

RESEARCH TRACK | PUNE



ANNA KÖPPEL | NORA MARIA EVA WENDERHOLD

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1 INTRODUCTION

With this guidebook about Savitribai Phule Pune University, the city of Pune, and many practical tips for daily life in Pune, we as Euroculture students would like to share our experiences from our stay in Pune, pass on the information and make it useful for the next Euroculture and exchange generation.

Starting off from different European universities, the stop of our next adventure was called Pune in India, located in Maharashtra, India. Pune is both an industrial city (with a strong IT sector) and the cultural center of Maharashtra. With a population of more than 10 million, the fast-growing city is a great place to experience the mixture of modern Indian lifestyles with plenty of bars, cafes, and clubs on the one hand and the lively upheld cultural and religious traditions on the other hand.

The city – for many still known by the old British name Poona – gained fame in the 16th century as the capital of the vast Maratha Empire, and in the 19th century too, when the British made Pune their second seat, along with Mumbai, to escape the summer heat and recurring floods, Pune gained renewed importance.

Today, Pune's software industry is booming, as are other sectors such as energy, outsourcing, and the automotive industry. With numerous well-known subsidiaries in Pune, they make the city a major Indian business center. In addition, Pune is known as a center for higher education. The Savitribai Phule Pune university is popular across the country and was our destination and reason for staying in India.

Pune also boasts numerous cultural and historical attractions. Particularly worth seeing is the old district of Peshwa in the west. In this area, wooden palatial townhouses, so-called wadas have been preserved in the narrow busy lanes, giving one an idea of Pune in times past.

written by Nora

2 SAVITRIBAI PHULE PUNE UNIVERSITY

ABOUT

Savitribai Phule Pune University is part of the Euroculture consortium and offers a part of the MA program Euroculture a Research Track in the third semester. Thereby primary contact within Savitribai Phule Pune University is the Department of Sociology, which is responsible for the Research Track, but it is also possible to attend and take courses in other departments by arrangement, depending on individual interests.

The Savitribai Phule Pune University was inaugurated in 1954. Pune boasts some of the oldest Colleges of Higher Learning established in the 19th century. Affiliated initially to the University of Mumbai, they formed the core of the new University of Pune inaugurated in 1954. Its peculiarity is that the ancient Indian tradition of learning is as much at home here as the new disciplines are.

Spread over a campus of 411 acres, Savitribai Phule Pune University is one of India's largest state universities and has been recognised as one of India's five "Universities with Potential for Excellence" by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the central nodal agency of the Government of India.

The concept of specialized research centers and schools enables the university to deal with new and multidisciplinary areas, not included in the traditional scheme of Degree Courses.

The university in numbers...

University consists of **13 Faculties, 58 University Departments/Schools/Centres**, and **433 affiliated Colleges**. A salient feature of the University is a large number of foreign students, according to the International Centre currently, around 14,000 students, from over 102 countries studying at the University and its affiliated colleges.

Foreign
students from
102 different
countries study
at the SPPU
and affiliated
colleges

written by Anna

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SAVITRIBAI PHULE

Savitribai Phule was a pioneer in the education of girls and in advocacy for marginalized groups in society. She was the first female teacher in India and opened a school for girls in Pune with her husband in 1848 – the first school for girls in India. The photo at the bottom of this page shows the building of this former school. Savitribai Phule is also known for her activism for equality for all classes. She is celebrated in the women's rights movement and is often referred to as the "mother of Indian feminism" (HISOUR, Savitribai Phule, die erste Schule für Mädchen in Indien). She fought – among other things – for the rights of education for women, for the right to dignity for widows.



Picture 1: Bhide Wada, Pune city center, the building of the former school founded by Savitribai Phule and her husband. The first girls school in India. (Own photograph)

Savitribai and Jyotirao Phule's life

Born on 3rd January 1831 in Naigaon, Marahastra, Savitribai got married by the early age of nine years. Her husband Jyotirao Phule. Jyotirao was – due to his low caste – forced to leave school (as at that time men from backward caste communities and women were not allowed to get an education). Jyotirao finished his education in a Scottish missionary school. Due to his experiences, he was encouraged to promote education for everyone and taught his wife Savitribai Phule at home. Later, she took a teacher's training course at an institute and became the first female teacher in India. In 1848 the couple opened together the first school for girls in India, and by the end of 1851 the Phule's were running three schools in Pune with around 150 girl students (Kandukuri, The Life and Times of Savitribai Phule 2019).

written by Anna

3 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

VISA

Student Visa

In order to be eligible to study in India, one must apply for a student visa. In order to do so, you will find all relevant information on the respective consulate webpage of your home country. In the following, we will describe our experiences with the procedure of applying for an Indian student visa as Germans. Please be advised that consulate services may take longer than expected or stated, so be advised to apply as early as possible.

