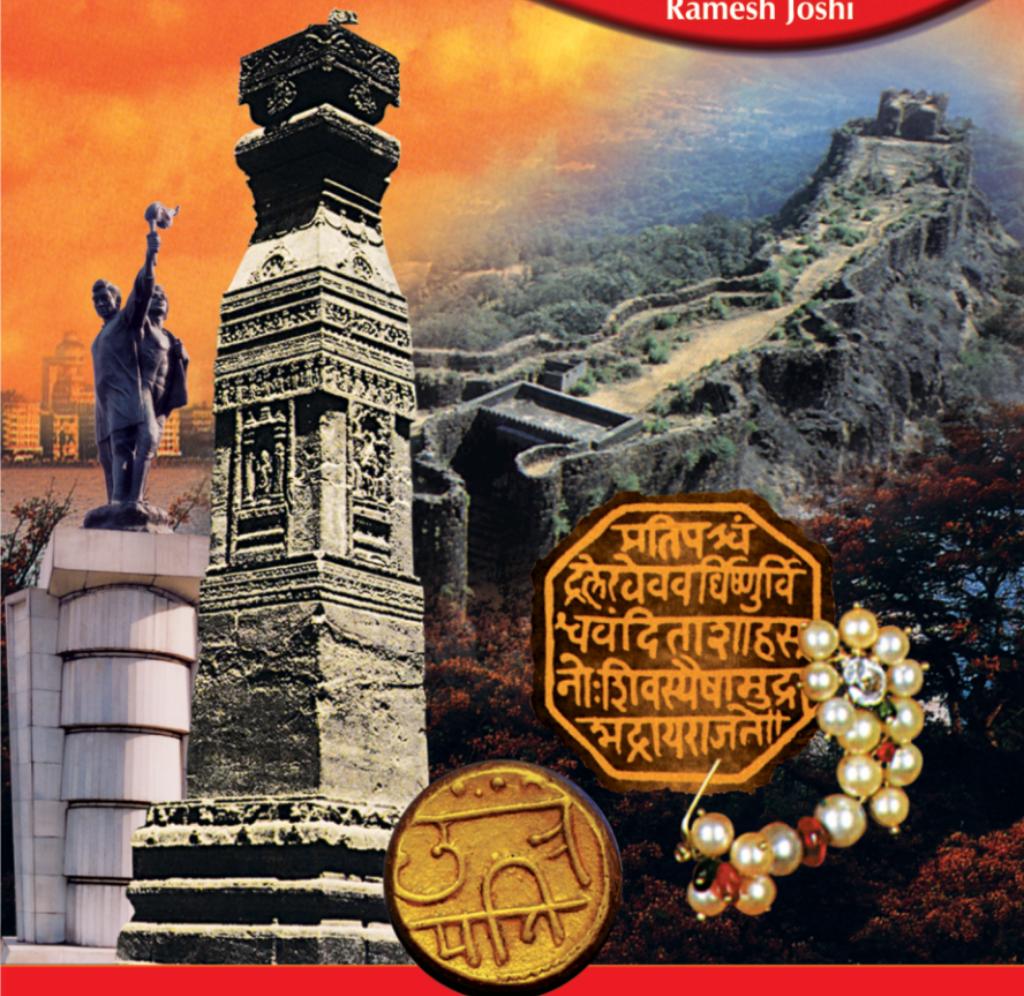


# ॥ MAHARASHTRA ॥

## Darshan

Written & Edited by:  
Ramesh Joshi



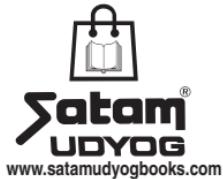
Important Tourist Places, Hill Stations, Fort,  
Beaches, Sanctuaries, Places of Pilgrimage.

