



Courtesy: Google Images

High on Harihareshwar

Explore Harihareshwar that unfolds an irresistible combination of beaches, forests and hills

Most of the time when we plan for a weekend trip or a holiday visit, the first thing that comes to our mind is the choice of place. Should it be a place located near a seashore, a hill side or a vast expanse of forest cover? So how would it be if we get a place with a combination of all three! Sounds exciting; doesn't it? Harihareshwar, located just 230 km away from Mumbai in the Raigad district of Maharashtra is a place that is a combination of all the three!

The place is famous for the Harihareshwar temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva. No wonder this place is also called the Kashi of western India. Harihareshwar is where river Savitri meets the sea and is surrounded by four hills named after Lord Harihareshwar, Harshinachal, Bramhadri and Pushpadri. "When I heard about Harihareshwar it sounded like a spiritual place, but when I actually went there, I was amazed by its captivating beauty. I still wonder why this place is not famous," says Sanjay Jain, an MBA student.

Harihareshwar is less crowded unlike other holiday spots and the beach here is sparkling clean. "One can rent a Konkani hut at a rate of Rs 350 per day, although it is not easy to find accommodation as not many are into the business of renting," says Varun Kant, a law student. So booking a room in advance is more advisable, he advises. "Resorts are a bit expensive but with the kind of facilities they provide it seems quite reasonable," adds Daksh Singhal, an HR manager. If you are a sea food lover this place can be a paradise for you, states Singhal.

When you are done with the entire

sightseeing and enjoyed the food get some adrenaline rush by trying out the adventure sports available here like water scooter, boating and trekking. "After all days enjoyment, the tent house and bonfire at night in the midst of sea, forest and hills is one of the most soothing and romantic thing you will ever experience," recalls Pooja Tripathi, an MBA student.

So if you are searching for some new place to explore and don't want to end up going to a crowded place for your upcoming holidays, then Harihareshwar can be an ideal getaway!

Best time to visit:
Throughout the year

HOW TO GET THERE-

Airway: Nearest airport Mumbai and Pune.

Railway: Nearest railhead is Mangaon 65 kms.

Roadway: Mumbai-Harihareshwar approx. 230 kms via Panvel-Mangaon-Goregaon Phata on Mumbai-Goa Highway. Buses are available to reach Harihareshwar from Mumbai

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Fly Over Mumbai

Take a ride in the Pawan Hans helicopter and get a bird's eye view of Aamchi Mumbai



Courtesy: Google Images

One may have heard of the Mumbai *Darshan* organised by various travel and tourism agents which takes you all

around the city of Mumbai. But we have something exciting in store for you - the 'Pawan Hans' joy ride of Mumbai. Pawan Hans provides helicopter services for various purposes. From Bollywood stars to common man, the services can be hired by everyone.

The helicopter takes a round in the sky for one hour all over Mumbai. It starts from the Juhu aerodrome which is the base of the Pawan Hans in Mumbai. The ride then moves over to places like Borivali, Esselworld and the Gateway of India. It travels all above the Arabian Sea. In short it covers the entire expanse of the island city. It has a one-time capacity of 10 passengers along with the pilot and the co-pilot. This helicopter service has to be booked at least 2 to 3 days in advance.

Just imagine watching Mumbai from the top - those roads, beaches and the places we go



around everyday. The street lights seem like twinkling lights from the top. Everyday we see the stars in the sky from the earth but now it seems the sky is on the earth. It is just one amazing view which stays in your heart forever. "This joy ride is fun and really romantic. I booked it to propose to my girlfriend. It was the most memorable day of my life," said Mr Sawhney, a hotelier.

This joy ride costing Rs 1,41,500 for an hour, is a little heavy on the pocket. It is the same if there are 10 passengers or one. But still it is worth it, as it is truly a life time experience.

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