Lonavala; A place of love

Lonavala is a popular hill station in the western region of Maharashtra state. This is the best place for a romantic vacation away from the crowded metropolitan life of Mumbai. Situated at an altitude of 625 meters above sea level, this exquisitely mountainous region is a part of the breathtaking Sahyadri Hills and covers 38 square kilometers in extent. Lonavala is 97 km from Mumbai and 64 km from Pune.

Surrounded by lush green hills, the beauty of Lonavala is very pleasant. There are many places worth visiting here. If you want to trek, the facility of climbing the mountain is also available. You can also enjoy the views of the mountains. There are many places to visit in this small town. Rajmachi Point, Lonavala Lake, Karla Caves, Lohagarh Fort, Bushy Dam, Rywood Park, and Shivaji Udyan. Whether , you want to go for a walk with family or to have fun with friends, this place is pleasant for all.

## Demographics:

* As of the 2011 India census, Lonavala had a population of 57,698.
* Male’s population: 53.47%
* Females Population: 46.53%.
* Sex ratio in Lonavala: 870 (lower than the state average of 929).
* Literacy rate: 89.33% (higher than the state average of 82.34%).
* The male literacy rate is 93.4%,
* The female literacy rate is 84.57%.

History of Lonawala:

Lonavala is derived from the Sanskrit word Lonavala, which means 'caves.' Looking at the history of Lonavala, we see that Lord Elphinstone, who was the Governor of Bombay Presidency in the year 1871, started the process of developing Lonavala along with Khandala. Present-day Lonavala used to be a part of the Yadava dynasty in ancient times, which was annexed by the Mughals to their sultanate. In the end, the Marathas ruled over Lonavala. The forts of the Lonavala region and the Malwa warriors played an important role in the history of the Maratha and Peshwa empires.

**Attractions in Lonawala:**  Many beautiful tourist places around Lonavala, which tourists like to visit. However, if you are on a trip to Lonavala, you must also visit its major sightseeing places, whose information we will give you below.

## Best time to visit:

If you want to see greenery and waterfalls and dam waterfalls in Lonavala, then you go here in the rainy season, this season can be a bit risky and troublesome. By the way, the best time to visit here is considered to be from the months of October to February.

## How to reach?

### By road:

Lonavala is on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway and is well connected to Khopoli, Karjat, Talegaon Dabhade, etc.

### By train

Lonavala is well connected by train. Local trains run from Pune at an interval of 2 hours. Those initial central lines from Mumbai with Khopoli as their last station. Buses are available at regular intervals to cover the remaining 15 km journey from Khopoli Bus Station to Lonavala. It takes 2.5 hours by train from Mumbai and 1 to 1.5 hours from Pune. All trains traveling between Mumbai and Pune stop at Lonavala. Before push-pull technology, trains from Mumbai halted at Karjat in Raigad district to connect banker locomotives before the train began its journey to the Western Ghats to reach Lonavala.

### By plane

Lonavala does not have an airport, although the Indian Air Force Station is located on the way to Aamby Valley City. The city of Aamby Valley has its private airport. Pune International Airport's nearest commercial airport at 64 km and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport at 104 km. A sea flight service is also available between Juhu and Pawana Dam, 14 km from Lonavala.

## Visiting places in Lonawala:

### Tiger’s Leap, Lonavala

Tiger’s Leap is a prime tourist attraction that sits in the lap of nature at the height of 650 meters above sea level. Interestingly, this vantage point has been named so because of its shape that resembles a tiger leaping into the valley. It is frequented by adventure seekers who indulge in trekking and hiking here.

This beautiful site with an echo point and a stream flowing nearby offer stunning views of the valley below that attract vacationers in large numbers. Of course, you can always pack a picnic lunch and head to this place to spend some quality time with your loved ones.

### Bhaja Caves

The places to visit in Lonavala are the Bhaja Caves, a group of 22 rock-cut caves, which are believed to date back to the 22nd century BC. The Bhaja Caves resemble the Karla Caves in style and architectural design. You'll find the idols of Surya Narayan and Indra Dev inside the Bhaja cave.

### Rajmachi

Rajmachi is a small village situated in the Sahyadri mountain range of the Konkan region of Maharashtra. Rajmachi is famous for the historic 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, there is a village Udhewadi which is another name for Rajmachi. Rajmachi is the oldest place in Lonavala. Many emperors ruled here, such as Shivaji Maharaj, Emperor Aurangzeb, Shahu Maharaj, and eventually, 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 side of the Kondhane cave, 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 marked trail on both paths makes Rajmachi a very popular trek for beginners.

### Bushi Dam:

Bushi Dam is a famous picnic spot in Lonavala; the tourists very much like this place. The water falling from the dam, sitting on the stairs and enjoying the water, is remembered by tourists for ages. Whenever you go to Bushi Dam, you should wear slippers; if you want, you can also get slippers on rent available near the Dam. There are many shops around here where tea-pakodas, chikkis, etc., are found. A wonderful beauty will be seen here during the rainy season, and the true nature of the waterfalls will be seen only in the rainy season. Therefore, on Saturdays and Sundays, you can see a heavy crowd here.

### Kune Waterfall:

The 14th highest waterfall in India is located in Lonavala and is the main attraction during the rainy season. This waterfall is known as Kune, and its height is 660 feet. The entire waterfall offers a splendid piece of nature's art with a rich backdrop of greenery. It is indeed a breathtaking sight for any visitor. However, it would be best to visit this place only during monsoon time to experience the true beauty.

