



TREKS AND TRAILS

पुणे जिल्हा परिषद, जिल्हा परिषद, जिल्हा परिषद
हरिश्चंद्रगड

Harishchandragad Trek 2024

© 1 night, 1 day

Overview

Harishchandragad Trek

Harishchandragad is one of the best high [forts near Mumbai](#), Maharashtra. Strong fortifications of this fort have multiple entry routes such as the Junnar gate route, Sadhale ghat, [Nalichi wat](#), and Indore Vaat.

The carvings on the temples of Nageshwar in [Khireswar](#) village, in the Harishchandreshwar temple, and in the cave of Kedareshwar indicate that the fort belongs to the medieval period since it is related to Shaiva, Shakta, or Naath. Later the fort was under the control of Moghuls. The Marathas captured it in 1747. Main attractions on Fort: Sapta Tirta Pushkarini, Kedareshwar Cave, [Konkan Kada](#) - Konkan cliff, Taramati peak, Temple of Harishchandreshwar.

Harishchandragad Trek Event Details

- Harishchandragad trek grade difficulty level medium
- Harishchandragad trek endurance level medium
- Harishchandragad trek height 4650 feet approx above sea level
- Region: [lgatpuri](#), Ahmednagar, Junnar
- Total time required for climbing: 3 hours uphill climb one way.
- Harishchandragad trek distance from Pachnai village five kilometers uphill
- Drive from Mumbai: 220 km one way
- **Cost for Harishchandragad Trek: Rs 1449/- per person**

Call us at [+91 8828004949](tel:+918828004949)

Drop a mail at highfive@treksandtrails.org

View this trip on [our website](#) →

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Harishchandragad Trek Itinerary

Day 0 - Saturday Night

Catch CSMT – Kasara fast local

- 08:44 pm - CSMT
- 08:51 pm - Byculla
- 08:58 pm - Dadar
- 09:07 pm - Kurla
- 09:11 pm - Ghatkopar
- 09:26 pm - Thane
- 09:42 pm - Dombivli
- 09:52 pm - Kalyan
- 11:04 pm - Kasara

11:15 pm - Meet Trek Leader at Kasara Railway Station.

11:30 pm - Move towards the base village in by private local vehicle.

Day 1 - Sunday

04:30 am - Reach at base village - Paachnai.

05:00 am - Start ascending.

07:30 am - Reach on top and explore. Visit Harishchandreshwar temple, Kedareshwar temple, Pushkarani, and Caves.

08:30 am - Start trek towards Kokankada.

09:00 am - Reach Kokankada and have breakfast.

10:00 am - Start descending.

12:30 pm - Reach at base village and have lunch.

01:30 pm - Start return journey towards Kasara station.

04:30 pm - Arrival at Kasara railway station and disperse.



How to book?

- Click on the "BOOK NOW" button.
- Select your departure date and click on pay and book button.
- Select your ticket type and quantity. (If you have a coupon code, apply at this stage)
- Fill out your personal details and proceed with reviews & payment.
- Select your payment type (UPI, Debit Card, Credit Card, Net Banking) and proceed.
- Once your tickets are booked, you will receive confirmation via email. (Please provide valid email id)
- A WhatsApp group link will be sent to your WhatsApp number 8 hours prior to the departure. (Please provide WhatsApp number while booking)
- Event Details and Trek Leaders details will be shared on that WhatsApp group only.

Please Note

- People may board the same train from their respective stations of convenience.
- Missing the train is missing Harishchandragad Trek, no refund will be provided.
- If you wrongly booked for different date or batch. And you want to change date within 3 days of departure, then transfer charges will be applied which will be Rs. 200/- per person.

Inclusions

- 1 veg Breakfast and 1 veg Lunch.
- Kasara to Kasara travel by local vehicle (Train option)
- Trek Leader expertise charges
- Forest Fees Charges.
- E-certificate

Exclusions

- Travel till Kasara and back
- Entry fee for foreign nationals
- Mineral water/lime water/ purchased for personal consumption
- All kinds of Extra Meals / soft drinks ordered.
- Any kind of personal expenses.



- Any kind of cost which is not mentioned in the cost includes above.
- All expenses incurred due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances like roadblocks, bad weather.
- Any medical / Emergency evacuations if required.

Highlights

- 2/3 liters of water
- Proper face mask or shield
- Sanitizer
- Trekking Shoes provide more grip and comfort on the trek
- Good Torch must with an extra battery
- Some Dry fruits / Dry Snacks / Energy Bars
- Glucon D / ORS / Tang / Gatorade sachets
- One Day Backpack 20 to 30 liters
- Sun Cap and Sunscreen
- Personal First aid and Personal Medicine
- Identity Proof
- Please wear Full sleeves and Full Track Pant this will protect from Summer Sun / Thorns / Insects / Prickles

Cancellation Policy and Charges

- 75% refund if notified via phone conversation 8 or more days prior to the event date.
- 50 % refund if notified via phone conversation 4 to 7 days prior to the event date.
- No refund if the cancellation requested is less than 3 days prior to the event date
- No show No Refund.
- Event Tickets cannot be transferred to another date against cancellation.
- Event Tickets cannot be transferred to another person against cancellation.
- If the event gets canceled we will refund "Trek Amount" only.
- If the event is canceled due to any natural calamity, political unrest or other such reasons beyond our control the same cancellation policy will apply.
- Refunds won't be issued if you cannot attend the event due to heavy rains, floods, traffic jams, car breakdowns or a personal medical emergency.



- Your booking cannot be shifted to another date if you cannot attend the event due to heavy rains, floods, traffic jams, car breakdowns, or a personal medical emergency.
- If your area is prone to flooding, traveling from a flooded area, heavy traffic, heavy rains, missing the train, or any other reason, if you cannot attend the event, we won't issue a refund or shift you to another date.
- Management won't be held responsible if you are stuck due to heavy rains, traffic jams, personal emergencies or floods during the event.
- If you are bringing kids, please understand the possibility of getting stuck or delayed. You might have to stay back due to heavy rains, floods, bus breakdowns, and rush at the trekking destination. We won't be able to refund or shift you to another date. You will have to wait it out till the weather clears.
- Due to bad weather, floods, sudden changes in government rules, and overcrowding at the destination trek, the organizer has the right to change the trekking destination.
- During the trek, due to any circumstances seen or unseen trek leader has the right to cancel the trek for safety reason. No refund shall be issued.

Treks and Trails Event Rules

- Kindly carry one Identity proof, at least for the trek with your address.
- We all are going for an adventurous and exciting trekking expedition; please Do Not misinterpret it as a PICNIC or LEISURE TOUR.
- The leader's decision will be final, and all the members should abide by it.
- We do not destroy or dirty the archaeological, historical monuments, natural habitat on the trek.
- Swimming is not allowed in the lake or water tank on the forts. Locals use that water for drinking.
- Putting your feet in water tanks or on the canon is not allowed on our treks.
- Any addiction is strictly prohibited, e.g. drinking, smoking, chewing tobacco anyone caught doing it will have to exit the trek without a refund and travel back on own expense.
- People caught smoking or drinking alcohol will be asked to exit the event on an immediate basis.
- Please do not carry or wear any valuables, ornaments, jewellery, etc. If carried, then we Do Not take any liability for the same.



- Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Trekking, or any adventure activity is potentially risky. For all these events, you are at your own risk. Organizers are not responsible for any accident or compensation in whatsoever manner.
- We should strictly follow the code of conduct to avoid troubling our fellow trekkers or other people from our group or outside.
- Listening to music on earphones or Bluetooth speakers is not allowed while trekking.
- Bluetooth speaker not allowed inside the homestay or camping tents.
- Drinking/smoking,/eating is not allowed inside the tents.
- If you damage the tent, break the tent poles, you will have to pay us for the whole new tent on MRP.
- If you are late for the bus pickup and are not reachable on the phone during your bus pickup, the trek leader will leave without you, and we will provide no refund.
- Please check things to carry and wear trekking shoes on our treks.

Event Updates

Whatsapp Broadcast list regular update

Step 1: Save number in your phone book Treks and Trails India - 8828004949

Step 2: Ping us your name and email

Congratulations you will receive regular event updates now

Email - connect@treksandtrails.org

Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/TreksandTrailsMumbai>

Meetup - <http://www.meetup.com/TreksandTrails-Mumbai-Meetup/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/treksNtrailsInd>

<https://www.instagram.com/treksandtrails/>



Itinerary

Harishchandragad Trek Blog

Harishchandragad is a prominent hill fort in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, India. Known for its historical significance, the fort stands tall at an elevation of about 4,671 feet, making it one of the highest peaks in Maharashtra. The fort is a popular trekking destination, attracting adventure enthusiasts and history buffs alike. The rugged terrain, ancient temples, and breathtaking views make Harishchandragad a must-visit for anyone seeking a blend of nature and history. The trek to Harishchandragad offers a unique experience, with multiple routes catering to different levels of trekkers.

