

# Caravan Tourism : A new perspective for Maharashtra State Tourism Industry

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## Abstract

The tourism industry is one of the largest and most dynamic sectors globally, accounting for more than a third of the total services trade. Travel and Tourism is a key contributor to the Indian economy and hence warrants strong focus via budgetary allocation, given its ability to catalyse the growth engine for both revenue and job creation. This paper discusses how caravan tourism can contribute for Maharashtra State Tourism Sector's Development and where public, private sectors can develop caravan parks for caravan tourism.

*Keywords* – Caravan, Tourism, Caravan Park.

## Introduction

The concept of Caravan tourism has gained immense popularity across the globe owing to the freedom and flexibility it provides, while holidaying vis-a-vis itineraries and accommodation. This would include vehicles viz. Recreational Vehicle (RV), Campervans, Motor Homes etc. One of the essential pre-requisites for Caravan tourism is the presence of sufficient Caravan Parks in the identified circuits. Research paper gives exact idea about caravan tourism, how caravan tourism can contribute in development of Maharashtra state's tourism sector as well as where public and private sectors work for the development of Caravan Parks.

## Research Methodology

The present study is based on the secondary data published by various agencies and organizations. The present study makes use of data and information provided by UNWTO, Ministry of Tourism, MTDC, State Government Departments, Newspapers, Magazines, Books, Economic journals and Internet etc.

## Tourism

The term "Smokeless Industry" has become very popular concept for tourism. Notionally, tourism as a phenomenon means the movement of people-both within the country and outside the national border. It basically, consists of three elements Man, Space and Time. These three elements are the prerequisites for any tourism activities.

According to UNWTO, "Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business, sports, adventure, health, recreations and any other purpose".

Tourism involves the movement of people to different places and their stay outside their residence and normal

place of work. Tourism is an activity of multi-dimensional, multi-faceted nature, involving large number of people and a good number of economic activities.

## *Caravan/Camper Van*

Caravans are a unique tourism product, which promotes family oriented tours even in circuits /destinations, which are not having adequate hotel accommodation. The specially built vehicles being used for the purpose of travel, leisure and accommodation would be termed as 'Caravan'.

## *Caravan Park*

A Caravan Park is a place where Caravans can stay overnight in allotted spaces providing basic or advanced amenities and facilities.

## *Advantages of Caravan Park*

1. Home away from home
2. Perfect location for holidays
3. Easy to access
4. Family time
5. Secure and social spots

## *Disadvantages of Caravan Park*

1. Increased Responsibility
2. Potentially Noisy Environment
3. Payment of Ground Rates

## *Caravan Tourism*

Caravans and Caravan Parks are sure to add an exciting new facet to tourism in Incredible India. The initial demand in this niche segment is expected to come from domestic tourists and then from the inbound tourists. There is at present a growing demand for eco, adventure, wildlife and pilgrimage tourism. This

involves visiting and staying in remote areas, forests, deserts and riversides. There is already shortage of accommodation at tourist destinations, especially in remote areas and in certain cases at places where a permanent construction may neither be permissible nor feasible. In such a scenario, Caravan Tourism can effectively meet the growing demand, while ensuring adherence to quality, standards and safety norms. Caravan Tourism would attract a wide range of market segments including young people, families, senior citizens and international tourists.

#### ***Advantages of Caravan Tourism***

1. Save money with Caravan
2. Stay where you want
3. You can pack as much as you want
4. Create special memories
5. A sense of independence
6. Comfortable Equipment
7. Choose your own location
8. Great for families
9. Continue your route

#### ***Disadvantages of Caravan Tourism***

1. Price
2. Maintenance of Caravan

#### **Contribution in Development of Existing as well as New Tourism Aspects -**

1. Employment opportunities  
Caravan Tourism concept is new in Maharashtra. Caravan Tourism includes various aspects like Caravan, Caravan Parking, Services near Caravan Parking, renting of caravan, registration as caravan tour operator, vehicle servicing centre. So in short there are number of jobs will be available for young people to carry out above things.
2. Opportunities for New Entrepreneurs  
Caravan Tourism is a less known concept. New Entrepreneurs can get the knowledge about this concept and start Caravan Tourism Business.
3. Development of Tourist Sites  
With the reason of Caravan Tourism, Public and Private sectors can develop tourist sites to promote and boost tourist sites as well as Caravan Tourism.
4. Development of Hill Stations  
In Maharashtra, numbers of hill stations are waiting for tourist. In these hill stations, some are well developed and maintained but some are not. Now with the help of caravan tourism, new hill stations can be developed and promoted.

