



Ratangad Fort Trek 2026 from ₹899 | Mumbai & Pune

⌚ 1 night, 1 day

Overview

Ratangad Fort Trek

Ratan means jewel in Marathi, and Ratangad is exactly that – the crown jewel among the hill forts of the Sahyadri. Rising to a height of **4,255 feet** above sea level in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, Ratangad Fort is one of the most loved monsoon and winter treks near Mumbai and Pune, built over 400 years ago and once a stronghold of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The fort sits within the Ajoba mountain range, ringed by some of the tallest peaks in the Sahyadris – Kulang, Alang, Madan, [Kalsubai](#) (the highest peak in Maharashtra), Katrabai, Ajoba, and [Ghanchakkar](#). Geographically, Ratangad stands on the banks of the [Bhandardara lake](#), one of the oldest catchment areas in the region, which means almost every turn of the trail opens up to sweeping views of water, mist, and mountains. During the monsoon, the entire range disappears into rolling cloud and the Sahyadris look truly lost in time.

Ratangad Fort Trek – quick facts

- **Height:** 4,255 feet (1,297 m) above sea level
- **Base village:** Ratanwadi / Samrad
- **Trek distance:** approximately 4–5 km one way from the base village
- **Trek duration:** 3–4 hours to reach the top
- **Difficulty:** Easy to medium – suitable for first-time and beginner trekkers
- **Region:** Bhandardara, Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra



- **Best time to visit:** June to October (monsoon greenery) and November to February (clear winter views)

The Amruteshwar Temple at Ratanwadi

At the base of the fort, in the village of Ratanwadi, stands the ancient **Amruteshwar Temple** – a roughly 1,000-year-old shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva. Carved in the Hemadpanti style, the temple is a pinnacle of the stone architecture of our ancestors, and most trekkers stop here either before the climb or on the way back. It's one of the oldest surviving temples in the Sahyadri and a highlight of the trek in its own right.

What to expect on the trail

The Ratangad trek begins from Ratanwadi and winds through dense forest before opening onto rocky, terraced trails. The final stretch to the top is via a series of rock-cut steps and a famous iron ladder that takes you through the Trimbak Darwaja into the fort. Once on top, you'll find ancient water cisterns, the Rani Mahal ruins, and the natural rock formation known as Nedhe (the needle's eye) – a giant hole through the cliff that frames the surrounding peaks perfectly.

Ratangad in the monsoon

Monsoon is when Ratangad is at its most magical. From June onwards the slopes turn emerald green, seasonal waterfalls appear along the route, and a soft fog drifts across the fort all day. Between August and October, the hillside also bursts into bloom with yellow *Sonki* flowers, and once every seven years the rare purple *Karvi* flowers cover the fort – making it one of the best flower treks in Maharashtra.

Ratangad Monsoon Special Trek Cost

- From Mumbai: Rs. 1499/- per person
- From Pune: Rs. 1499/- per person



Ratangad Fort Trek Itinerary

Getting there – Mumbai to Kasara

Board the **CSMT – Kasara fast local**. Train timings along the route:

Time	Station
08:44 pm	CSMT
08:51 pm	Byculla
08:58 pm	Dadar
09:07 pm	Kurla
09:11 pm	Ghatkopar
09:26 pm	Thane
09:42 pm	Dombivli
09:52 pm	Kalyan
11:04 pm	Kasara

11:15 pm – Meet your trek leader at Kasara Railway Station. **11:30 pm** – Drive to the base village by private vehicle.

Day 1 (Sunday) – the trek

Time	Activity
03:00 am	Reach base village, freshen up
03:30 am	Introduction, briefing and start the trek
06:00 am	Reach the fort and watch the sunrise
07:00 am	Breakfast and explore Ratangad Fort
10:00 am	Begin the descent
01:00 pm	Reach the base village
01:30 pm	Lunch
02:30 pm	Start the return journey
05:00 pm	Approximate arrival back at Kasara Railway Station



From Pune – Ratangad Trek Itinerary

Day 0 (Saturday) – departure from Pune

Time	Location
09:45 pm	Meet at McDonald's, Deccan
10:00 pm	Depart towards base village
10:20 pm	Pickup at New Shivajinagar bus stop
10:40 pm	Pickup at Nashik Phata

Day 1 (Sunday) – the trek

Time	Activity
05:00 am	Reach the base village
05:30 am	Breakfast
06:00 am	Start the ascent
09:00 am	Reach the top and explore Ratangad Fort
11:00 am	Begin the descent
02:00 pm	Reach base village, lunch (simple veg thali)
03:00 pm	Start the return journey to Pune
11:00 pm	Approximate arrival in Pune (subject to traffic)

Please Note

- You may board the same train from whichever station is most convenient for you.
- The train will not wait – missing the train means missing the Ratangad trek, and no refund will be provided in that case.
- Booked the wrong date or batch? Date changes requested within 3 days of departure carry a transfer fee of ₹200 per person.
- Difficulty: Ratangad Fort is a medium-grade trek and needs good endurance. Carry enough water, wear full-sleeved clothing, and use proper hiking shoes.
- Transport is arranged based on the final participant count.



