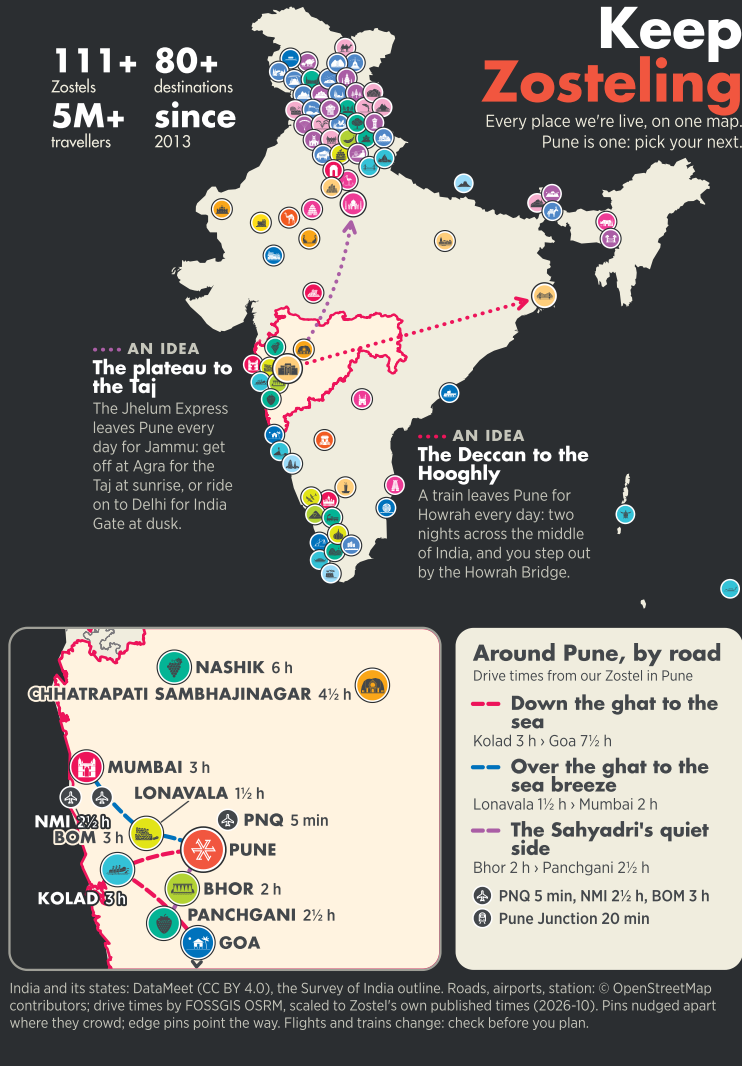
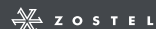


PUNE

a map made by Zostel
for young travellers
FREE MAP • MAHARASHTRA



LIVE IT. NOW



Namaskar, Pune!

Namaskar! We're the Pune Zōbus, and our city keeps its history in its street names. Seven peths round Shaniwar Wada are named for days of the week, the days their traders kept; the Peshwas ruled from behind its spiked gates until 1818. The Phules opened a school for girls here in 1848. Tilak made Ganeshotsav the whole city's, and Fergusson College made us the Oxford of the East. Eat misal at dawn, mastani by the glass, Shreeshwari biscuits in Camp. Climb Parvati, hike Sinhadgad for kanda bhaji, and read the signs: Pune says exactly what it thinks.

Every number is a tip on the map overleaf, in the colour of its kind: Wadas, Gates and Temples

- Hills, Lakes and Forts
- Misal, Mastani, Maska
- Paithani to Bhakarwadi
- Chalo, lavkar. A drawing beside a line shows what you will find there.

Stay with us in Pune

One Zostel, in Viman Nagar, a short auto ride from the airport.

Zostel Pune (Viman Nagar)
A backpacker hostel in quiet Viman Nagar, a 5-minute drive from the airport: two common areas (one on the roof), a workspace, a community kitchen, dorms. About 8 km, twenty minutes, from the station. The Aga Khan Palace is ten minutes away.

Maps: © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL), data fetched 2026-10-13 (UTC). Terrain: Terrain Tiles on AWS (Mapzen/Tilezen), from SRTM courtesy of NASA and the U.S. Geological Survey. Walk lines routed by FOSSGIS OSRM on OpenStreetMap. Drawings: the Zostel brand's own. Things change; check the day's timings at the gate.

