



GUARDIANS OF HISTORY

The formidable forts of Maharashtra

From the imposing ramparts of Raigad to the serene beauty of Pratapgad, forts in Maharashtra are enduring symbols of the land's rich history and cultural heritage. There are over 350 forts in the State and most of them were built under the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Maharashtra is perhaps the only state that has almost all types of fort architecture, land, sea and hill forts. A testament to the architectural prowess of ancient builders and the resilience of the Maratha warriors who defended them, these forts are gateways to a bygone era. This folder gives you glimpses into a few of these historical treasures.

SINDHUDURG FORT - SINDHUDURG DISTRICT

Built between 1664-1667 AD, this fortress in Malvan once served as the coastal capital and naval stronghold of the Maratha Empire. Nestled within the stronghold is the sole temple dedicated to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. This formidable fortress, spans an expansive 48 acres and is enveloped by water and formidable rocks on all sides, rendering any approach by adversaries virtually unattainable without detection.

Getting there:

- ✈ **By Air:** Chipi - 22 km;
Mopa (Goa) - 78 km; Goa Dabolim
International - 130 km; Belgaum - 158 km
- 🚂 **By Rail:** Kudal - 34 km
- 🚌 **By Road:** Malvan - 3 km
- 🚤 **Sindhudurg Fort is accessible by boat**
from the coastal town of Malvan

Things to do:

Pray at the world's only Shivaji Maharaj temple | Witness Maharaj's handprints and footprints | See the branched coconut tree | Visit the three sweet water wells | Visit the hidden entrance gate, Delhi Darwaja | Explore a 16th century underwater passage

Attractions in and around:

Tarkarli Beach | Devbagh Beach | Amboli Waterfall | Vijaydurg Fort | Shiroda Beach | Kunkeshwar Beach | Kunkeshwar Temple | Rock Garden | Chivla Beach | Rajkot Beach

SHIVNERI FORT - PUNE DISTRICT

Shivneri Fort holds the distinction of being the birthplace of Shivaji, founder of the Maratha Empire. The most important structure is Shivkunj, the pavilion in which he was born. The fort has seven gates covering the one-mile stretch of the fortification. A huge water tank called the Badami Talav, the statues of Jijabai and Shivaji, two springs named Ganga and Jamuna are some of the other prominent attractions here.

Getting there:

✈ **By Air:** Pune - 70 km; Nashik - 105 km; Mumbai - 106 km; Aurangabad - 180 km

🚂 **By Rail:** Rajapur - 63 km; Pune - 94 km

🚌 **By Road:** Pune - 94 km; Mumbai - 155 km

Attractions in and around:

The Birthplace of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj | The Badami Talav | The Shivai Devi Temple | The Chain Gate | The Execution Point | Kalsubai Peak | Leopard Rescue Centre | Sandhan Valley | Malshej Ghat Photography Point RR



MURUD JANJIRA FORT - RAIGAD DISTRICT

One of India's most formidable marine forts, Murud Janjira once thrived as a self-contained entity complete with palatial structures, officers' quarters, places of worship, and freshwater wells. Situated amid the Arabian Sea, this 14th century fort that served as a pivotal stronghold for the Siddi dynasty holds the distinction of never succumbing to defeat in the face of numerous attempts by hostile forces - thanks to its strategic positioning, intricate defensive mechanisms, and the unwavering valour of its defenders. Inside the fort are three imposing cannons named Kalalbangdi, Chavri, and Landa Kasam.



Getting there:

- ✈ **By Air:** Mumbai International - 150 km; Mumbai Domestic - 167 km; Pune International - 170 km
- 🚆 **By Rail:** Roha - 45 km
- 🚌 **By Road:** Pune - 196 km; Mumbai - 239 km
- ⚓ The fort is accessible by ferry

Things to do:

Marvel at the majestic main entrance | Check out the three colossal cannons | Explore the fort's interior, a maze of narrow passages and hidden chambers | Enjoy the panoramic views from the fort's ramparts




Attractions in and around:


Dutta Mandir | Eidgah | Nawab Palace | Murud Beach
| Khokri Gumat, Rajapuri | Rajapuri Sunset Point
| Amboli Dam | Garambi Waterfall | Sawatkada Waterfall
| Kashid Beach


PRATAPGAD FORT - SATARA DISTRICT

Situated 3543 feet above sea level, this hill fort built in 1656-58 AD, is where Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj defeated Afzal Khan, a general in the Bijapur Adil Shahi empire, in a duel. It has a double line of fortifications and walls on all sides, with varying heights. The temple of Tulja Bhavani, built here by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, is a key attraction.