### Pawana Lake:

If you want to make your monsoon even more romantic, then plan for Pavana Lake. This lake is situated at a distance of just 15 km from Lonavala. This place is the best place to hang out with friends on the weekend. A huge lake which is full of greenery all around. The special thing about this lake is that here you will not see a crowd like Lonavala and you will be able to enjoy your holidays with your family in peace.

You can not only enjoy boating in Pavana Lake, but trekking can also be enjoyed. So you can come here for trekking. You can also visit Lohagarh Fort, Tung Fort, etc. If you want to enjoy trekking together, then keep a guide with you.

### Duke's Nose Point:

This place has a funny name because the rock resembles the nose of the Duke of Wellington, which explains its intriguing name. It is a popular sight as it offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding mountains, valleys, and forests. This is one of the best places in Lonavala in monsoon, with picture-perfect places where the best experience starts early in the morning and the cool breezes here give you a beautiful feeling which cannot be compared with anything else.

### Tungarli Lake

If you are searching for a tranquil, beautiful spot to enjoy your travel time, Tungarli Lake is the place where you can visit. This place is located just outside Lonavala. You'll like the beauty of the still, clear, and deep waters of this lake. Tungarli Lake offers a comfortable and romantic ambiance throughout the monsoons. You can relax here, as it is a peaceful place. It is an excellent spot for those seeking to take a break from their hectic daily routine. It is the perfect place for couples. Suppose you are seeking alone time to blend with the natural environment, you can come here. You can also get lots of food choices in Tungarli Village. However, it is prudent to pack up some essentials while you are trailing this place.

### Lions Point and Tiger Point; Attraction of Lonavala:

The most attractive place to visit in Lonavala is Lions Point which is situated between Bhushi Dam and Anabi Valley at about 12 km from Lonavala Railway Station. Many small waterfalls, green hills, and lakes are seen in Lions Point during the monsoon season, which adds to the beauty of the place.

Lion Point is located at a distance of about 4.5 kilometers from Bhusi Dam. Lion Point lies between Bhusi Dam and Amby Valley. After visiting Lion Point, you can go to Aamby Valley. From Lion Point and Tiger Point, you see the beautiful mountains. You get a wonderful view of greenery, waterfalls, fog from this place.

### Fort Lohagarh:

The fort of Lohagarh is situated on a beautiful hill at an altitude of about 3400 feet above sea level. Maharashtra is a major tourist destination in the state. The fort of Lohagarh has also made its place in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. This historical fort is situated at about 52 kms from Pune and about 20 kms from Lonavala Hill Station. Lohagarh Fort is situated on a beautiful hill. The perfect amalgamation of ancient architecture and natural beauty is seen in the Lohagarh Fort. Lohagarh Fort serves as an ideal destination for trekking and nature lovers.

It is believed that this is the same fort in which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj used to keep his treasure. The roots of Lohagarh Fort also meet with its neighboring Visapur Fort. Visiting Lohagarh Fort is a wonderful pleasure in itself, as tourists can also visit Lonavala, Lohagarh Fort, and Visapur Fort along with it.

### Karla Caves:

The Karla Caves near Lonavala were constructed between the 2nd century and the 5th century. Among these famous Buddhist rock-cut caves, India's largest Chaityagriha is known for its architectural style. It is said that the monks decided to build their temple here, as Karla was a natural cave, and therefore ideal for excavation. Many temples were left in the middle, which is evident from their broad, rugged outlines. The pillars of the chaityagriha, as well as the verandahs, have grand sculptures. These 15 caves are also known for their elaborate inscriptions. They are built on top of a hill, and it used to rain a lot at one time.

### Ryewood Park

This place has an area of 25 acres. Ryewood Park houses various beautiful shrubs and ancient trees. This place is located near the Lonavala market. Ryewood Park was designed as a botanical garden. However, it was rebuilt later. You can see a wide species of flowers are planted here. Having ample open areas to relax and recline along with a broad green space, you can unwind in the peaceful atmosphere of this area. Swings are additionally included in one portion of this attraction in Lonavala. It is a popular junction of the kids visiting the place. There is a Shiva Temple inside the premises, which makes for a large meditation center. Early mornings and late evenings are comfortable here.

### Imagica:

The distance from Lonavala to Imagica is approximately 27 kms. Imagica Theme Park is opened in April 2013. This park is one of the most popular amusement theme parks of Lonavala and Maharashtra, also known as the Amusement Center. This park is divided into three amusement areas which are as follows -Water parks, snow parks, and theme parks. Here you can have great fun with your kids.

### Bhairavnath Temple:

Bhairavnath Temple, also known as Devasthan, is an ancient temple located in a densely forested area near Lonavala. Dedicated to Lord Bhairva, an incarnation of Lord Shiva, a greasy path leads to the shrine of this revered place. Similar to Konkan temples, the architecture of this place is very simple yet magnetic. Many shrines of gods and goddesses surround this place of worship. During Mahashivratri, hundreds of devotees come here to pay obeisance to the Lord with their offerings.

## Bottom Line:

So what are you thinking? Why are you waiting? It's the best time to visit Lonavala. So pack your bags now and go out to enjoy the monsoon by sitting in the lap of nature, drenched in the drizzling showers.