



Monsoon Trips from Pune & Mumbai



There are two kinds of people – those who continue to sing their school rhyme “Rain Rain, go away” and those who prefer to sing the remixed version, “Rain Rain, come again”. If you are of the first kind, there is no point reading this any further. Stay indoors and watch the saas fight with the bahu on TV. But, if you happen to be the remixed type, then we have something in common. It has started raining and the only thing people like us want to do is to get outdoors!

Last year, I created a “Monsoon Road Trips” guide and to my surprise, it was downloaded more than 3000 times. So this year, it is bigger and hopefully better. Lot more places have been covered, enough to keep your entire monsoon busy. Most of the directions/distances would be from Pune (as I am from Pune), but then once you have the destination located on the map, should be easy to find the route from your starting point. Wishing you a wonderful monsoon!

Thanks to all the visitors of my blog (<http://www.placesnearpune.com>) and the FB page (<http://www.facebook.com/placesnearpune>). Your comments encourage me to travel more and write more ☺ All the photos in this e-book are © Rajaram Sethuraman. If you wish to use any of them, please write to me @ [rajaram.sethuraman@gmail.com](mailto:rajaram.sethuraman@gmail.com) before doing so.

# Monsoon Trips from Pune & Mumbai

# What's inside...



## Where to go?

Big list of places for you to cover this monsoon!



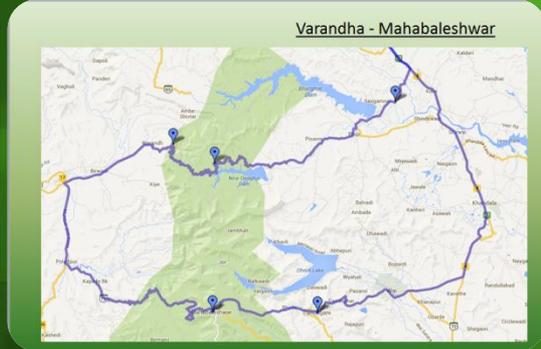
## City Trips

For those who don't want to leave the city, yet enjoy what the monsoon has to offer.



## More places

These places may not be the famous ones for monsoon visits, but then, any place becomes better during the monsoon.



## Road trips

The route is more important than the destination. Just drive!

More @

Welcome to Places Near Pune

| DURATION                          | AREA                               | INTEREST                               | ATTRACTION                      | TYPE                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Pune      | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach         | <input type="checkbox"/> Fort   | <input type="checkbox"/> Drive    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> One Day  | <input type="checkbox"/> Near Pune | <input type="checkbox"/> Birds/Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Temple | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekend  | <input type="checkbox"/> Konkan    | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage      | <input type="checkbox"/> View   | <input type="checkbox"/> Trek     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weekday  | <input type="checkbox"/> Satara    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cave   | <input type="checkbox"/> Just See |
|                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lonavala  | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Dam    |                                   |

Weekend Planner

Maharashtra Map

# Monsoon Trips from Pune & Mumbai

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& even more @ [PlacesNearPune.com](https://PlacesNearPune.com)

Monsoon Trips from Pune & Mumbai

Bhuleshwar Temple





Above: Located on a small hillock with plains all around

Below: The evening light during the monsoon times makes the place beautiful



## Bhuleshwar Temple (Solapur Road)

An old Shiva temple within a fort, Bhuleshwar is a beautiful place for an evening visit.



The temple is full of statues whose head and arms had been cut off by invaders.

More details → [Route maps, photos at the link below.](#)



Purandar Fort

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## Purandar Fort (near Saswad)

There it not much of the fort left, but the few old buildings in the mist make a wonderful sight.

It is a very easy trek( around 45 mins ) and would be an ideal first-trek for anyone in the family. You can also drive up to the plateau and do a 20 min climb instead.

More details at the link





Bopdeo Ghat  
On the way to Kanifnath  
Temple



### Kanifnath Temple (near Saswad)

A short drive from the city, this temple is dedicated to one of the nine “Navnaths”. For the adventurous, there is an off-road route from the top of the hillock to Hadapsar.

More details at the link



Sant Tukaram Gatha Mandir



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Sant Tukaram Mandir (near Dehu Road)  
A huge beautiful temple by the river bank. Dedicated to Sant Tukaram. Can be combined with a visit to Kund Mala.

Kund Mala



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Kund Mala  
Near Dehu Road  
Small pothole formations caused due to erosion from the flowing river.  
During monsoon, part of the temple gets submerged and it is fun to cross the narrow bridge with water flowing over it.  
Can be combined with a visit to Sant Tukaram Mandir.



An overflowing  
**Pavana Dam**  
is a  
wonderful sight

Can be combined with a visit  
to Hadshi Temple, Lohagad  
fort or Tikona Fort.

More details →



Lohagad Fort

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## Lohagad Fort

Malvali Village, near Lonavala

A great example of Maratha history for someone to visit. Many sections of the fort are well preserved. It is an easy climb – around 45 mins. The view from the top during the monsoon – no words for it!

More Details →



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Hadshi Temple





## Hadshi Temple

A Sai Baba/Pandurang temple run by the Sai Baba trust. Easily one of the cleanest temples I have seen. Located on a very scenic hillock. And to top it off, tasty snacks at the canteen 😊

More Details →



Tikona Fort

A moderate climb with great views makes Tikona fort a favourite with new trekkers.