Coming from Germany, one must contact the appropriate consulate (depending on the location). There is one in Hamburg, Frankfurt, Berlin, and Munich. The documents must be sent in time because it might happen that there are discrepancies or problems.

What documents are required?

- Passport, valid for at least 180 days and with two free pages. Printed or already stamped pages do not count.
- Two identical photos in Indian format 5 x 5 cm (request for photo download)
- Completed application form & additional form
- Copy of passport (Only valid for IGCS Hamburg)
- Student ID copy or matriculation certificate copy
- A letter of invitation from the institution from India stating the duration of the proposed study.
- A proof of funding for the stay.
- A letter from the concerned institute in Germany.
- In case of minor applicants, a letter of consent from the parents. (All letters in English)
- The following three documents are required from the applicant's parents: (Minor applicants)
- Copy of passports or identity cards
- Letter of consent from parents in English
- Letter of guarantee in English
- Copy of birth certificate
- The Consulate General of India may also request additional documents.
- Additional required documents for non-German nationals. An Extended Registration Certificate proving residence in Germany for more than 24 months and the completed additional form for non-German nationals.
- Visa Processing Time (In case of a planned internship, the processing time is extended up to six weeks. Visa will be granted after approval from India).
- Fees

written by Nora

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ONCE YOU GET TO PUNE

Administration Process for registering your stay (FRRO) and related administration processes at the SPPU

FRRO registration must be obtained within 14 days of arrival in India from a Foreigners Registration Officer (FRRO) having jurisdiction over the place where the foreigner intends to stay. Online FRRO Service can be accessed through:

<https://indianfrro.gov.in/eservices/home.jsp>

For the e-FRRO Registration Process the following documents are to be prepared within the first two weeks at the University:

1. Admission Letter
2. C-Form
3. Bonify

In order to receive an admission letter you have to visit the international office on campus and request one. Please be advised to take several passport photographs and your passport and visa with you. For the C-Form and Bonify, ask the staff of the secretary of the department of sociology, they are willing to help you out and familiar with the required documents for e-FRRO.

SIM CARD

To get an Indian sim card, one usually needs an Indian number that can activate the new sim card. The process is quick, as long as passport, visa, and passport photos are prepared.

Two common providers are:

- **Vodafone:** www.myvi.in
- **airtel:** www.airtel.in

Money Exchange

If you arrive with euro or another currency and may want to avoid possible costs for withdrawing money there is also always the opportunity to exchange money, you can change money for instance at the laxmii forex-named banks. In Aundh you can find it next to the Dmart:

laxmiiforex.com

(Office No. 34, West End River View, 1st Floor Above Champion Sports, Aundh, Pune, Maharashtra 411007)

Printing

Printing places are called Xerox here. One can found them all over the city. One can cheaply print, copy both color and black and white. Even passport photos can be printed there in large quantities and on photo paper.

written by Nora

4 CULTURE & SIGHTS

As mentioned in the introduction, Pune has long been a center of education, which is why you will come across numerous schools, colleges, and universities on your tour around Pune, many of which are also worth exploring for their architecture (see, for example, the historic main building of SPPU on the cover of this booklet). In addition to impressive educational institutions, there are several natural attractions such as the Baner Hills or for instance, the Parvati Hills, worth a visit for their panoramic view, over Pune, or cultural sights, such as the Lal Mahal, or for instance the famous Shaniwar Wada, which invite you to learn more about Pune's history and its residents. Moreover, through your tour through Pune, you will encounter a huge variety of temples, among them, for instance, the impressive Hindu temple Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati Mandir giving you a glimpse of cultural and religious life in Pune. Below is a brief description of some of the main sights:

Shaniwar Wada

historical fortification, which was built in the year 1736 and was head quarter at that time of the Peshwas

Gandhi National Memorial

Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba were imprisoned in the former palace of the Aga Khan in 1942–44.

