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‘Maharashtra Unlimited’ has reached heights of popularity for the informative content it provides about the state of Maharashtra for tourists, explorers, researchers, enthusiastic trekkers, adventure-seekers. This issue is particularly special in that it is dedicated to Nashik, and for good reason. Nashik has a deep-rooted relationship with India’s mythology. The environs around Nashik were the abode of Lord Rama during his exile of 14 years. Its religious significance stems from the fact that it is one of the four places in the world where the Kumbh Mela is held, thus making it one of the holiest Hindu cities.

Commencing from July 14, 2015 and continuing for a year up to August 11, 2016, the Kumbh Mela will not only beckon the faithful from all corners of India but also international tourists in large numbers. It will thus be an ideal opportunity to see the Mela in all its glory and grandeur as also take time off to explore the city and the many places of tourist interest around it. Nashik has lots to offer for everyone and the monsoon shall give it a green verdure. There are many destinations outside Nashik which actually come alive when it rains. This issue therefore brings together all the elements that can make your visit a memorable one.

On a personal note, let me confide that Nashik is a place I hold very dear. A visit to Nashik is always incomplete without going to Trimbakeshwar, known for its ‘jyotirlinga’. This is the source of the river Godavari also known as Dakshin Ganga. Then of course there are the Pandavleni Caves, some of the oldest of their kind in Maharashtra which house extensive writings in Brahmi script. Equally interesting is the Coin Museum which has a huge collection of real coins, replicas, line drawings, articles and photographs of coins. This issue has all this information and much more. There are logistical details which will help you plan your trip and guidelines on how not to miss any interesting sights, sounds and tastes. Welcome to Nashik!

Devendra Fadnavis,
Chief Minister, Maharashtra State
This monsoon, escape the confines of the urban jungle and follow your heart to Lavasa. Set amidst seven verdant hills, along the sparkling waters of the Warasgaon Lake, Lavasa is the perfect getaway for those longing to be one with nature.

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Any geographical region is not just defined by its landscape and boundaries. There is so much more that gives it a unique identification and character. On those lines, Maharashtra occupies a very niche position in India for its history, politics, environment, ambience, ethnicity, and of course culture. Each of such elements comes with strong traditional values, entrenched all the more for the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj that has given the region its numerous forts high atop steep hills and a quintessential Maratha way of life. Maharashtra is also famous for its many temples, Buddhist caves, serene beaches, bustling cities, a wide variety of cuisine, folk arts and some of the country’s leading personalities.

Therefore there is so much to write about Maharashtra. But here, in this edition, we are focusing only on Nashik. And that’s for the simple reason that the city will be in the limelight for a long spell of time – from July 14, 2015 to August 11, 2016 – when it will host the Kumbh Mela. This Mela is so special to India. Held every three years in each of the four different locations - Allahabad, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain – it is after a gap of 12 years that it returns to Nashik. It will be time for religious and spiritual fervour to attain a peak that is seen only on such grand occasions. Nashik will therefore attract pilgrims and tourists in huge numbers and so it is only right that this edition of ‘Maharashtra Unlimited’ should be one of the most informative guides for you to plan your visit in minute detail.

Nashik offers such a fascinating plethora of places of visit and a cuisine that is so very typical of this part of Maharashtra. Besides, it’s wonderful to see how the old and the new come together in such a comfortable way with ancient temples alongside glitzy shopping malls and traditional values in perfect harmony with the buzz of its young population. This monsoon, make Nashik your choice of a perfect getaway and witness how the Kumbh Mela can be a spiritually transforming experience. As you turn the pages of this issue, you will find everything you have ever wanted to know about Nashik and places of interest around it. Happy reading!

Valsal Naïr-Singh
Secretary, Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra
Experience a royal journey through magnificent Maharashtra aboard the luxurious Deccan Odyssey train.

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As always, it’s once again a pleasure to present you yet another edition of ‘Maharashtra Unlimited’, the iconic magazine published by the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) in an attempt to bring forth the natural, cultural and historic beauty of Maharashtra. In fact, I can state with pride that Maharashtra is like a kaleidoscope of enchanting images that unfold before you when you start exploring it. There are forts that will hold you spellbound, beaches that will rejuvenate you, cuisine that will have you asking for more, places of religious worship that will strengthen your faith, and so much more.

This time, there is something more special. The issue you have in your hand is dedicated to the Kumbh Mela which will take place at Nashik, commencing from July 14, 2015 and continuing for a year up to August 11, 2016. This is the grandest of all gatherings when millions of faithful pilgrims come at one place to purge themselves of their sins. It is held every three years in each of the four different locations - Allahabad, Haridwar, Nasik and Ujjain. The issue, therefore, not only provides a preview of the Mela but also puts the spotlight on what Nashik and its neighbouring areas have to offer by way of tourism. As you will discover, Nashik can be a perfect getaway destination to visit beaches, forts and even have some adventurous fun……and all this during the monsoon. So, the one thing the content of this issue establishes is that you don’t have to stay indoors when it pours!

Meanwhile, let me also state with pride that ‘Maharashtra Unlimited’ has won the prestigious In-house Communication Excellence (ICE) award for the third consecutive time. This award is for being the best magazine among government and other organisations given by the Shailaja Nair Foundation in association with FEI Cargo to promote excellence in print magazines. The jury felicitated the magazine’s in-depth features on Maharashtra, which explore the cultural legacy of ‘the great state’. A one-of-a-kind magazine, it bridges the gap between academic research and tourist-friendliness, revealing the hidden sides of the state to its readers. That says it all! On a parting note, we welcome you once again to the Kumbh Mela, and of course to everything that Maharashtra has to offer.

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Kumbh Mela

The Legend

Kumbh in different cities
Kumbh down the ages
The Sadhus
Kumbh Mela
Nashik & Trimbakeshwar

Kalyani Sardesai
Information Courtesy: Anita Joshi
Photographs © Kumar Mangawani, Heramb Sahasrabuddhe, Kiran Tambat

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Kumbh
What is the Kumbh Mela?

It is an event beyond imagination. The kind that encompasses every aspect of the human existence, and yet, seeks to distance itself from the earthly cycle of life and death and move towards a higher thought. It is one of the pillars of an ancient civilization; it is a glimpse of eternal hope combined with transitory life.

It is the Kumbh Mela. It is, for want of a more powerful word, Faith.

The faith of a 5,000 year old behemoth called India.

For a culture that acknowledges the material—but points to a deeper meaning of life - the Kumbh is a phenomenon bred in the soil, and nourished over centuries.

Even as the holy scriptures from the Vedic era prescribe prayer, fasts, ritualistic holy baths, charity and good deeds as the way to a well-balanced and well-lived life, the Kumbh has a place all its own.

The Legend of Kumbh

The founding legend attributed to the Puranas (ancient texts containing the narratives of the history of the universe and India), has it that the demons and the gods churned the ocean for Amrit, the elixir of eternal life. In the ensuing struggle, a few drops of it fell out of the kumbh (pitcher) they were carrying, and landed on four places that are today known as the holy cities of Prayag, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik. It is believed that these drops gave unknown, mystical powers to these places and hence observing the congregation called the Kumbh Mela (literally translated: the Fair of the Pitcher) in any of these places is supposed to impart great merit to the participants.

Slated as the ‘biggest peaceful congregation on Planet Earth’ and still growing, the pilgrimage is noteworthy for the Sadhus (or ascetics) from every nook and corner of India who articulate the transitory aspect of life and stress on the need to look beyond the physical and emotional limits that human beings set for themselves.

Visitors throng from India and abroad to interact with the Sadhus and benefit from their wisdom and understanding of life. The sadhus belong to as many as 13 distinct akhadas or groups (as per their ideology.)

The darshan (opportunity to meet with the sadhus) is crucial to the experience of the Kumbh Mela and because of this worshipers must be careful so as to not displease the sadhus. Meeting the sadhus is meticulously arranged and worshipers often leave tokens at their feet.

Attendees at the Kumbh Mela come from all sections of India, ranging from sadhus who remain naga or naked and practice the most severe physical discipline, to hermits, who leave their isolation only for these pil-
grimages, to techno-savvy, jet set teachers resplendent in the finest clothing.

Vast crowds of disciples, friends, and spectators join the individual ascetics and organizations. The *naga akhadas* often claim the holiest spots at each Kumbh Mela’s most auspicious moment. Although the government now insists on an orderly bathing order, history records bloody disputes between groups vying for precedence.

**Roll-call of rotation**

Planetary movements dictate that while the regular Kumbh Mela is held every 3 years in any of the four cities of Prayag, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik, the Ardh (half) Kumbh Mela is held every six years at Haridwar and Allahabad (Prayag) while the Purna (complete) Kumbh mela takes place every twelve years, at four places Prayag (Allahabad), Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik, based on planetary movements. The Maha Kumbh Mela is celebrated at Prayag after 144 years (after 12 complete or *purna* Kumbh Melas).

Each site’s celebration is based on a distinct set of astrological positions of the Sun, the Moon, and Jupiter, the holiest time occurring at the exact moment when these positions are fully occupied. The Kumbh Mela at Prayag, in particular, attracts millions of pilgrims. In addition, a Maha (great) Kumbh Mela festival is held every 144 years at Prayag; the 2001 festival at Haridwar attracted some 60 million people.

**Kumbh Melas at different cities:**

While the Kumbh Melas are similar in nature, each city has its unique flavour and tour-worthy spots that add to the experience. All 4 are historical cities, and even as Prayag, Haridwar and Ujjain are picturesque in natural beauty, Nashik with its assorted cultural influences is a study in contrast. Some would say the Kumbh mela at Haridwar has special significance, as Hindu mythology believes a pilgrimage to Haridwar is the gateway to heaven.

Rivers have always enjoyed a special status in the Hindu way of life, especially the river Ganga and its tributaries. Believed to be possessed of the ability to cleanse one’s sins, the very mainstay of the Kumbh Mela is the holy dip or the *Shahi Snan* by the sadhus, perceived to be the wisest of all men. Besides the Ganges, there are also two other sacred rivers located at Allahabad, the Yamuna and the Saraswati. The Yamuna, like the Ganges has its earthly origin in the Himalayas. The Saraswati, however, has disappeared since, and has been identified by some experts as the river Ghaggar today. (Saraswati is mentioned many times in India’s ancient texts like the Vedas and the epics and is said to be present at Allahabad where it joins the Yamuna and the Ganga.)

This confluence of India’s three most sacred rivers at Allahabad is called the *Triveni sangam*. The combined
sanctity of the three holy rivers, coupled with the spiritual powers obtained from the pot of nectar of immortality, has earned Allahabad the rank of teertharaaja, the king of holy places.

Marvelous, Mystical and Massive

In 1895, the celebrated English author Mark Twain attended the Kumbh Mela. So moved was he by what he saw that he wrote—“It is wonderful, the power of a faith like that, that can make multitudes upon multitudes of the old and weak and the young and frail enter without hesitation or complaint upon such incredible journeys and endure the resultant miseries without repining. It is done in love, or it is done in fear; I do not know which it is. No matter what the impulse is, the act born of it is beyond imagination, marvelous to our kind of people, the cold whites”.

If this sounds a bit too romantic for modern ears, here’s a description from The Atlantic Quartz Website to get an idea of how big it actually is

“I imagine the entire population of Shanghai—about 23 million—camping on a 4×8 kilometer field. Add to that mass of humanity every last man, woman and child in New York City and you’re getting closer to the Kumbh’s expected attendance. But you’re still not quite there. The area of the mela is also on the rise: from 1,495.31 hectare and 11 sectors in 2001 to 1936.56 hectare and 14 sectors in 2013. That’s about 4,784 acres of land – about the size of Madrid’s famous Casa de Campo Park.”

The Kumbh down the ages

Despite the legend, the exact origin of the Kumbh Mela is difficult to pinpoint.

Some people believe that the first written evidence of the Kumbha Mela can be found in the accounts of Chinese traveller, Huan Tsang or Xuanzang who visited India in 629 - 645 CE, during the reign of King Harshavardhana. He describes how Harshavardhana distributed goods and money generously at a gathering at Prayag.

In the 8th century, the Shankaracharya popularized the mela amongst the common people. With each passing year the fair began to garner more and more crowds.

According to The Imperial Gazetteer of India, an outbreak of cholera occurred at the 1892 Mela at Haridwar, which lead to the rapid improvement of arrangement by the authorities and the formation of Haridwar Improvement Society, and in 1903 about 400,000 people attended the fair.

Since then, it has gone from strength to strength, with 60 million people (about 1 per cent of all humanity) in attendance.

Rich and poor, brown and white, young and all, are all part of this humongous theatre that offers anyone remotely observant a chance to broaden their horizons.
Who are the Sadhus? Why do they count?

In the Hindu way of life, renunciation of the world and its associated pleasures is the chosen path of the sadhu. Simply put, the term Sadhu is derived from the Sanskrit for “accomplish” and refers to he who has achieved/accomplished what he or she set out to.

They include saints of various traditions, men (and occasionally women) who have left their homes to concentrate on physical and spiritual disciplines, and also hermits, magicians and fortune-tellers (some, please note, who are not genuine). Distinguishing the real holy man from the pretender has been a challenge down the ages.

The sadhu way of life can take a variety of forms. Those of a particular order may live together in a matha or monastery, while others may roam around all over the country, preferring a nomadic life to any attachments. Their appearance may differ according to their sect but they usually wear yellow/orange robes. They might shave their heads, allow their hair to lie matted on their shoulders, or twist it in a knot on top of their heads, but a normal haircut is rarely seen.

Sadhus usually have only the possessions they carry with them: a staff or danda, a water carrier or kamandalu, an alms bowl and a japa mala or rosary.

Sadhus, by and large, belong to the Vaishnava sect, that follows Lord Vishnu, or the Shaiva sect that follows Lord Shiva. In the Hindu pantheon, Vishnu, the preserver and Shiva, the destroyer, along with Brahma, the creator form the Trinity or Godhead. However, Brahma, for several complex reasons is not worshipped on earth, while Vishnu and Shiva are. Together the three denote the 3 main roles of the Supreme, Omnipresent one.

If the sadhu is a Vaishnava he might have a discus (chakra) and a conch shell (shankha), a salagrama stone or a tulsi plant, which symbolize their allegiance to Lord Vishnu.

If he is a Shaiva, he might carry a trident or trishul; even carry a human skull, showing that he is beyond the terror inspired by the transitoriness of the world; or smear his body with ashes. In Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva is Kaal (time) that destroys all human pretences. The Shaiva followers therefore reiterate their allegiance to his core message by rejecting traditional human notions of beauty and aesthetic values.

Sadhus are not Hindu religious officials. If one were to draw comparisons with Christianity, they are the counterpart of the hermit monk, not the minister. In fact, it is considered inauspicious for a sadhu to show up at a wedding, for he represents celibacy.

The Hindu attitude toward asceticism has always been ambivalent. On the one hand, there is a genuine regard for hermits and wandering ascetics and a desire to gain spiritual merit by asking for their counsel. On the other, however, historians and Indologists point out that unlike several other faiths, celibacy and renunciation is not crucial to achieving spiritual merit in the Hindu world. It is entirely possible to aspire towards a higher goal, even while performing the duties of a householder or citizen.

That being as it were, the sadhus and sadhvis (female mendicants) are revered mainly for their self-control and discipline of self that comes from years of penance and austerity.

Sadhus are also known as yogis or practitioners of yoga the world famous form of meditation, physical and spiritual practice. However, while all sadhus are yogis, all yogis are not Sadhus.

Sadhus generally congregate on important religious occasions, such as lunar eclipses or melas (fairs), and throughout the year are found in large numbers in sacred cities such as Varanasi (Benares) and Haridwar, India.

The Kumbh Mela is one of the occasions they take centre-stage.
Akhadas

There are different dwelling places for different units of Sadhus called “Akhadas”. Each unit has its own flag and symbol. For instance: the Shaiva sect has a trishul (trident) and bull (Nandi, Shiva’s vehicle) on its flag, while the Vaishnav sect has Lord Hanuman and an eagle on it. In all, the Shaiva sect has 10 and Vaishnav sect has 3 Akhadas.

At a glance, they are:

Shaiva Sect

Each Shaiva sect has 2,500-5,000 members in all.

Vaishnav Sect
The Vaishnav Sect is mainly divided into three major sects or Ani. They contain 18 sub sects in all and 250 to 300 minute divisions:


Shree Pancharamandiya Digambar Akhada (Ani): Shriramji Digambar, Shirishyamji Digambar

Shree Pancharamandiya Nirvani Akhada (Ani): Shri Ramanandiya Nirvani, Shri Ramanandiya Khaki, Shri Ramanandiya Niralambi, Shri Ramanandiya Tatambi, Shriharivyasi Nirvani, Shriharivyasi Khaki, Shri Balbhadr

They have been established at different points of time and worship their own deity.

Leaders of the different sects have arrived at a consensus to follow a specific sequence for taking bath.

The year 1756, the era of Nanasaheb Peshwa, was witness to a war between the Shaiva and Vaishnava sects, who used to assemble at the Kashyapi Sangam, where the Gangapur dam now stands. Both sects fell out over who would bathe first; this resulted in violence and many sadhus died on both sides. Hence the Peshwa demarcated the Ramkund (Nashik) for the Vaishnavas, and the Kushavart (Trimbakeshwar) for the Shaivites. Not just that, the timings of the holy dip may not coincide. When the Vaishnavas are taking a dip, the Shaivas must wait their turn and vice versa.

Both sets of leaders have thus evolved an order of precedence with general consensus.
Simhastha Kumbh Mela, Trimbakeshwar and Nashik:

The Kumbh Mela that assembles at Nashik is called the Simhastha Kumbh Mela for the entry of Jupiter into the zodiac sign of Leo.

Jupiter stays in Leo for an entire year.

Thus, while 'Simha' stands for Leo 'sittha' denotes the stay of Jupiter in Leo. This Mela is held at two locations namely Ramteertha in Nashik and Kushavrat in Trimbakeshwar. While Ramteertha is dedicated to the Vaishnav sect, Kushavrat is for the Shaiva sect.

According to the Shiva Purana, the river Ganga-Godavari was unwilling to stay on earth. However, the Gods assured her of their continuing attention and respect by promising her that when Jupiter and Leo were aligned, they would bathe in her waters and cleanse her of all the dirt accumulated over a period of 12 years, and finally worship the God of Gods, Mahadev aka Shiva himself.

It is therefore believed that it’s not just the 33 crore Gods but also the 3.5 tirthas (holy spots) that come to the Ganga and cast their holy glow. Thus, it is believed that taking a holy dip in the river during this time and propitiating her with dana, japa and tapa (charity, chanting and penance) is an act of great spiritual benefit.

The itinerary at the Simhastha Kumbh Mela

Flag hoisting ceremony: The flag is more than a banner; it is the repository of thousands of years of tradition and spiritual ideology. The orange banner of the Simhastha Kumbh has the image of a lion on it—in order to mark the confluence of Jupiter in Leo. This year, Jupiter enters Leo on July 14 at 6:16 am, which is the day of Ashadha Vadya Trayodashi as per the Hindu calendar. This huge gathering will see a host of priests, sadhus, ministers and administrative authorities participating.

Opening the doors of the Nashik Ganga Godavari Temple

After the flag hoisting it is time to open the doors of the Ganga-Godavari temple which is off the Ramkund. It is believed the Ganga comes to Nashik on this day, hence the name: Ganga Godavari. It will be open all through the year of the Simhastha era; at other times it is only open on the day of the Kartik Poornima for the lighting of the lamps.

Parva-Kals.

As per the holy scriptures and astrology, there are some moments that are special for various reasons. Such moments are called Parva and celebrated with a dip in the holy waters, charity, recital of prayers etc. Some of the major Parva-kals (auspicious days) are: Ashtami, Chaturdashi, Amavasya, Purnima, Ravi Sankrant, onset of Dakshinayan and Uttarayan, sun and moon eclipse etc.

The noteworthy days are:

Simhasthavidhi-first day (Patak Nivrutti) that is marked by a dip in the Godavari, fasting and camping by the river.

Second day (Pitrukarya): which is a day marked for worshiping the holy Ganga and paying your respects to your ancestors (teerth-shraddha)

Third day (Devakarya). On this day you bathe in the Ganga Godavari, worship Jupiter in the house of Leo, donate pitchers (kumbh), make offerings to the Gods, feed Brahmins etc. This is also marked by a visit to Trimbakeshwar. However, this ceremony can be done anytime during the Simhastha period, at any holy spot on the banks of the Godavari.

Shahti Snan

The bedrock of the Kumbh mela, the days of the Shahti snan or the royal bath are only for the sadhus. No layperson may participate.

A never to forget sight is the arrival of Mahantas the (head sadhu) of each of the Akhadas on elephants. As they head for their assigned bathing spot from their residing camp cum village (The Sadhuграм) their splendor and state is no less than that of kings: leading the way are the other sadhus of that particular akhada holding swords, spears, chakras (sharp discs used in warfare) and various weapons.

Once they reach their destination, all the Sadhus get into the river together. This is followed by an elaborate puja (worship) at the Godamandir before they head back to their camp.

This year, the first Shahti Snan will be held on 29/08/2015

The second Shahti Snan on 13/09/2015

Third Shahti Snan Nashik: 18/09/2015 and Trimbakeshwar: 15/09/2015

It is a matter of great honour and pride for each sect to take a dip on these 3 auspicious days; the order must be scrupulously followed—any change of sequence would result in out and out war between the armed sadhus. The Akhil Bhartiya Akhada Parishad (All India Federation of the various sects) insists on the same. The cast of honour usually reads thus: The Naga Sadhus at dawn, followed by the Bairagis, then the Old and New Udasis, and at long lost the Nirmal Akhdhas.

At Nashik, the sequence for the first Parva is Nirmohi, Digambar, Nirvani, while for the next Parva it is Nirvani, Digambar, Nirmohi. Any variations in this order are rare.

Ending of the Simhastha Kumbh-Dhwajavatatan on 11th August 2016 (lowering of the flags)

When Jupiter finally leaves Leo, it signals the end of the Simhastha Kumbh. Once again an elaborate Godapujan (worship of the Godavari river) follows, after which the flags are finally brought down, signaling the end of the Kumbh and the onset of a new era.
A word of caution, beyond the din

The Kumbh Mela, despite its awesome beauty, energy and colour, continues to be a hotbed of superstition. Critics complain that this is one of those events responsible for the stereotypical type-casting of Indian culture in the West. Fascinating and frustrating in equal measure, it defies definition on every level.

All visitors—whether Indian or foreign—are advised not to believe everything they see. Good old common sense works at all times. Instead, the celebration ought to be seen as one of the continuing traditions of one of the oldest civilizations of the planet: India. A tradition that underlines a single truth: the more things change, the more they remain the same.

And thus, the quest to look at life beyond the obvious continues from Kumbh to Kumbh.

