

>> With Jumpstart you can have a fun-filled trek as well as meet new people with similar interests. For a weekend of fun, contact: Akul: 9819726688 Dhiren: 9619793983 or Ryan: 9920263810

Last week we started you off with a few of the best weekend trekking spots.

**Rhea Dhanbhoora** talks to **Jumpstart** about where else we can run away to over the weekend in our second installment of trekking destinations



# Tricks of the trek

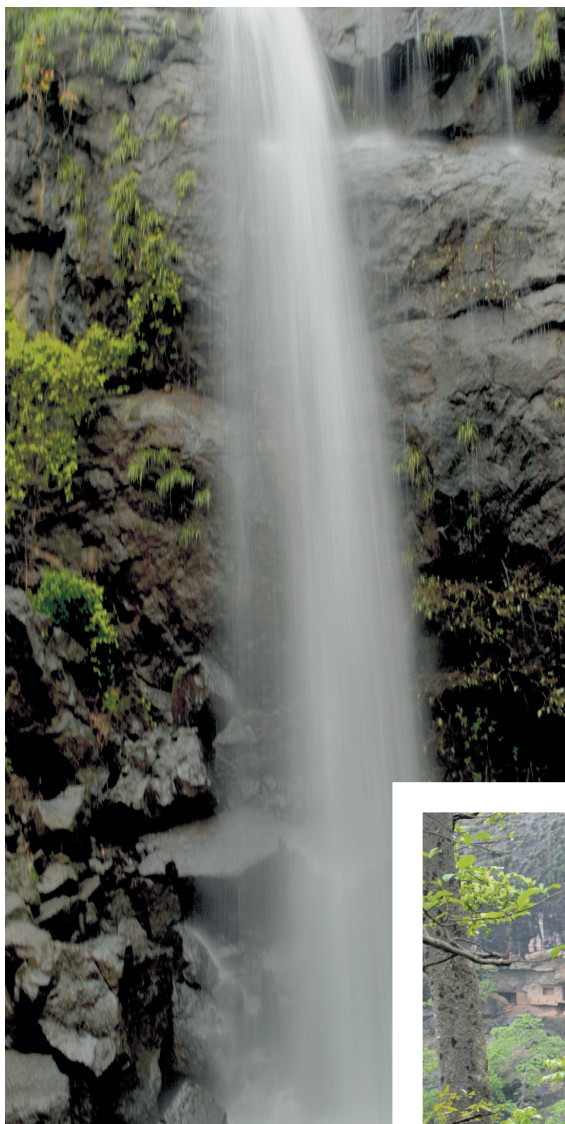


Photo Credit: Akul Tripathi

## HARISHCHANDRAGAD

**Difficulty:** Difficult; 2 days

**What:** Harishchandragad is situated at the top of Malshej Ghat and is about 91km from Kalyan. It is essentially a two-day trek and you can stay in the caves overnight without hassle as they are clean and very well maintained.

**You'll experience:** The major attraction of Harishchandragad is Kokan Kada. It is an enormous horseshoe shaped cliff, which falls into an expansive valley. Taramati and Rohidas are 2 peaks at the top of Harishchandragad which are also worth visiting.

## TIKONA

**Difficulty:** Easy; 1 day

**What:** Tikona (also known as Vitandgad), is a major hill fort in Maval in western India. It is located near Kamshet, around 60km from Pune. The 3,500 foot high hill is pyramidal in shape which is where the name Tikona originates. Jumpstart is planning a visit in July, so make sure you don't miss out.

**You'll experience:** You can witness the eye-catching view of Pawna Dam and

the forts at Visapat, Tung and Lohagarh. The fort encloses a lake, the Satvahan caves and also the temple of Trimbakeshwar Mahadev.

## TUNGARESHWAR

**Difficulty:** Easy; 1 day

**What:** It is one of the highest mountain plateaus in Vasai and is heavily wooded. After a 3km hike and a walk that takes you through two streams, you reach the Lord Shiva temple.

**You'll experience:** Tungareshwar is rich in flora and fauna. Warblers, Red-Vented Bulbuls and Crow-Pheasants will keep you company. Head down with Jumpstart this July.

## RAJMACHI

**Difficulty:** Moderate; 1 day

**What:** Located around 20km away from Lonavala, Rajmachi is a scenic trek to the twin forts named Manaranjan and Shrivardhan. The Shrivardhan fort has a lot of secret tunnels which were used to lead to battlements.

**You'll experience:** One major attraction here is the mammoth Indian squirrel. It

is a rare place where you can spot wild animals moving freely and without a care in the world in their natural habitat.

## KARNALA

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate; 1 day

**What:** Around 60km away from the city, near the Mumbai—Pune Highway to Goa lies the Karnala Bird Sanctuary. It's located at the bottom of the Karnala fort and is a great trekking destination.

**You'll experience:** Karnala is a paradise for bird watchers. Many species of birds such as Racket Tailed Drongo, Paradise Flycatcher, Magpie Robin, Red Vented Bulbul, Myna and Owl have significant populations here.

## BHIMASHANKAR

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate; 1 day

**What:** It is a beauty of the western Ghats and amongst the most beautiful wildlife sanctuaries in India. Jumpstart will be organising a trek here on July 16, so get in touch with them to get a taste of it.

**You'll experience:** Sightings of the state animal of Maharashtra — Giant squirrel or Shekru — are plentiful here.



>> Treks with Jumpstart will let you witness beautiful waterfalls (left), experience the Thanale Caves (middle) and catch the breathtaking view from the cliffs at Harishchandragad (right)