

Matheran Visitor Guide

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How to reach

The name of this hill station refers to the dense growth of jungle as its head. Matheran means a place topped by a jungle.

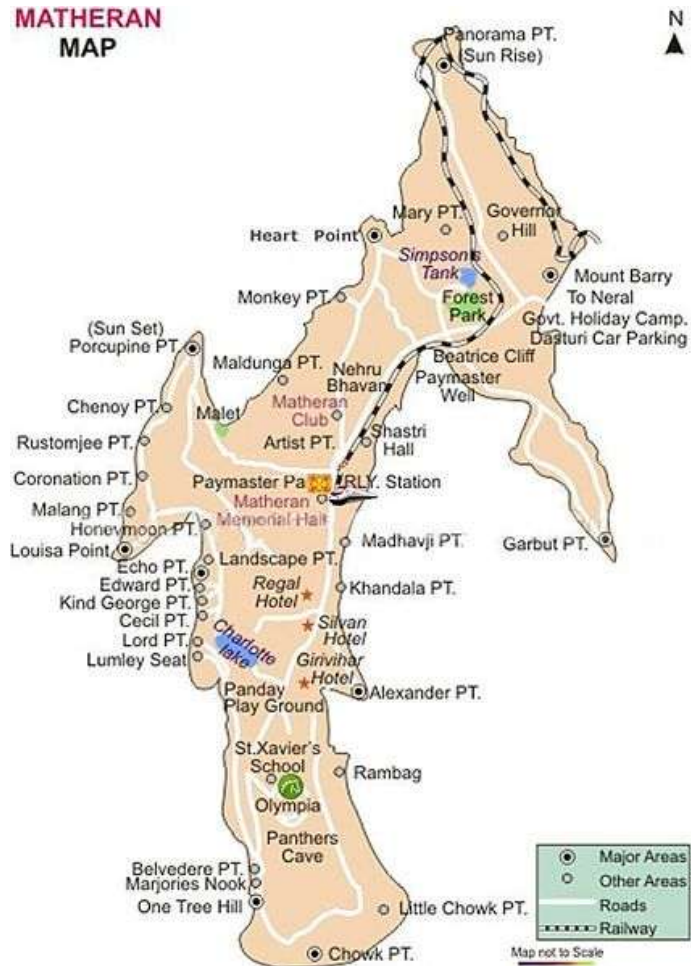
Mini Train Railway Time Table

Down trains

Up trains

Train No.	Neral Dep.	Matheran Arrival	Train No.	Matheran Dep.	Neral Arrival
601	07:30 hrs.	09:30 hrs.	602	05:45 hrs.	07:25 hrs.
603	09:00 hrs.	11:00 hrs.	604	09:50 hrs.	11:45 hrs.
605	10:45 hrs.	12:45 hrs.	606	13:00 hrs.	14:50 hrs.
607	12:10 hrs.	14:15 hrs.	608	14:35 hrs.	16:20 hrs.
609	17:00 hrs.	19:00 hrs.	610	16:10 hrs.	18:10 hrs.

MATHERAN MAP



1.1.A By Rail/Train

Getting to Matheran is half the fun; it is well connected by rail both, from Mumbai and Pune up to Neral Junction Station, a station at the bottom of the hill. From Neral a small Toy Train (Narrow gauge) takes you through a zigzag route of about 21 kms. to Matheran in two hours' time. It's a very scenic two hours ascent as the train winds its way around the steep slopes. Some marvelous valley scenes can be observed during this journey. Three small stations called Jumma Patti, Water Pipe and Aman Lodge are on the way to Matheran.

The toy train can only be booked in advance from Mumbai or Pune which is a good idea in the high season (no reservations are accepted at Neral or Matheran but tickets go on sale 45 minutes before departure).

