

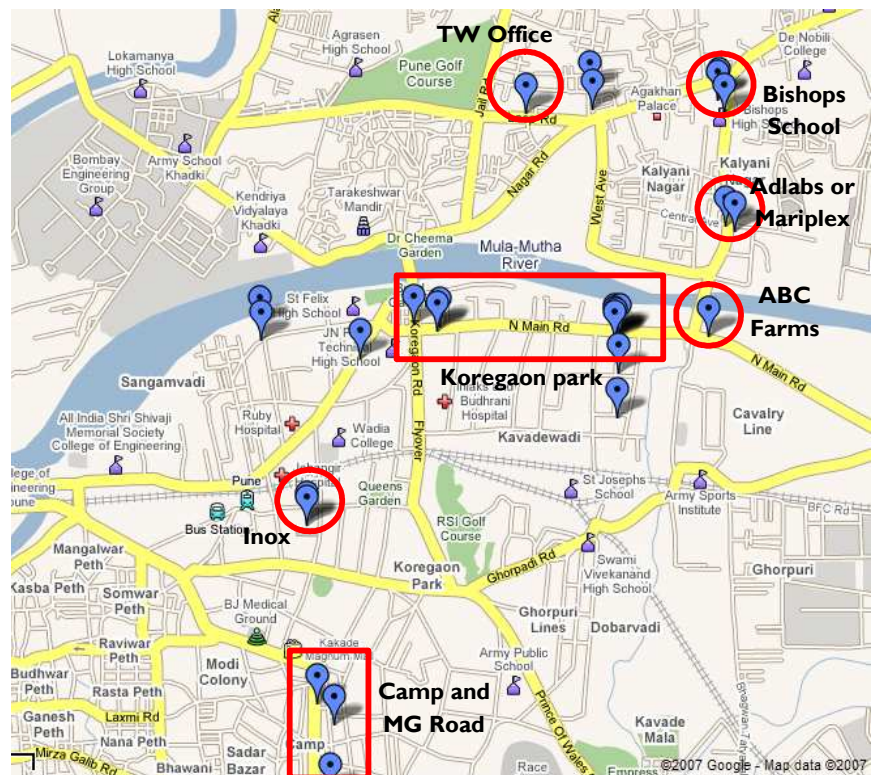


Getting out and about around Pune

Introduction

Your independence is important and moving to a new city, especially in India can be overwhelming. We hope that this guide gives you a bit more information on getting around some of the areas in Pune and gives you some helpful tips.

As always, if you discover something that you think other traveller's could benefit from, please let me know (pkua@thoughtworks.com) and I'll update this document. We'll go through each section in more detail below.



Some conventions in this document

We've tried to break this several different areas and make it logical enough for first time visitors to find things (with some tips for what to tell a rickshaw driver). We haven't updated this with approximate prices for rickshaw drivers. Things in **bold** highlight names of things that might be important.

Things in boxes like these are places where we've been personally and our description of what we thought they were like.

Map

The map that will continue to grow and is available using <http://tinyurl.com/2gzylr> and points to: <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=104429962170361876967.0004404e17b20a9a37c98&om=1&ll=18.534874,73.896961&spn=0.051106,0.093555&z=14>

Some Basics

Catching a rickshaw

It's best to convince the rickshaw driver about putting on the meter. The current rate for a rickshaw ride is the number on the meter x 6 + 2. So if you have 3 on the meter – it'll be 18 + 2 = INR20.

Most rickshaws, especially around the office, Koregaon Park or the Hermes will negotiate with you. Rickshaw prices between the office and Koregaon Park by meter average around INR30. Beware of those asking for INR100 – even if you bargain them down 50%, you're still paying too much.

At nighttime, rickshaw rates increase 50% between midnight and 5am.

There is no such thing as a return fee, they might ask you for a little extra, it's not legal and it's not always paid.

Watching What Food To Eat

Avoid drinking tap water and always ask for "Mineral Water". Mineral water should come in a plastic bottle. Ensure the cap is still sealed when you open it – beware those that are already open as some people may fill them with tap water. Watch out for salads or greens that have been washed with the local water.

Your best bet for a short stay is to stick with freshly cooked foods or hot foods where possible. It's also probably a good idea to ask for drinks without ice.

