



TRAWSRLD



Bringing the World closer through Travel!



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GARWARE INSTITUTE OF CAREER EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Vidyanagari Campus, Kalina, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400098

UM-GICED'S E-TRAVEL MAGAZINE

TRAWORLD

Bringing the World closer through Travel!

TraWorld is the E-Travel Magazine of University of Mumbai's Garware Institute of Career Education and Development launched By E-magzine committee

TraWorld has recorded the fondest journeys of students from UM's GICED travelling to their dream destinations, their first ever travel experiences and amazing travel tips and facts. Not only students but faculties and alumini have contributed in this magazine.

TraWorld is back with the second edition being launched on the occasion of the National Tourism Day.

Along with this, we are also excited to introduce everyone to our two new mascots.





UM-GICED'S E-TRAVEL MAGAZINE

TRAWSRLD

Bringing the World closer through Travell

Hey, I'm Globo
I have been traveling for a
while. Just stopped by. This
place looks interesting.
Looking forward to exploring
this place.

Hey, I am Mappy.

Even, I am new here. But, I can show you around. Come, let's start our journey.

By the way, how did you got to know about TraWorld?

Frankly speaking, I got to know when it was launched last year on 27th September on the World Tourism Day. When I traversed across it, I was like, "Wow, what amazing work these guys have done!".

Yes, I had seen the message this time where it says, "It's time to level up !". So, let's see what we have in the store this time around.



Absolutely, This time, I'm interested in what the students have done.





A Day That Represents Indias Diverse Potential In Tourism











NATIONAL TOURISM DAY

25TH JANUARY



The Football W@rld Cup Experience in Qatar

The World Cup in Qatar held from 20th November to 18th December 2022 was a spectacular feast for sports lovers. It was the first World Cup held in the Arab world also the second World Cup Tournament in Asia after the 2002 tournament in South Korea and Japan. There were many firsts in this tournament right from a stadium (Stadium 974 made of 974 containers). Incidentally, the country code of Qatar is 974. The 974 was built up to be dismantled after the completion of the event. The tiny country hosted the event with 8 plush air-conditioned stadiums, most specifically built for the event.

I traveled from Mumbai to Doha on a special flight added by Air India for the World Cup. The atmosphere was charged and electrifying. Young Indian fans were on their way to witness their football stars perform. The whole atmosphere was full of Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar fans. It was difficult to believe that a country whose team was not in the event had so many fans visiting the event.



The arrangements were immaculate right from the application for the ticket. Once the ticket was bought one had to make arrangements for accommodation and apply for a card called Hayya card. This card is basically the visa which one needs in order to enter the country. One could avail of free local transport with this card throughout your visit. The seat numbers were allotted about a month prior to the event and all the tickets were online and displayed on cell phones. The ticket for every match opened on the day of the game and access to the stadium was via the online ticket.

The entire city was rejoicing and celebrating the World Cup mania. International fans were a good mix of all age groups and ethnicities. Fans were dressed in their country colors, dancing and singing on the streets. People were friendly and mingled with each other, especially in the fan zone.

FIFA Fan Zone

This Fan zone was located at Al Bidda Park, Doha. The venue was located between the West Bay area and the Souq Waqif Marketplace. It was accessible via the metro stations Corniche, Al Bidda, and The White Palace, and by foot along the Corniche. The fan zone was a specially allocated space where giant screens were put up for fans to enjoy the matches. In these zones, there was a good mix of people of various nationalities who were out to enjoy the game and generally have a good time. The streets were decorated and there was football mania everywhere.

The FIFA Fan Festival was open all days of the tournament (from 19 November to 18 December 2022) and was accessible to everybody. This was the place for the fans to witness matches beyond the stadiums, the FIFA Fan Festival offered many other entertainment highlights. Besides watching all 64 FIFA World Cup matches, the atmosphere here was jubilant and electrifying.

Some of the activities at the fan zone were:

- Performances by top global musicians, and local artists
- A food court with unique culinary experiences ranging from local cuisine to international delicacies
- Unique football matches with FIFA Legends, in addition to interactive physical and digital football gaming stations for fans of all ages
- Innovative sponsor activities, dedicated football exhibitions and an official FIFA Store with licensed FIFA World Cup products.

The matches witnessed by me at the stadium

Ahmed bin Ali Stadium, Al Rayyan – Japan vs Costa Rica on 27.11.2022 Ahmed bin Ali Stadium popularly known as the Al-Rayyan Stadium is an association football stadium located in the district of Rawdat Al Jahhaniya, Qatar, around 9 kilometers (6 miles) northwest of the center of Al Rayyan. It is currently used mostly for football matches and it is the home to Al-Rayyan Sports Club and Al-Kharitiyath Sports Club. The stadium is named after Ahmed bin Ali Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar from 1960 to 1972.



2. Al Janoub Stadium, Al Wakra – Australia vs Denmark on 29.11.2022 Al Janoub Stadium is located in Al Wakra which is located on the outskirts of Doha. This stadium is a retractable roof football stadium in Al-Wakrah, Qatar that was inaugurated on 16 May 2019. This is the second among the eight stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, after the renovation of Khalifa International Stadium. It was designed by the Iraqi-British architect Late Zaha Hadid.

Fifa World Cup song

The Fifa World Cup song was echoing everywhere making the atmosphere exciting and the lyrics were creating fond memories in the audience.

Look who we are, we are the dreamers, we'll make it happen, cause we believe it ...

In a nutshell, the World Cup experience was an experience of a lifetime. My first ever FIFA World Cup experience of watching the game live in the stadium. Rejoicing and celebrating, interacting with the fans, and riding in a wave of hysteria that is unique only to the FIFA World Cup.



PRATHAMESH MASURKAR - MTTM SEM 2



Almost everyone loves beaches, the feeling of soft sand on our feet, the cool breeze and the gentle gushing of water takes us to another place altogether.

Many of us go to the beach. It has a relaxing effect on us after the visit. The places near the Konkan belt are blessed with numerous beaches, here we are talking about Ladghar Beach which is considered as the best beach in this area. Ladghar is a small village at Dapoli in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra in Western India. It's a very clean beach with very less crowd and also the most colourful beach in India. As per the Survey of Curly Tales, Ladghar holds the 4th Rank amongst the most colourful beaches in India in 2022.