Lal Mahal

also called red palace, is the place where Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, founder of the Maratha Empire spent his childhood

Baner hills & Parvati hills

both great opportunities to get a panoramic view of parts of Pune and visit a temple at the same time

Osho Ashram

founded by Osho Rajneesh, nowadays this ashram is resort dedicated to yoga & meditation with an vast green campus in the middle of Pune city

Aga Khan Palace

The palace, built in 1892, was an act of charity by the spiritual leader of the Nizari Ismaili Muslims to help the poor in the neighboring areas



In the two pictures above you can see Baner Hill and Shaniwar Wada. In the first picture you can see the view over Pune once you reach Baner Hill (which is less than half an hour's walk from Aundh). There are several walking trails on Baner Hill and also a temple (at the north foot of the hill), which you can see in the picture. In the second picture you can see the gardens of Shaniwar Wada – a historical fortress complex in the city of Pune (see the previous page for a brief description), which we also highly recommend visiting as the gardens are like a little green oasis in the middle of the bustling city centre.

Above all, during our stay, we especially enjoyed roaming around the city, exploring new neighborhoods, and walking through the small and partially narrow streets of Pune. The small side streets with the partly still well-preserved *wadas*, and palatial wooden townhouses are worth taking a closer look at. Apart from that, to us, the Mahatma Phule Market is really exciting (more information on the Mahatma Phule Market you can find within the section "shopping". It is the central market of the old town, which invites you to stroll around and take a look at the wide range of products on offer, from fruit to clothing and electrical appliances.

written by Anna

5 HOUSING

There are several options when it comes to housing both regarding where to stay and from own apartment to PG and hostels for a long-term stay.

Where to stay?

Starting off with the question of in which area or neighborhood you might preferably look for accommodation, we gathered – based on the recommendations of our teachers, other students, and friends – the following neighborhoods:

- Baner
- Aundh
- Karve Nagar
- Kothrud
- Koregaon Park
- Senapati Bapat Road
- Deccan

We personally stayed in Aundh, a very nice and quiet neighborhood in our opinion, which is very close to the university. It takes about 15 minutes to get to the university by rickshaw (when there is no heavy traffic) and 50 minutes on foot. We, three Euroculture students, stayed together in a flat, that we rented ourselves. However, in the following different options for possible types of accommodation will be presented.

How to stay? Possible types of accommodation:

In the following the option of staying in a 'hostel', to rent a flat or room on your own, as well as the option and concept of 'PG' will be explained. However, of course, advantages and disadvantages are different depending on the living situation and needs of each individual.

'Hostel' for international students in Aundh

Quite a lot of our international friends and also other Euroculture students stayed in 'BetterLiving Aundh'. BetterLiving is a hostel for international students, which rents out its rooms mainly for international students usually staying for one or more semesters. You can choose a contract individually for your preferred length of stay.

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If you want to check out the webpage of BetterLiving Aundh for pictures and more details, also regarding costs and location, follow this link:

<http://www.betterlivingpune.com/>

Rent a room/flat on your own

Another option for your stay might be to rent a room or a flat, which you can find through various web pages. Of course, there are far more apps and web pages, however, these were the ones, mostly recommended to us:

NoBroker: <https://www.nobroker.in/>

Zolostays: <https://zolostays.com/>

Uj just for reference, we, three Euroculture students, lived in Aundh and rented a flat with three single rooms, kitchen, living room, bathroom and terrace, and we paid 27,000 rupees per month + gas and electricity consumption. This might not be representative, but it might give you an idea of what living in PUnE, and here specifically in Aundh, might cost.

PG – "Paying guest"

As the third option within this booklet, we also want to present the option of the so-called PG, the acronym for "paying guest". As we haven't been familiar with this concept beforehand and you might be neither, the following are some explanations of what is PG is:

Once you enter web pages such as NoBroker or Zolostays, and once you're in India, you will sooner or later stumble upon the term 'PG' during your search for a room or flat. But what does PG actually mean and what is the difference between sharing a flat with other students as you might know from your previous semesters?