When you get sick

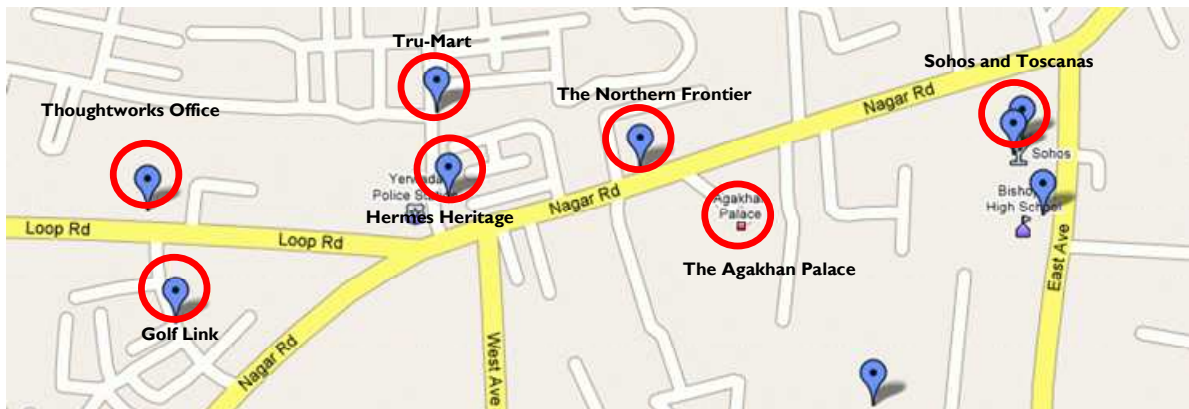
Some people tend to be affected by the local food more than others. If you do have stomach upsets, ensure that you drink lots of water. The trainers have several options including rehydration powders though there's always a hospital/doctor visit if necessary.

TW Office and Bishop's School

You will find the Thoughtworks Office in the Tech Park with other companies such as IBM and HSBC. Although the map refers to Loop Road, rickshaw drivers will be unlikely to know that name. When trying to get back to the office, use **Yerewada (Ya – ra – va – da)** or **Don Bosco School** (it's right next door). Most rick drivers will know "**IBM in Yerewada**". Avoid just saying **IBM** since there are a few of them in Pune. Other ones you can try include "**IBM by Don Bosco School**".

Watch out for the fat guy in the white shirt who stands with a bunch of rickshaw drivers opposite the Tech Park. He's like the manager of a local cartel, speaks English extremely well and will often take over your negotiations with a rickshaw driver. Rickshaws are **always** cheaper if you walk away from the office a few hundred metres, flag a rickshaw down, or see a couple of rickshaw drivers by themselves. The drivers outside IBM will even cheat local people.

Further down the road is the **Hermes Heritage** that some rickshaw drivers will know about. Most people will know the street the Hermes is on so use that instead when catching a rickshaw. The Hindi name for the area is **Shastri Nagar**. Further down the street is a supermarket offering most types of things called **Tru-Mart**.



It's a little bit difficult to find some local restaurants around the Thoughtworks Office and the **Hermes Heritage**. You'll find a small number of street-side vendors though we can't really recommend them especially for foreigners to India. A better bet is to find restaurants that have a proper shop complex and we're slowly trying to build up a collection of them that are near the office. If you find anything very close to the office or to the **Hermes Heritage**, please let us know and we'll add it to this document. The closest decent restaurant is **The Northern Frontier**.

Communal bus-like rickshaws operate up and down **Nagar Road** (they don't go anywhere else). You can tell the difference since they look like a van converted into a rickshaw (and only go in one direction). Catch one heading away from the office (further down **Nagar Road**), and ask for **Bishop's School**. A normal rickshaw should also know where that is. Next to **Bishop's School** is an alley leading to two restaurants, **Sohos** and **Toscanas**.

The Northern Frontier - Fronted with a Canadian maple leaf sign, this restaurant serves North Indian cuisines. It's effectively one block away from the Hermes, and even does home delivery (though they don't have a home delivery menu). Most main dishes start at INR120 and go up to around INR200.

Sohos – Serves India food open all nights of the week. Apparently opens Thursday/Friday with a dance floor.

Toscanas – Serves a decent selection of Italian food. Pizzas have a thin and crispy base.