Kumbh Mela 2015
Most important dates:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 July</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Flag hoisting of the main ceremony at Ram Kunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Flag hoisting of the Akhada at Sadhugram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 August</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Shravan Shuddha – First Snan</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 August</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>First Shahi Snan</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 September</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Second Shahi Snan</td>
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<td>18 September</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Third Shahi Snan</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 September</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Bhadrapad Shukla Dwadashi- Vaman Dwadashi Snan</td>
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</table>
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Nashik and around

Anita Joshi, Anuprita Moray, Ashutosh Bapat, Manjiri Bhalerao, Kalyani Sardesai
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Temples & Spirituality walk
Art & Architecture walk
Archaeology & Heritage walk
Bazaars
The Taste of Nashik
Museums in Nashik
Travel Circuits

Scan this QR Code to read the article on your Smartphone or Tab
Nashik at a Glance:

Nashik- A city that traces its roots back to pre-historic times and has always been an important destination in India in terms of history, religion and culture. It is known as the city of temples and is one of the holiest destinations in India as it hosts the Kumbh Mela every 12 years. This year, the Kumbh Mela will be held here from July onwards. The weather here remains pleasant throughout the year.

Just 170 kilometers from Mumbai, Nashik is located on the banks of the mighty river Godavari which originates near the city. It is here on the banks of the Godavari, that early settlers had their homes, temples and traditional businesses. In the old city, you will find several ancient temples which are architectural wonders with their beautiful carvings, charming weekly markets, quaint shops selling intricately crafted, exquisite artefacts made out of silver, copper and brass. Homes in the old city date back to bygone times with carved wooden designs in their doors, walls and balconies.

The new city is a well-known educational destination, an industrial hub and is now establishing its identity as an IT hub, and a wine destination. A part of the golden triangle with bigger cities like Mumbai and Pune, Nashik has now claimed its position as a major developed city of India.

A city that has evolved with the times and its people- embracing the cultures, arts and traditions of the various people that settled here, Nashik today has a perfect combination of the old, coexisting with the new: a city of temples & traditions that is now also known for its wine tourism, technical prowess and vibrant people.

Given below are the details of the various walks given by us covering the different aspects of Nashik’s history, heritage, art, culture and spirituality.

For further details about the walks, please contact:

Ms. Anuprita Moray: anumoray@gmail.com
Ms. Anita Joshi: anitajoshi14@gmail.com

Temple & Spirituality walk

1. Shri Sundar Narayan Temple (Near Ravivar Karanja, Ahilyabai Bridge)

Temple of Lord Vishnu reconstructed in 1756 by Sardar Yashwant Chandrachud. Legend says that Vishnu had been cursed with turning black. He came here and meditated to get rid of the curse. He regained his original beautiful form here, thus the name ‘Sundar (beautiful) Narayan’.

7. Kalaram Temple (Panchvati)

One of the most famous temples of Nashik, this is a magnificent temple created out of Basalt stone, with beautiful carvings both inside and outside the temple. Completed in 1790, the temple is an important spiritual as well as cultural icon of the city. The legend behind this temple is that Lord Ram stayed here on the banks of Godavari, and the temple is located on the spot where he had his camp.
2. Shri Ekmukhi Datta Temple & ‘Sanjeevan Samadhi’ (Near Ahilyabai Bridge)

Literally translated, the temple’s name means ‘one faced Datta’. This is the rarest form of Lord Datta who is always depicted with three heads. This temple was founded by a saint named Bhatji Maharaj. He was a great yogi and he entered Samadhi here. It is famous as a ‘sanjeevan’ Samadhi, meaning he consciously left his body and went into Samadhi. We will walk past Gandhi Talav & Gandhi Jyot.

3. Naroshankar Temple (Near Ramsetu Bridge)

Constructed in the Nagar style of architecture in 1747, this temple is beautifully carved with intricate designs and themes. The temple is of Lord Shiva and is situated right on the banks of the holy Godavari. The bell installed on the temple is Portuguese and was cast in 1721 in Portugal. The bell is used as the symbol of the City Municipal Corporation.

4. Ramtirth (River Godavari)

Ramtirth is the holy spot in the river where the ashes of the deceased are immersed in the flowing waters. It is believed that the ashes dissolve here, and it is the most important last rite for many families. Ramtirth is also the main holy spot for bathing during the Kumbh Mela.

5. Kapaleshwar Temple (in front of Ramtirth, Near Panchvati)

This is a temple of Lord Shiva. It is noteworthy that there is no Nandi statue in front of the idol at Kapaleshwar.

6. Mutheram / Gora Ram Temple (Behind Kapaleshwar Temple)

A temple of Lord Ram dating back to the 18th Century. The idols in this temple are carved out of white marble and it has wooden architecture inside the temple.
1. Shri Balaji Temple (near the jewelry market)

A magnificent temple located inside the ancestral mansion home of the Balajiwale family. The Lord Balaji idols here were found in the river Tamraparni located in Southern India. The family brought them back here and installed them inside the family temple in 1771.

6. Naav Darwaja (Old City)

‘Naav’ means boat, and this was the spot from where boats used to ply between the two river banks. Bridges were not constructed at the time and boats were the only means of crossing the river. This is located in the old city area, where the earliest settlers of the city constructed their homes. Some of the homes here have beautiful designs carved out of wood on the outside walls which date back to the 18th Century.
2. Sarkarwada (Palace of the Peshwas, near the jewelry market)

Sarkarwada is the erstwhile main palace of the Peshwas who were administrators of the city in the 18th century. This is a grand palace with four huge courtyards decorated with beautifully carved wooden beams. The palace has been restored by the State Archaeology Department which has its offices here now.

3. Ganpati Temple (Main Road)

The temple is known for its distinct architecture and wooden carvings inside the temple.

4. Old Municipal Corporation Building View from outside (Main Road)

An important & beautiful heritage structure of the city, the building was constructed by the British. The entire building is constructed in stone and impresses visitors with its grandeur and perfection.

5. Dnyaneshwar Temple (Hundiwala Lane, Bhadarkali)

A temple dedicated to one of the most revered saints of Maharashtra- Jnaaneshwar or Dnyaneshwar, who was a great devotee of Lord Vitthal. We can see beautiful examples of 19th century architecture with wooden carved designs inside the temple. The temple has idols of Lord Vitthal and Rukhmini, his wife, and at their feet, an idol of Jnaaneshwar.
Archaeology & Heritage Walk

1. Modkeshwar Ganpati Temple
   The temple is located right at the entrance to the old city and is considered to be the village deity.

2. Asrachi Ves
   This is the location from where we enter the old city area where homes dating back to 18th century are still standing and we can see the architectural styles dating back to that period.

Bazaars of Nashik

Flower Market (Jewellery Market)
Early morning every day, the by lanes of the older city of Nashik come alive with a multitude of colours and fragrances. This is the daily flower market (phool bazaar) where you can find every kind of flower whether for religious purposes, social functions, decoration or as a present for someone.

Metal works Market (Near Jewellery Market)
Nashik is known for its distinct and high quality traditional metal works including copper and brass. The metal works market is located in the old city and you can find a display of intricately hand crafted idols of Gods, metal utensils used for various purposes and also decorative items. Also famous are the city’s gold and silver artefacts. The silver work from Nashik is known to be of high quality as it does not turn black over time.

Vegetable Market (Godavari River Bank)
A daily market that is held on the banks of the river Godavari. The market has a vast range of fresh vegetables of every kind, fruits and seasonal herbs. The vegetables are locally produced and arrive here every morning.

Milk Market (Bhadrakali)
A historical daily market where fresh and high quality milk is sold directly by the farmers or dairy owners. The milk here is known and trusted by Nashikites to be of the best quality.

Weekly Market (Godavari River Banks)
Held every Wednesday on the banks of the River Godavari, this weekly market is a delight to visit with its colourful metal and earthenware, fragrant spices, local crafts, vegetables, traditional delicacies like ice cream & chaat. A favourite destination for both locals and tourists alike.
3. Gadge Baba Math
A heritage structure dating back to 20th century. This is a dharmashala (lodge or rest-house) designed to accommodate travelers coming to the city. Here they provide a daily lunch service to the disabled and homeless people from all over the city.

4. ‘Matichi Gadhi’
Ancient settlement of the city started here, archaeological proofs of which were found during the excavation done here in 1950. The tools, terracotta, beads, structures of homes found here date back to the 2nd century BCE. This site is home to settlements starting from ancient period to medieval period.

5. Display of Artifacts found at Matichi Gadhi (provided on request)
The display is arranged in the city public library. (Details in the Museum section)
The Taste of Nashik

1. **Grapes**
   Nashik is renowned for its delicious, sweet grapes. Locally produced by almost every farmer around Nashik, this fruit is the most popular amongst Nashikites as well as travellers visiting the city. When the grape season is over, you can still get them in the form of dried grapes or raisins.

2. **Kondaji Chiwda** *(Available in shops across the city)*
   One of the most popular food products of Nashik, Kondaji Chiwda is loved by every Nashikite and also is the staple take away of every visitor to the city. Chiwda literally means a spicy, savoury, crunchy mixture of various things combined to give a delicious taste. This chiwda, also known as ‘Nashik Chiwda’, is a family run and owned business. It is a mixture of fried puffed rice, pieces of fried peanuts, coconut, and cereals which are added to a mixture of powdered spices, and flavours. The taste of the chiwda has remained the same over the years and the special spice mix- which gives the chiwda its distinct taste- is a closely guarded secret. It is available in their own stores and also in every food store across Nashik.

3. **Makaji Bhel** *(Available in shops across the city)*
   A close cousin of the chiwda, ‘Makaji Bhel’ is another of those food experiences which is not to be missed when you visit Nashik. Owned by another family, Makaji bhel is a crunchy, tasty combination of spicy, sweet, savoury, tangy ingredients which together give an unforgettable taste. Made primarily out of roasted beaten rice and combined with spices, fried goodies and some nuts, this bhel is the one thing that you would want to take with you on your way back home. It is available in shops all around the city.

4. **Budha Halwai** *(Tivandha Chowk)*
   This is the most famous and oldest sweet shop of the city. The shop is famous for its sweets like jalebi, gulabjam, shrikhand, khurchand wadi and mango wadi. The sweets are so popular that on festival days and special occasions, there are long queues in front of the shop from early morning. As they are freshly made and sold, the sweets are available only in the shop.

5. **Pande Halwai’s Famous Lassi** *(Ram Tirth & Main Road)*
   Lassi is a thick, refreshing and sweet drink made from fresh yoghurt. It has the consistency of a smoothie and is very popular for its distinct taste. Made fresh every day, it is available in Pande sweet makers shop situated in Panchavati.

6. **Santarana: famous for its Sabudana Wada** *(Bhdrakali Market)*
   This is another of the city’s oldest food joints famous for its spicy treats. Sabudana wada is a deep fried delicacy-a patty made out of sago, potato, peanuts, and spices- is fried and served with a peanut sauce. Available all hours of the day, it’s freshly made and sold only in Santarana.

7. **Nashik’s Misal** *(Available in eateries and restaurants all across the city.)*
   Misal is a much loved breakfast food all around Maharashtra and every city has its own version of this breakfast treat. Misal is a delicious, spicy gravy made from sprouts. It is served with fresh paav (bun), fresh curd, onion and lemon. Eaten piping hot, it is a must have experience for visitors to the city.

8. **Nashik’s Dabeli** *(All around the city in eateries as well as food stalls on roads)*
   An Indian version of a grilled sandwich, this tasty dabeli is a favourite street food of every Nashikite and available all across the city. Dabeli is a grilled bun stuffed with a spicy, tangy, sweet masala filling- topped with either cheese or butter.

9. **Surti Farsan** *(Hiradwadi, Panchavati)*
   Farsan is a tasty combination similar to the chiwda but this one has no puffed or roasted rice in it. It is a combination of fried elements made out of ‘besan’ i.e. gram flour coated with spices, salt and fried cereals giving it a crunchy, distinct taste.

10. **Samarth Pineapple Juice** *(Raviwar Karanja)*
    Another iconic food item of Nashik, this pineapple juice is freshly made, served with ice cream. It is much loved by the locals for its authentic taste, which has not changed over the years.

11. **Nashik Chaat** *(All around the city in eateries as well as food stalls on roads)*
    ‘Chaat’ is inseparable from the Indian way of life and wherever you travel in India, you will find a local version of this chaat that is adored by one and all. Chaat is a collective name given to food items that include ‘bhel’, ‘dahi-puri’, ‘pani-puri’, ‘sev-puri’, and more... Chaat in Nashik is known for its innovative creations like ‘samosa chaat’& ‘kachori chaat’. A must try for everyone- you are sure to find a chaat item that you will love!

12. **Pot Ice cream on Godavari Ghat**
    This ice cream is fresh, rich, and full of flavour. Handmade and set in an earthenware pot, real fruits and real flavours are used to create unforgettable tasting ice creams. This is available all day along the river bank.
Address: Tilak Path, Nashik 422001  
Times: 4 pm to 8 pm  
Phone: 0253- 2580788  
Closed on : Wednesday  
The museum belongs to the 174 year old city public library.  
The museum has a varied display of artefacts ranging from  
ancient idols of Gods made from metal & stone, collections  
of ancient weapons and also a display of artefacts found at  
the excavation site in the city.

2. Coin Museum  
Address: IIRNS Campus, Nashik - Trimbak Road, Near  
Anjaneri Village  
Phone: 02594-2235, Fax - 0253-350507  
Times: 9.30 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm  
This museum is located around 9 km from Nashik on the  
road towards Trimbakeshwar. Ancient coins from various  
eras as well as the methods used to create these coins are  
on display.

3. Gargoti Mineral Museum  
Address: D-59, MIDC, Malegaon Industrial Area, Malegaon,  
Sinnar  
Phone: 02551 230 865 Website: www.gargoti.com/  
Times: 10.00 AM - 22.00 PM on all days  
One of the most well known museums of Nashik, this  
museum is located about 32 kilometers from the city. The  
award winning museum has a breathtakingly beautiful  
and vast display of green cubical apophyllite, diamonds,  
cavansite, cut stones, blue-green aquamarines, yellow  
calcites as well as few very rare foreign minerals.

4. Maharashtra University of Health Sciences Medical Museum  
Address: Vani - Dindori Road, Mhasrul, Nashik  
Phone: 0253-2539175, email:mush.pro@gmail.com  
Times: 10am to 5 pm  
Closed on: Sunday, 2nd & 4th Saturday, National holidays.  
Located in the campus of Maharashtra University of Health  
Sciences (MUHS) in Nashik, this museum is one of its kind  
in all of Asia. The museum has around 200 historical items  
on display, chronicling in detail the history of Medicine in  
India.

5. Regiment of Artillery Museum  
Address: Artillery Center, Deolali Gaon, Nashik  
Times: 8:00 to 13:00 hrs and 15:00 to 17:00 from Monday  
               to Friday.  
On Saturdays: 8:00 to 11:00 hrs  
Located inside the vast and absolutely beautiful campus  
of the Artillery Center in Nashik, this museum proudly  
exhibits the history and artefacts of artillery in India dating  
back to the Mughals, Marathas, WWI, WWII and later wars.  
Established in 1970, the museum has a vast display of  
actual and replica ordnance photographs, maps, models,  
dioramas, clothing and equipment used by gunners.
6. Collector's Society of Numismatic & Rare Items, Nashik

Address: 8 Hari Niwas Apartment, College Road, Nashik
Phone: (91)-9326407574

This is a 150 member strong society of individuals with a passion for collecting and preserving coins, rare artefacts, handicrafts and such. They have come together with a common goal to preserve items of cultural, historical, artistic and cultural importance. Here is a brief glance at the individual collections by some of the members of the society

Commemorative Coins
(Mr. Achyut Gujrathi)
An interesting collection of the various commemorative coins minted by the Government of India on special occasions and days.
Contact: 9403989394 gujrathi.achut5@gmail.com

8. Rare Artifacts (Mr. Anant Dhamne)
Mr. Dhamne has painstakingly collected a vast range of rare artefacts like household tools, utensils.
Contact: 9422795914 anantdhamne@gmail.com

Collection of British Currency
(Mr. Joytiraj Kaul)
Mr. Kaul has acquired and preserved a large collection of British era currency including paper notes and coins.
Contact: 7350954321 jyotirajkaul99999@yahoo.com

Coins & Vintage Cars & Bikes
(Mr. Vijaykumar Chumble)
Mr. Chumble's passion for artefacts has lead to an interesting collection of various ancient coins as well as vintage cars and bikes which he lovingly cherishes and shows to interested visitors.
Contact: +91888889055, vinaychumble@yahoo.com

Princely State Era Coins & Portuguese Coins (Mr. Rajesh Junnare)
Mr Junnare's collection of rare coins gives you a glimpse into the world of the various princely states which had their own government and coins. He also has an interesting collection of rare Portuguese coins.
Contact: +919822791870 adv.rajesh.junnare@gmail.com

Collection of Artistic Bottles
(Mr. Mahendra Kulkarni)
Mr. Kulkarni has passionately collected bottles of every shape, size and color that were used for various purposes.
Contact: +919422756206

Trisha Rare Craft (Mr. Harshal Naik)
Trisha rare craft is a world of beautiful, antique jewelry made from gold and precious stones. The jewelry designs showcase an exquisite craft in the most elegant and regal style.
Contact: +91 77740 18614 info@trisha.bz

Collection of Erasers:
(Ms. Shrushti Nerkar)
An unusual and interesting collection of erasers of every colour, size and shape.
Contact: 9403810745 Nunerkar@yahoo.com

6. Collection of Coins and Rare Stamps (Mr. P.G. Bhargave)
Along with rare and ancient coins, Mr. Bhargave has also collected rare postage stamps of various nationalities. Contact: +919422246782 pgbhargve@yahoo.co.in

7. Archaeological Museum, Nashik (Near Pandavleni, Ambad)
Address: Hall No. 13, Phalke Smarak, Near Pandavleni, Ambad
Phone: (+91)02532414626

This Museum is run by the Maharashtra State Department of Archaeology & Museums. The museum houses a vast and interesting collection from Nashik and places around Nashik like Dhule, Jalgaon & Ahmednagar. The museum collection includes rare artifacts, ancient weapons, coins, and carved idols which have been either donated to the museum by private collectors or discovered during excavations.

8. Swatantryaveer Savarkar Rashtriya Smarak (Bhagur)
This museum has been erected in honour of one of India’s great freedom fighters: Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. It was inaugurated on 28th May 1989 by the then Vice President, Shankar Dayal Sharma. The museum is housed inside the home of Savarkar and has a huge collection of photos and and exhibits related to the freedom movement of 1857 to 1957.

9. Kusumagraj Museum (Trimbak Road, Behind Swimming Pool)
Contact: (+91)02532576124 email: kusumagraj.p@gmail.com

V. V. Shirwadkar alias Kusumagraj is one of the greatest icons of Marathi literature. His novels, poems and writings have a profound effect on the social, cultural and intellectual milieu of Maharashtra. Winner of the prestigious Jnanapeeth Award, he was a resident of Nashik. The museum is inside the home where he lived, and houses pictures, documents, books and writings of this great writer and philosopher. The museum is run by the Kusumagraj Pratishthan, and the Pratishthan organizes various cultural and literary activities to encourage new talent in this field.
Postcard Moments unlimited
Ellora

This is not simply architecture it's a heritage that is born out of culture. It's prestige that's born out age. This is the language in which artist once spoke. With unlimited reasons like these, it's only fair to say one trip is just not enough.
Travel Circuit 1
Shirdi-Shani Shinganapur

Nashik is a famous ancient holy place for Hindus. The references to Panchavati, the ancient name for Nashik, can be seen in the legendary epic, the Ramayana. It is believed that Lord Rama had stayed at the Panchavati during his exile. Nashik is a convenient base to visit two important sites of pilgrimage – Shirdi and Shani Shinganapur. This circuit requires a minimum of one full day, although two days are ideal to fully take in the sights.

After breakfast, one can start for Shirdi via Sinnar. The distance is just 87 kms from Nashik and it takes 2 hours by car. Shirdi is famous for the saint Sai Baba who spent his life in this village to serve the people selflessly. He is revered by both Hindu and Muslim devotees. He breathed his last at Shirdi. A temple is constructed at his Samadhi and thousands of devotees from all over the world visit this holy place daily. Different types of pooja and aarti are performed as per the schedule at Shirdi. The Sai Baba Sansthan, Shirdi, manage the temple, facilities for pilgrims and all the temple activities. To accommodate such a huge number of visitors, the Sai Baba Sansthan offers different accommodation facilities such as rooms at Sai Ashram, Dwarkavati, and New Bhakta Niwas. There are also a number of hotels of all types from budget to luxury hotels at Shirdi. The MTDC resort at Shirdi is also an option for accommodation.

Shani Shinganapur is another holy place revered for the deity Shanidev. It is 73 kms from Shirdi and can be reached via Rahuri. The village is famous for not having any locks or doors on the houses. There is a strong belief among the residents that the god Shani is the protector of the village. It is believed that if anyone steals something, he becomes blind and will not find a way out of the village. Due to the strength of this belief, theft has never been reported in the village. Legend has it that the god Shani expressed a desire to never have his idol placed in a temple. He wished for his image to be under the open sky. Thus, there is no temple or roof housing the idol of Shani. It is not even an image or carving but a sacred stone placed on a plinth and revered in honour of Shani, the patron god of the village.

When paying one’s respects to Shani, visitors are required to wear black from the waist below. Black clothes can also be rented from shopkeepers at Shani Shinganapur. There is no accommodation here, so you have to return to Shirdi to stay.

This pilgrim’s circuit can be completed within a day. However, if you would like to attend a pooja or perform a ritual at Shirdi, we recommend that you first visit Shani Shinganapur and then proceed to Shirdi and stay the night there. The next morning, you can complete any rituals you would like to and then return to Nashik by the afternoon.
Travel Circuit 2
Bhandardara-Amruteshwar-Ghatghar-Kalsubai-Taked

This circuit includes some of the most scenic spots around Nashik. It includes temples, mountains, lakeside stays, nature trails, magnificent views and a lot more. While this circuit can be covered in 2 days, it is ideal to have 3 or 4 days if you would like to trek and fully enjoy the beauty of the Sahyadri mountains.

Bhandardara is located 74 kms south of Nashik. One has to take the route of NH 3 upto Khambale junction via Vilholi and Gondedumala. Take a left turn at Khambale and via Bari, at the foothills of Mt. Kalsubai to reach Bhandardara.

Nestled among the Sahyadri Hills, Bhandardara has all the makings of a beautiful landscape surrounded by mountain ranges, roaring waterfalls and lush greenery everywhere. Fluorescent green paddy fields contrast with bright blue skies above and the brownish streams that flow everywhere are there to welcome you. When it rains, and clouds descend from the sky to cover the earth, the sight is truly breathtaking! On a full moon night, you might be lucky enough to see Mt. Kalsubai reflected in all its glory in the backwaters of Wilson dam. Randha falls and the Umbrella point are the unique features of Bhandardara. It’s ideal to stay at the most beautiful MTDC resort and circle around this region.

From Bhandardara, one should visit Ratanwadi to see the beautiful temple of Amruteshwar. This intricately carved temple belongs to the Yadava period, with its typical ‘bhumi’ style of architecture. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, and adorned by amazing carvings. The sanctum has two doorways on either side which is a unique feature of this temple. The ceiling of the porch is noteworthy because it has the carved image of a beautiful dancing Shiva.