Ancient Fort of Maharashtra

Harishchandragad is an ancient fort that has stood the test of time, with origins dating back to the medieval period. The fort's architecture reflects the craftsmanship of that era, with structures like temples, caves, and fortifications still intact. The fort is believed to have been built during the reign of the Kalchuri dynasty, which adds to its historical importance. Exploring the fort's ruins gives a glimpse into the past, making it a fascinating destination for history enthusiasts. The ancient fort is not only a testament to historical engineering but also a symbol of Maharashtra's rich heritage.

Fort Belongs to the Medieval Period

The Harishchandragad Fort belongs to the medieval period, making it a significant historical landmark. It is believed to have been constructed during the rule of the Kalchuri dynasty, around the 6th century. The fort has witnessed several changes in power, with different rulers adding to its structure over the centuries. The medieval architecture, seen in the temples and fortifications, reflects the styles and techniques of that era. The fort's historical background adds a layer of intrigue,



attracting historians and trekkers alike who are keen to explore the remnants of this medieval marvel.

Harishchandragad Trek Multiple Routes

The trek to Harishchandragad offers multiple routes, catering to trekkers of different skill levels. The most popular routes are via Pachnai, Khireswar, and Nalichi Vaat. The Pachnai route is the easiest and shortest, ideal for beginners and those looking for a relatively relaxed trek. The Khireswar route is more challenging, with a longer distance and steeper ascents, suitable for seasoned trekkers. The Nalichi Vaat route is the most difficult, involving rock climbing and narrow paths, recommended only for experienced trekkers. Each route offers unique experiences, with varying landscapes, challenges, and scenic views.

Ancient Caves at Harishchandragad India

Harishchandragad is home to several ancient caves that add to the fort's historical allure. The most notable of these caves is the Kedareshwar Cave, which houses a massive Shiva Lingam surrounded by icy cold water. The caves are believed to date back to the 11th century and are intricately carved, showcasing the artistic prowess of the period. These caves were likely used by ascetics and monks for meditation and shelter. Exploring these ancient caves gives trekkers a glimpse into the spiritual and architectural history of the region, making the trek a culturally enriching experience.

Historical Significance of Harishchandragad Kille

Harishchandragad holds immense historical significance, with its roots tracing back to the Kalchuri dynasty of the 6th century. The fort has been a witness to several historical events and changes in power, having been under the control of various rulers, including the Mughals and Marathas. Its strategic location made it an



important fort for controlling the surrounding regions. The fort's temples, caves, and inscriptions provide valuable insights into the historical and cultural heritage of Maharashtra. The trek to Harishchandragad is not just an adventure but also a journey through the pages of history.

Scenic Beauty of Maharashtra Gadkille

Harishchandragad is renowned for its scenic beauty, offering breathtaking views of the Western Ghats. The fort is surrounded by lush greenery, dense forests, and towering cliffs, making it a paradise for nature lovers. The trek to the top provides panoramic views of the surrounding valleys, hills, and rivers. The sunset from the famous Konkan Kada, a vertical cliff on the fort, is a sight to behold, drawing trekkers and photographers alike. The natural beauty of Harishchandragad, combined with its historical significance, makes it a perfect destination for a weekend getaway.

Saptateertha Pushkarni at Harishchandragad Kille

Saptateertha Pushkarni is a sacred water tank located on the Harishchandragad Fort. This ancient tank is surrounded by small temples dedicated to various deities, making it a significant pilgrimage site. The name "Saptateertha" refers to the seven holy water bodies, believed to purify the soul. The tank is known for its clear water, which remains cool throughout the year. Devotees often take a dip in the tank before offering prayers at the nearby temples. The serene surroundings of Saptateertha Pushkarni provide a tranquil environment for spiritual reflection and meditation.

Western Ghats of Maharashtra

Harishchandragad is nestled in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its rich biodiversity and scenic landscapes. The Western Ghats are home to a variety of flora and fauna, making them one of the



world's most significant biodiversity hotspots. The trek to Harishchandragad offers trekkers the opportunity to explore this natural wonder, with its dense forests, cascading waterfalls, and diverse wildlife. The Ghats are also known for their unique climate, which supports a wide range of ecosystems. Trekking in the Western Ghats is a refreshing escape into nature's lap.

Trek Has Multiple Routes

The trek to Harishchandragad offers multiple routes, each with its unique challenges and experiences. The three main routes are Pachnai, Khireswar, and Nalichi Vaat, catering to different levels of trekking expertise. Pachnai is the easiest and most accessible route, ideal for beginners. Khireswar is moderately challenging, with a mix of steep ascents and flat trails. Nalichi Vaat is the most difficult, requiring rock climbing skills and is best suited for experienced trekkers. Regardless of the chosen route, the trek promises stunning views, historical landmarks, and a memorable adventure in the Western Ghats.

4th Highest Peak in Maharashtra

Taramati peak is the fourth-highest peak in Maharashtra, standing at an elevation of approximately 4,671 feet above sea level. The fort's height makes it a prominent landmark in the Western Ghats, offering trekkers a challenging yet rewarding climb. The trek to the summit is a test of endurance, with steep ascents and rugged terrain. However, the panoramic views from the top make the effort worthwhile. The peak is also a popular spot for stargazing, with clear skies providing an excellent view of the night sky. Reaching the summit of Harishchandragad is an achievement for any trekker.

The Harishchandragad Trek is an enriching experience that combines adventure, history, and nature. Whether you're drawn by the ancient fort, the stunning scenery, or the challenge of the trek, Harishchandragad offers something for everyone.



Cave of Kedareshwar Maharashtra

Nestled within the mighty Harishchandragad Fort, the Cave of Kedareshwar is a sacred and mysterious site steeped in ancient legends. This natural wonder, home to a colossal Shiva Linga, is surrounded by awe-inspiring natural beauty and has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries. Let's delve into the rich history, spiritual significance, and enchanting tales that make this cave a must-visit destination.

Explore Ancient India

The Cave of Kedareshwar transports visitors back in time to ancient India, offering a glimpse into the country's rich spiritual heritage. The cave, located in the rugged terrains of the Sahyadri range, is believed to be centuries old and is associated with various Hindu legends. Its ancient stone carvings and the mystical atmosphere provide a tangible connection to the past, allowing visitors to experience the timeless traditions and beliefs that have shaped Indian culture. A visit here is not just a journey through nature but a deep dive into the spiritual and historical roots of India.

Cave of Kedareshwar Legend of Three Pillars and World Destruction

The Cave of Kedareshwar is enveloped in a fascinating legend involving three mystical pillars. It is said that there were originally four pillars supporting the roof of the cave, but one has already collapsed. According to local lore, the remaining three pillars represent the three yugas (epochs) of Hindu cosmology. It is believed that if all four pillars were to collapse, it would signal the end of the current epoch, leading to the destruction of the world. This legend adds an aura of mystery and reverence to the cave, making it a site of both spiritual significance and historical intrigue.

Kedareshwar Indicates That the Fort Belongs



The presence of the Kedareshwar cave within Harishchandragad Fort is often interpreted as an indication that the fort itself is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The cave's massive Shiv Linga and the spiritual ambiance that pervades the area suggest that this site has long been a place of worship for Shiva devotees. The name "Kedareshwar" itself is derived from one of Lord Shiva's epithets, indicating the strong connection between the deity and this sacred location. The fort, thus, is not just a military structure but a spiritual bastion that has protected and preserved the worship of Shiva over the centuries.

Natural Beauty of Maharashtra Gadkille

The Cave of Kedareshwar is surrounded by stunning natural beauty, making it a perfect destination for nature lovers and spiritual seekers alike. The cave is located in the midst of lush greenery, with the Sahyadri mountains providing a breathtaking backdrop. The surrounding landscape is dotted with waterfalls, streams, and dense forests, creating a serene and tranquil environment. The journey to the cave itself is an adventure, as visitors must trek through the rugged terrain, crossing rivers and climbing steep hills. The natural beauty of the area enhances the spiritual experience, making a visit to the Cave of Kedareshwar a truly unforgettable experience.

Shiv Linga

The Shiv Linga inside the Cave of Kedareshwar is a massive, awe-inspiring symbol of Lord Shiva, and it is one of the most significant features of the site. This colossal Linga, carved from a single rock, stands in the center of the cave and is surrounded by water throughout the year. The presence of this Linga is a powerful reminder of the divine energy associated with Lord Shiva, and it draws devotees from far and wide who come to pay their respects and seek blessings. The sight of the Linga, bathed in the soft light filtering through the cave's entrance, is a deeply spiritual experience that leaves a lasting impression on all who visit.