Inclusions

- 1 veg Breakfast and 1 veg Lunch
- Travel by private vehicle
- Trek Leader expertise charges.

Exclusions

- Any transportation (Direct participant)
- Mineral water/lime water/ purchased for personal consumption
- All kinds of Extra Meals / soft drinks ordered.
- Any kind of personal expenses.
- Any kind of cost which is not mentioned in the cost includes above.
- All expenses incurred due to unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances like roadblocks, bad weather.
- Any medical / Emergency evacuations if required.

Highlights

- 2/3 liters of water
- Trekking Shoes provide more grip and comfort on trek
- Good Torch must with extra battery
- Jacket
- Some Dry fruits / Dry Snacks / Energy Bars
- Glucon D / ORS / Tang / Gatorade sachets
- One Day Backpack 20 to 30 liters
- Sun Cap and Sunscreen
- Personal First aid and Personal Medicine
- Identity Proof
- Please wear Full sleeves and Full Track Pant this will protect from the Summer Sun / Thorns / Insects / Prickles
- Rains are expected, so pack your bags accordingly to save them from getting wet
- Double pack your valuables/phones in plastic bags
- Rainwear / Poncho / Waterproof jacket etc. if you don't want to get wet



Cancellation Policy and Charges

- 75% refund if notified via phone conversation 8 or more days prior to the event date.
- 50 % refund if notified via phone conversation 4 to 7 days prior to the event date.
- No refund if the cancellation requested is less than 3 days prior to the event date
- No show No Refund.
- Event Tickets cannot be transferred to another date against cancellation.
- Event Tickets cannot be transferred to another person against cancellation.
- If the event gets canceled we will refund "Trek Amount" only.
- If the event is canceled due to any natural calamity, political unrest or other such reasons beyond our control the same cancellation policy will apply.
- Refunds won't be issued if you cannot attend the event due to heavy rains, floods, traffic jams, car breakdowns or a personal medical emergency.
- Your booking cannot be shifted to another date if you cannot attend the event due to heavy rains, floods, traffic jams, car breakdowns, or a personal medical emergency.
- If your area is prone to flooding, traveling from a flooded area, heavy traffic, heavy rains, missing the train, or any other reason, if you cannot attend the event, we won't issue a refund or shift you to another date.
- Management won't be held responsible if you are stuck due to heavy rains, traffic jams, personal emergencies or floods during the event.
- If you are bringing kids, please understand the possibility of getting stuck or delayed. You might have to stay back due to heavy rains, floods, bus breakdowns, and rush at the trekking destination. We won't be able to refund or shift you to another date. You will have to wait it out till the weather clears.

Treks and Trails Event Rules

- Kindly carry one Identity proof, at least for the trek with your address.
- We all are going for an adventurous and exciting trekking expedition; please Do Not misinterpret it as a PICNIC or LEISURE TOUR.
- The leader's decision will be final, and all the members should abide by it.
- We do not destroy or dirty the archaeological, historical monuments, natural habitat on the trek.



- Swimming is not allowed in the lake or water tank on the forts. Locals use that water for drinking.
- Putting your feet in water tanks or on the canon is not allowed on our treks.
- Any addiction is strictly prohibited, e.g. drinking, smoking, chewing tobacco anyone caught doing it will have to exit the trek without a refund and travel back on own expense.
- People caught smoking or drinking alcohol will be asked to exit the event on an immediate basis.
- Please do not carry or wear any valuables, ornaments, jewellery, etc. If carried, then we Do Not take any liability for the same.
- Rock Climbing, Rappelling, Trekking, or any adventure activity is potentially risky. For all these events, you are at your own risk. Organizers are not responsible for any accident or compensation in whatsoever manner.
- We should strictly follow the code of conduct to avoid troubling our fellow trekkers or other people from our group or outside.
- Listening to music on earphones or Bluetooth speakers is not allowed while trekking.
- Bluetooth speaker not allowed inside the homestay or camping tents.
- Drinking/smoking,/eating is not allowed inside the tents.
- If you damage the tent, break the tent poles, you will have to pay us for the whole new tent on MRP.
- If you are late for the bus pickup and are not reachable on the phone during your bus pickup, the trek leader will leave without you, and we will provide no refund.
- Please check things to carry and wear trekking shoes on our treks.



Pickup point

[View on Google Maps →](#)



↻ Frequently Asked Questions

Ratangad Trek – Frequently Asked Questions

Is Jain food available on the Ratangad trek?

Yes, Jain food is available. Please mention it in the comments section at the time of booking so we can arrange it with our local kitchen.

Is parking available at the Ratangad base village?

Yes, parking is available at the base village. A small parking fee is payable directly to the local gram panchayat.

Are toilets available at the Ratangad base camp?

Yes, basic Indian-style toilets are available at the base camp.



Can solo trekkers join the Ratangad trek?

Absolutely – solo trekkers are welcome on all our treks. You'll join a friendly group with a trek leader, so it's a great way to meet fellow trekkers.

