

A Geographical Analysis of Tourism in Jalgaon District, Maharashtra



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Abstract

Jalgaon is a district of Maharashtra, India, earlier known as East Khandesh until 21 October 1960. It has an area of 11,765 km² and a population of 4,229,917 as of the 2011 census. Its headquarters is the city of Jalgaon. Jalgaon is near the world famous Ajanta Caves and is one of the key attraction places for tourists all around the World. Tourism in Jalgaon district offers a number of beautiful sights to the tourist. There are many places for the visitors to choose from, ranging from forts, places of natural beauty and even a number of temples for the pilgrims. These include the Sri Padmalaya temple, Saint Muktabai temple and the Changdeo Temple, Patna devi Temple, Manu devi Temple, Unpdev, Mangal graha Temple among others.

Keywords: Tourism, Market, Tourist

Introduction

Jalgaon has a plethora of culture, wildlife and natural scenery tourism potential. However, the district has seldom promoted or marketed itself as a tourist destination. Most of the tourists visiting Jalgaon are from neighbouring districts of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, making it a local tourism destination. The tourists are restricted to the summer vacations, or religious days. Jalgaon greatest advantage is in being closest railway stop over destination for the world heritage site of Ajanta caves which in itself witnesses more than 5 million tourist arrivals from across the world

Jalgaon is most famous for world-class quality banana and cotton production. The district is rich in producing cotton and hence has various textile industrial clusters, especially in the Jalgaon, Bhusaval and other tehsils. Jalgaon Market is mainly known for Gold, Pulses, Wholesale Tea, Agriculture, Grains Trading. 'Banana' is Jalgaon's main crop with 'cotton' having second priority.

Other towns in the district are connected through state highways. Jalgaon district is amongst the most central districts of the country. This is reflected in the fact that it enjoys excellent rail connectivity. Bhusawal railway junction is one of the largest railway yards of the Indian subcontinent and the famous world heritage site of Ajanta is about 60 km (via Jamner) from Bhusawal. The district receives most visitors from the adjoining states due to the good connectivity by Roads





Objectives of the Study

1. To examine the importance of tourism development in Jalgaon District.
2. To study the economically developed of tourism in Jalgaon District.

Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary data of jalgaon tourism office. The data has been procured from the related articles, research papers, reports and 11th plan document of the government of India. Some data has been furnished from the website of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture for the Government of Maharashtra.

Study Area

The Jalgaon district is located at the north-west corner of the state of Maharashtra. It has the Dhule district in the west, Madhya Pradesh in the north, Buldhana in the east and Aurangabad in the south. The district headquarter is Jalgaon which is connected to major towns of Gujarat and Maharashtra through broad gauge rail. The nearest airport is at Aurangabad which is 150 kms away.

The district is divided into 15 tehsils, namely, Jalgaon, Erandol, Dharangaon, Yawal, Raver, Muktai Nagar, Amalner, Chopda, Pachora, Chalisgaon, etc. Jalgaon district is one of the Tourism, socially and economically developed districts in the Maharashtra state of India. Northern part of the district is occupied by Satpuda Mountain and Southern part is by Ajanta hills. The central part is occupied by Tapi river fertile agricultural prosperous area. The total forest area of the district is 1707 Sq km which is almost 17 % of the total geographical area of the district

Climate & Rainfall

The climate of this district is generally dry except in the monsoon. The average annual rainfall in the district is 740.7 mm. December is the coldest month with the mean daily minimum temperature at 11.9 degree C. and the mean daily maximum at 29.8 degree C. Temperatures begin to rise steadily from about the beginning of March and by May, the hottest month of the year, the mean daily maximum temperature reaches 42.5 degree C. The highest

maximum temperature recorded at Jalgaon was 47.8 degree C.

Existing Tourist Destinations

A brief description of the major tourist destinations is listed below to understand the potential of tourism in Jalgaon. The map showcases the major and minor tourist destinations in the district. For more descriptive assessment of each of the destinations, please refer to Annexure

Muktabai Temple

Muktai or Muktabai was a very popular saint of the Varkari tradition. The Muktabai located in close proximity to Muktainagar and located on the banks of Tapi River, is one of the many scenic religious places in the district. It holds a fair in the month of Jan-Feb which witnesses a crowd of more than 3 lakh tourists a day. Currently, the area is being developed as a tourist destination and is under construction.

Chang Deo

Changdeo in Maharashtra is regarded to be a holy place because of Purna and Tapi rivers. People flock here once a year to take a holy dip. It is also a place where saint Markandeya is believed to have practiced penance. The place is about 6 km away from Etlabad. A fair, which is attended by nearly 80,000 pilgrims, is held at this place during the month of Magha (January-February) every year. These pilgrims are mostly from the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Pal

A mini hill station of northern Maharashtra, Pal highlights the flora and fauna of the district. A cool place for the summers, the Pal village is scenic and displays cultural heritage of the local Bhil tribe. The forest has a government guest house and two dams, Suki and Mor Dam where adventure sport opportunities can be explored.