Aga Khan Palace

Open from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Aga Khan Palace is situated in the Yerawada area of Pune. Sultan Mohammed Shah, Aga Khan III, got the palace constructed in the year 1892. The aim behind the construction of the **Aga Khan Palace** was to provide employment to the people of the nearby areas, who were hit by famine. Prince Karim El Husseni, Aga Khan IV, donated the palace to India in 1969, in the honor of Gandhiji and his philosophy. **Aga Khan Palace** is also known as Gandhi National Memorial because of its close association with Mahatma Gandhi.

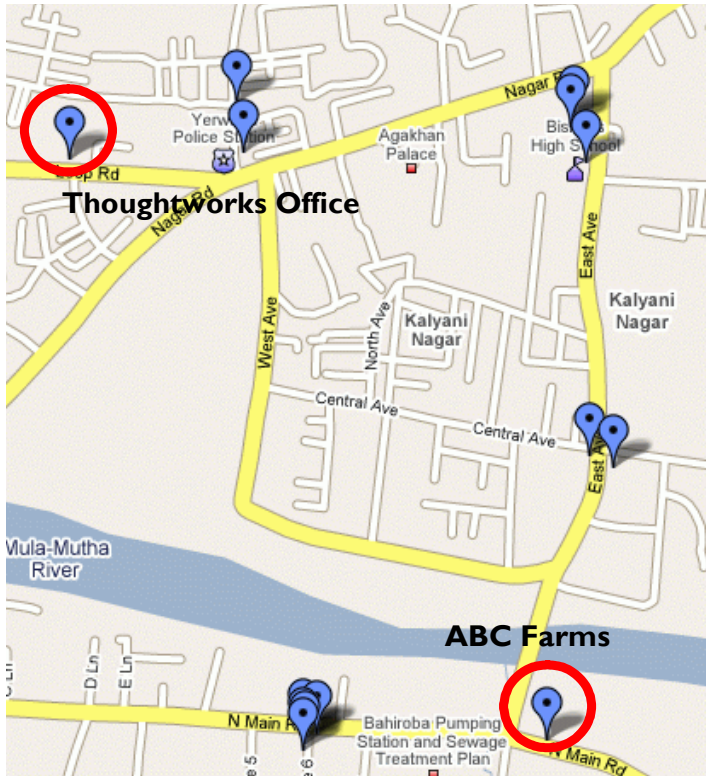
One of the major attractions of the **Aga Khan Palace** comprises of the samadhis (memorials) of Kasturba Gandhi (wife of Mahatma Gandhi) and Mahadev Desai (a long time aid of Mahatma Gandhi). Since both of them breathed their last in here, Charles Correa got their built samadhis in the grounds of the palace itself. Gandhi's ashes are also interred at the Gandhi National Memorial of Poona. Exhibitions are held at the palace on a regular basis to acquaint people with the life and career of Mahatma Gandhi. Get more information on the Gandhi National Memorial of Puna, India.

The palace served as the venue for the famous movie 'Gandhi'. Since 1980, the management of the museum, samadhis and campus of the **Agakhan Palace** is under the Gandhi Memorial Society. The museum inside the palace complex has rich collection of pictures, depicting almost all the important incidents in the life of Mahatma Gandhi. There is also a wide assortment of his personal items like utensils, clothes, mala, chappals (slippers), letter written by Gandhiji on the death of his secretary, etc.

Entrance to the Agakhan Palace is **INR100** for foreigners. For locals, it's **INR5**.

Extracted from Pune Tourism (<http://www.pune.org.uk/tourist-attractions/index.html>)

ABC Farms



ABC Farms is located at one end of Koregaon Park (just follow North Main Road away from the **German Bakery**).

