



TREKS AND TRAILS

Stargazing Bhandardara

🕒 1 night, 2 days

Overview

Stargazing Bhandardara Camping with Sandhan Valley

The campsite at Bhandardara, nestled in the serene interiors of Maharashtra, offers one of the best stargazing experiences in India. Renowned as one of the darkest spots in the state with minimal light pollution, it's an ideal destination for stargazing enthusiasts from Pune, Mumbai, and across Maharashtra. Witness the breathtaking Milky Way, countless stars, and distant galaxies with the naked eye, far removed from the light-polluted skies of urban areas.

Astrophotography lovers can capture stunning star trails and mesmerizing Milky Way shots, making it a paradise for photographers. For those seeking a relaxing retreat, unwind in cozy open tents under a sky adorned with millions of stars.

Whether you're searching for "stargaze near me," exploring stargazing in Pune or Mumbai, or looking for a unique weekend getaway in Maharashtra, Bhandardara delivers an unforgettable celestial experience.

Join us for this magical night and explore the universe through a telescope, guided by experts who'll help you discover the wonders of the cosmos.



Event Highlights for Stargazing Experience

- **Gaze at Stars, Meteor Showers, and Deep Sky Objects:** Witness over 40+ celestial wonders, including nebulae, galaxies, and star clusters, using advanced professional telescopes.
- **Learn About the Night Sky:** Dive into the fascinating world of constellations, the moon's features, and the mysteries of deep space guided by Stargazing Mumbai experts and astrophysicists.
- **State-of-the-Art Telescopes:** Observe the cosmos through telescopes.
- **Engage with Experts:** Participate in interactive discussions with astrophysicists to deepen your understanding of celestial phenomena.
- **Astrophotography Basics:** Learn how to capture stunning images of the night sky, including nebulae and the Milky Way, using mobile phones or professional cameras.
- **Scenic Stargazing and Camping:** Enjoy stargazing under the clearest skies of the Sahyadri ranges, with camping amidst serene natural surroundings.

This event is perfect for anyone curious about stargazing in Mumbai, Pune, or Maharashtra, and for those eager to explore the night sky with an immersive celestial experience.

Milky Way Photography & Stargazing – Bhandardara

Join us for an unforgettable night under the stars at Bhandardara, one of India's best stargazing destinations. Capture the Milky Way, explore planets through professional telescopes, and enjoy expert-guided sky sessions.

Without Transport (Self-Drive Option)

- ₹1,599 per person – Age 5 to 10 years



- ₹1,899 per person – Age 10 years and above

Perfect for guests arriving in their own vehicle.

AC Bus from Mumbai

- ₹2,399 per person – Age 5 to 10 years
- ₹2,699 per person – Age 10 years and above

Comfortable AC bus travel included (round trip).

AC Bus from Pune

- ₹2,299 per person – Age 5 to 10 years
- ₹2,599 per person – Age 10 years and above

Comfortable AC bus travel included (round trip).

From Kasara (Transport Included)

- ₹2,099 per person – Age 5 to 10 years
- ₹2,399 per person – Age 10 years and above

Includes round-trip transport from Kasara to Kasara.



Stargazing Bhandardara Itinerary

Explore one of India's top stargazing destinations with this action-packed itinerary! Don't miss the chance to witness the Milky Way, nebulae, and distant galaxies. Book your spot now—limited slots are available!

Mumbai AC Bus Timing

Stargazing Bhandardara Event Itinerary by AC Bus Option:

Day Zero – Saturday Night:

- 08:00 am -Meet at Borivali National Park main gate.(https://maps.app.goo.gl/aWik4xMcs2mH6qPs7?g_st=ac)
- Leave for Stargazing Bhandardara
- 08:20 am – Goregaon Near Oberoi Mall on highway (https://maps.app.goo.gl/j6SfyjqWsF49ciXn9?g_st=ac)
- 08.30 am - Andheri Near WEH metro station.(<https://maps.app.goo.gl/f5DHj711vcp21BRD9>)
- 09:00 am - Ghatkopar bus depot. (https://maps.app.goo.gl/8LQYK748K3QR9yob9?g_st=ac)
- 09:15 am - Bhandup pumping station .(https://maps.app.goo.gl/d2YoptmTCNdXTjLZ8?g_st=ac)
- 09.30 am - Teen Haath Naka (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/wKjTu8ZSTEYwEwKf8>)
- 09.45 am - Kalyan Bhiwandi bypass (https://maps.app.goo.gl/Qn9SL1Ps2CNYszC27?g_st=ipc)

Lunch on the way (not included in cost)

03.30 pm - Reach campsite



Stargazing Bhandardara - Bus Travel Pune

08:15 am - Meet us at McDonald's, Deccan. (<https://goo.gl/maps/vDqyKCHanhSMxG1M6>)

08:30 am - Move towards base village.