#### 5. Development of Agri Tourism

Agri tourism is a field that is growing in popularity as producers try to diversify and increase profits by combining agriculture and tourism. Agri tourism offers new sources of revenue. Agritourism presents a unique opportunity to combine aspects of the tourism and agriculture industries to provide a number of financial, educational, and social benefits to tourists, producers, and communities. In Maharashtra, numbers of agri tourism centres are approximately 328. Agri Tourism Centres can be included in Caravan Tour Circuits.

#### 6. To boost Wildlife Tourism

When the thought came about Caravan parking, Public and Private sectors can show interest in developing as well as boosting various aspects of wildlife tourism such as existing wildlife sanctuaries, national parks.

#### 7. To boost Cave Tourism

Cave Tourism is well known concept. Solutional caves, Lava caves, Sea Caves, Corrasional or erosional caves, Glacier cave, Stand stone caves, Gypsum Caves are the various types of caves. In Maharashtra, we found solutional and lava type of caves mostly. Cave Tourism can be boosted with the help of Caravan Tourism.

#### 8. To boost maintenance work of forts

In Maharashtra, numbers of forts are more than 350. This is the plus point for youths of Maharashtra state to create various employment as well as business opportunities in terms of Development of Tourism sector.

#### 9. To promote Heritage Walks

Heritage walk is a tool to explore the unexplored and neglected richness of the country. Heritage walks, are best way to learn and recognize our culture, tradition, philosophy, myths and associated rituals with them. The walk makes one look back and reminds us of our rich culture and history, provoking us to think about the existence of every historical structure and place. Heritage Walk Concept will be an opportunity to Public and Private sectors to promote history and culture of Maharashtra.

By using PPP, Public and Private sectors can develop Caravan Parks near below places. These places are selected using Google Earth Engine. Near of these places, land is available for construction and development of Caravan Parks.

- I Caves
- II Dams
- III Forts
- IV Hill Stations
- V Hot Water Springs
- VI Waterfalls
- VII Wildlife Sanctuaries

Table I - List of Caves

Sr. No.	Name of Cave	Location
1	Ajanta Caves	Ajanta, Aurangabad District
2	Aurangabad Caves	Aurangabad
3	Bahrot Caves	Dahanu, Thane district
4	Bedse Caves	Maval, Pune district
5	Bhaja Caves	Maval, Pune district
6	Bhatala Caves	Chandrapur, Vidarbha Maharashtra
7	Dharashiv Caves	Osmanabad
8	Elephanta Caves	Elephanta Island, Mumbai
9	Ellora Caves	Aurangabad District
10	Gandharpale Caves	Mahad
11	Ghatotkacha Caves	Janjala Village, Sillod, Aurangabad District
12	Kanheri Caves	Borivali, Mumbai
13	Karad Caves	Satara District
14	Karla Caves	Lonavala
15	Kharosa Caves	Kharosa, Latur District
16	Kondhane Caves	Kondana
17	Kuda Caves	Kuda
18	Mahakali Caves	Andheri
19	Mandapeshwar Caves	Borivali
20	Nadsur Caves	Thanale, Raigad District
21	Nenavali Caves	Sudhagad, District Raigad
22	Pandav Leni	Nashik City
23	Panhale Kazi Caves	Ratnagiri District
24	Pataleshwar Caves	Pune City
25	Pitalkhora Caves	Kannad, Aurangabad
26	Shivleni Caves	Ambajogai
27	Shivneri Caves	Shivneri Caves, Junnar, Pune District
28	Thanale Caves	Thanale, Raigad
29	Tulja Caves	Junnar, Pune District
30	Wai Caves	Satara District

