara is the most popular of several folk arts that are practiced in Sindhudurg. It is an ancient form of art. It has been inspired by the Kathakali dance of Kerala and the Yakshagana of Karnataka. This art is named after the Dashavatara, which are the ten avatars of Vishnu as mentioned in the Purana Scriptures.

All the performers in the Dashavatara are strictly male. They even enact the female roles rather impressively. Even in the modern times, the popularity of this traditional art is intact. Even today, 10 to 15 theatre groups perform these plays throughout the year on different occasions.

- One of the characters from Dashavatara
- An artist playing the role of a demon
- Bright colourful make-up - Uniqueness of Dashavatara
- The soul of Konkani art - Dashavatara performed in the light of petromax lamps.
Shilpgram

Shilpgram was conceived and shaped to give tourists an introduction to the culture of Sindhudurg. Tourists from India and abroad can get a live experience of the traditions of the Konkan. In the hotels of Shilpgram, there are live demonstrations of traditional delicacies being cooked. The local artists demonstrate folk art and handicraft for the benefit of the tourists.

Here, the highlights are the absolutely realistic statues of the 12 halutedar (or 12 basic occupations), fisherwomen and a glimpse of the present day village life.
Tourism Facilities

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has made several facilities available for tourists. At Tarkarli in Malwan, tourists can enjoy their stay by the sea shore in tent, wooden houses and boat houses too. As part of a government initiative to increase tourism, the locals have been encouraged to provide lodging and food to tourists.
House Boats

The MTDC offers house boats to enjoy a river cruise in the 22 km stretch from Tarkarli to Nerurpar. These well decorated boats are replete with all modern facilities. These boats have two airconditioned bedrooms, one kitchen, an open deck, a dressing room, a TV and fishing net. A lifeboat accompanies the tourists on board at all times. It is a mesmerizing experience to glide over the backwaters of the creek in these glittering boats at night.
Apart from the MTDC, there are several private resorts and hotels beside the highways. Tourists can also get a place to stay in the homes of local residents, as part of the government initiative. True hospitality, comfortable stay and the unforgettable taste of Malvani cuisine makes this a favourite destination for Indians as well as foreign tourists.
MTDC resort at Malvan and it’s interior decor

A perfect stay in a wooden house, surrounded by greenery along with the tasty Konkani cuisine.
Rock Garden

There is a newly developed rock garden on the rocky patch of the seashore next to the Government Guest house near Malwan city. The heart is pleased to see the various shapes of rock, decorative plants, a variety of flowers and the serpentine walkways passing through green lawns.

It would be a memorable experience to sit on the huge black rocks and feel the breeze on your face as you watch the sunset. The setting sun leaves traces of colourful radiance on the fluffy clouds, illuminating them with hues of golden red. While you are mesmerised watching this visual miracle, the clouds change shape and create another colourful masterpiece.
Food Culture

To relish authentic Malwani cuisine, these spices are a must—cinnamon, pepper, cardamom, nutmeg, turmeric, ginger and several others. The spices and recipes of Sindhudurg have made their veg and non-veg dishes famous even in distant lands. Almost all preparations have a dash of fresh coconut. Since there is an abundance of fish, right from small local ones to lobsters, these constitute a major part of the local diet. This is the ideal destination to savour various tasty delicacies of mandeli, surmal, pomfret, prawns and crabs.

Tasty ‘Solakadhi’ made by coconut extract is the finishing stroke of all the Konkani delicacies.

- Tasty fried Surmai (king fish)
- Spicy and savoury tiger prawns
- Mouth watering crispy prawns
- A stuffed fried pomfret
- The rice bread (aamboli)
- Crunchy Sago (sabudana) cutlets
- Malvani chicken curry with sol kachi - a Konkani delicacy
- Sabudana khichadi
- Sweet coconut momos - a Konkani delight
- The exquisite crab curry
Deccan Odyssey

The Deccan Odyssey is a lavish train started by the Indian Railways in association with MTDC. Modeled in the fashion of Palace On Wheels, this train has been escorting tourists since 2004.