Getting there:

 **By Air:** Karad - 125 km, Pune - 148 km; Mumbai - 224 km

 **By Rail:** Satara - 82 km; Pune - 142 km;
Sangli - 198 km; Miraj - 210 km

 **By Road:** Satara - 81 km; Pune - 140 km; Mumbai - 221 km

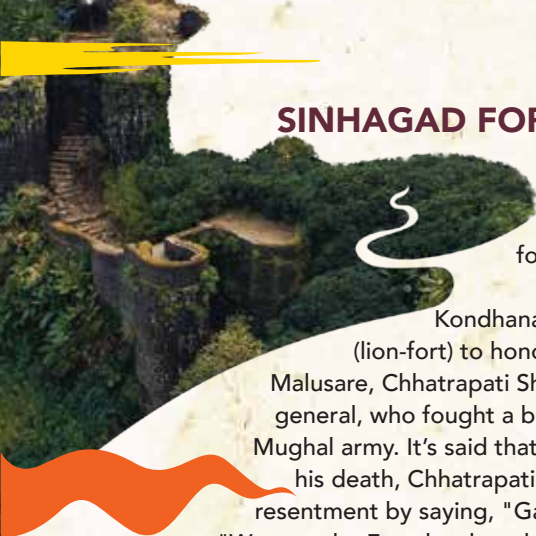
Things to do:

Visit the upper fort | Pray at the temple of Mahadeva
| Visit the lower fort

Attractions in and around:

The Samadhi (tomb) of Afzal Khan
| The Pratapgad Museum





SINHAGAD FORT - PUNE DISTRICT

Sinhagad, earlier known as Kondhana is the most prominent fort in Pune and is located on a 1290 m high hill.

Kondhana was renamed Sinhadgad (lion-fort) to honour the sacrifice of Tanaji Malusare, Chhatrapati Shivaji's trusted and brave general, who fought a battle here alone with the Mughal army. It's said that, on hearing the news of his death, Chhatrapati Shivaji showed his deep resentment by saying, "Gad aala, pan Sinha gela"- "We won the Fort, but lost the Lion". Today, a bust of Tanaji adorns the fort.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Pune - 40 km

🚆 By Rail: Pune - 35 km

🚌 By Road: Pune - 40 km; Mumbai - 190 km

Attractions in and around:

Samadhi of Tanaji Malusare | Kaundinyeshwar Temple
| Kalyan Darwaza | Watchtowers and Bastions | Underground Water Reservoirs

SUVARNADURG FORT - RATNAGIRI DISTRICT

Suvarnadurg, the golden fort, was conquered by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1660 by defeating Ali Adil Shah II. It was considered to be a feather in the golden cap of Marathas, hence the name. Located between Mumbai and Goa on a small island in the Arabian Sea, near Harnai in Konkan, the fort also includes another small land fort called the Kanakadurga.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Pune International - 220 km; Mumbai - 240 km;
Goa (Mopa) - 336 km

🚆 By Rail: Khed - 44 km

🚌 By Road: Dapoli Bus Stand - 13 km; Mumbai - 337 km

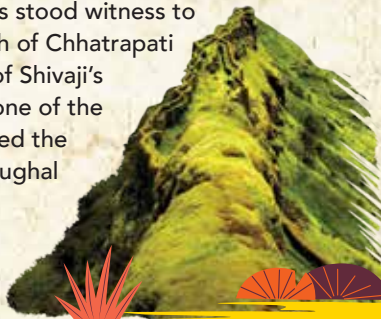
Attractions in and around:

Fish Auction, Harne | Shri Ganpati Mandir, Anjarle | Yakub Baba Dargah Sharif, Kelshi
| Murud Beach, Dapoli | Karde Beach
| Ladghar Beach | Shri Keshavraj Temple
Mandir, Asud | Bhagwan Parshuram Statue,
Burondi | Chandika Devi Mandir, Dabhol
| Dabhol Fort | Panhalekaji Caves



RAJGAD FORT - PUNE DISTRICT

Formerly known as Murumbdev, the Rajgad Fort was the first capital of the Maratha Empire under the rule of Chhatrapati Shivaji for almost 26 years. The fort has stood witness to many historic events including the birth of Chhatrapati Shivaji's son Rajaram I, and the death of Shivaji's wife Saibai. The Rajgad Fort was also one of the 12 forts that Shivaji kept when he signed the Treaty of Purandar in 1665, with the Mughal general Jai Singh I, leader of the Mughal forces.