The temple stands against the backdrop the magnificent fort Ratangad. The river Pravara originates in one small cave located in this fort. Ratangad is also famous for a naturally occurring cavity in the rock, shaped like the eye of a needle. This natural wonder is thus called ‘Nedhe’ or ‘the eye of the needle’. For trekkers, a hike up to Ratangad is ideal during the monsoon or immediately after the monsoon.
Next to Ratangad, is the village ‘Samrad’ which is famous for its ‘Sandhan’ valley, a huge gorge of around one kilometre long. With your own vehicle, you can travel up to the village Ghatghar and take in the rugged views of Sahyadri mountain ranges and the most difficult and adventurous forts of Alang, Madan and Kulang from Ghatghar. The hydroelectric power station at Ghatghar is worth seeing. From Ghatghar again we can come back to Bhandardara, ending the first day of this travel circuit.

On the next day, start your journey after breakfast to the village Bari which is at the foothills of Mt. Kalsubai the highest peak in Maharashtra at 5400 ft above mean sea level. For trekking enthusiasts, it takes about 3 hours to reach the top of this mountain. A gradual slope shows some spectacular views en route. It is absolutely necessary to carry enough water with you while trekking.

From Bari, one can go to Taked. It is a sacred place and the one of a kind temple of Jatayu is located at Taked. As per the legends, Jatayu the vulture fought with Ravana to free Sita from Ravana’s captivity. But Ravana cut off his wings and Jatayu’s efforts were in vain. He waited for Rama to come in search of Sita and showed Rama the direction and incidence of the kidnapping of Sita. Rama then shot an arrow at a particular place and a water spring came out of it which Jatayu swallowed and breathed his last in the lap of lord Rama. This very sacred place is called Taked teerth, meaning the holy place Taked. It is just 30 kms away from Bhandardara.

From Taked again one can get back to Nashik which is just 57 kms away. If you are a trekking enthusiast then spare one more day for Ratangad trek. The Alang-Madan-Kulang trek requires a guide, technical assistance and trekking gear all of which is available at Bhandardara with some trekking institutions. Behind Taked teerth the forts Aad, Aundha, Patta and Bitinga can also be visited but require a few more days stay. For a more relaxing 3 day holiday, stay an additional day at the picturesque MTDC Bhandardara resort, and soak in the beauty of the Sahyadris.
Travel Circuit 3
Sinnar Gondeshwar-Aishwaryeshwar-Gargoti museum-Tahakari

This circuit takes you on a one day tour of exquisitely carved Yadava temples, dating from the 9th to the 12th centuries CE, at Sinnar and Tahakari, famous for being adorned with sculptures of the heavenly apsaras, i.e. celestial nymphs who are also referred to as Surasundaris or divine beauties.

Just 30 kilometres south-east of Nashik lies Sinnar, the ancient capital of the Yadava rulers. It was once the capital city of the Yadava rulers, and was called ‘Sindinagar’. The inscriptive evidence shows the names ‘Sindinagar’ and ‘Shrinagar’. Sinnar was a famous trade centre during the Yadava regime. The capital of Sinnar was then shifted to the Devgiri by the rulers. Two beautifully carved temples - Aishwaryeshwar and Shri Gondeshwar should be on every traveller’s itinerary for Sinnar.

The Gondeshwar temple is in a very good condition compared to Aishwaryeshwar. Gondeshwar is actually a ‘Panchayatan’ temple, meaning it consists of a group of five temples with one main shrine surrounded by four subsidiary shrines. The temple faces eastwards and has a huge courtyard with an enclosing wall. The Nandi mandapa is as striking as the temple. The outer wall of the temple is carved with figures of gods, goddesses, and apsaras.

Tahakari is located at just 30 kms south west of Sinnar. Take the Dubere road from Sinnar. It will take you to Tahakari in an hour via Ashapur, Hivare, and Thangaon. Tahakari is a small village situated on the banks of river Adhala.

The famous Jagadamba or Bhavani temple is adorned with the beautiful sculptures of Surasundaris on it. The temple consists of three sanctums and one common Sabha Mandapa or assembly hall. The doorframe of the main sanctum is beautifully carved and a small image of the goddess is carved on the Ganesh Patti, or lintel. Located in the main sanctum, the wooden image of Mahishasuramardini with 18 hands, seated on tiger is very striking. She carries different weapons in each of her hands. In the two other sanctums contain statues of Mahalakshmi and Mahakali. The intricately carved ceiling is a must to see. Different images are beautifully carved on it in stone. On the outer wall of the temple, the Sursundaris, are carved in a variety of poses. In one niche, the carving of Chamunda, the mother goddess in her terrifying form, truly conveys the fearsome power of the goddess.
Aishwaryeshwar is another beautiful temple in a Sinnar. While Aishwaryeshwar is not as big as the Gondeshwar temple, the carvings on this temple are simply marvellous. The image of Lord Shiva in the arch is carved intricately. Also the image of Gajalakshmi and the images of Saptamatrikas, the seven mother goddesses, above the entrance door-way of the sanctum the highlights of the temple. The ceiling of the antarala, the vestibule in front of the sanctum, is adorned with the beautiful images of ashtadikpalas, guardians of the eight directions. Do make it a point to look out for these exquisite carvings when you visit Aishwaryeshwar.

Gargoti museum is another wonder created by Mr. Krishna Chandra Pandey. It is an award winning mineral museum. It has a large collection of Zeolites, which are microporous crystalline solids with well defined rich structures similar to the diamonds or other precious stones. The museum has won the ‘Pride of India’, ‘Sarasvati Puraskar’, ‘Sinnar Gaurav’ awards. The Gargoti museum is the only museum in India that displays the mineral treasures of the earth, like rocks, minerals, and crystals varying in nature, shape, colour and application. Cut stones, light green cubical apophyllite, crystals of yellow calcite, blue green aquamarine are some of the marvels displayed at the museum. These are displayed in two galleries namely ‘Minerals from the Deccan plateau’ on the first floor and ‘The Prestige Gallery’ on the ground floor. The museum is open from 10 am to 10 pm on all days. The entry fees are Rs. 100/- per person. (Read more on page 30)

Closer to the river Adhala, below the Bhavani temple, stands a temple that is close to being ruined. The noteworthy element here is a Sanskrit inscription on a pillar of that temple, which refers to the year 1128 CE.

This circuit can comfortably be covered in a single day. After a leisurely breakfast, one can start for Sinnar. Visit both the temples and the Gargoti museum in Sinnar. Eat a lovely lunch at the Panchavati hotel. Then proceed towards the Tahakari. The sweet pedas available in the vicinity of the Bhavani temple are a treat to food lovers. Spend sufficient time there and return to Nashik by the evening. If time permits, then do visit the beautiful Siddheshwara temple at Akole just 16 kms away from Tahakari.
To reach Tringalwadi one has to drive up to Ghoti on the Nashik-Mumbai highway. Ghoti is just 40 kms from Nashik. Take the turning towards the Tringalwadi dam road. Standing besides the dam backwaters, the hilltop fort Tringalwadi is 2893 feet above the mean sea level. It takes 2 hours to climb up to the fort comfortably. Another wonder lies at the foothills of the fort. A rock cut cave is located at Tringalwadi. The cave has a spacious hall of about 35 feet long carved out with intricately carved rock pillars. The sanctum, carved in the middle of the wall measures 15ft by 15 ft. The ceiling of this cave is worth seeing. Some dwarf images are carved in a circle on the ceiling. A Jain image can also be seen in the cave. The inscription on the lap of the image is indeed an interesting one. Besides the cave there is a small temple of Lord Brahma.

The Tringalwadi and Kawnai circuit can be covered in a single day. If you are a trekker, then spend one more day because both these places have forts standing tall and awaiting trekkers. The view from the top of these forts is simply amazing and one can see an endless variety of shades of green spread across the countryside during the monsoon.

The Kawnai fort and the holy Kapildhara site are the next destinations. Kawnai is just 8 kms from Ghoti. The fort is not too high and one can hike up in one and a half hours. The locals tell the story of how Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj once visited this fort secretly.

At the foothills of this fort lies the Kapildhara Tirth Ashram. Located on 36 acres of land, this ashram possesses farm land where cultivation is done regularly. It is said that the pioneer of the Sankhya philosophy, the sage Kapil muni established this ashram in the lap of a nature. The entire area is very calm and beautiful. At the ashram, one can worship the Shri Ram Panchayatan or five deities, along with other gods and saints. It is believed that the Marathi saint poets - Dnyaneshwar and Gajanan Maharaja both visited Kapildhara, as did the famous Chinese traveller Huen Tsang. A temple bell was apparently gifted by Huen Tsang and that bell is inscribed with Chinese letters.

This place is ancient and also popular with the sadhus particularly when the Sinhastha Kumbh Mela takes place. Thousands of sadhus gather at Kawnai to take a sacred bath. The chief Mahant of this Ashram Mahant Ramnarayandas Falhadibaba says that the Kumbh mela at Kapildhara Tirth is the original one. According to him, upto the year 1770, the Kumbh Mela used to be organized at Kapildhara only. Sadly due to its small size, once there was a stampede, and many sadhus were killed. Then the Peshwas interfered in the matter and it was decided to organize the Kumbh Mela at Trimbakeshwar and Nashik for Shaiva and Vaishnava sadhus respectively. The legends from the Puranas says that while carrying the Dronagiri mountain, Hanuman was stopped by the demon Kalnema at this place. Hanuman killed that demon Kalnema and hence the name Kawnai became famous.

These two places are full of natural beauty, especially in the as monsoon the road leading to these places look marvellous with various streams crossing the road and a number of waterfalls. The rock boulders of the forts and of the hills nearby are great to see when there it rains.
After breakfast one should drive in the direction of Trimbakeshwar. Before you reach Trimbakeshwar, just 20 kms from Nashik, the first halt should be at Anjaneri. It is believed that Anjaneri is the birth place of Lord Hanuman, the monkey god. The hill fort behind the village is believed to be the birth place of Hanuman. The path to this fort goes through the Anjaneri village. The total area of this fort is very large and one can climb up to this fort via steps. Each step is more like a small plateau and the views from these plateaus are mesmerising. On the last stage there is one rock cut Jain cave. There are two compartments in the cave and there is an image of Parshwanath seated in a padmasana i.e. the lotus position. Two dwarapalas, or doorkeepers stand guard outside the chamber. One Sanskrit inscription is worth keeping an eye out for. The inscription states that in the year 1140 CE the minister of the king Soundev donated this cave. On the top of the hill, there is a temple dedicated to Anjanimata, the mother of Hanuman. Anjaneri was once under the rein of Yadavas and the temples built in that era can be seen in the village Anjaneri. The temples are really beautiful and carved intricately but now are in a dilapidated condition. Scholars frequently visit those temples. The images carved on those temples and the architectural style matches with the Gondeshwar temple of Sinnar.

Another place one should not miss at Anjaneri is the coin museum. Dr. Parmeshwari Lal Gupta and Mr. K. K. Maheshwari established The Indian Institute for research in numismatic studies at Anjaneri with its beautiful coins museum in the year 1984. With a total land area of 10000 sq ft. this museum consists of a number of coins of different dynasties. Punch mark coins, Indo-Greek, Kushana, Gupta, Mughal, and Maratha coins are well displayed at the museum. The collection of coins in such a big number is just fantastic. Also on the basis of the coins, the study of different areas of history is conducted at this museum. It is a one of a kind museum in India. This institute conducts residential workshops for students throughout the year. This museum is open from 9.30 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm from Monday to Saturday. The contact number is 025942-20005

Visit the famous temple of Trimbakeshwar and the Kushavarta Tirth - the sacred pond. Believers feel that bathing in the pond is holy, as is a circumambulation of the hill Brahmagiri. Lakhs of devotees take this route on each Monday of the month Shravana. Trimbakeshwar offers spectacular views of the Sahyadri mountain range around it.

If you have your own vehicle, drive towards Shri Ghat. Along the drive, an entire array of forts such as Harshagad, Bhaskargad, Utavgad can be seen as well as the view of the upper Vaitarna dam that provides water to Mumbai. There are roads leading to the foothills of all these forts, and local villagers accompany trekkers up the forts for a small fee. Food can also be arranged by the locals upon prior notice.

Trimbakeshwar offers several options for accommodation - the Gajanan Maharaja Dharmashala is a low cost pilgrim rest house, while the MTDC resort offers great value for money, combining luxury with economy. While you can see the main sights within a day, for an ideal getaway, spend your first day visiting the temples and arranging a guide and food for a trek, and enjoy the splendour of the Sahyadris on your second day on a trek to one of the many forts nearby.
The Fire Temple (Agiary) is located on Lam Road in the serene and scenic Deolali Camp. Located about 16 kilometers from the city, Deolali is the military cantonment area and thus very peaceful.

The agiary was established by R J Chinoi from Hyderabad in the year 1916. The grand and beautiful building is surrounded by a lovely garden. Prayers are held 5 times a day and the Parsis offer sweet food items and pray for progress and peace for all.

On the Parsi New Year day, Pateti, the Agiary adorns a festive look and Parsis from Nashik city and around gather to pray and celebrate the new year together.

Muktidham is a popular destination for the religious. It’s a large and imposing marble temple complex where devotees can take ‘darshan’ and pray to various gods. Located on the Nashik-Pune Road, the temple was established in 1971 and was beautifully carved by Rajasthani sculptors.

Inside, there are replicas of the 12 Jyotirlingas, which have been built as per the dimensions of the original deities and have been sanctified by sending them to their respective pilgrimage centers. There is also a temple of Lord Krishna in the Muktidham complex. The walls of the Krishna temple have paintings depicting scenes from life of Krishna and the Mahabharata. Also unique to this temple are eighteen chapters of the Bhagvad Gita written on the walls. There are also idols of all major Hindu Gods and Goddesses like Vishnu, Laxmi, Rama, Laxman, Sita, Hanuman, Durga, and Ganesha.

Further, the complex also houses a dharamshala, which can accommodate at least 200 pilgrims.

This is one of the holiest and one of the most important pilgrimage destinations for Christians. The shrine is dedicated to the Infant Jesus Christ, and there is a beautiful idol of the Infant Jesus inside the church. This idol is only the second one of its kind in the world, and the only other idol of its kind can be found in Yugoslavia. The Shrine was founded by Father Peter Lewis in 1970.

The annual festival of Shrine Feast is held in the month of February and devotees from all over the country participate in large numbers in this 2 day feast. Among festivities and celebrations, Masses are held on all days in several languages for devotees coming from various states.
The temple was founded by a private trust with a view to spread the teachings of India's ancient Vedas, Puranas and culture. This grand marble temple is an architectural marvel. The large foyer of the temple is decorated with attractive glass and floodlights. There are idols of Lord Ram, Sita and Laxman along with the idol of Guru Gangeswaraji. Ved Mandir is a cultural nucleus dedicated to Guru Gangeswar Anandji Maharaj, the torch bearer of Ved teachings in modern times.

A grand and beautiful temple, known as the Dharmachakra Prabhava Teerth, is one of the best examples of Jain architecture and carvings. The structure is a symbol of an abode of spiritual upliftment to bliss and is named as the Dharmachakra Prabhav Tirth. The legend behind the founding of this temple is that the Jain saint Acharya Jagavallabhavijayji Maharaj had a divine vision and the temple has been created according to that vision. The temple houses the sculptures of numerous Jain pilgrim places along with the images of the Tirthankaras.

One of the holiest Muslim shrines in Nashik, Badi Dargah was founded by Sadikshah Hussaini Baba. He came to Nashik around 400 years ago and was considered one of the holiest saints of that time. Legend says that even Emperor Shah Jahan came to Nashik to get a blessing from Sadikshah Baba and gifted him a Jagir. The saint was a strict vegetarian and was equally revered by both Muslims and Hindus. Even today, consuming meat is not allowed inside or in the premises of the Mosque. A festival honouring the death anniversary of Sadikshah Baba and Urs are the two festivals held here every year.
Darana Sangvi, located in the taluka Niphad is a small village on Nashik-Niphad road. It is 18 kms to the east of Nashik city. The village is located on the confluence of the rivers Godavari and Darana. A small Shiva temple is right at the confluence of the two rivers, believed to be constructed around the 16th - 17th century CE. However, there are remains suggesting there was an older temple at the same site, which was quite a bit larger than the present one. A few sculptural remains of the older temple are also preserved in the courtyard of the present Shiva temple. The remains of the earlier temple can clearly be seen behind the temple, suggesting the antiquity of the original structure. On the other side of the river is the village of Jogaltembhi. The distance between these two places is generally covered by boat. The location is picturesque and has remained quite clean as it is not popular with the city crowd.

Jogaltembhi, in the taluka Sinnar is situated on the right bank of the river Darana which meets Godavari at Jogaltembhi and has the village Darana Sangvi on the left bank. The rivers are perennially full of water and hence the region is quite green. The water is quite deep at the confluence. There is no road or bridge to cross the river, the villagers travel across by boat. Neat steps are constructed on the river bank at Jogaltembhi to reach the water. On the banks of the river is the Sangameshwar Teerthkshetra temple. The temple seems to have been constructed in around 18th century with a Shivalinga in the sanctum. The surrounding area has been developed into a very scenic tourist place. There are a few smaller shrines in the temple complex. This is a wonderful place for a cozy picnic, experiencing rural peace. If one wishes to go to Jogaltembhi by road then it is a longer circuit to cross the river by the Kotamgaon – Jakhori road. One would need to travel a distance of around 10 kms to reach Jogaltembhi. Jogaltembhi is also known in local history for the discovery of a huge hoard of nearly 13,250 ancient silver coins dating from the 1st century CE, in the year 1905. This significant find suggests the antiquity and former prestige of Jogaltembhi.

Jogaltembhi and Darana Sangvi can both be visited within a day. It is the ideal day-long outing for the whole family to enjoy a peaceful picnic in nature. Since these are small villages, as yet untouched by tourism, there are no restaurants, hotels or homestay facilities yet. You should carry your own food and drinks, and return to Nashik to stay the night.
### Paithani:

There’s no way we could talk of Nashik without giving pride of place to the gorgeous Paithani sarees that are woven in the Yeola Taluka of the district. With the state government setting up a Paithani Cluster to promote the saree, saree enthusiasts get a chance to marvel at the intricate artistry and skill that goes into making this much-coveted saree. There’s a lot to choose from, especially the collection of the award-winning Paithani maker Mahesh Bhandge who has his own outlet to sell the saree with both gold and silver zari.

### Silver-wise:

For over two centuries now, Nashik has been famous for its silverware, both in terms of purity and cost, given that there is a factory to make the finest stuff here. Take your pick from jewellery to accessories for your daily pooja, gift items and more. Generations of jewelers specialize in the craft, some of the noteworthy names in Saraf Bazar being: Takle Bandhu, Tejaswi Jewellers, Adgaonkar and Mirajkar Saraf etc. However, there are several lesser known jewelers who do a fine job too.

### Go for gold:

From jewellery inspired by the Shinde and Peshwa eras to other popular Maharashtrian designs, there’s a lot to choose from, both in 22 Karats and 24 Karats jewellery. Once again, check out the stuff at Takle Bandhu in Saraf Bazar, and Dande Alankar at Nashik road.

All gold is not the traditional yellow, however; choose from such eclectic imported shades of pink-rose red, chocolate, black and white at Trisha Rare crafts on Gangapur road.

### Pearl jewellery:

Names like Takle Bandhu, Vaishampayan Jewellers rule—the latter being famous for coloured pearl jewellery. Semi-coloured pearls may be found at Urvashi Alankar.

### Gem of a thought:

From astro-stones to wedding jewellery, there is a gemstone for various reasons and seasons. Go to Takle Gems and Jewellery, Tanishq and Trisha Rare Crafts.

Interestingly, jewellery made out of foaming material may also be found at Vaishampayan and Sonchafa Jewellers.

If you enjoy making your very own art and craft, the beads made by the traditional Jangam craftsman are must-haves. Take your pick from glass beads in all shades of the rainbow. Alternately, buy them from the Saraf Bazar and take them to your own jeweller back home to make your own designs.

Lace, sequins, Kundan stones for sewing onto your clothing and needlework creations may be found on Mahatma Gandhi Road.

Similarly, well-made pooja accessories may be found in the vicinity of various Nashik Jewellers.

Several shops in Bhandibazar deal with rare artifacts that are high on the aesthetic quotient, as well as paintings in various genres like Mixed Media, Modern art, Kalighati, Redwine and Miniature—to name a few.

For clothes and fabrics, make a beeline for shops like Harishchandra Jagjeevandas in Kapadpeth, and Khadi Bhandar on Dahipul.

The weekly market Budhwar Bazar that assembles every Wednesday sells everything from fruits and vegetables to grain, clothes, utensils, iron pans and farming tools.
Imagine yourself in the middle of endless rows of blooming flowers. Now imagine the unimaginable: this place being in Maharashtra.

Known as the Flower Valley of Maharashtra, Kaas Plateau in the Satara District is home to over 1,500 types of plants, 156 botanical families, 680 genera, 1452 species, 400 medicinal plants, and about 33 endangered varieties.

With over 200 destinations in Maharashtra, unique stories unfold at every destination. How many have you discovered?

Destination: Kaas Plateau, Satara, Maharashtra
Forts in Nashik District

Ashutosh Bapat
Photographs © Dhanashree Bapat
Forts in Nashik District

The Sahyadris have everything to offer to trekkers in the Nashik region. The Selbari-Dolbari ranges have the fort Salher which is the highest fort in Maharashtra and the sacred Jain connection at the Mangi-Tungi hills. The beautiful Satmala range, covers 16 forts in a row with vertical cliffs and long, lush green plateaus. The Trimbak range of the Sahyadris starts from the holy place of Trimbakeshwar, in which the river Godavari, the southern Ganga originates. A number of temples, caves, small settlements, religious and sacred sites are located on the shoulder of the Nashik district. The main Sahyadri ranges from north to south. However, these are sub-divided into smaller ranges, some running from east to west, making it easier to categorize the hills for various purposes. There may be some difference of opinion with respect to the sub-division of these ranges. Satmala, Galna, Selbari, Dolbari, Chanakapur, Dundheshwar, Trimbak, Nashik, Peth, Tringalwadi, Satmala and Patta are the ranges of the Sahyadri running in the Nashik district especially from east to west. Mangi-Tungi are not just forts but are also the prominent sacred hills in the Selbari range. They have beautiful Jain caves hewn out in a rock and is a must visit destination.

The distances from Nashik, given in the table are approximate and they may vary a little, but these distances are indeed useful to get an idea while planning any trek. Trekking in this region is flexible. From a one day trek to a week long trek, your hikes can be planned as per your free time. Most of the villages at the foothills of the fort are now well connected by road. The villagers are there to welcome trekkers and also one can get a local guide to ascend the fort. Food is not available on any of the forts but the villagers can make an arrangement for food with prior intimation. You will get simple but delicious local cuisine in these small villages. Do consider hiring a local guide and sourcing your meals from the villages, as your tourism will help sustain the village communities.

Trekkers should carry sunglasses and a proper cap or hat as most of the forts are barren and there is very little forest cover on the way up. Before climbing the fort it is always advisable to enquire with the locals about the route and availability of water on the fort. The villagers are the perfect advisors and their suggestions are often the most up to date and accurate. You can also camp overnight at some forts, please check with the local guides about whether or not it is possible for your chosen trek.