The Deccan Odyssey starts from Mumbai CST and covering a distance of 2400 kms in 8 days, it travels to tourist places such as Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Goa, Kolhapur, Pune, Auranagabad, Ajantha, Ellora, Jalgaon, Nashik and returns to Mumbai.

The tourists enjoy the real splendor of Maharashtrian hospitality during their royal tour. The train has 12 deluxe bogies and 2 luxury bogies that are adorned with air-conditioning, rich furniture, plush beds, pleasant music and internet connectivity. More than a train, this is a five star hotel on wheels with two lavish restaurants, a bar, a sauna, a gymnasium and a conference room.
Scuba Diving Training Institute

A Scuba diving training institute of international standards along with all modern equipment has been established at Devbagh in Malvan. Experts impart international grade of training to tourists and adventure sport enthusiasts.
Scuba Diving and Snorkelling

Scuba diving means exploring the bottom of the water wearing a diving gear and carrying an oxygen cylinder on your shoulder... of course with a guide to take you around.

Snorkelling means exploring underwater life forms while you float on an inflated tube, with your head underwater. It's a safe and exciting activity where you wearing transparent goggles and breathe through your mouth with the help of a tube that has the other end above the water surface.

You do not need special training to enjoy Snorkelling. People of all ages can participate... but it is absolutely necessary to obey all the instructions given by your guide.

To see these wondrous life forms, four points in the sea have been marked. Kings Garden is a point near the Sindhudurg Fort where the sea is calm. Here you can see various fish such as angel fish, banner fish, cobra, butterfly and zebra fish along with coral, cheval, green vegetation that sways with the water, and corals in the shape of lotus flowers.

The sea near the Rock Garden has a point called as Coral Garden. In the water, you can see gigantic coral that is 300 years old.
Adventurous Water Sports

At Tarkarli-Devbagh, tourists can enjoy exciting water sports such as water scooter, jet-skiing, banana ride, kayaking and para-sailing. There are safe boat rides that take tourists into the sea to watch dolphins and also to Nivil Rocks and Golden Rock.
January
Aangnewadi Carnival
Holi Festival
Sea Turtles
Migratory Birds

February
Season of Dolphins
Clean Weather
Scuba Diving
Water Sports

March

April
Konkani Delicacies
Warm Summer
Mango
Food Culture

May
Cashew
Social Life
Agro-Tourism
Jackfruit

June
Season's Calendar

**July**
- Rainy Season
- Cascading Waterfalls
- Mountaintop roads through dense forest
- Colorful Flowers

**August**
- Ganesh Festival
- Orchids
- Roaring Sea
- Paddy Fields

**September**

**October**
- Winter
- Wild Life
- Butterflies
- Christmas

**November**
- Bird Life
- Diwali Festival of Lights
- Abundance of Fish
- Visit to Historical Monuments

**December**
- Winter
- Bird Life
- Diwali Festival of Lights
- Abundance of Fish
Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation
Beneficiaries Listed under Bed & Breakfast Scheme in Sindhudurg District

Taluka Dodamarg
1. Shri. Vinayak Ramchandra Vangavdekar
   Ph. No. (0262) 229520
   Mob. No. +91 9412803048

2. Shri. Santarkumar Kashinath Dalvi
   Mob. No. +91 9422259202

3. Shri. Subhash Laxman Dalvi
   House No. 881, Sidi Dhiviniyak Housing Soc., At/Po-Dodamarg, Tal-Dodamarg,
   Dist. Sindhudurg 416512.
   Ph. No. (0262) 225822
   Mob. No. +91 9423301685