08:50 am - Pick up at New Shivaji nagar bus stop. (<https://goo.gl/maps/SfmCVQFKPsGLZtcc7>)

09:20 am - Pick up at Nashik Phata. (<https://goo.gl/maps/3FkGAuJrKrkip2wj6>)

Lunch on the way (not included in cost)

03.30 pm - Reach campsite

Quick Note:

- * Trip leader will share the bus photo, number & live location once it leaves Borivali.
- * The bus may reach a bit early or late depending on traffic, so please track the live location once it starts moving.
- * The bus will wait only 10 minutes at the pickup point, so please be ready on time 

Day 1: Arrival & Stargazing Begins

For participants coming by train to Kasara railway station

- **08:33 AM** – Board the CST–Kasara local train. The adventure begins—meet fellow travelers on the way.



- **11:15 AM** – Meet your tour leader at Kasara station and proceed by comfortable vehicle.
- **12:00 PM** – Lunch halt at a local restaurant (lunch at own cost).

For participants coming by own transport / bus / jeep

- **04:00 PM** – Directly report at the campsite. (Location will be provided after booking one day before the event)
- **03:30–04:00 PM** – Arrive at the serene **Bhandardara campsite**. Tent allotment and check-in formalities.
- **04:30 PM** – Relax, enjoy the scenic surroundings, and meet the professional stargazing team.
- **05:00 PM** – Guided village walk to experience the charm of rural Maharashtra.
- **07:30 PM** – **First stargazing session** begins. Observe planets, star clusters, and constellations through professional telescopes.
- **09:30 PM** – Dinner served at the campsite.
- **11:00 PM** – Second stargazing session under crystal-clear night skies.
- **01:00 AM** – Stargazing session concludes. Rest under a sky full of stars.

Day 2: Morning Stargazing & Sandhan Valley Trek

- **04:30 AM** – Early morning stargazing session for sunrise sky enthusiasts.
- **06:30 AM** – Tea and light breakfast at the campsite.
- **07:30 AM** – Begin the trek to the iconic **Sandhan Valley**, a thrilling canyon trekking experience.(Optional)



- **01:00 PM** – Return to campsite and enjoy lunch.
- **03:00 PM** – Departure with unforgettable memories and stargazing stories.

Dates and Rates

- Sorry no more departures available. You could get in touch with us at highfive@treksandtrails.org if you'd like to make a booking.

Itinerary

What to Carry for Your Stargazing Trip

- Valid **ID proof**
- Trek-friendly clothes and **trekking shoes**
- Warm jacket, hoodie, and extra socks for chilly nights
- Snacks and munchies to keep your energy up
- Toiletries and personal medicines
- Reusable **water bottle** (stay hydrated!)

Act fast—this is your chance to stargaze like never before. **Book your stargazing Bhandardara trip today!**

Important Information

- Travelers can board the same train from their preferred station.
- Train Ticket is not included in the cost (With Transport Option)
- Please ensure punctuality—**missing the train means missing the event**, and no refunds will be issued.
- Plan ahead to avoid any delays and ensure a smooth start to your adventure!



Things to Carry for an Stargaze Bhandardara Astrophotography Trip

1. **Tripod for Mobile or Camera**, A sturdy tripod is essential to keep your device stable for long exposures. Prefer a tripod with a ball head for flexibility in adjusting angles.
2. **DSLR, Camera, or Mobile with Manual Mode**, Ensure your device allows manual adjustments for shutter speed, aperture, and ISO to capture the night sky.
3. **DSLR Remote Intervalometer**, A remote or intervalometer helps in capturing star trails and avoids camera shake during long exposures.
4. **Torch with Extra Batteries**, A reliable torch is crucial for navigating in the dark or adjusting settings, along with spare batteries to ensure uninterrupted use.