Table II - List of Dams

Sr. No.	Name of Dam	Region	District
1	Katepurna	Amravati	Akola
2	Wan	Amravati	Akola
3	Upper Wardha	Amravati	Amravati
4	Nalganga	Amravati	Buldana
5	Khadakpurna	Amravati	Buldana
6	Pentakli	Amravati	Buldana
7	Bembla	Amravati	Yavatmal
8	Isapur	Amravati	Yavatmal
9	Arunavati	Amravati	Yavatmal
10	Pus	Amravati	Yavatmal
11	Paithan	Aurangabad	Aurangabad
12	Manjara	Aurangabad	Beed
13	Majalgaon	Aurangabad	Beed
14	Yeldari	Aurangabad	Hingoli
15	Siddeshwar	Aurangabad	Hingoli
16	Lower Manar	Aurangabad	Nanded
17	Lower Terna	Aurangabad	Osmanabad
18	Sina kolegaon	Aurangabad	Osmanabad
19	Lower Dudhana	Aurangabad	Parbhani
20	Dhamni	Kokan	Palghar
21	Kawdas P. U. Weir	Kokan	Palghar
22	Tillari	Kokan	Sindhudurg
23	Lower Chondhe	Kokan	Thane
24	Bhatsa	Kokan	Thane
25	Upper Ghatghar	Kokan	Thane
26	Gosikhurd	Nagpur	Bhandara
27	Bawanthadi	Nagpur	Bhandara
28	Asolamendha	Nagpur	Chandrapur
29	Dina	Nagpur	Gadchiroli
30	Sirpur	Nagpur	Gondiya
31	Itiadh	Nagpur	Gondiya
32	Pujaritola P.U.Weir	Nagpur	Gondiya
33	Kalisarar	Nagpur	Gondiya
34	Khindsi	Nagpur	Nagpur
35	Wadgaon	Nagpur	Nagpur
36	Totladoh	Nagpur	Nagpur
37	Nand	Nagpur	Nagpur
38	Kamthi Khairy	Nagpur	Nagpur
39	Lower Wardha	Nagpur	Wardha
40	Bor	Nagpur	Wardha
41	Nilwande-2	Nashik	Ahmadnagar

42	Bhandardara	Nashik	Ahmadnagar
43	Mula	Nashik	Ahmadnagar
44	Musalwadi Tail Tank	Nashik	Ahmadnagar
45	Shirsoli 2 (Naygaon) M I Tank	Nashik	Jalgaon
46	Waghur	Nashik	Jalgaon
47	Upper Tapi Hatnur	Nashik	Jalgaon
48	Kadwa	Nashik	Nashik
49	Waki Dam	Nashik	Nashik
50	Arjunsagar	Nashik	Nashik
51	Mukane	Nashik	Nashik
52	Bham Dam	Nashik	Nashik
53	Chankapur	Nashik	Nashik
54	Gima	Nashik	Nashik
55	Palkhed	Nashik	Nashik
56	Vaitarna H. E. P.	Nashik	Nashik
57	Waghad	Nashik	Nashik
58	Bhawali	Nashik	Nashik
59	Darna	Nashik	Nashik
60	Tisgaon	Nashik	Nashik
61	Ozarkhed	Nashik	Nashik
62	Karanjwan	Nashik	Nashik
63	Gangapur	Nashik	Nashik
64	Punegaon	Nashik	Nashik
65	Tulshi	Pune	Kolhapur
66	Radhanagari H E P	Pune	Kolhapur
67	Tillari (Dhamne)	Pune	Kolhapur
68	Dudhaganga	Pune	Kolhapur
69	Bhama Askhed	Pune	Pune
70	Dimbhe	Pune	Pune
71	Chaskaman	Pune	Pune
72	Yedgaon	Pune	Pune
73	Ghod (Chinchani)	Pune	Pune
74	Pimpalgaon Joge	Pune	Pune
75	Manikdoh	Pune	Pune
76	Wadaj	Pune	Pune
77	Gunjawani	Pune	Pune
78	Nira Deoghar	Pune	Pune
79	Bhatghar	Pune	Pune
80	Panshet	Pune	Pune
81	Warasgaon	Pune	Pune
82	khadakwasla	Pune	Pune
83	Pawana	Pune	Pune
84	Temghar	Pune	Pune

85	Warna	Pune	Sangli
86	Dhom	Pune	Satara
87	Urmodi	Pune	Satara
88	Tarali	Pune	Satara
89	Dhom Balkawadi	Pune	Satara
90	Kanher	Pune	Satara
91	Koyna	Pune	Satara
92	Veer	Pune	Satara
93	Bhima (Ujjani)	Pune	Solapur

According to Water Resources Department (Government of Maharashtra), total number of dams is 3267 in which 141 are major dam projects, 258 are medium dam projects and 2868 are minor dam projects. In this list major dam projects are selected due to more land availability and this data is taken from Official website of Hydrology Project Water Resources Department (Government of Maharashtra). Barrages and weirs are excluded in this list because major dam projects will be more beneficial for the construction and development of caravan parks nearby land of these dams in terms of more land availability.