# **MAHARASHTRA DARSHAN**

**A Brief Travel Guide  
For Tourists**

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**Text and Edited by :  
Ramesh Joshi**



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# ***Maharashtra at a glance***

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**Formation as a State :** May 1, 1960

**Capital :** Mumbai

**Boundaries :** East - Madhya Pradesh

West - Arabian Sea

North - Dadra-Nagar Haveli

South - Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh

**State Language :** Marathi

**Other Spoken Languages :** English, Hindi, Gujarati, Kannad, Sindhi, Urdu.

**Area :** 307,713 sq. kms.

**Population :** 11,23,72,972 (2011 Census)

**Coast Line :** 720 kms. (Arabian Sea)

**Main Mountains :** Sahyadri (South-North), Satpuda (East-West),

**Ranges :** Satmala, Ajanta, Harishchandra, Balaghat, Mahadeo

**Highest Peaks :** Kalsubai, Dist. Ahmednagar,  
Height : 1626 mts.

**Main Ghats :** Thal, Malshej, Bor, Varandha, Kumbharli, Amba, Fonda, Amboli, Katraj, Khambataki, Diva, Outram Ghat.

**Main Rivers :** Godavari, Krishna, Tapi, Bhima, Koyana, Vardha, Vainganga, Pravara.

**Water Falls :** Dadar-Kopra (Javhar), Sautavade (Vijaydurg), Tivre-Dhareshwar (Sangameshwar), Nagra (Amboli), Sautada (Beed). Randha (Bhandardara), Khandala (Lonavala), Sahastrakund (Nanded)

**Forest Area :** Approx. 20.7%

**Major Cities :** 33

**Main Universities :** 14

**Major Ports :** Mumbai, Nhava-Sheva ( Both International )  
Murud, Dabhol, Jaygad, Ratnagiri, Devgad

**Major Airports :** Mumbai (International) Pune, Aurangabad, Nagpur.

**Main Ancient Caves/Sculptures :** 42

**Main Sea Beaches :** 17

**Main Hill Stations :** 13

**Main Historic Forts :** 45

**Hot Springs : 5**  
**Lakes & Reservoirs : 11**  
**Holiday Resorts : 20**  
**Road Length : 2.25 lakh kms.**  
**National Highways : 2959 kms.**  
**State Highways : 30975 kms.**  
**Main District Roads : 38976 kms.**  
**S.T. Routes : Approx. 20,000**  
**Distance of Routes : 1323 kms.**  
**S.T. Bus Fleet : About 15000**  
**Passengers per day : Approx. 71 lakhs**  
**Rail Routes : 5614 kms.**

### **National Highways**

**Highway No. 3 : Mumbai-Nashik-Dhule-Indore-Agra**

**Highway No. 4 : Thane-Pune-Bangalore-Chennai**

**Highway No. 6 : Dhule-Nagpur-Calcutta**

**Highway No. 8 : Mumbai-Surat-Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Delhi**

**Highway No. 9 : Pune-Solapur-Hyderabad-Vijaywada**

### **Main Rail Routes**

<input type="checkbox"/> Mumbai - Delhi - Amritsar	<input type="checkbox"/> Mumbai - Varanasi
<input type="checkbox"/> Mumbai - Havra	<input type="checkbox"/> Mumbai - Chennai
<input type="checkbox"/> Mumbai - Baroda - Delhi	<input type="checkbox"/> Nanded - Hyderabad
<input type="checkbox"/> Manmad - Hyderabad	<input type="checkbox"/> Nagpur - Chennai
<input type="checkbox"/> Konkan - Mumbai - Ratnagiri	<input type="checkbox"/> Jalgaon - Surat
<input type="checkbox"/> Nagpur - Delhi	

**Districts : 35**

**Talukas : 357**

**Corporation Cities : Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Kolhapur, Solapur, Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Amaravati, Nagpur.**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Revenue Div.</b> : Konkan, Nashik, Pune, Aurangabad, Amaravati, Nagpur
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Konkan Div.</b> : Mumbai City & Suburbs, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg,
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nashik Div.</b> : Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pune Div.</b> : Pune, Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Kolhapur