More Details



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Mandardevi  
Temple



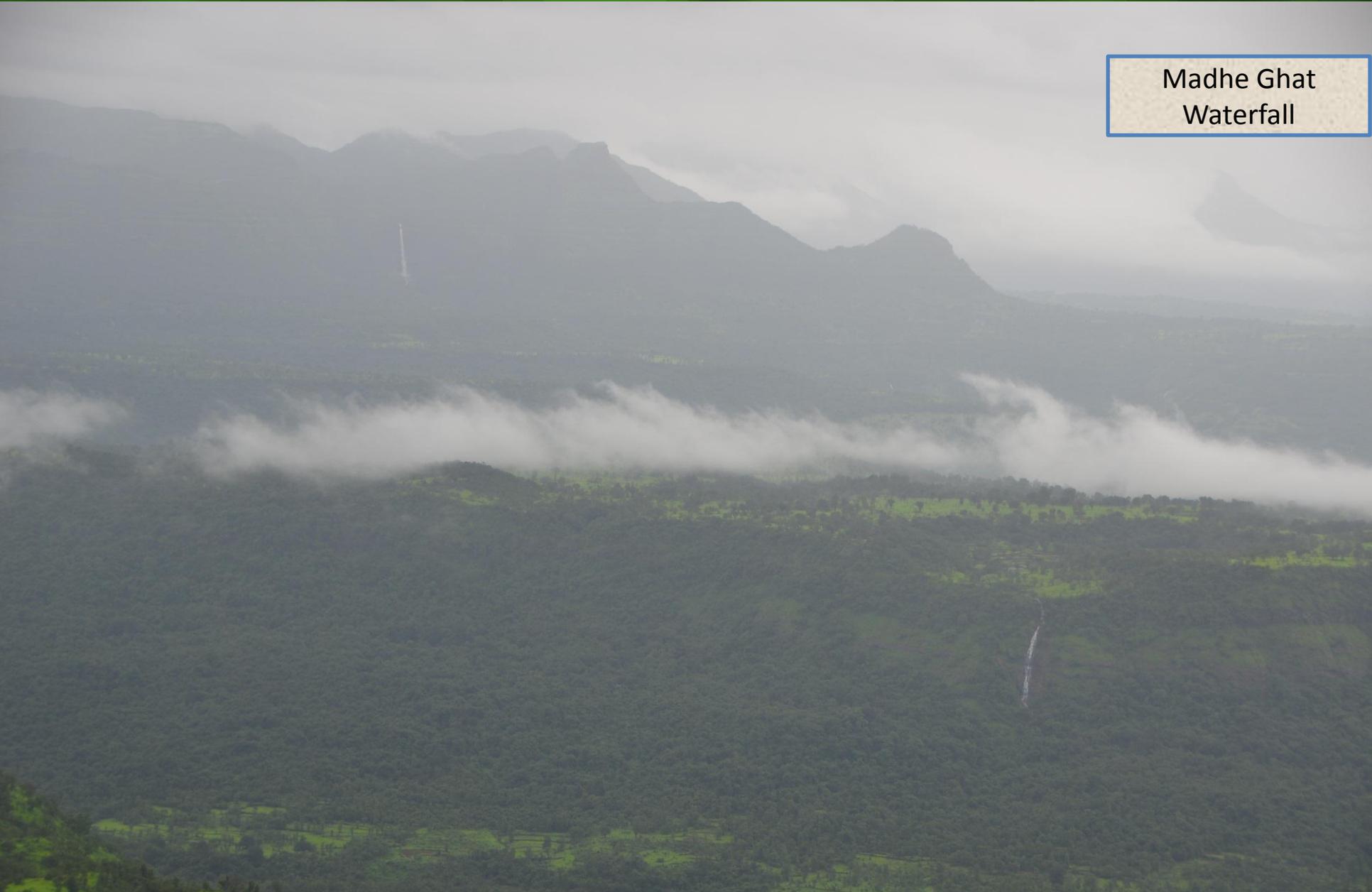


## Mandardevi Temple

A very popular religious destination. It's dramatic location and the ghat route makes it an great visit. Can get very crowded on auspicious days.

Check the road-trip section to cover few other places along with this temple.