Mumbai-Neral, 90 kms. Neral-Matheran, 21 kms,

From Mumbai CST, only a few of the Pune expresses stops at Neral Junction, including the Deccan Express and the Koyna Express. Most (but not all) of expresses from Mumbai stops at Karjat further down the line from Neral, from where you can backtrack on one of the frequent local trains. Alternatively, take a local Karjat bound train from Mumbai CST and get off at Neral.

Pune-Neral, 120 kms. (Neral-Matheran mountain train)

From Pune take a one of the few Mumbai bound expresses that stops at Neral (such as the Sahyadri Express) or one of the expresses which stops at Karjat and then get a local train from there up to Nerul.

1.1.B By Road

From Mumbai

Mumbai-Neral-Matheran, 108 kms.

While going to Matheran by road, take Mumbai-Pune Highway(NH-4) upto Chowk Village and turn to Karjat road. From Karjat, the same road goes to Dasturi Naka, i.e. entrance of Matheran via Neral.

Get on to the Mumbai Pune Expressway at Panvel (Near McDonalds). Get onto the expressway to avoid the congested road through Panvel. Take the first exit (Shedung/Khopoli Exit) that comes less than 5 minutes after you get onto the expressway at McDonalds. (Here you will need to Pay a Toll at the toll-booth for using the expressway). This exit gets you back onto the Old Mumbai-Pune Road. Follow directions to proceed towards Pune. Once again you will have to pay a toll for using the old Bombay Pune Road. (Toll in both places is about Rs.25 each).

Follow the old Mumbai-Pune road for approximately 10 km. This will bring you to a crossing where a big green sign asks you to turn left for Karjat/Matheran. (Do not miss this crossing as otherwise you will end up in Khopoli. There is a large statue of Hindu god Shiva on right side of the old Mumbai-Pune Highway which can be seen from a long distance. The left turn about 50 metres before the statue).

9 km after turning left you reach another crossing called Charphata Karjat where you need to turn left towards Neral.

11 km after turning left, you will reach the bottom of the Matheran Hill ghat road.

Turn left here and climb 7 km to the Matheran Dasturi Car park.

From Pune

Set off towards Mumbai on the Pune-Mumbai expressway. Get off the Pune-Mumbai Expressway at the Khopoli exit after passing Lonavla/Khandala and get onto the old Pune-Mumbai road. Approximately 18 km later, you turn right as per a big green sign, in Chouk town. Follow the signs from then on.

One can also exit Pune-Mumbai NH4 at Haal Phata near Khopoli to enter SH 35 which will take you straight to the bottom of Matheran Ghat Road.

Car Parking and Entry

It is a steep and narrow road but well surfaced for the most part. When you reach the car park find a parking space in the designated area and park your car. The parking entrance fees and daily parking fees need to be paid here.

No vehicles are allowed beyond this point. Matheran center is a 40-minute walk from Dasturi Car Park. Before you enter the limits of Matheran, Matheran Municipal council charges a fees of Rs 25 per adult and Rs 10 for children.

Once you enter, red dusty pathways welcome you to the nature. Porters are available to carry luggage. You can enjoy the walks through the red pathways or ride on horse. Manual 'rickshaws" are also available; each rickshaw is 'driven' by a couple of operators.

Parking facilities are available at Dasturi Naka, Matheran. From this point into the town center, either a trek on foot or on horseback or by hand pulled rickshaws, as motor vehicles are prohibited within the hill-station area. During rainy season Train Services are not regular. Taxi takes about 20 minutes to reach Dasturi Naka from Neral. To go around Matheran, one has to walk or avail the services of horses or handcart (single seater).

State Transport buses regularly ply from Mumbai and Pune. A taxi from Neral to Matheran takes about half hour to reach. Taxis stop about 2.5 km from the centre of the hill station.

Vehicles of any kind are not permitted in the town, which makes it a very quiet, serene place.

Local transport

Horses and hand-pulled rickshaws are the only transport options in Matheran. From the Dasturi car park, it's a 30 minute walk to the centre, or you can hire a horse. Walking is quicker than being pulled along in a rickshaw.