Four Pillar Story

The story of the four pillars in the Cave of Kedareshwar is one of the most intriguing aspects of this sacred site. It is believed that these pillars were originally erected to support the roof of the cave, with each pillar representing one of the four yugas in Hindu cosmology: Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dvapara Yuga, and Kali Yuga. However, one of the pillars has already fallen, leading to speculation and concern among devotees. According to legend, the collapse of the remaining three pillars will herald the end of the current Kali Yuga and the beginning of a new cosmic cycle. This story adds an element of mystique and urgency to the cave, making it a site of great spiritual significance.

Kedareshwar Cave Temple

The Kedareshwar Cave Temple is not just a natural formation but a sacred space that has been revered for centuries. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, and its centerpiece is the massive Shiv Linga that dominates the cave. The temple is a place of pilgrimage, attracting devotees who come to offer prayers and seek the blessings of Lord Shiva. The cave's natural architecture, combined with the spiritual energy that pervades the space, creates a unique and powerful atmosphere. The temple is a testament to the enduring faith and devotion of those who have worshipped here over the centuries.

Shiva Linga Surrounded by Water

One of the most striking features of the Kedareshwar Cave is the Shiv Linga, which is surrounded by water throughout the year. This water is believed to have miraculous properties, and it is said that the level of the water never decreases, no matter the season. The constant presence of water around the Linga is seen as a symbol of the eternal nature of Lord Shiva, who is often associated with the element of water in Hindu mythology. Devotees who visit the cave often take a dip in the water as part



of their spiritual practice, believing that it will purify their souls and bring them closer to the divine.

Temple of Harishchandreshwar

The Temple of Harishchandreshwar, located at the summit of Harishchandragad Fort, is a fine example of ancient Indian temple architecture. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this temple features a beautifully crafted Shivalinga in its sanctum, surrounded by intricate carvings and sculptures. The temple's age-old stone walls and pillars echo the spiritual energy of the place, providing a serene atmosphere for pilgrims and trekkers alike. A unique feature of this temple is the circular Nandi (bull) mandap, which is connected to the main shrine by a finely sculpted archway. The temple, believed to be built during the medieval period, stands as a testimony to the skilled craftsmanship of that era.

Saptatirtha Pushkarni

Saptatirtha Pushkarni is a sacred water tank situated near the Harishchandreshwar Temple. Surrounded by stone steps and small shrines, this rectangular tank is believed to hold holy water, which remains fresh throughout the year. The tank is fed by natural springs and is considered to be one of the seven holy bathing spots in the area. Pilgrims visiting Harishchandragad often take a dip in its waters as part of their spiritual rituals, believing it to cleanse them of impurities. The tranquil setting of Saptatirtha Pushkarni, with the backdrop of the temple, adds to the spiritual allure of the place.

Carvings on the Temples of Nageshwar in Khireswar

The temples of Nageshwar, located in the quaint village of Khireswar, are renowned for their exquisite carvings. These ancient temples, dedicated to Lord Shiva, feature



intricate stone carvings depicting various mythological scenes, floral motifs, and celestial beings. The detailed work on the temple walls showcases the artistic brilliance of the craftsmen from a bygone era. The entrance of the temple is adorned with beautifully sculpted images of deities, and the pillars inside display fine carvings that narrate stories from Hindu epics. The Nageshwar temples are a must-visit for those interested in history, art, and architecture.

Trekkers Dip in the Caves of Kedareshwar

The caves of Kedareshwar, located near Harishchandragad Fort, offer a unique experience for trekkers. These ancient caves house a massive Shivalinga, partially submerged in water, attracting both devotees and adventure seekers. The water inside the cave remains icy cold throughout the year, making a dip in these sacred waters a refreshing and spiritually invigorating experience. Trekkers often take a plunge in the cave's pool after a strenuous hike, enjoying the cool waters and the mystical ambiance. The Kedareshwar Cave, with its natural rock formations and spiritual significance, adds a mystical charm to the trekking experience at Harishchandragad.

Konkan Cliff Harishchandragad

The Konkan Cliff at Harishchandragad, known as "Kokan Kada," is a breathtaking vertical overhang that towers over the Konkan region. This natural marvel offers panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and is a popular spot for trekkers and nature enthusiasts. The cliff's unique shape and steep drop make it a challenging yet rewarding destination. During the monsoon, the area transforms into a lush green paradise, with misty clouds adding a mystical touch. Konkan Kada is also a hotspot for rappelling, making it a must-visit for adventure seekers.



Indravajra Harishchandragad

Indravajra, a rare optical phenomenon, is often witnessed at Konkan Cliff on Harishchandragad. This spectacular event occurs when sunlight passes through water droplets in the mist, forming a circular rainbow around the observer's shadow. The sight of Indravajra is both awe-inspiring and spiritual, leaving trekkers mesmerized. The best time to witness this phenomenon is during the monsoon when the valley is shrouded in mist, creating the perfect conditions for this magical display. Spotting Indravajra is a rare and cherished experience for those trekking to Konkan Kada.

Natural Phenomena

The Konkan Cliff at Harishchandragad is a site of natural wonders, with one of the most remarkable being the formation of Indravajra, a circular rainbow. The cliff overlooks the vast Konkan region and, during the monsoon, is often enveloped in mist. This mist, combined with the sunlight, creates a perfect setting for the Indravajra to appear. The phenomenon is a testament to the beauty of nature and adds to the mystique of the cliff, making the trek to Konkan Kada a unique experience.

Circular Rainbows

Circular rainbows, or Indravajra, are a rare and captivating sight at Konkan Cliff in Harishchandragad. This phenomenon occurs when sunlight interacts with the misty clouds that envelop the cliff during the monsoon season. The result is a stunning 360-degree rainbow encircling the viewer's shadow, creating an ethereal and almost surreal experience. The Konkan Kada trek, especially during the rainy season, offers a chance to witness this natural wonder. The combination of the towering cliff, the



mist, and the rainbow makes it a truly magical moment for trekkers and nature lovers.

Konkan Kada Trek

The Konkan Kada trek is an exhilarating journey that leads adventurers to the edge of Harishchandragad's majestic cliff. The trek, especially popular during the monsoon, offers stunning views, challenging terrain, and the opportunity to witness the breathtaking Indravajra phenomenon. Trekkers can also experience camping at Konkan Kada, surrounded by mist-filled valleys and the sound of waterfalls. The location is accessible via multiple routes, each offering its unique challenges and rewards. Whether you're seeking adventure or tranquility, the Konkan Kada trek is an unforgettable experience.

Konkan Kada in Monsoon

Monsoon transforms Konkan Kada at Harishchandragad into a lush, misty paradise. The cliff, overlooking the expansive Konkan region, becomes even more magical as waterfalls cascade down its edges and the valleys below fill with swirling clouds. This season is also the best time to witness the Indravajra phenomenon, where a circular rainbow forms around the viewer's shadow. The trek to Konkan Kada during the monsoon is a thrilling experience, with the added excitement of navigating slippery trails and enjoying the cool, refreshing rain.

Konkan Kada Location

Konkan Kada is located on the western side of Harishchandragad, a historic fort in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. The cliff is a prominent feature of the Sahyadri mountain range, offering breathtaking views of the Konkan region below. Its unique overhang and towering height make it one of the most iconic cliffs in Maharashtra. The location is a popular destination for trekkers and adventurers,



especially during the monsoon when the landscape is transformed into a verdant, mist-covered wonderland.

Best Time to See Indravajra at Konkan Kada

The best time to witness the Indravajra phenomenon at Konkan Kada is during the monsoon season, from June to September. This is when the valley below the cliff is often filled with thick mist, creating the perfect conditions for this rare circular rainbow to appear. Early mornings or late afternoons, when the sun is lower in the sky, offer the best chances to see Indravajra. Trekkers and photographers flock to Konkan Kada during this period to capture the mesmerizing beauty of this natural spectacle.

Konkan Kada Camping

Camping at Konkan Kada is an adventure like no other. Situated on the edge of the majestic cliff at Harishchandragad, campers are treated to breathtaking views of the Konkan region and the surrounding valleys. The monsoon season adds an extra layer of magic, with mist swirling around the campsite and the sound of waterfalls echoing in the distance. Nighttime at Konkan Kada offers a serene and tranquil experience, with the clear skies revealing a blanket of stars. It's a perfect spot for nature lovers and adventure enthusiasts alike.

Mist in the Valley

The valley below Konkan Kada is often shrouded in mist, especially during the monsoon season. This mist, combined with the towering height of the cliff, creates a surreal and mystical atmosphere that attracts trekkers and nature lovers. The thick mist adds an element of mystery to the trek, making the journey to the top even more rewarding. As the sun rises or sets, the mist dances in the valley, occasionally revealing glimpses of the landscape below, making it a sight to behold.



