

Tourism in Amravati District

Amravati has the distinction of having one third of its geographical areas under forest cover amounting to about 3.96 lakh hectare area. One of the three Tiger Reserves, namely the Melhat Tiger Reserves, of Maharashtra is located here. This famous reserve spread over an area of 1676.93 sq km has recently completed 30 years of its existence and is one of the last remaining habitats of Indian Tiger in Maharashtra. The hilly terrain of the national park gives it a distinct importance as a tiger habitat as most other reserves are located in plains.

Apart from this, the Gugamal National Park and sanctuaries like Dharni-Kolkaaz, Narnala, Wan and Ambaburwa are also located here. These forests abound in varied flora and fauna. Wildlife includes tiger, panther, wolves, jackals, gaur, sambar, chital, muntjac, wild pig, sloth bear, four-horned antelope, flying squirrel, common langur, chinkara or mountain gazelle, bonnet macaque and other small animals. The forests are also rich in bird diversity with more than 200 species having been recorded. The flora of Melghat includes many rare herbs and medicinal plants, which are fast disappearing due to lack of adequate attention and general pressures of population explosion and conventional development.

Other than above-mentioned areas of conservation importance, Amravati has many historical and cultural heritage sites. The district has witnessed the reigns of many kings like the Marathas, Bahmanis and later on the British rule. There are remains of some very old forts like the Gavilgarh fort in Chikaldara and Narnala fort near Akot, which falls in the neighbouring Akola district but is contiguous to the forests of Amravati circle. Folklore has it that the fort of Narnala dates back to the times of Pandavas, while Gavilgarh, is supposed to have been built by the Gawlis, a local pastoral community. The Narnala fort was first taken over by the Bahmani rulers in medieval times, who repaired and strengthened it before passing into the control of the British. Thus one can glimpse remnants of the historical past in these places.

Another important aspect, which could be developed as part of an ecotourism strategy, is 'religious' tourism. There are many spots like the year Hanuman temple in Wari founded by a famous saint of Maharashtra, Swami Ramdas; Dhargad Mahadev Temple, and number of small and big temples in Chikaldara are regularly frequented by local people. Though these visits are seasonal and restricted to few important festival days in a year, they turn out to be a challenge for local forest administration as the volume of visitors is very high (sometimes more than twenty thousand in a single day). The impact of so many visitors in a single day can be quite damaging to the forests and wildlife if not regulated in a proper manner. How these local tourists will be included and dealt with in a mutually beneficial manner would be a challenge for any ecotourism strategy for the region. As one can see, most of the remains of the forts and other historical structures also happen to lie in or near the forest areas. This makes it easier to plan and promote tourist itineraries having multi-dimensional aspects like nature, history, culture and religion.

Places of interest in respect to Eco-Tourism

Amravati Forest Division, Amaravati, Distt- Amravati

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Digergavhan, Gurukunj Mozari, Varkhed, Jahagirpur, Koudinyapur, Malkhed Kondeshwar, Jewade	Gurukunj, Mozari Varkhed, Koudinyapur	Forest, PWD RH. Mozari Ashram, Deosthan Dharmashala	220 Km.	Dy. Conservator of Forests, Amravati	Dy. C.F. Amravati Ph.No.(0721) 2662814	1
2. Morshi, Simbhora, Salbardi, Ridhapur	Morshi, Ridhapur	PWD,MTDC, Irrigation Deptt. RH	170 Km	--do--	--do--	1
3. Paratwada, Muktagiri, Beharam,	Paratwada	PWD RH & Private Hotels	122 Km	--do--	--do--	1
4. Ridhapur, Salbardi, Mahendri, Morshi	Ridhapur, Morshi	Forest RH.& PWD RH.	120 Km	--do--	--do--	1

Places of interest in respect to Eco-Tourism in
Amravati Forest Division, Amaravati, District- Amravati

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Digergavhan, Gurukunj Mozari, Varkhed, Jahagirpur, Koudinyapur, Malkhed Kondeshwar, Jewade	Gurukunj, Mozari, Varkhed, Koudinyapur	Forest, PWD RH. Mozari Ashram, Deosthan Dharmashala	220 Km.	Dy. Conservator of Forests, Amravati	Dy. C.F. Amravati Ph.No.(0721) 2662814	1
2. Morshi, Simbhora, Salbardi, Ridhapur	Morshi, Ridhapur	PWD,MTDC, Irrigation Deptt. RH	170 Km	--do--	--do--	1
3. Paratwada, Muktagiri, Beharam,	Paratwada	PWD RH & Private Hotels	122 Km	--do--	--do--	1
4. Ridhapur, Salbardi, Mahendri, Morshi	Ridhapur, Morshi	Forest RH.& PWD RH.	120 Km	--do--	--do--	1

Places of interest in respect to Eco-Tourism in
East Melghat Forest Division, Chikhaldara: Dist.: Amravati

