**Khandala**
**Lonavala**
**Karla**
(MAHARASHTRA)

**Great neighbourhood getaways**

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**LOCATION MAP**

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**GETTING THERE**

**BY AIR**
The nearest airport is Pune, 68 km away.

**BY RAIL**
The convenient railhead is Lonavala, on the Mumbai-Pune line (110 km from Mumbai).

**BY ROAD**
Mumbai-Lonavala: 104 km
Pune-Lonavala: 68 km

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**WHERE TO STAY**

**MTDC Holiday Resort:** It is just off the Mumbai-Pune road. It offers a bar and a restaurant, a water park and boating on a private lake. 2/3/4-bedded A/C and non-A/C self-contained rooms are available, but advance bookings are advisable.

**Reservations:**

- Mumbai, Pune and other regional offices.

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Further information can be obtained from:

**MAHARASHTRA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**


**REGIONAL OFFICES:**
- Mumbai - Tel.: (022) 23630000
- Pune - Tel.: (0212) 22930000
- Ahmedabad - Tel.: (0271) 22930000
- Nagpur - Tel.: (0712) 25839000
- Belgaum - Tel.: (0831) 25839000
- Udaipur - Tel.: (0294) 25839000
- Bangalore - Tel.: (080) 25839000
- New Delhi - Tel.: (011) 23040404
- Hyderabad - Tel.: (040) 25213000
- Chennai - Tel.: (044) 23040404
- Kolkata - Tel.: (033) 25839000
- Varanasi - Tel.: (0512) 25839000
- Trivandrum - Tel.: (0471) 25839000
- Mangalore - Tel.: (0824) 25839000
- Hyderabad - Tel.: (040) 25839000
- Lucknow - Tel.: (0512) 23040404

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**Bheja Caves, divinity in stone**

- **Karla & Bheja Caves:** Nestling in the hills of Lonavala, these rock-cut caves rank amongst the oldest and finest examples of Early Buddhist temples in India. The Karla Cave, the largest Early Buddhist shrine in India, imitates the look of more familiar wooden architecture. Completed in 50 BC, the impressive structure includes a representation of the Buddha, and an altar made up of 37 pillars and carved elephant heads, which once held real ivory tusks. The Bheja Cave complex comprises 18 caves and 14 stupas. Dating from around 250 BC, the architectural curiosities lie amidst thick greenery in a setting that's so calm, it's almost mystical. Just outside Karla Caves, Ekstra Temple is visited by thousands of devotees, mainly fisher folk.

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**more...**

**Location:** Khandala and Lonavala lie 5 km apart, on the western slope of the Sahyadri, straddling the Mumbai-Pune highway at an altitude of 625 m. Karla is 6 km from Lonavala.

**Languages spoken:** Marathi, Hindi and English.

**Climate and clothing:** Temperatures vary from 12°C in winter to around 38°C at the height of summer. The annual rainfall averages 450 cms.

**Best time to visit:** October to May.