The beach is considered to be colourful because it is filled with glistening red pebbles that certainly paint the beach Red. During sunset, the Arabian Sea transforms into multiple shades of red and orange just like red pebbles.

It is the home to adventure water sports in Ratnagiri. Water sports enthusiasts throng the beach to experience the thrilling adventures that are organised at this beach in Konkan. Playing with strong yet vigilant sea waves with the Banana ride, Parasailing, Dolphin Safari etc., gives one an alluring adrenaline rush.

You can stay at the Home Stay. It accommodates tourists with a local family, thus enabling the tourist to learn about local lifestyle, culture, nature, etc.



The guests have the opportunity to interact, gain knowledge and experience the lifestyle and culture of the local community. Here, the room rents are also budget friendly and the people are so kind and helpful. Hospitality is the key factor of the residence of Ladghar. Along with this, you can enjoy delicious home Konkani food.

Nearby Places to visit

1. Datta Mandir

You can visit the religious Datta Mandir on the seashore of Ladghar. It is the most unique landmark surrounded with greenery. Steps are constructed behind the temple which leads to the Arabian Sea. It is also a Cinematic Point.

2. Bhagwan Parshuram Bhumi, Burondi. The beautiful monument of Bhagwan Parshuram, who is the sixth avatar of God Vishnu. A huge Shri Parshuram statue is placed at a scenic hill top and you can visit many more places.

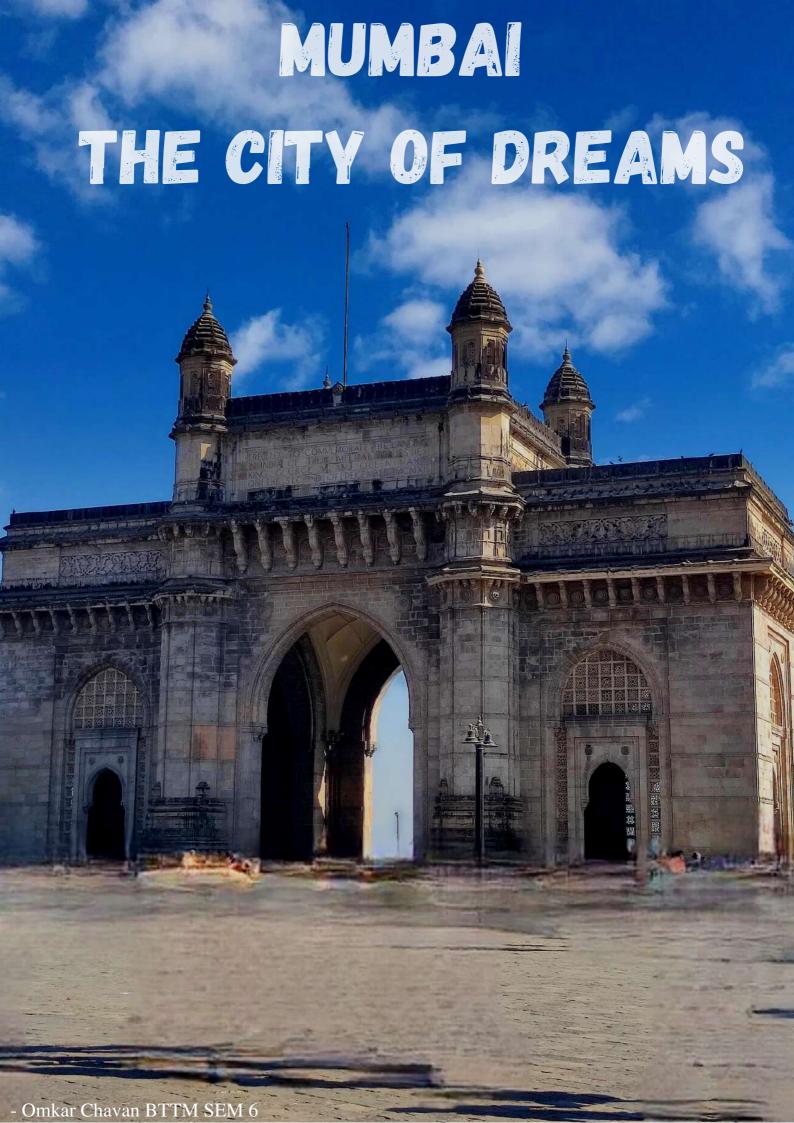
How to reach Ladghar

Reaching Ladghar beach by road is easy as it is well connected by Maharashtra State Road Transport Buses. Dapoli is the nearest city which can be reached from Mumbai and Pune and other cities by MSRTC or hiring autos from Dapoli. Best time to visit the beach is from Sep-May.

Ladghar is the hidden beauty of Nature. To enjoy the blossom and care of nature, we should visit this hidden gem. It will definitely give us the perfection of life along with so many beautiful views to see.

- Gauri Jadhav BTTM SEM 2





We started our one day tour from and reached Thane CSMT(Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) by local. Our first stop was Gateway of India which we reached using a bus from station within few minutes, it is a UNESCO world heritage site. It's a place, no matter at what time you visit you will be surrounded by huge crowds from all over the world. It provides ferry ride facilities and it's also the place where one gets ticket for Elephanta Caves and also ferry rides for the same. This gateway of India was made to commemorate the landing of King Emperor George V, the first British monarch for his visit in India. It is made in Indo Saracenic style of architecture.

Then we followed our trip to Saint Thomas Cathedral Church which is near the Town Hall of Asiatic society which we could view from outside. It is a beautiful Library made in NeoClassical style architecture. The church was very beautiful, had stained glasses and we were lucky enough to visit around Christmas and got to see the beautiful display of nativity of Jesus and decorated Christmas tree. It is first Anglican church in the Mumbai.



Our trip continued by walk surrounded by the architectural beauty of the city of Mumbai the then known as **Bombay or the city of 7 islands**, to the Parsi Fire temple whose landmark is a fort, as per the rituals only Parsi people are allowed to visit inside so we could just adore the beauty of this Persian architecture and see the symbols like Faravahar and Fire outside the temple.





