Gokarna & Murudeshwar

KARNATAKA · 3 DAYS · CHEAT SHEET

Beaches and a cliff trek in Gokarna, a fort, a waterfall and caves by scooty, then the giant Shiva of Murudeshwar.

PER PERSON	DAYS	BEST SEASON	STAY
Rs 6,064	3	Oct – May	Zostel Gokarna

What it cost, per person

Getting there	Overnight train both ways, RAC: Bengaluru to Gokarna, Murudeshwar to Bengaluru	Rs 905
Stay	Zostel Gokarna, 2 nights	Rs 2,462
Food	Cafés, local breakfasts, train dinner, and chai, soda and snacks on the way	Rs 1,635
Scooty and petrol	2 days of hire (about Rs 350 a day) and fuel	Rs 615
Buses, autos and metro	Gokarna to Honnavar to Murudeshwar, beach autos, Bengaluru buses and metro	Rs 357
Entry and fees	Yana parking and caves, temple cave, gopuram lift, shoe keeping, baggage counter	Rs 90
Total		Rs 6,064

Where to eat

- Dolphin Bay Cafe — Breakfast, cheap, near the cliff · 8 AM–10 PM
- Shankar Cafe — Cheap, on the beach · 9 AM–9 PM
- Sunset Cafe — Mid-range dinner · 6:30–10:30 PM
- Cafe De Mulgudi — Mid-range dinner, omelette breakfast · 8 AM–10 PM
- Mantra Cafe — Pricey, good ambience, inside Zostel · 9 AM–10 PM
- Namaste Cafe — Worth a try in Gokarna

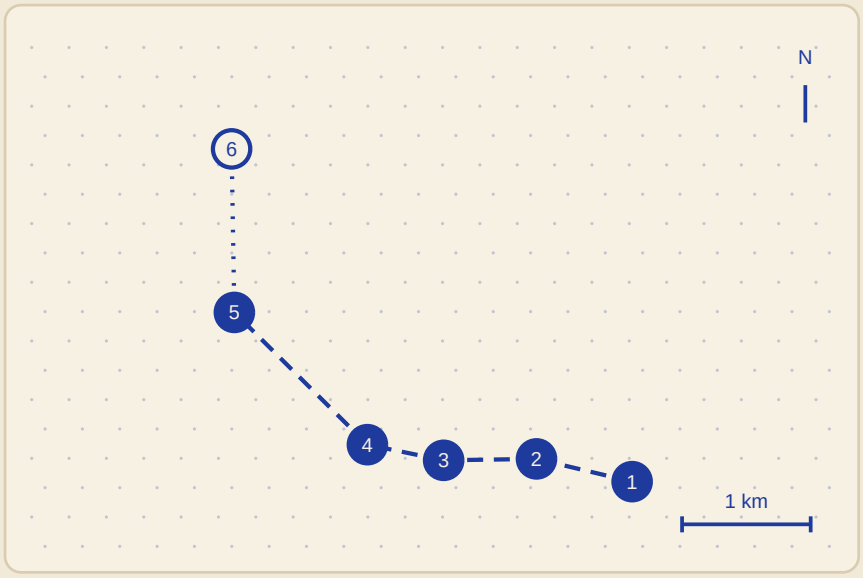
Skip these

- × Starting the trek late: it takes about 6 hours and gets tough after Paradise
- × Going without a scooty: the Day 2 spots are spread out
- × Hiring a bike without asking the price first
- × Relying on UPI or cards: the internet is poor, so carry cash
- × Paying café prices for every meal: local South Indian shops are cheap and good for breakfast

Good to know

- Getting to Gokarna: Bengaluru 480 km by road, Karwar 60 km
- Nearest station: Gokarna Road, then a Rs 17 bus to town (Ankola 20 km, Kumta 32 km)
- Nearest airport: Dabolim, Goa (150 km) or Hubballi (168 km)
- Murudeshwar: Own station, 16 km from Bhatkal. Best Oct–May
- Where I stayed: Zostel Gokarna
- Scooty hire: About Rs 350 a day
- Budget level: Backpacker

