



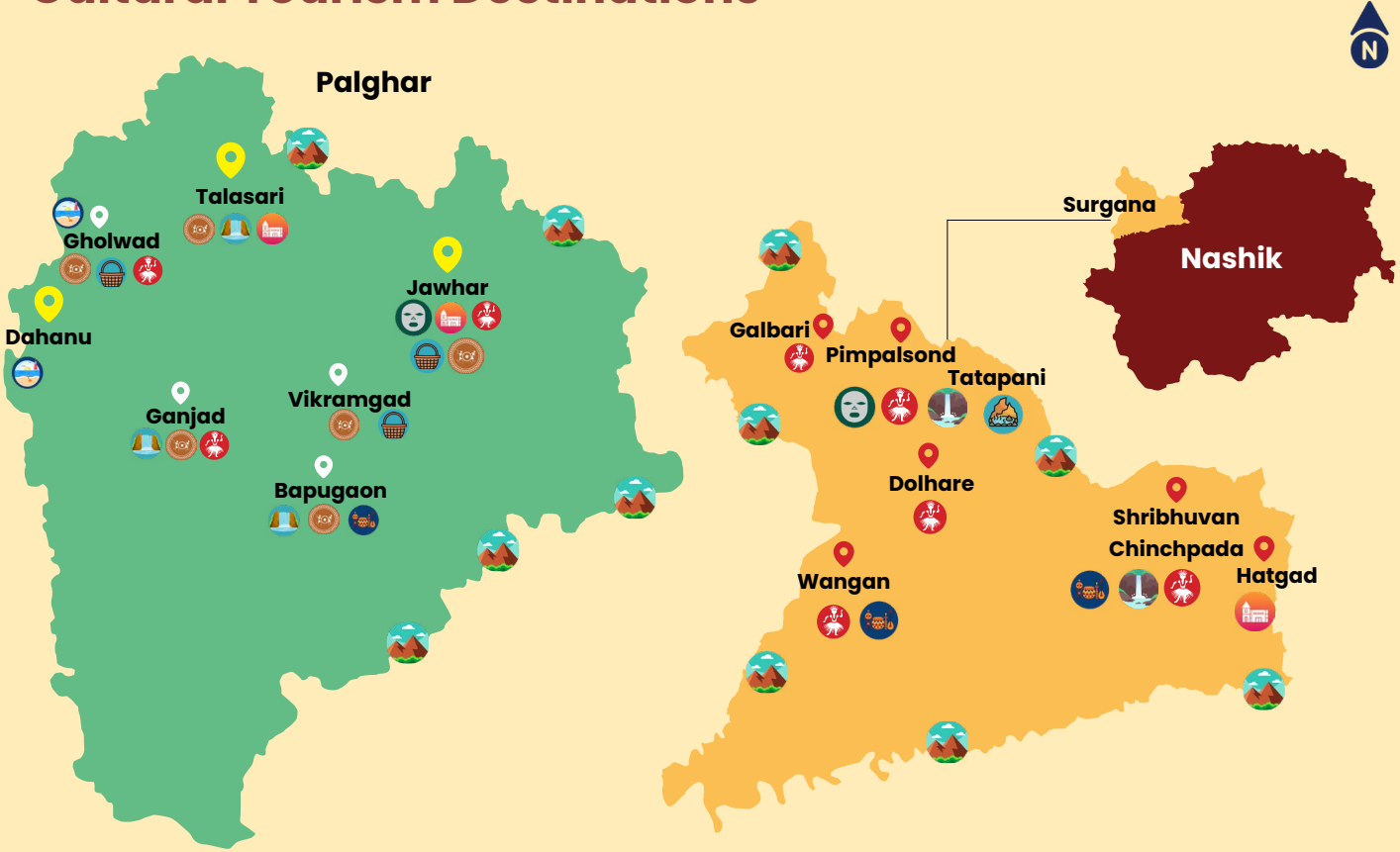
MAHARASHTRA TOURISM

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation,
Department of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra



Rhythms and Beats of Maharashtra's Tribal Heartland

Cultural Tourism Destinations



-  Folk Song & Dance
-  Warli Painting
-  Basketry
-  Folk Instruments
-  Seaside
-  Western Ghats
-  Bohada Mask
-  Dam
-  Fort
-  Water Falls
-  Hot Spring