- **A'ngabad Div. :** Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Nanded, Latur, Usmanabad, Hingoli
- **Amravati Div. :** Buldhana, Akola, Washim, Yavatmal, Amaravati
- **Nagpur Div. :** Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondiya

## *Districtwise Tourist Centres*

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**Mumbai & Suburbs :** Gateway of India, Prince of Wales Museum, Bhuleshwar, Rajabai Tower, Hutatma Chowk, New Council Hall, Wankhede Stadium, C.S.T. (Boribunder), Chowpati, Marine Drive, Mani Bhavan, Malabar Hill, Babulnath, Banganga, Mahalaxmi, Haji Ali, Nehru Centre, Jijamata Udyan, Dadar Chowpati, Juhu, Versova, Film City, Kanheri Caves, Santacruz & Sahar Airports, National Park.

**Thane :** Arnala, Ambernath, Ghodbunder, Javhar, Titwala, Dahanu, Tansa, Malshejghat, Malanggad, Lonad, Vajreshwari, Ganeshpuri, Vaitarna, Shahad.

**Raigad :** Alibaug, Akhshi-Nagaon, Unhere, Kankeshwar, Karnala, Kihim Beach, Khanderi-Underi, Gharapuri, Chaul, Nhava-Sheva, Sudhagad, Mahad, Matheran, Raigad, Murud-Janjira, Shivthar Ghal, Harihareshwar, Shrivardhan.

**Ratnagiri :** Adivre, Dervan, Ganpatipule, Jaigad, Parshuram, Pavas, Purnagad, Malgund, Suvarnadurg, Harne, Rajapur, Velneshwar, Sangameshwar, Guhagar, Hedvi, Ratnagiri.

**Sindhudurg :** Amboli Ghat, Banda, Mangaon, Reddy, Vijaydurg, Sawantwadi, Shiroda, Sindhudurg, Tarkarli, Malvan, Vengurla, Danoli, Kankavli, Kunkeshwar.

**Nashik :** Trimbakeshwar, Nashik, Pandavleni, Chambharleni, Gangapur dam, Takli, Mangitungi, Saptashrungigad, Nandur-Madhmeshwar.

**Dhule :** Aner Dam & Sanctuary, Prakashe, Toranmal.

**Jalgaon :** Amalner, Unapdeo, Chorvad, Changdeo, Padmalaya, Patandevi, Pal, Pharkanda (Towers), Manudevi, Parola.

**Ahmednagar :** Akole, Arangaon, Kalsubai, Chaundi, Deogad, Nevasa, Puntambe, Pravara Sangam, Madhi, Bhandardara, Ralegansiddhi, Rehekuri, Siddhatake, Shirdi, Harishchandragad, Shani-Shingnapur, Parner.

**Pune** : Alandi, Ozar, Karle, Khandala, Lonavala, Chinchwad, Jejuri, Torna, Theur, Dehu, Naneghat, Panshet, Purandar, Baneshwar, Bedsa, Bhaje, Bhimashankar, Mornaon, Ranjangaon, Lenyadri, Lohagad-Visapur, Shivneri, Vaduj, Sinhagad.

**Satara** : Karad, Koynanagar, Gondavle, Chaphal, Pali- Khandoba, Panchgani, Pratapgad, Mahabaleshwar, Mahuli, Wai, Shikhar-Shinganapur, Sajjangad, Menavali.

