



Maharashtra

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Ellora.....	784
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Best Places to Eat

- Malaka Spice (p804)
- Sadhana (p777)
- Bhoj (p782)
- Green Leaf (p782)
- Kinara Dhaba Village (p799)

Best Places to Sleep

- Beyond by Sula (p776)
- Verandah in the Forest (p797)
- Tiger Trails Jungle Lodge (p792)
- Hotel Sunderban (p803)
- Hotel Plaza (p790)

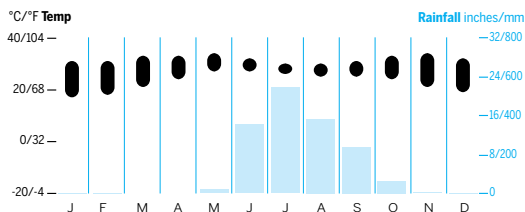
Why Go?

India's third-largest and second-most populous state, Maharashtra is an expansive canvas showcasing many of India's iconic attractions. There are palm-fringed beaches; lofty, cool-green mountains; Unesco 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 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, while pilgrims and inquisitive souls are drawn to cosmopolitan Pune, a city famous for its 'sex guru' and alternative spiritualism. Westwards, the romantic Konkan Coast, fringing the Arabian Sea, is lined with spectacular, crumbling forts and sandy beaches; some of the best are around pretty Malvan resort, which is fast becoming one of India's premier diving centres.

When to Go

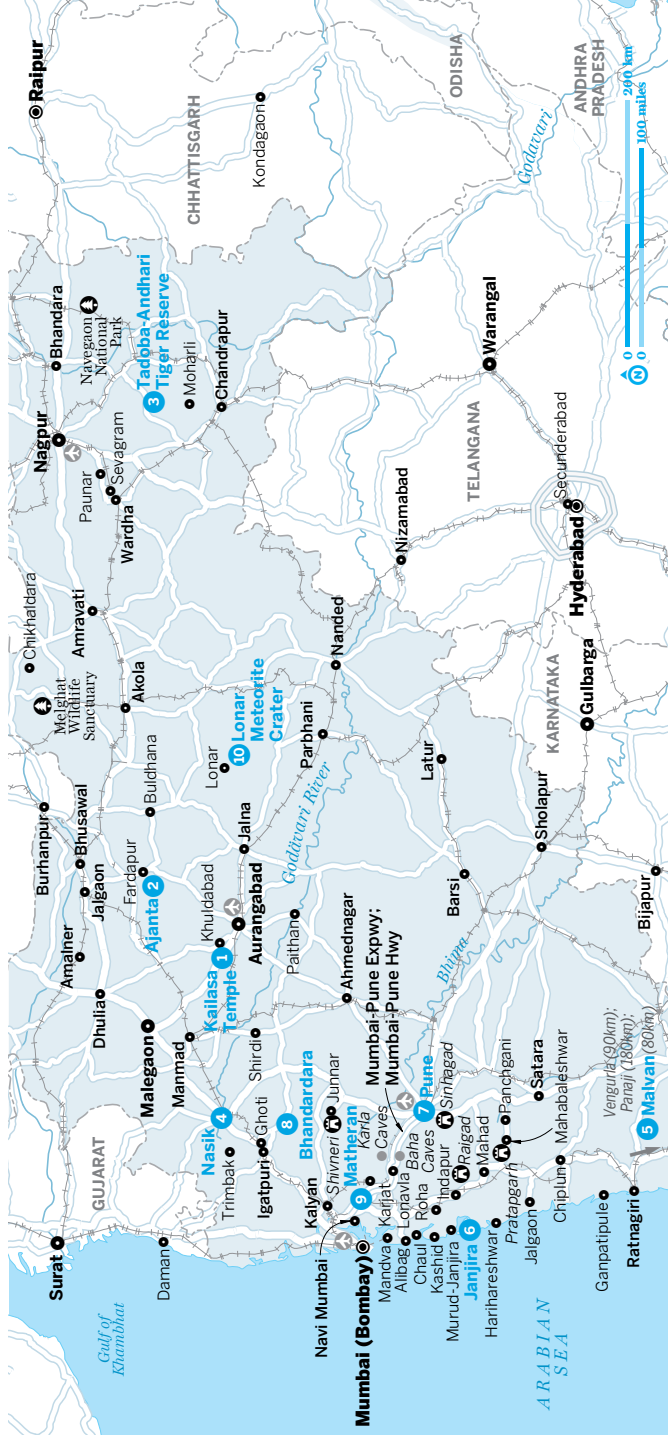
Nasik



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 Kailasa Temple** (p784) Being amazed by the beauty in the Ellora temple complex.
- 2 Ajanta** (p787) Wandering through ancient cave galleries and admiring Buddhist art.
- 3 Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve** (p792) Searching for big cats inside the reserve.
- 4 Nasik** (p774) Sipping on a Chenin Blanc or Cab-Shiraz in this gorgeous wine country.
- 5 Malvan** (80km) Vengurla (90km); Panaji (180km).
- 6 Janjira** (p793) Pondering the might of a lost civilisation at a colossal fort.
- 7 Pune** (p799) Delving into spiritualism and Indian cuisine in this progressive centre.
- 8 Bhandardara** (p777) Riding out a monsoon tucked away amid mountain scenery.
- 9 Matheran** (p797) Exploring the spectacular hill station viewpoints.
- 10 Lonar Meteorite Crater** (p783) Contemplating Mother Nature at a primordial crater.