Practical tips

Autos, cabs and buses
Autos should run on the meter; insist, or book one on an app. Prepaid auto stands wait at Shivajinagar, Swargate and the airport. PMPML city buses cover most of the city, and a day pass pays off if you hop about. Two-wheeler riders must wear helmets, passengers too.



The metro

Two lines run: the Purple Line from Pimpri-Chinchwad to Swargate, underground through the old city (Kasba Peth for Shaniwar Wada, Mandai for the market), and the Aqua Line from Vazir to Ramwadi, via Bund Garden and Ruby Hall Clinic. They cross at the District Court. Cooler and quicker than the roads above.

Weather

The season runs June to February: a green, cool monsoon from June to September, then a dry, pleasant winter. March to May is hot; walk the old city early and keep the afternoon for a museum. In the rains, the hill paths of Vetal, Parvati and Sinhadgad turn slippery.

Temples and every other site

Shoes off at every temple door, and leave them where others have. Ohel David is a working synagogue with guarded gates; admire it from the street or arrange a visit ahead. Ask before photographing anyone at prayer.



Festival days

For the ten days of Ganeshotsav the old city's lanes fill with pandashes, crowds and drums, and the last day's immersion procession closes roads for hours. When the palkhis come through in June or July, roads on their route close too. Keep your phone in a front pocket and your bag in front.

Staying safe

Pune is generally safe, but chains and phones get snatched, so keep jewellery out of sight. On FC Road and JM Road, people with a stranded-traveller story ask for money; a firm no works. Don't hike the hills alone, and share your cab's details late at night.

Old city on foot

The peths are best walked: lanes are narrow, two-wheelers are everywhere and the pavements come and go, so walk facing the traffic and cross at the chawks. Most old-city sights are within a short walk of Shaniwar Wada, and Kasba Peth and Mandai metro stations bring you in.

Out of town

State transport buses leave from Swargate, which also has the BRTS buses south to Katraj. Trains for Lonavala and Mumbai leave from Pune Junction; the local trains to Lonavala start there too. For the forts, start early and carry water and a torch.

The peths: from the spiked gate to the oddball museum

2.9 km • about 3.5 hours with stops • 9 stops

Shaniwar Wada's spiked gate, Lal Mahal and Kasba Ganpati, then south past Dagdusheth and Tambdi Jogeshwari, through Tulshibaug's stalls to its Peshwa temple, round Mandai's Gothic hall, up at Vishrambaug's balcony, into the Kelkar museum.



The stops

- Shaniwar Wada**
Walk round the walls to find all five gates; the Delhi Darwaza is the grandest.
- Lal Mahal**
Remember the story: soil and stones of the first Lal Mahal went into Shaniwar Wada, for luck.
- Kasba Ganpati**
Look back at Shaniwar Wada's Ganesh Darwaza, the gate its ladies took to this temple.
- Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati Mandir**
Spot Jay and Vijay, the two marble sentinels at the entrance.
- Tambdi Jogeshwari**
Look for the mandai's Ganpati in its silver dome outside the temple, there since 2000.
- Tulshibaug Ram Mandir**
Look up at the spire, finished in 1884, a century after the temple.
- Mahatma Phule Mandai**
Stand under the 80-foot octagonal tower where the four wings of stalls meet.
- Vishrambaug Wada**
Post a card from the post office that works inside the last Peshwa's mansion.
- Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum**
Find the Agashe wing: a family's gift of old Indian musical instruments.

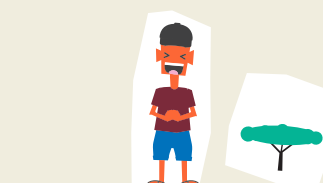
5 minutes of history

758 Punaka on a copper plate
Copper plates of the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I, dated 758 and 768, name the region Purni Vishaya and Punaka Vishaya: the first written mention of Pune. The Patalshewar cave temple is cut in the same age.

1630 Jijabai and the boy Shivaji
Shahaji sends his wife Jijabai and their son, the future Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, to live in Pune. The Lal Mahals built for them, and tradition says Jijabai has the Kasba Ganpati temple built.

1730 A Saturday foundation
Peshwa Bajirao I, who has made Pune his seat, lays the foundation of his fort-palace on a Saturday. Shaniwar Wada, finished in 1732. The peths grow round it, seven named after the days of the week.

1749 Temples on Parvati
The black-stone Devdeshwar temple on Parvati hill is finished under Balaji Bajirao; a gold rimmed follows in 1760. Below it, a lake is dug in 1750, with a Ganpati on its island: today's Sarasbaug.