PG means that a person is staying in a shared flat and pays rent for housing and amenities including power, water, as well as often housekeeping, and in some cases also food while residing in someone else's home or property. In India, PG is quite a common concept and you may find various kinds of PG accommodations. The PG lodging options include single and shared rooms. In the latter scenario, a single room is typically shared by two individuals, occasionally by more. The price for PG is determined by the amenities offered. The choice of a single, double, or triple-bedded room, as well as whether the PG stay includes meals and housekeeping services.

written by Anna

6 TRANSPORT

The following chapter presents the various transport options in Pune itself, as well as the transport options between Mumbai Airport and Pune City and between Pune Airport and Pune City to assist you in arriving in Pune.

IF YOU ARRIVE AT MUMBAI AIRPORT:

Mumbai is well connected by its public transport system. There are several ways to reach Pune from Mumbai Airport:

TRAIN CONNECTION:

There are regular trains from Dadar Central station to Pune during the day and night. To get to Dadar Central station in Mumbai, you can either take a combination of bus and local train, or you also have the option of taking a taxi to Dadar Central station, from where you can then go directly to Pune Central station.

For train connections see: www.indianrailways.gov.in

BUS CONNECTION

There are several buses running from Mumbai to Pune all day long. The ideal place to get off in Pune is the Shivaji Nagar bus stand. The most popular bus services include the Shivneri Volvo run by the state government and the privately-run Neeta Volvo. You can board the bus from the domestic airport stop except between 12 am to 4 pm. The journey takes three to five hours.

For bus connections see for instance: www.redbus.in/bus-tickets

TAXI CONNECTION

There is also the option (which might be convenient for you, if you want to have an easy option after a long journey and being new to the country) to hire a taxi that will get you to Pune from the airport in around 3 to 5 hours depending on the hour of the day and traffic (3100 Rs). Two transport services recommended to us by our university department are:

- Shagun Transport: Number of contact: +91 9004561775; or
- Suyash Transport: Number of contact: +91 9373336788

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ARRIVING AT PUNE AIRPORT

The easiest method here (with the language) is to book a rickshaw or an Uber car that brings you directly to your destination.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

RICKSHAW

At first glance, the Rickshaw seems and is the fastest and most direct way to the destination. It functions like a kind of minicab, with space for a maximum of three people. With the help of apps such as *Uber*, *Rapido*, or *Ola*, you can order small mini-taxis anywhere. Attention. If it is raining or during rush hour, this can take a few minutes. Basically, it is worth using the apps simultaneously to compare prices. Trying to use the taxi meter is sometimes more difficult for a non-Indian person. Therefore, you can always rely on the app's prices.

MOTORBIKE

In addition to the rickshaw, apps like *ber*, *Rapido*, or *Ola* also offer the option of ordering a motorbike if you are traveling alone. This is cheaper and sometimes faster, especially during rush hour.

BUS

From our experiences, we may say, that public transport is not to be underestimated! for a maximum of 20 Rupees, one can travel (without changing) from place to place. To know where to get off or which bus to take, google maps works quite well. Except for the timetable which is not always reliable. Often the bus numbers are written in Marathi, which makes the process of getting on the right bus a bit more difficult. It helps to talk to other people waiting and tell them your destination, they are happy to help and point to the right bus. You can get the ticket directly on every bus. There is a controller who asks for the destination and prints out a ticket. Exit is always at the front of the bus driver and sit (if something is free), do women on the left and men on the right.

written by Nora

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BICYCLE

Bicycles are considered the most healthy alternative to any other public transport that runs on fuel. There are several options to rent bicycles in Pune.

One example:

PEDAL SADDLE

This service was started by a bunch of enthusiastic cyclists in Pune. Presently, the Pedal Saddle pick-up points are Hinjewadi, Wakad, Yerwada, Vishrantwadi, and Kothrud. They provide MTB/Hybrid/Racing Road Bikes which are premium-level gear cycles. They even have an inventory of cyclists in each area and also guide you in figuring out the perfect route to enjoy your time!

Cost: Here, you have a choice of opting for a plan based on your requirement – daily plan costs 99 Rs (for a basic non-gear model) & price range of 199-299 Rs (for a geared one depending on the model). Weekly rent ranges from 699-1499 Rs and monthly rental from 1499-2999 Rs.

Procedure: You need to pay a deposit of 1000 Rs per cycle and provide your ID proof to rent a cycle!