Overlooks the Konkan Region

Konkan Kada at Harishchandragad offers unparalleled views of the expansive Konkan region. The cliff's unique overhang provides a panoramic vista of the lush green valleys, winding rivers, and distant mountains that make up the Konkan landscape. This vantage point is especially breathtaking during the monsoon when the entire region is covered in a blanket of greenery and mist. Trekkers often find themselves awestruck by the sheer beauty and vastness of the view, making the challenging trek to the top all the more worthwhile.

Konkan Kada Rappelling

Konkan Kada is not just a trekker's paradise but also a thrilling destination for rappelling enthusiasts. The cliff's vertical drop offers a challenging and adrenaline-pumping rappelling experience, attracting adventurers from all over. Rappelling down the 1,200-foot cliff face is both exhilarating and terrifying, making it a must-try for those seeking an extreme adventure. The monsoon season adds an extra layer of excitement, with the added challenge of slippery rocks and the roar of nearby waterfalls.

Harishchandragad Different Trekking Routes

The awe-inspiring vistas of Harishchandragad attract trekkers to explore its varied routes. Each trail offers unique experiences, from dense forests to rocky sections, ensuring that both beginners and seasoned trekkers find their perfect adventure. Whether you seek the thrill of challenging treks in the Western Ghats or the serenity of nature's beauty, Harishchandragad has something for everyone. Discover the awe-inspiring vistas on these trekking routes that lead to one of the most iconic forts in Maharashtra.



Sadhle Ghat Trek Route

The Sadhle Ghat trek route offers a thrilling experience with its rocky sections and a variety of adventures. Known for being one of the challenging treks in the Western Ghats, it takes you through a rugged terrain filled with rocky patches and steep climbs. Trekkers who love rock climbing will find this route particularly exciting, as it requires navigating through difficult sections that test your endurance and skills. The Sadhle Ghat trek is not just about reaching Harishchandragad but also about enjoying the journey filled with natural beauty and a sense of accomplishment. It's a perfect choice for those seeking a tough yet rewarding adventure in the Western Ghats.

Makad Naal Trek Route

The Makad Naal trek route is renowned for delivering an unparalleled adrenaline rush, making it the toughest trek route for reaching Harishchandragad. This trail is closed during the rainy season due to the dangerous conditions it presents. However, for experienced trekkers, this route is a thrilling challenge, especially with its demanding rock climbing sections. The trek can only be undertaken with the help of a technical rock climbing team, as it involves negotiating vertical cliffs and narrow ledges. Those who dare to take on the Makad Naal trek are rewarded with a sense of achievement that comes from conquering one of the most difficult and exhilarating routes in the Western Ghats.

Khireswar Trek Route

The Khireswar trek route is a long and rocky trail that leads adventurers through dense forests and a jungle trek experience. Popular for night treks, this route takes you through the picturesque village of Khireswar, where you can spot flamingoes after the trek. The trail is known for its carvings on the temples of Nageshwar, adding a historical touch to the adventure. Starting from Khubi Phata, the trek has multiple routes, which can be difficult to navigate, especially at night. Public transport is available to Khubi Phata, making it accessible for trekkers. The route



challenges your endurance but rewards you with the enchanting beauty of the Western Ghats.

Panchnai Trek Route

The Panchnai trek route is the quickest and easiest trail to Harishchandragad, making it suitable for beginners. To reach Panchnai village, you can take a bus or a jeep ride from Kasara, followed by an off-road track that leads to the start of the trek. The trail from Panchnai winds through dense forest cover, offering a serene jungle trek experience. This route is ideal for night treks and provides a quick escape into nature. On your way, you can explore the Saptatheertha Pushkarni and enjoy the scenic beauty of Ghoti village. During the rainy season, the trail becomes even more enchanting, with lush greenery and vibrant flora.

Nalichi Vaat Trek Route

Nalichi Vaat is one of the most challenging and thrilling trek routes to Harishchandragad, ideal for experienced trekkers with an expert rock climbing team. The best time to attempt the Nalichi Vaat trek is during the winter season when the weather is favorable. The trek difficulty is high, requiring climbing equipment and a good level of fitness. The route takes you through steep rocky sections and vertical climbs, leading to the Harishchandragad plateau. This trek is not for the faint-hearted but is perfect for those seeking an adrenaline-filled adventure in the Western Ghats. The sense of accomplishment upon reaching the top is unmatched.

Junnar Darwaja Trek Route

The Junnar Darwaja trek route is an offbeat trail that offers a unique experience for trekkers heading towards Harishchandragad. This route is best chosen when descending towards Khireswar village, allowing you to explore a lesser-known path. The trek is peaceful, with the soothing sounds of chirping birds accompanying you



along the way. The trail passes through dense forests and rugged terrain, offering a serene and adventurous journey. It's a perfect choice for trekkers looking to explore a quieter, more tranquil route away from the more popular trails.

Here's a list of essential items to carry for the Harishchandragad trek:

1. Trekking Poles: Useful for maintaining balance, especially on steep or rocky sections.

2. Trekking Shoes: Sturdy, comfortable, and waterproof shoes with good grip are essential for the rough terrain.

3. Camping Gear:

- Stove: Portable and lightweight for cooking.
- Sleeping Mat: Provides insulation and comfort when sleeping.
- Sleeping Bag: Warm and suitable for the season.
- Torch/Headlamp: Essential for navigating in the dark.

4. Cooking Supplies: Carry lightweight utensils, a portable stove, and sufficient food supplies for meals.

5. Water Purifying Tablets: To ensure a clean water supply when refilling from natural sources.

Other useful items include a backpack with a rain cover, extra layers of clothing, a first-aid kit, sunscreen, a hat, and sufficient water bottles.

Taramati Peak fourth highest peak in Maharashtra



Taramati Peak, the fourth highest in Maharashtra, stands tall within the Harishchandragad Fort complex. Reaching this 4,670 ft. summit offers breathtaking views of the surrounding Sahyadri range.

The climb is challenging, with rocky terrain and steep ascents, requiring careful planning. To safely navigate, start early to avoid the midday heat, wear sturdy trekking shoes, use trekking poles and carry sufficient water. A guide is recommended for first-timers to ensure you follow the safest trail.

Additionally, be mindful of the weather, as the path can become slippery during monsoon. With preparation, Taramati Peak rewards you with unforgettable vistas.

Harishchandragad trek from Pune

How to Reach and Complete the Harishchandragad Trek from Pachnai starting from Pune

Harishchandragad, a mesmerizing fort in the Western Ghats, offers trekkers an unforgettable experience with its stunning landscapes and historical significance. One of the easiest routes to reach Harishchandragad is via Pachnai, making it an ideal choice for beginners or those seeking a shorter trek.

How to Reach Harishchandragad Pachnai from Pune:

1. By Car: Start early from Pune, heading towards Sangamner via NH60. From Sangamner, take the road to Rajur, and then proceed towards Kotul. Pachnai is a small village accessible via this route. The journey takes about 5-6 hours, covering approximately 185 km.
2. By Public Transport: Take a bus from Pune to Sangamner. From Sangamner, board another bus or hire a local vehicle to reach Rajur. From Rajur, shared jeeps are available to Pachnai.

The Trek from Pachnai:



Starting from Pachnai, the trek is relatively easy and can be completed in 2-3 hours. The trail is well-marked and offers picturesque views of the surrounding hills. Key attractions include the Kedareswar Cave, Harishchandreshwar Temple, and the awe-inspiring Konkan Kada.

This trek is perfect for a day trip or an overnight adventure. Ensure you carry enough water, snacks, and a first-aid kit, and enjoy the serene beauty of Harishchandragad.

Harishchandragad trek from Mumbai

Harishchandragad Trek from Pachnai: A Complete Guide from Mumbai

Harishchandragad, one of the most revered forts in the Sahyadri range, is a trekker's paradise known for its breathtaking views and historical significance. The Pachnai route is the easiest and shortest way to reach the summit, making it perfect for beginners and families.

How to Reach Pachnai from Mumbai:

1. By Train: Take a train from Mumbai to Igatpuri. From Igatpuri, you can hire a private vehicle or take a bus to Rajur. From Rajur, shared jeeps are available to Pachnai village, the base of the trek.

2. By Road: Drive from Mumbai to Ghoti via NH160. Continue towards Rajur and follow the signs leading to Pachnai. The distance is approximately 200 km, and the journey takes about 5-6 hours.

The trek from Pachnai to Harishchandragad is about 2-3 hours long. The trail is well-marked and relatively easy, with lush greenery, small streams, and scenic views along the way. You'll pass through dense forests, encountering diverse flora and fauna, before reaching the Harishchandreshwar Temple and the mesmerizing Konkan Kada. The summit offers panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and is a perfect spot for photography.



After exploring the fort, descend via the same route to Pachnai, where you can relax and reflect on the trek before heading back to Mumbai.