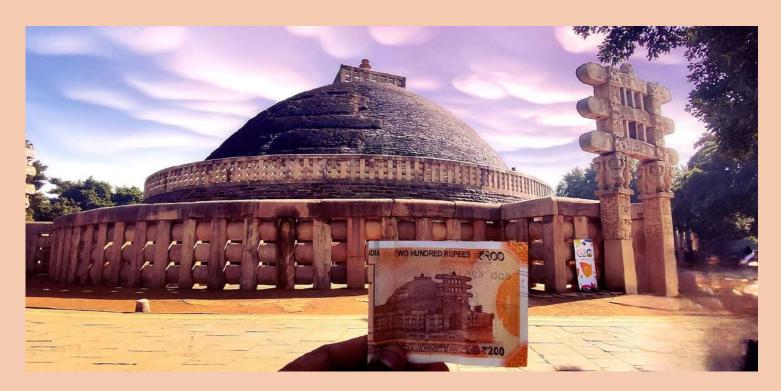
It was around 4:30 so we walked down from Churchgate station towards Marine drive and reached a very old ice cream shop (almost 70 years) named K Rustomjee which has varieties of flavours and tasty sandwich ice cream which is worth a try.

Moving on we walked on yet another UNESCO world heritage site also known as Queens Necklace. Yes the Marine drive alongside the Art Deco buildings which are the residential buildings since a long time. It's another place where one can always see people having fun, playing games, listening songs at any hour of the time or night. Sitting and enjoying for a while it was finally time for the sunset which was a pleasant golden view, one can click many pictures of the silhouette.

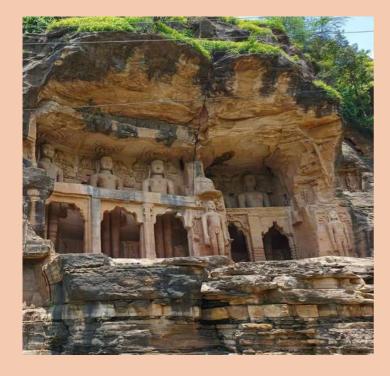
After spending few hours watching sun go down and the moon rise, we took a taxi back to the 2nd most photographed monument in India, the CSMT station which is a wonderful place to be at during night as it is decorated by colourful lighting. It was end to a very nice trip. Mumbai city has lot to offer from monuments of architectural beauty to shopping arcades like Colaba Causeway and what not.

One can and should tour the city in a day or more as per time suits them. Living nearby I have visited the city many times and visited many more places like the Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya which is a museum, Sanjay Gandhi National park, Kenneth Synagogue which is a Jewish place of worship and so much more.

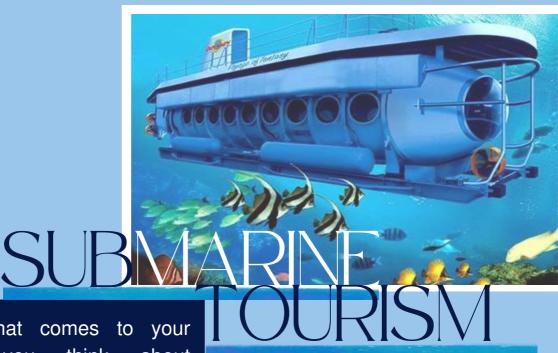












Submarines, what comes to your mind when you think about submarines, Defense, war, navy etc. But have you heard Submarines used for commercial or travel purposes? Shocked right, yes submarines can be used for travel as well as Tourism purposes. You all have travelled by a boat, Cruise or any other water way. But submarines can also be used for travel. Let's see how?

First let's see what do you mean by submarines. Submarines are any naval vessel which is capable of propelling itself beneath the water as well as on the surface of the water Submarines first became a major factor in naval warfare during world war (1914–18), when Germany used them to destroy the merchant vessel on the surface. They also played a similar role in world war by both Germany and United States

The first tourist submarine was Auguste Piccard (PX-8) designed by Jacques Piccard's son Auguste Piccard 1964. It was the world's first passenger submarine designed for the national Expo64, 1964 Swiss Exhibition. This submarine was tested in Lake Geneva with 40 passengers, 20 on each side. The ride cost CHF 40 and was the hit of the national exhibition.

By 1996 there were over 50 private submarines operating around the world, serving approximately two million passengers a year. Most of them carried between 25 and 50 passengers at a time and sometimes made ten or more dives per day.

Atlantis plays a major role in passenger submarines atlantes, a Canadian passenger submarine company. The company currently has 12 Submarines. And manages tours across the pacific islands, Caribbean islands and the Canadian coast. The Atlantis XIV which sails from Waikiki beach in Hawaii is the world's largest passenger submarine which accommodates 64 passengers.



In Asia We have submarine tours in Maldives, Bali, Vietnam and Jeju Island in South Korea.