Contact details: pedalsaddle.in

written by Nora



7 FOOD

STREET FOOD

Our personal highlights

Street food is an essential part of experiencing a new destination and its diverse culture but in India, street food is something more than just that. Here, it is a way of life. Every region, state, and even city has its own delicacies that are adored by locals that will tell you that the street food in their town is better than anything else you might try in India. Most Indian street food dishes consist of simple, easy-to-make dishes but that doesn't mean that they won't explode releasing an array of rich and exotic flavors.



Momo's

It has been widely accepted around India and north Indians have actually mastered the art of momo making to perfection and some of the momos in Delhi are almost as good as the ones you'll get in Sikkim and the other northeast states. Momos are similar to hot dumplings filled with chicken or veggies. Momos come in three variations; steamed, fried, and boiled but the most popular version is by far, the steamed one.

Kachori

The most common ones being onion, potato, dal, and peas. This crunchy, deep-fried treat is filled with hot gravy and spicy chutneys.

Samosa

Samosa is India's most popular baked pastry and it's so popular. The pastry is stuffed with spiced potatoes, onions, peas, and lentils, and it comes in different shapes; triangular, half-moon, and cone, depending on the region. This delicious treat also happens to be one of the oldest snacks in the world.

Bahji Pav

Bahji Pav is a spicy Indian vegetable curry served with fluffy soft white bread (pav). Like the Maharastrian Misal Pav, it is a popular street food. The amount of butter in this dish (when prepared traditionally) quickly puts the idea of healthy fast food made from vegetables into perspective.

Lassi

This refreshing, creamy drink is a mix of yogurt, water, spices, and/or fruits. It can be salty or sweet but you can also find different versions around India. It is a drink that contains a high amount of casein, a protein that removes the effects of capsaicin.

1.

Pyas Kachori

2.

Aloo Palak Paratha

3.

Tomato Onion
Uttapam

8 SHOPPING

WHERE AND WHAT

VEGETABLES/FRUITS:

Fresh fruit and vegetables can be found on almost every street corner, sometimes very beautifully arranged (see picture on the following page). As for prices, it is worth asking the neighboring stalls for a comparable price to get an idea of the price and negotiate a good price.

In the center of Pune, you will find a large market, the Mahatma Phule Mandai Market, with lots of fresh vegetables and fruit, both indoors and outdoors. The market is definitely worth a visit, even if you don't want to buy fruit or vegetables, because the Mahatma Phule Mandai Market has admirable architecture and invites you to stroll around.

CLOTHING/FABRIC/TAILORING

As we were fascinated by all the beautiful fabrics in India, we were very interested in fabrics and had our own clothes tailored. In particular two places were recommended to us by the locals: The centrally located Laxmi Road, in the center of Pune, and the so-called Clover Center, near the railway station. Both places have a large number of fabric stores and tailors to offer, and an incredible amount of fabrics to choose from.

If you already have a specific garment in mind to be tailored, this can also be done on the spot. Even if it sometimes seems impossible, it is worth negotiating the price for large quantities.

CLOTHES/SHOES

You can clothes and shoes very cheaply also at the two places mentioned above (around Laxmi Road and clover center). If you are looking for some brand products, there are malls all over the city where you can find shops like H&M or Zara (West End Mall; SG Mall, etc.). In addition, FC Road is often recommended for shopping for shoes and jewelry, but also for feasting or "strolling around". You can linger there for a while between food and clothing stalls. For a short break, it is worth taking a look at the campus of Fergeson College, which invites you with its many green spaces.

DMART

Also worth mentioning is the supermarket Dmart, as it is kind of an all-rounder and was great for us in the beginning when we didn't know where to find certain things. And was the place for us to stock up on cooking utensils or bedding. Dmart is a kind of supermarket where you can find a little bit of everything from household goods to spices to rice. There is a small refrigerated and frozen section, but you will mainly find dry food there. There are no fresh fruit and vegetables.

written by Anna

THE AESTHETICS OF SHOPPING IN PUNE



written by Anna

9 DAY-TRIPS IN MAHARASHTRA

There are so many beautiful and interesting places in Maharashtra that if you cover one place a week you will need at least a year to visit all the places. Maharashtra has so much to offer culturally and in terms of natural scenery.

It is definitely worth it to go for a hike in the valleys of Maharashtra. There are waterfalls and forts in every corner of this state and always a nice nature destination for one day.