Getting there:

✈ By Air: Pune - 60 km

🚆 By Rail: Pune - 37 km

🚌 By Road: Pune - 57 km; Mumbai - 200 km

Attractions in and around:

Padmavat Temple | Rameshwar Temple | Saibai's Tomb
| Padmavati Lake | Alu, Pali and Gunjavane Darwazas | Machis

RATANGAD FORT - AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

A 400-year-old jewel, the Ratangad Fort is situated on the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. It's known for Nedhe - a natural rock peak with a cavity at the top, also called the eye of the needle. The fort encompasses 4 magnificent gates, Ganesh, Hanuman, Trimbak, and Konkan. This historic fort was captured by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from the Mughals and is said to be one of his personal favourites.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Nashik - 72 km; Pune - 79 km; Ozar - 97 km;
Mumbai Domestic - 177 km

🚆 By Rail: Ahmednagar - 56 km; Nashik - 72 km

🚌 By Road: Ratanwada - 6 km; Bhandardara - 23 km;
Nashik - 72 km; Mumbai - 197 km

Things to do:

Trek to the fort | Explore the four gates | See the famous eye of the needle | Enjoy the views from the top of the fort



SALHER FORT - NASHIK DISTRICT

Located in the fertile Baglan region, Salher Fort is the highest fort in the Sahayadris. With a circumference of around 11-kms and covering about 600 hectares, the fort is historically significant for conflicts during Shivaji's reign and is believed to be where Parashuram performed his penance. This area has high agricultural output, forest cover, and relatively well-off residents, and is also home to tribes like the Kokan and Bhils.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Aurangabad – 205 km

🚆 By Rail: Manmad – 95 km

🚌 By Road: Manmad - 94 km

Things to do:

Trekking | Rock climbing | Stargazing | Campfire | Photography

Attractions in and around:

Parshuram Temple | Bird's-eye view of Salotal Salher Hills | Sunrise & Sunset Viewpoints



LOHAGAD FORT - PUNE DISTRICT

Known as Iron Fort in Marathi, Lohagad is located 52 kilometres northwest of Pune, near Lonavala Khandala, and rises to an elevation of 1,033 meters above sea level. It is connected to the neighbouring Visapur Fort by a tiny range and overlooks Pawna Lake to the south. Declared as a protected monument by the Archaeology Survey of India, the fort features four massive gates that are still relatively intact. Lohagad is a popular trekking destination, ideal for beginners and preferred by people from nearby areas and outsiders too.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Pune – 70 km, Mumbai – 110 km

🚆 By Rail: Lonavala – 15 km, Malavli – 5 km

🚌 By Road: Pune – 65km, Mumbai – 100km, Lonavala – 15 km



Things to do:

Wonderful Trek to the Top | Explore the Rock-climbing opportunities | Paraglide and experience the full view| Capture stills of nature at its finest

Attractions in and around:

Vinchu Kata | Pavana Dam | Bhaja and Karla Caves | Visapur Fort

KHANDERI FORT - RAIGAD DISTRICT

Khanderi Fort along with its sister fort, Underi were the main fortresses along the Maharashtra coast, serving as landmarks for ships approaching Mumbai Harbour, with the former under Shivaji's control and the latter under his opponents, the Siddhis. Officially known as Kanhoji Angre Island, Khanderi Fort is located 5 kilometres off the coast of Maharashtra, near Thal, Kihim. A British lighthouse built in 1867, standing 22 feet tall, remains the most prominent feature of Khanderi Fort.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Mumbai – 100 km

🚆 By Rail: Pen – 30 km

🚌 By Road: Pune – 150 km, Mumbai – 100 km

Things to do:

Boat Riding| Fishing| Water Sports| Nature Exploration

Attractions in and around:

Kihim Beach | Kanakeshwar Devasthan | Alibaug Beach |
Kanhoji Angre Samadhi | Nagaon Beach | Akshi Beach |
Kanhoji Angre Lighthouse

RAIGAD FORT - RAIGAD DISTRICT

Raigad is a hill fort located about 25 km from Mahad in the Raigad district. Chhatrapati Shivaji renovated this fort and made it his capital in 1674 AD. Visitors can reach the fort in a few minutes via a rope-way and pass through the main entrance, the "Maha Darwaja." Inside, the King's durbar features a replica of the original throne facing the Nagarkhana Darwaja, and the fort includes the famous Hirakani Bastion built over a steep cliff.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Mumbai – 170 km, Pune: 130 km

🚆 By Rail: Mangaon – 30 km

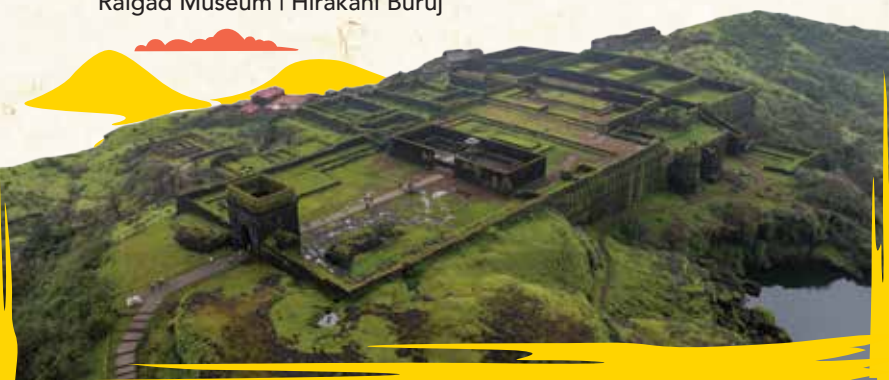
🚌 By Road: Pune – 130 km, Mumbai – 150km, Mahad – 24 km