Can female trekkers join, and what is the group ratio?

Yes, female trekkers are very welcome. We maintain roughly a **6:4 male-to-female ratio** on each trek and provide a **female trek guide whenever available**, so solo female trekkers can join with confidence.

What is the best time to visit Ratangad Fort?

The best time to trek Ratangad is **July to October**, during and just after the monsoon. The monsoon (July–September) brings lush green slopes, mist, and seasonal waterfalls, while the flower season peaks in **September and October** when Sonki and Karvi blooms cover the fort. Winters are ideal for cave camping, and summer nights suit astrophotography and cloud-watching. Just before the monsoon, the forest around the base glows with fireflies.

How do you reach Ratangad Fort from Mumbai?

Ratangad's base village (Ratanwadi/Samrad) is about **190–197 km from Mumbai**, roughly a 6–7 hour journey.

- **By train:** Take a Mumbai–Igatpuri train (2–3 hours), then a taxi or local bus to the base village (about 35 km, 1–2 hours).



- **By road:** Drive or take a private vehicle via Igatpuri and Bhandardara to Ratanwadi.

How do you reach Ratangad Fort from Pune?

The base village is about **183–200 km from Pune**, a 4–5 hour drive.

- **By road:** The easiest option is to drive or take a taxi directly to the base village.
- **By bus:** Take a state-transport bus from Pune to Igatpuri or Bhandardara, then a local taxi to the base.
- **By train:** Take a Pune–Igatpuri train, then follow the road route to the base village.

How high is Ratangad Fort?

Ratangad Fort stands at **4,255 feet (1,297 metres)** above sea level. The roughly 400-year-old fort sits inside the Kalsubai Harishchandragad Wildlife Sanctuary in the Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

How difficult is the Ratangad trek?

The Ratangad trek is **medium grade** and needs good endurance. The trail has a few steep, rock-cut sections with iron ladders and railings installed by the Forest Department, so it's manageable for fit first-timers with a guide. Wear ankle-supported trekking shoes — the path gets slippery in the monsoon.

How long is the Ratangad trek and how much time does it take?



There are two main routes, both about **6 km one way** and roughly **3 hours** to the top, with about **2 hours** to explore the fort. A full day, including the descent, takes around **8 hours** depending on group fitness and weather.

Route	One-way distance	Elevation gain	Max elevation	Best for
Ratanwadi (via Amruteshwar Temple)	~6 km	~1,480 ft	~3,920 ft	Most popular route
Samrad (via Trimbak Darwaja)	~6 km	~1,600 ft	~3,940 ft	Flower season views
Samrad → Ratangad → Ratanwadi (traverse)	~12 km	—	~3,940 ft	Full crossing (~8 hrs)

You can return to your starting point or finish at either Ratanwadi or Samrad. A guided trek is strongly recommended for route knowledge, food, and water access.

What can you see from Ratangad Fort?

The fort offers panoramic views of **Bhandardara Lake**, **Ghatghar Dam**, **Ajoba Parvat**, **Kalsubai (Maharashtra's highest peak)**, and the **Alang-Madan-Kulang range**. Highlights on top include the **Nedhe** (a natural needle-hole rock formation), ancient water cisterns, caves, and the **Rani Mahal ruins**. At the base in Ratanwadi stands the 1,000-year-old **Amruteshwar Temple** dedicated to Lord Shiva.

What is the Ratangad flower trek (Sonki and Karvi)?



Ratangad turns into a valley of flowers in late monsoon. The yellow **Sonki flowers bloom every year from August to October**, carpeting the hillside, while the rare purple-pink **Karvi flowers bloom only once every seven years**. The best window for the flower trek is **August to October**, after which the blooms fade quickly. The Samrad route via Trimbak Darwaja gives the best flower views.

Can you camp at Ratangad?

Yes — Ratangad is one of the few Sahyadri forts with **caves large enough to camp inside**, with room for about twenty people. One cave even has a small waterfall inside during the monsoon. Sleep inside a tent within the cave to stay protected from insects and reptiles. Monsoon and winter are the best seasons for camping here.

What is the Ratangad to Harishchandragad trek?

This is an **advanced 3-day traverse** for experienced trekkers with good endurance and equipment. The route runs Samrad → Ratangad → Katrabai → Kumshet (Day 1), Kumshet → Pachnai → Harishchandragad Fort (Day 2), and Harishchandragad → Khireshwar via Malshej Ghat (Day 3). The trail passes through dense Karvi foliage and is known for leopards, honeybees, and reptiles — always trek with experienced local guides.

Why trek Ratangad with Treks and Trails India?

- Trusted by **over 20,000 trekkers last year**, with a **4.7/5 rating**.
- One trek leader for every ten trekkers, with a **female trek leader on every trek**.



TREKS AND TRAILS

Ratangad Fort Trek 2026 from ₹899 | Mumbai & Pune

- Adventure insurance for every trekker and leader.
- Self-operated treks, group discounts, and a lifetime, shareable **e-certificate** on completion.

Still have a question?

Email highfive@treksandtrails.org

↩ Reviews