Here are just a few examples but some of our recommendations. As we both enjoyed a lot doing trekking and exploring the nature of Maharashtra, you will find here mainly recommendations for trekking.

TREKKING

- Sinhagad Fort
- Lohagad Fort
- Rohida Fort
- Lonavala
- Sandhan Valley
- Hill station: Matheran (Asia's only pedestrian hill station.)

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

KAAS PLATEAU

The Kaas Plateau, or Flower Plateau, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2012. It is a biodiversity hotspot known for several species of seasonal wildflowers and numerous species of butterflies. The best time to visit is at the end of the monsoon season (around September).

BEACHES

- Kihim Beach
- Mandwa Beach
- Diveagar Beach
- Dapoli Beach
- Alibaug Beach
- Murud Beach....

MUMBAI

It is best to go to Mumbai for several days, but it is also possible as a day trip. The city is full of bazaars, museums, and striking buildings, which is why a stay is definitely worthwhile.



On this picture you see us on one of our hikes. For this occasion we went together with a group from Pune, that is frequently organizing treks.

written by Anna

10 SPORTS AND FITNESS

The sporting activities in Pune are very diverse and everyone will find something to their taste. From our experience and observations, we can clearly say that it is advisable to do sports in the early morning hours. Especially early in the morning, before the city wakes up, sports enthusiasts gather and you meet many cyclists and joggers on the streets. It's a great atmosphere. And there is a good reason why sports enthusiasts get up so early before work starts: the air is much better, because during the day, especially during rush hour, the air pollution in the city is much worse. In addition, it is less hot in the morning, and thus more pleasant for sports.

For running enthusiasts (and early birds), there are a few running groups in every district of Pune that meet in the morning and do different routes and training sessions. Just take a look at Facebook and find the nearest running group to you. The same goes for cycling. We made the experience that people respond really quickly and are more than willing to help you find the best group next to you.

If you prefer to go to a gym, there are two good options in Aundh (again, we are only talking about Aundh, as we lived here and can only tell you about this district from our own experience), which we tested ourselves. Of course, there are overall, many more possibilities in Aundh. almost on every street, you might find a gym. There are also numerous dance schools from contemporary dance to jazz, hip hop, or Bollywood. You can do a trial in almost all gyms.

Team sports of all kinds are also represented in Pune. From our own experience, we can recommend the sport of Ultimate Frisbee, which is played outdoors at various locations in the city. There are three teams in the city and it is worth a try. See an impression from our training on the picture below:

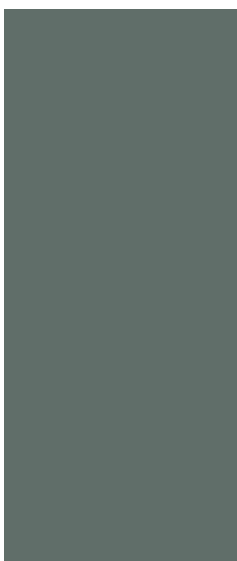
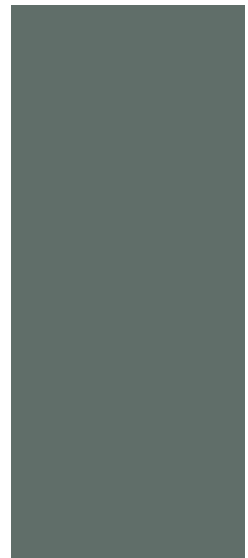


written by Anna

SPORT & FITNESS AT THE UNIVERSITY

The university also offers a wide range of sports. From Basketball to xxx, to xxx. There are also running groups on campus, which is very convenient given the size and the amount of greenery on campus. There is also a gym on campus. You'll find it next to the International Office. Compared to off-campus gyms, the gym is very affordable and offers all the options, but it is only open from 4 p.m. every day.

Furthermore, there is the opportunity to do yoga on campus. In the facilities of the health center of the university, every day from Monday and Saturday at 7:30 a.m. yoga takes place. As it is not only for students, it is also a great opportunity to connect with locals, beyond the "student bubble". The teacher and the group are very welcoming.



written by Anna

11 GOING OUT IN PUNE

NIGHTLIFE IN PUNE

Pune is a great place to go out and especially its multitude of rooftop bars are inviting. Hence the tip, when you are looking for a bar, always look at the rooftops of the buildings you pass by. In our experience, going out in Pune really has its charm as you get to know people very quickly and we really enjoyed the fact that there is so much lively dancing. Also, in our experience of going out in Pune, we appreciated that the clubs always have places to sit and relax (usually with a restaurant as well), which creates a relaxed atmosphere and caters to the preferences of more people.