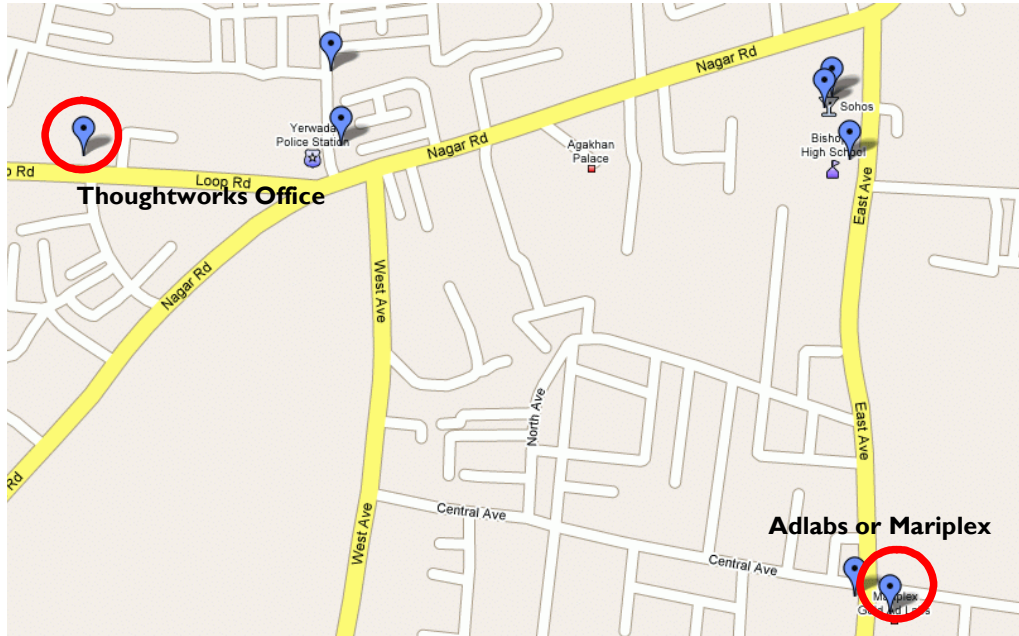
It's a very close rickshaw ride to the office.

It offers plenty of eating choices including **Shisha Café**, **Swiss Cheese Garden**, **Golconda**, **Curve**, **Soul**, **Parawara**, **Basho**, **La Fenice**, and **The Coffee Garden**. Just outside of ABC Farms (go back down the road a little bit is **Burger King**).

Shisha Café – Offering a combination between Iranian, Indian and continental foods offers a unique dining experience on couches where you can also buy flavoured Shisha (Hookah) to smoke.

Burger King – A budget restaurant where you'd have to eat a lot to spend more than INR100. This place offers a small selection of burgers including beef, veg and non-vegetarian options. Don't be confused with the American chain – this is an institution popular with students in Pune with a couple of branches around Pune.

Adlabs or Mariplex



Asking for **Adlabs** or **Mariplex** from a rickshaw driver will see you arrive at a small three-storied shopping complex. Inside you'll find a small fast-food court, with some foods perhaps a welcome change for Western stomachs. Opposite the complex on the corner, you'll find **Kalyani Restaurant** serving Indian food.

Places inside of Mariplex include **McDonalds**, **KFC**, **Yana Sizzlers & Wok** (on the second floor), **Yo! China**, **Subway**, **Baskin Robbins** (Ice Cream), **Dosa Plaza**, and several more. You'll also find a **Crosswords** (book store) and a **Gold Adlabs** (cinema).

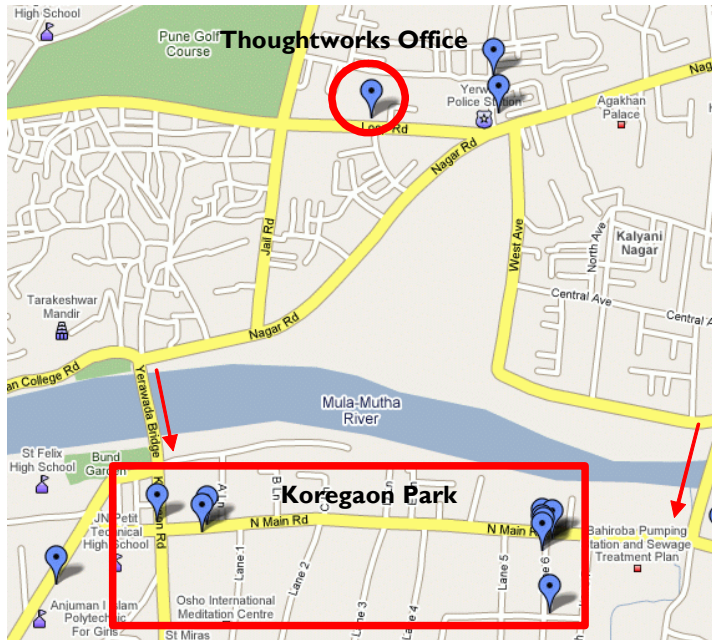
Gold Adlabs – Booking tickets before a show is recommended as some of them can sell out depending on the day you're visiting. Book tickets for this cinema at <http://www.adlabscinemas.com/>

KFC and McDonalds – One warning here for the foreigners. Just because it's not Indian food doesn't mean you're safe from food poisoning. We had a couple of students ill after eating at one of these joints.