Horses can be hired for around Rs.100 per hour for trots around to the view points.

1.1.C By Air

Mumbai Airport - Nearest airport is Mumbai, 100 kms./65 Mile.

The nearest airport, Mumbai, 100 km, is well connected with national and international flights. From there, you'll need to switch to train or road.

Pune Airport - 110 kms. from Pune city Airport.

1.1.D By Foot

Matheran is popular among trekkers.

The more energetic trek it from Neral. Many enthusiastic hikers climb the hill from Neral on foot. It is a fairly stiff climb and takes at least two to three hours. Once one arrives at Matheran walking becomes a pleasure and must.

Dasturi gate (Matheran car park) is approximately 8 km from Neral junction and a beautiful landscape can be seen from Neral itself. Streams cut through the farms. One can follow the road or walk through the countryside along the stream and take the trail used by localities. There aren't direction signs along the trail, so you'll have to take directions from localities or trek keeping the road in sight.

The trail crosses farms, streams, railway track at several places to add to the stunning landscape. Trekkers can rest and enjoy a snack midway at Janmapatti rail station where the road and track meet. There are a few eateries run by localities. Second leg of the trek is difficult than the first as the path gets steeper. Following the road should get you to Dasturi gate after which one has to take the unpaved trail till Matheran Bazaar. All trails in Matheran are well marked and getting around shouldn't be difficult.

Combination of Routes To Reach Matheran

First Route Combination

A] Local Train from C.S.T to Neral Station (approx 2 hrs) (Railway Time Table)

B] Mini/Toy Train from Neral Station to Matheran Station (Approx 2 Hrs)

Second Route Combination

A] Local Train from C.S.T to Neral Station (Approx 2 Hrs) (Railway Timetable)

B] Taxi from Neral Station to Dasturi Naka (Approx 25 Minutes)

C] Horse Ride or hand pulled rickshaws from Dasturi Naka to Memorial Hall (Approx 30 Minutes)

Third Route Combination

A] Car Upto Dasturi Naka (Approx 2 ½ Hrs)

B] Horse Ride or Rickshaw from Dasturi Naka to Memorial Hall (Approx 30 Minutes)

Memorial hall is opposite the Matheran Railway Station.

1.2. Where to stay –

As we know selection of stay place at any picnic spot is a crucial part of picnic. But at the Matheran there few options are available at Matheran. These options are almost in all ranges as per our pocket. You can stay at hotels, MTDC Resort official place of MTDC for stay near to Dasturi Naka, infact it's only place for stay where one can reach by vehicles. Boarding and Home style Lodges. You can take single bed, double bed or you can take hall for group to halt at few places. Hindu Dharmashala also available at Shiv Mandir.

While choosing the place for stay one has to know whether it's offered pure Veg. or Non Veg. Foods also. There few hotels/restaurants in Matheran who offered pure Veg. food, jain food, Gujarathi & Rajasthani food.

Nowadays, In Matheran there are several local families who have turned out their village houses in to tourist cottages. This is very simple, cheap & clean option. One can approach them for economical stay.

We will suggest you some budget accommodation at Matheran option are like Hotel Panorama, Hotel janta, Hotel Vanashree, hotel Laxmi, Hotel Prasanna, Nerurkar's Wood side Hotel. If you are ready to spend then high end places to stay at Matheran are: The Byke, Brightlands Hotels, Rugby Hotel, Hotel Anand Ritz, Kumar Plaza, Hotel Rucha, Hotel Usha Ascot and Richie Rich.

There are many hotels options to stay at matheran. Following are the list of few hotels at Matheran.

Hotel Rivera

Kumar Plaza

Gujarat Bhavan Hotel

Horseland Hotel and Mountain Spa

The Verandhah in the forest

Fleetwood House

Usha Ascot

Brightlands Resorts

1.3 What to see

Really! It takes only a few minutes to realize why Matheran has this untouched, pristine quality about it. Automobiles and vehicles of any sort are not allowed into Matheran. This little hill paradise has been left largely undisturbed, since the time an Englishman, Hugh Mallet, Collector of Thane, discovered it in 1850 and declared it a fine place for shady walks.

