

# MAGNIFICENT MAHABALESHWAR!



The hill station's mix of old-world charm and natural beauty is just a four-hour drive from Navi Mumbai

dna correspondent  
correspondent@dnaindia.net

**Vashi:** Soaring peaks, breathtaking valleys, lush flora, cool, crisp mountain air heralds Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra's most popular hill station, and once the summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during the British Raj. Mahabaleshwar means 'God of Great Power' in Sanskrit. Indeed, the place is great and bountiful, rewarding the visitor with a mix of old-world charm, natural beauty and modernity.

For Navi Mumbaiers, getting there is half the fun. After negotiating the Mumbai-Pune expressway and the eight-lane road till



Satara, you veer off into the countryside and take the winding road uphill, passing through turmeric and sugar-cane fields. Moving on from Wai, you reach Panchgani at the top and from there on, it's strawberry country. Move on, drive past the serene Venna lake and there you are—in magnificent Mahabaleshwar.

The town bazaar is called Malcolim Peth after the then British Governor of Bombay, Sir John Malcolm. It lies at the heart of Mahabaleshwar with its shops, restaurants, outlying bungalows, government offices, and jostling crowds. Mahabaleshwar has proper, motorable roads to every point worth visiting, so one could tour the place by car or even horseback. There are many buildings and sites that take one back to the days of the Raj. There's Mount Malcolm, the one-time residence of Governor Malcolm, Morarji Castle where Mahatma Gandhi lived during 1945, and the Mahabaleshwar Club. The placid Venna Lake is a must-visit, where on a clear day, one can go boating, fishing, or just pony riding along the periphery. Or indulge oneself at the entertainment centre with its numerous food and game stalls.

Mahabaleshwar is known for its numerous sightseeing points, each providing a unique perspective of the majestic

hill range. En route to Babington Point is Dhom dam, which is a good place to take a break. Or one could visit Old Mahabaleshwar and the famous Panchganga Mandir, which is said to contain the springs of five rivers: Koyna, Venna, Savitri, Gayatri and the sacred Krishna River. There's also the Mahabaleshwar Mandir right next door, revered for its Swayambhu Lingam. About 24 kilometres away from Mahabaleshwar lies Pratapgad, the pride of the Maratha empire. Built in 1656, it is a maze of ponds, chambers and long dark walkways, some of which lead to trap doors that open to a 100 meter fall!

The hill-station has many points offering great views of flat-topped ghats, dense forests and lush green valleys. Lodwick Point, towering almost 1,240 meters above sea level, is one of the most visited. Arthur's Seat is well liked too for its great view of the Jor Valley. About a kilometre away lies Tiger's Spring, and if you venture further down you'll come to the Window ledge, a point that's famous for its mesmerising view.

M T W T F S S

## Your Weekend Planner



**YUVAA JOB FAIR**  
In order to bring unemployment level to a zero, 'Yuvaa Job Fair 2016' will be held at Modern college, Vashi today and tomorrow. Job aspirants having education qualification from matriculation to graduation degree including engineering graduate up to 45 years of age can participate. Over 1000 jobs will be offered at the

Are you tired of pushing a shopping trolley around every weekend? If yes, we've got some events. Choose Hindi film or watch an Assamese play...

job fair. Also there would be job avenues for those failed at class 10th or 12th level under Pant Pradhan Rojgar Yojna.  
**When:** 11th and 12th June  
**Where:** Kaamveer Bhaurao Patil college (Modern college) Vashi  
**Timing:** 9am to 6pm  
**Contact:** 8767182345  
**Registration:** Rs 100