Manu Devi

Manudevi Temple is located in beautiful natural surroundings near Adgaon village in Yawal Taluka. Manudevi is the kuldevi (family deity) of 70% people in the district. There is a nice Manu Devi water fall with breathtaking view. The way to the temple is a very good trek with the path going through a small river 7 times. The temple is surrounded by forested hills. A fair is also held annually. The temple is fully covered with Satpuda hills and turns lush green during Monsoon making it a more pleased family tourist spot. Another attraction of the Manudevi is that it has a 400-feet high fountain having flowing water for 6-7 months in a year, a beautiful mini lake. Also the recent development allows even a vehicle to reach the temple. A local family diety, Manu Devi is picturesquely set on the banks of River Tapi and the Satpudas. It also has a waterfall and is made out of remains of an ancient temple. Every year in the Shrawan season the temple witnesses over a lakh visitors.

Swinging Towers Farkande

The small village of Farkande is famous for the swinging towers. Swinging Towers located 16-km from Erandol on the bank of Anjani River are a great example of old construction techniques. Both the towers are 15m long and when one of them is waved

the other towers also starts waving automatically. It is believed that the construction is 250 years old.

Padmalaya

Among the two and a half Shree Ganapati Peeths in India, this is regarded as the half Peeth. Another religious tourist place famous for the twin idols of Lord Ganesha, Padmalaya gets its name from the famous Lotus Lake which forms part of the temple compound. Along with the temple, Bhimkund is another famous place at a distance of a km where in the historic setting of Mahabharatha, Bhim kills the demon Bakasura. Currently there is only a narrow pedestrian pathway to the scenic locale, but has immense potential for development.

Patna Devi

At the edge of the district, Patna Devi is a cluster of ancient temples and caves in the Chalisgaon Forest Ranges. The cluster has temples of chandika devi, Bhaskaracharya, Pithalkhora caves etc. All these places are connected by trekking routes and in need for conservation.

Nateshwar Temple

An Ardhanarishwar Shiva Temple, It is located in the village Lasur in the Chopada Tehsil. Noted by the ENVIS centre for conservation of

Ecological heritage and sacred sites, it dates back to the period of Sultanshahi's beautifully carved in Hemadpanthi style. People across the Jalgaon & Dhule district visit the temple in the month of Shravan.

Unapdeo

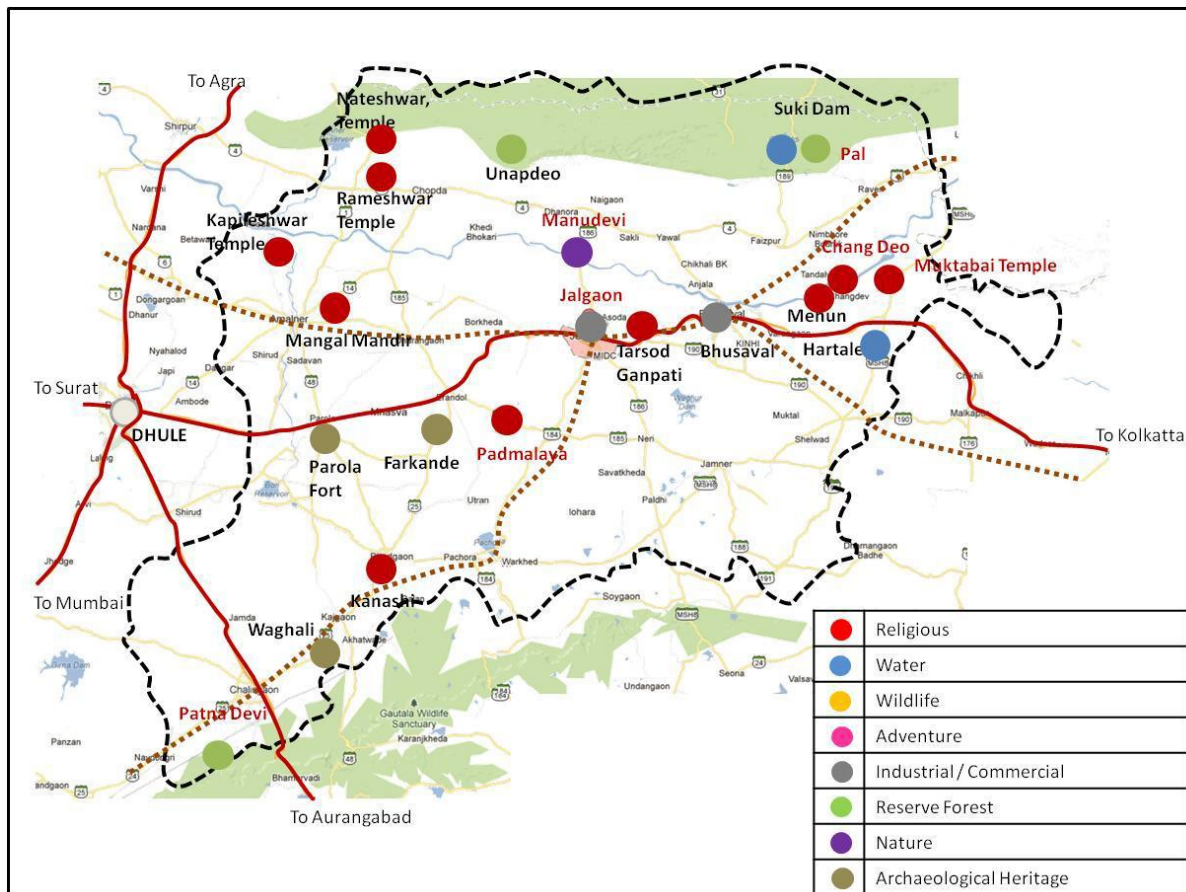
Unapdev is located at a distance of 25kms from Chopda city and 4kms from Adavad. Unapdev is listed as an ASI site. Hot-water springs are situated in the Satpudas at Unapdeo in Chopda tehsil. Like Unapdev, Sunapdev, Nijhardev are two other hot water breezes generated in Satpuda hills range. All these three places have special mention in ancient holy 'Ramayana' and had auspicious touch of Lord Rama during his fourteen years expulsion from Ayodhya.