Regarding (non-)alcoholic drinks, the prices in the bars are more on a European level, only slightly cheaper than in European cities. When it comes to beer, Kingfisher is the most common beer in India. And you can't avoid stumbling across the advertisements at least once.

TWO THINGS TO POTENTIALLY TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION:

- It should be noted that as a man you may have to experience that you can only enter a club together with a woman (couples' entry). But don't worry, you can simply ask someone outside the club to accompany you on entry.
- On another note, you may want to keep an eye on the dates for a cricket match between India and Pakistan and go to a bar or club to watch a match. Although it might be controversial, it is an exciting and interesting atmosphere to witness it.

Overall, it is recommended to check out the Instagram pages of the respective restaurants, bars, and clubs (some of which are presented on the following page) to find out more. In our experience, Instagram is the easiest way to get all the information you need about what's going on.

NIGHTLIFE PUNE

HIGH SPIRITS, KOREGAON PARK

High Spirits is an all-rounder as a cafe, bar, and restaurant and everyone can find something to their taste. All kinds of music are played here. From reggae to techno, to indie, to Hindi music (What's worth mentioning in terms of music: they support local newcomers by giving them the opportunity to play a set). Moreover, it's a great place to meet new people and socialize. The High Spirits offers several motif/theme parties and social activities like karaoke or crafts and painting every week. Every Sunday there is a so-called "cook-out" from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, with unlimited drinks and food (a delicious buffet with fresh vegetables and salads!).

SPICE FACTORY KOREGAON PARK

If you are looking for a bar that is more let's called it "western style", the Spice Factory is a good place to go. It's a bit more expensive, but you get a fantastic view over the city as it's a rooftop bar on the 7th floor. The building it's in could be called a "party hub" as there's a different bar/club on each floor, so it's great for bar/club hopping as you don't have to go anywhere in between, just go up or down a few floors.

MORE OPTIONS TO CHECK OUT:

- antiSocial
- Orilla
- Botanica
- Penthouze
- ELEFANT
- Black
- HOUSE OF DEHLI

written by Anna and Nora



12 REFLECTION AND CONCLUSION

We are very grateful for the opportunity to study at SPPU's Department of Sociology and to experience Pune as a city and an Indian lifestyle for four months.

Pune is a very liveable city and a good opportunity to immerse yourself in Indian life. We were here as part of an exchange program with the Erasmus Mundus Master called *Euroculture: Politics, Society and Culture in a Global Context*. Hence we had the opportunity to combine experiencing Pune as a city itself with an academic stay and benefit from it. Through various field trips organized by our department, we had the opportunity to get to know Pune and its history and culture. For example, we had the opportunity to attend the *Ganesh Visarjan*, an important Hindu ritual. Especially taking part in a heritage walk (jointly organized by our university department and INTACH) was a great enrichment to our stay and showed us new insights into the history of Pune and traditional crafts.

Moreover, apart from the academic benefits, our fellow students and teachers provided us with a lot of useful hints that made it easy for us to immerse ourselves in Indian life.

In general, we were impressed by the hospitality, helpfulness, and welcoming atmosphere at the university and beyond. So many short and long encounters enriched our stay.

Even though life in Pune is in many ways very different from the life we are used to in European cities, we found it easy to adapt to Pune. As Pune with its cultural diversity, its wide range of offers, and at the same time a comparable lot of green space for a metropolis, is according to us a great city to live in. And Maharashtra, overall, is definitely a state worth visiting.

When you come to Pune, Maharashtra, be sure to visit the beautiful nature, e.g. by hiking to one of the numerous forts, have encounters with the people, and the culture, and enjoy your stay.

We hope that we can simplify your entry into Indian life and especially in Pune with this booklet. However, we think it's best to experience it on your own, as an adventurous time awaits you in Pune and in India.

written by Anna and Nora

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RESEARCH TRACK I PUNE

ANNA KÖPEL | NORA MARIA EVA WENDERHOLD

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