**ASSAMESE PLAY @ VASHI**  
Natyam, an amateur drama group in association with Brahma-putra Cancer Care Society (BCCS) is going to stage an Assamese play named 'Karengar Ligiri'. It is a perfect blend of human emotion, empathy, love and affection, violence and hatred and joy and sorrow. It beautifully portrays the conflicts in Sundar's (the protagonist of the play) mind, which was between his revolutionary thoughts and the feudalistic social norms and how he had to face a tragic end because of that.  
The programme will be held as a tribute to Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwalla, a legendary cultural icon and playwright from Assam. This play was also written by Agarwalla in 1937. Tickets Rs 600.  
**Where:** Cicdo Auditorium  
**Time:** 6pm  
**When:** Today

**DANG FIREFLIES FESTIVAL**  
Come & witness the unique phenomenon of the fireflies (Jugnu) at Dang forest. The fireflies mate just before the monsoon, this is the time when the male back body glows. It is a sight worth

cherishing & treasuring. Dang is certainly a forest of diversity & colours.  
Two days one night trip to Dang forest and stay with the local tribal people will thrill you completely. With just a five and a half hour drive from Mumbai, don't miss this opportunity of witnessing one of the most appreciated phenomenon, the fireflies, in the world at such great cost. Apart from it, also see the commonly noticed birds like Wood Pecker, Parrot, Hornbill, Indian Sparrow, Mayhna, Drongo, Egret, Kite, Owl & Eagle.  
**Dates:** 18th & 25th June 2016  
**Details:** www.lifeawayfromlife.com  
**Contact:** 022 66096693 / 7718058351  
**WhatsApp query:** 7718058351

**DENIM FESTIVAL @ INORBIT**  
It's time to revamp your wardrobe with the latest collection of denims. Here is your opportunity to choose your pair of denims from a wide range of style, shades and fit at the Inorbit's Denim Festival. Inorbit mall, Vashi is hosting a one of its kind Denim Festival starting this 4th June 2016. The mall will have an artistic display of denims from various brands at the atrium along with some irresistible offers, styling tips by experts and BMX stunts by Meteoric group.  
Shop for denims worth Rs. 3000 from the participating brands between 4th June to 12th June and stand a chance to win gift worth Rs.30,000. Shoppers can also click a cool cowboy style selfie at the mall, upload it on their timeline with hashtag

#DenimClicktoWin to get rewarded with goodies. Pictures with maximum likes stand a chance to win gifts from the mall. Apart from these offers, visitors can get denim styling tips from experts or get creative with their old pair of jeans. The workshop will allow them to convert their old pair of denims into pillow covers, bags, pouches etc.

**THEATRE WORKSHOP**  
While a few more days remain to pack your bags and go to school, art and theatre workshop awaits you to be a part of its four days exclusive training programme. An initiative by Yuva Centre Kharghar, aims to groom and train young actors to pursue their talents. This concentrates on voice modulation, lights and sounds, stage presence etc. It will also focus on how to build a career in the field of acting.  
**Fees:** 2500 including Lunch and evening snacks.  
**Contact:** 9930825051

**GARBA DANCE WORKSHOP**  
Learn the art of playing traditional dandia-garba dance with special focus on Navratri and barat steps in just 10 sessions. This dance workshop is open to children and adults (single and couple) of all age groups (6+ to 60+). The workshop is conducted by Gujarati-folk dance teacher Sumitra Mehta.  
**Fees:** Navratri steps course-10 hours-Rs-1000.  
**Baraat steps course:** 2 hours-Rs-300.  
**Where:** Kharghar, Sec 10  
**Contact:** 993093987

## MOVIES

### Teen



his granddaughter, Angela, in a tragic kidnapping incident that scarred him & his wife Nancy forever. **Where:** Inox

### Housefull 3

Housefull 3 is about three Indian heiresses in London. Don't ask me what their names are. These aren't characters. They are props. In the climax sequence, the film's hero Akshay Kumar refers to them as maal. Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri and Lisa Haydon play the maal. **Where:** Inox

### The Conjuring 2

In 1977, paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren come out of a self-imposed sabbatical to travel to Enfield, a borough in north London. There, they meet Peggy Hodgson, an overwhelmed single mother of four who tells the couple that something evil is in her home. **Where:** Inox