Yo! China – Is very typical fast food Chinese. One foreign TWER called it "flavourless slime" though if you want fast food Chinese, it may suit your appetite. It's cheap (INR100) and do home delivery apparently.

Mariplex also has at least ATM that people from overseas have successfully used to withdraw money. You may need to contact your bank so that they authorise it for use in India.

Koregaon Park



Koregaon Park is made most famous by the **Osho Ashram** in the area. It's very quick to get to from the office, and as you can see from the map, it can be accessed from either bridge (left or right) so you have to be a bit careful about directions.

The area offers a lot of options though consider the Ashram's influence many of them can be quite westernised (and thus overpriced).

On one side of Koregaon Park is the **German Bakery**. Further up on the same side, you'll see a **Café Coffee Day**. Directly opposite it (on the other side of the road), you'll find a coffee/lounge place called **Moccha**.

There's also an **ICICI ATM** that actually works and we've highlighted this on the map.

The other end of the area probably offers a greater selection of restaurants. Asking for the **Pizza Hut** in Koregaon Park will put you in a great

place for walking around. To the right of Pizza Hut on North Main Road you'll find a **Café Coffee Day**. On top of the plaza is a **Bliss Bakery**. Walking from **Pizza Hut** down Lane 6 will see you find more eateries including **Paradise** (Indian), **Malaka Spice** (pan Asian including Thai, Indonesian, Chinese, Malaysian, Singaporean), **Bread Story**, **Prem's 2** (Indian, Chinese, English breakfast), and **Arthur's Theme** (French/continental). On the opposite corner of **Pizza Hut**, you'll find a local pizza chain, At the top of Line 5, you'll also find a **Standard Chartered ATM** that works most of the time.



Halfway between **The German Bakery** and the **Pizza Hut**, you'll find **Prem's**. Next door is **North Main** and on the corner is the **Sweet Chariot Café**.

The German Bakery – Does some fantastic omelettes, fresh juices, pastries, cakes, muffins muesli and fruit salads. They also offer take home products such as their muesli, cakes and pastries. They will be open Saturday and Sunday (I think they are open all week).

Malaka Spice – Offers a wide variety of pan asian cuisine. It has a great atmosphere, also selling some art work. Malaka Spice also offers home delivery.

Arthur's Theme – Loosely French influenced, this place serves some other continental foods as well. When we went they only had Budweiser beer and none of the local kingfisher beer.

Kiva – Located at the end of Lane 6, this lounge/bar offers a nice atmosphere to kick back and relax. Kiva does not have an entry fee. It is a lounge, with some old music.

Silk Route – Like Malaka Spice, this place offers pan asian cuisine and also expands to Japanese cuisine. We've been here for a welcome dinner before.

Naughtie Angel Café – A two storied small café offering shishas, and a small variety of café food including sandwiches, pasta, pizza, India, warps, salads and crepes. Food ranges from INR30-80.

Prem's – The first of two restaurants (the 2nd is next to **Malaka Spice**), Prem's is hidden behind the back of a shopping complex. It's supposed to be well known for its English breakfasts, opening up at 8:30am for them. They also serve a large selection of Indian foods. Prem's has a large alfresco dining area, some covered and other uncovered normally filling up before dusk.



Follow the backstreets down Lane 6 and at the next intersection, you'll find yourself at **Silk Route** (another pan Asian this time also including Japanese food). Head left at **Silk Route** from Lane 6 and you'll find **Naughtie Angel Café**. Head right from **Silk Route** and on your way to **Hotel Lotus**, you'll pass **The Great Punjab**, **Oriental Stir Kitchen** and just around the corner, **Squisto** (Italian). Heading back towards North Main Road up Lane 5, on your right, you'll find **Athena Lounge**.