**Sangli** : Audumbar, Battis Shirala, Sangli.

**Kolhapur** : Kumbhoj, Kolhapur, Jotiba, Nrissimhawadi, Panhala, Radhanagari, Vishalgad.

**Solapur** : Akkalkot, Karmala, Pandharpur, Mangalvedha

**Aurangabad** : Ajanta, Upala, Khultabad, Gautala, Daulatabad, Pitalkhora, Paithan, Mhaiswal, Ellora, Shuli Bhanjan.

**Jalna** : Ambad, Jaidevadi, Jamb Samarth.

**Parbhani** : Aundha Nagnath, Ganga Khed, Narsi, Hingoli

**Nanded** : Unakeshwar, Kinwat, Kandhar, Gurudwara, Mahur, Vishnupuri, Sahastrakund.

**Latur** : Udgir, Ausa, Kharosa Caves.

**Osmanabad** : Domgaon, Kunthalgiri, Tuljapur, Naldurga

**Beed** : Ambajogai, Kapildhar, Parli Vaijnath, Dharur, Rakshas Bhuvan.

**Buldhana** : Deolgaon Raja, Mehkar, Lonar, Shegaon, Sindkhed Raja.

**Akola-Washim** : Akot, Karanja, Narnala Fort, Balapur, Loni, Washim-Madhmeshwar.

**Amaravati** : Rinmochan, Kaudinyapur, Gavilgad, Chikhaldara, Dhakne-Kolekaj Abhayaranya, Bahiram, Madhan, Melghat, Mozri, Rithpur, Muktagiri.

**Yavatmal** : Kalamb

**Wardha** : Pavnar, Sevagram

**Nagpur** : Koradi, Khaparkheda, Khindsey, Butibori, Pench National Park, Ramtek.

**Bhandara-Gondia** : Navegaon Bandh, Nagzira Abhayaranya, Pavni, Bhandara.

**Chandrapur** : Tadoba National Park, Bhadravati, Somnath

**Gadchiroli** : Markanda

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# Preface

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There are millions and millions of tourists in the world eager to quench their wander thirst, some luxury loving, some ready to take things as they come and some ready to stray off the beaten track.

Tourism is an exchange of thoughts, traditions, culture, art, literature and other human activities between peoples of different countries which enables the promotion of goodwill without making any apparent effort. It gives a view of one country and express the view of another. These people have carried the flag of faith and the fervour of friendship from port to portal in various countries, in various cities and into various houses.

The importance of tourism is well recognised. The tourists return home not only with the memory of their enjoyment of the places and festivals and the people they have seen and met, but also leave behind them a legacy of love.

Tourism is misunderstood as wastage of money. A man widely travelled is widely acclaimed. Travelling is an education by itself. The knowledge of peoples, places, territories, languages and cultures is more needed for better understanding. Tourism provides it to everyone with effortless attempt. You just have to remain silent eye witness to the surrounding world.

In today's fast life the man becomes more tired of the hurry and bustle of the present life, leading him to find solace and recreation in playing, fishing or the like which tourism aptly provides.

In Maharashtra even for a flying visit the attractions are several and for a prolonged one, many. Quicker transport by air, rail and road has been developed; to the existing good hotels, the addition of more is being done or planned, the development of new resorts and improvement of existing ones are in hand, both on the hill side and the sea side in whose beauty Maharashtra abounds.

In Maharashtra, Government as well as private entrepreneurs are taking several strides by setting up tourism offices, by pioneering a number of holiday camps and by envisaging several other schemes which are making Maharashtra, scenically, historically,

archaeologically most endowed state among the various states of India, as the cynosure of tourist attraction. Millions of foreign tourists have been taking advantages of these schemes and facilities and their appraisal has been very high.

This book contains information of almost all important places of interest in Maharashtra. It covers the historical, the scenical, the architectural and cultural aspects of Maharashtra. No matter what kind of holiday you are looking for, you will find it in the state of Maharashtra. Beautiful coastline, awe-inspiring mountains, holy shrines, cave-architecture, art and culture, challenging tracks or exciting wild life.

Maharashtra forms a major part of peninsular India with the coast on its western side. Historically western Maharashtra, Vidarbha and Marathwada are the three components of the state. We have endeavoured here to give information on all aspects of tourist places in Maharashtra and we hope that it will be of interest to all.

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