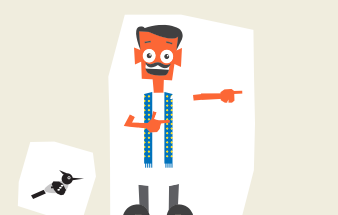
1807 The last Peshwa's mansion
Baji Rao II, the last Peshwa, builds Vishrambaug Wada and lives there rather than at Shaniwar Wada. In 1818 the Peshwas lose the Third Anglo-Maratha War, and the British take Pune.

1817 Camp is laid out
The British set up the Pune cantonment, Camp, east of the old city, on the lands of four villages. Its shops, bakeries and churches grow up round MG Road and East Street.

1828 Seven days of fire
On 27 February a fire starts inside Shaniwar Wada and burns for seven days. Only the granite walls, the teak gates and the foundations survive.

1848 A school for girls
Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule open a school for girls in two rooms of Bhide Wada in Budhwar Peth, one of the first in India run by Indians. By 1851 they run three.

1858 The railway arrives
The railway reaches Pune from Khandala and the station opens the climb through the Bhore Ghat, finished in the 1860s, joins it to Bombay. The present station building dates from 1925.



1867 The Red Temple
Ohel David, the red-brick synagogue built with David Sassoon's funds, is consecrated in Camp, its London clock on a ninety-foot tower. Locals call it Lal Devai.

1885 Fergusson College
Tilak, Agarkar, Chiplunkar, Apté and Namjoshi found Fergusson College. A year later the Gothic hall of Reay Market, today's Mahatma Phule Mandai, is finished in Shukrawar Peth.

1893 Ganeshotsav goes public
Lokmanya Tilak makes the Ganesh festival a public, city-wide celebration, with talks, plays and music in the streets, and gives Kasba Ganpati the first place among the city's Ganpatis.

1942 Prisoners in a palace
After the Quit India call, the British hold Gandhi, Kasturba and Mahadev Desai in the Aga Khan Palace until 1944. Kasturba and Desai die there; their samadhis are in its garden.

1961 The Panshet flood
On 12 July the new Panshet dam bursts upstream and floods the city's riverbanks. The loss of homes by the river sends Pune out into new suburbs.



Talk like a local

Namaskar
Hello, with folded hands
nau-muss-kaar

Ho / Nahi
Yes / No
ho / naa-hee

Dhanyavada
Thank you
dhun-yuh-vaad

Mala samjat nahi
I don't understand
ma-laa-sum-jut naa-hee

Paani
Water
paa-nee

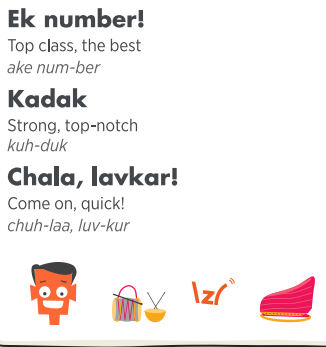
Chaha
Tea
chuh-haa

Lai bhaari!
Simply awesome
lie bhaa-ree

Ek number!
Top class, the best
ake num-ber

Kadak
Strong, top-notch
kuh-dak

Chala, lavkar!
Come on, quick!
chuh-laa, lav-kur



Day trips: forts, caves and flamingos

54 Sinhadgad and Khadakwasla. The Lion's Fort, 28 km south-west: hike up for kanda bhaji, then picnic by the Khadakwasla dam on the way back.

Rajgad and Torna. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's first capital, 60 km south-west, a three-hour hike from Gunjavan; Torna next door, the district's highest fort.

Shivneri. The fort near Junnar, where Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was born, about two and a half hours' drive north.

Bhigwan. Flamingos on the Ujani backwaters, about 100 km east, from November to February.

Nighol. Giant river potholes (kunds) scoured into the Kukadi's basalt bed, about 90 km out.

Mulshi. A dam lake in the Sahyadri west of the city, with forts round it: give it the weekend.

Lonavala, Karla and Bhaja. Lonavala has its own Zostel Plus; from there, the Buddhist caves of Karla and Bhaja and the fort of Lohagad. Local trains from Pune Junction.

Bhor. Zostel Homes Bhor waits in the Sahyadri foothills, about two hours from Pune, by a lake.



Alandi and Dehu. The saints' towns north of the city: Dnyaneshwar's samadhi at Alandi, Tukaram's home at Dehu, where the palkhis set out.

Jeluri. Khandoba's hilltop temple, one of the most visited in Maharashtra, south-east of the city.

