In adventure land!

Go climb a mountain, paraglide, get onto an ATV or become a ‘flying fox’ — this one’s a travel-happy jamboree, not far from Mumbai

Ismat Tahseen

To a city-goer, even a small expanse of green, coupled with cool weather can seem like a blessing. Add to that, adrenalin-rushing rides, restaurants, a music lounge, amphitheatre, spa and salon and activities like saying hello to St Bernard dogs, a few turkeys and emus — and you realise how variety can make for pure fun at Della Adventure at Lonavla, There for just a day, I left Mumbai and its worries far, far behind though I was only about two-and-half-hours away from the city...

Round and about
The park is huge and inviting, so figure out where to start testing your ‘dare’ factor first. While few youngsters line up for cricket net practice, others in army fatigues are about to take up a paintball challenge. Up ahead the zorbing ride’s taking place. A huge translucent ball, one is safely trapped inside while the zorb rolls away down a grassy hillslide. (A tip: don’t eat before this one). ATV rides compete for a thrill on a dirt track, while overhead the ‘Flying Fox’ has folk surging through mid-air, clutching onto their harnesses — fun! Want to feel like Robin Hood for a day? Just take aim at the archery section.

Says principle architect and managing director of Della, Jimmy Mistry, “I wanted a place for corporates and families and my idea was to have one that was a combination of fun, luxury and entertainment.”

On a golfer’s green
All the knowledge I had about the game came from the TV, you can understand the excitement about actually taking up the putter, albeit on a smaller, but lovely course here. The instructor lost no time in explaining the ‘hows’ and ‘whys’ and I have to say it’s absolute fun as one can get the hang of the game soon! My Facebook status now says: ‘Is a golfer’

Idyllic stay
Imagine rolling hills, the resounding quiet and open azure sky. Luxury tents sit on a hillside as part of that. I sweetened a rough-and-tumble day with a chocolate mud pie from the in-house bakery here. A bunch of memories to take back for sure, after all, climbing a real mountain and rappelling off it has its own high!