Rameshwar Temple

Ancient Mahadev temple at confluence of rivers Tapi, Girana and Anjani, Rameshwar is another scenic place that is undergoing construction presently.

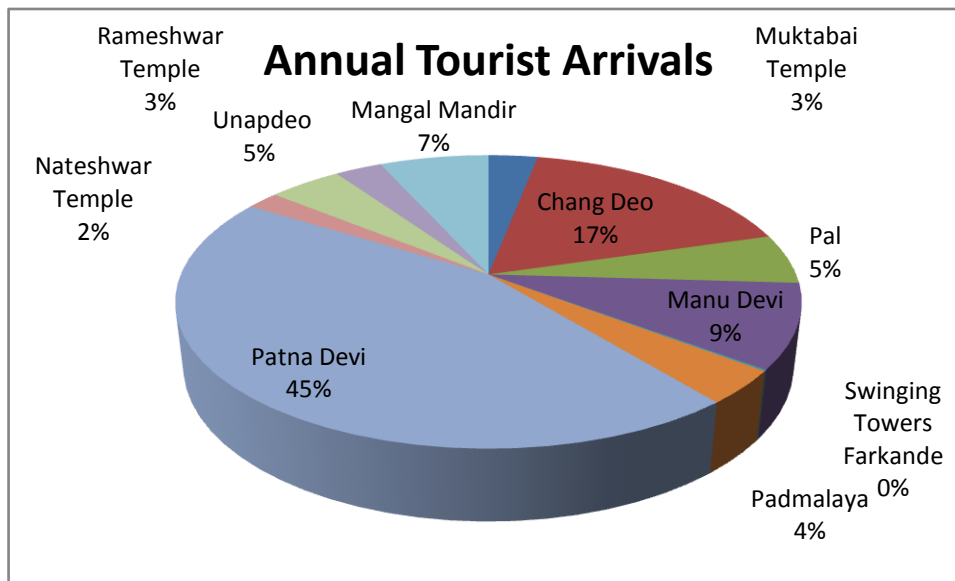
Mangal Graha Mandir

India has just two Mangal Graha Temples and Amalner's temple is one amongst those. Located on Chopda Road in Amalner Tehsil, this temple holds utmost religious importance and has various activities every week. India.



Estimated Annual Tourist Arrivals in Tourist Destinations in Jalgaon District10 in 2017-2018

S. No.	Destinations	Annual Tourist Arrivals	Local (Within the District)	Domestic (National)	Category
01	Muktabai Temple	12,86,000	61%	39%	Major
02	Chang Deo	735800	51%	49%	Major
03	Pal	232750	85%	15%	Major
04	Manu Devi	392200	60%	38%	Major
05	Swinging Towers Farkande	5900	98%	2%	Major
06	Padmalaya	157200	51%	49%	Major
07	Patna Devi	1894000	41%	59%	Major
08	Nateshwar Temple	84300	90%	10%	Minor
09	Unapdeo	190750	75%	25%	Minor
10	Rameshwar Temple	122600	78%	22%	Minor
11	Mangal Mandir	285500	61%	39%	Minor



Classification of Tourist Destinations

Jalgaon has a range of places of interest which can serve as tourist destinations to local, domestic as well as international tourists. A large number of these sites are important as local tourist destinations and have been attracting local visitation during weekends and during specific days of religious importance. It is estimated that about 56% of the total visitors to various tourist destinations are local (i.e. from within the Jalgaon district), whereas 44% of the tourists are domestic tourists (i.e. from other parts of the country).

Conclusion

The maximum numbers of visits are made to religious temples in the district which include Patna Devi (1,894,000) and Padmalaya (1,572,000), followed by Muktabai Temple (1,286,000) (Refer Table 7). It is important to note that all the sites cannot be developed since this would lead to a dilution of the development efforts. Therefore all tourist spots have been categorized as major and minor tourist destinations depending on the annual number of tourists and its importance to local or domestic tourist. The list below mentions the number

of tourists visiting each of these places of interest and their classification as major and minor tourist destinations. The map shows the location of the major and minor tourist destinations in the district.

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