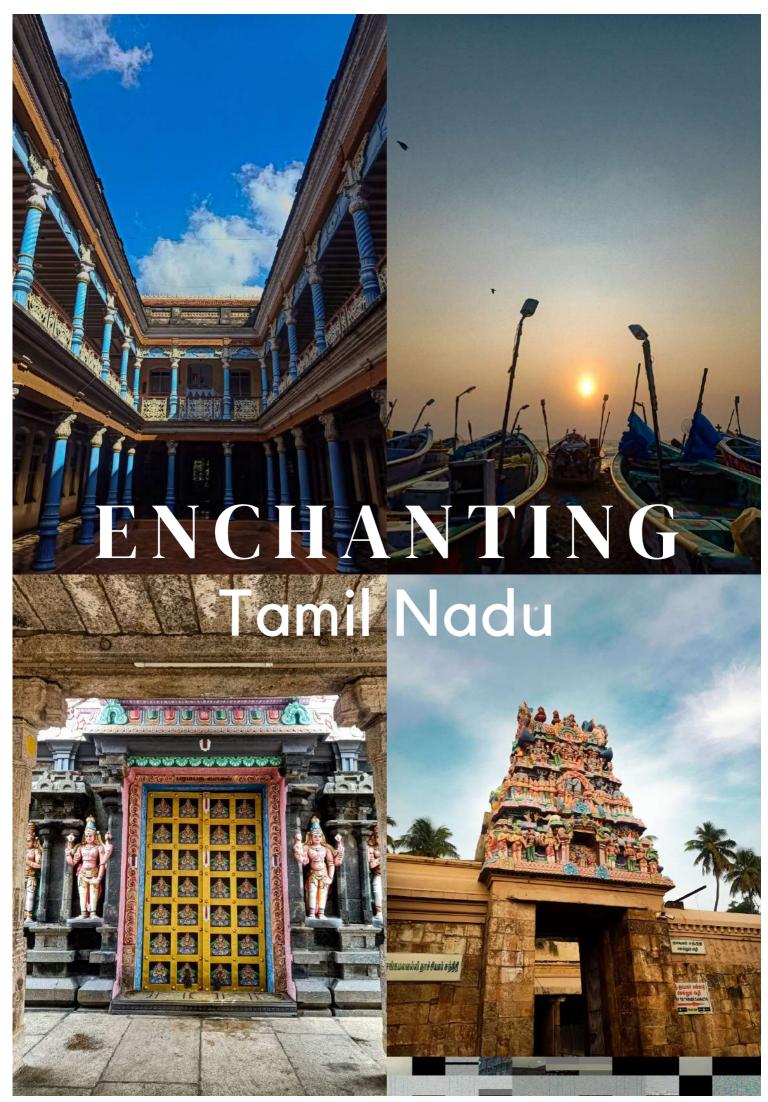
This was about submarine tourism internationally but don't you think that there should be a Submarine tour in our country? India has 7516 km of coastline mainland including the and island territories. We are surrounded by water from 3 regions the western region with Arabian sea, eastern region with bay of Bengal and the southern region with Indian ocean.

India Currently do not have any Tourist submarines, all submarines in India are used for Defense purpose as naval submarines. Until recently Kerala was the first state to have the country's first tourist submarine in India. Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) and Kochi based Pioneer.



-VEDANT SAWANT BTTM SEM 6

INS KURSURA IS THE INDIA'S FIRST AND ONLY SUBMARINE MUSEUM IN INDIA.



'MY TAMIL NADU TOUR'

- My First Ever Solo Travel

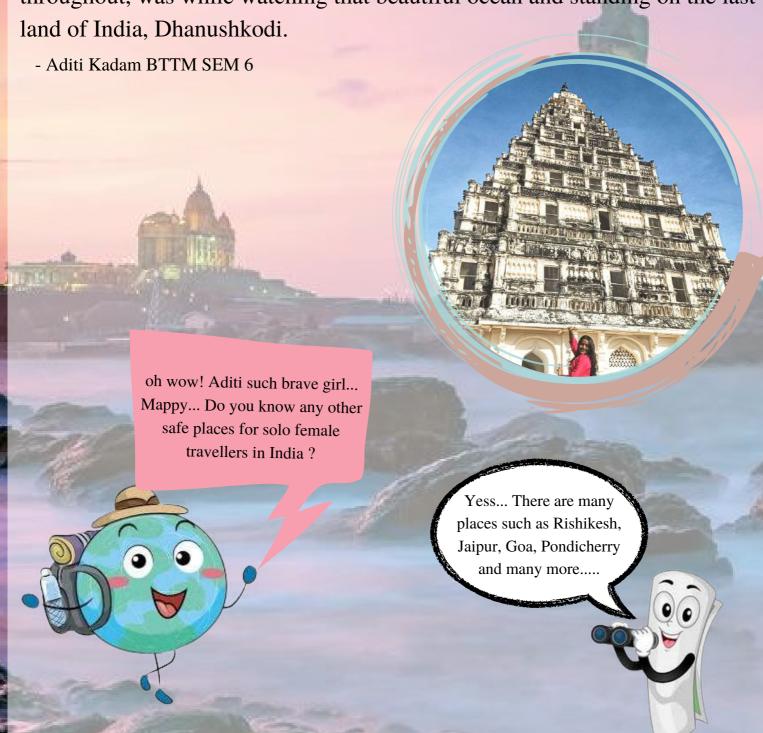
Everyone makes a bucket list of various travel destinations. As a travel enthusiast, backpacking journeys, solo travelling, and exploring places has always fascinated me. Going on a solo trip was on my bucket list for the past two years, but due to Covid, I couldn't.

Finally, in December 2022 our class got a vacation to go on a tour. That is where I thought of ending my year with something I will always remember. No doubt, my destination would be somewhere in South India. In my recent semester, I did a project on Chettinad, it just amazed me with all of its huge, and rich mansions, cuisine, and culture. Here is where I was sure of Tamil Nadu being my destination for solo travel.

The itinerary I worked on was for 12 Days and it was a budget backpacking one. I started my journey from Mumbai to Chennai,



I wanted to cover almost all coastal heritage sites, museums, and temple towns of Tamil Nadu with the most elegant and unique architecture, history, and beliefs as a local. The coastal area and beaches amazed me with their clean, serene, and crystal-clear water. The temples! If you're a believer in God, visiting temples in Tamil Nadu will just boost your faith in many unique ways. The architecture, its minute detailing, and the reasons behind those will leave you astounded. The spicy and famous chicken of Chettinad is the best cuisine that I had in my whole journey. My favourite part, throughout, was while watching that beautiful ocean and standing on the last land of India, Dhanushkodi.





Beach? what comes to your mind when you hear this word, coconut trees, sand, sea, tiny boats sailing around etc. Beach Tourism is a type of tourism which happens near coastal towns. Beach According to me, is a romantic place. I personally like the sound of waves. While going to a beach destination, I always prefer homestays because they provide you with the local experience of that coastal town. One of the advantages of a beach destination is you get to relish the authentic seafood. I personally have visited many beach destinations in India here are some of my favorite beach destinations.

RAMESWARAM: Rameswaram is a spiritual as well as coastal Town located in TAMILNADU. Rameswaram is famous for the rameshwaram ram temple. One of the char dhams in India. Rameswaram beach is not so explored beach. The beach is showcased in the famous Bollywood picture Chennai Express. If visiting Rameswaram do visit the Pamban Railway beach. Also visit the last village of Dindigul which hosts the ram setu bridge connecting to Sri lanka. Nearest railway station is rameshwaram and nearest airport is Chennai and Madurai in Tamilnadu.