Table III - List of Forts

Sr. No.	Name of Fort	Type of Fort	District
1	Ankai Tankai Fort	Hill	Nashik
2	Antur Fort	Hill	Aurangabad
3	Ausa Fort	Land	Latur
4	Avchitgad	Hill	Raigad
5	Bankot Fort	Hill	Ratnagiri
6	Bharatgad	Hill	Sindhudurg
7	Bhudargad	Hill	Kolhapur
8	Chandragad	Hill	Raigad
9	Devgeri(Daulatabad) Fort	Hill	Aurangabad
10	Dharur Fort	Land	Beed
11	Gavilgad	Hill	Amravati
12	Ghosalgad	Hill	Raigad
13	Jaigad	Coastal	Ratnagiri
14	Kavnai Fort	Hill	Nashik
15	Kharda Fort	Land	Ahmednagar
16	Korigad	Hill	Pune
17	Korlai Fort	Coastal	Raigad
18	Lohagad visapur	Hill	Pune
19	Mankigad	Hill	Raigad
20	Mulher Fort	Hill	Nashik
21	Nagardhan Fort	Land	Nagpur
22	Naldurg Fort	Land	Osmanabad
23	Narnala Fort	Hill	Akola
24	Panhala Fort	Hill	Kolhapur
25	Paranda Fort	Land	Osmanabad
26	Pratapgad	Hill	Satara
27	Purnagad	Coastal	Ratnagiri
28	Raigad	Hill	Raigad
29	Rajgad	Hill	Pune

30	Rajmachi Fort	Hill	Pune
31	Ramshej Fort	Hill	Nashik
32	Rangana Fort	Hill	Kolhapur
33	Rasalgad	Hill	Ratnagiri
34	Salher Fort	Hill	Nashik
35	Shivneri Fort	Hill	Pune
36	Sinhgad	Hill	Pune
37	Surgad	Hill	Raigad
38	Torna Fort	Hill	Pune
39	Tringalwadi Fort	Hill	Nashik
40	Udgir Fort	Land	Latur
41	Vasota Fort	Hill	Satara
42	Vetalwadi Fort	Hill	Aurangabad
43	Vishalgad	Hill	Kolhapur
44	Yashwantgad	Coastal	Ratnagiri

2	Dabhosa Waterfall	Thane
3	Dugarwadi Waterfall	Nashik
4	Ellora Caves Waterfall	Aurangabad
5	Kune Waterfall	Pune
6	Lingmala Waterfall	Satara
7	Marleshwar Waterfall	Ratnagiri
8	Randha Waterfall	Ahmednagar
9	Someshwar Waterfall	Nashik
10	Thoseghar Waterfall	Satara
11	Umbrella Waterfall	Ahmednagar
12	Vajrai Waterfall	Satara
13	Vihigaon Waterfall	Thane

Table IV - List of Hill Stations

Sr. No.	Name of Hill Station	District
1	Amboli	Sindhudurg
2	Bhandardara	Ahmednagar
3	Chikhaldara	Amravati
4	Durshet	Raigad
5	Igatpuri	Nashik
6	Jawhar	Palghar
7	Khandala	Pune
8	Lonavala	Pune
9	Mahabaleshwar	Satara
10	Malshej Ghat	Thane
11	Matheran	Raigad
12	Mhaismal	Aurangabad
13	Panchgani	Satara
14	Sawantwadi	Sindhudurg
15	Suryamal	Thane
16	Toranmal	Nandurbar

Table V - List of Hot Water Springs

Sr.No.	Name of Hot Water Spring	District
1	Vajreshwari	Thane
2	Akloli Kund	Thane
3	Ganeshpuri	Thane
4	Nimboli	Thane
5	Pimplas, Vada	Thane
6	Sativali	Palghar
7	Unhere, Pali	Ratnagiri
8	Unhavare, Dapoli	Ratnagiri
9	Unhala, Rajapur	Ratnagiri
10	Unkeshwar	Nanded