Festivals worth timing a trip for

Gudi Padwa (spring). The Marathi new year: a gudi of bright cloth, neem and mango leaves and an upturned pot rises on a pole at doorways.

The palkhis (June or July). Dnyaneshwar's palkhi from Alandi and Tukaram's from Dehu halt two days in the peths on the walk to Pandharpur.

Ganeshotsav (August or September). Ten days of pandals and dhol-tasha troupes; on the last, the immersion procession, Kasba Ganpati first.

Navratri at Chaturshringi (September or October). A fair spreads over the foot of the goddess's hill all night: giant wheels and food stalls.

Sawai Gandharva (December). Hindustani classical music for three days, since 1953, begun by Bhimsen Joshi for his guru.

Bhimthadi Jatra (December). Rural Maharashtra comes to town: women's self-help groups sell crafts, millet snacks and village food.



46 Pune International Film Festival (January). A week of world cinema on screens across the city, the film archive among them.

35 Empress Garden flower show (January). Bonsai, ikebana and competitions for flower arrangements, fruit and potted plants, under the old trees.

4 Ganeshotsav's last day (August or September). The five manache Ganpati lead the immersion in their fixed order, Kasba first; the rest of the city follows them to the river.

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Markets by what they sell

11 Laxmi Road. Paithani and silk saris, jewellery and festival wear: the street for Maharashtra things.

9 Tulshibaug. Maharashtra kitchenware, puja things, jewellery and trinkets round a Peshwa-era temple.

8 Mahatma Phule Mandai. Fruit and vegetables in about 526 stalls under a Gothic tower of the 1880s.

15 Appa Balwant Chowk. Bookshops all round a square in Budhwar Peth.

Kumbharwada. The potters' lanes: terracotta pots, made where they are sold.

Junar Bazar. Wednesdays and Sundays: gramophones, old phones, brass decor and tools. Bargain.

FC Road. Street stalls and budget eateries outside Fergusson College.

Fashion Street. Hundreds of open-air stalls of budget clothes, shoes and bags off MG Road.

MG Road and East Street. Camp's two high streets, with the bakeries and Irani cafes round them.



Eat like you're from Pune

TTMM
Tuijha tu, majha mi: you pay yours, I pay mine
too-jhaa too, maa-jhaa mee

Saavkaash hou dya!
Take your time and enjoy: bon appetit
saav-kaash ho-oo dyaa

21 Sujata Mastani. Since 1967: ice cream blended into the milk and another scoop on top. Spoon first, straw later.
"Mango mastani. A spoon, not a straw."

13 Chitale Bandhu. On Bajirao Road since 1950; the bhakarwadi, sweet, spicy and crisp, since the 1970s.
"One box for the train, one for home."

19 Joshi Wadewale. Vada pav by Balgandharva, hot from the kadhai, with a fried green chilli.
"Vada pav, mirchi on the side. Eat it hot."

45 Kalyan Bhel. Bhel loaded with boondi, sev and peanuts, raw mango in season, from a handcart turned shop.
"Bhel, less spicy? This is Pune. Never."

22 Cafe Goodluck. Since 1935 at Deccan: bun maska dunked in Irani chai, egg bhurji on the side.
"Bun maska, one chai. Dunk it, everyone does."

25 Vaishali. Since 1954 on FC Road: Mysore masala dosa and the wait for a table, Fergusson students all round.
"Dosa first, gossip after. The table's ours."



13 Chitale Bandhu, Bajirao Road. Bhakarwadi and sweets in sealed boxes, the snack Pune sends home with you.

36 Kayani Bakery, East Street. Shreeshwari biscuits to carry home, since 1955.

Good to know

A peth for every day. Seven of the old city's peths are named after days of the week, from Raviwar to Shaniwar: traders there did business mainly on that day. Shukrawar, Friday's, was laid out in 1734.

Two hundred drum troupes. Pune has more than 200 dhol-tasha pathaks. In the weeks before Ganeshotsav they practise on the riverside, and the wait for a table, Fergusson students all round.

December's great concert. Sawai Gandharva, every December, is one of India's great Hindustani classical festivals: Bhimsen Joshi began it in 1953 for his guru, and a young singer's debut there means they have arrived.

Once the cycle city. From the 1930s Pune was called India's cycle city. Bicycles still carried about a third of its trips in the 1980s and under a fifth by the 2000s, as two-wheelers took the roads.

The Queen's train. The Deccan Queen has run between Pune and Mumbai since 1 June 1930, named after Pune, the Queen of the Deccan. Rail fans cut a cake at Pune station on its birthday.

