**RAIGAD FORT :**

**YEAR – 1030**

**Built BY :**  Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Chief Engineer was Hirojee Indulkar

**Info -** Raigad Fort belonging to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is an imposing and famous hill fort nestled at Mahad, in Raigad District in Maharashtra. It is one of the strongest-ever fortresses of the Deccan Plateau and is known as the ‘Gibraltar of the East’ across the world. Several structures and other constructions in Raigad were developed by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He made this his capital in 1674, after being crowned as the king of the entire Maratha Kingdom .

The fort rises 820 metres (2,700 ft) above sea level in the Sahyadri mountain range. There are approximately 1,737 steps leading to the fort. The Raigad Ropeway, an aerial tramway, reaches 400 meters in height and 750 meters in length, and allows visitors to reach the fort from the ground in only four minutes.

The fort was expanded and renamed from Rairi to Raigad by Shivaji. He made it into an impenetrable fortress, complete with an impressive granary, a massive kitchen, a meeting room, a marketplace, a queens’ palace divided into six rooms, secret doorways for king’s and queen’s entry, more than ten water storage tanks, a place dedicated to giving capital punishment to criminals and so on.

**MURUD JANJIRA**

**YEAR – 16th century**

**Built BY : Raja Ram RAO Patil**

**Info –**

Situated on a rock of oval shape near the port town of Murud, 165kms south of Mumbai, Janjira is one of the strongest marine forts of India (the word ‘Janjira’ is a corruption of the Arabic word Jazira for island). The forts is approached by sailboats from Rajapuri jetty. The main gate of the fort faces Rajapuri on the shore and can be seen only when one is quite close to it. It has a small postern gate towards the open sea for escape. The fort has 19 rounded bastions, still intact. There are many canons of native and European make rusting on the bastions. Now in ruins, the fort in its heyday had all necessary facilities, e.g., palaces, quarters for officers, mosque, a big fresh water tank, etc. On the outer wall flanking the main gate, there is a sculpture depicting a tiger-like beast clasping elephants in its claws. This sculpture, its meaning difficult to interpret, appears on many fort-gates of Maharashtra.

Originally the fort was small wooden structure built by a Koli chief in the late 15th century. It was captured by Pir Khan, a general of Nizamshah of Ahmednagar. Later the fort was strengthened by Malik Ambar, the Abyssinian Siddi regent of Ahmednagar kings. From then onward Siddis became independent, owing allegiance to Adilshah and the Mughals as dictated by the times. Despite their repeated attempts, the Portuguese, the British and the Marathas failed to subdue the Siddi power. Shivaji’s all attempts to capture Janjira fort failed due to one reason or the other. When Sambhaji also failed, he built another island fort, known as Kansa or Padmadurg, just 9kms north of Janjira. The Janjira state came to an end after 1947. The palace of the Nawabs of Janjira at Murud is still in good shape

**PURANDAR FORT :**

**YEAR- 11th century**

**Built BY : Yadava Dynasty**

**Info –**

Purandar Fort also called Purandhar Fort signifies the rise of Shivaji against Adil Shahi Bijapur Sultanate and the Mughals

Purandar fort is  located near Pune in Maharashtra. The fort is said to be the birthplace of Chhtrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, Son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. This was the fort from which the rising Maratha kingdom Started against the Adilshah of Bijapur Sultanate and Mughals. The fort is divided into two parts. The Lower part of the fort is called as machi while the Upper Part is called a balekilla. The Lower part of the fort was used as a hospital  and cantonment during the era. While the upper part is surrounded with steep drop from three sides.

This is the fort from where the Maratha’s started the Expansion of their kingdom against the Adilshah of Bijapur and the Mughal. The fort is said to be one of the oldest forts. It was Captured by Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the year 1646. The “Treaty of Purandar” was signed in 1665 between Shivaji Mahraj and Auranzeb when his commander Mirza Raje Jaisingh captured the fort. According to the treaty, Shivaji handed over twenty-three forts including Purandar, and a territory with a revenue of four lakh hons (gold coins). Shivaji Maharaj was made the jagirdar of the territory.

After 5 years in 1670 Shivaji Maharaj Recaptured the fort from Aurangzeb. After that the fort was under the Peshwas. In 1690 Koli chief Karoji Naik Conquered the fort. In the year 1818 the fort was under the british when they were ruling India. During World war 2 the fort was used as a prison by the britishers. After 1947 when India Got Independence the fort went under the Government of India as a Historical Monument.

**VIJAYDURG FORT :**

**YEAR – 13th century**

**Built BY : Raja Bhoj of Shilahar**

**Info –**

\ The Vijaydurg Fort stands testimony to the naval prowess of the Marathas. It is 500 km south of [Mumbai](https://www.india.com/travel/mumbai/)on the western coast of [**Maharashtra**](https://www.india.com/travel/states/maharashtra/). The village close to the Vijaydurg fort gets its name from the fort. Vijaydurg was earlier known as ‘Gheria’ as it is was surrounded on three sides by the sea. It was renamed Vijaydurg after it was conquered by Maratha King Shivaji in 1653 from Adilshah of [**Bijapur**](https://www.india.com/travel/bijapur/). Vijay stands for ‘victory’ making it the ‘fort of victory’. Shivaji developed the 17 acre fort as an important base which was used to harbor and repair Maratha warships.

The Vijaydurg Fort is situated at the mouth of Vaghotan River that separates Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. It is the largest fort on the coast and stands mighty due to its fine architecture. The fortress was virtually impregnable because of the 40 km shallow creek which acted as a natural protection around the fort. The shallow creek made it impossible for massive enemy ships to approach the fort. Marks of cannon balls can still be seen on the fort walls.

The fort is constructed using laterite stones. A 10 m high compound wall, about 300 ft away from the fort deep in the sea, served as a defense against attacking ships. Ships collided with the wall and sank. The fort also has a 200 m long tunnel for emergency evacuation.

These features of the fort make it highly admirable. The fort was also known as the ‘Eastern Gibraltar,’ because of its imposing presence.

**TORNA FORT :**

**YEAR – 13th century**

**Built BY : Shiva Panth**

**Info -**

This tort was conquered by Shivajı Maharaj in his teenage years and laid the toundation ot the Maratha empire. This makes Torna a special

fort for Maharashtrians. Torna is a well-structured fort. Even today, it is considered a difficult fort by trekkers. It stands as one of the most

important military structures in the history of Maharashtra and the Maratha Empire. The walls and gateways of this fort are in good

condition. The walls are semicircular in shape. One can visit the temples of the fort that are still functioning, and devotees visit there

regularly.

The fort is even popularly known as Prachandagad due to its huge premise. The origin of this fort is not known. However, the legend says it

was constructed in the 13th century by Siva Panth who was a follower of the Hindu God Shiva. From 1470 to 1486 A.D., Malik Ahmed, a

Bahmani ruler, took control of this fort. In the later times, Nizam shah ruled it. In 1646, Shivaji Maharaj brought this fort under his control

from Adilshah, and it came to the Maratha Empire. Later on, he named it Prachandagad. He was the one who built some new structures in

the fort of Prachandagad. His great escape from Agra is still remembered in Maratha history. Shivaji Maharaj came here & renovated the

fort after he escaped from Agra. After Shivaji Maharaj's death, Mughals took over this fort from Marathas after the assassination of

Sambhaji Maharaj. However, brave Maratha warriors successfully regained the fort with the strategic efforts of Shankaraji Narayan Sachiv.