Taluka Sawantwadi
1. Shri. Rohan Kashinath Korgaonkar
   Ph. No. (0263) 240999

2. Shri. Manati Badambhure Surve
   Mob. No. +91 9422067105

3. Shri. Bhushan Shankar Naik
   At. Post, Sawantwadi, Udbhar, Tal. Sawantwadi, Dist. Sindhudurg 416510.
   Ph. No. (0263) 271644, 271645

4. Shri. Mohan Antil Dedsa
   House No. 1148, Makgona, Kaurwadi, Tal. Sawantwadi, Dist. Sindhudurg 416510.
   Ph. No. +91 9422075757, 9422077578

5. Shri. Arvind Pundalik Pawaskar
   E-385 U, Arrungwadi, Malha, New Khadiwadi, Shrivihirat Celony, At. Post, Tal. Sawantwadi,
   Dist. Sindhudurg 416510.
   Mob. No. +91 9423069273

6. Shri. Hemu Vasant Ogle
   Ph. No. (0263) 240534, 240529

7. Shri. Vihang Jagruth Devasthali
   Ph. No. (0263) 272668
   Mob. No. +91 9422904745

8. Shri. Vinayak Mangesh Howaldar
   Ph. No. (0263) 275397
   Mob. No. 9850408311

9. Shri. Shrikant Antarolkar
   H. No. 767, Tal. Sawantwadi, Dist. Sindhudurg 416510.
   Ph. No. (0263) 272582
   Mob. No. +91 9422633979

10. Shri. Dilip Anand Bhalorkar
    H. No. B-12/0, At. Post-Talawade, Tal-Sawantwadi, Dist-Sindhudurg 416529.
    Ph. No. (0263) 249008
    Mob. No. +91 9404444541

11. Shri. Ashok Nagdev Naik
    H. No. 1020, Amboli, Mamnachya Bavdewadi, Tal-Sawantwadi, Dist-Sindhudurg - 416520.
    Ph. No. (0263) 240999

12. Shri. Sakti Ramdout Sudhakar
    House No. 1401, At. Post- Bavdewadi, Tal-Sawantwadi, Dist-Sindhudurg 416529.
    Mob. No. +91 9800330878

13. Shri. Shankar Pandurang Rane
    Mob. No. +91 9409990995

Taluka Kankavli
1. Shri. Vilas Ramchandra Dhamale
   At/Post Vagaon, Tal. Kankavli, Dist. Sindhudurg 416702.
   Ph. No. (0263) 240918
   Mob. No. +91 9422617888

2. Shri. Maheshbhai Prabhakar Kulkarni
   Ph. No. (0263) 240918
   Mob. No. +91 9990911857

3. Shri. Manoj Laxman Khedkar
   Mob. No. +91 9422435636

4. Shri. Manoj Vaibhav Manus
   Mob. No. +91 9423855709

5. Shri. Amruta Shankar Panwar
   House No. 54/32, Forat Bhaktanwadi, Balhpeth, Tal. Kankavli, Dist. Sindhudurg 416602.
   Ph. No. (0263) 232172
   Mob. No. +91 9889823144

6. Shri. Manali Mani Wayangankar
   Mob. No. +91 9422435581

7. Shri. Vijaykumar Anant Dholka
   Ph. No. (0263) 248505

8. Shri. Manoj Raghubho Rane
   At. Post, Ozarwar (Thirthwardn), Tal. Kankavli, Dist. Sindhudurg 416602.
   Ph. No. (0263) 240238
   Mob. No. +91 9049990995

9. Shri. Rajeev Shahu Tawade
   Mob. No. +91 9889012279

10. Shri. Madhukar Mahadeo Raut
    Mob. No. +91 9422373945

11. Shri. Chinmay Chaundertat Jothar
    Ph. No. +91 9763345300, 942238104

12. Shri. Vinayak Vithalbua Rane
    Mob. No. +91 9597773250

13. Shri. Ramesh Keshav More
    Ph. No. (0263) 251022
    Mob. No. +91 8423860068

14. Shri. Rajesh Vinayak Tuahate
    Mob. No. +91 9422632743

15. Shri. Shri Sudhakar Haribhushan Rane
    At/Post-Halval, Gauni Sana, Tal. Kankavli, Dist. Sindhudurg 416602.
    Mob. No. +91 9422747179
16. Smt. Varsha Virod Marve
A/P. Post, Ponda (Sangolda),
Tel. 02365 252652
Mob. No. +91 9422373448