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Bhimkund, Malaviya Point, Forest Garden, Kalapani Tank, Shivsagar Point, Mozari Point, Devi Point, Shakkar Talava. Gavilgad Fort, Beed Tank, Panchbol Point, Hurricane Point, Long Point, Pospect Point, Vairat, Waterfall of Ambapati, Adnadi Kund, Chitamdeo Point, Panchamdeo Point, Shahanoor	Chikhaldara	Private Guest Houses, MTDC Guest Houses, Municipal Guest House, Circuit House (B&C), Forest RH., MSEB RH, Irrigation Deptt. RH., Z.P. RH.	80 Km.	Dy. Conservator of Forests, East Melghat Chikhaldara.	Dy. Conservator of Forests, East Melghat Chikhaldara. Ph.No.07220-230229	1
2. Chikhaldara Points, Gavilgadha, Semadoh, Chitamdeo Point, Tourist Zone	Semadoh	Forest RH	120 Km.	Dy. Conservator of Forests, East Melghat Chikhaldara.	Dy. Conservator of Forests, East Melghat Chikhaldara. Ph.No. 07220-230229	2
3. Chikhaldara, Semadoh, Gavilgadha, Ambapati, Shahanoor Dam, Semadoh, Jarida, Rahu Sanctuary Area, Ghatang, Pandyadeo, Chitamdeo, Pachamdeo.	Chikhaldara Semadoh, Jarida	Forest RH	180 Km.	--do--	--do--	3
4. Chikhaldara, Gavilgadha, Semadoh, Jarida, Rahu, Pachamadeo, Chitamdeo, Pandyadeo, Ghatang.	Semadoh, Jarida	Forest RH	250 Km.	--do--	--do--	7

Places of interest in respect to Eco-Tourism in
West Melghat Forest Division, Paratwada: Dist.: Amravati

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1 Kolkas Forest, Tapti Sipna Sangam near Chethar Village, Dharni, Vairagad, Hardha, Bhokarbardi Killa, Gadga Tapti Triveni Sangam, Lavada, Bajpani	Kolkas, Dharni, Bhokarbardi	Forest RH.	95 Km.	Dy. Conservator of Forests, West Melghat Dn. Paratwada	Dy. Conservator of Forests, West Melghat Dn. Paratwada Ph.No. 07223-220353	1
2. Dharni, Onkareshwar	Dharni, Onkareshwar	Forest RH.	100 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
3. Dhakana, Kawadazari Hathi-Sawari Ranigaon High Point, Shivazari Zigzag Road,Savalkheda Shiv Mandir	Dhakna	Forest RH.	75 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
4. Dhakana, Dollhar, Kekadakheda, Dhodra, (Trecking Route)	Dhakna	Forest RH.	25 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
5. Dhulghat, Ranigaon Sunset Pont,Shivzari Shape Rail line	Dhulghat	Forest RH.	20Km.	--do--	--do--	1
6. Dhulghat. Golai. Dhargad, Katkali.	Dhulghat	Forest RH.	50 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
7. Akot, Narnalakilla, Viewpoint, Surainall a Waterfall, Seeta's Nahanighar, Khatkali-Koha.	Akot, Narnala	Forest RH.	60 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
8. Akot. Dhargad. Gullarghat, Narnala Fort.(Trecking Route)	Akot, Narnala	Forest RH.	80 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
9. Akot, Narsingh Maharaj Mandir, Popatkhed, Wari Hanuman Temple, Van Irrigation Dam.	Akot, Van.	Forest & Irrigation R.H.	40Km.	--do--	--do--	1
10. Akot, Khatkali, Ahad, Popatkhed, View Point (Trecking route)	Akot	Forest RH.	40 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
11. Dharni, Ranidoh, Savalkheda, Butida.	Dharni	Forest RH.	30 Km.	--do--	--do--	1

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
12. Kolkas Forest, Tapti Sipna Sangam near Chethar Village, Dharni, Vairagad, Hardha, Bhokarbardi Killa, Gadga Tapti Triveni Sangam, Lavada, Bajpani, Dharni, Ranidoh, Savalkheda, Butida.	Kolkas, Dharni Bhokarbardi	Forest RH.	125 Km.	--do--	--do--	1
13. Dhakana, Kawadazari Hathi-Sawari Ranigaon High Point, Shivazari Zigzag Road, Savalkheda Shiv Mandir, Dhulghat, Ranigaon Sunset Pont, Shivzari Shape Rail line	Dhakna Dhulghat	Forest RH	95 Km	--do--	--do--	2
14. Akot, Narnalakilla, Viewpoint, Surainall a Waterfall, Seeta's Nahanighar, Khatkali-Koha, Akot. Dhargad. Gullarghat, Narnala Fort.(Trecking Route)	Akot Narnala	Forest RH	140 Km	--do--	--do--	2
15. Akot, Dhargad. Gullarghat, Narnala Fort. Narshigh Maharaj Mandir, Popatkhedha, VariHanuman Temple, Van Irrigation Dam, Akot, Khatkali, Ahad, Popatkhedha, View Point (Trecking route)	Akot Narnala	Forest RH	120 Km	--do--	--do--	2
16. Kolkas Forest, Tapti Sipna Sangam near Chethar Village, Vairagad, Hardha, Bhokarbardi Killa, Gadga Tapti Trivani Sangam, Lavada, Bajpani -- Dharni. Onkareshwar -- Ranidoh, Savalkheda, Buitda.	Dharni Onkareshwar Kolkas	Forest RH	225 Km	--do--	--do--	3
17. Dhakana, Kawadazari, Ranigaon High Point, Shivazari zigzag Road, Savalkheda Shiv mandir -- Dollhar, Kekadakheda Dhodra -- Dhulghat, Golai, Dhargad, Katkali	Dhakna Dhulghat	Forest RH	150Km	--do--	--do--	3
18. Kolkas Forest, Tapti Sipna Sangam near Chethar Village, Dharni, Vairagad, Hardha, Bhokarbardi Killa, Gadga Tapti Triveni Sangam Lavada, Bajpani - Dhakana Kavadazari, Ranigaon High Point, ShivazarizigzagRoad, Savalkheda	Kolkas, Dharni Bhokarbardi, Akot, narnala	Forest RH	250 Km	--do--	--do--	5