Things to do:

Visit Raigad Museum | Camp near the fort | Multiple trekking options to the fort

Attractions in and around:

Takmak Tok | Jagadishwar Temple | Gangasagar Lake | Raj Bhawan | Raigad Museum | Hirakani Buruj



PANHALA FORT - KOLHAPUR DISTRICT

Known as the smallest city in Maharashtra, Panhala is a scenic hill station located 20 kilometers northwest of Kolhapur, at an elevation of 3200 feet. The main attraction is the historical Panhala Fort, built between 1178 and 1209 AD by King Bhoja II. The Yadavas, Bahamanis, and the Kingdom of Bijapur retained control of the fort, before being seized by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1673.

Getting there:

✈ By Air: Pune: 230 km, Kolhapur – 25 km, Mumbai – 420 km

🚆 By Rail: Kolhapur Railway station – 27km

🚌 By Road: Kolhapur – 20 km, Mumbai – 375 km, Pune – 230 km

Things to do:

Trekking | Rappelling and Rock Climbing | 800 feet Zip Line | Bungee Ejection | High Rise Course | Horse riding


Attractions in and around:


Sajja Kothil Ambarkhana | Botanical Garden - Tabak Udyan | Pusati Buruj - Sunset point | Pavangad | Vertical Adventure Park | Masai Pathar | Teen Darwaja | Veer Shivakashid Samadhi


VIJAYDURG FORT - SINDHUDURG DISTRICT

Vijaydurg Fort was built in the 12th century and conquered by Chhatrapati Shivaji in the 17th century. Named 'fort of victory' by Shivaji, it houses the Rameshwar temple. One of the oldest forts on the Sindhudurg coast, it is one of two Maratha forts where Shivaji personally raised the saffron flag, the other being Torna. Known as 'Eastern Gibraltar,' it is bordered by the Arabian Sea on three sides and protected by a 40-kilometer-long shallow creek.

Getting there:

 **By Air:** Goa International Airport (Dabolim) – 180 km, Kolhapur Airport – 150 km, Chipli Airport – 100 Km, Mopa Airport – 159 Km

 **By Rail:** Ratnagiri Railway station – 120 km, Kankavali Railway Station – 70 km

 **By Road:** Goa - 180 km, Mumbai – 400 km, Pune – 340 km

Things to do:

Water Adventure Activities | Enjoy Local Cuisine | Explore Forts | Enjoy local Culture | Air Base | Adventure Activities - Zipline

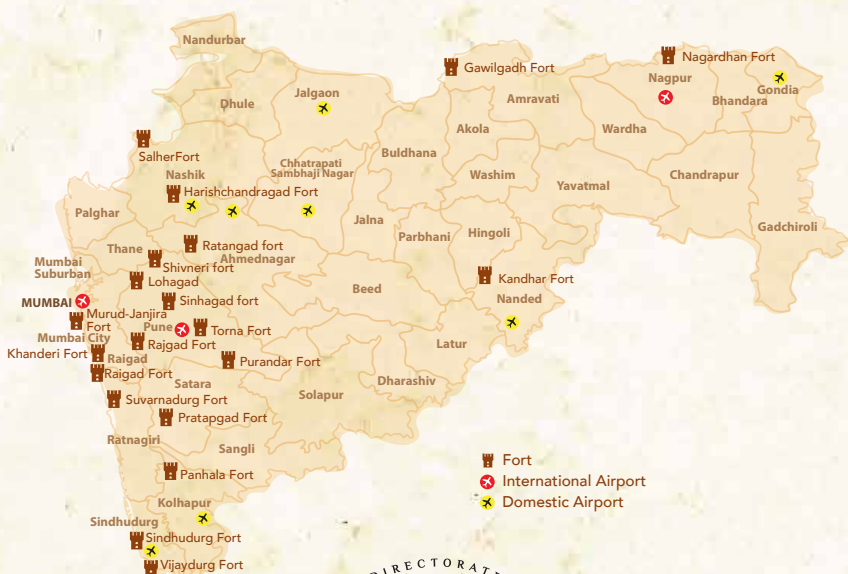
Attractions in and around:

Kunkeshwar Beach | Vijaydurg beach | Devghali Beach | Devgad Beach | Mithmumbari Beach | Devgad Windmills



OTHER MUST-VISIT FORTS

■ Nagardhan Fort ■ Gawilgad Fort ■ Kandhar Fort ■ Torna Fort
■ Harishchandragad Fort ■ Purandar Fort



For More Information

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