A memorial for the first school. Bhide Wada, where the Phules opened their school for girls, came down in 2023 to make way for a national memorial.

Women on the dhol. More and more women beat the dhol and tasha in the pathaks; young women from 35 troupes drummed together in one show.

A new terminal by our door. The airport's new terminal took its first regular flights in July 2024, five minutes from Zostel Pune.

The cycle city, again. From the 1930s Pune was India's cycle city, until scooters took over in the 1970s: new cycle tracks have been added.

Dishes to hunt down

36 Kayani Bakery. Since 1955 on East Street: the Shreeshwari biscuits Pune carries home, and Madeira cake.
"Two packets of Shreeshwari. One won't reach home."

37 Dorabjee & Sons. Since 1878: dhansak, berry pulao and lagan nu custard on plain tables, four generations on.
"Dhansak today. Custard after. No arguments."

34 Marz-O-Rin. Since 1965 on MG Road: a chutney sandwich and a milkshake on the balcony over the street.
"Chutney sandwich, balcony seat. Watch MG Road go by."

30 Vohuman Cafe. Since 1978: the piled cheese omelette, bun maska and Irani chai, breakfast first.
"Cheese omelette, double. It's breakfast, so it counts."

16 Misal pav. Sprouted moth beans in a spicy curry under farsan, onion, lemon and coriander, with pav; Pune's own version can carry poha.

21 Mastani. Milk blended with ice cream and topped with another scoop; rose was the first favourite, mango the one since.

13 Bhakarwadi. Gram-flour dough rolled round coconut, poppy and sesame seeds, sliced and fried crisp; sweet and spicy at once.

19 Vada pav. A spiced potato dumpling fried in batter, in a soft pav with chutney and a green chilli: Maharashtra's fast food.

Sabudana khichdi. Soaked tapioca pearls tossed in ghee with cumin, green chilli, potato and crushed peanuts; the dish of fasting days, and a breakfast any day.

Puran poli. A sweet flatbread filled with chana dal and jaggery, scented with cardamom and nutmeg, made with ghee.

22 Bun maska and Irani chai. A soft bun with butter, for dunking in strong, milky Irani chai: the Irani cafe's classic.

36 Shreeshwari biscuits. An English biscuit of butter, sugar and a hint of lemon that Pune's bakeries made their own.

Bhakri and kanda bhaji. Up at Sinhadgad, the order after the hike: bhakri, kanda bhaji and buttermilk at the stalls on top.

45 Bhel. Puffed rice with sev, boondi, peanuts, onion and tomato; Pune also makes a dry bhel all its own.

8 A market and its name. Mandai's metro station took Mahatma Phule's name in December 2025. The market above has carried it since 1938, renamed for the reformer who lived nearby.

Helms for two. On a two-wheeler, the rider and the pillion both wear helmets: the law asks it, and Pune's police fine pillionists too.

Pink in winter. From November to February, flamingos winter on the Ujani backwaters at Bhigwan, about 100 km from Pune. Go at sunrise.

36 An English biscuit's Indian home. The Shreeshwari biscuit is English, written of since 1602. In Pune it belongs to Kayani Bakery on East Street, opened in 1955 by the brothers Khodayar and Hormazdiyar Kayani.

22 Irani cafes. Pune's Irani cafes were opened by Zoroastrian immigrants from Iran. Order bun maska and Irani chai, as they have since Cafe Goodluck's first day in 1935.

Misal, your way. Misal comes in many styles: Kolhapur's is the fiercest, Pune's can carry poha. It arrives in two parts, the thick usal and the thin rassa: mix them to taste.

Three tonnes a day. Chitale Bandhu sells about 3,000 kg of bhakarwadi a day, up from about 300 kg in the early 1990s.

A turban with a GI tag. The Puneri pagadi, the city's own turban, won a Geographical Indication in 2009. You'll see it at weddings and on traditional days at the colleges.

Camp: a synagogue, a Parsi kitchen and the biscuit queue

2 km • about 2.5 hours

Ohel David's red tower and London clock. A Parsi lunch at Dorabjee's, a chutney sandwich on Marz-O-Rin's balcony, Kayani's Shreeshwari biscuits on East Street, then MG Road and the stalls of Fashion Street. Come hungry.

33 37 34 36 38 40

54 Oxford of the East. Pune is nicknamed the Oxford of the East for its colleges and institutes, from Fergusson College of 1885 to the university of 1949.

The Sinhadgad climb. From the base, Sinhadgad is about 2.7 km and 600 m up, in two halves, with the parking lot halfway. A road also goes to the top.

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