GOKARNA: Gokarna is a coastal town in northern Karnataka. Gokarna has 5 beaches around the city, Gokarna City Beach, Om beach (a beach shaped in the form of Om), Kudle Beach, half moon Beach and Paradise beach. The last two beaches are very hard to reach as you have to trek to reach these two beaches. Gokarna is about 150 kms from Madgaon (Goa). Nearest railway Station is Gokarna road with Matsyagandha Express running everyday from both Mangalore and Mumbai and the nearest airport is Dabolim Airport in Goa.

Shrivardhan: Shrivardhan is a coastal village in Raigad District of Maharashtra. Shrivardhan being my favorite beach in Maharashtra due to its unexplored beach and not many tourists visit in Shrivardhan. Shrivardhan is also the birthplace of Shrimant Balaji Vishwanath Peshwas, the first peshwa king. Shrivardhan is also connected to two other beaches Harihareshwar beach and Diveagar beach. Shrivardhan also known for its route to Diveagar as its same as the great ocean road in Australia. Nearest station to Shrivardhan is Roha and nearest airport is Mumbai and Pune.

Talashil: Talashil is an island village located in Malvan taluka of Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra. As it's an island you can either take a jetty from Malvan or take a bus from Malvan which will take 1 hr from malvan. It's a private beach and it has only 50 -60 tourists per month. It has only 2-4 home stays on the island. Beware to every thing that's important as there is not a single restaurant on the island and the nearest shop is 8 -9 kms from the island bus stop.

-Vedant Sawant BTTM SEM 6



SOLO TRIP TO LOHAGAD



About Lohagad

Lohagad Fort, literally meaning iron fort, is a historical citadel perched atop a hillock at an elevation of 3400 feet. Situated in the Sahyadri range of Lonavala, it separates the Indrayani basin from the Pawna basin. The elaborate history of this fort associates it with the great Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji.

Traveling as a Tourism student is something that every travel student eagerly waits for. My enthusiasm was mixed, I was a little scared, excited, happy and keen. After all this puzzle of mine was going to be my first solo trip.

So I had started my journey early in the morning. I had to catch my train at 7.10 am from Dadar to lonavala. The journey took approximately 2.15 min to reach Lonavala station. Lonavala to malavli is one stop done by local train and there are many options from malavli to base of lohagad fort As soon as I reached near the fort, I was very excited to climb the fort but before I began my trekking I had Misal Pav in a nearby restaurant. There are many options available also local vendors are there who serve kokam sarbat, masala corn, lumbu pani and snacks. Then after pacifying my hungry stomach I took my first step forward remembering Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The fort is well maintained and preserved by MTDC so you will find well-kept stairs from the starting of the entrance. When I started climbing I came across three major Maha-darwaje (big entrances) named Hanuman Darwaja, Narayan Darwaja and an important one is Ganesh Darwaja. Crossing Ganesh Darwaja I finally reached the top of the fort at the level of 3389 ft. Actually I had planned my trip on the day of Dassehra so the fort was beautifully decorated with flowers and Rangoli. Also the fort was flourished with greenery, yellow and pinkish flowers which were giving the feel like I am in the heaven also the wind were blooming around was mesmerized.

The fort consists of many ruins, monuments, temples, water tanks, fortification walls, guard towers (buruj), Army posts, cannons and so on. Front of the Ganesh Darwaja you will find the Court of the King (Darbar) and two majestically standing cannons. Nearby there is Lord Mahadev Temple and Lord Hanuman Temple also the fort has many water sources, but 16 koni Talav and Trambak Talav are the two major drinking water sources on the fort.

There were so many local and foreign tourist, perhaps they too, like me was savoring the scenic beauty and sanctity of the fort was offering. I also visited "Vinculada", which is named because it looks like a scorpion's tail. Standing on the fort you will see basin of Pawna lake and so many other forts like Visapur Fort, Tikona, Morgiri, Korigad and Tung Fort. After seeing everything and realizing the history of the Lohagad Fort, how would this form be in the kingdom of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj? How used to people live on it? Thinking how nice this fort would have looked at the time of Shivarai? Thinking this and taking the experience of my first solo trip in mind, I left for home.

- Pundalik Tandkar BTTM SEM 4





HISTORY SAWANTWADI



Sawantwadi is a small city taluk in south konkan. Approx. 60 kms from Panjim Goa and approx. 400 kms from Mumbai. Sawantwadi state was ruled by the Sawant Bhonsle Dynasty rulers. It was a princely state under the British raj.



The Sawant dynasty arrived in this region during the 16th century, and they ruled over all south Konkan. Mang Sawant was the first one to arrive in Sawantwadi region from this dynasty. He revolted against the Sultanate of Bijapur and fled to Hodawade (Tal. Vengurla) he defeated the local chiefs there who had a strong hold on that region that time. In 1580 he declared war on Kudal province which was under British control that time along with Kudal Deshastha Prabhu's general Dev Dalvi. The MAIN PURPOSE behind this was to establish the power of the Marathas. But the lord of Kudal seeked help from the emperor of Bijapur. Unfortunately, Mang Sawant was killed in battle and Sawantwadi became a British Province. After the death of Mang Sawant his successors were not able to maintain their Independence and hence again became the puppet state of Bijapur.

Lakham Sawant – this chief played an important role for this dynasty. He fought a battle against Desai's of Kudal and made them captive, put him to death, and seized his land. At that time Shivaji Maharaj powers increased. Lakham Sawant Offered him his loyalty. So, Shivaji Maharaj made him Sardesai of whole south kokan in 1650. In 1659 they both signed a treaty according which the revenue which generated from the region will be divided equally between both of them. But Lakham Sawant after then joined hands with Sultanate of Bijapur. Hearing this Shivaji Maharaj sent one of his commanders baji Pasalkar who fought with commander of lakham Sawant Kay Sawant. Which Lakham Sawant lost. He was forced chief to throw himself on his mercy.

