

FORTS :

1] Visapur fort :



Visapur Fort is one of the highest forts in Maharashtra. Perched upon a lush green plateau, the fort is a very popular excursion destination amongst nature lovers, trekkers, and campers.

There are two routes to trek to the top at Visapur fort:

1) The more well-defined and faster route is from the base village of Lohagadwadi, which is also the starting point for Lohagad Fort. The second route is more winding and slower, and at times difficult to find, but more exciting and fun - especially during the monsoons.

2) For the second route, drive your car to the Patan village, and then ask locals for the starting point of the trek. What's special about one of the two routes which take you to the top is that you would need to climb through the gushing waterfall for the most part of the trail (only in monsoon season). The route is well-defined, except for a few places, so look out for arrows marked in the stone at these locations. Keep in mind that you have to follow the trail which goes up next to the waterfall.

Malshej ghat is located at 5 to 6 km from Malavi railway station. Located around 60 kms from Pune and 100 kms from Mumbai (or The nearest railhead to Visapur Fort is Malavi station (approx. 5 kms) which is well connected to Mumbai, Lonavala, and Pune via local trains. From Malavi station shared auto/taxi are available for the base village of Visapur Fort. You can also opt to walk all the way as it would hardly take an hour to reach the base village.)



2] Rajmachi Fort :

Location : Rajmachi Fort is located in the middle of the Mumbai- Pune highway and is connected by road and rail network with the major cities of India. From Pune take the Udayan Express at 8.10 a.m. from Dadar station and reach Lonavala at around 9.30 a.m. From there rickshaws are available till Tungarli Dam which is about 4 km from Lonavala station. The rest of 16 Km from Tungarli to Udhewadi base village has to be covered on foot.

The historical fort dating back to the time of the great Maratha ruler Chatrapati Shivaji is located amidst the lush green Sahyadri range and is one of the most sought-after trekking destinations in Maharashtra where you can experience nature at her varying moods.

The trekking trail to Rajmachi Fort abounds several waterfalls, deep gorges and valleys, quaint villages, waterways and many more to feast your eyes on.

Best time to visit the best time to visit Rajmachi Fort is between the months of June- September when monsoon sets in full swing and the entire region takes on a mystic charm being drenched in rain.





3]RAIGAD Fort

Raigad is a hill fortress situated near Mahad, Raigad district of Maharashtra. the fort is an important fortress once served as capital of great sovereign Shivaji Maharaj. The fort rises 820 m (2700 feet) above sea level, is located in the Sahyadri mountain range . there are approximately 1737 steps leading to the fort, though today an aerial tram exists to reach the top of the fort.

Known as the “Gibraltar of the East” by the Europeans, the Raigad Fort is a majestic and aesthetically appealing hill fort in the district of Raigad, Maharashtra. Located 820 meters above sea level in the Sahyadri mountain range, the fort can be accessed by a single pathway comprising of 1737 steps. Its strategic build speaks of the clever architecture and design used centuries ago. Surrounded by deep green valleys, the fort has several gateways that enthrall its visitors, namely, the Mena Darwaja, Nagarkhana Darwaja, Palkhi Darwaja, and the majestic Maha Darwaja which is the main entrance to the imperial structure. Today, the fort serves as a living reminder of the glory and valor of the Marathas

The best months to visit Raigad Fort are from November to March, with pleasant winter weather making it ideal for tourists. Activities like ropeway or trekking are top things to do during winters. Summers are on the hotter side with peak temperatures reaching 50 degrees Celsius. There is less influx of tourists between March to June because of the heat.



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4]Panhala



anahala fort was built between 1178 and 1209 CE, one of 15 forts (others including Bavda, Bhudargad, Satara, and Vishalgad) built by the Shilahara ruler Bhoja II. It is said that aphorism Kahaan Raja Bhoj, kahan Gangu Teli is associated with this fort. A copper plate found in Satara shows that Raja Bhoja held court at Panhala from 1191–1192 CE. About 1209–10, Bhoja Raja was defeated by Singhana (1209–1247), the most powerful of the Devgiri Yadavas, and the fort subsequently passed into the hands of the Yadavas. Apparently it was not well looked after and it passed through several local chiefs. In 1376 inscriptions record the settlement of Nabhapur to the south-east of the fort.[3]

It was an outpost of the Bahamanis of Bidar. Mahmud Gawan, an influential prime minister, encamped here during the rainy season of 1469. On the establishment of the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur in 1489, Panhala came under Bijapur and was fortified extensively. They built the strong ramparts and gateways of the fort which, according to tradition, took a hundred years to build. Numerous inscriptions in the fort refer to the reign of Ibrahim Adil Shah, probably Ibrahim I (1534–1557).



