

HISTORICAL PLACES IN INDIA

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Shaniwar Wada, Pune



History:-

The Shaniwar Wada was built by Bajirao I in the 18th century. Bajirao served as the Peshwa or the Prime Minister to the Maratha ruler- Chhatrapati Sahu. The palace was at first supposed to be a massive 7-storey stone structure, but after the completion of the base floor, much hue and cry arose. The people objected to the construction on the grounds of the fact that stone palaces could be sanctioned and built only by the king and not by his Peshwa. Following this, it was decided that the remaining building would be constructed in brick, and not stone. Shaniwar Wada was finally completed, but little did anyone know that the monument would witness some murky and horrifying times in the days to come. 90 years later, the palace was attacked by the British Artillery, which caused the entire six storeys to collapse and fall. Only the stone base remained to testify the grandeur and glory of the period passed. On February 27 in 1828, a great mysterious fire started inside the compound. The fire that raged on for seven days razed the entire palace to the ground and what remained were large granite ramparts and ruins of the buildings, along with a few strong teak gateways.

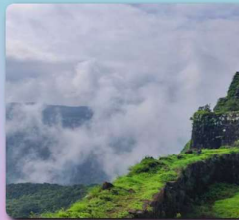
Elephanta Caves, Mumbai



Elephanta Caves:-

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Elephanta Caves is a specimen of rock-cut art and architecture from the times of medieval India. The caves are located on the Elephanta or Gharapuri island which is situated at a distance of 11 km from the city of Mumbai. Natively known as Gharapurichi Leni, the Elephanta Caves that exist today are ruins of what were once elaborately painted artworks. It also provides an amazing view of the Mumbai skyline. You can reach the Elephanta Caves via a ferry ride from Gateway of India. This collection of cave temples dates back to 5th to 7th centuries and most of them are dedicated to Lord Shiva. There are two groups of alcoves in the site of the Elephanta Caves, the first is a large group of five Hindu caves and the second one is a smaller group of two Buddhist caves. The Hindu caves contain the stone sculptures representing the Shaiva Hindu sect. The caves are an expression of art and a number of important imageries are sculpted here, which include 'Trimurti' or three-headed Shiva, 'Gangadhar' which is a manifestation of the river Ganga as she descends to the earth and 'Ardhnreshwar', which is a representation of Shiva and Parvati in the same body. In addition to being an important heritage site, the Elephanta Caves are also an unlikely trekking destination

Rajmachi Fort, Khandala



Rajmachi:-

Rajmachi is a small village situated in the Sahyadri mountain range of the Konkan region of Maharashtra. Rajmachi is famous for the historical fortress which has two fortified peaks - Shrivardhan and Manaranjan forts, located near two famous hills of Lonavala and Khandala. At the base of the fort is the village Udhewadi which is another name for Rajmachi. Rajmachi has seen many change of hands from Shivaji Maharaj, Emperor Aurangzeb, Shahu Maharaj and eventually the British reign. The fort of Rajmachi is famous among trekkers and adventure enthusiasts. If you want to experience a full-fledged trek, you can start from the Kondhane caves side which will take 3-4 hours of climbing, but otherwise you can drive right upto Udhewadi village (from the Lonavala side) and then trek for hardly 20-30 minutes to the top of the fort. The simple and clearly marked trail on both the paths make Rajmachi a very popular beginner's trek.

History:-

The mighty Rajmachi fort was built by the Satavahanas who established their kingdom soon after the Mauryan Dynasty came to an end and ruled the

Murud Janjira, Maharashtra



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. Nineteen of the fort's bastions still stand to this date, reflecting their glorious past with pride. Just a short boat ride away from the sandy coast, the roof of the magnificent fort not only offers a glimpse into the past but also has a spectacular view of the Arabian Sea all around.

History:-

The history of Murud Janjira fort goes way back to the 15th century when some local fishermen of Rajapuri built a small wooden fort called Medhekot on a massive rock out in the sea to save themselves and their families from the attack of pirates. However, the Nizam Shahi Sultan of Ahmednagar wanted it to make one of his strongholds, firstly because of the vast area and secondly because of its strategic positions. As per the

Tikona Fort, Lonavala



Tikona Fort:-

Tikona Fort, a dominant hill fortress is a popular one-day trek spot of the Pawana Maval region of the Konkan. The real Marathi name of the fort is Vitandgad, but it gets its more famous name from the triangular shape it is built-in. Situated at a height of 3500 feet, the fort has high fortifications, large doorways, seven water tanks with clean water and a spectacular view from its topmost bastion. The trek from the village of Tikona Peth to the top of the hill is an ideal getaway for the adventurers at heart. After crossing several caves, temples and water tanks, the route brings you to the edge of the extended parapet from where you can take in the fantastic beauty of the surroundings. The fortress and its pride is a paradise for the photography-lovers.

History:-

The portion of land between Sahyadri - the Western Ghats and the Konkan Coast is divided into 12 smaller parts called 'Maval'. Tikona fort, being one of the four main fortresses of the Pawana Maval, played a crucial role in the protection of the region as well as of the other forts Lohagad,