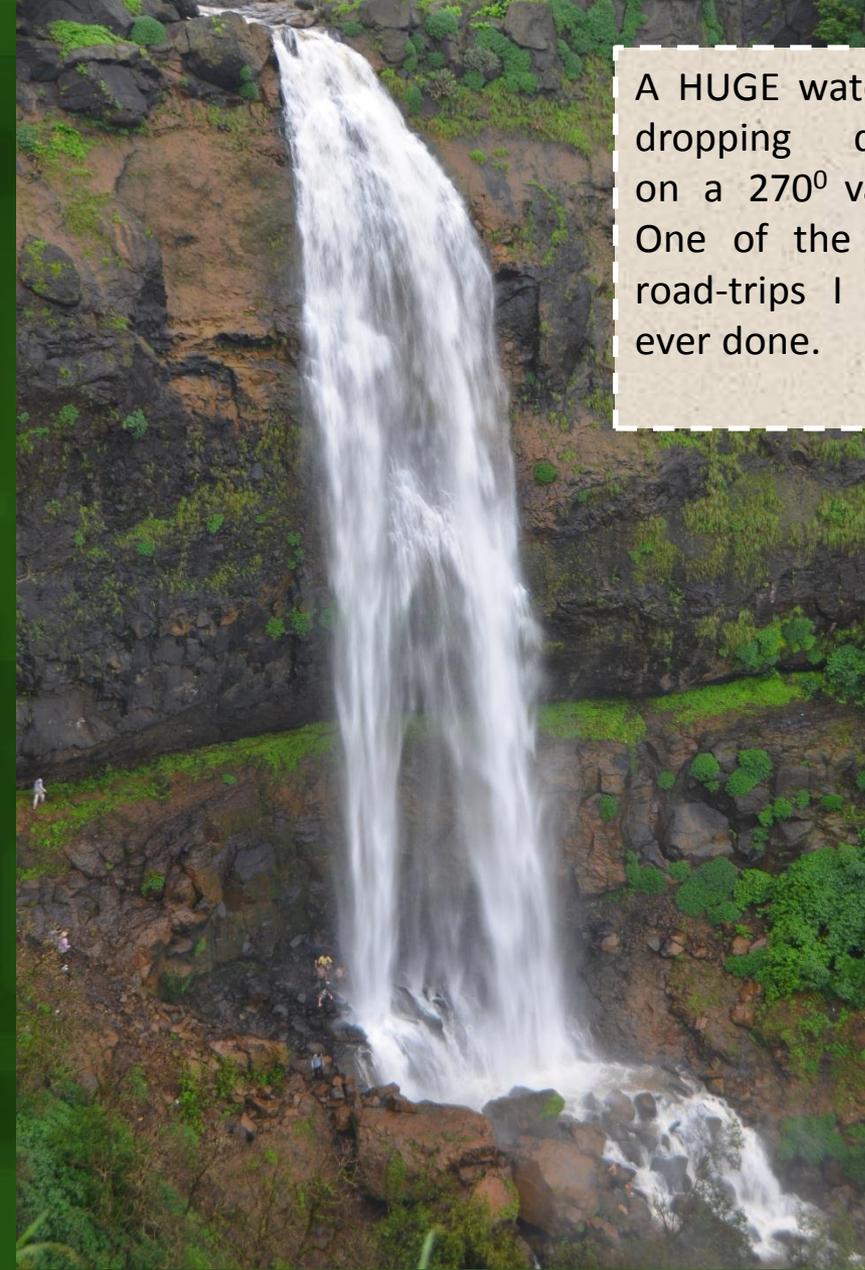




Madhe Ghat  
Waterfall

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A HUGE waterfall dropping down on a 270° valley. One of the best road-trips I have ever done.



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Lavasa City



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### Lavasa Hill City

If you love colours in your photography, Lavasa is the place to be. And, if you happen to be in Lavasa on a monsoon evening, the play of colours will blow you out of your mind. Just a short drive away from Pune, Lavasa is a great place for a family getaway.

More Details →



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Malshej Ghat

Monsoon Trips @ [PlacesNearPune.com](https://PlacesNearPune.com)

Landslides, mist, a national highway – in one word WILD! That's Malshej. A must-visit during the monsoon, see more details →



# Monsoon Trips @ [PlacesNearPune.com](http://PlacesNearPune.com)

Diveagar Beach

[www.placesnearpune.com](http://www.placesnearpune.com)

Monsoon Trips @ [PlacesNearPune.com](http://PlacesNearPune.com)



### Diveagar Beach

A beach might not seem an ideal place for a monsoon trip, but Diveagar is. Clean and not so crowded, it is an excellent weekend getaway. Combine a visit to Diveagar with a trip to [Harihareshwar](#).

More Details →



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Mahabaleshwar



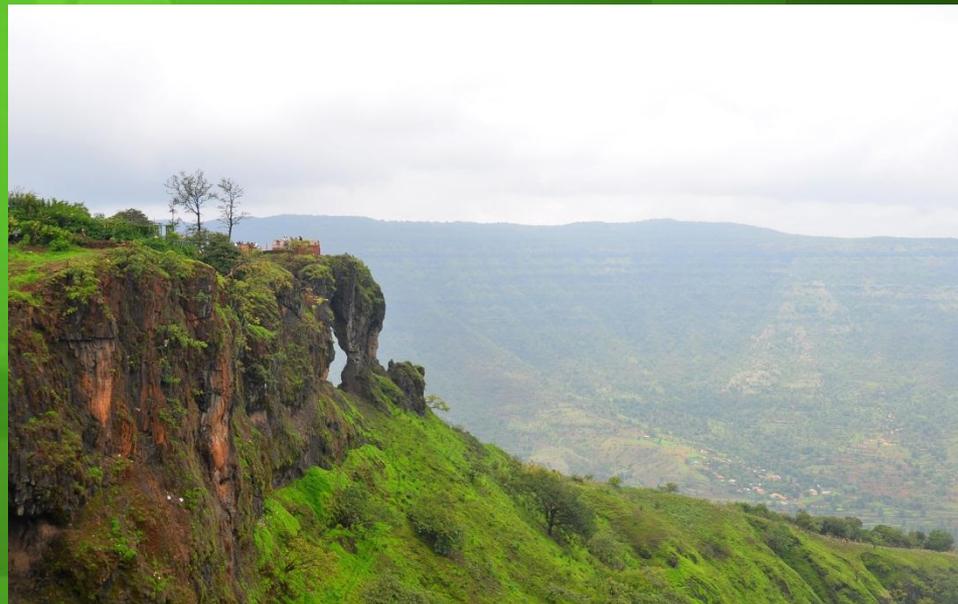
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## Mahabaleshwar

When it rains, it pours in Mahabaleshwar. And, that's what makes it special. Monsoon is off-season, but this is the peak season for nature lovers. The blinding mist and the huge downpours make Mahabaleshwar mystical. Do not miss the not-so-known Krishnabai temple (previous page). See the road-trips section for the [view points tour](#).

More Details →





Tamhini Ghat

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## Tamhini Ghat

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More Details →



Varandha Ghat



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### Varandha Ghat

If you love waterfalls, then this is the road to be on. 60 kms of raw nature (no villages, no mobile signal!) and hundreds of waterfalls of all sizes and colours. If you are lucky enough to be there during heavy rains, you will see nature at her wild best. Always go in a group as it is only you vs. nature. The waghjai mandir view point will bring out the “wows” from you. More details →



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## Korigad Fort



A 1.5 hr moderate climb will take you on to a plateau. Korigad fort has many interesting sections on the climb and the whole area is lovely during the monsoon. Very photogenic.

More Details →





The most popular weekend destination of Pune (along with khadakwasla dam on the route), Sinhagad is an easy drive from the city. The main attraction, other than the fort, is the wide variety of tasty local street food available on the top.

More Details →



Sinhagad Fort



# Lonavala – A monsoon in MH cannot be without a trip to Lonavala



So close, yet so far. Well, that can be your Lonavala story if you don't plan well. The entire Pune/Mumbai crowd descends on Lonavala on a monsoon weekend. So, just reaching your favourite spot could take hours. Reach early. A weekday, even better. Lonavala is monsoon magic with its sudden downpours and blinding mist. Bushi Dam (if you do manage to see some steps of the dam), Lions view point, Lonavala waterfall and lots more..