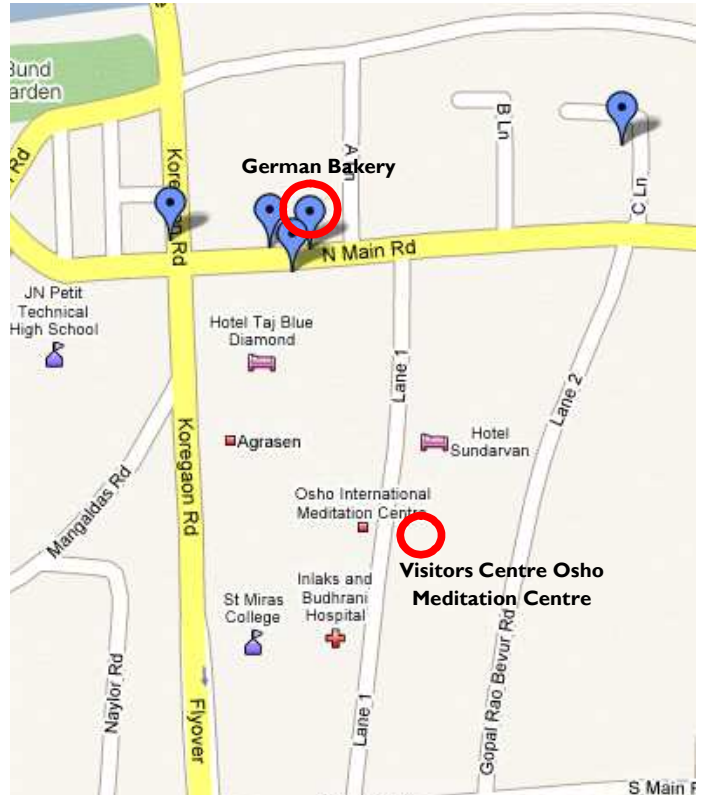
At the end of Lane 6 that intersects with Lane 9, you'll find the bar/lounge called **Kiva**. Down Lane 7, you'll find several other restaurants including **Natural Ice Cream**, **Koyla** (Hyderabadi), **Aangan** (Indian), **Peppercorn**, **Il Fungo Magico** (Italian) and **Herbs and Spices**.

Osho Meditation Centre

The Osho Meditation Centre (www.osho.com) is infamous and famous for lots of different reasons.

Visitor tours sell out very quickly. Normally it's better to buy them for the next day. Tours are INR10. The visitor's centre is open from 9am-1pm and 2pm-4pm every day. The first half is an audio/video tour and the second half is a silent walking tour. Two tours a day leave (9am-10am and 2pm-3pm).

If you intend on entering the Ashram as a visitor, you must pay a registration fee of **INR1300** that includes a HIV test as well as **INR600** for two robes that you must wear whilst inside.



Pune Central, Boat Club Road and DP Road

After you cross the bridge heading for Koregaon Park, turn immediately right and you'll soon see the shopping complex, **Pune Central**. Turning right will take you to **Boat Club Road** where you'll find a number of eateries in the **City Point** complex including **Mainland China**, **Sigree** and **La Dolce Vita**.

If you kept going straight past Pune Central, you'll find **La Pizzeria** (it's down a lane). You'll also find **Mama Mia Gelato** on the main road.

Continue down Bund Garden Road and you'll pass the Sun and Sand Hotel that has a number of restaurants including Kebab and Carrots and Celery. Almost directly opposite on the same street, you'll see Ashoka Mall. The seafood restaurant Krishna is apparently very popular.

Turn right off Bund Garden Road and you'll end up on DP (Dhole Patil Path). Heading back towards Mainland China off this street, you'll cross another area full of places for eating. Some of these include **Just Baked** (bakery), **SRK Restaurant** (Indian), **Ti Amo** (Gelato), **Tinku** (Indian & Chinese), **Chutney's** (Indian, Chinese, Tandoor), **Kuku da Parathas** (Punjab), **Dosa Plaza** (South Indian), **Ramu's Place** (Sizzler) and **Spice Garden** (Mediterranean, Indian and tandoori food).



Mainland China – Part of a chain, this place is locally known as one of the best quality Chinese restaurants. Though it still serves closer Indo-Chinese than real Chinese, some of the dishes are pretty good. They offer 10% off on take away but do not do home delivery.

