



Maharashtra

Includes ➔

Nasik.....	776
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Ajanta.....	788
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Matheran.....	798
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Pune.....	801
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Malaka Spice (p805)
- ➔ Chaitanya (p797)
- ➔ Dario's (p805)
- ➔ Bhoj (p783)
- ➔ Little Italy (p809)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Sunderban (p804)
- ➔ Verandah in the Forest (p799)
- ➔ Beyond (p777)
- ➔ Hotel Panchavati (p781)
- ➔ Hotel Plaza (p791)

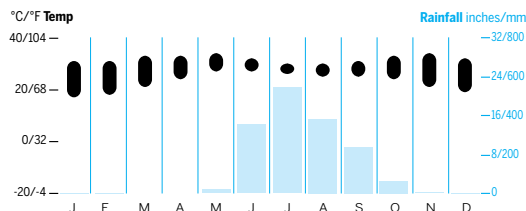
Why Go?

India's third-largest state, Maharashtra showcases many of India's iconic attractions. There are lazy, palm-fringed beaches, lofty, cool-green mountains, World Heritage Sites and bustling cosmopolitan cities. In the far east of the state are some of the nation's most impressive national parks, including the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.

Inland lie the extraordinary cave temples of Ellora and Ajanta, undoubtedly Maharashtra's greatest monuments, hewn by hand from solid rock. Matheran, a colonial-era hill station served by a toy train, has a certain allure. Pilgrims and inquisitive souls are drawn to cosmopolitan Pune, a city famous for its 'sex guru' and alternative spiritualism. And westwards, the romantic Konkan Coast fringing the Arabian Sea is lined with spectacular, crumbling forts and sandy beaches, some of the best around the pretty resort of Malvan, which is fast becoming one of India's premier diving centres.

When to Go

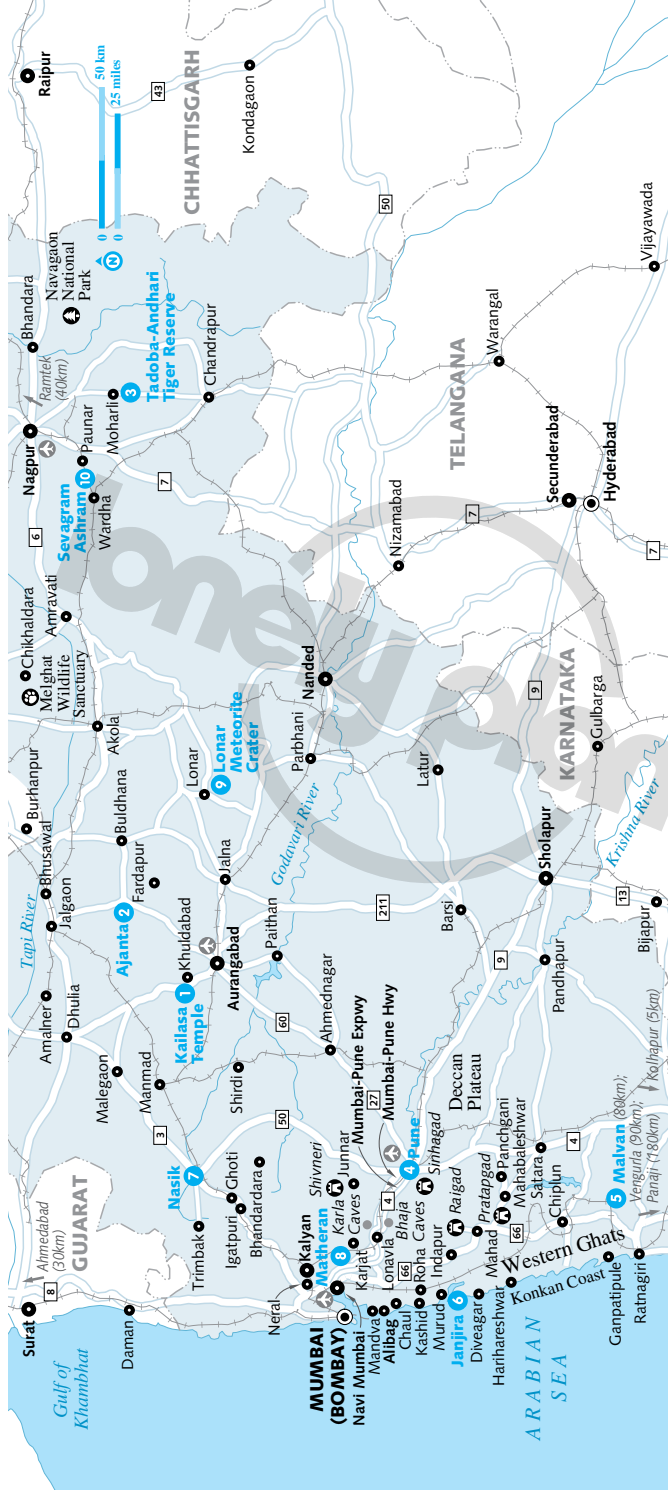
Nasik



Jan It's party time at Nasik's wineries, marked by grape harvesting and crushing galas.

Sep The frenzied, energetic Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations reach fever pitch.

Dec Clear skies, mild temperatures; the secluded beaches of Murud, Ganpatipule and Tarkali are lovely.



Maharashtra Highlights

- 1 Being amazed by the intricate beauty of the **Kailasa Temple** (p786) at Ellora
- 2 Wandering through ancient cave galleries at **Ajanta** (p788)
- 3 Searching for big cats inside **Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve** (p793)
- 4 Delving into new-age spiritualism and modern Indian cuisine in diverse, progressive **Pune** (p801)
- 5 Diving or snorkelling in the big blue off **Malvan** (p797)
- 6 Wondering at the might of a lost civilisation at the colossal fort of **Janjira** (p794)
- 7 Sipping in the wine country around **Nasik** (p779)
- 8 Exploring the spectacular viewpoints at the hill station of **Matheran** (p798)
- 9 Contemplating the power of nature at the primordial **Lonar Meteorite Crater** (p793)
- 10 Learning about the Gandhian way of life at the **Sevagram Ashram** (p792)