Table VI - List of Waterfalls

Sr. No.	Name of Waterfall	District
1	Chinaman's Waterfall	Satara

Table VII - List of Wildlife Sanctuaries

Sr. No.	Wildlife Sanctuaries	Location	Area(sq km)
1	Amba Barva Wildlife Sanctuary	Buldhana	127.11
2	Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary	Chandrapur	509.27
3	Anerdam Wildlife Sanctuary	Dhule	82.94
4	Bhamrararh Wildlife Sanctuary	Place: Bhamrararh District: Chandrapur	104.38
5	Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary	Pune	130.78
6	Bor Wildlife Sanctuary	Wardha	121
7	Chandoli National Park	Place: Shirala District: Sangli	317.67
8	Chaprala Wildlife Sanctuary	Gadchiroli	134.78
9	Dajipur Wildlife Sanctuary/ Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary	Place: Radhanagari District: Kolhapur	351.16
10	Deulgaon-Rehekuri Wildlife Sanctuary	Place: Rehekuri District: Ahmednagar	2.17
11	Dnyanganga Wildlife Sanctuary	Place: Buldhana District: Buldhana	205.21
12	Gangawadi New Great Indian Bustard Wildlife Sanctuary	Solapur	1,222
13	Gautala Wildlife Sanctuary	Kannad District: Aurangabad	260.61
14	Jaikwadi Wildlife Sanctuary	North Jaikwadi Flyover Place: Sant Dynaneshwar Udyaan District: Paithan	21,750
15	Kaas Wildlife Sanctuary	Place: Kaas District: Satara	11
16	Kalsubai Harishchandragad Wildlife Sanctuary	Place: Akole District: Ahmednagar	361.71
17	Karanja Sohal Blackbuck Wildlife Sanctuary	Washim	18.32

18	Karnala Bird Sanctuary	Place : Panvel District : Raigad	12.155
19	Katepurna Wildlife Sanctuary	Akola	73.69
20	Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Koyna District : Satara	423.55
21	Malvan Marine Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Malvan District : Sindhudurg	29.122
22	Mansingdeo Wildlife Sanctuary	Nagpur	182.58
23	Mayureshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Baramati District : Pune	5.145
24	Melghat Tiger Reserve	Amravati	1677
25	Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary	District: Bhandara- Gondia	152.81
26	Nayagaon Mayur Wildlife Sanctuary	Beed	29.89
27	Nandur Madhmeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Khangaoon Thadi District : Nashik	100.12
28	Narnala Bird Wildlife Sanctuary	Akola	12.35
29	Navegaon National Park	Gondia	133.88
30	Painganga Wildlife Sanctuary	Yavatmal	424.89
31	Pench National Park	Nagpur	758
32	Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary	Raigad	69.79
33	Sagareshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	Sangli	10.87
34	Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Shahapur District : Thane	304.81
35	Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary	Yavatmal	148.63
36	Tungarehwar Wildlife Sanctuary	District : Thane	85.7
37	Umred Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary	Bhandara	189.29
38	Wan Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Melghat District : Amravati	211.00
39	Yawal Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Yawal District : Jalgaon	177.52
40	Yedshi Ramling Ghat Wildlife Sanctuary	Place : Yedshi District : Osmanabad	22.38

### Result and Discussions

Caravan Tourism is less known concept in Maharashtra State. Public and Private Sectors are the key drives for tourism sector. Caravan Tourism can be promoted using existing tourist places. Caravan Tourism can't run without help of existing tourism places so promotion and development of existing tourist places is mandatory. In this research paper, locations for the

caravan parks are selected with the help of Google earth engine. By developing caravan parks near to the places given in this research, it will be beneficial for caravan tour circuits.

Contribution of Caravan Tourism is required for employment generation as well as creation of new business ideas. Caravan tourism needs the support of Public and Private sectors in a positive manner to take a remarkable position of Maharashtra state tourism industry on a world map.

### Conclusions

Caravan Tourism is perfect aspect of Tourism industry which will run very fast on track in terms of incentives, income growth to the local young generation with the help of public and private sectors. Various circuits can be created by using existing as well as new tourist spots such as caves, lakes, water bodies, forts, hill stations, hot water springs, waterfalls, wildlife sanctuaries. It will create the way of income for public as well as private sector. Caravan Tourism will be a key asset for the development of tourist places, hill stations, agri tourism.

Cave Tourism, Wildlife Tourism can be boosted by Caravan Tourism. Caravan tourism and adventure tourism will be two sides of a coin, which will affect tremendously on income growth of Maharashtra State's public as well as private sector in positive manner. Caves, Dams, Forts, Hill stations, Hot water springs, Waterfalls, Wildlife Sanctuaries will be key drives for Caravan Tourism.

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