### Do Lafzon Ki Kahani



tion. He distances himself from the world until a chance encounter with Jenny (Kajal Aggarwal) gives him a sense of purpose. Abandoning his loneliness, he starts afresh but fate has different plans for him. **Where:** Inox

### Veerappan

A society gets the criminal it deserves. Ram Gopal Varma bases his Veerappan on this Voltaire quote. Varma chronicles the life and times of India's most notorious criminal Veerappan in this film. Except, Varma does not. Veerappan has been touted as a biopic, but it is hardly the poacher's life Varma is talking about. **Where:** Inox

# MAGICAL MAGDEBURG

The quaint German town has a historic character and a lovely contemporary vibe

dna correspondent correspondent@dnaindia.net

**Vashi:** After experiencing the Black Forest, the beer gardens of Munich, the fast life of Frankfurt, it's time to experience the richness of heritage in old world Germany at Magdeburg. Situated about an hour and a half from the capital Berlin, Magdeburg boasts of its own character.

### Around the city

Most eye-catching structure is the cathedral of Magdeburg (early 13C) and it was the first attempt to bring the Gothic style of the great French cathedrals to Germany. Another famous landmark is a tower that stands out if you are around the Elbauen Park. White in colour with a stairway around it is slightly bent and resembles a witches' hat! The tower is called the Millennium tower and it houses an interactive science exhibition which span 6000 years of science and human history.

The Elbauen park is spread across 140 hectares, and is the green lung of the city. It has a lake, themed gardens, butterfly house, summer toboggan run and superb vantage points. From Elbauen Park, through the woods you can reach the Elbe River. Take a boat ride from the quay, which takes you through the city on water. From the boat, watch the old port, converted buildings, the cathedral and much more for about an hour. It is a pleasant ride and very relaxing. After you disembark, visit the zoo and indulge in African specialties at the restaurant.

Being environment-friendly is a practice since 2005 in Germany. Architect Friedensreich made the Green Citadel, a pink building that stands out, in the middle of the business district with vegetation on balconies and roofs and it is a landmark in Germany. Only the rich can afford to live in this building, as it is totally a self-contained building with shopping, grocery, a kindergarten on its premises, in the middle of the business district.

### The trail of strong women and timber-framed homes

You need about half a day to visit Quedlinburg. The old Town of Quedlinburg, about an hour's drive from the city of Magdeburg, in Germany (earlier East Germany) with its 1,200 half-timbered houses from six centuries is a great way to experience a medieval European city. Till date, the timber-framed structures have the same flavour as they are a part of the UNESCO world heritage. One of the most important monuments is the St. Servatius church, perched on top of a hill. It houses the crypt of the first German King Henry I and his wife Mathilde, and is home to some exquisite gold religious items used in the church, along with the queen's jewellery. The treasure has an interesting history, as it was 'stolen' by an American soldier post world war II and found with an art dealer in Switzerland, and after a lot of twists and turns, it was bought back to Quedlinburg in 1992! (one of the most prized possession is a jewel-crusted ivory comb)

The town is important from the historical point of view as not only was Quedlinburg ruled by women for more than eight hundred years, but it is the birthplace of the first German woman to fight successfully for her right to university study. In 1754, Dorothea Christiane Erxleben was awarded the academic title of Doctor of Medicine, the first German woman in history to receive this degree.

For tourists, a ride in the small steam train is a must as it chugs through the National Park in Harz, with a ticket collector who punches your ticket and also sells schnapps made in the region. The area is covered with spruce and beech wood. You can reach the highest point called Brocken by train and it is famous for the witches who rode on their brooms to this place. The small train leisurely winds up on scenic roads, offering picturesque views and you can get off any station and trek down the hill.

A meal at the charming Romantik hotel Am Bruhl is the best way to end the day.

