CRICKET in the CITY PUNE
Pune is a city that epitomises ‘New India’, with its baffling mix of capitalism, spiritualism, ancient and modern. Pune is also famous, or notorious, globally for its number-one export: the late guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and his ashram, the Osho International Meditation Resort.

TRANSPORT

GETTING THERE

- **Air:** The Pune airport has both domestic and international flights. There are daily flights connecting metros like New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and many more cities.
- **Train:** Major trains such as the Chennai Express, Deccan Queen, Hyderabad Express pass through Pune on a daily basis.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

- **Auto:** These can be found across the city and are the most convenient way to travel.
- **Bus:** Local buses connect different parts of the city. Fares range from ₹2–10.
- **Taxi:** Several radio taxis are available in the city. The fare varies from ₹10–20.

CONNECTIVITY

You’ll find several internet cafes along Pune’s main thoroughfares, and most major hotels also offer free wi-fi. Certain restaurants and cafes also may offer free wi-fi so check with them once.

Quick Facts

**STD Code:** 020

**Helpful Websites**

www.lonelyplanet.com/india/maharashtra/pune

www.maharashtratourism.gov.in

TOP TIP

The hill stations of Khandala and Lonavala are a popular getaway from Pune. They have been popular hotspots for fun and leisure. Some prefer to visit during the rains; but just about any weekend is fine for the hills remain busy with touristy activities. Don’t forget to chomp down a hot vada pav and follow it up with sweet and crunchy chikki.
**TOP EXPERIENCES**

✴️ **Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum**
This museum is one of Pune’s true delights, housing only a fraction of the 20,000-odd objects of Indian daily life painstakingly collected by Dinkar Kelkar (who died in 1990). The quirky pan-Indian collection includes hundreds of hookah pipes, writing instruments, lamps, entire doors and windows, kitchen utensils, furniture, puppets, jewellery, and an amazing gallery of musical instruments.

✴️ **Aga Khan Palace**
Set amid a wooded 6.5 hectare plot across the Mula River in Yerwada, the grand Aga Khan Palace (housing the Gandhi National Memorial) is easily Pune’s biggest crowd-puller. Built in 1892 by Sultan Aga Khan III, this lofty building was where the Mahatma and other prominent nationalist leaders were interned by the British for about two years following Gandhi’s Quit India resolution in 1942. Within the main palace, you can peek into the room where Gandhi used to stay. Photos and paintings exhibit moments in his extraordinary career.

✴️ **Shaniwar Wada**
The remains of this fortressed palace of the Peshwa rulers are located in the old part of the city. Built in 1732, Shaniwar Wada was destroyed in a fire in 1828, but the massive walls and plinths remain, as do the sturdy palace doors with their daunting spikes. In the evenings, there is an hour-long sound-and-light show.

✴️ **Pataleshvara Cave Temple**
Set across the river is the curious rock cut Pataleshvara Cave Temple, a small and unfinished 8th-century temple, similar in style to the caves at Elephanta Island.

✴️ **Osho International Meditation Resort**
You’ll either like it or hate it. A splurge of an institution, this ashram, located in a leafy, upscale northern suburb, has been drawing thousands of sanyasins (seekers). Apart from the teachings of its charismatic founder, the late Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, this uber-chic designer place allows meditation only for those who are guests at the resort.

**Tribal Cultural Museum**
This museum showcases artefacts from remote tribal belts. Don’t forget to check out the section featuring ornate papier-mâché festival masks.

THE OSHO INTERNATIONAL MEDITATION RESORT DRAWS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE; ©OSHO INTERNATIONAL MEDITATION RESORT
**ACCOMMODATION**

**OSHO MEDITATION RESORT GUESTHOUSE**
\[\text{66019900; www.osho.com; Koregaon Park; rooms from ₹7000}\]
This chic place will only allow you in if you come to meditate at the Osho International Meditation Resort. The rooms and common spaces are an elegant exercise in modern minimalist aesthetics with several ultra-luxe features, such as purified fresh-air supplied in all rooms.

**HOTEL RITZ**
\[\text{26122995; 6 Sadhu Vaswani Path; rooms from ₹2300}\]
Plush, friendly, atmospheric:

**HOTEL SUNDERBAN**
\[\text{26124949; www.tghotels.com; 19 Koregaon Park; rooms from ₹2900}\]
This renovated art-deco bungalow effortlessly combines classy antiquity with boutique appeal. The non-AC rooms in the main building have dated furniture. The pricier rooms are across the lawns, in a glass building.

**WESTIN**
\[\text{67210000; www.starwoodhotels.com; 36/3B Koregaon Park Annexe; rooms from ₹8900}\]
Sprawled out like a giant luxury yacht on Koregaon Park’s eastern fringes is this plush international-standard hotel, combining the best of luxury and leisure with impeccable service. The rooms offer lovely views of the river and city.

**HOTEL SRIMAAN**
\[\text{26136565; 361/5 Bund Garden Road; rooms from ₹2900}\]
A central location, free wi-fi, and a very good Italian restaurant, Little Italy La Pizzeria, earn this place plenty of points before you even step into the compact but luxurious rooms. The pricier rooms have lovely windows with green views outside.

**HOTEL HOMELAND**
\[\text{26123203; www.hotelhomeland.net; 18 Wilson Garden; rooms from ₹1050}\]
A surprisingly restful place, Homeland is very convenient to the train station. The labyrinthine corridors lead to rooms with freshly painted walls and clean sheets. The restaurant is good.
EATING

GERMAN BAKERY
North Main Road
Pune’s melting pot and once compulsory halt on the Koregaon Park backpacker trail, this long-running cafe has reopened after the fatal terrorist attack in 2010. It is known for its light, healthy snacks and a good range of cakes and puddings.

KALYANI BAKERY
6 East Street
A Raj-era institution that seems to be stuck in a time warp, where those in the know queue (in the loose sense of the word) for Shrewsbury biscuits, bread and Madeira cake.

COFFEE HOUSE
Moledina Road
A clean, coffee-coloured, almost art-deco retreat with booth seating, a huge inexpensive menu and satisfying filter coffee. Dishes include dosas and other South Indian creations, plus North Indian curries and Chinese.

MALAKA SPICE
North Main Road, Lane 5, Koregaon Park
This upscale alfresco restaurant serves good Southeast Asian fare that is given a creative tweak by its chefs. There are plenty of seafood dishes, such as the grilled kingfish in banana. The air-con section doubles as an art gallery. They also have outdoor seating.

DARIO’S
Hotel Sunderban, 19 Koregaon Park
This bistro serves only the best of Italian cuisine, made from a selection of local organic produce and rations flown straight in from Italy.

SHOPPING

PUNE CENTRAL
Bund Garden Road, Koregaon Park
This glass fronted mall is full of global labels and premium Indian tags.

LAXMI ROAD
This is mainly famous for its garment shops for all weathers and its purses. It is said that a trip to Pune is incomplete without a visit to Laxmi Road.

FERGUSSON COLLEGE ROAD
Referred to by locals as simply FC Road, this is one of the most sought after shopping places in Pune. A favourite among college students.

PUNE IS HOME TO MANY RESTAURANTS THAT OFFER A VARIETY OF DESSERTS; © LONELY PLANET IMAGES