More Details → Click on the links on the photos



### Thoseghar waterfall and Chalkewadi windmill farms

Thoseghar is supposed to be one of the five tallest waterfalls in India. Though the view of the falls is only from the side, it is still impressive. The drive from Satara (passing Sajjangad fort) is leisurely yet beautiful. \$ kms ahead of Thoseghar are the Chalkewadi windmills farms. In the mist, the HUGE windmills are an awesome sight. More details →





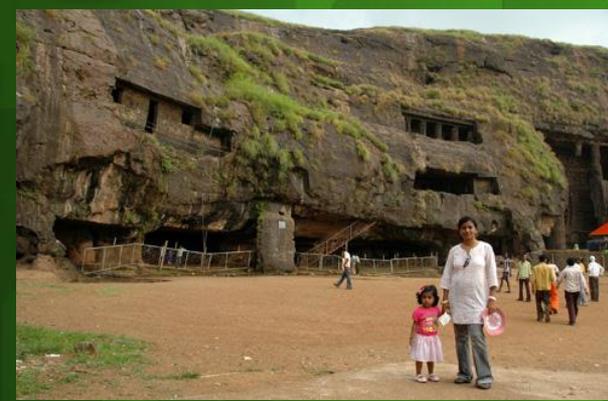
Bamnoli and Tapola are villages on the shores of Shivsagar, the backwaters of Koyna dam. Bamnoli can be reached from Satara and Tapola from Mahabaleshwar. In the right weather, they are India's version of Switzerland.

More details →



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# The Buddhist Caves – Karla, Bhaja and Bedse



The trio of Buddhist caves close to Pune → Karla, Bhaja and Bedse are popular weekend destinations. All of them are just around a 30 min climb with Karla being the most crowded because of a temple on the top. A great destination to take your kids on their first climb! More details → Karla



Bhaja



Bedse





**Baneshwar Temple** is a short drive on NH4 from Pune (towards Bangalore). Apart from the temple, you can also visit the waterfall and rapid behind the temple, which are on full flow during the monsoon. More details →



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# Places in/near to Pune City



[Ghorwadeshwar Caves](#)



[Chaturshringi Temple](#)



[Parvati Hill Temple](#)



[Ayyapan Temple](#)



[Sangameshwar Temple](#)



[Dive Ghat](#)

Neelkanteshwar  
Temple

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**Imagine Amar Chitra Katha coming alive!** A visit to Neelkanteshwar temple will satisfy your desire for off-road driving, a small trek, a visit to a temple, natural beauty and last but not the least, your childhood memories of all the mythological tales you have ever read. 100s of statues set in one of the most scenic locations near Pune, this is a must visit!

More details →

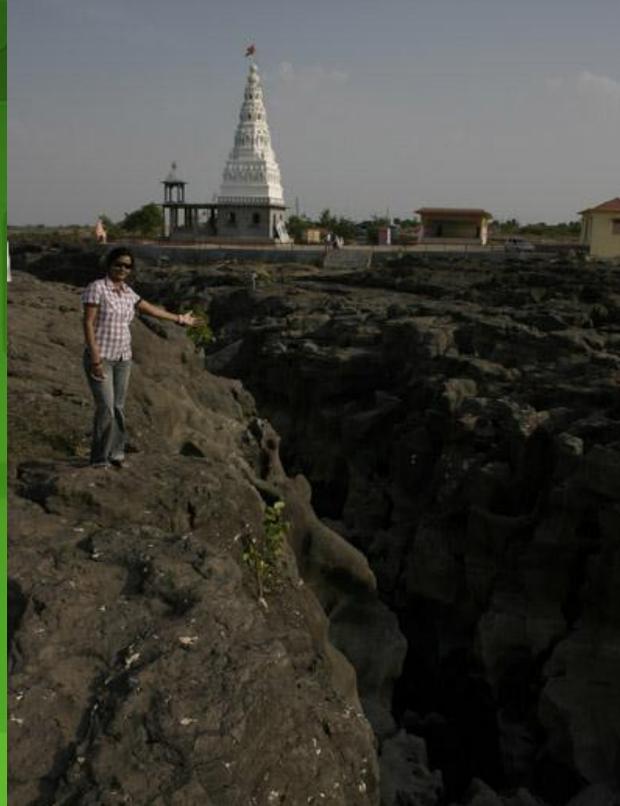


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# Wai – Bollywood's favourite destination!



Swades, Singham, even few South Indian movies! No idea why Bollywood flocks to Wai ever so often. The town is crowded, but go beyond the crowd to Menavli Ghat, the place where Shah Rukh danced! Almost every ghat/temple is old and is very photogenic. If you are on the way to Mahabaleshwar, this is a worthy stop to make. More details → 



## Potholes at Nighoj

When you drive over to Nighoj, you will be apprehensive as to what you expect to see. As you near the temple, there is no fanfare. It just looks like any other ordinary temple. But when you reach the edge of the river and look down, you are looking at a million year old sculpture. The potholes are a result of the river flow eroding the rocks and the flow of water through them looks magical. You can climb down a bit, but be careful. Though the water doesn't seem to so deep, it is said that the water below is more than a 100 feet deep. More details →  . Combine it with a visit to [Morachi Chincholi](#).

# Morachi Chincholi – The Peacock Village



Morachi Chincholi – Peacock & Tamarind, that's what this village is famous for. The villagers respect and protect the peacocks, so they roam freely in the village. It's fun to walk into the fields and search for them. The village is small with a 2 km road running through, so you can spend quite some time looking for the peacocks/peahens, but if you are the lazy kind, you can go to the agro-tourism resorts where the peacocks have been "trained" to appear at set times for free food. More details →



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# Raigad Fort – Sivaji's Capital



The “grandest” fort of Sivaji, his capital – Raigad fort is what one would dream of a grand fort for a great king. The location, the plan , the approach makes Raigad fort one of the prime destinations to visit during the monsoon. DO NOT MISS IT. More details →



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# Kaas Plateau – Green redefined!



