

#52a Sondai Fort

Where: Sondai fort

USP: Beginner-friendly short trek near Karjat.

Type: Hill trek

Base Village: Sondewadi

Range: Matheran

Region: Karjat

Nearest railway station: Karjat - 11 km

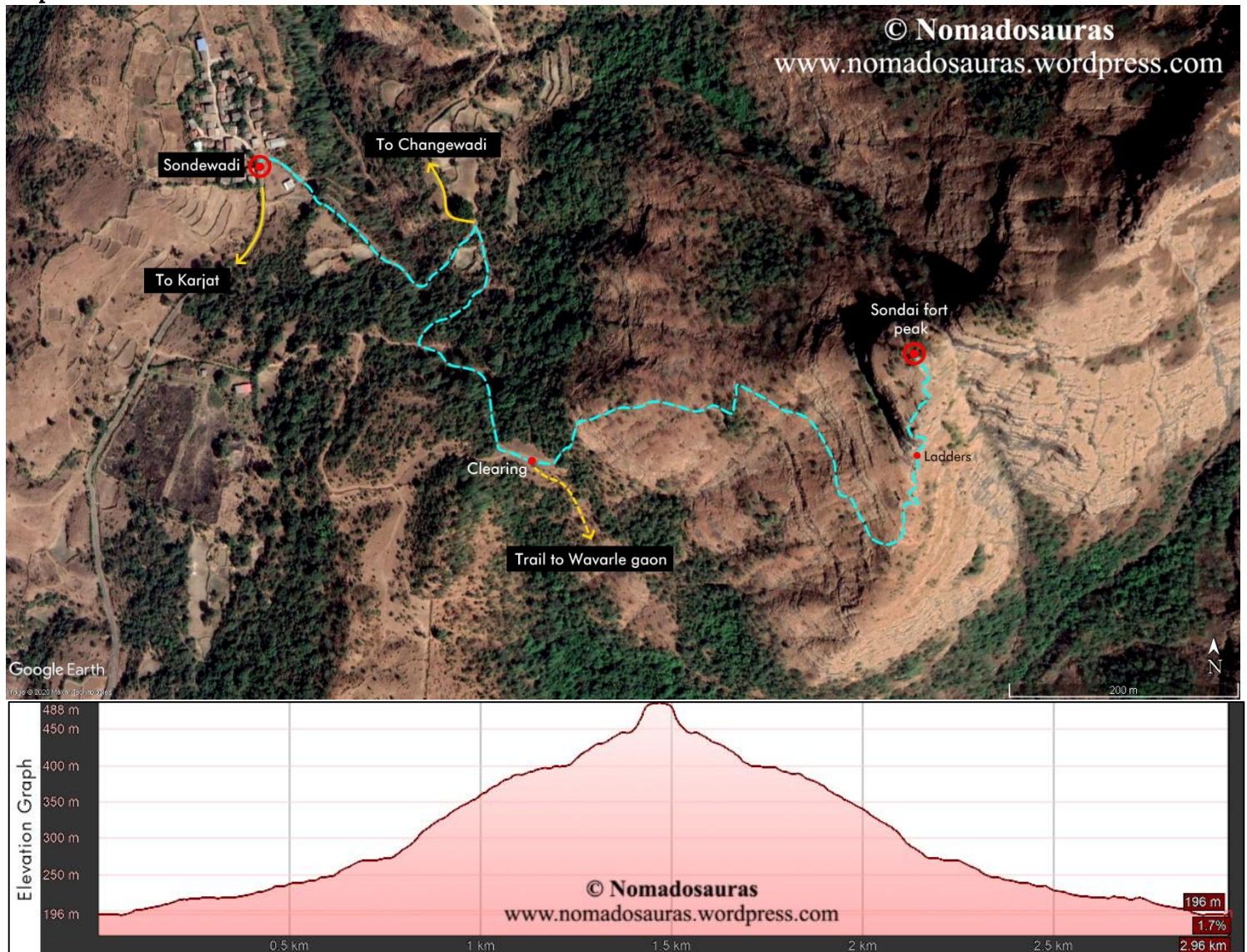
Best time to visit: Monsoon (July-September) & Winter (November-February)

Difficult: Easy; Beginners can comfortably attempt these treks.

Endurance: 1; Short distance trek with gradual moderate elevation gain/loss.

Risk Factor: Low

Map:



#52a Sondai Fort

A Season of Mountains – Sahyadris

Route: Karjat – Sondewadi - Sondai fort – Sondewadi

Total distance: Approx. 3 km

Total time: 3 hours

Max. Elevation of the trek: 1601 ft/488 m above MSL

Min. Elevation of the trek: 640 ft/195 m above MSL

Total Elevation Gain: Approx. 1025 ft.

GPS trail link: [Wikiloc](#) & [Ramblr](#) profile link.

How to reach Sondewadi using Public transport:

From Mumbai, board any Karjat/Khopoli bound local train and alight at Karjat. You can also travel by any Pune-bound Express with a scheduled halt at Karjat.

From Karjat East, hire a cab or a 6-seater auto (locally known as TumTum) for Sondewadi. One way fare is usually between ₹ 250 to 400 depending on the day of the week (weekends see greater footfall and consequently, higher prices) and your bargaining skills.

Alternatively, you can board any Panvel/Chouk/Rasayani/Murbad bound ST bus/sharing TumTum and alight at Borgaon phata. This will cost you ₹15 per seat.

From Borgaon Phata, it's a 6 km walk along the metalled road, passing by the scenic Morbe Dam.

Note: There is no direct bus service (as of 2020) for Sondewadi/Pokharwadi village from Karjat ST stand.

Directions from base village: From Sondewadi, turn right and walk along the kuchcha road until you come across a wide rocky trail on your right. Climb uphill by this trail to reach a clearing with a huge tree in the middle. The southern trail from Wavarle gaon joins Sondewadi trail at this point. From the tree, continue along the prominent trail in the direction of the fort. An easy rock patch and a slightly exposed traverse leads to the base of the peak. Two ladders placed on slightly tricky sections help trekkers reach the flat top with an idol of Goddess Sondai. Descend by the same path.

Approximate timeline

Sondewadi to top of Fort:	1-1.5 hours
Fort to Sondewadi:	45-60 mins

Food and Water: Food and water is available at Karjat & Sondewadi. Water cisterns on Sondai fort may or may not hold potable water. Purifying water from natural sources before drinking is advised.

Accommodation: Accommodation can be arranged in Sondewadi.

Alternative Route: Wavarle Gaon to Sondai fort; approximately 5 km to and from the base village.

For complete walkthrough of the trek with annotated pictures & maps, visit:

<https://nomadosauras.wordpress.com/2020/08/16/sondai-fort-trek-blog/>

Note: The data provided in this post is for informational purposes only. Any reliance you place on such information is therefore, strictly at your own risk.