Panhala fort is called 'Fort of snakes' because its texture is zigzagged i.e. it looks like a snake is walking on the wall. Near this fort is the temple of Kuldevi Tulja Bhavani in Juna Rajbada, in which a secret tunnel is built, which opens directly into the Panhala Fort, 22 km away. At present, this tunnel has been closed. Under this three-storey building in this fort there is a secret well, which is known as Andhar Bawdi. It is believed that this stepwell was built by the Mughal ruler Adil Shah. The reason for its construction was that Adil Shah believed that whenever enemies attack the fort, they can mix poison in the water in the nearby wells or ponds.

5] Murud-Janjira

Murud Janjira Fort is a mighty fortification located on an island off of the coastal village of Murud, 55 km from Alibag in Maharashtra. Towering up from a massive rock amidst the stretching azure of the Arabian Sea, this fort has stood the test of time as well as the test of resilience in the past. This fort is a must visit if you are travelling along the Konkan coast in Maharashtra.

The fort standing tall along the coastline represents the glory and resilience of the past. If you are a history lover, then the architecture and the art that is engraved all over this fort will surely leave you inspired. At the roof of the fort one can witness the serene view of the Arabian sea merging with the blue skies. To learn about the tales and stories associated with the fort, don't forget to hire a guide to complete your experience at Murud Janjira.

The fort, last revamped at the end of 17th century, still has most of its significant fortifications standing intact except a few ruins inside. The main attractions of the magnificent fort are the three colossal canons called Kalal Bangadi, Chavri and Landa Kasam. Once it stood firm and robust in defence with 572 roaring canons, but now only these three can be witnessed. Made of a mixture of five metals, the canons could shoot as much as 12 kilometres into the sea, as word of mouth goes.

The Murud Janjira Fort has two significant doorways. The main entrance faces the jetty from where boats ferry people to and fro. This sizeable arched gate is flanked with motifs of mighty animals. On one side there were six elephants trapped by one tiger in its claws, and on the other side, two giant elephants were locking tusks as two lions stood at the side. The entranceway takes you to court or Durbar Hall which used to be a three-story structure, now a ruin. The other doorway to the west called the 'Darya Darwaza', which opens into the sea and was probably used as an emergency escape back in the days.

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6]Ratangad



Ratangad fort is a part of the Kalsubai range, which consists of some of the highest peaks in the Sahyadris. Ratangad gives you the best views of surrounding peaks and Bhandardara dam. Experience the colossal cliffs unfolding in front of your eyes, one behind the other as you walk on the edge of the fort. The robustness of Sahyadris can be experienced only from a few forts and Ratangad is one of them. Standing in the “Eye of the Needle” is a major attraction.

At a distance of 6 km from Ratanwadi, 23 km from Bhandardara, 183 km from Pune & 197 km from Mumbai, Ratangad is an ancient hill fort situated at Ratanwadi village in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Ratangad is very popular place for trekking in Maharashtra and also one of the famous Bhandardara tourist places.

The fort is located at a height of 4250 feet. Ratangad Fort is 400 year old fort, which was used by Maratha warrior Shivaji Maharaj.

The fort has four gates known as Ganesh, Hanuman, Konkan and Trimbak.

The best time to visit Ratangad is from October to December.



Valley of Sandhan is a one-and-a-half-kilometer distance from Samrad village in Ahmednagar district, on the west side of the Bhandardara region. All year round, there is crowd except for four months of rainy season.

The way in the valley becomes so tapering that sunlight does not reach the ground in many places. It is a memorable experience for a trip to Sandhan valley while witnessing the magnificence of Sahyadri in front of the Ajoba Mountains, Ratan Gad and the Alang-Madan-Kulang fort and the Kalsubai peak. It is said that the depth of the number two in the continent is in Asia