Kaas is more famous **after the monsoon**, when wild flowers bloom and make that place Maharashtra's "Valley of flowers". But, during the monsoon, when it is "off-season", it is heavenly. The rolling mist (narrow plateau between two valleys) and miles of greenery make it an excellent picnic destination. It is hard to believe that just a 20 odd km drive from Satara/highway would take you to such a beautiful place . More details →





## Tamhini – Varandha

Why? waterfalls of all sizes

Roads? Lot of potholes & narrow sections

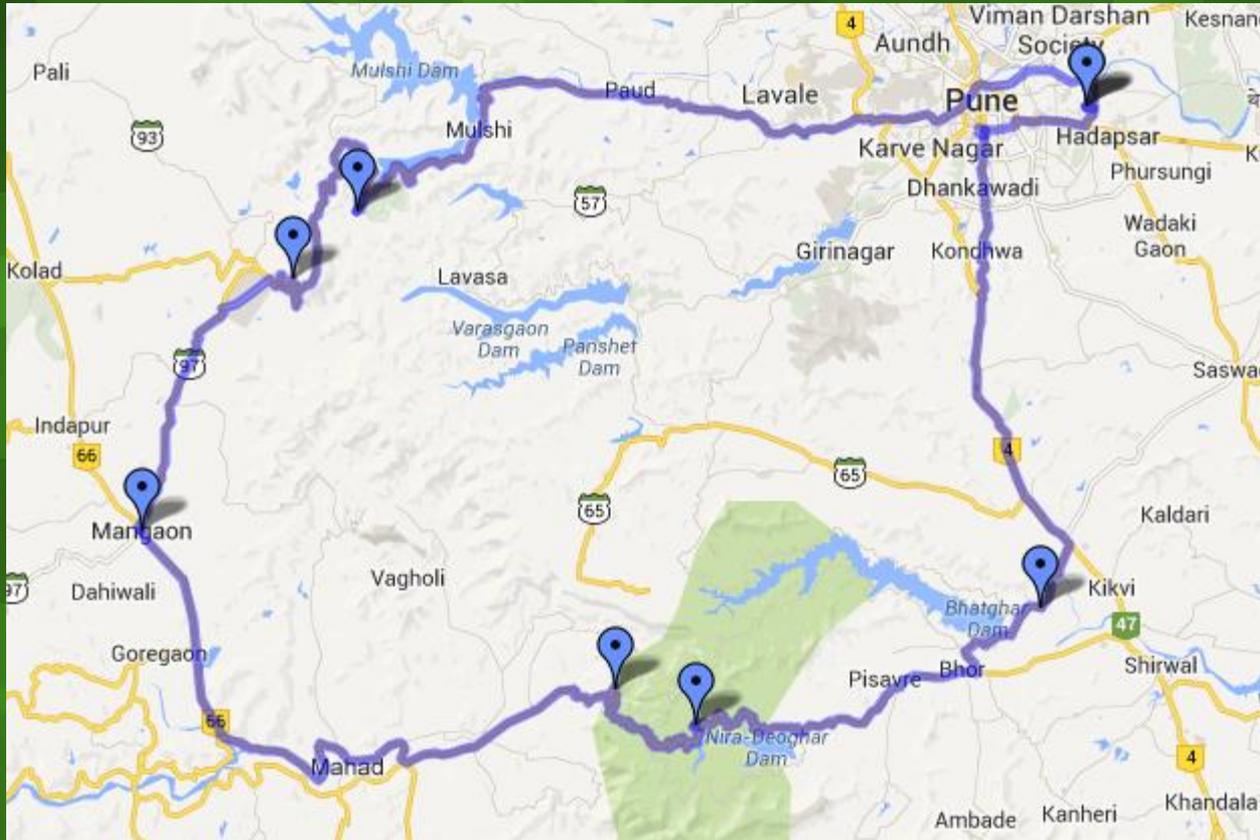
Distance? ~ 300 kms

Side Trips. Shivthargal, many dams

Start early in the day, stop at [Quick Bites](#) for breakfast. As you climb Varandha and take that one U-turn to the right to face the entire mountain range before you, it would be a sight to behold.



# Tamhini – Varandha



Route → <http://goo.gl/maps/zq44L>



## Varandha - Mahabaleshwar

Why? Waterfalls, curvy roads & shopping

Roads? Bad ([Varandha](#)), Good (Mahab)

Distance? ~ 310 kms

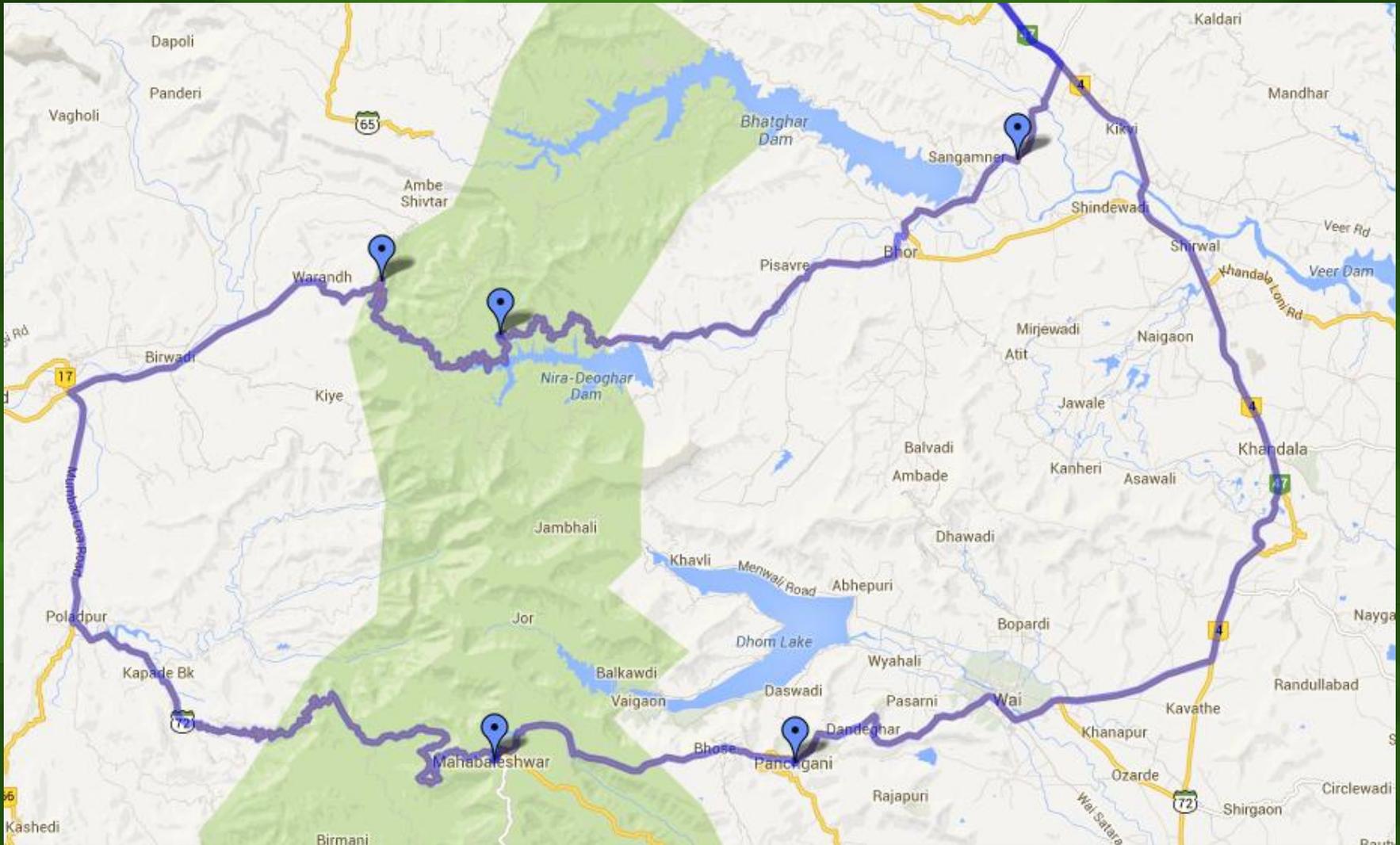
Side Trips.