So enjoy your treks in Nashik, the Sahyadris are calling!
6. Mangi-Tungi
Twin peaks
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Selbari
Height from MSL: Mangi 1320 mtrs (4290 fts) Tungi 1331 mtrs (4326 fts)
Villages at foothills: Bhilwad
Distance from Nashik: 120 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Taharabad, Bhilwad
Approx time to climb: 3 hours
Difficulty level: Easy (Steps are constructed till the top)
Accommodation: No
Potable water on peaks: No
Best period to visit: June to March

7. Nhavigad
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Selbari
Height from MSL: 250 mtrs (4068fts)
Villages at foothills: Bhilwad
Distance from Nashik: 120 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Taharabad, Bhilwad
Approx time to climb: 2.5 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: No
Potable water on fort: No
Best period to visit: August to March

8. Mulher
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Dolbari
Height from MSL: 1300 mtrs (4225 fts)
Villages at foothills: Mulher Wadi
Distance from Nashik: 120 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Mulher Wadi, Taharabad
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Easy
Accommodation: Yes Someshwar and Ganesh temples
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: August to March

9. Moragad
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Dolbari
Height from MSL: 1300 mtrs (4225 fts)
Villages at foothills: Mulher Wadi
Distance from Nashik: 120 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Mulher Wadi, Taharabad
Approx time to climb: 3 hours
Difficulty level: Easy
Accommodation: No
Potable water on fort: No
Best period to visit: August to March

10. Hargad
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Dolbari
Height from MSL: 1340 mtrs (4355 fts)
Villages at foothills: Mulher Wadi
Distance from Nashik: 140 kms approx. (Waghambe)
Nearby ST stand: Mulher Wadi, Taharabad
Approx time to climb: 4 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: No
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: September to March

11. Salher (Highest fort in Maharashtra)
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Dolbari
Height from MSL: 1568 mtrs (5140 fts)
Villages at foothills: Salher Wadi, Waghambe
Distance from Nashik: 120 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Salher Wadi, Waghambe, Taharabad
Approx time to climb: 3 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: Yes 2 big caves.
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: August to March

12. Salota
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Dolbari
Height from MSL: 1350 mtrs (4390 fts)
Villages at foothills: Salher Wadi, Waghambe
Distance from Nashik: 120 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Salher Wadi, Waghambe, Taharabad
Approx time to climb: 3 hours
Difficulty level: Difficult
Accommodation: No
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: August to March (Avoid in Rain)

13. Bhilai
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Dolbari
Height from MSL: 1050 mtrs (3415 fts)
Villages at foothills: Dagadi sakode
Distance from Nashik: 120 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Dagadi sakode, Satana
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: Yes a small cave
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

14. Premgiri
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Chanakapur
Height from MSL: 1030 mtrs (3673 fts)
Villages at foothills: Wadi Choulher
Distance from Nashik: 110 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Tilvan, Satana
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: No
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

15. Choulher
Taluka: Baglan (Satana)
Range: Chanakapur
Height from MSL: 1030 mtrs (3673 fts)
Villages at foothills: Wadi Choulher
Distance from Nashik: 110 kms approx
Nearby ST stand: Tilvan, Satana
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: No
Potable water on fort: Yes at Moti take
Best period to visit: June to March

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16. **Pimpaladurg/Kandala**
   - **Taluka**: Baglan (Satana)
   - **Range**: Chanakapur
   - **Height from MSL**: 1130 mtrs (3673 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Pimpala, Vatode
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 110 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Dang soundane, Abhona
   - **Approx time to climb**: 2 hours
   - **Difficulty level**: Medium
   - **Accommodation**: Yes a small cave
   - **Potable water on fort**: Yes
   - **Best period to visit**: June to March

17. **Mohandar**
   - **Taluka**: Kalwan
   - **Range**: Chanakapur
   - **Height from MSL**: 1300 mtrs (4225fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Mohandari
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 58 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Nanduri
   - **Approx time to climb**: 1 hours
   - **Difficulty level**: Easy
   - **Accommodation**: NO
   - **Potable water on fort**: No
   - **Best period to visit**: September to March

18. **Dundha**
   - **Taluka**: Baglan (Satana)
   - **Range**: Dundheshwar
   - **Height from MSL**: 690 mtrs (2000 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Devalane, Dundhatalavade
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 110 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Devalane, Satana
   - **Approx time to climb**: 45 Minutes (Devalane), 2 hours (Dundhatalavade)
   - **Difficulty level**: Easy
   - **Accommodation**: Yes an Ashram for 8-10 persons
   - **Potable water on fort**: Yes at Dev take
   - **Best period to visit**: August to March

19. **Ajmera**
   - **Taluka**: Baglan (Satana)
   - **Range**: Dundheshwar
   - **Height from MSL**: 830 mtrs (2700 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Pahadeshwar
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 110 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Ajmer Soundane
   - **Approx time to climb**: 1 hours
   - **Difficulty level**: Easy
   - **Accommodation**: NO
   - **Potable water on fort**: No
   - **Best period to visit**: August to March

20. **Karha**
   - **Taluka**: Baglan (Satana)
   - **Range**: Dundheshwar
   - **Height from MSL**: 930 mtrs (2900 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Karha gaon
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 110 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Nampur, Satana
   - **Approx time to climb**: 2 hours
   - **Difficulty level**: Easy
   - **Accommodation**: NO
   - **Potable water on fort**: No
   - **Best period to visit**: August to March

21. **Bishta/ Bijotyacha killa**
   - **Taluka**: Baglan (Satana)
   - **Range**: Dundheshwar
   - **Height from MSL**: 1030 mtrs (3150 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Bijote, Kotbel
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 130 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Nampur, Satana
   - **Approx time to climb**: 2.5 hours
   - **Difficulty level**: Medium
   - **Accommodation**: NO
   - **Potable water on fort**: No
   - **Best period to visit**: August to March

22. **Tringalwadi**
   - **Taluka**: Igatpuri
   - **Range**: Tringalwadi
   - **Height from MSL**: 987 mtrs (3208 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Tringalwadi
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 60 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Igatpuri
   - **Approx time to climb**: 45 minutes
   - **Difficulty level**: Easy
   - **Accommodation**: NO
   - **Potable water on fort**: Yes
   - **Best period to visit**: June to March

23. **Kawnai**
   - **Taluka**: Igatpuri
   - **Range**: Tringalwadi
   - **Height from MSL**: 914 mtrs (2998 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Kawnai
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 40 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Igatpuri
   - **Approx time to climb**: 45 minutes
   - **Difficulty level**: Easy
   - **Accommodation**: Yes, a small cave
   - **Potable water on fort**: Yes
   - **Best period to visit**: June to March

24. **Basgad/ Bhaskargad**
   - **Taluka**: Trimbakeshwar
   - **Range**: Trimbak
   - **Height from MSL**: 1086 mtrs (3530 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Khochpada, Nirgudpada
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 48 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Trimbakeshwar
   - **Approx time to climb**: 2.5 hours
   - **Difficulty level**: Moderate
   - **Accommodation**: NO
   - **Potable water on fort**: Yes
   - **Best period to visit**: June to March

25. **Harihar/ Harshgad**
   - **Taluka**: Trimbakeshwar
   - **Range**: Trimbak
   - **Height from MSL**: 1110 mtrs (3607 fts)
   - **Villages at foothills**: Nirgudpada, Takeharsh
   - **Distance from Nashik**: 48 kms approx.
   - **Nearby ST stand**: Trimbakeshwar
   - **Approx time to climb**: 1 hours
   - **Difficulty level**: Moderate
   - **Accommodation**: Yes, a small structure
   - **Potable water on fort**: Yes
   - **Best period to visit**: June to March
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>These are twin forts</td>
<td>Taluka: Trimbakeshwar</td>
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<td>Taluka: Trimbakeshwar</td>
<td>Taluka: Trimbakeshwar</td>
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<td>Range: Trimbak</td>
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<td>Range: Nashik</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Height from MSL: 1294 mtrs (4206 fts)</td>
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<td>Height from MSL: 1300 mtrs (4225 fts)</td>
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<td>Villages at foothills: Trimbakeshwar</td>
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<td>Villages at foothills: Anjaneri</td>
<td>Villages at foothills:陈gadsgangavi, Vadivarhe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Distance from Nashik: 30 kms approx.</td>
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<td>Distance from Nashik: 21 kms approx.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nearby ST stand: Trimbakeshwar</td>
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<td>Nearby ST stand: Nashik</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Accommodation: Yes, Anjanimat Mandir</td>
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<td>Potable water on fort: Yes on Bhandurdurg</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Best period to visit: June to March (Avoid Bhandurdurg in Rainy season)</td>
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<td>Best period to visit: Through out the year</td>
<td>Best period to visit: Through out the year</td>
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<td>Taluka: Dindori</td>
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<tr>
<td>Height from MSL: 480 mtrs (1560 fts)</td>
<td>Height from MSL: 700 mtrs (2275 fts)</td>
<td>Height from MSL: 1050 mtrs (3413 fts)</td>
<td>Height from MSL: 985 mtrs (3201 fts)</td>
<td>Height from MSL: 1090 mtrs (3545 fts)</td>
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<td>Villages at foothills: Bhuvan, Tondval</td>
<td>Villages at foothills: Khairpali</td>
<td>Villages at foothills: Vaghera, Rajyihir</td>
<td>Villages at foothills: Ashewadi</td>
<td>Villages at foothills: Deherwadi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance from Nashik: 56 kms approx.</td>
<td>Distance from Nashik: 68 kms approx.</td>
<td>Distance from Nashik: 52 kms approx.</td>
<td>Distance from Nashik: 13 kms approx.</td>
<td>Distance from Nashik: 20 kms approx.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approx time to climb: 1.5 hours</td>
<td>Approx time to climb: 2 hours</td>
<td>Approx time to climb: 45 minutes</td>
<td>Approx time to climb: 1.5 hours</td>
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<td>Potable water on fort: Yes</td>
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<td>Best period to visit: June to March</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Bahula fort is in a firing range of Devalali Military camp. Firing is probably Closed on Sunday. To ascend the fort permission is required. For permission contact: Commandant, Artillery centre, Devalali camp, Dist. Nashik. Ask permission for Sunday.)
36. Haatgad
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1114 mtrs (3621 fts)
Villages at foothills: Haatgadwadi
Distance from Nashik: 83 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Vani, Nanduri
Approx time to climb: 45 minutes
Difficulty level: Easy
Accommodation: Yes
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

37. Achala
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1145 mtrs (3721 fts)
Villages at foothills: Pimpari achala, Bilwadi,
Distance from Nashik: 58 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Vani, Nanduri
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Easy
Accommodation: NO
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

38. Ahivant
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1223 mtrs (3975 fts)
Villages at foothills: Ahivant wadi, Bilwadi,
Distance from Nashik: 60 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Vani, Nanduri
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Easy
Accommodation: Yes
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

39. Saptashrung (Vanichi Devi)
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1420 mtrs (4615 fts)
Villages at foothills: Vani, Nanduri
Distance from Nashik: 60 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Vani, Nanduri
Approx time to climb: 30 minutes by road from Vani
Difficulty level: Easy
Accommodation: Yes
Potable water on fort: Throughout the year
Best period to visit: June to March

40. Markandya
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1420 mtrs (4615 fts)
Villages at foothills: Mulane bari, Nanduri, Babapur
Distance from Nashik: 56 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Vani, kalwan
Approx time to climb: 1.5 hours
Difficulty level: Easy
Accommodation: NO
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

41. Ravla-Javla Twin forts
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: Ravla 1332 mtrs (4329 fts)
Villages at foothills: Mulane bari, Babapur khind
Distance from Nashik: Javala 1236 mtrs (4017 fts)
Nearby ST stand: Vani, Nanduri
Approx time to climb: 3 hours
Difficulty level: Ravala – Difficult
Javala - Moderate
Accommodation: Yes at Tiwari vasti on plateau
Potable water on fort: Yes on plateau
Best period to visit: June to March

42. Kanheragad
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1100 mtrs (3575 fts)
Villages at foothills: Pimpari achala, Athambe, Sadadavihir
Distance from Nashik: 62 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Otur, Nanduri, kalwan
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: Yes
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

43. Dhodap
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1450 mtrs (4713 fts)
Villages at foothills: Hatti, Otur
Distance from Nashik: 70 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Otur, Dhodambe, kalwan
Approx time to climb: 3 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: Yes
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

44. Kanchana
Taluka: Kalwan
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1134 mtrs (3686 fts)
Villages at foothills: Kanchane, kheldari
Distance from Nashik: 70 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Chandwad
Approx time to climb: 2.5 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: Yes
Potable water on fort: Yes
Best period to visit: June to March

45. Koldeher
Taluka: Chandwad
Range: Satmala
Height from MSL: 1220 mtrs (3970 fts)
Villages at foothills: Tangadi, Rajdeherwadi
Distance from Nashik: 70 kms aprox.
Nearby ST stand: Chandwad
Approx time to climb: 2 hours
Difficulty level: Medium
Accommodation: NO
Potable water on fort: NO
Best period to visit: June to March
### 46. Rajdeher
- **Taluka**: Chandwad
- **Range**: Satmala
- **Height from MSL**: 1344 mtrs (4370 fts)
- **Villages at foothills**: Rajdeherwadi
- **Distance from Nashik**: 75 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Chandwad
- **Approx time to climb**: 1.5 hours
- **Difficulty level**: Medium
- **Accommodation**: Yes
- **Potable water on fort**: Yes
- **Best period to visit**: June to March

### 47. Indrai
- **Taluka**: Chandwad
- **Range**: Satmala
- **Height from MSL**: 1370 mtrs (4453 fts)
- **Villages at foothills**: Rajdeherwadi, Vadubare
- **Distance from Nashik**: 70 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Chandwad
- **Approx time to climb**: 2.5 hours
- **Difficulty level**: Medium
- **Accommodation**: Yes
- **Potable water on fort**: Yes
- **Best period to visit**: June to March

### 48. Chandwad
- **Taluka**: Chandwad
- **Range**: Satmala
- **Height from MSL**: 1199 mtrs (3900 fts)
- **Villages at foothills**: Chandwad
- **Distance from Nashik**: 65 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Chandwad
- **Approx time to climb**: 2 hours
- **Difficulty level**: Difficult
- **Accommodation**: No
- **Potable water on fort**: Yes
- **Best period to visit**: June to March

### 49. Mesana
- **Taluka**: Chandwad
- **Range**: Satmala
- **Height from MSL**: 300 (979 fts)
- **Villages at foothills**: Mesankhede
- **Distance from Nashik**: 85 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Chandwad, Manmad
- **Approx time to climb**: 1.5 hours
- **Difficulty level**: Easy
- **Accommodation**: NO
- **Potable water on fort**: NO
- **Best period to visit**: June to March

### 50. Katra
- **Taluka**: Chandwad
- **Range**: Satmala
- **Height from MSL**: 816 (1836 fts)
- **Villages at foothills**: Katarwadi
- **Distance from Nashik**: 96 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Manmad
- **Approx time to climb**: 1.5 hours
- **Difficulty level**: Easy
- **Accommodation**: NO
- **Potable water on fort**: NO
- **Best period to visit**: June to March

### 51. Ankai-Tankai Twin forts
- **Taluka**: Chandwad
- **Range**: Satmala
- **Height from MSL**: Ankai 961 mtrs (3123 fts), Tankai 854 mtrs (2776)
- **Villages at foothills**: Chandwad
- **Distance from Nashik**: 75 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Chandwad
- **Approx time to climb**: 2 hours
- **Difficulty level**: Easy
- **Accommodation**: Yes
- **Potable water on fort**: Yes
- **Best period to visit**: June to March

### 52. Manikpunj
- **Taluka**: Nandgaon
- **Range**: Satmala
- **Height from MSL**: 636 mtrs (2067 fts)
- **Villages at foothills**: Manikpunj
- **Distance from Nashik**: 96 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Manmad, Nandgaon
- **Approx time to climb**: 30 minutes
- **Difficulty level**: Easy
- **Accommodation**: NO
- **Potable water on fort**: NO
- **Best period to visit**: Throughout the year

### 53. Dubera
- **Taluka**: Sinnar
- **Range**: Patta
- **Height from MSL**: 795 (2584 fts)
- **Villages at foothills**: Duberwadi
- **Distance from Nashik**: 56 kms approx.
- **Nearby ST stand**: Sinnar
- **Approx time to climb**: 30 minutes
- **Difficulty level**: Easy
- **Accommodation**: NO
- **Potable water on fort**: YES
- **Best period to visit**: Throughout the year

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[Image of a fort entrance]
1. Pisol
2. Dermal
3. Galna
4. Kankrala
5. Malegaon
6. Mangi-Tungi Twin peaks
7. Nhavigad
8. Mulher
9. Moragad
10. Hargad
11. Salher (Highest fort in Maharashtra)
12. Salota
13. Bhilai
14. Premgiri
15. Choulher
16. Pimpaladurg/Kandala
17. Mohandar
18. Dundha
19. Ajmera
20. Karha
21. Bishta/ Bijotyacha killa
22. Tringalwadi
23. Kawnai
24. Basgad/ Bhaskargad
25. Harihar/ Harshgad
26. Trimbakgad-Bhandurdurg/Brahmagir/Shrigad
27. Anjaneri
28. Ranjanagiri
29. Ghargad/ Gadgadya
30. Bahula
31. Songir
32. Khairai
33. Vaghera
34. Ramsej
35. Deher
36. Haatgad
37. Achala
38. Ahivant
39. Saptashrung (Vanichi Devi)
40. Markandya
41. Ravla-Javla Twin forts
42. Kanheragad
43. Dhodap
44. Kanchana
45. Koldeher
46. Rajdeher
47. Indrai
48. Chandwad
49. Mesana
50. Katra
51. Ankai-Tankai Twin forts
52. Manikpunj
53. Dubera
Sandcastles unlimited

Sriwardhan

With 720 km of coastal line, the majestic blue sea and the white sands, this is what you would call nature’s art. With unlimited reasons like these, it’s only fair to say one trip is just not enough.
Excursions around Nashik

- Trimbakeshwar
- Vani
- Jain caves
- The Buddhist Circuit
- Temples
- Bird Sanctuary
- Vine and Wine

Scan this QR Code to read the article on your Smartphone or Tab
One of the holiest places that occupies 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. The ‘Kumbh Mela’ which is the largest mass Hindu pilgrimage, is held here every twelve years and the next one will take place in July 2015.
Surrounded by breath-taking natural beauty, Trimbakeshwar is just 28 kilometers away from Nashik city and it is here that the sacred river Godavari originates at Brahmagiri. You will find at Trimbakeshwar a huge kund (water tank) called the ‘Kushavarta’. It is symbolic of the origin of Godavari and hence considered a sacred bathing place for the Hindus. The temple of Trimbakeshwar is said to have been reconstructed by Peshwa Balaji Bajirao i.e. Nanasaheb Peshwa. The temple faces east and is constructed from stone. The mighty mountain, Brahmagiri, is just behind this temple.

Brahmagiri occupies a prominent place in the history of Trimbakeshwar and since Godavari has its actual origin from the top of this mountain, it is called Ganga Teerth. The water percolates from the rocks into a cave and emerges as a river. According to mythology, it was Shiva who made way for the
Godavari to flow from the locks of his hair, thereby making it so sacred. During the month of Shravan, a ‘parikrama’ of the Brahmagiri is performed as a ritual and thousands of devotees arrive here during the entire month.

On the Brahmagiri slopes is a cave called Nivruttinath, named after the elder brother of Sant Jnaaneshwar. It is believed that Nivruttinath got spiritual knowledge from his mentor in this particular cave. Trimbakeshwar has a large number of Brahmin households and is also a centre for Vedic ‘gurukuls’ (boarding schools where students learn the Vedas). It also has a number of ashrams devoted to Ashtanga Yoga, the Hindu art of living. It is also famous for lots of religious rituals such as Narayan Nagbali, Kalsarpa Shanti, Tripindi Vidhi, etc. Of these, the Narayan Nagbali ritual is performed only at Trimbakeshwar.

State transport buses ply almost every 10 minutes from Nashik to Trimbakeshwar. The nearest railhead is Nashik Road, just 35 kilometers away. Accommodation facilities at Trimbakeshwar are ample with many hotels and budget lodges. Some of the ashrams too provide simple staying arrangements at very affordable rates. Pure vegetarian food is available in several restaurants.

How to Reach

Distance from Mumbai: 170 kms

How to reach:

By Air: The nearest airport is at Mumbai.

By Rail: Nashik railway station is well connected.

By Road: Nashik is a 3 hour drive from Mumbai via NH3. MSRTC buses ply regularly between Nashik and other major cities nearby like Mumbai, Pune and Aurangabad.

Accommodation:

Nashik has ample number of hotels from the medium range to luxury hotels. MTDC has a resort at Trimbakeshwar, 28 km from Nashik. The MTDC Sanskriti resort has both rooms and dormitories.

Contact:

MTDC’s Sanskruti Holiday Resort, Near Nivruttinath Mandir, Trimbakeshwar, Nashik, (Maharashtra) India.

Contact Numbers:
+91 2594 233143
+91 98813 29390
+91 98233 84008

Email Address:
mtdcsanskritiresort.trimbak@gmail.com
The Saatmala-Ajintha range of the Sahyadris is famous for its 14 hill forts. It is also a trekker’s paradise. But there is more to it than that. Situated in this hill range is Vani, known as Saptashrungi, which is a devotee’s delight for its temple on the hill and a huge 8-feet tall rock-cut highly ornamented image of Goddess Durga. The faithful come here in huge numbers throughout the year to have ‘darshan’ and also soak in the ambience of rugged nature.

Vani is located in Nanduri village, Kalwan taluka, 60 kilometers from Nashik and is a part of the mountain range that starts from Hatgad in Nashik district and ends up at the great Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad district. Goddess Saptashrungi Mata resides on one of such mountains. Vani is also known as Saptashrungi because it is generally regarded to be a half ‘shakti peetha’ out of the famous three and a half shakti peethas in Maharashtra. It is also said that there are seven peaks where the goddess dwells, and that is how she gets the name Saptashrungi. The reference of this place as a shakti peetha can be seen in the Devi Bhagavata Purana.
The temple, dedicated to Durga, is two-storied and you have to climb around 500 steps to reach it. Interestingly, the steps were built way back in 1710 CE and you can see the figures of Ram, Hanuman, Radha, Krishna, Dattatreya and a tortoise carved out besides the rock-cut steps. The ‘devi’ here is said to be ‘swayambhu’ (self-manifested). There are many mythological stories of Mahishasuramardini, Shiva and Sati associated with this place. One version states that the shakti peethas were formed due to the falling of body parts of the corpse of Sati Devi when Lord Shiva carried it and wandered around the world in deep sorrow.

The goddess is eight-armed and thus called ‘ashtabhuja’. The tall image is covered with ‘sindoor’. She possess many attributes in her arms: the ‘Trishula’ (trident) of Shiva; the ‘Sudarshan Chakra’ of Vishnu; the ‘shankha’ (conch) of Varuna; the flames of Agni; the bow and arrow of Vayu; the ‘Vajra’ (thunderbolt) and ‘ghanta’ (bell) of Indra; the ‘danda’ (cudgel) of Yama; the ‘akshamala’ (string of beads) of Daksha; the ‘kamandalu’ (water pot) of Brahma; the rays of the sun, the sword and shield of Kali; the ‘parashu’ (axe) of Vishvakarma; and the wine cup of Kubera along with a ‘gada’ (mace), lotus, lance and ‘pasha’ (noose).