Top Five Tips for Sahyadri Hikers:

1. **Start Early:** Begin your trek at dawn to avoid the midday heat and enjoy the serenity of the early morning.
2. **Stay Hydrated:** Carry at least 2 liters of water, especially during the summer months.
3. **Wear Proper Footwear:** Invest in good-quality trekking shoes with a firm grip to tackle the rocky terrain.
4. **Pack Light:** Bring essentials like snacks, a first-aid kit, and rain protection, but avoid overloading your backpack.
5. **Respect Nature:** Leave no trace, avoid littering, and respect the local wildlife and flora.

Wildlife to lookout at Harishchandragad

Harishchandragad is a paradise for birdwatchers. Among the many avian species, keep an eye out for the majestic Indian Eagle Owl, known for its striking yellow eyes and powerful wings. The vibrant *Malabar Whistling Thrush* with its melodious call is another must-see. The Oriental Honey Buzzard often soars high, searching for honeycombs, while the Crested Serpent Eagle is frequently spotted hunting in the dense forests. Other notable mentions include the Vernal Hanging Parrot, Indian Pitta, White-throated Kingfisher, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Green Bee-eater, and the Black-hooded Oriole.



Flora and Fauna at Harishchandragad

Harishchandragad is rich in biodiversity, with a variety of flora and fauna. The plateau is adorned with Karvy, which blooms every eight years, painting the hills purple. The Anjan tree, known for its sturdy wood, is common here. The Teak and Mango trees dominate the lower altitudes. The plateau is also home to Wild Turmeric, Hill Glory Bower, and Sonki, Fauna includes the Indian Giant Squirrel, Malabar Spiny Dormouse, and the elusive Indian Pangolin.

Wild Animals at Harishchandragad

Harishchandragad's dense forests are home to several wild animals. The Leopard is the apex predator, often seen around dusk. Sloth Bears roam the region, especially near water sources. Wild Boars are common, as are Hyenas and Indian Civets. The Barking Deer and Sambar Deer are frequently spotted grazing. The area also hosts Porcupines, Jungle Cats, and the elusive Rusty-Spotted Cat.

Snakes, Scorpions, and Spiders

The forests of Harishchandragad are teeming with reptiles and arachnids. The Indian Rock Python is the largest snake in the area. The venomous Russell's Viper and Saw-scaled Viper are also found here. Among non-venomous snakes, the Common Rat Snake and Indian Cobra are prominent. Scorpions like the Indian Red Scorpion and Heterometrus Swammerdami are often seen. Spiders include the Giant Wood Spider, Wolf Spider, and Jumping Spider species.

Are you an adventurer who loves trekking? Completing a trek can be a life-changing experience that leaves you with unforgettable memories. To commemorate your achievement, Treks and Trails provides e-certificates to all participants who successfully complete their trek. These e-certificates include your name, the name of the trek you completed, the date of completion, and a digital signature from Treks



and Trails. They are a perfect way to showcase your accomplishment to the world and share your trekking journey with your loved ones. By receiving an e-certificate from Treks and Trails, you can proudly display your achievement on your social media platforms and inspire others to embark on their own adventures.

Here are some FAQs about our e-certificates:

Q: What is an e-certificate for trekkers and hikers?

A: An e-certificate is a digital certificate awarded to participants upon completion of a trek or hike. It serves as proof of participation and achievement.

Q: How do I receive an e-certificate from TreksandTrails?

A: Upon completion of your trek or hike with TreksandTrails, you will be sent an email with a link to your e-certificate. You can download it from the link and save it on your device or share it on social media platforms.

Q: Can I share my e-certificate on social media platforms?

A: Yes, you can share your e-certificate on all social media platforms. The e-certificate is designed to be easily shareable, so you can show off your achievement to your friends and family.

Eligibility Criteria for a Trekking Certificate:

To be eligible for a trekking certificate, individuals must demonstrate adherence to safety rules, teamwork, and cooperation.

Participants must achieve the following requirements for earning a trekking certificate: completion of the trek; physical fitness; teamwork and cooperation; knowledge of safety rules; environmental awareness; a positive attitude; great attendance; and punctuality. We appreciate their commitment to the sport of trekking and acknowledge their achievements.

e-certificate TNT



Harishchandragad trek Tips

1. Can we drive to Pachnai Village - Harishchandragad Trek?

Yes, you can drive to Pachnai village. Please note there is no mobile network in the village. Harishchandragad trek difficulty level from the Pachnai village is medium. It takes two hours to reach the Harishchandragad temple. The trek route is well marked, and barriers are placed at dangerously exposed sections to help hikers avoid any accidents. The road conditions from Ghoti turn till Pachnai village are in bad condition suited for SUV car.

2. Distance from Mumbai to Pachnai village?

Six hours drive from Mumbai - 180 km approx.

3. Distance from Pune to Pachnai Village?

Harishchandragad trek from Pune via the Pachnai route is six hours drive from Pune, 240 km approx.

4. The number of days required for this event?

We will start the bus journey at night, followed by a Harishchandragad trek on arrival, followed by a return journey by bus from Pachnai. Harishchandragad in monsoon has become a popular trek recently, with road access improvements to the Pachnai village. It takes two hours to reach the caves from the trailhead. The Kokankada is completely covered in Fog sometimes, and the route is blocked due to low visibility.

5. Where can we park our cars?

Base Village at your own risk. There is ample parking available.

6. Is there any parking charge at Harishchandragad Trek, Pachnai Village?

Yes, locals normally ask for a parking fee.

7. Do you provide sleeping bags?

No Sleeping bag. For hygiene reasons, we don't provide sleeping bags. Harishchandragad trek and camping, please carry two bedsheets or your sleeping bag with a camping mat.

**8. Is the toilet available on Harishchandragad?**

Not available. During the trek, toilets are not available.

9. Do Single travelers females sign up for these events?

We have 60 - 40 % or more Male - Female ratios on our events.

Many Single Travelling Females join our events.

10. Are kids allowed on treks?

Kids below 15 with Parents' supervision only.

11. What type of food will be provided?

Food preference only Veg local home-cooked is available. Abundant crystal clear drinking water is available along the route.

12. Phone connectivity?

Limited phone connectivity is available for most cellular services.

13. Where will we stay at Harishchandragad?

We will not stay at Harishchandragad for this event. We are going for a day trek; we will start early morning and return by lunch at the Pachnai village.

14. Is cash payment or spot payment accepted?

Cash payment is not accepted. Registration against 100% upfront payment only via Gpay / UPI / NEFT / IMPS / Payment Gateway on the spot payment not accepted. We need to book in advance bus/jeep and make other arrangements upfront payment is a must.

15. Will I get bottled water?

Normal well water shall be provided. Pure natural water is available on the trail route.

16. Can I charge my phone?

No electricity. Please carry a power bank if required.



17. How is the weather now?

Summer Temperature Night 13- Day 39°C approx.

18. Can we smoke or drink alcohol?

People caught smoking or drinking alcohol will be asked to exit the event on an immediate basis.

19. Can we listen to music on Bluetooth speakers?

Listening to music on earphones or Bluetooth speakers is not allowed while trekking, Bluetooth speakers not allowed inside homestay. Kalsubai Harishchandragad wildlife sanctuary forest department doesn't allow speakers inside the forest.

20. How do I make payment?

You can pay online on our website on how to register tabs.

Places to visit on Harishchandragad Trek

1. Harishchandragad Kokan Kada



This interesting cliff faces west and provides views of the surrounding region. The cliff has an overhang, but many times it's been climbed by curious explorers like yourself! Sometimes a circular rainbow can be seen from this point, a rare phenomenon that happens when there is mist in the valley, and you're looking straight at its source, i.e., behind someone. One cool thing to look out for here are vertical cloud bursts: When approaching cliffs or mountain ranges with low-lying clouds above them on windy days, if these clouds get sucked into pockets below, they may shoot vertically upwards more than 50 feet, so keep your eyes peeled for those as well! Harishchandragad Trek in winter is popular among hikers; you get excellent views from the Kokankada.

2. Saptatirtha Pushkarni



On the east side of Harishchandreshwar temple is a beautiful small lake, originally a potable source of drinking water. However, due to recent trekkers who have been throwing their garbage in it and because plastic cannot be destroyed by sunlight, this once-potable water no longer has any drinkability. Locals usually swim here during the monsoon season and winters Making it unusable for drinking. A few years ago, at the Saptatirtha Pushkarni, there were many lakeside idols dedicated to various Gods such as Vishnu. But now, these deities have been moved to nearby caves for protection from the elements and tourists.

3. Kedareshwar Cave



At your right, as you approach Harishchandreshwar temple, there is the huge cave of Kedareshwar, in which a big Shiva Linga stands. It's surrounded by ice-cold waist-deep water. The height from base to top measures five feet, and it can be hard for pilgrims to reach due to the icy cold water. But that doesn't stop them! There are sculptures constructed out in the cave. It is sometimes difficult to reach Kedareshwar cave in the rainy season, as a river flows over the way.