View points in Mahab, Shivtharghal, [Mapro in Panchgani](#), Poladpur ghat

Good but long road trip. Lot of food options at Mahab, Panchgani. If you have the time, visit few [view points in Mahab](#).

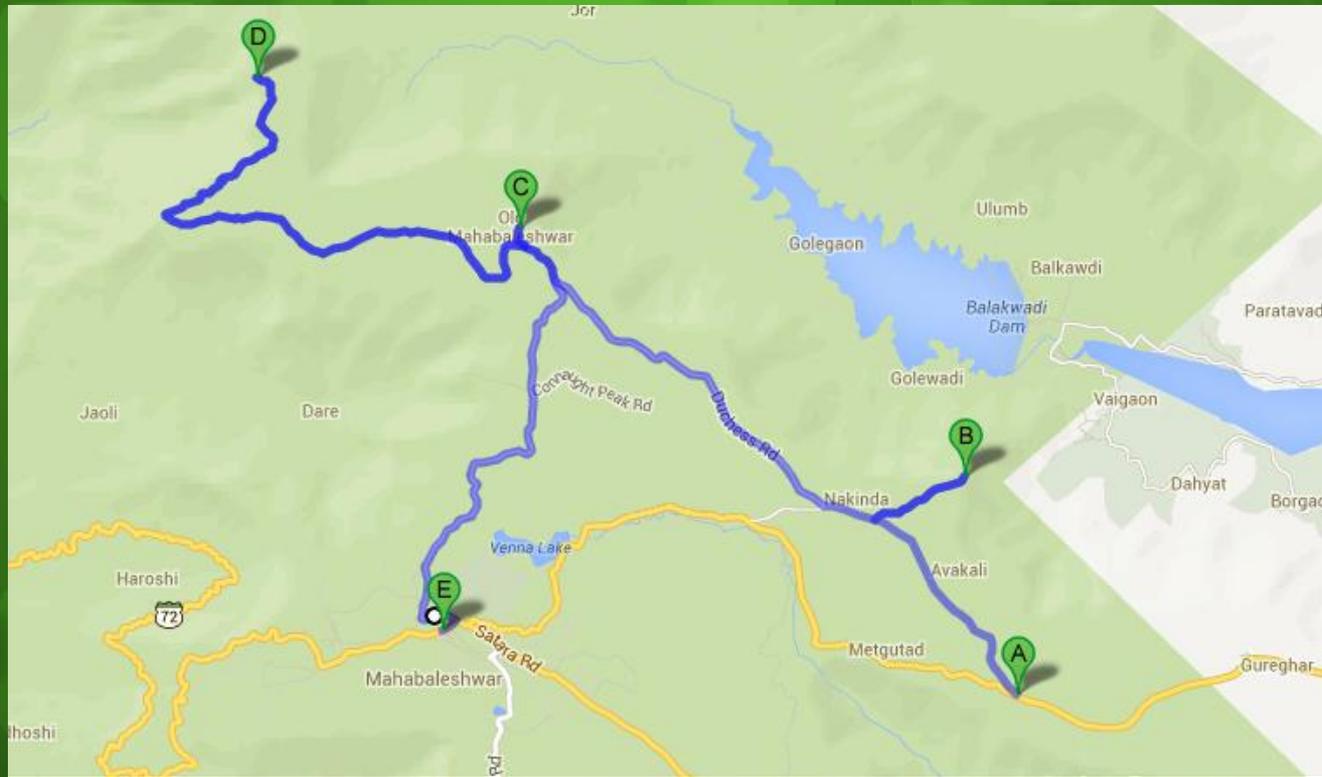


# Varandha - Mahabaleshwar



## Mahabaleshwar – Few view pts.

- A – Point on Panchgani - Mahabaleshwar road where you should turn right  
B – Kate's Point along with Needle hole point/Elephant View point  
C – Krishnabai Temple (source of river Krishna)  
D – Arthur's Seat View point  
E – Mahabaleshwar Market.





## Malshej Ghat

Why? Wild !!

