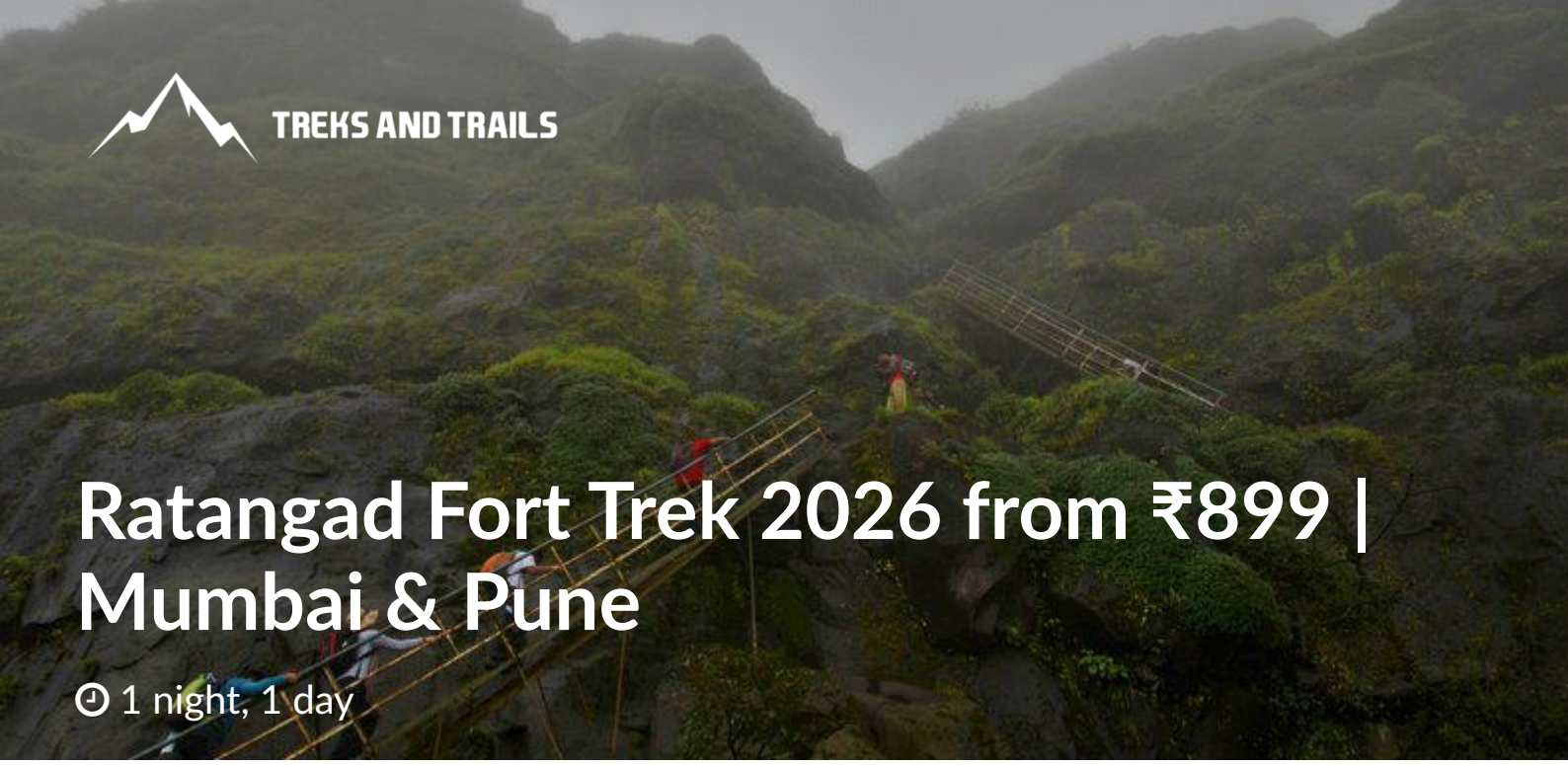


TREKS AND TRAILS

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

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- **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 (Kasara to Kasara - Train option)
- From Pune: Rs. 1499/- per person

