

Maharashtra

“

The wealthiest state in India, Maharashtra is a travellers' paradise given the plethora of attractions it possess, both popular and offbeat. The rich cultural and religious diversity of the state reflects the deep embedded integrity. Home to the famous Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the state is known all over the world for its celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

”



Famous For : State / Provinc

The name of the state, Maharashtra is made of the Sanskrit word 'Maha' and 'Rashtra' which means great nation. The second most populous state after Uttar Pradesh, it is also the third largest state by area in India. Covering an area of 307,731 sq km, it contributes around 15% of the country's industrial output and around 13.3% of its GDP. The state rose under the leadership of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj against the Mughals and the current Maharashtra state was created after Independence on 1 May 1960. The state is known for its wealth of attractions that is reflected in its well-flourished tourism industry. The state's capital Mumbai is the city of dreamers, stalwarts and the common man, a vibrant combination of seven islands on the Konkan coastline. Maharashtra is home to the India's biggest film industry and the juiciest oranges; grandest Ganesh Chaturthi festival and yummiest of fish. The state of Maharashtra is known for its people, its

culture and the unique blend of old and new that it offers to the locals and the tourists alike. The beautiful hill stations of Mahabaleshwar, Khandala and Lonavale add to the charm of Maharashtra tenfold. And while we are talking about the state's charm, how can we forget the fabulous caves of Ajanta and Ellora. They are certainly one of the assets of the vibrant state of Maharashtra.

What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-maharashtra-lp-1273349>

1 Shirdi



Shirdi is the place where Sai Baba lived for many decades and finally attained samadhi.

Mostly visited from September to November, Shirdi has quite a few well known religious spots. A couple of prominent ones are Sai Baba temple and Dwarakamayi. The Sai Baba Temple houses the samadhi of Sai Baba. Dwarkamai Masjid, located on the right of Samadhi Mandir, is the place where Sai Baba spent majority of his time. A large stone in which baba used to sit is still present in the masjid. The tentative timings at the temple are from 4 am to 10 pm. Dwarakamayi is a mosque where Sai Baba stayed for over half a century. Over 100 years ago, he lit a holy fire here, which is still being preserved by devotees. On a visit to Shirdi, do not forget to pay homage at Gurusthan, which is a place where Sai Baba was once spotted sitting under a neem tree.

Distances can seem exaggerated in Shirdi. What is referred to as the other end of the town is, in reality, a 10-min walk away, through narrow lanes fringed by small stalls selling flowers, sweets, trinkets and other items that devotees offer to Sai Baba. Shirdi is approximately 296 kms from Mumbai and can be easily reached by railways, buses or private cars. Commuting within Shirdi is convenient as public transport is easily available.

There are even Tibetans here selling woollies. Music blares from almost every stall; devotional and popular Bollywood songs mingle to create a most eclectic medley as one walks down the streets.



2 Nanded



Guru Gobind Singh ji, the 10th and last Sikh Guru, came to Nanded in his final days. It is here that he declared the the Guru Granth Sahib would be perpetual guru for the Sikhs, and their last. The Hazur Sahib Gurudwara (also known as Sachkhand Gurudwara) is a result of Nanded's encounter with Guru Gobind Singh ji. There is also a monument made at the site where breathed his last. The city has a rich heritage of rulers and dynasties, contributing to the fact that a multitude of religious and cultural communities co-exist here. It has also seen several literary writers emerge, like Vishnupant Sesa and Vaman Pandit, who wrote in Sanskrit. As several tourists throng to Nanded every year, it has seen an increase in commercial activity and development. It boasts of a mall and cineplex, a sign that this city is on its path to modernity.