The red soil is everywhere. Matheran is a continuous poem of shady, thickly wooded paths of red mud and velvet moss, stretching endlessly.

In city life we stay & travel in cement jungle. We can not experience true nature and its love. We always think for go outstation to relax, to stay from busy hectic life. But it's not always possible to get away from city. Where Matheran is really such amazing place where nature is playing active role with you and where you can enjoy every breath with nature.

The roads are still kutcha, there has been no attempt to prune the hedges or smarten up the vegetation, or introduce any kind of uniformity into its environment. Yet, nature herself maintains a mild discipline. The heavy branches of trees are not so thickly interwoven that you cannot see through them; the shrubs do not spill over indiscriminately on to the roads.

Monkeys are your companions wherever you go during the visit. Monkey will entertain you by hugging their babies, combing their hair, squabbling occasionally as humans do. As you walk monkeys will grab your packet of chips. You could wave your crooked pandhari stick (a kind of walking stick) at them, but their mournful expressions would melt the sternest heart.

There are many points for sight seeing, places which really make you feel good and lead you towards the completeness of Matheran. Matheran has many "lookout points" that provide spectacular views of the Western Ghats and lush plains dotted with villages far below. These include Panorama Point (with the most spectacular views, it's a popular place to watch the sun rise), Monkey Point, Porcupine Point (popular for its' sunset view), Louisa Point (on a plateau with views of the ruined forts Prabal and Vishalgarh), Echo Point (which really does have an echo), Rambagh Point (2 kms from Matheran towards Khandala and Karjat), Alexander Point (one km to the north of Matheran), Hart Point, Coronation Point, Chowk Point (at the extreme southern end of Matheran), and the One Tree Hill.

Matheran's cliffs with incredibly steep drops to the plains below create stunning viewing points.

There are altogether 36 points, 2 lakes, 2 parks, 4 major worship places and a racecourse to visit inside Matheran. If you would like to see all of them then you may need to manage 2–3 days on your feet from your busy schedule. There multiple choice to move around one can move around on foot or horseback, but it is recommended moving on feet to experience the best sight of nature. If you are on Horse back you may not be able to spend your desired time on the points. As all the points' gives a unique view experience and you can't miss that. Hence we suggest you to take horse ride of only one hour to experience horse ride, rest of sight seeing will be easily manage by your foot only.

Matheran points at Glimpse

The Marketplace

Even the bazaar is just that a small marketplace, not a commercial shopping complex. It runs the length of one street, and contains shops and stalls that sell the produce of Matheran. You can see workmen hunching over strips of leather, fashioning the Kolhapuri chappal that Matheran is famous for. Leather bags, leather belts, leather shoes, leather caps and many more other leather products. Workmanship is exclusive and the prices reasonable.

You can also find the glass birds and dried wild flowers for sale that have a pretty appeal. You will defiantly be dominated by the one of the market dominated things in Matheran that is chikki of matheran, a confection made of gram flour, jaggery and cashew nut. Peoples buy chikki in kilos to carry home; it is a universally popular sweetmeat.

Points to see:

Alexander Point, Matheran

It is on the Madhavji Road which is just about 1 km. from the Post Office.

From here one can see Garbut Point, Towers of Bhivpuri Power House, Karjat Palasdari Lake, Borgaon Village, Rambaug Point and Chowk Point.

Charlotte Lake, Matheran

Charlotte Lake is about 2 kms from the Post Office has beautiful scenery and greenery. On the left is Pisarnath Temple, Echo Point, Louisa Point are on the right side of it. Matheran city gets its drinking water. Since this lake supplies drinking water to the town, boating, swimming and fishing is strictly prohibited here. One can stand atop these peaks and survey the wild ravishing landscape, and the reddish brown mountain ranges. The red soil is everywhere. Matheran is a continuous verse of shady, thickly wooded paths of red mud and velvet moss, stretching endlessly.