Sigree – Much like the **BBQ Nation** you'll find in Bangalore, Sigree offers a buffet that starts with lots of kebabs. Each table has a place for a hot coal stove to sit to keep all the kebabs nice and fresh. They also have a buffet table for all sorts of other Indian dishes. Suits veg and non-veg.

Just Baked – Offers quite a lot of different breads, cakes and pastries. They even bake a lot of different breads including French loaves, Rye loaves and different croissants. A loaf of bread costs between INR30 and INR 70.

Ti Amo – Gelato. Italian ice cream. Not much to add here. Cones cost around INR45-50.

La Pizzeria – Just off the main road from Bund Garden Road, this Italian eatery offers a large selection of imported wines (starting at around INR1200). It's run by the same company as the **Little Italy** joint in Bangalore so is an all vegetarian restaurant. Strangely offers Mexican on their menu as well.

Shaniwar Wada



Shaniwar Wada is situated in Shaniwar Peth, near the railway station of Pune. It is a fort, whose foundation was laid down by Peshwa Bajji Rao in the year 1729-30. It took two years to complete the fort and later, many additions were also made to it by the successors of Bajji Rao. The amazing architecture of the fort speaks volumes about the competence of the Peshwas in the field of town planning. The entire complex of the **Shaniwar Wada** comprises of fountains, courtyards, blooming gardens, offices, audience halls and residential quarters.

A fire engulfed the fort in 1827 and lasted for approximately fifteen days.

The devastating fire led to the destruction of the beauty of the palace, along with all of its artifacts. All one can see now is the huge gate of the fort, with its outer stonewalls, bastions and small gates. The main gate is known as the Dilli Darwaja (Delhi Gate), while the other gates are known as Mastani or Alibahadur Darwaja, Khidki Darwaja, Ganesh Darwaja and Narayan Darwaja. However, Shaniwarwada Fort still counts amongst the major attractions of the Pune city of India.

Entrance to this fort is **INR100**. It is **INR50** for locals. It cost us **INR20** to get here from **Parvarti Hill**. Ask for Shaniwar Wada (Sha – ni – var – Va – da).

The city center inside the **Shaniwar Wada** of Pune serves as a reflection of how the fort originally looked like, before the fire broke out. On the walls of the fort, one can see paintings depicting scenes from the epics, Ramayana and Mahabharata. The sixteen-petal lotus-shaped fountain standing inside the Shaniwar Wada stands as a proof of the exquisite craftsmanship of those times. A light and sound is also held here everyday, between 7:15 pm and 8:10 pm in Marathi and between 8:15 pm to 9:10 pm in English.

All from <http://www.pune.org.uk/tourist-attractions/shaniwar-wada.html>

Lal Mahal

Lal Mahal (Palace), dating back to the year 1634, was constructed by Sahaji Bhonsale, Shivaji's father. When Sahaji received territories in Pune from Bijapur Sultanat, he sent his wife, Jijabai, and his son to the city and got the palace built as their residence. In 1998, Lal Mahal came under the management of Pune Municipal Corporation and underwent large-scale renovation. Read on to get more information about the Lal Mahal of Pune, India.



Lal Mahal has an impressive collection of Shivaji and Jijabai's pictorial representations, of which one shows young Shivaji plowing land with a golden plough and Jijabai and Guru Dadoji Konddev looking at him. The other major attractions of the Lal Mahal of Pune include four Umbrellas on its terrace and a statue of Jijabai. There is also a beautiful garden inside the palace complex, known as Jijamata Garden. Now the garden has been converted into a children's garden and is very popular amongst kids as well as senior citizens.

Information taken from <http://www.pune.org.uk/tourist-attractions/lal-mahal.html>

Laxmi Road

Taken from TripAdvisor:

"Laxmi" means wealth ... the name justifies". Laxmi road, Pune is about 3 km long having shops on both the sides. Typically if you are looking for cloths, garments ... yes Laxmi road is amazing place. For gold, silver jewellery again this is right place. You have ample choice, maximum variety. The name "Laxmi" perfectly suits this road. You can have a complete pleasure of shopping. The kind of busy place unfortunately the road itself is very narrow and highest traffic and pollution centre. It will be wise to avoid going by own vehicle (even 2 wheeler) on Laxmi road. Otherwise just enjoy shopping.