Vani is connected by the State Highway 17(SH 17) which joins the National Highway (NH3) that links Nashik with the temple site near the villages of Vani and Nanduri. There is a proper road from Nanduri to Vani and adequate bus facilities. In the middle of the mountain just before the rock-cut caves is a small village where accommodation is available in small lodges at a reasonable price. There are restaurants to serve food. However, be prepared for water scarcity in the months of April and May. Alternatively, you can stay in Nashik because of its proximity.

**Distance from Mumbai:** 230 kms

**How to reach:**
- **By Air:** The nearest airport is at Mumbai.
- **By Rail:** Nashik Road is the nearest railway station which is at 70 kms.
- **By Road:** CBS, Nashik is 10 kms from Nashik Road railway station from where ST buses ply frequently.

**Attractions**

**Enjoy the Pournima Festival**

On Chaitra Pournima day a grand ‘yatra’ is taken out through Vani to celebrate the occasion and as a mark of respect to the goddess. A flag is hoisted on the top of the peak of Vani on this day by the temple priest. Huge numbers of devotees, especially from the Khandesh region, attend this ceremony. The tribal residents of the surrounding hilly region hold a fair to sell ayurvedic medicine.

**Go for a Trek**

The surrounding mountainous landscape of Vani is a haven for trekkers, primarily due to the presence of the 14 hill forts in the Satmala range. However, some of these treks can be arduous and not for the faint-hearted. Prepare yourself well with adequate gear and take local guides if necessary. There is also a path through the forest used by pilgrims and preferred by trekkers, to do ‘Parikrama’ around the temple.

**Discover Monsoon Magic**

Visiting Vani during the rains can be a different experience altogether. The region receives heavy rainfall and the green cover on the hills springs alive to the sound of numerous waterfalls.
Jain caves in Nashik

Manjiri Bhalerao
Photographs © Parag Purandare, Monish Chakraborty, Dhanashree Bapat

Ankai Tankai

The caves at Ankai Tankai are located in the midst of two hills known by the same name i.e. Ankai Tankai. They are 20 km from the Manmad railway station. In fact, Ankai and Tankai are the names of twin forts situated next to each other. The caves have been excavated on the ascent to the connecting ridge of the Ankai-Tankai hills and on the way to the fort, at the height of around 30m to 40m above the plain. They are a group of 10 Jain caves, made in approximately the 12th century CE. Architecturally, these caves are very fine excavations with well-laid out ground plans, decorative doorways and pillars, elaborate ceilings, ornate facades, and plinths with well-defined mouldings. Caves I and II are grand, double storied excavations, while Cave III is most ornate. Compared to the first three caves, other caves are less ornate except doorways in some cases. All of them contain images of the Jain Teerthankaras. Apart from these caves, there are three more Brahmanical caves on the hill. These are earlier than the Jain caves at the site and are dated to the 10th-11th century CE.

Chamaraleni

Chamaraleni (also known as Chambharaleni) caves are situated about 8 kms from Nashik city. They are carved on the top of a hill near the village of Mhasarul. These 10th – 11th century CE Digambara Jain caves contain the images of Parshwanatha, Mahavira, other Teerthankaras, Yakshas and Yakshninis and more. These images have been renovated heavily by the modern Jaina devotees. They have been applied with black plaster and thus their appearance has changed a lot. There are also a few modern constructions at the top of the cave. This is a very sacred site and is a part of the Teertharaja Gajapanth. There are good steps constructed on the hill to reach the top. From the top one can see the picturesque surroundings clearly.
Mangi Tungi

The caves at Mangi Tungi are a popular and prominent Digambara Jaina tirtha, at least since the 12th -13th century CE. They are also famously known as ‘Siddhakshetra’, where legendary beings and 99 crore Jaina munis are believed to have achieved nirvana. These hills are the highest in Nashik district, Mangi reaching up to a height of 1,326 meters and Tungi up to 1,323 meters. The hills are connected by a narrow ridge and the most interesting facet of the hills is their peculiar shapes. Conically-shaped, both these peaks have completely bare and perpendicular surfaces, which is what makes them so distinct. But apart from the hills in themselves, the site is visited by tourists around the year for the Jaina caves and hundreds of Jaina icons carved on the rock face of the peaks. These caves and icons are believed to have been cut over a long period during the 9th to 15th century CE.

The exploration of the caves begins with the two Jaina caves at a height of around 150 meters on the southern face of Mangi hill. These have about 80 icons. Climbing up the hill, you reach the base of the Mangi peak, surrounding which are five caves and around 135 icons carved directly on the rock face. Crossing the narrow ridge between the peaks, you reach the base of Tungi peak, which has two caves and eight icons on the rock face.

The icons inside the caves and on the rock face mainly consist of rows and rows of Jina figures along with a large number of figures of monks and some devotees. There is a very narrow and precarious path around these peaks that one needs to follow to see the icons on the rock face but there’s nothing to fear since a parapet wall has been constructed for safety. The ideal time to see the caves is at the break of dawn when the first rays of the sun light up the icons.

At the bottom of Mangi Tungi there is a Digambar Jain Siddhakshetra, which provides accommodation at an affordable cost with boarding facilities. For older pilgrims or the physically disabled, it is possible to be carried up in a sedan chair or ‘doli’ to go to the Mangi Tungi caves.
Pandavleni in Nashik

Nashik, located in the district of the same name, is an ancient town on the banks of river Godavari. Since time immemorial it has been a sacred place for all the important religions and religious sects in India. Today it is frequently visited by devotees throughout the year also due to its proximity to Trimbakeshwar, one of the 12 jyotirlingas, or holy Shiva temples in India. At Nashik, are also found some Buddhist caves that belong to one of the most important groups of monuments for the period circa the 1st century BCE to circa the 6th century CE and attest to the significance Nashik has held from ancient times.

The location of the Buddhist caves on the Nashik - Mumbai highway going to North India also indicates the importance of the site chosen for the caves, locally known as the Pandavleni. But the real name of the hill into which they were carved is Trirashmi, as can be seen through the inscriptions in the caves. The caves are located 8 kilometers to the west of Nashik, now a modern and bustling city. Not so conspicuous earlier, the caves are now easily discernible because of a memorial constructed in the memory of India’s pioneer in filmmaking, the late Dadasaheb Phalke, a museum of the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra State and a modern stupa nearby.

The Pandavleni consists of a group of 24 Buddhist caves with 27 inscriptions still preserved. The inscriptions have helped researchers understand the political, socio-economic and religious conditions that existed in ancient India. These Buddhist caves at Nashik are believed to be trendsetters in some respect in the history of rock-cut architecture of India and present a fascinating insight into the social, political and economic conditions in India during the period when the land was under the rule of various kings and there existed a strong influence of Buddhism.

One of the most impressive of the lot is cave No. 18, a chaityagriha i.e. a prayer hall with a
Vipassana is to see things as they really are. This age old technique of meditation was practiced in ancient India. The same technique was reintroduced by S. N. Goenka in the tradition of Sayagi U B Khin. Vipassana is the process of self purification. This purification is achieved by self observation. Ultimately one experiences the universal truths of impermanence, suffering. This realization of the truth ultimately results in mental purification. Even though it was promoted by Buddhism in ancient times, today it is free of any religious or sectarian affiliation. There is no conflict with any religion in the world.

The centre at Igatpuri conducts various courses in the Vipassana training throughout the year. According to the tradition of pure Vipassana, courses are run solely on a donation basis. Donations are accepted only from those who have completed at least one ten-day course with S.N. Goenka or one of his assistant teachers. Someone taking the course for the first time may give a donation for future courses on the last day of the course or any time thereafter.

Accommodation: You should plan on staying overnight at either Nashik or Igatpuri, where there are multiple choices for accommodation to suit a range of budgets.

Vipassana Centre, Igatpuri
Nashik has also become well known because of the Vipassana International Academy located at Igatpuri. Igatpuri is 40 kms South West of the city of Nashik on the Mumbai – Agra high way. Igatpuri is also approachable from Mumbai and is located to 120 kms to the North East of Mumbai. It was established in 1976 with the objective of conducting Vipassana courses for those seeking spiritual healing. This centre, named as Dhammagiri, is 40 kms away from the city on the Mumbai – Agra road. Dhamma Giri, means ‘Hill of Dhamma’. It is one of the world’s largest meditation centres.

Present Condition
Some caves like No. 10 and No. 11 underwent some changes in around 11th – 12th century CE. As the caves were deserted long before this period, images of the Tirthankaras and other Jaina deities were carved on the front wall and in the interior of these caves. Similarly, after some time when the Jaina devotees also left the site, carvings were made of Hanuman, Ganesha and Shivalingas. People thus forgot about the association of these caves with the Buddhists and started calling them Pandavleni under the impression that the human sculptures were those of the Pandavas. It is a belief that has been strongly adhered to for a long time now.

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Accommodation: Igatpuri has become very famous worldwide as numerous tourists come to visit the Dhamma Giri and participate in the meditation course. There are many hotels in the town which can provide accommodation. Since Igatpuri is not very far from Mumbai and has nature at its best, many tourists come to Igatpuri to spend their weekends or vacations.
The medieval temples within the ancient Seunadesha i.e. the present region of Nashik, Dhule and Jalgaon range from the 11th century C.E to the 14th century C.E. In the span of a weekend, one can take a close look at beautiful temples constructed in the Yadava period from the 12th-13th centuries within the Nashik region.

The early history of Nashik reveals that the region presently covered by the Nashik region was ruled by the Satavahanas, the Vakataka, the Kalachuris, the Rashtrakutas, the Shilaharas and the imperial Yadavas. This area does not possess any structural temples of early medieval period leading one to believe that the earliest structural temples in this region were built in the 11th century C.E. The later Chalukyas, the Yadavas and the feudatories of both fostered the growth of structural architecture in this region. Most temples in this area are built along the same general plan, although their size and external decorations vary. The three finest temples to visit in this circuit are at Jhodge, Dhabambe and Devlane respectively.

The Mahadev temple at Jhodge

The town Jhodge is 128 kms from Nashik. To the west of Jhodge, stands the temple of Mahadev along with a smaller shrine dedicated to Vishnu. Based on its architectural style and features it can be dated to the first half of the 12th century C.E. It consists of three Garbhagrihas each preceded by an antarala and a common closed hall. The square shrine and the hall make it a chaturasara temple. The shrine is plain and has a niche in the centre of its back wall to contain possibly the image of Parvati, and in the centre of the floor it contains a large Linga. The antechamber has a ceiling of diminishing squares and lozenge-shaped squares. There are eight bracket figures of dancing women and musicians in the ceiling. On its exterior the mandovara is full of sculptures which contains the images
of Bhairava, Mahakali etc. also the figures of musicians, mithunas and dancers. In two of the principal niches are the images of Natesa and Bhairava. These niches are capped by Gajalakshmi panels. The ashtadikpalas have been niched at the base of the tower. In the centre of all the four sides of the sikharas are bands with intricate tracery at the bottom of which are two niches one above the other.

**Temples at Dhodambe**

This village is at the foothills of the fort Dhodap, in the Satmala range of the Sahyadris. The cliffs and the unique rock forma-
tions attract trekkers throughout the year. The temples at this village dedicated, to Vishnu and Shiva, are known as Chandreshvara and Vateshvara respectively and belong to the first half of the 12th century C.E. They stand side by side and both consist of a garbhagriha, the antarala and the sabha mandapa; however the Vateshvara temple is larger in size. The main attraction of the temple is its sikhara though profusely repaired, consists of Urushringas like the Nagarita type of sikhara which are rarely seen in this region. The legendary scene of Lord Krishna subjugating the cobra demon Kaliya is carved on the ceiling of the porch of Chandreshvara temple. Lord Krishna is depicted riding on Kaliya, and is shown surrounded by six naga wives, some of whom are shown with Namaskara mudras chanting the prayer of Krishna.

**The Tridala temple at Devlane**

Village Devlane is just 84 kms from Nashik. The Jogeshvara temple at Devlane belongs to the second half of the 12th century C.E. All the three shrines here are rebuilt in a plain manner like the subsidiary shrines of the Mahadev temple of Jhodge. The main shrine faces the east. The astylar mandapa resembles the mandapa of the same type at Kothali in Vidarbha. The pillars have Kichaka or nagashirshakas on their brackets and arabease facets on the four faces of their bases. The central circular panel of the ceiling has the depiction of Krishna and the gopis. The exterior consisting of various mouldings has become noteworthy because of Hans thara which is very rarely found on the basement of the temples in the Deccan. The façade of the porch is elegantly carved and flanked by niches on either side containing an image of Shiva above which comes the back rest of the benches in the porch. Also one can see carvings of musicians and the mithunas on the exterior of the porch.

To visit these three beautifully carved temples of the Yadava period one can spend one day or two as per the convenience. After breakfast start towards Jhodge via Malegaon which is 135 kms from Nashik and it takes about an hour and a half to drive there. Visit the masterpiece in Yadava architecture, the Mahadev temple at Jhodge, and then afterwards drive towards Devlane via Malegaon-Lakhamapur. Visit the Devlane temple and halt at Satana for lunch which is just 12 kms away. Satana is a prominent taluka place and has an ample choice of accommodation as well as restaurants. After lunch drive, towards Dhodambe via Devla-Vajgaon-Kanakpur. Visit the two beautiful temples at Dhodambe. After that your return journey will start towards Nashik. Drive to Vadali Bhoi, a village on Nashik Malegaon road and then drive towards Nashik which is 60 kms away and takes just 45 minutes to reach. In this circuit, the land fort of Malegaon, the hill fort at Dhodap can also be added as per your interest. If you would like to visit these forts, add a second day to your itinerary. Malegaon and Satana are the major towns and have ample options of hotels and restaurants.
It was an early January morning that a few of us went for a Birding trip that we had all so longed to make. The promise of an exhaustive bird list, a rich marsh wetland and a beautiful landscape – no wonder all of us were fully awake early on the cold morning and ready with our cameras and binoculars. Needless to mention, by evening none of us was disillusioned even one bit. Ducks, waders and birds of prey - migrants and residents alike in large numbers enthralled us. By the way, I am not talking of a visit to Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary. In fact, we had not left the borders of Maharashtra. We were in Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary close to Nashik.

The Sanctuary is a part of the back-waters of the dam formed at the confluence of Godavari and Kadwa rivers, and is spread over 10,000 hectares. Of this, 1765 hectares forms the core area— the sanctum sanctorum of the Sanctuary. This is where a pristine bird habitat has been formed by the tall grasses and typha reeds. This protected habitat is where the birds come in from far and near in huge numbers – something that has been noticed by the birdwatchers who too descend from far and near. Now even the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) has acknowledged this fact and provided Nandur Madhmeshwar the status of Important Waterfowl Habitat. Many birdwatchers have even referred to it as the Bharatpur of Maharashtra. However, Nandur Madhmeshwar is unique in its own way and comparisons would do no justice to this bio-diversity rich wetland.

The spread of the shallow backwaters has been formed by a stone bund structure that was built during 1907 – 13 period. Over the years, large deposits of silt have created organically rich small islands and shallow water ponds supporting diverse aquatic vegetation. This in turn has harboured a rich aquatic insect and fish population. Little wonder, the birds in different attires find a strong reason to party here.

Another reason for the rich birdlife is also the diversity of habitats. The surrounding scrublands and plantations gently merge into the vast lands that open up after waters recede and get converted into grasslands and agricultural fields.

We started our exploration, armed with our binoculars, zoom lens cameras and long legged tripods. Large flocks of migratory godwits rose up in a dense cloud and pratincole groups flew in spectacular unison sometimes appearing white as all their bellies faced us - to suddenly change colour, now showing off their backs. Then there were waders like shanks, stilts and sandpipers walking in the shallow waters – probing the mud with their beaks... and suddenly breaking into a trot, chasing a tiny prey. There was a flock of Brahminy ducks, true to the mythological stories attached to them – stayed in pairs. They are referred to as Chakravaks and have for long been known to pair for life.

A little away was a group of ducks - garganey teals, pin tails, shovellers, mallards and pochards on an exposed mud-bank. Some of them seemed to be enjoying a morning siesta tucking their heads into their feathers, while others were busy preening to keep their feathers in good shape. One look at these fat hen shaped birds would make a novice believe that he could run and catch these apparent flightless birds. Wrong target lad... Ducks can fly extremely well and geese, just a little more bulkier than ducks are unbelievably the highest flying birds. They have been seen flying well over 30,000 feet – where only modern aircrafts fly and that too at temperatures as low as minus 30 centigrade. Birds have not only fascinated us – they have often left us speechless.
Nashik has been a very holy city since ancient times. It has been so for all the major religions of India. Numerous religious monuments were excavated as well as constructed in and around Nashik. Out of them three cave sites are very important to suggest the significant presence of Jainism in this region for at least one thousand years. These caves were excavated for the Digambar Jain Munis and all of them are located on the top of the high hills.

Nandur Madhmeshwar Bird Sanctuary

Anirudh Chaoji
Photographs © Anirudh Chaoji, Satish Gogate
Suddenly, one of us noticed a head towering over the tall grass ahead of where we were then. Crane!! He closed his mouth to exclaim. Soon we were all on all fours - on the ground and crawling up in wet mud, slowly inching forward to have a better view of these regal birds. And to our surprise they were not just one, not two, not three… twelve common cranes in all. They seemed to be totally unaware of our presence and allowed us to photograph them for a long time. These cranes too pair for life. In fact, if one of the birds dies, the other almost never pairs again. And in a few cases the mate is known to have died of starvation.

After photographing these beautiful birds, we moved back behind the tall grasses, ensuring that we did not disturb these elegant flying machines any further. Later we decided to search for some rulers of Nandur Madhmeshwar skies. We were told by our local friends that they had often seen osprey swooping fish off the water surface. Osprey however did not oblige us just as yet. Instead we watched a marsh harrier fly over the tall grass reeds – sending huge flocks of ducks, waders and many unidentifiable birds flying for their lives. Marsh harriers are known
not only to relish fish, but also enjoy servings of small birds. Instead of cursing the marsh harrier, we thanked it for giving us a glimpse of what lay concealed in the safety of the tall reeds. We tried extrapolating the numbers of the birds flushed out to the whole wetland - to put a conservative estimate to over 10,000 birds. There can be many experts who claim to have seen many more than our “small” numbers. But seeing a small portion of this large number itself was a memorable experience for us.

Enumerating all the birds on a water body is an extremely difficult task. But sustained efforts need to be made to study Nandur Madhmeshwar’s species and numbers, to ensure it is bestowed the prestigious status of Maharashtra’s first Ramsar site. BNHS and WWF-India have been instrumental in getting this beautiful water body into public domain. Only when such bird heavens get people’s attention, will efforts be made for their conservation.

By now we were just packing up our lenses and equipment when a friend called out Osprey!!! We left all our work and ran in that general direction. Ahead of us on a pole was sitting an awesome bird of prey. There was no point going back to our bags to pull out our cameras. All of us just shared a binocular pair to enjoy the sight. Ospreys on a water body are equivalent of a tiger in a jungle. Both these animals indicate a good health of their ecosystem.

Nandur Madhmeshwar will always remain deeply etched in our memories. Hopefully some day, we will come back to improve our bird count and also hopefully contribute in getting it conferred with its well deserved status of a Ramsar Wetland.
Travelling by road in the heart of Maharashtra – through the districts of Latur, Nashik, Osmanabad, Pune, Sangli, Satara and Solapur - the land undulates gently, water bodies shimmer and a crop of rugged mountains straddles the road and horizon every now and then. Acres of vineyards meet the eye in pockets and rows of trellis’ securely supporting grape vines carpet the land in mesmerizing patterns. And even as the stretches of green soothe the eyes, a visit to a winery standing along vineyards and sampling different wines there makes for an informative, enjoyable and heart-warming experience.
Maharashtra
Vine and Wine Country!

Brinda Gill
Photographs © Sula Vineyards and Fratelli Winery
Beyond Resorts, Sula Vineyards
Table and Wine Grapes

While table grape varieties - that are eaten as fruit - have been traditionally grown in Maharashtra since 1925 at Ozar, the founding of Chateau Indage in Narayangaon in the early 1980s spurred farmers to learn more about wine grapes specific to the production of wines. The setting up of Sula Vineyards in Nashik in 1999, followed by several other wineries around Nashik and others near Baramati, Pune, Latur, Sangli and Solapur – spread an awareness and interest in growing wine grape varieties that in turn encouraged the production of wines in the state.

In this way, swathes of land transformed into idyllic stretches of wine grape vineyards. Vines of wine grape varieties were planted keeping in mind the terroir (that is climate, soil structure, topography of the land and other aspects) to produce quality and flavourful fruit that in turn produces quality and flavourful wines. The result is that grapes are amongst the most important commercial crops grown in the Nashik region with a total cultivated area of around 1.75 lakh acres; wine grapes are grown on estates owned by wineries and also by contract farmers who supply grapes to wineries.

As grape growing regions in Maharashtra enjoy good sunshine, long daylight hours and cool nights during winters - thus enjoying a difference of up to 20°C between day and night temperatures - the fruits ripen well with a good acidity and fruit flavours. Harvesting these grapes and producing wines from them has given wine lovers a choice of sparkling, white, rosé and red wines. The variety of wines, the volume of wines being produced and the number of wineries - there are over 30 wineries in the state producing around 10 million litres of wine - has made Maharashtra the leading producer of wines in India.

And in the process, the Nashik region has come to be called India’s Napa Valley, Nashik the Wine Capital of India and wine tourism has emerged as a new experience for travellers. Among the most prominent wineries in Maharashtra is Sula, the largest producer of wines in India, Charosa Vineyards, Grover-Zampa Vineyards, Nine Hills, Somanda Vineyards & Resorts Private Limited, Vintage Wines and Vallonné Vineyards, in Nashik; Fratelli Wines, at Akurl, near Solapur, and Four Seasons Wines Limited, at Baramati, near Pune.
An Array of Wine Varieties and Styles

Over time, wine production has increased and different grape varieties have come to be planted in Maharashtra. With a growing variety and volume of wine production, India has joined the league of New World wine countries. Traditional wine growing regions of Europe are referred to as Old World and the countries that started growing wine grapes and producing wine later -like Argentina, Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa and United States- are referred to as New World. Walking through vineyards in India, names of wine grape varieties—Chenin Blanc, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, Merlot, Zinfandel among others—are written on board marking sections of vineyards.

Keeping in mind the tastes of new wine drinkers as well as wine connoisseurs, wineries are producing a range of wines from sweet and simple to wines that are dry and complex, and planting newer grape varietals for expanding their range of wines. And a few enterprising wineries have also gone a step ahead by planting lesser known wine grape varieties like Grillo and Nero D’Avola, both popular Sicilian wines, and Sangiovese that grows in Chianti (Italy), planted by Vintage Wines producing wines by the label Reveilo, based in Nipahad, near Nashik, and Tempranillo, planted by Grover-Zampa Vineyards, at Sanjeegaon, near Nashik.