These items ensure you're well-equipped for an unforgettable stargazing and astrophotography experience.

How can I book a stargazing camping in Maharashtra?

Booking a Stargazing Bhandardara Camping is easy! Simply visit our website and choose your preferred date and location. You can sign up directly through our booking form or contact our team for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who can join Stargazing Bhandardara?

Anyone aged 6 and above is welcome! No prior experience in astronomy or astrophotography is required. The universe is for everyone—come and explore!

2. What amenities are available at the Stargazing campsite Bhandardara?



The campsite is well-equipped with:

- Four Indian/Western toilets and a changing room
- Charging facilities for your devices
- Dining area with tables and chairs
- Ample parking space and a large open area for activities

3. How do I get to the Stargazing campsite?

- **By Train:** We provide transportation from Kasara railway station, which is conveniently located on the central line.
- **By Car:** You can also drive directly to the campsite with your vehicle.

4. What meals are included in Stargazing event?

We offer delicious vegetarian/Jain meals:

- Welcome drink and evening snacks
- Dinner and midnight soup/tea
- Morning tea/breakfast and lunch

5. Is Sandhan Valley trekking mandatory?

Trekking is completely optional! You can choose to relax at the campsite if you'd rather skip the trek.

6. How challenging is the Sandhan valley trek?



The trek is beginner-friendly and suitable even for children aged 6 and above.

7. What happens during the stargazing session?

An expert astronomer will guide you through the session, helping you spot celestial wonders like planets, galaxies, nebulae, and star clusters using advanced telescopes.

8. What will I see through the telescope?

Expect a breathtaking view of the night sky, including planets, the moon, star clusters, galaxies, and nebulae—an unforgettable experience!

9. What is the tent accommodation like?

You'll stay in a cozy tent that fits two adults and one child comfortably. Each tent is equipped with a foam mat and a warm blanket to keep you comfortable throughout the night.

10. What should I pack for the trip?

Our coordinator will provide a detailed checklist based on the season. Check the 'Things to Carry' section for essentials to ensure a smooth trip.

11. What is a Stargazing Trip?

A stargazing trip is an adventure where participants travel to a location with minimal light pollution, such as Bhandardara or other remote spots in Maharashtra. You'll have the opportunity to observe celestial objects like stars, planets, galaxies, and nebulae through professional telescopes, guided by expert astronomers.



12. Where are the best stargazing locations in Maharashtra?

Maharashtra offers several excellent spots for stargazing, with Bhandardara being one of the most popular due to its clear skies and minimal light pollution. Other places like Dehne, Naneghat, and Vaitarna Lake also provide amazing views of the night sky. These locations are perfect for those looking for a stargazing trip in Maharashtra.

13. Do I need to have prior knowledge of astronomy for the stargazing trip?

No, prior knowledge is not required! Our expert astronomers will guide you through the stargazing experience. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced stargazer, this trip is designed for everyone to enjoy the wonders of the night sky.

14. What can I expect to see during a stargazing events near me in Maharashtra?

On a stargazing events, you can expect to see planets, constellations, star clusters, the Milky Way, nebulae, and even meteor showers, depending on the time of year. The experience is enhanced with powerful telescopes and expert guidance.

Have more questions? Feel free to reach out—we're here to make your stargazing adventure seamless and memorable!

Stargazing Places in India

India is home to some of the best stargazing destinations, thanks to its diverse landscapes and clear, pollution-free skies. Whether you're a seasoned astronomer or just a stargazing enthusiast, these locations offer incredible views of the night sky.

1. Stargazing in Ladakh



Ladakh is one of the most sought-after stargazing destinations in India. With its high altitude and minimal light pollution, the night skies here are incredibly clear. The barren landscape, coupled with stunning star-filled skies, makes it a haven for astrophotographers and stargazing enthusiasts. **Tso Moriri Lake** and **Nubra Valley** are two of the best spots in Ladakh to catch mesmerizing views of the Milky Way and distant constellations.

2. Stargazing in Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer, located in the Thar Desert, offers an unobstructed view of the night sky due to the dry, clear atmosphere. The lack of light pollution here allows for spectacular views of planets, stars, and the Milky Way. **Kuldhara village** and **Sam Sand Dunes** near Jaisalmer are popular stargazing spots, especially during the winter months when the skies are at their clearest.