Ratangad Fort Trek Itinerary

Getting there — Mumbai to Kasara

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Day zero - Board the CSMT – Kasara local. Train timings along the route:

09:32 pm - Mumbai CSMT

09:40 pm - Byculla

09:50 pm - Dadar

10:00 pm - Kurla

10:06 pm - Ghatkopar

10:27 pm - Thane

10:51 pm - Dombivli

11:03 pm - Kalyan

12:13 am - Kasara

12:20 am - Meet Trek Leader at Kasara Railway Station.

12:30 am - Move towards the base village in by private local vehicle.

Day 1 (Sunday) — the trek
04:30 am - Reach base village, freshen up

05:30 am - Introduction, briefing and start the trek

08:30 am - Reach the fort

08:40 am - Breakfast and explore Ratangad Fort

11:00 am - Begin the descent

02:00 pm - Reach the base village

02:15 pm - Lunch

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03:30 pm - Start the return journey

06:00 pm - Approximate arrival back at Kasara Railway Station

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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.

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- 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.

Dates and Rates

21 Nov, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	Without Transport	₹ 899
21 Nov, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Kasara Mumbai	₹ 1,499
21 Nov, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Pune	₹ 1,499
28 Nov, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	Without Transport	₹ 899
28 Nov, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Kasara Mumbai	₹ 1,499
28 Nov, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Pune	₹ 1,499
05 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	Without Transport	₹ 899
05 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Kasara Mumbai	₹ 1,499
05 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Pune	₹ 1,499

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12 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	Without Transport	₹ 899
12 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Kasara Mumbai	₹ 1,499
12 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Pune	₹ 1,499
19 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	Without Transport	₹ 899
19 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Kasara Mumbai	₹ 1,499
19 Dec, 8:00 PM 1 Night 1 Day	From Pune	₹ 1,499

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.

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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.

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- 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.

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- 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 Fort Trek: Frequently Asked Questions

The basics

Where is Ratangad Fort located?
Ratangad Fort is near Ratanwadi village in the Bhandardara region of Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district, formerly Ahmednagar. It sits inside the Kalsubai Harishchandragad Wildlife Sanctuary. Ratanwadi and Samrad are the main starting villages used for the trek. Location details

What is the height of Ratangad Fort?
Ratangad Fort is approximately 4,255 feet (1,297 metres) above sea level. This is the fort's elevation, not the amount you climb from the base village. Official fort information

What can you see from Ratangad Fort?
The fort has panoramic views of Bhandardara Lake, Ghatghar Dam, Ajoba Parvat, Kalsubai (Maharashtra's highest peak) and the Alang-Madan-Kulang range. On top you'll find 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.

Getting there

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How do I reach Ratangad Fort from Mumbai?
The base village (Ratanwadi or Samrad) is about 190 to 197 km from Mumbai, a journey of roughly 6 to 7 hours. By road, travel via Igatpuri and Bhandardara to the base village. By train, take a Mumbai to Igatpuri or Kasara train (about 2 to 3 hours), then a taxi or local bus to the base village (about 35 km from Igatpuri, 1 to 2 hours). Check whether your trek starts at Ratanwadi or Samrad before planning your journey. Travel guide

How can I join the Ratangad trek from Mumbai by train?
For the Treks and Trails Kasara departure, travel to Kasara Railway Station and meet the trek leader at the designated meeting point. The group then continues to the base village by arranged road transport. Follow the train and meeting instructions for your booked date. Mumbai departure details

How do I reach Ratangad Fort from Pune?
The base village is about 183 to 200 km from Pune, a 4 to 5 hour drive. The easiest option is to drive or take a taxi directly to the base village specified in your itinerary, or choose an organised Pune departure when available. You can also take a state-transport bus towards Igatpuri or Bhandardara and then a local taxi to the base. Confirm the pickup point and departure time before booking. Pune trek details