Winery Tours, Tastings and Wine-Food Experiences!

Once you have reached a winery, set in its own vineyards, there is nothing like sitting back and taking in the view of the soothing spread of green of acres of vineyards. Yet, a walk through the vineyards and the winery, a wine tasting session and a grape crushing experience offers a feel of the wine culture of the region. Tours typically take visitors to the vineyards to show them how vines are grown, explain viticultural practices, how yield per vine is limited to obtain fruit that has concentrated flavours, and how fruit is sampled to know if it is ready for harvest to be made into wine.

Visitors then move to the winery to learn how wine is made right from the arrival of harvested grapes through the fermentation process to the ageing and bottling of wines. With its imposing stainless steel tanks—some of which have a capacity of 22,000 litres, and a quiet basement cellar with rows of oak barrels (for maturing select wines, rounding the tannins, and producing refined and complex wines) with wines being aged undisturbed, a winery tour is most educative. And the tour is invariably wrapped up with delightful tasting sessions of different wines with small wedges of cheese or crackers between samplings with the tour guide sharing details of how to assess a wine based on its colour, aroma, flavours and finish.

Some wineries like Sula and Somanda Vineyards at Gangapur, Nashik, and Fratelli at Akhij, Solapur, have regular winery and vineyard tours, and others allow visitors after permission. Sula Vineyards—with its winery and vineyard tours, atmospheric stone Tasting Cellar, and Tasting Room overlooking vineyards—is the most popular winery destination. Somanda Winery also on the Gangapur Road has a restaurant overlooking the vineyards where visitors can enjoy wine and food. And Fratelli has a breezy pavilion with a sweeping view of the countryside where guests can enjoy a leisurely home-style lunch. Wines are offered for sale at some wineries and Sula has a souvenir store with T-shirts, corkscrews, stemware and ice buckets available for sale.
The Buzz of Harvest!

Visits to vineyards and wineries are most enjoyable in the monsoons when the air is cool, the landscape lush and the vineyards green as well as in the late winter when the painstakingly tended vines bear fruit that is ready for harvest. A walk through the vineyards in winter and especially during the harvest phase is a delight: the gentle fragrance of the soil, the soft earth below the feet, the warmth of the winter sunshine offer a charming experience as does experiencing the activities of harvest.

Grape harvesting starts around January and can carry on till late March specially for harvesting well ripened Chenin Blanc grapes to be used for making the late harvest wine sweet dessert-style wine. During the harvest season the vineyards are abuzz with people carefully clipping grape clusters and placing them in containers in the cool of the morning. The grapes are then quickly conveyed to the winery for crushing that commences the winemaking process, that transforms the berries into wine over the ensuing months. Once at the winery, the grapes are deftly sorted, crushed and pressed in sophisticated machines. For white wines the skin and seeds are discarded, and for red wines the skins are soaked with the juice to extract colour, flavours and tannins. After crushing, the process of fermentation commences in large steel tanks according to the methods followed by the winery.

If you are visiting at that time of the year when the grape juice is undergoing fermentation and if you stand close to the huge tanks you may hear bubbles of carbon dioxide inside rising to the top of the tank! These soft sounds speak about the wine making process that involves the action of yeast on sugar in the wine juice that results in alcohol and carbon dioxide. A winery staff may open the tap of the tank and pour a small serving for a visitor to taste straight off the tank. And as one sees, swirls, sniffs, sips and savours the wine, one also savours the unique experience that is wine tourism. India may have a relatively young wine culture, yet wineries are offering visitors a thoroughly enjoyable way of getting acquainted with it!

Plan your visit

Travellers can visit wineries on their own or take a tour with a tour operator. If travelling on your own, it is helpful to call and take an appointment.

Sula Vineyards, Gangapur, Nashik:
Please visit www.sulawines.com for details to visit.

Beyond resort managed by Sula is a lovely place to stay.

Fratelli winery and vineyards has good accommodation and facilities. http://www.fratelliwines.in/

How to Reach

Distance from Mumbai: 170 kms

How to reach:

By Air: The nearest airport is at Mumbai.

By Rail: Nashik railway station is well connected.

By Road: Nashik is a 3 hour drive from Mumbai via NH3. MSRTC buses ply regularly between Nashik and other major cities nearby like Mumbai, Pune and Aurangabad.

Accommodation:

Nashik has ample number of hotels from the medium range to luxury hotels.

MTDC has a resort at Trimbakeshwar, 28 km from Nashik. The MTDC Sanskriti resort has both rooms and dormitories.

Contact:
MTDC’s Sanskriti Holiday Resort. Near Nivruttinath Mandir. Trimbakeshwar, Nashik, (Maharashtra) India.

Contact Numbers:
+91 2594 233143
+91 98813 29390
+91 98233 84008

Email Address: mtdecankskritiresort.trimbakeshwar@gmail.com
A shower of wonderful memories

It’s the monsoon, and Maharashtra is calling. Refresh your senses in the company of your loved ones as you soak up the endless greenery, and enjoy special moments in pure, natural environs. Get drenched in new experiences, come and be showered with magical memories that will stay forever fresh in your heart.

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Rahul Rao
Sachin Naik
Pallavi Ghaskadbi
Hemant Pokharankar
Atul Kajale
Anand & Madhura Katti
Suhas Asnikar
Saili K. Palande-Datar
Sunil Gokarn
Jyoti Rane
Yogesh Prabhudesai
Parag Purandare
Samir Madhani
Umakant Raninga
Vilas Jadhav
CSMVS
Judhajit Bagchi &
Ranadeep Bhattacharyya

www.maharashtratourism.gov.in
Stay indoors when it rains. Well, that’s what the general advice would be. However, we beg to differ. Step out and explore a different world altogether when the skies open and the heavy grey clouds unleash a torrent of water. There’s nothing to beat nature springing to life in all its pristine glory when the monsoon season takes over. The hitherto brown hills that have baked in the sun for about four months begin to turn green, flowers bloom from the unlikeliest of nooks and crannies, a carpet of green grass welcomes you, waterfalls beckon you to experience that exhilarating feeling, and the misty ambience brings to fore the spirit of romance, adventure and liberation. So here are the places in Maharashtra which you can put down on your itinerary for the four months of June to September when the rain pitter-patters or thunders down.

While visiting the Kumbh Mela at Nashik could be your top priority, it would also offer a perfect excuse to explore the rest of the state, notwithstanding the rains. In fact, there are many places of tourist interest which particularly come alive during the monsoon.

Rain, Rain, Come Again!
When does a dam across a river look the best? Of course when the water level rises to the brim, the sluice gates are opened and a huge wall of water tumbles down to the other side. To witness this sight, visit Bhandardara. Nestled among the Sahyadri Hills, Bhandardara has all the makings of a beautiful landscape surrounded by mountain ranges, roaring waterfalls and lush greenery everywhere, not to forget the more than 100 years’ old Wilson Dam. Situated at a height of 150 meters above sea level, it is a powerful testimony to the engineering skills in practice during the British era. When the water level of the dam rises above the acceptable limits, especially during the monsoon, one of the gates of the Wilson Dam is opened. And this rush of water cascading over the rocks creates an artificial waterfall which, being umbrella shaped, is so named.

The bonus is that on a full moon night you can get a beautiful reflection of the Kalsubai peak in the backwaters of the Wilson Dam – a spectacular vision indeed! Bhandardara is located to the north of Ahmednagar district in Akole tehsil. Apart from other things, it is a trekker’s paradise with a range of hills that include Mount Kalsubai, Pabargad, Ratangad and Ghanchakkar. Also, just 12 kilometers away from the Wilson Dam, the roaring river Pravara descends down from a height of 170 feet into a beautiful gorge, creating the Randha Falls. Bhandardara is 185 kilometers from Mumbai and about the same from Pune too.
Kaas

If ever you have wished to be surrounded by a bounty of colourful flowers and nothing else for quite a distance, the Kaas Plateau is where you should be. Known as the ‘Plateau of a Million Flowers’, Kaas has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the reason is quite clear - it is acknowledged as home to endemic life forms that are found nowhere else in the world! But what truly amazes, and presents a breathtakingly colourful picture, is the blossoming of thousands of flowers during the monsoon season when the plateau becomes covered with sheets and drapes of innumerable tiny flowering plants in a riot of yellows, pinks, blues, purples, and so on. The show that starts sometime late in July continues, changing dramatically, throughout August and into September. The plateau is about 130 kilometers from Pune.

Mahabaleshwar

Meanwhile, at any mention of some of the best hill-stations in India, the name of Mahabaleshwar is sure to crop up for the simple fact that it continues to offer to the tourist breathtaking views of hills and valleys carpeted in green along with a ‘natural’ ambiance and invigorating weather. Actually, the twin hill-station of Panchgani is also included on any trip to Mahabaleshwar, both offering heavenly views from the various ‘points’ and quaint narrow bazaars to shop for curios. There is also the Lake Venna at Mahabaleshwar which offers the pleasure of boating though this may be closed during the monsoon. Both these hill-stations are famous for their jams, jellies, strawberries, leather sandals, walking sticks and so on. Mahabaleshwar is about 118 kilometers from Pune.
Amboli

Amboli is yet another place that comes alive during the rains. Located in the princely state of Sawantwadi, Amboli is located on the ridge of the Western Ghats and is particularly majestic when impromptu waterfalls gush down the hilly terrain. Amboli is situated at an altitude of 690 meters above the sea level and its amazing topography comprises dense forest area with a large number of waterfalls which increase in number during the rains. In fact, it is the heavy rainfall of an average of 750 centimeters per year which results in such thick growth of trees and plants along the hillsides. The entire region gets covered with a dense fog during several times a day. It is then that you can actually experience the power of silence and how nature makes it own music. Meanwhile, don’t forget to stop by at the Hiranyakeshi Mandir. It is from here that the river Hiranyakeshi originates. The approach road is rough but the destination provides a wonderful experience. Amboli is 529 kilometers from Mumbai.
However, without a shade of doubt, the best place to enjoy the monsoon showers and feast your sights on a verdant landscape shouldered by the majestic ranges of the Sahyadris is undoubtedly Malshej Ghat. From June to October, the region is surrounded by misty hills, placid mountain lakes and cool fragrant forests. Mist swirls up from the valley and envelopes the tourist resort of MTDC while the clouds unfurl and the waterfalls cascade down the hill with sprays of water drenching those around it. Malshej Ghat is known as a rain traveller’s abode - a picturesque mountain pass descending to the Konkan from the Desh. Another unique aspect of this place is that you can see flamingoes aplenty – strange considering that these migratory birds are mostly to be seen in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. Malshej Ghat is about 154 kilometers northwest of Pune.
Rehkuri

If you more inclined towards watching fauna during the monsoon, go to the Rehkuri Sanctuary where you can observe blackbucks in close vicinity. Realising that these antelopes need vast open areas for picking up their top speed of 80 kmph to escape their predators, the forest department started converting many old plantations into grassland areas. Thankfully, the blackbuck has benefitted from these actions. From a measly 15 to 20 animals in 1980s they have steadily grown to a stable population of over 300 antelopes now. Incidentally, blackbuck is the only true antelope in India. Others like the blue bull (Boselaphus tragocamelus) and chousinga (Tetracerus quadricornis) are grouped in a different sub family as they lack the distinguishing spirally ringed horns – a characteristic of antelopes. Rehkuri is about 200 kilometres from Pune.
If you happen to be a first-time traveller to India, more specifically to Maharashtra, you will find tour guides advising you to visit the Melghat Tiger Sanctuary. And if you do so, include Chikhaldara, a quiet hill station that offers a wide variety of flora and fauna. The good rainfall and the remoteness have allowed this area to host an excellent forest and this is the primary attraction of this place. The area is surrounded on three sides by the borders of the Melghat Project Tiger Area which is spread over an area of about 1,676 sq km. And if you are lucky enough to have spotted some tigers, take time out for Gavilgad and Narnala, which are two extremely large forts with perimeters of more than 15 kilometers each. Of these two forts, Gavilgad is situated right next to Chikhaldara. Narnala, on the other hand, is at a distance of about four hours. Both these forts are interesting from the archaeological and architectural points of view, situated on two adjoining hills connected to each other and protected by fortification from all sides. Chikhaldhara is about 750 kilometers from Mumbai.
If you are at Pune or close to it, Bhimashankar is one place you shouldn’t miss out on. Called the natural abode of Lord Shiva, it is a wildlife sanctuary that hosts the unique giant flying squirrel and a variety of flora and fauna. The region is particularly rich in specialised and endemic reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and insects. During the monsoon, various species of mosses and epiphytes, including bioluminescent fungi (those that glow in the dark) can be seen on the trees. The local tribes of Mahadeo Koli and Katkaris are well-versed with the medicinal properties of the various rare plants found in the sanctuary and have a strong tradition of nature conservation. Nestled in the dense forests of the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhimashankar, the sixth ‘jyotirlinga’, is a truly scenic spot. It is 127 kilometers from Pune.
Bond with the Past

Exploring the state of Maharashtra would of course remain incomplete without a few days spent in Mumbai, the bustling and vibrant city that is known for its commerce, film industry, heritage structures and lifestyle. When here, take time out for the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, which offers a great window to peep into the fascinating world of art and antiquities. Formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum, the museum is well known for its huge collection of Indian miniatures, Maratha textiles, and arms and armour from the collection of Seth Purshottam Mavji. One of the most visited sections in the museum is the one that displays a thrilling collection of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. Of special interest are the Diorama cases which show the birds and animals in their natural habitats.

Mumbai

There is of course the imposing Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) in Mumbai which you cannot miss. This is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an historic railway station which serves as the headquarters of the Central Railways. It was designed by Frederick William Stevens with influences from Victorian Italianate gothic revival architecture and traditional Mughal buildings and was completed in 1887 to commemorate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria.
Meanwhile, just off Mumbai is the Elephanta Island, reachable by boat from the famous Gateway of India. At a distance of just 10 kilometer, the Elephanta Island has a tiny population of about 1,200 residents who are mainly engaged in growing rice, fishing, and repairing boats. But the historical legacy of the place is another story altogether. This island was once the capital of a powerful local kingdom and now has three small villages occupied by the ‘kolis’ (fishermen) and the farmers who have, despite the close proximity to the commercial capital of India, carried on with their traditional way of living. Of particular interest are two hills on the island, known as the Gun Hill and the Stupa Hill. The former derives its name from the presence of two canons of the British period placed on its top. These canons must have played a vital role in the defense of the Mumbai Fort. This is also the main hill on the island where a total of five Shaiva caves were excavated in mid-6th century CE.

The Stupa Hill has the remains of a Buddhist ‘stupa’. It is completely covered with earth and referred to as the archeological mound of a brick stupa. At the Gun Hill, the main cave is a masterpiece of art and architecture. This is the largest and most impressive cave and reflects an affiliation to the esoteric Pashupata sect of the Shaiva system, the revival of which was supposed to have been done by Lakulisha, the great preacher. He is considered as an incarnation of Lord Shiva by the Pashupatas. They believed in Shiva as the supreme god and in the philosophy of ‘being one with him’ and implying ‘end of the sorrows’ as the ultimate goal of the life of any ascetic. The panels in the caves indicate five stages in the life of an ascetic i.e. the importance of a teacher, his grace, illusory existence of the world, oneness of ‘Shiva-Shakti’ and the ultimate form of Shiva.
Nagpur

While Mumbai and Pune are but natural choices for those wishing to see the big cities of Maharashtra, Nagpur too offers a plethora of entertainment and sightseeing opportunities. And when in Nagpur, visit Ramtek, known for the historic temple of Lord Rama. Ramtek is also known for an ancient Jain temple. Incidentally, the Vidarbha region has its own distinctive cuisine known as the Varhadi or Saoji cuisine. This traditional food is famous for its spicy taste and the special spices used in the gravy include black pepper, dry coriander, bay leaves, grey cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, and ample use of poppy seeds.
Kolhapur

Another city that draws tourists in huge numbers is Kolhapur. Once famous for being a princely state and now popular with the faithful for its Mahalakshmi Mandir, fiery non-vegetarian cuisine and leather footwear, it is one of the most happening cities in Maharashtra. Located on the bank of river Panchganga, Kolhapur is a district place with varied cultural aspects. While the temple dedicated to Goddess Mahalaxmi is of course the nerve centre of the city, Kolhapur also has other spots of interest, including the Town Hall Museum that not only offers an exciting glimpse of our rich Indian heritage, especially through its relics of the Brahmapuri settlement, but also is unique for the fact that it houses the paintings and portraits of some of the best known artists of the country. And of course there is no forgetting the very typical Kolhapuri cuisine.

The city also serves as a destination to explore nearby tourist attractions. This includes the Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, which is about 46 kilometers from the city. The Indian Bison or the Gaur is the flagship species of this sanctuary and its other notable fauna include the tiger, leopard, sloth bear, giant squirrel, mouse deer, barking deer, and so on. At 18 kilometers northwest of Kolhapur is Panhala, the smallest city of Maharashtra. Of particular interest here is the fort which offers a panoramic view of the valley below. The history of Panhala is closely linked with the history of the Maratha Empire, and with its founder, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Then there is Khidrapur to the east of the city which is known for the unique architecture of its temple.
Ajanta

Maharashtra is known for its abundance of Buddhist caves – about 800 of them spread across various districts. But of these, the 32 caves at Ajanta stand out distinctively and attract tourists in huge numbers because of their architectural splendour, Buddhist legacy and artistic masterpieces, including narratives painted on the walls of ‘chaityas’ and ‘viharas’. The caves include paintings and sculptures described by the government’s Archaeological Survey of India as “the finest surviving examples of Indian art, particularly painting” and these are representative of Buddhist religious art with figures of the Buddha and depictions of the Jataka tales.

The caves at Ajanta are a cluster of 32 Buddhist caves not far from a medieval village of the same name. The site is a protected monument in the care of the Archaeological Survey of India. Moreover, since 1983, the Ajanta Caves have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ajanta is located on an ancient trade route known in ancient literature as ‘Dakshinapatha’. Most of the donors at Ajanta, especially of the earlier caves, were traders. The site received support from the mightiest donor during its second phase and that was the royal patronage of the Vakatakas. There are more than 100 inscribed and painted inscriptions narrating stories of these donors that also included monks, kings, ministers, and others. Ajanta is known for its narrative murals based on Buddhist themes like life scenes from the Buddha, Avadana stories of Bodhisattva, Jataka stories and panels based on Mahayana themes from Vaipulya Sutras.
If its ancient rock sculpture that interests you, head to the caves at Ajanta and Ellora near Aurangabad city. One of the most fascinating archaeological sites in Maharashtra, Ellora dates back to the Rashtrakuta dynasty, about 1,300 years ago, and is the epitome of Indian rock-cut architecture. The 34 caves are actually structures excavated out of the vertical face of the hills of Charanadri and you will find here evidence of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain ‘viharas’ and ‘mathas’ which tell the story of how social and economic order was often represented through religion.
Kundalika

The stretch for rafting is 14 kilometers which starts from a village named Saje, located a few kilometers away from the Bhira Dam. After the daily water release from the power plant project at Bhira, the water gushes through the channel, entering the river base and filling it up with thrill and excitement, the sight of it being enough to hike up your adrenaline and enthusiasm levels. Ending the rafting session in a village named Kamath, rafting on the Kundalika comprises 10 white water rapids to enjoy through. The most exciting rapid called ‘John Carry’ and the longest rapid termed ‘Rajdhani Express’ add that extra element of fun. The first one is so named because of John Pollard, an expert rafter who claimed for the first time that water rafting can be done safely on the Kundalika River. Interestingly, even he wasn’t able to cross the difficult rapid after repeated attempts and had to carry his raft around the rapid, hence the name ‘John Carry’. The place is reachable from both Pune and Mumbai.
Dahanu-Bordi

There’s something particularly delightful about going to a beach during the monsoon. You wouldn’t be able to swim in the sea or even spread out on the sand but it’s such a pleasure to watch the rain hitting the ocean and the beach like a drummer who has found the perfect groove. How about eating chickoos by the sea with the rain soaking you through and through? For this experience, go to the Dahanu-Bordi stretch of coastline to absorb this wonderful experience. It’s quite amazing to see how the classy combination of a 15-kilometer long stretch of white sandy beach entwined with sweet-smelling chickoo farms that lead to the thickly vegetated hills of the Western Ghats has remained in tranquility despite its closeness to Mumbai.

Dahanu welcomes you on a ‘fruity’ note. It is a small town with historical links to the Warlis, Portuguese and the Parsi communities. It is best known for its lush chickoo plantations along with mangoes and coconuts. As a ‘green zone’, it was the first among such regions in India to be declared ‘eco-fragile’ by the government. The beach of Bordi is the most captivating feature of the region’s landscape. Moreover, it is clean and its shallow water level doesn’t rise above the waistline for up to half a kilometer into the sea. This is what makes it ideal for long. Casuarinas and chickoo (sapota) orchards line the beach, adding to its picturesque setting. Dahanu is 135 kilometers from Mumbai.
Diveagar-Shrivardhan-Harihareshwar

In fact, there’s nothing to beat the Konkan coastline in Maharashtra that sports several known and not so well explored beaches. One of the popular ones on the list is Diveagar. With silvery sands that stretch for nearly 5 kilometers flanked by orchards, Diveagar is one of Konkan’s finest beaches and a part of a cluster of three beach towns in the Raigad district – the other two being Shrivardhan and Harihareshwar. A beautiful drive along the coastal road via the village of Shekhadi takes tourists to Diveagar. Apart from a pretty beach, Shrivardhan is also famous for its Jeevaneshwar Temple. The temple is a tourist attraction for its intricately carved wooden pillars. From Shrivardhan, you can drive on to Harihareshwar along a scenic coastal road. The drive also gives you the opportunity to see the mangroves along the coast. The constant ebb and flow of the waves create beautiful natural patterns along the sands of Harihareshwar and the rocks have been weathered into a honeycomb pattern. The lush green carpets of ‘Ulva lactiluca’ and other marine algae also attract researchers.

Ganpatipule

As for the abode of the gods, a visit to Ganapatipule should be a priority. The beach and the temple, especially during the rains, not only rejuvenate the mind with a strong presence of spirituality but also provide ample avenues for relaxation due to its long beach, simple rural lifestyle and the wonderful choice of coastal cuisine. Ganapatipule is small town located on the west (Konkan coast) in Ratnagiri district. The nature at Ganapatipule is serene, sedate and unspoiled. It is described as a beach with “sparking blue water, endless stretches of silver sand, sunbeams dancing through the swaying palms, waves playing with the sand dunes, a cool breeze whispering sweet nothings in the ear.” The beach is natural and pristine and so the land of Ganapatipule is considered as one of the virgin beaches. It is located 375 kilometers from Mumbai by road.
Guhagar

Guhagar is yet another small town with a beach on the Konkan coastline. Here the beach is fringed with shady Suru trees and heritage temples like those of Vyadeshvar and Durga Devi. What also attracts tourists here is the quintessential Konkani cuisine. A road parallel to the seashore runs through the town with tiny houses built alongside that typically have a courtyard outside, decorated with various ‘rangoli’ patterns. Vyadeshvar, an ancient Shiva temple, is located right in the centre of the town which is roughly divided into two parts - the ‘khalcha pat’ (lower town) and ‘varcha pat’ (upper town) with the temple in the middle. Guhagar is also known for tropical fruits like Alphonso mango, coconut, betel nut, cashew and jackfruit. Due to the ferry boat that plies from Dabhol to Anjanvel, Guhagar now is well connected with Dapoli to its north. It is 280 kilometers from Mumbai.

