

THE BREATHTAKING BHANDARDARA

Nestled among the Sahyadri Hills, Bhandardara has all the makings of a beautiful holiday resort. Sky-high mountains, roaring waterfalls and lush greenery throughout the year attract tourists from all over.

To reach Bhandardara, take the train at Igatpuri. If you are travelling by road from Mumbai, you need to turn right just a few kilometers after Igatpuri and enter Ghoti. This small town leads to a long narrow road, which cuts across the lofty mountains and ascends to the marvelous retreat. Although it is just

BHANDARDARA



Pristine blue waters amidst the Sahyadri range

about an hour's journey, the sights are spectacular. Fluorescent green paddy fields contrast with bright blue skies above and the murky brown streams criss-cross the whole land. When it rains, and clouds descend from the sky to blanket the earth, the sight is truly breathtaking!

Bhandardara has many attractions — from the majestic Wilson Dam to the wondrous Arthur Lake. As legend has it, Agasti Rishi meditated here for a year, surviving only on water and air. Pleased with this display of devotion, God came down to Earth and blessed Agasti Rishi with a stream of the Ganga River, which is now known as the Pravara River.

Like all scenic spots, the magic of Bhandardara has to be experienced to be appreciated.

GETTING HERE

- ◆ **By train** - Igatpuri is the nearest railhead, with Bhandardara at a distance of 42 km from the station.
- ◆ **By road** - Take the Mumbai-Nashik Highway (NH3) to Ghoti past Igatpuri. Just beyond the bus stand at Igatpuri, take a right and cross the railway tracks. Next take a right to Bari Village. Further down again take a right at Varangushi to go for Shendi and Bhandardara.