3 Aurangabad



Named after the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, Aurangabad houses the famous paintings and caves of Ajanta and Ellora, recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site. Another tourist attraction is Bibi-ka-Maqbara, which resembles the Taj Mahal and is the burial chamber of Aurangzeb's wife. The various gates that populate the city are also notable for their architectural magnificence and intricate carvings namely, Delhi Gate, Kala Darwaza, Rangeen Darwaza and Paitahn gate. Woven Himroo shawls, Mashru and Kimkhab weaves, Paithani sarees and semi precious stones jewellery are must buys from its popular markets.

4 Kalyan



Experience the joy of exploring this city on one of the oldest modes of transport - the tonga (horse driven carriage)! This city stands tall, narrating the various historical escapades of mighty rulers. From Aurangzeb to Shivaji Maharaj, Kalyan has seen it all. The Durgadi Fort, for instance, was initiated by Shah Jahan while Aurangzeb gave it the finishing touches. Here, the architectural transition from the Mughal period to the Maratha is quite apparent - the Ramji temple was a mosque once upon a time.

5 Satara



The unique statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji at Satara is a mark of the legacy left by the Maratha empire. This journey of amazing landmarks will continue with the colourfully flowered Kas plateau, a World Heritage Site. Ancient forts like Ajinkyatara Fort and gushing waterfalls, Satara also houses the Satara Musuem, dedicated to Shivaji himself. Do try the famous sweet, Kadi Pedhe, as you sit on top of Yawateshwar hills and see the twinkling road lights below.

Where To
Eat



5 Places

<http://www.ixigo.com/foods-in-of-maharashtra-ip-1273349>

1 Dilawar Bakery



Matheran, Maharashtra 410102

Dilawar Bakery is a perfect place to gorge on some amazing bakery stuff. Do try the freshly baked breads and cakes. The mouthwatering food makes it a favorite among gourmands.

The bakery attracts many visitors every day be it locals or tourists, the place is usually crowded with food lovers. It is a place in Matheran that should be in your itinerary no matter what! Dilawar Bakery is a must visit place for a fun time with family and friends.

2 Aparanta



📍 Radisson Blu Resort & Spa - Alibaug,, Alibaug 402209, India

Experience fine dining at its best in this upscale restaurant, Aparanta. A restaurant which serves delicious meals and drinks which will make you eat more and more. The smell of this great restaurant will lure you to enter the place and you will surely not regret it. Located in a very convenient place in Alibag, you can easily access this restaurant. Do try the fried rice balls stuffed with mozzarella and chopped vegetables gizzards here at Aparanta.

3 Bohemyan Blue garden cafe



📍 Plot no.-1 on alibag-mandwa, Main road at Agarsure, opposite Fountainhead, Alibaug, India

☎ +91-98200-69008

Its time to pamper your taste buds and your mood at this pretty, little cafe in town. Bohemyan Blue garden cafe is one place where you can just kick back and relax over refreshing drinks and exotic food. Some of the top recommendations here are prawns curry, vegetable parathas and Lebanese dishes which are prepared from the freshest ingredients. So, all in all, you will get a lavish menu, polite staff, cozy ambiance and pocket friendly prices at this peppy cafe.

4 Sanman Restaurant



📍 Ganesh Krupa Building, Israil Lane, Alibaug, Maharashtra 402201, India

☎ +91-2141-222314 | +91-93716-43324

One of the most popular restaurants in

Alibaug, Sanman Restaurant is the best place to explore the local delicacies. The restaurant's spicy fish masala and prawn fry are famous all over the city. The bombil fry, chicken curry, surmail curry and solkadhi deserve a special mention. This is not recommended for vegetarians, as the only vegetarian option is a veg thali. The place tends to get crowded in the afternoon, so make sure you arrive early.

5 Little Italy



📍 Nasik Sula Vineyards, Survey 36/2, Govardhan, Off Gangapur-Savargaon Road, Nashik - 422222

☎ +91-253-2231720

A must visit for Italian food lovers. Known for its Pizzas and Pastas. You will find authentic Italian cuisines and tempting wines at this swanky restaurant. Chill out in its relaxed ambiance.