This is the origin of River Mangalganga. There were four pillars erected encompassing the Shiva Linga to maintain the cave. Now only one Pillar is standing. Though four pillars were surrounding the Linga, presently, there is just one Pillar unimpaired. Locals believe the pillars to be representatives of yuga or time, namely, *Satya*, *Treta*, *Dvapara* and the *Kali Yuga*.

4. Caves on Harishchandragad



The natural caves that make up the fort are scattered throughout and give refuge to exhausted adventurers. Some of these can be located near dhabas, some far away in forests unexplored by outsiders but known well to locals. The most magnificent cave is situated on a hillside not too close, or far from Saptatirtha Pushkarni at 30 feet deep and with many entrances, so it's easy for anyone who enters time again to find their way back inside after exploring outside.

Earlier trekkers would stay in these caves during the rainy season and winters. With many Dhabas coming up who offer Harishchandragad camping services, very few people now stay in the caves while trekking.

5. Pachnai Village



Pachnai village is located 210 kilometres from Mumbai. The main source of income for villagers is running restaurants at the base village, dhabas along the route, food and camping on the Harishchandragad mountain for trekkers and pilgrims. It is located at an altitude of 2592 feet above sea level. During the monsoon season, the village is surrounded by beautiful waterfalls. Post monsoon rice fields can be seen everywhere. It has a lot of wildlife. Pre-monsoon is famous for fireflies spotting. Though the total road distance is around 210 km, it will easily take 6 to 8 hours to reach the village. The roads leading to the village are in bad shape and constantly under repairs due to damage done by heavy rainfall each year. Spending a day exploring the nearby waterfalls and staying with at local homestays is recommended.



Harishchandragad Trek 2024 | Harishchandragad Fort from Mumbai / Pune



A trek to Harishchandragad Fort, a favourite destination from Mumbai and Pune. A part of Kalsubai Harishchandragad wildlife sanctuary. Harishchandragad is a hill fort in the Ahmednagar district of India. Its history is linked with that of Malshej Ghat, Kothale village and it has played a major role in guarding and controlling the surrounding region. Harishchandragad Fort Trek left an indelible mark on my heart at the very first moment my eyes met and feasted on the views from the fort.

Harishchandragad trek from Pune distance via the Khireswar village is 125 kilometers. It takes four hours to reach Harishchandragad Fort from the Khireswar village route. Harishchandragad night trek from Pune from the Khireswar village is popular during the winter and summer seasons.

How do I get to Harishchandragad Sahyadri Fort Trek?



How to Reach Harishchandragad by Train. The nearest railway station to Harishchandragad fort is Igatpuri Train Station at a distance of 41 km away from Harishchandragad Fort. However, to arrive here, you need to take a train from Kalyan Mumbai. Please wear good trekking shoes for Harishchandragad Trek.

Which season is best for Harishchandragad?



In Malshej ghat, Harishchandragad Fort is a prominent sightseeing attraction and the best months (or season) to visit there coincides with that of the destination itself - Aug, Sep are considered the best time to visit Harishchandragad fort. Ancient water tanks look most beautiful post-monsoon period. There are many Harishchandragad trek routes that are open during different seasons.

Khireswar Temple

Khireswar Temple is a wonderful historic structure with a variety of creative pieces on display. Carvings can be found on the temple's ceiling. The 1.5-meter long sculpture of



Lord Vishnu in the sleeping posture, popularly known as "Sheshshayi Vishnu" in Marathi, is the primary feature of the carvings here. It is extremely rare, and as a result, it is quite valuable. There are several legends about this artwork. Near the temple, there are caverns.

Because it is tied to Mahadeva as a totem of tribes Mahadev Koli, the carvings on the temples of Nageshwar in Khireswar village, the Harishchandreshwar temple, and the cave of Kedareshwar suggest that the fort dates from the medieval period.

How can I reach Harishchandragad from Mumbai? Harishchandragad route information?

How to reach Harishchandragad from Mumbai

1. Catch a local going towards Kalyan (on Central Line). ...
2. The ST depot is just beside the station on the west side. ...
3. Ask the ST conductor for a ticket of Khubi Phata. ...
4. Get down at Khubi Phata and start walking on the 6 km long dam that just starts beside the road.

Harishchandragad, a hill fort in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, is one of the most challenging treks in the Western Ghats. Harishchandragad is one of the trekker's paradise with simultaneous rappelling, camping, rock climbing and valley crossing with steep slopes and is considered to be the difficult treks in all of Sahyadri Fort.

Harishchandragad fort trek, a part of Kalsubai Harishchandragad wildlife sanctuary, is 210 km NE of Mumbai and 170 Km South of Pune. 4,691 feet above sea-level, with ruined fortifications and ancient caves tracing back to the Microlithic age, Harishchandragad fort is a perfect trekking destination in the Sahyadris.

Haishchandragad Fort offers an amazing trek amidst Sahyadri Mountains. Various trek routes to reach atop fort displays the splendid beauty of nature. In the Harishchandragad trek by Pachnai route, discover the captivating beauty of an ancient fort & the clear night skies. Be a shutterbug and join the moonlight trek. Harishchandragad is no stranger to the trek lovers of Mumbai. In the last decade, new routes have been discovered. Get set for an adrenaline rush as you trek to the beautiful hill fort of Harishchandragad. Located in the Ahmednagar area, this fort is a popular trekking destination.



Harishchandragad Trek - The crown of Maharashtra

Situated in Ahmednagar In the lap of Malshej Ghat, this Western Ghats trek offers you some whimsical views that are mesmerizing and, at the same time challenging to conquer. Rising to the height of 4670 feet, this abode to the ancient fort of Harishchandragad dates back to the 6th century under the Kalchuri Dynasty. Believed that the caves that you trek upon were carved in the 11th century.

This magical Trek has multiple ways of reaching the top, and its believed each Harishchandragad trek route offers a glimpse of the diverse culture of the glorious past. The Harishchandra Temple, the Kedareshwar cave, and the Saptatheertha Pushkarni are great examples of the beautiful architecture and diversity the era held. Harishchandragad Kokankada is a natural wonder of Maharashtra.

Let's delve deeper into this challenging yet beautiful Trek and conquer it with all heart.

What the Trek has to offer :

The Konkan Kada: The Konkan Kada – a cliff that overlooks the Konkan region. Mesmerizing you with its concave structure, you get to experience many natural phenomena such as broken spectres, vertical cloud bursts, etc. The clouds near the cliff appear as if they have been sucked in by the pitfalls and thrown out vertically, creating an illusion of having a vertical cloud burst. The dewdrop creates a spectacular view when the sunrise gives birth to a circular rainbow, and you feel as you have levitated to the magical land full of natural beauty. Trust us, and it's a soulful experience for the eyes to capture.

The Sun God doesn't deprive you of another beautiful experience of Sunset that leaves the valley in its awe by merging with the horizon to rise again another day.

The Harishchandragad Maharashtra and the historical past:

The trek trail is abode to many beautiful temples. The Pushkarni and the Kedareshwar caves date back to the 6th century, whereas the Harishchandraeshwar temple is a spectacular example of the artisans' artistic skills in those times. The fine art carvings of stones will give you goosebumps with their intricacies and clarity.



The Kedareshwar cave protects The Shiv Linga under its roof that is surrounded by water throughout the year.

The Saptateertha Pushkarni is a lake east of Harishchandraeshwar temple that was once home to Lord Vishnus Idols. They were constructed in the temple at the bank of the lake but were later removed and established in the caves. The governing body in the area protects and maintains these historical caves.

The Naneghat from the Taramati Peak:

The fourth highest peak of Maharashtra, Taramati / Taramanchi, is located at the Harishchandragad plateau, from where you get a panoramic view of the Naneghat region and Murband.

The Various trails of Harishchandragad Trek:

Route 1: Khireswar

Route 2: Pachnai

Route 3: Walhivale/Belpada Village

The versatile Harishchandragad Trek offers you ample routes to reach the pinnacle. If you are a beginner, take the quickest and easiest trail starting from Pachnai. If you are a seasoned trekker, then the picturesque Khireswar route is for you.

The challenge of all is Walhivale/Belpada Village route. The Belpada itself has three separate routes through Makad Naal, Nalichi Vaat, and Sadhle Ghat. There are also combinations available through Bhailghat and Sadhle Ghat. It is advised to choose these routes only if you are a seasoned trekker trained in handling equipment like a carabiner and a rope.

Let's explore the routes a bit more :

Harishchandragad via Khireswar village - Popular for Harishchandragad from Pune



The Rajmarg Trail: Considered as a difficult route, it's recommended that you do not try it if you don't have numbers added to your trekking experience. Some trekkers also describe it as dangerous as the route has slippery and rocky patches.

