

1. Places to visit in Pune

Pune offers a rich blend of history, culture, and modernity, making it an exciting destination to explore. Here are some places you might consider visiting:

Shaniwar Wada: This historic fortification was built in the 18th century by the Peshwas of the Maratha Empire. It's an architectural marvel and has historical significance in Pune's history.

Aga Khan Palace: This grand palace holds significant historical importance as it served as a prison for Mahatma Gandhi and his wife during the Indian independence movement. Today, it houses a museum dedicated to Gandhi's life and contributions.

Sinhagad Fort: Located on a hill, Sinhagad Fort offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. It has historical significance and is a popular trekking destination.

Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum: Named after Raja Dinkar Kelkar, this museum houses a vast collection of artefacts, including sculptures, musical instruments, and traditional Indian utensils.

Pune Okayama Friendship Garden: Also known as Pu La Deshpande Garden, this Japanese-themed garden is a tranquil escape featuring lush greenery, serene ponds, and Japanese architectural elements.

Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park (Katraj Snake Park): Spread over a vast area, this zoo houses a diverse range of animals and birds, including some rare species. It's a great place for families and animal enthusiasts.

These are just a few highlights of what Pune has to offer. The city has much more to explore, including vibrant markets, bustling street food scenes, and a lively nightlife.

2. Places around Pune

Pune serves as an excellent base for exploring nearby attractions and destinations. Here are some popular day trips you can take from Pune:

Lonavala and Khandala: Located just a couple of hours' drive from Pune, Lonavala and Khandala are famous hill stations known for their scenic beauty, lush greenery, and serene surroundings. You can visit attractions

like Tiger Point, Bhushi Dam, Karla and Bhaja Caves, and enjoy trekking and outdoor activities.

Mahabaleshwar: Situated about 120 kilometers from Pune, Mahabaleshwar is a popular hill station known for its breathtaking viewpoints, strawberry farms, and lush forests. You can visit attractions like Arthur's Seat, Venna Lake, Pratapgad Fort, and enjoy boating, horse riding, and nature walks.

Lavasa: Lavasa is a planned hill city located around 65 kilometers from Pune. It offers picturesque views, lakeside promenades, and recreational activities like boating, jet skiing, and cycling. You can also explore the nearby Temghar Dam and Varasgaon Dam.

Panchgani: Another beautiful hill station near Pune, Panchgani is known for its stunning views of the Sahyadri Mountains, strawberry farms, and colonial-era buildings. You can visit attractions like Table Land, Sydney Point, Parsi Point, and enjoy paragliding and trekking.

Matheran: Situated about 120 kilometers from Pune, Matheran is a charming hill station known for its panoramic views, toy train ride, and lush forests. You can explore attractions like Charlotte Lake, Panorama Point, Echo Point, and enjoy horse riding and nature walks.

Bhimashankar: Bhimashankar is a popular pilgrimage site and wildlife sanctuary located around 120 kilometers from Pune. It is known for the Bhimashankar Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and offers opportunities for trekking and bird watching in the surrounding forests.

Rajmachi Fort: Rajmachi Fort is a historic hill fort located near Lonavala, about 80 kilometers from Pune. It offers scenic views of the Sahyadri Mountains, lush greenery, and ancient ruins. You can trek to the fort and explore its two fortified peaks, Shrivardhan and Manaranjan.

Bhigwan Bird Sanctuary: Bhigwan Bird Sanctuary, located around 100 kilometers from Pune, is a haven for birdwatchers, especially during the winter months. You can spot a variety of migratory birds, including flamingos, herons, and ibises, in the wetlands along the backwaters of Ujani Dam.

These are just a few options for day trips from Pune. Whether you're interested in nature, history, adventure, or relaxation, there are plenty of destinations near Pune to explore and enjoy.

3. TOUR TO AJANTA – ELLORA CAVES

The Ajanta and Ellora Caves are UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, India.

The Ajanta Caves are a series of 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments dating back to the 2nd century BCE to about 480 CE. These caves showcase some of the finest examples of ancient Indian art and architecture, particularly Buddhist religious art.

The Ellora Caves are a complex of 34 rock-cut temples and monasteries dating from the 6th to the 9th centuries CE. Unlike the Ajanta Caves, which are exclusively Buddhist, the Ellora Caves feature a mix of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain monuments, making it a unique site representing different religious traditions.

Distance and Travel Time: The Ajanta Caves are located approximately 285 kilometers from Pune, and the Ellora Caves are around 305 kilometers away. The journey by road takes about 6 to 7 hours depending on traffic conditions and the route taken. A 3-day trip will be ideal to cover both Ajanta & Ellora.