



The scenic Arthur lake at Bhandardhara

# Bhandardhara beckons

Discover the picturesque hill station of Bhandardhara, nestled among the Sahyadri hills

One of the biggest concerns facing most tourist destinations in the world is the preservation of nature's ecological balance and conserving the natural resources of popular destinations. With increasing tourist traffic, there is an added pressure on land, natural resources and an increased use of plastics.

In Maharashtra, the hill stations of Matheran, Mahabaleshwar and Panchgani have been declared eco-sensitive zones. However, it is up to people who travel there to not only marvel at nature's beauty, force and serenity but also to preserve it.

Nestled among the Sahyadri hills, Bhandardhara boasts of sky high mountains, roaring waterfalls and lush greenery throughout the year. Among the many attractions at Bhandardhara are the Wilson dam and the beautiful Arthur

Lake.

Today, a dam constructed across the Pravara river has resulted in the grand reservoir of Bhandardhara. Located in a hilly region, this reservoir is at a height of 2,400 feet from sea level, making it one of the very few in India, to be at such a height. The more adventurous can attempt to conquer Kalsubai, the highest peak in Maharashtra. The climb from the village of Bari to the 3,000 feet peak takes approximately 3 hours. It is possible to take in Kalsubai in a day, if you spend the night at Bhandardhara. The sunset at Bhandardhara is an unforgettable experience. To watch this beautiful scene, all you need to do is take a walk down the Bhandardhara — Randha road. Visit the Agasti Rishi ashram, this age old dwelling is mentioned in the scripts of the Ramayana. Another must see in this area are the Randha falls.