Harnai-Murud

Listen to the waves crashing on the beach. Do this at the twin beaches of Harnai and Murud in the Dapoli district of Ratnagiri. Harnai is an ancient port on the west cost of India. Though the village is very small, a visit to the sea fort Suvarndurg makes for an amazing experience. One can also travel from here to a village called Anjarle by crossing the Paaj Creek to visit the temple of Kadyavarcha Ganpati. The forts of Kanakdurg and Goa are situated on the shore of the Arabian Sea at Harnai. Murud is a tiny village with thick foliage of trees on its coastline. Further, the pristine beach of Anjarle is a huge attraction for tourists. There is also a small but beautiful temple of Lord Ganesh on the beach, the deity being locally known as Kadayatala Ganpati. Anjarle can be reached from Harnai by crossing a bridge on the river Jog. It offers a magnificent view of the villages Harnai and Paaj and also the fort of Kanakdurg. Harnai is 225 kilometers from Mumbai.

Kihim

It is often heard that the softest sand into which you can dig your feet is to be found on the beach of Kihim. True or not, the place does offer a complete break from urban pressures, and moreover is also close to the famous beach of Alibaug. The waters are as inviting but those venturing to swim have to take caution of the rocks strewn across the ocean stretch. Or else, water sports offer an option more preferable to swimming. The most breathtaking sight here is of the sunset with the Kanderi and Underi forts looming in the horizon. What Kihim also offers is a peek into a rustic lifestyle along with a variety of seafood and typically Konkani cuisine. Kihim is just 100 kilometers from Mumbai.
Abhijeet Chitnis:
We were at Matheran. MTDC resort is very good!

Ramesh Baddiwad:
Lot of scope to develop tourism in Nanded district. MTDC must look into it!

Chandrakant Lavekar:
Good work done by MTDC. Lot more to do at the same time as there is too much of scope to develop tourism!

Sushant Kamble:
All tourist destinations are good... but so many beautiful places are hidden and underdeveloped.. Lot of scope for boost... yet I love it.
MTDC Festivals, Initiatives and Achievements

Elephanta Festival
Global Konkan Festival
Mango Festival
Marabat Festival
Strawberry Festival
Wari Festival
New Resorts
MTDC Initiatives
Investment Opportunity
Elephanta Festival is a festival for dance and music organized by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation. It is organized in the month of February. Renowned dancers and musicians perform with the backdrop of the Elephanta caves. Special launch services are provided for the visitors.

The Elephanta festival is already a well publicized festival of MTDC and is attended by a class of enthusiastic and appreciative audience and tourists. This festival attracts a lot of foreign and domestic tourists.
Bombay Exhibition Center, Goregaon
(1st May to 4th May 2015)

With a view to provide worldwide publicity for Five Districts of KONKAN comprising of Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Palghar and Sindhudurg in terms of their eminence in fields such as Tourism, Industries, Agriculture, Horticulture, Arts, Culture and food specialties, KONKAN BHUMI PRATISHTHAN has been organizing GLOBAL KONKAN FESTIVAL every year on a huge scale. Over the last three years this Festival has been celebrated. The Global Konkan Festival has created a history of sorts. Every year more than 5 Lakh visitors gathered at the Festival and enjoyed the same to the brim. MTDC is the main sponsor of this festival.
MTDC Events and Festivals

**Marabat Festival**

The Marabat festival is a unique festival which is celebrated in Nagpur in the month of August or September. During this festival people build huge statues which signify evil spirit and their parades are conducted throughout the city. These statues are assembled on a large area and are set alight in presence of the citizens. The burning symbolizes the removal of evil. Through this festival MTDC spreads messages about cleanliness, safety and security.

**Konkan's Mango Festival**

The main objective of this festival is to make people explore Konkan in summer, since it is an off season to visit this region. The tasty, yummy and best quality mangos attract people which help in developing tourism in the region. Mango festival has also been included in the yearly festival calendar of MTDC.

Since Konkan region has a long coast line right from Guhagar to Sindhudurga, MTDC has conducted this festival in different districts of Konkan i.e Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurga.

**Chikoo Festival**

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation organises the Chikoo Festival in the town of Dahanu. The event promotes theme based tourism in Dahanu and surrounding areas which help bring prosperity and dignity to its rural life.

**Sangeet Samrat Alladiyakhan Music Festival**

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation supports the spread of Hindustani Classical Music by organizing 38th year Annual Sangeet Samrat Alladiyakhan Music Festival – 2015. Hindustani Classical Music is rooted in antiquity, with traces of its origin found in ancient scriptures, and has been passed on for thousands of years. Over the years, the Alladiyakhan Music Festival has become a very popular event in Mumbai. It presents the composite cultural heritage of India to the masses.

**GOSF**

MTDC became the first Tourism Board to participate in Google’s “Great Online Shopping Festival” to attract domestic and international tourists. Keeping up with its strive to remain aggressive in attracting tourists to Maharashtra, MTDC tied up with “Great Online Shopping Festival” (GOSF) – an initiative of Google. This also made MTDC the first state tourism board to put it on the global tourists’ map through the powerful search engine Google. E-Commerce in India is one of the fast growing sectors of India’s Digital economy and GOSF can be a powerful tool to promote the destinations of Maharashtra. Leveraging on online retail market growth, MTDC provided 30% discount on booking all MTDC resorts during the festival period from December 10-12, 2014 through GOSF.
Strawberry Festival

India’s 80% of the strawberries are produced in Maharashtra; the main purpose of this festival is that Maharashtra should be known for Strawberries.

MTDC has conducted this festival in March 2014 in Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad & Nagpur. Local people should get an opportunity to taste the best strawberries of Maharashtra in their hometown rather than going to Mahabaleshwar, is the reason for organizing this festival in metro cities.

Wari Festival

Maharashtra tourism promotes various destinations to attract tourists from various parts of the world at the same time we also focus on conserving our culture & tradition by conducting several festivals & events.

The ‘Wari Processsion’ is the best example that represents the cultural & traditional heritage of Maharashtra. In this procession, people from different communities showcase their faith through the tradition of ‘Warkari Sampradaya’.

For hundreds of years, the devotees i.e. Warkaris walk together for over two hundred kilometers over 21 days singing devotional songs in the worship of Lord Vitthal.

Bird Festival

In a one-of-its-kind initiative, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) brought a royal treat of the nature and especially, bird lovers with India’s first Bird Festival in Pune. The event was organised to promote eco-tourism in Maharashtra. The 3-day Bird Festival was supported by various NGOs like GIB foundation, Bombay Natural History Society, Important Bird Conservation Network and Forest Department.

Maharashtra possess a distinct identity with its geography, history and cultural diversity. Its natural ecosystems enhance the rich heritage. Our country has 1300 species of birds which is approximately 13% of the total birds found in the world. Maharashtra has habitats which support different bird species, therefore MTDC initiated this festival that would help tourist understand the State’s rich bird diversity.
MTDC introduced its ‘Star Resort’ in Chikhaldara in the services of tourists. The Mozari Point, Chikhaldara Resort adds to MTDC’s chain of ‘Star’ Resorts, which will soon acclaim the status of the most preferred destinations for tourists. Chikhaldara has always remained as one of the most sought after Hill Stations by tourists and hence, has garnered a wide attention in MTDC’s tourism development programme, among others. ‘Mozari Point Resort’ is located against the backdrop of bustling nature. This is the third project MTDC has set up at Chikhaldara. This new Resort will take Chikhaldara to the next level on India’s tourism map.

MTDC Chikhaldara has VIP suites, A/C suites, with an attached balcony, Conference Hall, Recreation Hall and Restaurant. MTDC Chikhaldara Convention Complex Dist- Amaravati- 444807, 444807
Tel: 07220-230234 / 230263

MTDC Matheran has self-contained rooms, rooms for group accommodation and “Machan” accommodation is also available.

Check-out Time- 9.30 am
Vihanga Hill Restaurant, MTDC Holiday Resort, Matheran, 410101
Tel: 02148-230277 / 230540
MTDC Tadoba (Moharli) has VIP suites, A/C suites, rooms for group accommodation facility.

The long-awaited bus service meant for an economical safari inside the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) is now available.

The resort is open for tourists from 01/04/2015.

Tel: 0712 2533325

For MTDC resort booking: 1-800-229930 (Toll Free)

Introducing the newly renovated ‘Chalukya’ restaurant at Elephanta Caves in Mumbai

MTDC re-opened its much coveted ‘Chalukya’ restaurant for the visitors of Elephanta Caves and other foodies. The open air restaurant which was initially closed for a couple of months is now functional for visitors. This is one of the oldest and most famous restaurants run by MTDC, with mesmerising ambiance. They serve vegetarian food and also have a bar. The restaurant opens at 10 am to sunset serving all day breakfast and meals. Every day more than 150-200 people visit the restaurant and the number increasing during weekends and season time. The air-conditioned restaurant is designed in a way that tourists get to enjoy the cool sea-breeze while relishing a relaxed lunch.
Nilambari - Open Deck Bus

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has introduced one-of-its-kind a tour by OPEN DECK BUS (Nilambari) in the heart of City of Mumbai. The tour guide is specially appointed to make your tour entertaining, informative and enjoyable. In your journey through the City’s past and present, look out for historical and archaeological buildings on the way. The details of the tour are as under:

Gateway of India Counter Tel. No. 2284 1877.

Timing
- 7.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.
- 8.15 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.
(Every Saturday & Sunday)

Fare
- Upper Deck: Rs.180/- per head
- Lower Deck: Rs.60/- per head
(Above 3 years full fare)

Tickets available at Reservation Division, MTDC, Mumbai-400 020 and Gateway of India Counter.

Route
Gateway of India - Mantralaya - Oberoi Hotel - Marine Drive - Churchgate Railway Station - Eros Theatre - Oval Maidan - Maharshi Karve Road - Rajabai Tower - CST Railway Station Building - D.N. Road - Hutatma Chowk - Homi Modi Street - Horniman Circle - Asiatic Library - Gateway of India.

Name of Heritage Buildings
- Churchgate Head Office, Old Secretariat, Rajabai Tower, Convocation Hall, High Court, CST Railway Station, Thomas Cook, Asiatic Library - Gateway of India.

Scuba Diving at Sindhudurg

To throw open the amazing world that lies beneath the water in Arabian Sea with unique marine life, MTDC, for the first time, opened up Scuba Diving or Snorkelling in the most competitive rates in the country. It is introduced at MTDC’s Konkan coastal area around Sindhudurg. The coast around Sindhudurg has warm clear waters and interesting and varied diving and snorkelling sites guaranteeing some of the best scuba diving and snorkelling holidays anywhere in Indian subcontinent. At Konkan diving dreams, MTDC started providing a top quality service at an affordable price to promote absolute Konkan vacation… expedition to explore the Sargassum forest, corals, vast diversity and abundant colourful fish amazing underwater rocks cape.

MTDC Projects

Last year, MTDC supported projects of hot-air balloons in Panchgani, opened world class information centres in Ajanta and Ellora and many more projects are underway and at proposal stages including, ‘Sudarshan Chakra’ – on the lines of London Eye at Gorai.

Konkan Darshan Tour

MTDC introduced special Konkan Darshan package tour, an initiative to increase tourist footfalls in Maharashtra’s one of the famous tourist destinations. These package tours were planned in a manner to help tourists explore scenic beauty of Konkan at an affordable price.
The action, drama, romance, emotions, the latkas and the thumkas, catch it all firsthand. Explore the sets, locations and studios. Get up close and personal with celebrities. Watch the magic unfold in front of your very own eyes. Choose from three chartbuster packages as Bollywood takes you on a journey like never before.

MTDC has come up with packaged tours to Bollywood in association with Dadasaheb Phalke Chitranagari, Film City-Goregaon.

There are three packages to suit everybody’s pocket. They are: Rs 499/-, Rs 1999/-, Rs. 3250/- respectively.

For instant bookings, please visit: www.mumbaifilmcitytours.com

Tickets also available at all MTDC counters or call 1-800-229930 (Toll Free)

---

Nashik Boat Club

Nashik Boat Club will soon start at the back waters of Gangapur Dam near Nashik. Banana boat, paddle boat, motor boat, speed boat, beach park sailing boat will be made available for tourists to enjoy their experience! This boat club will also be equipped with parking space, auditorium, administrative building.
MTDC Wins Best Magazine Award ‘Maharashtra Unlimited’

‘Maharashtra Unlimited’, the quarterly MTDC magazine has won an ICE Award in the category of Best Magazine among Government and Other organizations for the 3rd consecutive year!
CNBC Awaaz Travel Award

In a glittering ceremony at Raipur, Chhattisgarh Shri. Paraag Jain Nainuttia, IAS, MD, MTDC received the CNBC Awaaz Travel Award for best Beach Destination “Tarkarli” Sindhudurg District of Konkan Region at the hands of Hon. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr. Raman Singh and Hon. Tourism Minister Shri A.G.Baghel. It is another milestone in MTDC’s surge towards excellence.

Vasundhara Short Film Competition

On the occasion of World Environment Day MTDC has won 3rd Prize (for Short Film Ocean Pollution) in Vasundhara Short Film competition 2014 organized by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. The award was given at the hand of Hon’ble Shri Ramdas Kadam Minister of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, in the presence of Hon’ble Shri Pote Patil, Minister of State for Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, Smt. Malini Shankar, Priciple Secretary, Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra, Dr. P. Anbalgan, Member Secretary, MPCB on 5th June, 2015 at Yashwanrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai.

PATWA Award

Maharashtra Tourism won the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA) Award for Mumbai as ‘Best Heritage city’ during the recently concluded tourism conclave at ITB Berlin. The award was presented at a ceremony held at the venue, Messedamm, Berlin. PATWA is a professional organization of travel writers that was founded in 1998, at the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
## COASTAL POTENTIALS
A 720 km long coastline dotted with serene beaches, rustic villages, fascinating flora and fauna, people with colourful cultures and the exotic expanse of the following lands in the Konkan region, possessed by MTDC:

### Mumbai suburban district
- Erangal

### Sindhudurg district:
- Mithbav
- Kunkeshwar
- Tarkarli

### Raigad district
- Kashid
- Haritshwar (Deoghar)
- Surekhar
- Alibaug

**except**
- Elephanta world heritage caves
- Matheran picturesque hill station

### Ratnagiri district
- Ganapatipule
- Velaneshwar

### Thane district
- Shirgaon-Satpati
- Bordi
- Jawhar

**except**
- Malshej Ghat (Thitabi) panoramic spot
- Titwala pilgrims centre

## Categorywise list of Resorts & Tourist Destinations in Maharashtra

### Sr. Resort & Tourist Destination Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Resort &amp; Tourist Destination Category</th>
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<td>1</td>
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### Sr. Resort & Tourist Destination Category

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**Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation**
(Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)
C.D.O. Hutments, Opp. LIC (Yogakshema) Building,
Madam Cama Road, Mumbai 400 020
Tel.: +91 22 22044040, 22845678
www.maharashtratourism.gov.in
You need to know