Shivaji Maharaj restored Lakham Sawant on promise that he would only live in Kudal, neither build nor repair fort and would not make a large body of troops. After Lakham Sawant death his son Phond Sawant 2 Succeeded who ruled for 10 years and after him his son Khem Sawant 2 Succeeded the throne who helped Mughals against Shivaji Maharaj to conquer goa. And in return got more territory from them.

In 1730 the Sawant's and the British Formed an alliance signing a treaty that none of them would attack on each other's ship and the Sawant's should open their port to the British for trade. After Phond Sawant 2 his son Rajaram Sawant succeeded but as Rajaram was minor his uncle Jay ram Sawant succeed the throne this saw the decline in the Sawant Dynasty as the Angria's, Portuguese and the Landlords of Kolhapur's started capturing the forts of Sawant's after this the Sawant's waged various wars against them and the rebels under their regions who revolted against them and hence Sawantwadi came under the hands of British rule.

During the decline of Bijapur sultanate in 1627 Phond Sawant son Khem Sawant made himself independent. In 1640, Khem was succeeded by his son Sawant, who, after ruling for eighteen months, was succeeded by his brother Lakham Sawant.

After the death of Mang Sawant his successors were not able to maintain their Independence and hence again became the puppet state of Bijapur. During the decline of Bijapur sultanate in 1627 Phond Sawant son Khem Sawant made himself independent. In 1640, Khem was succeeded by his son Som Sawant, who, after ruling for eighteen months, was succeeded by his brother Lakham Sawant.



Padharo Mharo Desh



-Shravani Gaonkar BTTM SEM 4

DAKSHIN KASH HARIHARESHWAR

History of the temple

The temple is surrounded by three hills: Harihareshwar. Harshinachal Pushpadri. The temple is built in old Konkani style architecture. It is believed to be built in the late medieval period. The main deity (Lord Shiva) was the Kuldaivat (clan deity) of Peshwas who were the prime ministers of the great Maratha Empire. Inside the Garbha Griha (main sanctum), there are idols of Lord Shiva, Goddess Parvati, Lord Vishnu, Lord Brahma in the shape of a Linga. Chandrarao More built the Parikrama Marg or the ambulatory path. This temple is often referred to as Dev Ghar or the House of God.

Harihareshwar Temple complex has two adjacent temples. The smaller Kalbhairav temple is expected to be visited first, before entering the main Harihareshwar temple housing an ancient Shivalinga. The Pradakshina route starts from behind the temple, ends up climbing up the hill behind the temple, and finally descends to rocky tidal pool that leads to the Harihareshwar beach.

There is one Kashi in the entire world but many Dakshin Kashi. One of them is Harihareshwar Temple. Harihareshwar is a town in Raigad district, in Maharashtra, India. It is surrounded by three hills named Harihareshwar, , dedicated to Lord Shiva. Harshinachal and Pushpadri. Towards the north of the town is the temple of Lord Harihareshwar.

When I visited the holy place in February 2022, it was a low tide and we got a great view of the beach during climbing as well as a great photographic background down the rocks. There is a Cave called Gaumukh Gufa where you can find "Sweet Water" just with the salty waves crashing behind you. This Path is closed during the monsoon because of the wet steps and high tides.

How to reach

Harihareshwar is within driving distance of Mumbai (191 kms, 4.5 hours approx) and Pune (171 kms, 4.19 hours approx)

Other attractions nearby

Diveagar is a popular beach near Harihareshwar with an ancient Lord Ganesha temple. This temple houses an old Golden Mask of Shri Ganesha. It was robbed a few years ago but brought back after investigations and is now secure inside the temple.

- Vaidehi More BTTM SEM 2

प्रवास केदारनाथाचा

18 ऑक्टोबरला आमचा केदारनाथाचा प्रवास सुरु झाला. बांद्रा टर्मिनस वरून दुपारी 12 ची चंडीगढ special ट्रेन पकडून आम्ही दिल्ली साठी रवाना झालो. दुसऱ्या दिवशी सकाळी 10 वाजता दिल्लीला पोचल्यानंतर लगेचच एका खाजगी बसने हरिद्वार साठी निघालो. दिल्ली ते हरिद्वार हा पाच ते सहा तासांचा प्रवास होता पण त्या प्रवासात अनेक नवीन चेहरे भेटले आणि त्यांच्याशी गप्पा गोष्टी करत आम्ही हा प्रवास पूर्ण केला.उत्तराखंड राज्याला देवभूमि का म्हणतात हे तिकडे जाऊनच लक्षात येते. जसे तुम्ही उत्तराखंड राज्यात प्रवेश करतात तसं तुम्हाला सगळीकडे भगवान शंकराची पवित्र मंदिरे दिसू लागतात. जसे तुम्ही हरिद्वार मध्ये प्रवेश करता तसं लगेच माँ गंगा तुम्हाला दर्शन देते. आत्तापर्यंत फक्त शालेय पुस्तकांत गंगा व यमुना ह्या नद्यांचा अभ्यास केला पण ह्या नद्या जेव्हा प्रत्यक्षात पाहिल्या तेव्हा खरोखर खूप भारी feeling होतं. 20 तारखेला आम्ही केदारनाथ साठी निघालो. खरंच खूप भारी feeling होतं राव कारण मी पहिल्यांदाच 12 ज्योतिर्लिंगांपैकी एका ज्योतिर्लिंगाचे दर्शन घ्यायला जाणार होतो आणि ते ज्योतिर्लिंग म्हणजे श्री क्षेत्र केदारनाथ धाम.



गंगोत्री, यमुनोत्री, बद्रीनाथ आणि केदारनाथ हे चारधाम आहेत व हे अतिशय पवित्र आहेत. चारधामची यात्रा केल्यानंतर मोक्षप्राप्ती होते असे म्हणतात. 20 तारखेला सकाळी आम्ही हरिद्वार वरून निघालो व वाटेत ऋषिकेश देवप्रयाग व करत संध्याकाळी 7:30 वाजता गुप्तकाशी ह्या केदारनाथच्या base village ला पोचलो. साधारण हरिद्वार ते गुप्तकाशी 300-350 कि.मी.चे अंतर आहे.प्रवास करून आम्ही सगळेच जण थकलो होतो आणि दुसऱ्या दिवशी केदारनाथचा भला मोठा ट्रेक करायचा असल्यामुळे लगेच सगळे झोपून गेलो. आता मात्र माझी उत्सुकता प्रचंड होती वाढली कारण आयुष्यातला सगळ्यात best trek सुरू होणार होता. 21 तारखेला सकाळी लवकर उठून पोटभर नाष्टा करून आम्ही सगळेजण गौरीकुंड ह्या केदारनाथ ट्रेकच्या starting point कडे जाण्यासाठी निघालो.

