

Sahyadris - Places for Camping

(Real experiences. No commercial camps.)

1. Foothills of Rajmachi Fort (near temple)

Why this place works

- Temple area gives a sense of safety
- Villagers are usually nearby
- Good base before or after long rides

Prep & learnings

- Always camp close to human presence
- Keep food packed and hidden

Precautions

- Heavy monkey activity near temple areas
 - Do not leave bags unattended
 - Avoid cooking openly late at night
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2. Railing Plateau (via Singapur village)

Why this place works

- One of the most peaceful and secluded locations
- Open plateau with stunning views of Lingana fort
- Feels completely disconnected from the world

Prep & learnings

- Access requires ~1 hour forest walk
- Local villagers can help with food, water and luggage (for a fee)

Precautions

- Decide costs clearly with villagers beforehand
 - Forest trail can feel intimidating - stay calm and alert
 - Avoid night movement inside the forest stretch
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3. Dhom Dam

Why this place works

- Very easy to reach

- Beautiful sunset and calm waters
- Tourists leave by evening

Prep & learnings

- Feels peaceful after sunset despite nearby road
- Works best if you keep a very low profile

Precautions

- Main road is 500 m – 1 km away
- Avoid loud music or lights at night
- Camp away from water edge during monsoon

4. Ghangad Fort Camping

Why this place works

- Locals are used to trekkers and campers
- Help available for food and stay

Prep & learnings

- Always speak to the person collecting entry fee
- They usually guide you to safe camping spots

Precautions

- Negotiate everything upfront - food, stay, charges
- Do not assume prices
- Avoid wandering on fort edges after dark

5. Mrugagad Base Village

Why this place works

- Temple near base village provides comfort
- Village presence feels reassuring

Prep & learnings

- Nights become extremely quiet once villagers sleep
- Mentally prepare for silence and isolation

Precautions

- Avoid exploring surroundings late at night
- Stick close to temple or village zone
- Keep lights minimal but accessible

6. Kurdugad Fort

Why this place works

- Ancient temple area offers flat camping ground
- Beautiful fort with strong Sahyadri vibes

Prep & learnings

- Known wildlife movement in nearby forest belt

Precautions

- Leopard movement reported (attacks on dogs/livestock)
- No roaming after dark
- Stay together and avoid food smells around camp

7. Tail Baila

Why this place works

- Very safe due to nearby village
- Large open spaces for camping
- Calm and scenic surroundings

Prep & learnings

- Locals are strict about forest safety
- Fire risk is taken seriously here

Precautions

- Open fire not allowed due to wildfire risk
- Respect villagers' instructions completely
- Maintain cleanliness - area is sensitive

Key Camping Principles

- Camp near **temples or villages whenever possible, especially if solo**
- Avoid showing off - **low profile = high safety**
- Silence after nightfall is normal in Sahyadris - don't panic
- Respect locals more than maps or internet advice
- Wildlife is real - fear is not paranoia, it's awareness
- Do not litter, carry garbage bag with you and once done, collect your garbage and dispose off properly. Respect nature.