3. Stargazing in Bangalore

While Bangalore is known for its urban environment, it is also home to several great stargazing locations. Just a short drive from the city, **Nandi Hills** and **Ramanagara** offer clear skies with minimal light pollution. For those interested in astrophotography, **Skygazers Astronomy Club** organizes regular stargazing events and workshops near the city.

4. Stargazing in Delhi

Although Delhi is a bustling metropolis, there are still several places on the outskirts where stargazing is possible. The **Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary** and **Aravalli Biodiversity Park** are relatively free from the city's lights and offer views of celestial events like meteor showers. For a more organized stargazing experience, you can visit **Jantar Mantar**, an astronomical observatory, or attend events hosted by **Delhi's Nehru Planetarium**.



5. Stargazing in Rann of Kutch

The **Rann of Kutch** is a massive salt desert in Gujarat that offers spectacular views of the night sky. During the **Rann Utsav**, the desert comes alive with cultural performances, but the clear skies make it perfect for stargazing. The location is far away from any significant light sources, offering uninterrupted views of constellations and meteor showers.

6. Stargazing in Nubra Valley

Situated in Ladakh, **Nubra Valley** is a high-altitude desert surrounded by snow-capped mountains. It's one of the best places for stargazing in India, with almost no light pollution. The valley provides an excellent vantage point to gaze at the Milky Way and other celestial phenomena. The clear skies here make it perfect for capturing star trails and other astrophotography shots.

7. Stargazing in Hanle

Hanle, in the Ladakh region, is one of the most remote and peaceful locations for stargazing in India. The **Indian Astronomical Observatory** in Hanle is among the highest in the world, and it offers some of the best conditions for stargazing. The sky here is free from light pollution, making it an ideal spot to witness distant stars, nebulae, and galaxies.

8. Stargazing in Suryamaal, Maharashtra

Suryamaal, located in Maharashtra, is an emerging stargazing spot for astronomy enthusiasts. Known for its minimal light pollution, Suryamaal is an excellent place to escape the city's lights and enjoy stargazing in the Western Ghats. The area offers a peaceful environment for watching meteor showers, lunar eclipses, and planets. It's a great destination for both amateur stargazers and experienced astrophotographers.

These stargazing spots in India provide fantastic opportunities to gaze at celestial wonders and explore the universe beyond. Whether you're into astrophotography or just enjoy the beauty of the night sky, these locations offer an unforgettable experience.



Inclusions

- **Transportation:** Comfortable Jeep travel from Kasara railway station to the campsite and back.
- **Stargazing Experience:** Guided session with an expert astronomer using advanced professional telescopes to explore the night sky.
- **Tent Accommodation:** Stay in well-maintained tents on a twin-sharing and on triple-sharing basis, complete with foam mats and warm blankets.
- **Delicious Meals:** Enjoy vegetarian meals, including evening refreshments, dinner, midnight soup, tea/breakfast, and lunch. Jain options are available on request.
- **Village Exploration:** Engage in a delightful village sightseeing.
- **Trek to Sandhan Valley:** Embark on a guided trek led by a certified mountaineer, suitable for beginners.
- **Forest Entry Fees:** All entry charges for the forest and campsite are covered.

This comprehensive package ensures an unforgettable adventure filled with stargazing, trekking, and serene nature experiences!

Exclusions

- Transportation till Kasara and back for without transport tickets
- Lunch on Day 1
- 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.
- We recommend travelers plan accordingly and ensure they are prepared for any additional expenses not covered by the package.



Disclaimer:

Visibility of the Milky Way is not guaranteed and depends on multiple natural factors such as weather conditions, cloud cover, moon phase (brightness), light pollution levels, and overall atmospheric clarity. These elements are beyond our control and may affect the stargazing experience

Highlights

- 2/3 liters of water.
- Torch with extra batteries
- Sleeping material (sleeping bag or 2 bed sheets)
- Comfortable footwear
- Warm clothing (during winter)
- Personal medicines (if any)
- Mosquito repellent cream
- Camera with extra batteries, Tripod
- Sun cap and Sunscreen
- Identity proof

Cancellation Policy

- 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.