

HOME AWAY FROM HOME



A Date with *History!*

Of mystique and beauty, ethnicity and charm, tradition and love for the nation, the Fort Jadhavgad in Pune beckons...

Impressions: Kannagi Desai
Images: Prachi Damle

The story of Fort Jadhavgad starts from a man who embodied substance and strength, Pilaji Jadhavrao. Not only did he rise to fame as the Maratha general in the army of Chhatrapati Shahuji, but also proved his mettle each and every time someone dared to challenge the supremacy of the Maratha ruler. Stories of his valour and swordsmanship are legendary. And it is this legacy — heroic and traditional — that Fort Jadhavgad strives to keep alive. No wonder then that you are accorded a traditional welcome here, replete with drum beats and turturi tones while you down a cool welcome drink and bask in the warmth of the staff.



Rustic charm and ethnicity is the USP of Fort Jadhavgadh, along with a beautiful view and heart warming hospitality





THE EXPANSE

Spread over 25 acres, Fort Jadhavgad covers two acres of the property. The landscaped lawns can accommodate upto 5,000 guests. The restoration of the Fort was conducted by Dr Vithal Kamat and Vishal Kamat in 2007. And this was

indeed a challenge! The 300-year-old rain water harvesting system or the various dungeons that were suddenly discovered were just a few of the elements that were worth preserving. For the Kamats, it was an educational experience which now makes them confident enough





to take up other such projects under the Gadh Heritage Brand like their hotel in Puri, Fort Mahodadi.

CONTEMPORARY TRADITION

The idea behind the décor is to depict the traditional royal Maratha brilliance of the time. Keeping in mind guests and their contemporary needs, the rooms were redesigned to ensure that while the feel of the hotel remains traditional, it still incorporates all modern amenities. There are 57 rooms including 12 royal tents which are fully air conditioned, four Neem Forest Wooden Cottages and 41 rooms and suites in the Fort, including the King's and Queen's chambers, the Maharaja and Maharani Suites

and the Museum Suite. Equally impressive are the Rain Shower Suites, and the Corner Suites provide an amazing wide angle view of the land surrounding the fort! The Maharaja and Maharani suites are at the pinnacle of the Fort and offer a 360 degree view of the entire region.

FOOD FESTS

The food here is also a throwback to another era. The All Day Dining - Chajja Restaurant, was originally meant for in-house guests but is now frequented by walk-ins as well. This, of course is testimony to the delicious fare as well as the balcony where the king and his court would sit and spend hours on end. Quite a vantage point!





Under the trees safe within the fort is an open air restaurant called Aangam. Nestled under the trees with a constant gentle breeze, one cannot help but tune in to a variety of birds that chirp and look at you while you are dining. Payatha, is an ethnic restaurant at the foothills of the Fort. It serves authentic

Maharashtrian cuisine and is popular for the weekend mela brunch that is themed around a village party.

REJUVENATION

The spa, funnily called the Akhada (gymnasium), overlooks the 100-year-old Champa and Neem trees which are





situated right in the middle of the pool, providing shade to happy swimmers. The blue waters provide for a soothing view while you're relaxing with a lovely massage...

USP

The Fort also boasts a one-of-a-kind museum, which stands where once horse and elephant stables were situated. The museum is dedicated to "Mothers and womanhood" and is called AAI (Mother in Marathi).

"It has a wide variety of house hold artefacts from eras gone by and is the personal collection of my father Dr Vithal Venkatesh Kamat, which he has collected for over 40 years," says Vishal Kamat, CEO, Kamat Hotels India Limited. "It's a treat to see people come all the way from Kolhapur and Baramati to see this."

A weekend tinged with history, tradition and hospitality... What more could one ask for!



GETTING THERE

- After exiting the Mumbai-Pune expressway, keep driving on the Pune – Satara bypass road. Do not take the flyover to Satara.

- Go straight towards the Kondwa Road, till you reach the Phursungi (Pune)-Saswad Road and then

turn right. Landmark – HP Petrol Pump - Mantarwadi Phata.

- Keep on this road as it climbs past the historical Dive Ghat, at the end of the Ghat you will see signs pointing you to Fort Jadhavgad on your right. Take the right turn and the Fort would be on your left.



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