Roads? Good for 90% of the route

Distance? ~ 280 kms, but very comfortable

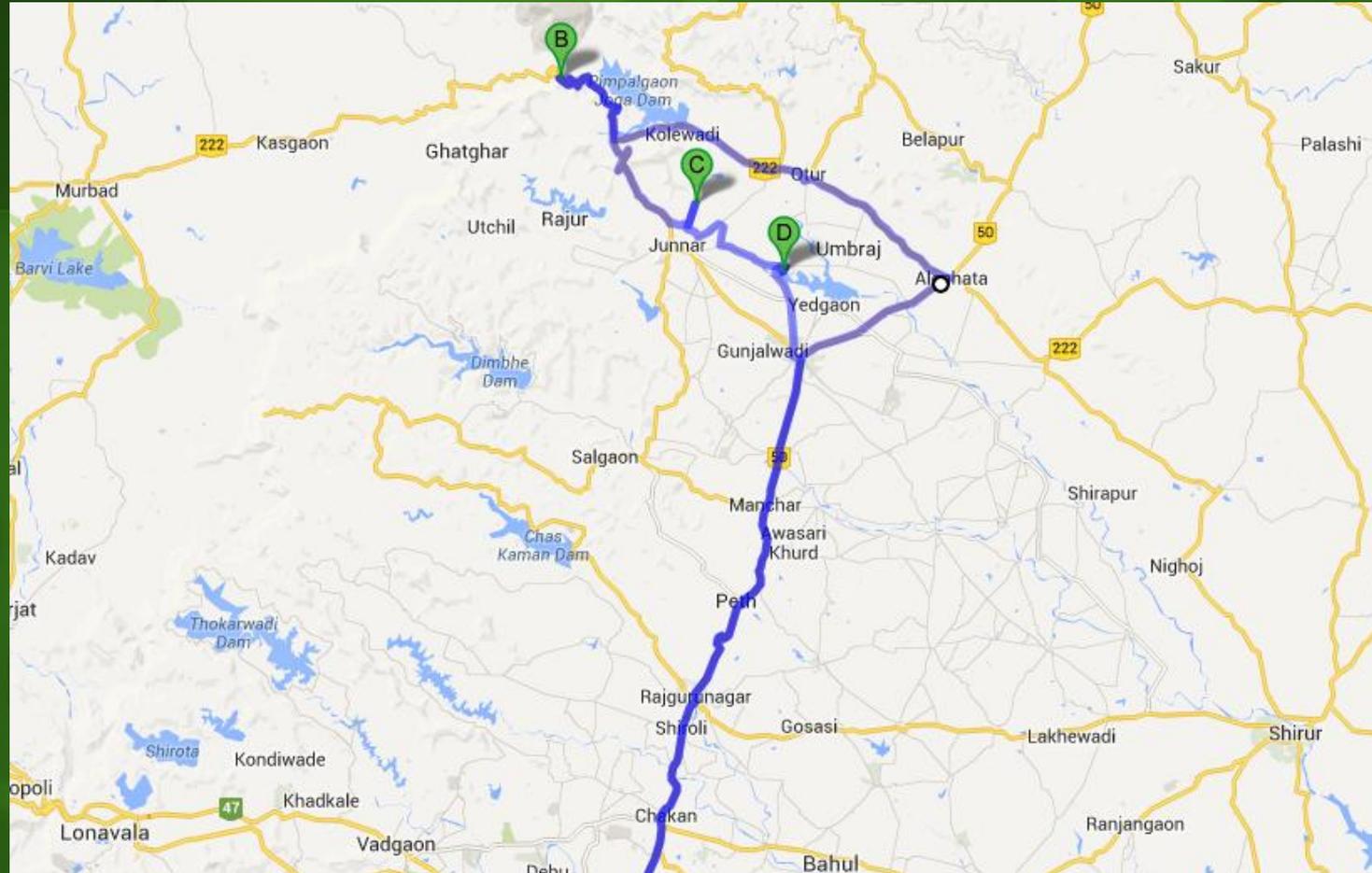
Side Trips.

Shivneri Fort, Ashtavinayak temples  
Lenyadri Caves & Ozar

Seems long but on the highway so a comfortable day trip. If you leave early, combine with the places above. See [this video](#) to tempt yourself!



# Malshej Ghat



Route → <http://goo.gl/maps/tzeQ9>



## Mandardevi – Wai – Bara moti chi

Why? Beautiful ghat road, famous temple & probably the only step-well in MH.

Roads? Good

Distance? ~ 250 kms, return on NH4

Lot of food options on the highway.  
Ask for directions inside Limb for [Bara Moti Chi Vihir](#).

Pose like Shah Rukh Khan at [Menvali Temple](#).







## Lohagad Fort Circuit

Why? An easy but beautiful fort climb, rural greenery all the way, express return!

Roads? Average (other than E-way)

