



Jakson Inns

Don't chase windmills, go picnic there instead!

Not many holiday-makers venture this far, or in this direction, for a vacation from say Pune or Mumbai. And that, is the perfect reason for you to plan a trip to Phaltan, in Maharashtra's Satara district. The rains render this place lush and green, recharge the waterfalls, and present a picturesque backdrop for the giant windmills.

You heard that right. A peaceful, romantic, rejuvenating and eco-friendly getaway can be customised for you by the efficient folk at Jakson Inns Phaltan, the three-star hotel, that till now has been a well kept secret of business travellers.

The hotel car picks you up at Pune airport, a three-hour drive away. The six-acre property, has 69 well-appointed, spacious deluxe rooms, and four large suites. They also have easy access, and security enhanced (security cameras on the room's door, etc), for the single female traveler, and for those in need of special assistance.

But what makes the stay here worth-

while are the cool activities that the hotel can plan for you. Ever had a picnic under a giant windmill? This is an experience that will make you want to shout out your happy cry from a mountaintop. And you can, the windmill farm is at Pusegaon, an hour's drive away from Jaksons. The hotel has special permission to set up a picnic for guests there in the evenings.

There are scores of giant windmills set atop lush green hills, and you are taken to the ones with the best view, and lushest 'gardens as it were.

You sit right under the windmills and enjoy the cool breeze as your personalised gourmet picnic is served. Nibble and watch your instagram light up once you share the stunning photos from here. The hotel kitchens will create local delicacies on request.

You can also visit the Ajinkya Tara Fort, located at 3,300 feet above sea level in the Sahayadri range, or visit the Phaltan Rajwada that's a short drive away. This compact palace, with a wood-pillared durbar hall and

an ancient temple on the premise, is the former residence of the Phaltan royal family. According to the locals it is maintained by a private trust and the temple is open to the public.

Not one for the breeze blowing through your hair, nor forts and palaces? Fret not. Their hospitality continues; you could explore the quaint village life, and spend some time around sugarcane fields, pomegranate orchards or see bees in action at an apiary.

Jaksons prides itself in curating eco-sensitive and unique experiential outdoor activities for its guests. Thankfully, the staff is as enthusiastic, and well informed about these long drives to the nature spots. Before you leave, remember to plant a sapling, the hotel will take care of it and send you updates on the tree you can leave your name-tag on! A green holiday you may want to repeat when you feel like escaping city life for a short while.

COST: Tariff ₹4,200 – ₹7,500

WHERE: Plot No.398/6,399,400, near Cummins Mega Site, Lonand Road, Phaltan; call 077740 90289; a three-hour drive from Pune by road and five from Mumbai; nearest airport is Pune

KARUNA M. JOHN