



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



Flip the Lens

Explore the Hidden Gems of
Palghar and Nashik in Maharashtra

About the Project

The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) has undertaken a unique initiative to develop cultural heritage-based experiential tourism in the districts of Palghar and Nashik, creating opportunities for travellers to discover living traditions through meaningful, community-led experiences. The initiative covers Dahanu and Jawhar talukas in Palghar and Surgana taluka in Nashik, bringing together a rich range of traditional cultural practices, including Warli painting, Bohada mask-making, bamboo craft, folk songs and dances, alongside the landscapes, stories and everyday life of the communities that sustain them. At the heart of the initiative is a community-centred approach to tourism, where local communities are not simply custodians of heritage or performers for visitors, but active participants in shaping tourism experiences. The initiative seeks to create a deeper connection between visitors and local communities while opening new avenues for livelihoods, cultural visibility and the continued transmission of living heritage.





What Visitors Can

Experience

- Engage hands-on with traditional art & craft practices through artist-led workshops
- Explore villages, farmlands, orchards and cultural landscapes through community-led experiences
- Purchase authentic handcrafted products directly from local artists
- Savour local flavours and traditional recipes
- Experience hiking, nature walks and waterfall trails across the region's hills and forests
- Try foraging and learn about indigenous plants, food and ecological knowledge from local communities
- Discover the region's historic and architectural splendour

Palghar

Culture, Coast and Community

Just two hours from Mumbai, Palghar is an ideal offbeat escape where nature, heritage and community experiences come together. In Dahanu, discover the heart of Warli painting in the villages of Ganjad and Bapugaon. Wander through the chikoo orchards of Bordi, hear inspiring stories from the women of Gholwad, and witness the artistry of bamboo craft. Along the coast, explore serene beaches, traces of Parsi heritage and architecture, and local coastal flavours. Further inland, the tranquil hill landscapes of Jawhar unfold through villages such as Sakharshet and Vanvasi, where folk songs and dances, historic forts and palaces, and vibrant community traditions invite travellers to experience Palghar through its people, landscapes and living heritage.



Nashik

Hills, Heritage and Harmony

Nestled in the Western Ghats, Surgana in Nashik offers an offbeat journey through misty hills, lush valleys, waterfalls and rich living traditions. The landscape invites exploration—from hiking to the historic Hatgad Fort to discovering the intricate art of Bohada mask-making in Pimpalson. In Shrihuban, the rhythmic energy of Thakar Nritya offers an immersive encounter with a cultural tradition passed down through generations, while the natural hot-water spring of Tatapani adds another dimension to the experience. Here, nature and culture unfold together, offering travellers an opportunity to move beyond conventional sightseeing and discover the landscapes, stories, crafts and community traditions that make Surgana truly distinctive.





Warli painting

Warli painting is a Geographical indication certified distinctive tribal art tradition of Maharashtra, rooted in the everyday life, rituals and worldview of the Warli community. Traditionally painted on mud walls using a simple white pigment made from rice paste, its characteristic geometric forms—circles, triangles, squares and lines—depict farming, animals, nature, village life, celebrations and ritual practices. More than a decorative art form, Warli is a visual language through which communities express their relationship with nature, society and the cycles of life. travellers an opportunity to move beyond conventional sightseeing and discover the landscapes, stories, crafts and community traditions that make Surgana truly distinctive.

Cultural Hubs: Ganjad and Bapugaon in Dahanu (Palghar) are living cultural hubs of Warli art, where the tradition continues to be practised, taught and experienced within the community. In Ganjad, associated with the renowned Warli artist Padma Shri Jivya Soma Mashe, visitors can meet artists and experience the art in its living context, while Bapugaon offers an immersive setting where Warli painting exists alongside traditional music, dance and other cultural practices.



Bamboo craft

Bamboo craft is among humanity's oldest craft traditions, with communities across Maharashtra continuing to transform this versatile natural material into a wide range of utilitarian objects. Traditionally used to make baskets, storage containers, agricultural implements and household articles, bamboo craft is now also evolving into new forms and products, as artists experiment with contemporary designs while retaining traditional skills and techniques.

Cultural Hubs: Gholwad in Dahanu and Ramnagar in Jawhar (Palghar) are important hubs of bamboo craft, where skilled artisans continue to transform bamboo into both traditional and contemporary products. For visitors, these villages offer an opportunity to meet bamboo artists, discover the versatility of the material, witness traditional techniques and experience a living craft tradition that is evolving through creativity, enterprise and community-led practice.



Bohada mask

Bohada is a traditional ritual theatre of the tribal communities of Maharashtra, bringing together masks, music, dance and performance in vibrant community celebrations. At its heart are the distinctive handcrafted masks representing deities, mythological figures, animals and demons, each brought to life through performance and storytelling. Associated with annual village festivals which take place between March-May, Bohada is more than a theatrical spectacle—it is a living cultural practice through which communities transmit stories, beliefs, artistic skills and collective memory across generations.

Cultural Hubs: Pimpalson in Surgana (Nashik) and Ramkhind in Jawhar (Palghar) are important hubs of Bohada mask-making, where artisan families have practised the craft across generations. Visitors can meet these makers, witness the painstaking process of mask-making and discover the stories and traditions embodied in each mask, experiencing Bohada as a living heritage that connects craft, ritual, performance and community.



Folk song & dances

Folk songs and dances are integral to the social and cultural life of tribal communities across Palghar and Nashik, accompanying festivals, rituals, celebrations, agricultural activities and other occasions of collective gathering. Palghar is known for vibrant traditions such as Tarpa, Hodi, Ghor and Kambadi dances, while Nashik's Surgana pulsates with the rhythms of Thakar, Dangi and Pawri dances, among others. Performed to the sounds of indigenous instruments such as the Tarpa, Pawri, Dhol, Sambhal, these traditions celebrate community harmony, collective identity and the shared spirit of togetherness, while keeping oral histories, stories and cultural knowledge alive through movement and music.