How do I reach Ratangad from Igatpuri or Kasara?
Both stations require an onward road journey to the trek's base village. Arrange your vehicle and return transfer in advance. If you are joining a group trek, use its designated station and meeting point rather than choosing a station independently. Transport information

Difficulty, distance and time

Is the Ratangad trek easy or difficult?
Ratangad is a medium-grade trek that needs good endurance. It has uphill walking, rocky sections, and a few steep rock-cut stretches with iron ladders and railings installed by the Forest Department. Fit beginners can consider a guided trek, but should be comfortable with sustained climbing and steep sections. Wear ankle-supported trekking shoes, as wet conditions make the route more demanding. Trek details

What is the Ratangad Fort trek distance?
Both main routes are about 6 km one way, roughly 12 km for a return trip or for the full

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traverse between Samrad and Ratanwadi. The Ratanwadi route via Amruteshwar Temple has an elevation gain of about 1,480 ft. The Samrad route via Trimbak Darwaja gains about 1,600 ft. [Add the route your departure uses.]

How much time does the Ratangad trek take?
Allow about 3 to 4 hours for the climb, around 2 hours to explore the fort, and around 8 hours for the complete trek including the descent and breaks. Your pace, route and weather can affect the timings. Travel from Mumbai or Pune takes additional time. Itinerary details

Season and conditions

What is the best time to visit Ratangad Fort?
October to December is the window recommended by the district tourism website, with cooler walking conditions. July to October suits greenery and flowers: the monsoon (July to September) brings green slopes, mist and seasonal waterfalls, and the flower season peaks in September and October. Winter is ideal for cave camping, and summer nights suit astrophotography and cloud-watching. Just before the monsoon, the forest around the base glows with fireflies. Season information

When is the Ratangad flower season?
The yellow Sonki flowers bloom every year from August to October, with September and October most commonly promoted for flower treks. The rare purple-pink Karvi blooms only about once every seven years, so check recent trail updates before booking specifically to see it. Timing and extent vary with rainfall and local conditions. The Samrad route via Trimbak Darwaja gives the best flower views. Flower trek information

Is the Ratangad trek open now?
Please check with Treks and Trails for your intended travel date. Access can be affected by weather, local restrictions and trail conditions. Confirm the latest status before leaving for the base village.

Can I do the Ratangad trek during the monsoon?
Ratangad is visited during the monsoon, but rain can make the rocky trail and ladder sections slippery, while fog reduces visibility. Check current conditions and access information, wear suitable trekking shoes and follow the trek leader's instructions. Monsoon trail information

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Price and booking

What is the Ratangad trek price?
The price depends on your date, departure city and transport option. Check the live booking page for the current fare and inclusions. Compare the self-drive, Kasara and other available departure options before selecting your ticket. Check dates and prices

How do I book the Ratangad trek with Treks and Trails?
Open the Ratangad trek page, choose your date and available travel option, and review the itinerary and inclusions before booking. If you are unsure about the difficulty or meeting point, contact our team before confirming.

Food, facilities and who can join

Is Jain food available on the Ratangad trek?
Yes. Mention it in the comments section when you book so we can arrange it with our local kitchen.

Is parking available at the Ratangad base village?
Yes. 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?
Yes. Solo trekkers are welcome on all our treks. You'll join a group with a trek leader.

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

Camping and longer treks

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.

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What is the Ratangad to Harishchandragad trek?
It is an advanced 3-day traverse for experienced trekkers with good endurance and equipment. Day 1 runs Samrad, Ratangad, Katrabai and Kumshet. Day 2 runs Kumshet, Pachnai and Harishchandragad Fort. Day 3 runs Harishchandragad to Khireshwar via Malshej Ghat. The trail passes through dense Karvi foliage and is known for leopards, honeybees and reptiles, so 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
- Adventure insurance for every trekker and leader
- Self-operated treks, group discounts, and a lifetime, shareable e-certificate on completion

Reviews