

Test drive

Della Adventure park



Anand and Madhura Katti see if the park lives up to the thrills it claims to generate



WHY The Della Adventure park in Kunegaon, Lonavala, touted as “India’s largest recreation adventure park and corporate training destination”, targets corporate and leisure visitors with at least 86 adventure sports and activities.

The park is an alternative entertainment option for guests in the vicinity of Mumbai and Pune who are tired of the usual tourist fare. The 36-acre open space is a welcome break from the city’s hustle and bustle.

It is also an excellent place for team building, as the adventure activities here foster a good bonding experience.

The 1,500-seat amphitheatre in the activity square, as well as another venue in the park that can fit 1,500-pax, are ideal for gala dinners and presentations.

WHAT The activity square, its nerve centre, bustles with activity. Among the 86 adventure activities to choose from are zorbing, archery, dog walking,

Name Della Adventure
Rates Camp Della tents cost US\$179 (weekdays) and US\$279 (weekends).
Contact
 Tel: (91-90) 1125-7000
 Email: dorotaziolkowska@dellaadventure.com

milking a Jersey cow, as well as cooking classes.

The more adventurous could go paragliding and parasailing or take a spin on speedboats and jetskis.

We tried the exhilarating drive through the rough dirt track on a 90-cc all-terrain vehicle (ATV). ATVs of up to 750 cc are available and are in demand among visitors.

At Camp Della, where guests can stay overnight, there are 30 tents with an excellent view of the mountain. The 39m² luxury tent had five-star furnishings and amenities to match its contem-

What is Maharashtra’s tourism budget for 2011-12?

Together with India Ministry of Tourism, we have the following budget for tourism development in Maharashtra this year: Rs225 crore (US\$55.7 million) for coastal and eco-tourism development, Rs50 crore for forest and eco-tourism development in Vidharba, Rs100 crore for development of forts and fort circuits, Rs250 crore for development of small, unexplored attractions in different districts of Maharashtra and Rs25 crore for publicity and marketing.

What do you plan to invest majority of the budget on?

Coastal development is being undertaken in Sindhudurg, Raighad and Ratnagiri. Basecamp facilities are being developed at four major forest circuits in Vidharba. New attractions will be identified in different districts and basic tourist facilities will be provided here.

How do you plan on promoting in international markets?

We’ll market Maharashtra as a 365-day destination. We have divided tourist spots into theme-based and season-based attractions. We promoted the state in Macau and Hong Kong during last year’s PATA Travel Mart and got good response. We’d like to participate at this year’s PATA mart in Delhi with a bigger impact to attract travellers from Asia-Pacific. - By Anand and Madhura Katti



Q&A with

Kiran Kurundkar

Managing director

Maharashtra Tourism Development Corp

porary, modular design. These include an LCD TV, DVD player, mini bar and Wi-Fi.

Della is also trying to build itself up as a gourmet destination, and it didn’t disappoint. The Indian a la carte meal we had at PNF lounge was fresh and tasty. The warm chocolate mud cake was also yummy.

HOW The park can accommodate 1,000 day trippers and up to 70 for overnight stays.

Della Adventure chairman and managing director Jimmy R. Mistry said: “We’ll be adding 50 five-star chalets by October and another 50 chalets by year-end to make up for shortage of accommodation. We’re constantly in-

novating and looking for professionals for adventure activities.”

VERDICT The spa treatment was one of the best we have ever had. This thrilling and engaging park lives up to its expectations.

A repeat visit is not such a bad idea. A good place to bring corporates.