Cultural Hubs: Villages such as Sakharshet and Vanvasi in Jawhar (Palghar) and Shribhuvan Chinchpada and neighbouring villages including Barda, Dolhare and Galbari in Surgana (Nashik), are important hubs where these vibrant traditions continue to thrive. Visitors can experience live performances, meet local musicians and performers, discover indigenous instruments and engage with the songs, rhythms and stories that form an integral part of community life.

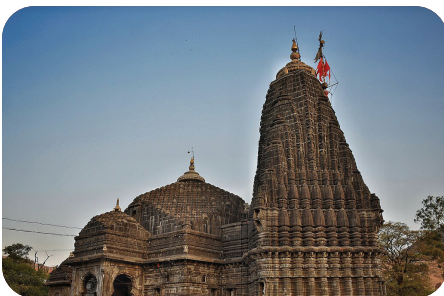
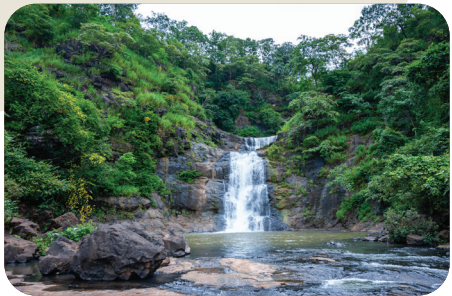
Attractions in Palghar

- **Living heritage** including Warli painting, bamboo craft, Bohada masks, and tribal song & dance
- **MTDC Palghar Lok Itihas Sangrahalaya, Gholwad** – Discover a community museum in Gholwad village that brings together the region's living heritage, cultural traditions, crafts, stories and everyday life.
- **Serene Beaches** – Experience the tranquil coastline of Dahanu, Bordi and Chinchani, with long stretches of shoreline and peaceful seaside landscapes.
- **Historic Forts & Palaces** – Explore Asherigad, Gambhirgad and Tarapur Fort in Dahanu, and discover the royal heritage of Jawhar through Jai Vilas Palace and the Old Palace.
- **Natural & Water Landscapes** – Discover Palghar's diverse natural beauty through Bhimbandh, Surya Bandh and Kurze Dam, and enjoy the scenic surroundings of Sakhare Dam, Dhamni Dam and Kavadas Dam. The landscape is further enriched by the expansive chikoo orchards of Dahanu, reflecting the region's distinctive agricultural heritage.
- **Spiritual Heritage** – Visit the revered Mahalaxmi Temple, an important spiritual and cultural landmark of the region.



Attractions in Nashik

- **Living heritage** including Bohada masks, and tribal song & dance
- **Historic Forts** – Trek to Hatgad Fort in Surgana, a historic hill fort set amidst the dramatic landscapes of the Western Ghats, offering panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys.
- **Natural & Water Landscapes** – Explore the scenic beauty of Surgana's misty hills, lush forests, valleys and waterfalls, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Western Ghats. Discover Sakhalchond Waterfall and experience the natural hot-water spring at Tatapani, with opportunities for hiking, nature walks and immersive outdoor experiences.
- **Spiritual Heritage** – Visit the revered Trimbakeshwar Temple and Saptashrungi Temple, important pilgrimage sites deeply connected with the spiritual and cultural heritage of the region.



Meet the Artists

Meet the artists who keep these living traditions alive. They invite you to step into their villages, discover their art forms, hear the stories behind their practices and experience their skills first-hand.

Artist Name	Contact	District	Art / Craft Form
Kishor Mhase	8975391497	Palghar	Warli Painting
Anil Vangad	8087980681	Palghar	Warli Painting
Shantaram Ghorkhana	8087972762	Palghar	Warli Painting
Ramesh Hengadi	9226193016	Palghar	Warli Painting
Vijay Mhase	9503440082	Palghar	Warli Painting
Pravin Mhase	9011622110	Palghar	Warli Painting
Padma Shri Bhiklya Dhinda	8767333572	Palghar	Folk Song & Dance
Ganpat Bujad	9637341935	Palghar	Folk Song & Dance
Vitthal Korda	9284604662	Palghar	Folk Song & Dance
Shantaram Belkar	9209876219	Palghar	Folk Song & Dance
Shankar Borsha	7020771225	Palghar	Folk Song & Dance
Rajendra Mahale	8010394175	Palghar	Folk Song & Dance
Sita Ganpat Gavit	7066110049	Palghar	Folk Song & Dance
Yamuna Surti	9284052432	Palghar	Bamboo Craft
Kanchan Surti	9373441080	Palghar	Bamboo Craft
Nilisha Surti	8652144968	Palghar	Bamboo Craft
Kinjal Surti	8956407970	Palghar	Bamboo Craft
Aruna Surti	9765529917	Palghar	Bamboo Craft
Bhavna Mayavanshi	9359418069	Palghar	Bamboo Craft
Laxman Bangal	9651526023	Nashik	Folk Song & Dance
Bhaurav Bangal	9370011716	Nashik	Folk Song & Dance
Ganpat Gavit	9405783465	Nashik	Folk Song & Dance
Uttam Gavit	9637128860	Nashik	Folk Song & Dance
Gulab Mhase	7821810500	Nashik	Folk Song & Dance
Mukund Padavi	9689039040	Nashik	Folk Song & Dance
Shivaram Chaudhari	7588486110	Nashik	Bohada Mask-Making
Ratan Chaudhari	9423070792	Nashik	Bohada Mask-Making
Dipak Chaudhari	7262870513	Nashik	Bohada Mask-Making



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