Charlotte Lake has dam at one end and temple at the other. A popular picnic spot, it looks splendid in the monsoon, but dries up in the summer. Near the dam is the main Hindu holy temple, the Pisarnath Mandir.

Charlotte Lake, the Panther's Caves and the Paymaster Park are other attractions, especially for children.

Echo Point, Matheran

It is about 2 kms from the Post Office. On the right one can experience Echoes reverberating in a low tone from this place. This one place mostly visited by love buds, who express their feeling not by flower or by cards but they shout it out at top of their voice.

During the Manson, the view of water fall from here will be a delightful to watch. And also during month of September & October waterfall can be seen.

Panorama Point, Matheran

It is one of the far place from post office, It is about 6 kms from the Post Office. The view from Panorama Point is magnificent. This place is most suitable for picnic and is very famous among the all visitors. This point commands one of the widest views of the hill, both of Matheran and other side of it. Peb Fort, Chanderi, Jagged peaks of Mhas-Mal, Navara-Navari can be seen easily from here. On the west side of it with Prabal fort as background is a fine view of wooded ravines and bare cliff of Hart, Monkeys and Porcupine Point. Sunrise can also be seen from this Point.

Khandala Point, Matheran

It is on the M.G. Road, ½ km away from Post Office. One can see Garbut Point in front of it and at the right side of it, Khandala Hills, Bhivpuri Power House and Karjat town can be seen.

Rambaug Point

It is about 2 kms from the Post Office. From here Garbut Point, Karjat Town and Khandala Point can be viewed.

Chowk Point

It is about 4 km from the Post Office. From here you can be seen Karnala Fort, near Panvel, Vishalgad, Prabal Fort, One Tree Hill, Karjat, Palasdari and Chowk Village.

One Tree Hill

It is about 3 kms from the Post Office on Shivaji Road, On the top of hill there is one solitary Jambhul Tree that marks the spot. A tent Hill, Chowk Village, Mumbai-Pune Highway and Panvel City can be seen from here.

Louisa Point & Lions Head

It is about 2 km from Post Office. The place is essentially a plateau. From left to right, one can see Echo Point, Lake Gardens, Chowk Point, Tent Hill, Prabal Fort, Panvel, Lights of Mumbai City at Night. On the right, one can see end of point shaped looks like a "Lion's Head".

Porcupine Point

It is about 3 kms from the Post Office and is well known for the magnificent sight of Sunset from here at dusk.

Malet Spring

It is about 1-1/2 km from the Post Office. During whole year passers by and tourists can drink the cool water of this spring.

Monkey Point

It is about 3 kms from the Post Office and so named because there were monkeys abounding on that side formerly. From here facing Hart Cliff, and experience the delightfulness of echo sound. If one makes a noise or sound, it echoes back nearly six/seven times and the echo is distinct, clear and full.

Mount Berry

It is about 5 kms from the Post Office. A splendid view of train coming up the hill right from Neral Water Pipe and perfect Aerial view of Neral Town can be seen from here,

Mount berry is one of the highest spots in Matheran, this has splendid views. Governor's Hill, another viewpoint, is between Mount Barry and Panorama Point.

Garbut Point

It is nearly 5 kms from the Post Office. While going to this place one meets with a wonderful alliance of sky with the earth, in other words, of the horizon. This point must be seen for its colourful Dawn and Sunrise. One should not miss this Point at the Sunrise.

The Hart Point

This point offers a view of the lights of Mumbai at night! All of Matheran is a series of such idealistically named points that are popular, if isolated, sites for picnics and fireside revelry at night.

- **Little Cowk Point**
- **Belvedere Point**
- **Olympia Race Course**
- **Lords Point**
- **Cecil Point (Actually a water fall mouth)**
- **Madhavji Garden & Point**
- **Matheran Railway Station**
- **Mayor Point**