Distance? ~ 150 kms, return on E-way

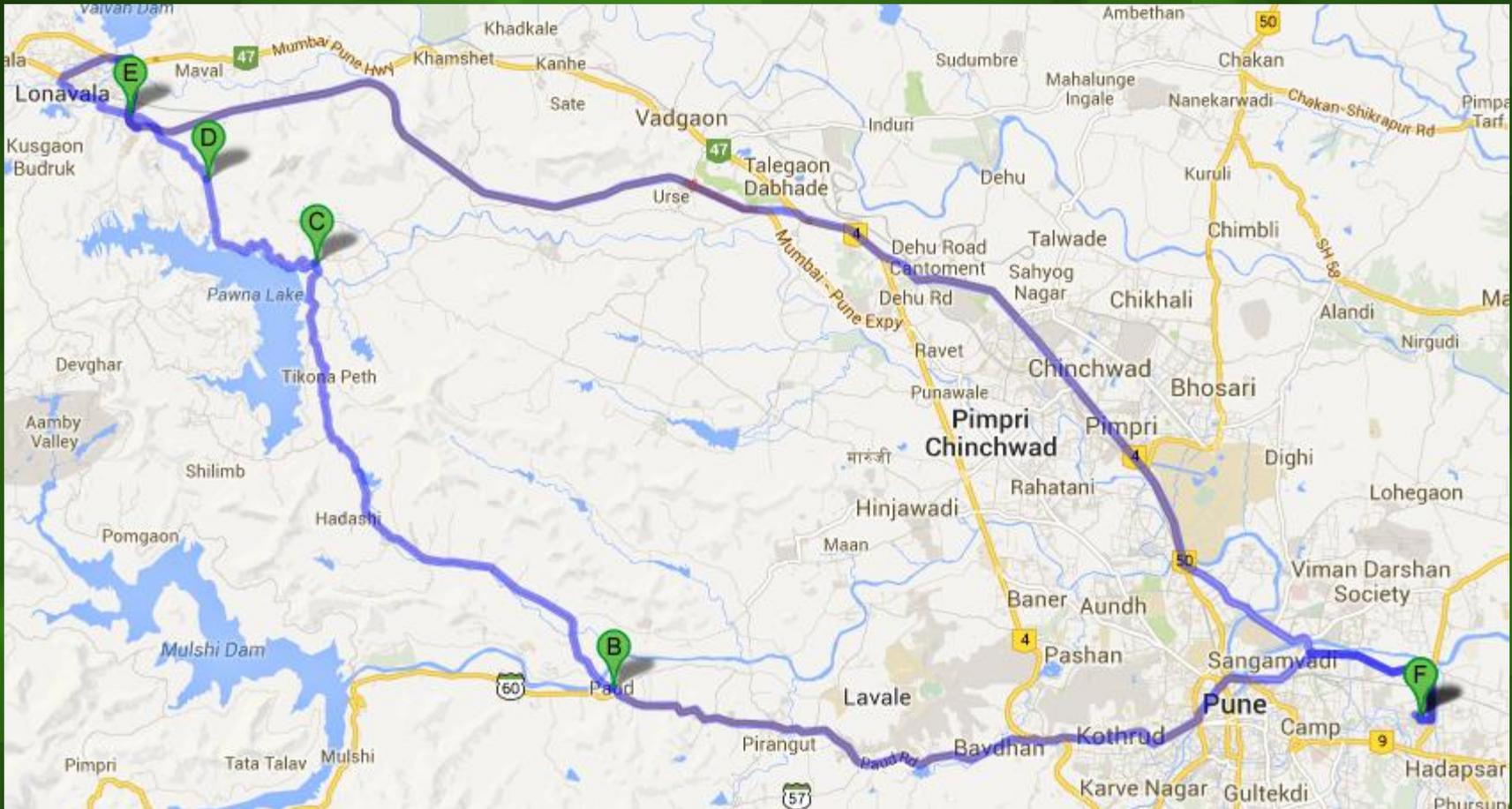
Side Trips.

[Hadshi Temple](#), [Tikona Fort](#), Pavana Dam, Dudhiware Khind, View of Tung Fort, [Lohagad Trek](#)



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## Lohagad Fort Circuit



From E, there is an entrance to the e-way. Ask the villagers for the route.

Route → <http://goo.gl/maps/Guw2M>



## Diveagar - Harihareshwar

Why? Beaches & the monsoon make for a dangerous yet beautiful combination

Roads? Good-Average (across the ghats)

Distance? ~ 400 kms (with an overnight stay at Diveagar)

Side Trips. Diveagar beach in the morning/evening, Tasty Konkan Cuisine, Suvarna Ganapati, Harihareshwar Temple Pradakshina ( closed during main monsoon), the awesome coastal road between Diveagar & Harihareshwar.







## Temple road trip on Solapur Road

Why? Old temples with lot of historical & mythological trivia. Bhuleshwar, Ramdara & Theur Ganpati Temple

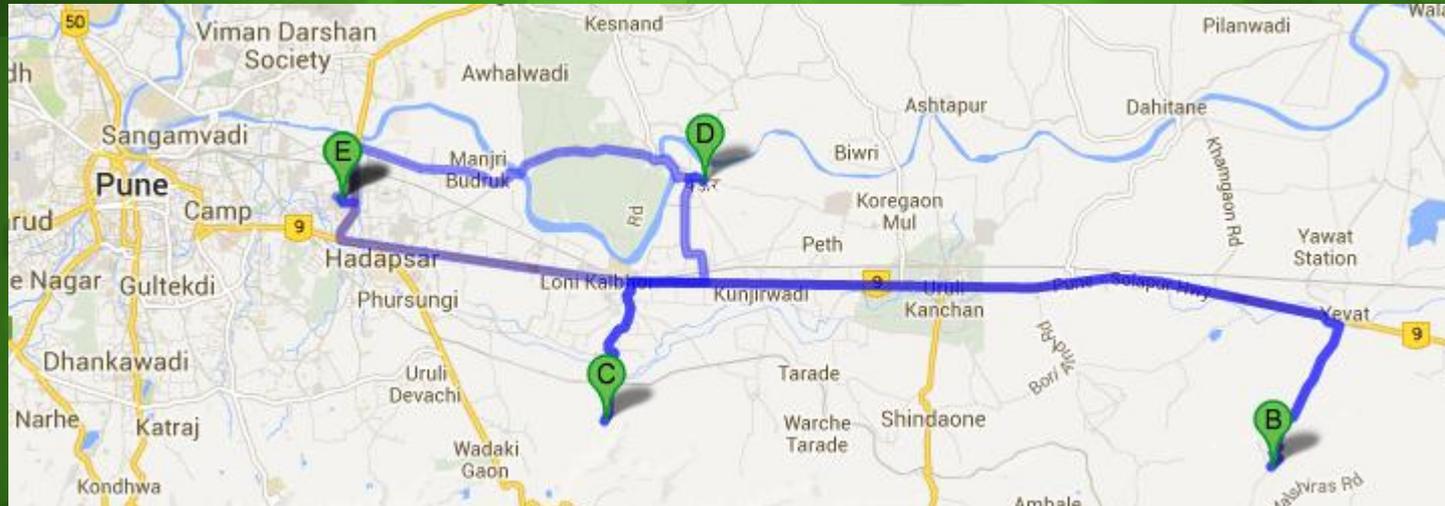
Roads? Good

Distance? ~ 100 kms



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## Temple road trip on Solapur Road



Route → [Click here](#)

# More places



Karde Beach



Panshet Dam



Jejuri Temple



Narayanpur Balaji Temple



Murud Beach



Induri Fort

Thank you!!  
Leave your feedback  
@



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