The route, day by day

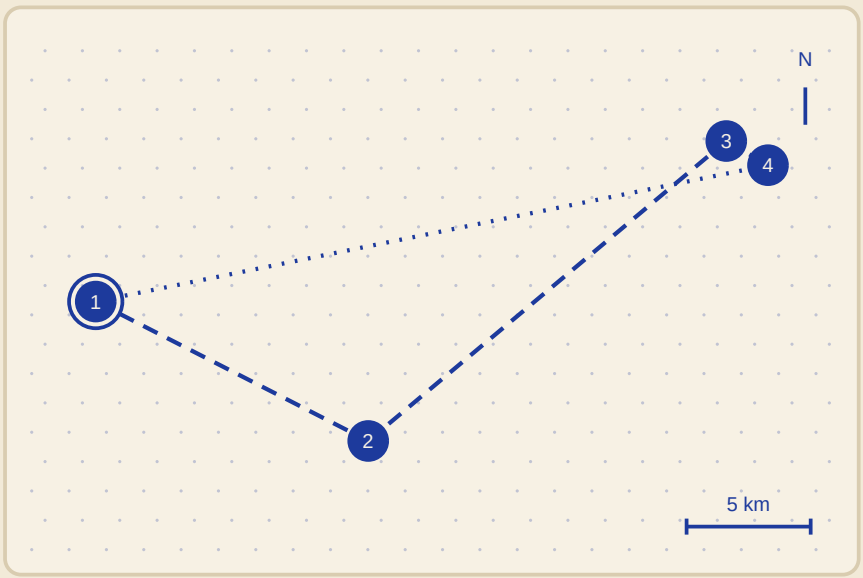


Day 1

The beach trek, Belekan to Kudle

1. Belekan Beach
   Start after breakfast
2. Paradise Beach
   Shops here: stock up on water
3. Half Moon Beach
4. Om Beach
5. Kudle Beach
   Finish by evening
6. Zostel Gokarna
   Auto back to your stay

Open this day in Google Maps →

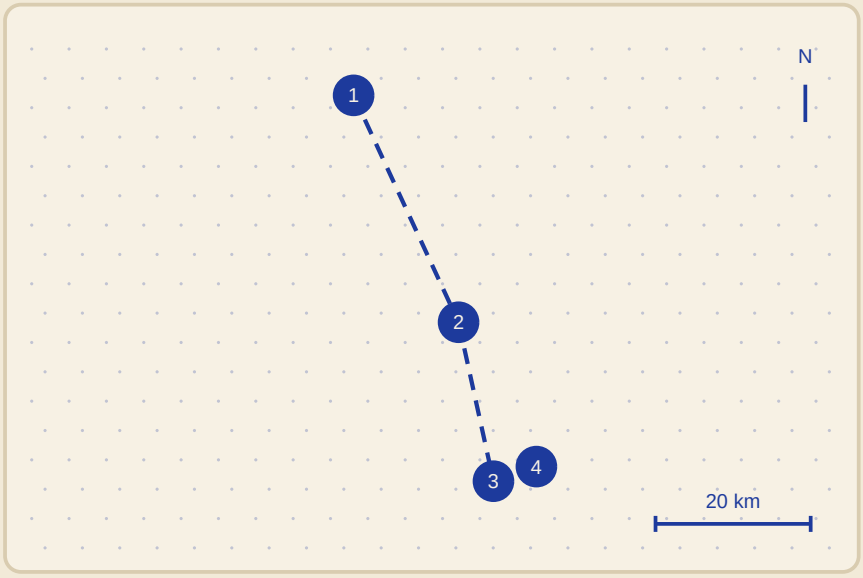


Day 2

Fort, waterfall and caves by scooty

1. Zostel Gokarna
   Start. Pick up the scooty
2. Mirjan Fort
3. Vibhuti Falls
4. Yana Caves
   Take the Harlur Road route
5. Zostel Gokarna
   Back for the night

Open this day in Google Maps →



Day 3

Bus to Murudeshwar and the night train home

1. Gokarna bus stand
   Bus to Honnavar, Rs 74
2. Honnavar bus stand
   Bus to Murudeshwar, Rs 30
3. Murudeshwar Temple
   Shiva statue, gopuram lift and cave
4. Murudeshwar station
   Overnight train to Bengaluru

Open this day in Google Maps →

Dashed line = route · dotted line = way back · ring = where you started