Discover the Living Heritage of Maharashtra

Maharashtra unfolds as a rich mosaic of cultural landscapes where nature and culture exist in seamless harmony. Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) is developing Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) based experiential tourism in Palghar and Nashik districts. MTDC, in collaboration with local communities, invites visitors to experience these off-beat destinations as living, breathing cultural terrains. From Warli painting and the hypnotic rhythms of the Tarpa to the vibrant storytelling of Bohada masks, alongside diverse folk songs and dances performed with indigenous instruments, each encounter fosters a deep connection to land, people, and memory. Here, culture is not a curated display for audiences but a spontaneous expression of life—interwoven with farming, festivals, rituals, and everyday rhythms. Visitors are encouraged to immerse themselves in these community-led practices, witnessing traditions rooted in nature and seasonal cycles, and experiencing music shaped by the materials of the natural world.





Rhythms and Beats of Life

In Maharashtra's villages, folk songs and dances are not external performances but expressions deeply enmeshed with the rhythms of everyday life and belief systems. They emerge from lived experiences—echoing stories of migration, love, labour, and devotion, shared in intimate community spaces. Dances accompany the cycles of sowing and harvest, mark festivals, and honour life's milestones, while music flows from instruments crafted out of gourds, bamboo, and earth. To witness these traditions is to step into a living rhythm, where community, nature, and culture move as one—unfolding not for an audience, but as an integral expression of life itself.

PALGHAR

Rhythms of the Coast and Forest

Palghar's traditions are shaped by its forests, fields, and coastal life. Dance and music here celebrate harvest, devotion, and community unity.

What to Experience in Palghar



Tarpa Nritya

A circular dance guided by the Tarpa wind instrument, performed during harvest and Diwali, celebrating nature, unity, and rhythm across the district.



Gavari Nritya

A joyful harvest dance dedicated to Goddess Gavari, accompanied by dhol beats and ghungru, resonates across Palghar.



Kambadi Nritya

A sacred ritual dance invoking rain and prosperity, performed with devotion and dramatic storytelling. Visit Nikane, Aswali, Dhaniwadi, Haladpada villages in Dahanu taluka and Shiroshi village of Jawhar taluka to experience the vibrant tradition.



Ghor Nritya

A travelling ritual dance before Diwali, where communities move from village to village in celebration and offering. Experience this tradition in Dharampur village.



Nandi Nritya

Dedicated to Nandi, the vahana of Shiva in the form of the divine bull, this dance celebrates the union of Shiva and Parvati in the Nangadmoda village of Jawhar.



Hodi Nritya

Visually striking masked and symbolic dances that bring myths, journeys, and deities to life. Hodi is in heart of Saiwan near Bapugaon.



Dhol Nritya

Driven by the powerful rhythm of the dhol drum, this energetic dance accompanies festivals and celebrations, expressing collective joy and cultural pride.

Signature Experience: Dance the Tarpa Circle

Stand within a moving circle of dancers as the Tarpa guides every step. Crafted from a dried gourd, bamboo, and beeswax, this traditional wind instrument leads the rhythm while dancers move in flowing circular formations led by a dancer carrying the Ghor Kathi.

The same circular motion appears in the geometric patterns of Warli paintings, reflecting the deep connection between dance, art, nature, and community life.





A Living Museum of Palghar

As you explore this cultural landscape, begin your journey at the Palghar Lok Itihas Sangrahalaya—a living museum at Gholwad that offers an introduction to the region's rich heritage. Housed in a historic school building dating back to the 1880s, it brings together the diverse cultural expressions of Palghar through thoughtfully curated displays.

Visitors can explore Warli painting alongside Bohada masks, bamboo craft, traditional Tarpa instruments, and folk music and performance traditions. The museum also features sections on local Parsi heritage and renowned artists of the region, along with everyday objects from rural life—many generously contributed by community members.

More than a repository of objects, the Sangrahalaya is a space of memory and continuity—where stories of the land and its people come alive. Located about 15 km north of Dahanu, Gholwad is well connected and has its own railway station.

NASHIK

Echoes of the Hills

In Nashik, traditions are deeply connected to monsoon cycles, agriculture, and spiritual life.