साधारण 15-20 मिनिटांचे अंतर पार करून आम्ही गौरीकुंडला पोचलो. जेव्हा गौरीकुंडला पोचलो तेव्हा सगळीकडे बम भोले, जय केदारनाथ, जय बाबा केदार असे जयघोष ऐकू येत होते. आता मात्र हे ऐकून अंगावर काटा उभा राहिला.

श्री क्षेत्र केदारनाथ हे उत्तराखंड राज्याच्या रुद्रप्रयाग जिल्ह्यात असून त्याची उंची 11,477ft इतकी आहे आणि हे बारा ज्योतिर्लिंगांपैकी सर्वात उंच ज्योतिर्लिंग आहे.

गौरीकुंड ते केदारनाथ हे तब्बल 22 कि.मी.चे अंतर आहे. केदारनाथ चालत चढण्यासाठी 12 तास लागतात तसेच जे भाविक trek करू शकत नाहीत अथवा ज्येष्ठ नागरिकांसाठी हेलिकॉप्टरची सोय आहे, जे तुम्हाला 10-15 मिनिटात केदारनाथ मंदिरापाशी सोडते. तसेच तेथे खेचर सुद्धा उपलब्ध आहेत.

आता मात्र माझी उत्सुकता शिगेला पोचली आणि आम्ही सकाळी 10:30 वाजता केदारनाथचा ट्रेक करायला सुरुवात केली. वाटेत निसर्गसौंदर्याची मजा घेत मी ट्रेक करत होतो. ट्रेक सुरू करण्यापूर्वीच मी एक निश्चय केला होता की कितीही दमलो तरी केदारनाथचा ट्रेक मी चालतच पूर्ण करीन. पहिल्या 6 कि.मी. नंतर मात्र माझा धीर खचत चालला होता कारण हा ट्रेक बऱ्यापैकी दमछाक करणारा आहे. खडी चढाई असल्यामुळे मी मात्र तब्येतीत चालत होतो. माझ्या आजूबाजूला खूप असे आजी-आजोबा होते जे चालत केदारनाथची यात्रा करत होते, ते बघून मात्र मला भलताच confidence आला. 8 कि. मी. नंतर आम्ही रामबाडा ह्या ठिकाणी पोचलो. रामबाडा ह्या ठिकाणी मंदाकिनी नदीवर 2 पूल लागतात जे पूल पार केल्यानंतर आपण केदारनाथच्या main डोंगराचा ट्रेक सुरू करतो.

14 जून 2013 च्या महाभयंकर महाप्रलयात रामबाडा ह्या ठिकाणी खूप नुकसान झाले. मंदाकिनी नदीला आलेल्या महाभयंकर पुरात रामबाडा येथील पूल वाहून गेले आणि त्याच पुलाबरोबर दोनशे-तीनशे माणसे व खेचर सुद्धा वाहून गेले. ह्या गोष्टीचा विचार करत करत मी पुन्हा केदारनाथच्या दिशेने पावले टाकायला सुरवात केली. मधे-मधे maggi व चहाचे स्टॉल्स लागतात त्यामुळे थोडासा आळस करून आम्ही maggi वर ताव मारत पुढे चालत होतो. चहाचा stall दिसला की आमची पावले आपसूक थांबत होती. आता मात्र संध्याकाळचे 5 वाजले होते आणि आम्ही फक्त 50% trek पूर्ण केला होता. आता मात्र धीर खरंच सुटत चालला होता, कारण अंधार पडायला सुरुवात झाली होती. आता मात्र धीर खरंच सुटत चालला होता कारण अंधार पडायला सुरुवात झाली होती. तशी माझ्या मित्रांची मला सोबत होती त्यामुळे त्यांच्यासोबत गप्पा गोष्टी करत असल्यामुळे आपण किती दमलो आहोत हे जास्त कळलं नाही. Hault घेत घेत आम्ही आता आमचा वेग वाढवला होता कारण आमचा 3rd last group होता. आमची बाकीची लोकं खेचरावरून खूप पुढे गेली होती आणि आम्ही मागे 10-15 जणं होतो व आमच्यात 3 group पडले होते.

आता 80% ट्रेक आमचा पूर्ण झाला होता आणि आमच्यासमोर खडतर आव्हान होतं आणि ते आव्हान म्हणजे बोचणारी थंडी.

1 किंवा 2 डिग्री तापमानात आम्ही चालत होतो. हाता-पायाच्या बोटांची लाकडं झाली होती पण काही दुसरा option नव्हता त्यामुळे हाता-पायाला ऊब देत आम्ही चालत होतो.आणि अखेर तो क्षण आला.केदारनाथच्या base camp पाशी आम्ही येऊन पोचलो. Base camp पासून केदारनाथ मंदिरापर्यंतचे अंतर फक्त 1.5 कि. मी. आहे आणि तो चढणीचा रस्ता नसून सरळ रस्ता आहे. आता मात्र खूपच हायसे वाटले. 15-20 मिनिटे विश्रांती घेऊन आम्ही पुन्हा केदारनाथच्या दिशेने कूच केली. थोड्याच वेळात समोर अंधुक अंधुक मिणमिणणारे दिवे दिसू लागले. 10 मिनिटानंतर आम्ही केदारनाथ valley मध्ये येऊन पोचलो आणि finally आम्हाला लांबून गुलाबी दिव्यांनी उजळणारे श्री केदारनाथ मंदिराचे दर्शन झाले आणि आम्ही एकच जल्लोष केला.