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
Shiv - Mandir Dhulghat -- Shivzari -- Akot, Narnala Killa, View Point, Surainalla Waterfall, Seeta Nahanighar, Katkali Koha						
19. Kolkas Forest, Tapti Sipna Sangam near Chethar Village, Dharni, Vairagad, Hardha, Bhokarbardi Killa, Gadg Tapti Triveni Sangam, Lavada, Bajpani. Dhakna, Kawadazari, Ranigaon High Point, ShivazarizigzagRoad, Savalkheda Shiv Mandir Dhulghat, Ranigaon , sunset Point, Shivzari, Akot, Narnala Killa, View Point Surainalla Waterfall, Seeta Nahanighat, Katkali Koha Akot, Narsingh Maharaj Mandir, Popatkhed, Wari Hanuman Temple, Van Irrigation Dam.	Kolkas, Dharni Bhokarbardi, Akot, narnala	Forest RH	250 Km	--do--	--do--	5
20. Kolkas Forest, Tapti Sipna Sangam near Chethar Village, Dharni, Vairagad, Hardha, Bhokarbardi Killa, Gadg Tapti Triveni Sangam, Lavada, Bajpani. Dhakna, Kawadazari, Ranigaon High Point, ShivazarizigzagRoad, Savalkheda Shiv Mandir Ranigaon sunset Point,Dhulghat Golai, Dhargad, Narnala Killa, View Point, Surainalla Waterfall, Seeta Nahanighar, KatkaliKoha Akot, Ahad, Popatkhed View Point Gullarghat, Narnala Fort.	Kolkas, Dharni Bhokarbardi, Akot, narnala	Forest RH	300 Km	--do--	--do--	6
21. Kolkas Forest, Tapti Sipna Sangam near Chethar Village, Dharni, Vairagad, Hardha, Bhokarbardi Killa, Gadg Tapti Triveni Sangam, Lavada, Bajpani.Onkareshwar Dhakna, Kawadazari, Ranigaon High Point, ShivazarizigzagRoad, Savalkheda Shiv Mandir Dollhar,Kekadakheda, Dhodra	Kolkas, Dharni Bhokarbardi, Akot, narnala	Forest RH	300 Km	--do--	--do--	7

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
Ranigaon sunset Point, Shivzari Dhulghat Golai, Dhargad, Katkali Akot Narnala Killa, View Point, Surainalla Waterfall, Seeta Nahanighar, Koha. Gullarghat, Narnala Fort.						

Places of interest in respect to Eco-Tourism in
Buldhana Forest Division, Buldhana: Dist.: Buldhana

Important places of attraction with reference to eco-tourism	Food	Accommodation	Distance from Divi.(Approx)	Nodal Officer	Address & Phone Numbers	Excursion days
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Jalna, Deulgaon Raja, Sindhkhed, Mehakar, Lonar	Jalna, Sindhkhed Raja, Deulgaon Raja, Mehkar & Lonar	PWD RH., Forest RH., MTDC RH.	100 Km	Dy. Conservator of Forests, Buldhana	Dy. Conservator of Forests, Buldhana Ph.No.(07262) 242334	2
2. Ajantha, Shegaon, Dnyanganga, Botha,.	Ajantha, Shegaon.	PWD RH., Forest RH., MTDC RH. Bhakta Niwas	101 Km	--do--	--do--	2
3. Malkapur, Lonar, Shegaon, Sangrampur, Ambabarwa.	Malkapur, Lonar, Shegaon, Ambabarwa	PWD RH., Forest RH., MTDC RH.& Tourist Hotel	200 Km	--do--	--do--	5
4. Jaideo, Girda Budaneshwar, Nalkund, Nalganga, Paldhag Dam, Dnyanganga, Lonar, Mehkar, Khamgaon, Shegaon, Sangrampur, Ambabarwa Dharni.	Buldhana Dnyanganga, Lonar, Shegaon	PWD RH., , MTDC RH.& Tourist Hotel	300 Km	--do--	--do--	7