Bed and Breakfast
Residential Hotels
Travel Agents Association
Winery Association
Emergency Contact Numbers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Name, Address &amp; Tel. No.</th>
<th>No. of Rooms</th>
<th>Bed Capacity</th>
<th>Tariff</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shri Ananat M. Panchakshri Amogh, Nr DattaMandir, KatheGalli, Dwarka, Nashik PH. (0253)2592712/9423182782</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>AC - 750.00 NON AC - 400</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mrs. Smita Pramod Falgune Nr Makhmalabad, Kanol Rd, Makhmalabad, Tal. Dist: Nashik Ph. (0253)6525793/9960892855 (Including food)</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC - 1000.00</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Shri Arun Kashinath Shirode A/P Dahegaon, Trimbak Rd, Nashik Mumbai Highway, Nr Raigad Nagar, Tal. Dist. Nashik (0253)2575822/9822049944</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>STD - 7500.00 DLX – 8500.00 (Including food)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Mrs Kavita Maniklal Mundada 544, patil lane, Trimbakeshwar Tal Trimbakeshwar Dist. Nashik Ph. (02594)233779/9422267947</td>
<td>05</td>
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<td>NON AC - 1050.00</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Shri Avinash Mulchand Gothi A/p PimpriSadolin, Taligatpur, Dist Nashik Ph. (0253)2583133/9822113796</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Smt Madhvi Vishal Chaugaonkar 27, Bhavanjali, Nr. Shankar Nagar, Anandvali, Gangapur Road, Nashik Ph. 9225139433/9823075568</td>
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<td>Smt. Hemangi Jagdish Shinde Tirth Villa, Opp. Vikrikar Bhavan, Anandnagar, Pathardi Phata, Nashik Ph. 9405357369/(0253)2029169</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Shri Prashant Sudhir Mohole 27, Opp. Motiwalacollege, Gangapur Rd, Nashik Ph. 9420616105/9226692827 Website :- <a href="http://www.mohinirajguesthousenashik.in">www.mohinirajguesthousenashik.in</a></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Smt Sandhya Nagnath Baste Gat No 40, Zarwad Bk, Tal Trimbak, Dist Nashik Ph. 9822021306/(0253)2571206</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Smt. Jyoti Maniklal Nagori Radhakrishna Palace, Nilparvat Rd, Trimbakeshwar, Dist Nashik Ph. (02594)233179/9422361279</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Smt. Varsha Sandeep Pradhan Ekvira Holiday Home, Trimakb, Jawhar Rd., Sapgao, Tal Trimbakshwar Dist Nashik Ph. (02594)204227/8605014460/8888816349</td>
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<td>Smt. Rajani Hari Suryavanshi Pritam Residency, Patil Lane, Trimbakeshwar Tal Trimbakeshwar Dist Nashik Ph. (02594) 233796/9922044118</td>
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<td>Mr.Pralhad S. Khadangale. At post Vishnu Nagar, TalukaNiphad, District Nashik. Ph No – 9409485727/9970384525</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>Non AC – 1000 / 1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Shri Ulhas G Laulkar H No 339, Vyankatesh Nagar, Pimpri Sado Tal Igatpur Dist Nashik Ph 9322273763</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>AC – 8000.00/10000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Mrs.Padmini U Dhanolkar H No 343, Vyankatesh Nagar, Pimpri Sado Tal. IgatpurDist Nashik Ph 9837280812</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>AC – 8000.00/10000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Mr.Vivek Pandurang Chavan H No 373/74, Vyankatesh Nagar, Pimpri Sado Tal. Igatpur Dist Nashik Ph 9373991920</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>AC – 8000.00/10000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Mr.Pandurang R. Chavan H No 375 Vyankatesh Nagar, Pimpri Sado Tal. Igatpur Dist Nashik Ph 9822113796</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>AC – 8000.00/10000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Vajreshwari Estate Pvt. Ltd C/O Mr.Avinash Gothi H No 376/77 Vyankatesh Nagar, Pimpri Sado Tal. Igatpur Dist Nashik Ph 9822113796</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>AC – 8000.00/10000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Mr.SushilSuman Parekh CMEF Trust, HRD Centre, Old Agra Road, Nashik. Ph. No. 8055565733, (0253) 2599911</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>AC – 1300.00 / Non AC – 1000.00 With Tea, Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Shri Sahebrao Kisan Dalvi, Sai Anand Service Appt. Vavare Nagar, Ambed Link Road, Kamatwade Nashik. Mob. No.8275016201 Web Site :- <a href="http://www.dsgroupnashik.com">www.dsgroupnashik.com</a></td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Non AC – 1000/850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Shri Sharad Chandra Raghunath Puri (Nampur) “Swami Samrth Jangel Camp., House No.390, Sr.No.206/1/1 Makhmalabad, Matori Dist.Nashik Phone. No. 9423971686/86259111515</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>Non AC – 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Smt. Nisha Mihir Bhagwati A/P Zarwad, Tal. Trambakeshwar, Dist.Nashik Mob. 9820060520/9821359322</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>NON AC – 3200/2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Shri Kiran D. Aawari, House No. 345 Gat No. 494, Flat No.35, Vyankteshwar Nagar, Pimpri Sadadit Tal. Igatpuri, Tal. Nashik Mob. 9821262143</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC – 8000/- &amp; 7000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>Shri. Nandkumar Desai, House No.48, Gat No. 192/1,2,3 Flat No. 17, Vyankateshnagar Pimpri Sadodit, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC – 10000/- &amp; 8000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr.</td>
<td>Name, Address &amp; Tel. No.</td>
<td>No. of Rooms</td>
<td>Bed Capacity</td>
<td>Tariff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Smt. Ratna J. Putran Flat Floor, House No.335, Gt No. 502/ Flat No. 125 Vyankatesh Nagar, Tal. Igatpuri Mob. 9225126811</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>NON AC – 12000/- &amp; 10000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Vyankadesh Nagar Developers Pvt. Ltd., (A) House No.53/54/55 Sarve No.192/1,2,3 A/P Pimpri Sadodati, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>NON AC – 3500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Vyankadesh Nagar Developers Pvt. Ltd., (B) House No.52 Sarve No.192/1,2,3 A/P Pimpri Sadodati, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>NON AC – 3500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Shri. Uday Arun Chandorkar Sarve No.458, Shevgedang, Tal. Igatpuri, dist. Nashik Mob. No. 9422245109</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>NON AC – 4500/- &amp; 3500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Shri. Dilip M. Pawar, Om Sairam A/P Trambakeshwar Dist. Nashik Mob. No. 9370233852</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>NON AC 750/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Subeda D. Pawar, Banglo No.31, Sarve No.214 Vyankatesh Nagar, Igatpuri Mob. No.9819636800</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>NON AC 8000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Shridhar Madukar Mahashabdhe Madhushi 1,2,3 Old Adgaon Naka, Krushnanagar, Sarve No.295 A/101/7-2 Flat No. 3 Panchavati, Nashik Mob. No.9850843195</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>NON AC – 700/- &amp; 500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Shri. Pradeep Pachpatil (A)&quot;Soma Service Appt., Sarve No.677/2, 3378/7, Flat No.07, Mangalnagar, Gangapur road, Nashik – 05</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC – 3000/- &amp; 2500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Mrs. Manjusha Pradeep Pachpatil (B) &quot;Soma Service Appt., Sarve No.677/2, 3378/7, Flat No.07, Mangalnagar, Gangapur road, Nashik – 05</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC – 3000/- &amp; 2500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Kum. Trupti Pradeep Pachpatil (C) &quot;Soma Service Appt., Sarve No.677/2, 3378/7, Flat No.07, Mangalnagar, Gangapur road, Nashik – 05</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC – 3000/- &amp; 2500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Kum. Omkar Pradeep Pachpatil (D) &quot;Soma Service Appt., Sarve No.677/2, 3378/7, Flat No.07, Mangalnagar, Gangapur road, Nashik – 05</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC – 3000/- &amp; 2500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Shri. Anilkumar Goyal Ghar No.356 Sarve No.192/1/2/3 Flat No. 36/37 Vyankatesh Nagar, Pimpri Sadodhin, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik Mob. No. 9422253407</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>NON AC – 10000/- &amp; 8000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Mrs. Angha Dipak Magar Ghar No. &amp; Gat No. 197 Flat No. 5, Pimpri Sadhodhin, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik Mob. No. 9422273960</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>NON AC – 10000/- &amp; 8000/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>Shri. Narayan Baburao Jadhav &quot;Fiequency&quot; Rosort, A/P Dhargaon, Tal. Igatpuri, Dist. Nashik</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>4000/- &amp; 3500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>Shri. Subhash Maganbhai Talajiya &quot;Midtown Niwas&quot;Flat No. 34, Trimbakeshwar, Nashik Phone No. 9762001710</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1200/- &amp; 1500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Shau. Jyoti Subhash Talajiya &quot;Midtown Niwas&quot;Flat No. 34, Trimbakeshwar, Nashik Phone No. 9762001710</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1200/- &amp; 1500/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Name</td>
<td>Owner / Manager</td>
<td>No. of Rooms</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Owner / Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Express Inn</td>
<td>Mr. Sujeet Nair (Manager)</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>Panchvati Sinnar Motels</td>
<td>Mr. Radhakisan Chandak (M.D.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathardi Phata, Mumbai Agra Road, Nashik Ph.: 2227777/ 6641111</td>
<td>Mo. 8380044424</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nr. Bus Stand, Sinnar, Nashik. Ph.: 02551-222035. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:psmotel@panchvatihotels.com">psmotel@panchvatihotels.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gateway Hotel</td>
<td>Mr. Paramveer Singh</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Hotel Sai Saya</td>
<td>Mr. Sachin Girme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai Agra Road, Nashik Ph.: 6692300. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:samatha.perera@tahotels.com">samatha.perera@tahotels.com</a> / <a href="mailto:gateway.nashik@tahotels.com">gateway.nashik@tahotels.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Opp. Bhujabal Farm, Mumbai- Agra Road, Nashik. Ph.: 2322521. Mail id- <a href="mailto:hotelsaisaya@rediffmail.com">hotelsaisaya@rediffmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9028047242 (Manager)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilly Sarovar Portico</td>
<td>Mr. Manpreet Singh (Senior Manager)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Hotel Mathura</td>
<td>Mr. Abhishekh Vyasabara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai Agra Road, Opposite Orchid International, Nashik Ph.: 2378383. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:accounts@lilysarovarportico.com">accounts@lilysarovarportico.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9545973777</td>
<td></td>
<td>Near Dwarka Hotel, Dwarka, Nashik</td>
<td>Mo.: 9880557961 (Owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Rama Heritage</td>
<td>Mr. Amit Khot (Owner)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Hotel Cool Palace</td>
<td>Mr. Manohar Matiani (Owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Mumbai Agra Road, Beside Kalika Mandir, Nashik Ph.: 2582887, 2588288. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:hotelrama@gmail.com">hotelrama@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9823212777</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rajebahdur Hospital Road, M. G. ROAD, Nashik. Ph.: 2501188. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:coolpalacehotels@yahoo.co.in">coolpalacehotels@yahoo.co.in</a></td>
<td>Mo-8275272666 / 9623080044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Sai Palace</td>
<td>Mr. Swapnil Hegade (Owner)</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>Hotel New Holiday Plaza</td>
<td>Mr. Anand Aher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>904 Agra Road, Nashik Ph.: 2391501, 2391502. Mail Id- <a href="mailto:info@saipalace.com">info@saipalace.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9850087103</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shalimar Chowk, Shalimar, Nashik ,Ph.: 2598081 /82</td>
<td>Mail ID- <a href="mailto:admin@hotelnewholidayplaza.com">admin@hotelnewholidayplaza.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Vitthal Kamats (VIT’S)</td>
<td>Mr. Arvind Chavan (General Manager)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Hotel G9</td>
<td>Mr. Ganesh Yelname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashik Pune Road, Near Nasardi Bridge, Nashik. Ph.: 6636090/01 Mail ID- <a href="mailto:gmnskshin@vitshotels.com">gmnskshin@vitshotels.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9987573809</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sinnar, Nashik pune Highway, Yelname Complex_Sinnar ,Ph.: 02551-220599. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:g9hotel@gmail.com">g9hotel@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.:7588618439 (Owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Grape City</td>
<td>Mr. Dhanjay Jadhav (Manager)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Hotel Vaishali</td>
<td>Mr. Joshi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datt Mandir Signal, Opp. business bank, Nashik Road, Nashik. Ph.: 2468663. Mail Id- <a href="mailto:grapecity_14@rediffmail.com">grapecity_14@rediffmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9403513573</td>
<td></td>
<td>, Gole Colony, Nashik</td>
<td>Mail-ID-9823026987 (owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Quality Inn</td>
<td>Mr. Samson Pathare (Manager)</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Hotel Shanti Inn</td>
<td>Mr. Rajesh Sakhala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Fame Theatre, Nashik Pune Road, Nashik Ph.: 2412441 Mail ID- <a href="mailto:qualityinnregency@gmail.com">qualityinnregency@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9860250165</td>
<td></td>
<td>Opp. Fame Theater, Nashik-Puna Road, Nashik. Ph.: 2418816 / 2419197. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:runalsakhala@yahoo.in">runalsakhala@yahoo.in</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9370299018 (M.D.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Happy Times</td>
<td>Mr. Gaurav (H. R.)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Hotel Nasiclub</td>
<td>Mr. Sonar (Manager)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Kalika Mandir, Nashik Ph.: 2577881. Mail Id- <a href="mailto:wasans_inn@rediffmail.com">wasans_inn@rediffmail.com</a></td>
<td>Mo.: 9822198934</td>
<td></td>
<td>Near Nasardi Bridge, Nashik</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mail-ID-nasilclub@deshdoot.com">Mail-ID-nasilclub@deshdoot.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Raj Mahal</td>
<td>Mr. Nitin Adame, Mo. 9823062223 (owner)</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>City Pride Hotel</td>
<td>Mr. Vasant Mulane (owner) Mobile- 9822012913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Old CBS, Nashik. Ph.: 2580901. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:booking@hotelrajmahal-nashik.com">booking@hotelrajmahal-nashik.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tilak Wadi, Nashik, Ph.: 2312394/ Mail ID- <a href="mailto:nashik@hotelcitypride.com">nashik@hotelcitypride.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Panchvati</td>
<td>Mr. Radhakisan Chandak (M.D.)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>Hotel VGS</td>
<td>Mr. Prakash, Ph.: 9822028215 (Owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430, Vakilwadi, Nashik Ph.: 2579001. Mail Id - <a href="mailto:prakash@panchvathotels.com">prakash@panchvathotels.com</a></td>
<td>Mail-ID- <a href="mailto:info@hotelorangetree.com">info@hotelorangetree.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>44/17/2/bh Indian Tools,” Satpur, Nashik. Ph.: 2351211, Mail ID - <a href="mailto:rpv28@yahoo.com">rpv28@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Orange Tree</td>
<td>Mr. Parag Trivedi , Mo.: 7790006334 (Manager)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Hotel Kaveri</td>
<td>Mr. Rajendra Salunke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behind Muktidam, Datta Mandir Road, Nashik Road, Nashik Ph.: 2454301. Mail ID- <a href="mailto:info@hotelorangetree.com">info@hotelorangetree.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vadala Naka, Near Dwarka Circle, Nashik</td>
<td>Mail-ID-9423144166 (Owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Radhika</td>
<td>Mr. Rajesh Sachdev, Mo.: 9822440019 (owner)</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Hotel Saroj</td>
<td>Ramesh Dayama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Dwarka Circle, Nashik Ph.: 2305872 Mail ID- <a href="mailto:hotelradhikamaharashtra@gmail.com">hotelradhikamaharashtra@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shree Sankul,Mahamarg Taxi Stand,Mumbai Agra Rd. Nashik</td>
<td>Ph.: 9373901586 (owner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mail-ID- <a href="mailto:sarojtourstravels@gmail.com">sarojtourstravels@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Name</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
<td>Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Swagat</td>
<td>Mr. Mayuresh Awachit</td>
<td>18 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Dwarka Circle, Nashik</td>
<td>Mo.: 8805629780</td>
<td>(owner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.: 2596780</td>
<td>Mail ID- <a href="mailto:swaghat@hot.com">swaghat@hot.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Silver Inn</td>
<td>Mr. Vamarao Lokhande</td>
<td>17 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meher Plaza, Gole Colony, Nashik</td>
<td>Mo.: 8888094441</td>
<td>(owner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.: 2576341 (Mail ID- hotel-sil-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:verinn@hotmail.com">verinn@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Rajdoot</td>
<td>Mr. Zakir Seth,</td>
<td>27 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trimbak Road, Nashik</td>
<td>Mo.: 9829259092</td>
<td>(owner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.: 2581891/2581692</td>
<td>Mail ID- No- zakirisatish92@</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail ID- <a href="mailto:manorath2001@yahoo.com">manorath2001@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Manorath</td>
<td>Mr. Nilin Sangamnnerkar</td>
<td>18 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aruni Complex, Sharapur Road,</td>
<td>Mo.: 9822168432</td>
<td>(Owner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opp. Raymond Showroom,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashik. Ph.: 2313891, 2313879.</td>
<td>Mail ID- harshlove.hr.com</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Saiways</td>
<td>Rajendra Dwivedi</td>
<td>50 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinner shidi Highway, Opp.</td>
<td>Mo.: 9423696879</td>
<td>(manager)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muselhoaon M.I.D.C. Office,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tal- Sinner, Dist- Nashik. Ph-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02551-240560 / 1 / 2 Mail ID-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hotel <a href="mailto:saiways@gmail.com">saiways@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel Shivasganga Classic</td>
<td>Mr.Kishore Sabadra</td>
<td>23 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Swaminarayan Mandir, Adgaon</td>
<td>Mo.: 9422264759</td>
<td>(owner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naka, Nashik. Ph: 2513604. Mail</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID- hotel <a href="mailto:shivasganga@gmail.com">shivasganga@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Padmalaaxi</td>
<td>Mr. Harshao Rao,</td>
<td>20 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thhakar Bazar Stand, Nashik</td>
<td>Mo: 9896074098</td>
<td>(Owner)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.: 2312955. Mail ID- harshlove@</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>hhr.com</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Sanskriti Holiday Resort</td>
<td>Digvijay Mankar</td>
<td>15 Rooms</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Approved By M.T.D.C.) Near</td>
<td>Mo.: 9823589999 / 981323909</td>
<td>(owner)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nivruttinadh Mandir, Trimbakshwar,</td>
<td>Mr. Patil (Manager)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nashik Off-0253: 2313093. Mail ID-</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>hotel <a href="mailto:sanskriti2009@gmail.com">sanskriti2009@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Hoyala</td>
<td>Mo.: 9960704025</td>
<td>35 Rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suyojit City Centre, Opp.</td>
<td>Rohnar Seth (Owner)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mahamang Bus Stand, Mumbai,</td>
<td>Mo- 9053608024</td>
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<tr>
<td>Naka, Nashik. Ph: 2599113, 2599112</td>
<td>(Manager)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mail ID- rohan@<a href="mailto:raj@yahoo.co.in">raj@yahoo.co.in</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Hotel</td>
<td>Tejaswini Madam,</td>
<td>123 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plot No 9, Trimbakeshwar</td>
<td>Mo.: 8600033708</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Road, Satpur MIDC, Nashik. Ph: 663555</td>
<td>Mail ID- <a href="mailto:h7347-re1@accor.com">h7347-re1@accor.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Dhruv Palace, N.CHECK Post,</td>
<td>Mr. Vipul Seth (Owner)</td>
<td>24 Rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trimbakeshwar, Dist- Nashik. Ph:</td>
<td>Mo-9423478925 / Mr.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02594-233464, Mail ID- hotel-dhru</td>
<td>Sangamr (Manager)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Palace@hot.com">Palace@hot.com</a></td>
<td>Mo- 9975842500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Panchavati Yatri</td>
<td>Mr. Radhakisan Chandak</td>
<td>54 Rooms</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430, Vakilwadi, Nashik, Ph: 2571273</td>
<td>(M.D.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mail ID- <a href="mailto:panchavati@hot.com">panchavati@hot.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel Panchavati Elite Inn</td>
<td>Mr. Radhakisan Chandak</td>
<td>30 Rooms</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trimbak Road, Nashik,</td>
<td>(M.D.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph: 2576931. Mail Id- eliteinnrsk</td>
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<tr>
<td>atsanchernet.com</td>
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</table>

**Hotel Locations:**
- Hotel Panchavati Yatri: 430, Vakilwadi, Nashik, Ph: 2571273; Mail ID- panchavatigroup@panchavatihotels.com
- Hotel Panchavati Elite Inn: Trimbak Road, Nashik, Ph: 2576931; Mail Id- eliteinnrsk@tsanchernet.com
- Hotel Swagat: Near Dwarka Circle, Nashik; Ph: 2596780; Mail ID- swaghat@hot.com
- Hotel Silver Inn: Meher Plaza, Gole Colony, Nashik; Ph: 2576341; Mail ID- hotel-silverinn@hotmail.com
- Hotel Rajdoot: Trimbak Road, Nashik; Ph: 2581891/2; Mail ID: No- zakirisatish92@gmail.com
- Hotel Manorath: Aruni Complex, Sharapur Road, Opp. Raymond Showroom, Nashik; Ph: 2313891, 2313879; Mail ID- manorath2001@yahoo.com
- Hotel Saiways: Sinner shidi Highway, Opp. Muselhoaon M.I.D.C. Office, Tal- Sinner, Dist- Nashik; Ph-02551-240560 / 1 / 2 Mail ID- hotel saiways@gmail.com
- Hotel Shivasganga Classic: Near Swaminarayan Mandir, Adgaon Naka, Nashik; Ph: 2513604; Mail ID- hotel shivasganga@gmail.com
- Hotel Padmalaaxi: Thhakar Bazar Stand, Nashik; Ph: 2312955; Mail ID- harshlove.hr@gmail.com
- Hotel Hoyala: Suyojit City Centre, Opp. Mahamang Bus Stand, Mumbai Naka, Nashik; Ph: 2599113, 2599112; Mail ID- rohan,raj@yahoo.co.in
- Bus Hotel: Plot No 9, Trimbakeshwar Road, SatpurMIDC, Nashik; Ph: 663555; Mail ID- h7347-re1@accor.com
- Hotel Dhruv Palace, N.CHECK Post, Trimbakeshwar, Dist- Nashik; Ph: 02594-233464; Mail ID- hotel-dhruvparlce@hot.com
- Hotel Panchavati Yatri: 430, Vakilwadi, Nashik, Ph: 2571273; Mail ID- panchavatigroup@panchavatihotels.com
- Hotel Panchavati Elite Inn: Trimbak Road, Nashik, Ph: 2576931; Mail Id- eliteinnrsk@tsanchernet.com

**Rooms and Owners:**
- Hotel Swagat: 18 Rooms, Mr. Mayuresh Awachit (owner)
- Hotel Silver Inn: 17 Rooms, Mr. Vamarao Lokhande (owner)
- Hotel Rajdoot: 27 Rooms, Mr. Zakir Seth, (owner)
- Hotel Manorath: 18 Rooms, Mr. Nilin Sangamnnerkar (Owner)
- Hotel Saiways: 50 Rooms, Rajendra Dwivedi (Manager)
- Hotel Shivasganga Classic: 23 Rooms, Mr.Kishore Sabadra (owner)
- Hotel Padmalaaxi: 20 Rooms, Mr. Harshao Rao, (Owner)
- Hotel Sanskriti Holiday Resort: 15 Rooms, Digvijay Mankar (owner)
- Hotel Hoyala: 35 Rooms, Mr. Harshao Rao, (Owner)
- Bus Hotel: 123 Rooms, Tejaswini Madam, (Manager)
- Hotel Dhruv Palace, N.CHECK Post, Trimbakeshwar, Dist- Nashik: 24 Rooms, Mr. Vipul Seth (Owner)
- Hotel Panchavati Yatri: 54 Rooms, Mr. Radhakisan Chandak (M.D.)
- Hotel Panchavati Elite Inn: 30 Rooms, Mr. Radhakisan Chandak (M.D.)
Winery, Travel and Hotel Associations of Nashik

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone No.</th>
<th>E-mail ID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Shri. Ramesh Pawar, Nashik District Industries &amp; Exporter’s Association</td>
<td>C/o W61 MIDC, Ambad, Nashik</td>
<td>9422245100, 0253 – 2381100, 0253 – 2382100</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nashikexporters@gmail.com">nashikexporters@gmail.com</a>, <a href="mailto:pawarexportes@gmail.com">pawarexportes@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Shri. Shivaji Aher, All India Wine Producer’s Association</td>
<td>7, Prince Tower, Tidke Colony, Near Kute Eye Hospital, Nashik 422001</td>
<td>9225133333, 0253 – 2310612</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@renaissancewinery.net">admin@renaissancewinery.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Shri. Vikram Sarda, Deshdoot Newspaper, Nashik</td>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi Road, Shalimar, Nashik, Maharashtra 422001</td>
<td>9822419199, 0253 – 2575716</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@deshdoot.com">info@deshdoot.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Shri. Datta Bhalerao, Nashik Travel Agent Association</td>
<td>111, sharnapur Palika Bazar, Near Railway Booking Office, Canda corner, Nashik</td>
<td>9423968868, 0253 – 2318418</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dattabhalerao@gmail.com">dattabhalerao@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Shri. Radhakrishnan Chandak, President, Hotel Association of Nashik</td>
<td>C/o Hotel Panchavati, Wakilwadi, Nashik</td>
<td>9822028888</td>
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Emergency Contact Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Telephone No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>STD Code 0253</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasik Control Room</td>
<td>100, 2570333/34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Commissioner Office</td>
<td>2570183, 2352122</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Branch</td>
<td>2573361</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Transport Office</td>
<td>2570432</td>
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<td>Police Head Quarter</td>
<td>2570448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maharashtra Police Academy</td>
<td>2352158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhadrakali Police Station</td>
<td>2590333</td>
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<td>Sarkarwada Police Station</td>
<td>2599599</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panchavati Police Station</td>
<td>2512733</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crime Branch</td>
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| Fire Brigades | |
| Fire Brigade Head Office (Shingada Talav) | 2590871 |
| Nashik Road Fire Station | 2561379 |
| Panchavati Fire Station | 2512919 |
| Satpur Fire Station | 2350500 |
| Cidco Fire Station | 2393931 |

| Blood Banks | |
| Janakalayan | 2573493, 2575249 |
| Arpan Blood Bank | 2576058 |
| LifeLine | 2577904, 2597906 |
### Advertisement Rate Card

**[w.e.f. January 1, 2015]**

#### Technical Details:

- **Language of Publication:** English
- **Periodicity of Publication:** Quarterly
  - [1st Jan., 1st April, 1st July, 1st Oct.]
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- **Safe Print Area:** 194 mm (w) x 280 mm (h)
- **Bleed Size:** 216 mm (w) x 303 mm (h)
- **Material Required:** PDF / CorelDraw / Adobe Indesign / TIFF / EPS / PSD
  - (300 dpi with colour proof)

#### Advertisement Sizes:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Inside Double Spread</td>
<td>Rs. 2,00,000/-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Spread</td>
<td>Rs. 2,00,000/-</td>
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| Back Cover Cover II & III Gate Fold     | Rs. 1,80,000/-  
  - Rs. 1,50,000/-  
  - Rs. 2,50,000/- |
| Full Page Bleed                         | Rs. 1,00,000/- |
| Full Page                               | Rs. 1,00,000/- |
| Half Page                               | Rs. 60,000/-  
  - Horizontal 194 (w) x 140 (h) mm |
  - Vertical 96 (w) x 280 (h) mm |
| Quarter Page                            | Rs. 30,000/-  
  - 96 (w) x 140 (h) mm |
| Classified (60X30mm)                     | Rs. 5,400/-  
  - 60 (w) x 30 (h) mm |
| Bottom Banner                           | Rs. 25,000/-  
  - 194 (w) x 45 (h) mm |
| Vertical Banner                         | Rs. 25,000/-  
  - 36 (w) x 260 (h) mm |
| Button                                  | Rs. 20,000/-  
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- **IFSC Code:** BKID 0000057
- **Account No.:** 005720100011111
- **PAN No.:** AAACM 0712 G

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  - Mobile: +91 9372348554 / 8422822028

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Pune  120 kms  
Mumbai  247 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Wathar  
Nearest Airport  
Pune  

**Panshet**  
Dist. Pune  
Tel.: (02130) 204060  
Getting there  
Pune  40 kms  
Mumbai  180 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Pune  
Nearest Airport  
Pune  

**Matheran**  
Dist. Raigad  
Tel.: (02148) 230540  
Getting there  
Neral  21 kms  
Pune  188 kms  
Mumbai  126 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Neral  
Nearest Airport  
Mumbai  

**Tadoba**  
Moharli, Dist. Chandrapur  
Tel.: (02428) 230234, 230263  
Getting there  
Neral  45 Kms  
Pune  137 Kms  
Mumbai  97 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Neral  
Nearest Airport  
Mumbai  

**Shirdi**  
Shirdi ‘Pilgrim’s Inn’  
Tel. Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar  
Tel.: (02423) 235019 to 235197  
Fax.: (02423) 235018  
Getting there  
Nashik  88 kms  
Pune  272 kms  
Ahmednagar  97 kms  
Mumbai  183 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Nashik  
Nearest Airport  
Pune  

**Harashtra**  
Dist. Raigad  
Tel.: (02147) 226036  
Getting there  
Nagpur  220 kms  
Amravati  98 kms  
Aksa  50 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Amravati  
Nearest Airport  
Nagpur  

**Chikhaldara**  
Convention Complex, Dist. Amravati  
Tel.: (07220) 230234, 230263  
Mobile: 8875222057  
Getting there  
Nagpur  220 kms  
Amravati  98 kms  
Aksa  50 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Amravati  
Nearest Airport  
Nagpur  

**Harihareshwar**  
Dist. Raigad  
Tel.: (02147) 226036  
Getting there  
Srivardhan  20 kms  
Mumbai  230 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Mangaon  
Nearest Airport  
Mumbai  

**Tarkarli**  
Dist. Sindhudurg  
Tel.: (02365) 252390  
Mobile: 8879222042  
Getting there  
Malvan  7 kms  
Kolhapur  160 kms  
Nearest railway station  
Kolhapur  
Nearest Airport  
Mumbai  

**Bhandardara**  
Dist. Ahmednagar  
Tel.: (02424) 257032, 257171  
Fax.: (02424) 257170  
Mobile: 8879222051  
Getting there  
Neral  21 kms  
Mumbai  168 kms  
Pune  126 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Igatpuri  
Nearest Airport  
Pune  

**Malshej Ghat**  
Dist. Thane  
Mobile: 8879222031, 95521999  
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Pune  134 kms  
Nearest Railway Station  
Kalyan  
Nearest Airport  
Pune  

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Protein</th>
<th>Fat</th>
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All values are per 100 gms of edible portion. ***Source: Nutritive value of Indian Foods National Institute of Nutrition
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