अखेर 12 तासाच्या ट्रेक नंतर रात्री 10:30 वाजता आम्ही केदारनाथ मंदिरापाशी येऊन पोचलो.खरोखर, त्या क्षणी मला जो आनंद झाला होता तो मी शब्दांत व्यक्त करू शकत नाही. महादेवाने माझ्याकडून हा ट्रेक पूर्ण करून घेतला. महादेवाने मला ती 12 तास चालण्याची ऊर्जा दिली त्या बद्दल मी मनोमन महादेवाला नमस्कार केला व महादेवाचे मनापासून आभार मानले.

दुसऱ्या दिवशी मंदिरात जाऊन आम्ही महादेवाचे दर्शन घेतले आणि मला माझे जीवन धन्य झाले अशी feeling आली.



ह्या अविस्मरणीय अनुभवानंतर मात्र माझे भान हरपून गेले होते कारण केदारनाथला जो भाविक जातो त्याला विलक्षण अनुभूती येते. आम्ही जाण्याआधी केदारनाथची यात्रा मुसळधार पावसामुळे स्थगित केली होती पण जेव्हा आम्ही तिकडे पोचलो तेव्हा पावसाने विश्रांती घेतली आणि आम्हाला लख्ख उन्हात यात्रा करायला मिळाली. ही माझ्यासाठी खूप छान अनुभूती होती. दर्शनानंतर केदारनाथ मंदिराभोवतीचा परिसर न्याहाळायला सुरूवात केली. खूप सुंदर असा तो परिसर आहे, चहुबाजूने हिमालय आणि मध्ये श्री केदारनाथ धाम व बाजूला मंदाकिनी नदीचे पात्र. त्या -Vaibhav Patil MTTM 2 ठिकाणी एक दैवी चमत्कार पहावयास मिळतो, तो म्हणजे. महाप्रलयात वाहून आलेला एक भलामोठा दगड जो मंदिरामागे एका ठिकाणी येऊन थांबला व तो भला मोठा पाण्याचा प्रवाह मंदिराच्या बाजूने मंदिराला काहीही इजा न करता वाहत गेला. केदारनाथ भागाचे प्रचंड प्रमाणात नुकसान झाले पण केदारनाथ मंदिर मात्र शाबूत राहिले. हा एक दैवी चमत्कार म्हणावा लागेल.

केदारनाथचा महाप्रलय हा महाभयंकर होता. अनेक लोकांनी ह्या ठिकाणी प्राण गमावले. केदारनाथला पोचल्यानंतर त्या ठिकाणी 14 जून 2013 रोजी जो काही हाहाकार उडाला होता ह्याचा विचार केला तरी अंगावर काटा येतो. आणि असा प्रलय परत कधीच येऊ नये ह्या साठी श्री महादेवाकडे प्रार्थना केदारनाथच्या सुंदर आठवणी परत घेऊन आम्ही पुन्हा मुंबईसाठी मार्गस्थ झालो. केदारनाथची ही यात्रा आयुष्यभर लक्षात राहील ह्यात तीळमात्र शंका नाही.



THE FOOD CULTURE OF MUMBAI, INDIA IS DIVERSE AND INFLUENCED BY A MIX OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN FLAVOURS. WHICH IS EXTREMELY POPULAR GLOBALLY. THE CITY KNOWN FOR ITS STREET FOOD, WHICH INCLUDES DISHES SUCH AS VADA PAV, PAV BHAJI, BHEL PURI, AND CHAAT. MUMBAI ALSO HAS A THRIVING SEAFOOD CULTURE, WITH POPULAR DISHES LIKE FISH CURRY AND PRAWN FRY, ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE MANY RESTAURANTS AND CAFES THAT SERVE A VARIETY OF CUISINES, INCLUDING INDIAN, CHINESE, ITALIAN AND MUCH MORE. THE CITY IS ALSO HOME TO SEVERAL FINE-DINING RESTAURANTS THAT OFFER A UNIQUE AND MODERN TAKE ON TRADITIONAL INDIAN CUISINE. OVERALL, THE FOOD CULTURE OF MUMBAI IS A REFLECTION OF THE CITY'S DIVERSE AND COSMOPOLITAN POPULATION.





PANI PURI: A POPULAR STREET FOOD AND CHAAT DISH, IT CONSISTS OF A SMALL, HOLLOW FRIED DOUGH BALL FILLED WITH A SPICY AND SWEET MIXTURE OF WATER, TAMARIND, AND CHICKPEAS.

PAV BHAJI: A POPULAR
STREET FOOD DISH MADE
FROM A MIX OF MIXED
VEGETABLES COOKED
WITH SPICES, AND
SERVED WITH A SOFT
BREAD ROLL.



MUMBAI-STYLE
SANDWICH: A SANDWICH
MADE WITH A VARIETY
OF FILLINGS SUCH AS
POTATOES, TOMATOES,
CUCUMBER AND
CHUTNEYS, AND IT IS
TOASTED WITH BUTTER.



KULFI: A POPULAR
DESSERT, IT IS A TYPE OF
INDIAN ICE CREAM MADE
FROM SWEETENED
CONDENSED MILK, CREAM
AND FLAVOURED WITH
VARIOUS INGREDIENTS
SUCH AS CARDAMOM,
SAFFRON, PISTACHIO AND
ROSE.

SEAFOOD: MUMBAI IS
KNOWN FOR ITS
SEAFOOD AND
THERE ARE A
VARIETY OF
SEAFOOD DISHES
THAT ARE POPULAR
IN THE CITY SUCH AS
FISH CURRY, PRAWN
FRY, SURMAI FRY
AND MANY MORE.





DOSA: A POPULAR SOUTH INDIAN DISH, IT IS A THIN AND CRISPY CREPE MADE FROM A FERMENTED BATTER OF RICE AND LENTILS, AND IS USUALLY SERVED WITH A VARIETY OF CHUTNEYS AND SAMBAR.

MUMBAI A CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS IS A PLACE WHERE ONE CAN NOT ONLY EVERYTHING WHETHER ITS HISTORY ARCHITECTURE, CULTURE & HERITAGE, BEACHES & SUNSETS ALSO VADA PAV AND MIRCHI. IT'S NOT JUST FOOD IT'S AN EMOTION.

- DISHA GHARAT BTTM SEM IV



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