The Tolar Khind: The Tolar Khind starts from Khireswar and has three sections. On this route, you experience nature blooming to its fullest with some challenging patches. It starts from Khireswar and moves towards the forest section consuming around 30 minutes. Then it moves to Tolar Khind for about one hour thirty minutes. And then to the pinnacle, you invest another 3 hours until you experience the thrill of being on one of the highest points of Maharashtra.

Part 1: Khireswar to Forest Junction:

The Distance: 1.5 km

Time Duration: 30 minutes

You have to take a bus to reach Khireswar Village. Once you get down, the starting point of the Trek is about 5 km from there. To reach the starting point, you have to cross the Khubi Phata alongside the Pimpalgaon Dam. The point where the Pimpalgaon ends the trek starts. It's a small trail where you cross the paddy fields of the Khireswar Village to reach the Forest Section. The beautiful trail adds to your excitement when you witness the humongous mountains all along the way. Invest 35 minutes, and you reach the forest area.

Part 2: Forest Junction to the Tolar Khind

Total Distance: 1.8 km

Time Duration: 1 hour and 30 minutes

The jungle itself is a beautiful experience. The surroundings would be enough for you to droll over and stay in the moment. With the rustling of the dry leaves, the gushing water of the streams, and the chirping birds, you experience nature at its best. You have to be



more careful as you move ahead on the Trek as it becomes steeper and the loose rocks on the way make it even more challenging.

Pro-Tip: Wear trekking shoes that have a strong grip, and don't forget to carry trekking poles, the gears that are a must for treks like Harishchandragad.

Invest one hour and thirty minutes more, and you reach a tea stall which is the starting point of TolarKhind. It will take 1 hour 30 minutes to reach this point. Rest here for some time, appetize yourself with some delicious snacks before you restart this amazing Trek again from this point. Another request from us is that while nature provides you with some memorable views and fresh air to breathe, gift it back by no littering.

Part 3: The Pinnacle of Harishchandragad trek from the Tolar Khind.

Total Distance: 5 km

Time Duration: 3 hours

Here, the Trek becomes the most challenging one as you have to cross a big rocky patch almost tilted at 70 degrees. Though it has poles and chains to support you on this journey, we recommend you cross this patch as early in the morning as possible as in the afternoon, these metallic poles and chains get hot to hold on to. After another hour, you reach a plateau from where you get a spectacular view of the Pimpalgaon Dam and Khireswar village down there.

At this junction, you have two routes, one that goes to the Harishchandragad temple, crosses the seven hills, and leads to the dense forest.

As mentioned in the introduction, here's when you can explore the Saptateertha Pushkarni, Harishchandreshwar Temple, and the Kedareshwar Cave before you head to Konkan Kada. If you are trekking in the group, we suggest you take the trail through the dense forest, and in an hour, you will be below Balekilla. If you are a solo trekker, then preferably take the flat route to the temple by investing 2-3 hours and reaching the destination. As you reach the top of the fort, you come across a series of local stalls and pitched tents.



Have lunch here and take a breather. The next destination is the magnificent Konkan Kada. Preferably reach here before Sunset to have ample time to sit, breathe and meditate in these amazing surroundings and watch the sun go down the horizon to rise on the other side. The right end of the cliff provides the best sunset view, whereas the left end of the cliff will leave you awestruck with the gorgeous view of waterfalls. As you immerse yourself in these spectacular views, it marks the perfect ending to the day.

It is advised that you pitch your tent on the fort and Trek till the Taramati peak the next morning, as the misty view of the whole Konkan Valley from here will leave its mark on you for a lifetime.

The next day also marks the start of the descent. While returning, the level of challenge increase a bit more; make sure you are well hydrated and equipped to navigate your path down.

The Path through Pachnai: A comparatively easier route to Harishchandragad Fort.

Total Distance: 3 km

Time Duration: 2 hours.

The route through the Pachnai Village is an easy one compared to others. The trail is well marked and hence can be easily covered as a solo trekker as well. It starts from the Pachnai Village and has well-laid metallic ladders with railings to support you through the rough patches. An hour into the Trek, you reach a huge rock wall that can be navigated by walking beside it with total ease.

Once you cross this patch in another 15 minutes, you reach a plateau that leads to Harishchandra temple in another 20-25 minutes.

As suggested in the Khireswar Route, please explore the fort and other historical places mentioned above.

The Harishchandragad via Nalichi Vaat route:



One of the most challenging routes, Harishchandragad Nalichi Vaat, translates into "a passage through a gorge". Laid to the extreme right of the mountain, this 80 degree tilted rocky patch is meant for the fittest and experienced trekkers. The stream patch on which the trail begins has human-sized rocks that lead to the foot of the gorge. We advise that to choose this patch, you have to have a great fitness level and experience navigating through such testing and exhausting patches in the past.

We advise that you divide this Trek into two days :

Day 1: From Belpada Village to the Kokankada Harishchandragad

Total Distance: 6 km

Total Time: 9 hours.

It is advised that you start this Trek as early in the morning as possible, as it's a total 9 hours trek and the evenings are difficult to navigate the path. Once you arrive at the base camp at village Belpada, spend the night there and start the Trek early morning the next day.

Have a conversation with the locals, and they can provide you with necessities to be addressed in the morning and some delicious local breakfast. A lovely stream flows through the base village, and you can grab upon the early morning breakfast by its side.

The main trail starts at the backyard of the base village, where the mountains lay. Let a local navigate your path through a narrow lane that leads to the base of the mountains. A grassy land soothing the eyes of the onlooker eventually leads to a sparsely laid forest cover. In another 10 minutes and you come across the mainstream bed where the actual Trek begins.

From here, take the rocky trail through the stream bed that gets you closer to the mountain base. The patch is rocky; make sure each grip is strongly placed and gives you enough support to walk ahead with no injuries.

Another 30 minutes into it, you reach a stream filled with cascaded rocks; you may choose to rest here for some time. Post this is an uphill rocky patch for another 90 minutes. Look out for a Gorge that falls extreme right of the mountain and then begins



your journey uphill. Here you will face some slippery rocky patch extending up to 25ft high. The well-versed climbers can lead the group by marking the trail and setting up the signs on the way. In about 2 hours, you will be able to cover this patch before you reach the final grassy patch that leads to the final pinnacle.

Here the magnificent view of the Konak Kada calls out to you. Another 20 feet climb, and you find yourself on top of the magnificent Harishchandragadfort. A knee-length, high thick vegetation awaits you here that leads you to the edge of the Konkada Kada Cliff.

Pitch a tent here, and the locals can arrange for necessities required by you. If you want to get more adventures, you may choose to spend the night in one of the caves there.

Day 2: Back to Base Village at Khireswar

Total Distance: 8 km

Total Time: 4 hours.

Start your day early and witness the magnificent sunrise before you head to Taramati Peak. If you missed visiting any of the recommended places while climbing up, make sure to visit them on your way back.

The path downhill starts from Tolar Khind, way back to Khireswar Village. From here, you can hire a jeep or lookout for a bus on your way back home. Else the trail remains the same, and you can cover that up in 4 hours.

The Trekking season for Harishchandragad:

The Harishchandragad Trek is best to be conquered from August to February. This is when nature blooms to its fullest, and the lush green is to watch out for on this beautiful journey.

During the summers, this Trek becomes challenging; hence it's not recommended to go for it in those months. The Peak Monsoon Season becomes more challenging for Harishchandragad Trek, so it's advisable to avoid it during those months.



Harishchandragad trek in monsoon is exceptionally windy; visibility is only a few meters, a thick fog covers the mountain, the road leading to the trailhead is always in bad condition.

The Difficult Patches of Harishchandragad :

Belpada Walhivale: This route has many difficult patches, and you should be well equipped to navigate the path. It would be best if you trekked with some seasoned trekkers or an organization that organizes such treks and is well-versed in the routes and safety measures required.

Harishchandragad Trek via Pachnai - Comparatively an easy and shortest route to cover the whole Trek.

Khireswar: This route has some tricky patches:

- 1.) The muddy forest trail. Slippery and rocky, the rains add on to the misery.
- 2.) The Rock Patch of Tolar Khind is tilted to 70 degrees; great quality trekking shoes are required for that.
- 3.) The ascent on this route is quite steep; it requires utmost care to cross this section.

How to Reach:

Multiple trails are leading to Harishchandragad, as mentioned earlier; here is short guidance to reach all the starting points:

The best part of this Trek is you can access all the three base villages through any public transport that is quite economical and safe. However, you may choose to take your private vehicle as well if you feel so. All three of them are well marked on Google Maps; hence it's not too difficult to locate either.