What to Experience in Nashik



Thakar Nritya

A monsoon dance marking the beginning of the sowing season. Performed in lively circles to the rhythms of traditional drums



Dongri Dev Nritya

A ritual dance offered to the hill deity. Powerful movements and intense drumming express devotion to the protector of the hills.



Dangi Nritya

A vibrant dance known for striking red and yellow costumes. Dynamic footwork and energetic formations make it visually captivating.



Pawri Nritya

A graceful dance guided by the melody of the Pawri wind instrument. Its haunting tunes lead dancers during rituals and celebrations, it is performed across the district.



Madal Nritya

Performed in synchronised pairs, Madal Nritya features dancers dressed in white with colourful waist decorations and ghungru on their backs.



Bagh Pawri Nritya

Dancers dressed in costumes made of twigs and natural fibres evoke the presence of the tiger. The performance celebrates the close relationship between forest communities and wildlife.

Signature Experience: Bohada Mask Festival

Enter a world of myth, movement, and night-long performances. Dancers wearing large masks of gods, spirits, and animals transform village spaces into vibrant theatres of ritual and storytelling.

Held annually between March and May

Visit Pimpalsond village in Surgana taluka to meet the Bohada mask makers.



Discover the Instruments of the Land

Music here is shaped by nature.

- Wind: Tarpa, Pawri
- Percussion: Dhol, Dhak, Manjeera
- String: Ghangli

Watch artisans craft these instruments and experience their sound in live performances.



The Living Legend

Padma Shri **Bhikya Ladakya Dhinda** of Jawhar stands as a living maestro of the Tarpa tradition. A master performer and skilled instrument maker, he continues to nurture this unique musical heritage by training younger generations, ensuring that the rhythm and spirit of Tarpa endure.

Living Songs – Voices of Memory

Across villages, songs preserve collective memory:



Dera Geet
sung with earthen pots and peacock feathers



Thali Badya
rhythmic metal plate performances



Dhak Badya
poetic exchanges of humour and wisdom



Tipri Geet
devotional songs to local deities



Navigate & Connect

Celebrating Continuity

Folk dance and music traditions continue to thrive as living cultural expressions, celebrated during festivals such as the **Mateehya Rangacha Sammelan** and **Nashik ICH festival**, where evening programmes bring together performances by local troupes across the region. Dances such as Tarpa, Pawri, Ghor, Madal, Gavari, Kambadi, Bagh Pawri and Sambhal reflect deep connections to agrarian life, seasonal rhythms, and collective celebration.

These gatherings highlight the continuity of the region's performative heritage, as younger generations observe, participate, and learn alongside experienced performers—ensuring that these vibrant traditions continue to be shared, practiced, and reimagined for the future.

Artist Contacts

Palghar

- Bhiklya Ladakya Dhinda – 876733352
- Ganpat Bhujad – 9637341935
- Vitthal Korda – 9284604662
- Shantaram Belkar – 9209876219
- Shankar Borsha – 7020771225
- Rajendra Mahale – 8010394175
- Jaganath Arjun Khapade – 9021455753
- Sita Ganpat Gavit – 7066110049

Nashik

- Laxman Bangal – 9651526023
- Bhaurav Bangal – 9370011716
- Ganpat Gavit – 9405783465
- Gulab Mhase – 7821810500
- Mukund Padavi – 9689039040
- Sravan K. Gavit – 8080512123

Plan Your Visit

Best Time

Monsoon, harvest season, and spring festivals

Suggested Experiences

- Join a Tarpa dance circle
- Attend Bohada festival
- Listen to traditional song gatherings
- Visit the Community Museum
- Interact with artists and musicians

Duration

1-2 days recommended

Access

Palghar: Dahanu is approx. 120-140 km from Mumbai by road/rail. Jawhar is 80 km from Dahanu by road.

Nashik: Easily accessible from Mumbai by road and rail, approx. 165-180 km. Surgana is 95 km from Nashik Road and 90 km from Valsad.

Enjoy the beauty of Palghar & Nashik and stay in charming farmhouses & homestays, experiencing the calm and rhythm of rural life.



Discover a Maharashtra Where Culture Lives

For Curators & Cultural Organisations

- Invite traditional ensembles
- Commission community-led performances
- Host workshops and residencies



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ich@maharashtratourism.gov.in