Parvati Hill

Parvati Hill and Temple are quite famous amongst the tourists visiting Pune. The hill is situated at a distance of approximately one km from Swargate and four km from Deccan Gymkhana. The picturesque beauty of the hill is what draws tourists here. Situated at a height of 2100 feet above sea level, Parvati hill boasts of a number of temples, considered to be the oldest heritage structures in Pune. These temples also serve as a reminder of the Peshwa rule in Pune. Read on to get more information on Parvati Hills & Temples of Pooana, India.

The hill provides an amazing view of the city below and is frequented by people who want to take a break from the maddening crowds of the city. As per the popular legend, it was at this spot that the Peshwa ruler

Balaji Baji Rao watched the British defeat at the Battle of Kirkee. One of the main attractions of Parvati Hill comprises of the temple of Parvati and Sedeveshwar, which dates back to the seventeenth century. It is said that Karnataka craftsmen carved the main idol of the Parvati temple out of gold.

However, this idol was stolen in 1932 and was replaced by a silver one. The other temples on the hill are those dedicated to Lord Kartikeya, Lord Ganesha, Lord Vishnu and Lord Vitthal. Parvati hill also boats of a museum, built as a commemoration of the Peshwa rule. The museum has a rich collection of portraits of the heroes of the Peshwa dynasty, old manuscripts, weapons, coins, etc. The Samadhi Sthan of Shrimant Nanaasaheb Peshwa is also situated near the museum.

Getting here from **Koregaon Park** cost us **INR70** at midday by the meter. Ask for **Parvati Hill** or **Parvati Temple**.

There's a great lookout costing **INR2** to look at. There's no railings because it's considered a heritage building and gives you a great way of looking out at Pune from different aspects.

Information above provided by <http://www.pune.org.uk/tourist-attractions/parvati-hills-temple.html>



MG Road

Most Indian cities have an MG Road (Mahatma Gandhi) that tends to be a main thorough fare for traffic and people.

Pune's MG Road is worth visiting on the weekend when the entire street is shut down as a pedestrian only street. Street stalls, kids rides and plenty of vendors hawk their wares in front of all the other stores on this road.

Be careful of arriving anytime just after lunch time (from 1pm – 4pm) as most of the stores will shut down for an afternoon siesta, reopening later for trading hours.

Pune's MG Road is much like the Commercial Street of Bangalore with big brand name stores mixed in with a number of smaller stores selling less expensive local merchandise.

Places to watch out for on MG Road include the large **Wonderland** complex, home to **Toons (The Café Down Under)**. Next to which you'll find the **Marz O Rin** bakery and directly opposite in the complex across the street the **Leather Lounge**. To the right of this complex, you can also find the **Bombay Store**, a more upmarket store with higher quality garments with accordingly matched prices. It's a great place to buy quality gifts and clothes.

Several ATMs are also located around this street and should be easy to spot walking up or down.

Other notable spots in the area include the **Kayani Bakery**, the **Thousand Oaks**, and though not exactly near MG Road, **Blue Nile**, directly opposite a **Shopper's Stop** shopping mall.

Marz O Rin – Is a well known bakery serving sandwiches, breads, cakes and biscuits. They serve (Australian) lamingtons for INR25 and offer plenty of other unique combinations of foods. Enjoy one of their unique shakes or lassis (highly recommended).

Toons – Best described as a sports music bar, this place located down a set of stairs, next to a very brightly lit store attracts students with its cheap beer and general atmosphere. During the weekend nights, expect to pay a cover charge (think of a pre-paid credit that you must spend) per head. They also serve very cheap food ranging from burgers, Chinese, Indian and some



varieties of fast food. Try the local beer, Amberro that is only available in the state of Maharashtra.

Kayani Bakery – Known for its Shrewsbury biscuits baked twice daily and disappear in an instant, this place is super busy most of the times. Lines are known to form well in advance in the mornings as people anticipate these.

Thousand Oaks – A large alfresco dining area, and an interior much like an English pub, this place serves Indian food in large quantities. The small TV in the bar shows European football games and are known to have a live band sometimes during the weekend. This place also offers home delivery.

Blue Nile – Well known for their delicious biryanis, expect to wait in line for a table, or head straight for the parcel (take away counter) for a 5% discount. Blue Nile serve a combination of Indian and Iranian food in three large dining rooms that remain constantly busy.