Reaching by private vehicle to Harishchandragad:



- 1.) **Khireshwar:** Easily accessible from Pune and Mumbai, Khireshwar can be navigated with just one click on google maps.
- 2.) **Pachnai:** Comparatively farther from Mumbai and Pune, this route is the easiest; hence most trekkers choose it for ease and comfort compared to other routes.
- 3.) **Belpada:** Known as Walhivale, this is the nearest base from Mumbai and Pune.

Do not worry about the parking facilities. Harishchandragad being a famous trek, the facilities around the starting points are good and well maintained.

Reaching by Public Transport:

Harishchandragad from Mumbai

1. Reach Kalyan station through a local train
2. Take a bus that goes to Alephata, passing through Malshej Ghat.
3. Enquire if the same bus can take you to Khireshwar or Belpada.
4. Accordingly, buy tickets to either Khubi Phata for Khiresahwar or Belpada/Walhivale to start from Belpada.
5. Mumbai to Khireshwar distance is 138 km, around 4 hours drive.

From Mumbai to Pachnai: If you wish to take Pachnai as a starting point, take a local train to Kasara. From Kasara station, you can hire a jeep/car to Rajur. The price of the ride may vary from INR 100 to 150. Once you get down at Rajur, get on to a bus to Pachnai Village. You may also try your luck at hitchhiking as many vehicles head towards the same village.

Pune to Harishchandragad

From Pune, you get a bus to Alephata. From there, enquire about buses either going to Khubhi Phata or Khireshwar. To start from Belpada, get down at Sawarne Village. It will take around four and half hours to reach both the starting points.



From Pune to Pachnai: Board a bus to either Mumbai or Nasik. Get down at Ghoti Village and then board another bus to Pachnai. It's almost a 5 hours journey to Pune from Pachnai.

How to head back home :

Once you get back to Base Village after completing the Trek, get onto a bus that goes back to Mumbai or Pune. You may also look for buses that can drop you at any station where Local Trains take a halt.

If you feel too tired to head back home on the same day, you may book a room in any local hotel there and spend the night over.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q1: Is there permission required to complete this Trek?

A1: NO, there's no permission required. You can plan it with treks and trails as solo or through a group. The fort is located inside Kalsubai Harishchandragad wildlife sanctuary; sometimes, the local forest office imposes entry fees and timings.

Q2: Can one camp on Harishchandragad Fort?

A1: Yes, absolutely, camping is allowed there; be mindful that it can be crowded as many trekkers are camping there. Harishchandragad night stay should be inside tents as there are many snakes, scorpions on the plateau. Harishchandragad camping contact number is 8828004949. Harishchandragad stay options include Dhabas, Mudhouse, Tents, Caves; these options are available for trekkers.

Q3: Are there enough eating outlets and facilities for drinking water on the way to the Trek?

A3: The Answer is Yes. There are ample options of restaurants and small eating joints at the base. Moreover, throughout the Trek, you will have small outlets selling snacks and Tea/Coffee, and even mineral water. If you are comfortable, you may also fill up your bottles from the stream water that flows along your way. So be assured that food and water won't be an issue at all.

**Q4: Can everyone do Harishchandragad Trek?**

A4: Yes, that's the best part of this Trek. If you are a beginner, take the route through Pachnai Village. If you are a moderate level trekker and have done a few treks, take the Khireswar route. If you are a Pro Trekker, take the Belpada Village route. Hence it's open to every kind of trekker and provides equal scenic views whichever route you choose.

Q5: Is there any recommended time to start the Harishchandragad Trek?

A5: It completely depends upon how you plan your Trek. If you are someone who wishes to camp overnight and completes the Trek in 2 days, then reach the base village early in the morning and make sure you reach the top before Sunset to soak into the beauty of the surrounding. Pitch a tent for the night and lay under the stars to experience their beauty. Start the descend the next day post breakfast, halting and exploring the route with ease.

If you wish to complete the Trek in a day, then reach the base village before Sunset a day before and start trekking so that you can reach the top by afternoon next day and can start the descent the same day so that you reach back base village by late evening and home by late night.

Here are a few Emergency Contact Numbers:

Hospitals: The nearest hospital is Prathamika Arogya Kendra Madh.

Police Station: Located 20 km away from the starting point, the Junnar Police Station is considered the nearest one.

ERSS: For any other emergency, the toll-free Pan India Emergency Response Support System – 112

The ATMs and the Mobile Network:



ATMs: From Kalyan, Murbad is the place to find the ATMs, precautionary carry around INR 1500-2000 in Cash. From Pune, the Bank of Maharashtra is the nearest ATM on the way.

Mobile Network is good all along the highway. The only issue you may face is at the base village. Once you reach the top of Harishchandragad and the Taramati Peak, you will receive a good mobile signal.

Recommendation for Places after completing the Harishchandragad Trek:

The Pimpalgaon Joga Dam: Built on the Pushpavato River, it provides water to the Junnar, Alephata, Narayangaon, and Otur.

It's a great place to pitch a tent for an overnight experience.

The Naneghat Reverse Waterfall: The strong winds blow away the water in the opposite direction. It appears as if the waterfall is happening in the reverse direction, denying the gravitational force.

The Amrutheshwara Temple: Built by King Jhanj, this Shiva Temple is 1200 years old. Carved out of red and black stones, it has an auspicious significance among the villagers. Due to its sheer beautiful surroundings, the area around the temple is also known as the Kashmir of Maharashtra.

Other Forts around the Harishchandragad Fort: Jivdhan, Bhairavgad, Sindola, and Hadsar Fort. Each has its historical significance and a story to it. If you have ample time, you may choose to stay back in some hotel and explore these before heading back home.

How to trek with kids during a trek?

Trekking with kids can be a fantastic family adventure! Here are some tips to make it a great experience: Choose trails suitable for their age and abilities. Pack plenty of snacks, water, and their favorite treats to keep their energy up. Encourage them to explore and



appreciate nature along the way. Take regular breaks for rest and games. Ensure they have comfortable shoes and dress in layers for the changing weather. Embrace the adventure together and create lasting memories. Have fun!

Which trek do you recommend for kids around Mumbai?

For kid-friendly treks near Mumbai, there are several options to choose from. Sondai, Karnala, and Lohagad offer scenic trails with moderate difficulty suitable for children. Prabalmachi, Matheran, and Korigad provide a mix of nature and historical exploration. Jambulmal and One Tree Hill are ideal for shorter treks with beautiful views. Dodhani Village in Matheran is another excellent choice for a family-friendly trek. Each of these destinations offers a unique experience and a chance for kids to connect with nature while enjoying the outdoors.

Kids trek near Mumbai - [click here](#)

Is it safe to go on a trek during monsoon in Maharashtra?

Trekking in Maharashtra during the monsoon season can be safe if proper precautions are taken. It is critical to choose well-maintained trails, listen to experienced guides, and stay up to date on weather conditions. Avoid going into unsafe regions or attempting dangerous river crossings. Always prioritise safety and be ready for slippery terrain and unpredictable weather.

How to protect your gadgets in monsoon trek

To protect your gadgets during a monsoon trek, take essential precautions. Invest in waterproof covers or cases for your gadgets and use a dry bag or waterproof pouch to store them when not in use. Ziplock bags can provide additional protection. Place silica gel packs in your bags to absorb moisture. Use umbrellas or rain covers to shield your gadgets from rain. Avoid submerging them in water and consider backing up your data regularly. Carry power banks or extra batteries for backup power. Being cautious will help ensure the safety of your gadgets in wet conditions.

What should I pack for a monsoon trek in Maharashtra?

Pack essential items such as a waterproof backpack, rainproof jacket, quick-drying clothing, extra pairs of socks, trekking shoes with good grip, insect repellent, a waterproof



cover for electronic devices, and a first aid kit. Carry enough water and energy snacks as well.

Are leeches a problem during monsoon treks in Maharashtra?

Yes, leeches can be encountered during monsoon treks in Maharashtra, especially in forested areas. To protect yourself, wear long socks, tuck your pants into your socks, and apply insect repellent on your legs. Carry a salt or lime solution to detach leeches if they attach to your skin.

What are some popular monsoon treks in Maharashtra?

Some popular monsoon treks in Maharashtra include [Harishchandragad](#), [Rajmachi](#), [Andharban](#), [Kalsubai](#), [Bhimashankar](#), [Tikona Fort](#), [Torna Fort](#), [Ratangad](#), [Naneghat](#), and [Visapur Fort](#). These treks offer scenic beauty and a unique experience during the monsoon season.

In case your question is not listed above, you can email us at highfive@treksandtrails.org

Whatsapp 8828004949 (Monday to Saturday, 11.30 am to 7.00 pm only)



Pickup point

[View on Google Maps →](#)



- Activity: Trekking
- Destination: Maharashtra
- Duration: 1 Day

Reviews

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