Taluka Vaishnavadi
1. Shri. Pravin Laxman Khandagikar
A/P. Post, Rengale
Tel. 02365 252657
Mob. No. +91 9422833168

Taluka Devgadh
1. Shri. Pravin Laxman Khandagikar
A/P. Post, Majampur
Tel. 02365 252658
Mob. No. +91 9422373448

Taluka Malvan
1. Shri. Vijiya Govind Shinde
At Vayari-Bardh, Post, Tarkari,
Tel. 02365 252665
Mob. No. +91 9422659788, 9422488565

19. Shri. Ashok Sakharan Khot
House No. 419-A, At. Post, Wayari Bhuttanath,
Tel. 02365 252666
Mob. No. +91 9320747779

20. Shri. Anand Shankar Jannandekar
House No. 234, At. Post, Dhrwad,
Tel. 02365 252666
Mob. No. +91 9421256809

24. Shri. Pravana Arvind Kelkar
At. Post, Kelkar, Tal. Malvan,
Dist. Sinhagad 416606
Mob. No. +91 9405790315

25. Shri. Ravindra Surendra Kondkar
At. Post, Wayari Bhuttanath,
Tel. 02365 252666
Mob. No. +91 9406003238

26. Shri. Anil Arvind Libadkar
At. Post, Dhrwad, Tal. Malvan,
Dist. Sinhagad 416606
Mob. No. +91 9405790315

27. Shri. Samarth Jairam Vavar
At. Post, Vavali, Tal. Malvan,
Dist. Sinhagad 416606
Mob. No. +91 9406003238

28. Shri. Shankar Vayavan Khot
At. Post, Kelkar, Tal. Malvan,
Dist. Sinhagad 416606
Mob. No. +91 9896911904

29. Shri. Milind Mahadev Zad
At. Post, Wayari Bhuttanath,
Tel. 02365 252666
Mob. No. +91 9422090654

30. Shri. Arun Laxman Khane
House No. 575-1, At. Post, Tarkari,
Tel. 02365 252666
Mob. No. +91 9321789998

34. Shri. Pravin Laxman Khandagikar
A/P. Post, Majampur
Tel. 02365 252658
Mob. No. +91 9422373448

35. Smt. Sayo JAi Anant Marale
A/P. Post, Dhrwad, Tal. Malvan,
Dist. Sinhagad 416606
Mob. No. +91 9405790315

36. Smt. Meena Anant Marale
A/P. Post, Dhrwad, Tal. Malvan,
Dist. Sinhagad 416606
Mob. No. +91 9405790315

37. Shri. Shridhar Shridhar Patil
House No. 575, At. Post, Tarkari,
Tel. 02365 252666
Mob. No. +91 9422090654

38. Shri. Ashok Sakharan Khot
House No. 419-A, At. Post, Wayari Bhuttanath,
Tel. 02365 252666
Mob. No. +91 9320747779
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
<th>Photographer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-15</td>
<td>72-73</td>
<td>Hemant Patil</td>
<td>74-75</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Hemant Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Vital Sawant</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Vital Sawant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Vilas Kane</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Heman Patil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgments

Nikhil Shahane
Abhijeet Didli
Anuj Khare
Sayyid Palando-Datar
Pradeep Bhooni
Nitin Wolske
Mandar Vengurlekar
Dr. Padmavati Prabhune
Shivamath Kantar
Arun Palekar
Chetana Jobli
Sindhudurg
A Mesmerising Journey...