



Time Off

The cultural fortnight ahead

Flip out

*Adventure's new address
in Lonavala*

Zorbing at Della Adventure. Photograph by Parikshit Rao.



Lazy boy Couch potato Aditya Kundalkar shot arrows, rode ATVs (below) and found plenty to do at Della Adventures

Aditya Kundalkar gets shaken, rattled and rolled at an adventure park in Lonavala.

Adventure activities are typically strenuous. They involve pulling oneself up a hill using only a rope or guiding oneself down it. But at Della Adventure, there are lazy options too, which makes the place perfect for a guy like me. At the 34-acre park built and managed by architect Jimi Mistry in Lonavala you can try rock-climbing and rappelling or pottery and karaoke. If radio-controlled cars and all-terrain vehicles are not your thing, simpler pleasures come in the shape of a Burma bridge and a bungee trampoline.

You could argue that driving over Mumbai's potholed roads in a rickshaw offers much the same adventure as being in an ATV on a muddy racetrack. At Della Adventure, however, you get to choose from a 90cc four-wheeler to a 400cc motorbike. The inclined dirt track will test your vehicle's power when you're going uphill and the gentle bumps offer thrills on the way down. It's safe enough for children – there are kid-sized four-wheelers too.

Like the ATVs, which Mistry said are popular, many of the activities are not new. Net cricket (batting against a ball-chucking machine inside a net-enclosed area), is common outside malls. But Della bowls hard balls, making the

game feel more authentic.

For hand-eye coordination of a different kind, I decided to try archery. My left arm protected from the bow string by a long sock, my right strapped with a small release mechanism to help me pull the bowstring without losing my fingertips, I had ten bright blue arrows to make my mark. I wasted the first few getting used to the device. But by the fifth arrow, I managed to hit



close to the bull's eye's outer ring at least once. Not bad for a first-timer, I think.

Close to the archery area, but a safe distance away from errant arrows, is a pen full of animals: cows to milk, dogs to walk and ducks, emus and ostriches to gawk at. "It's our way of bringing our guests closer to nature," said Mistry. Della claims that the cows are Jersey milk cows and the dogs

include Dobermans, German Shepherds, Labradors and even a pair of St Bernards, who have an air-conditioned room to themselves. They even have a few horses from Matheran.

Riding, milking cows or walking dogs all seemed like too much work. I'd rather stay put and let the forces of nature provide the entertainment. Luckily, Della offers Zorbing, which allows you to do exactly that. Zorbing can be described as a roller-coaster with no seats, no railings and powered only by gravity. The Zorb, a ten-foot-high inflated orb made of clear plastic, has a hole in its side so two lazy adventurers can squeeze in and get strapped up to the concave wall inside. The sphere is then checked to ensure it has the right air pressure, and shoved down a slope, adventurers and all. For 25 seconds, we rolled, tumbled and bounced downhill. I watched the ground hover above my head twice, screamed, "Make it stop" and couldn't tell where I was going. But it was all over once we hit the safety net.

Although the park seems complete, Della is planning new attractions like Telegames and trapeze, which Mistry saw on a trip to Bali recently. We'll be back to try those out – and perhaps have another go at Zorbing. Visit www.dellaadventure.com for more details and group packages. See Ongoing.

Events

How to use this section

Admission for readings and other events is free unless otherwise stated.

M denotes the nearest train station.

B denotes the name of the nearest bus stop.

FREE denotes no admission fee.

If you want to be listed

Submit information by mail (Time Out, Essar House, PO Box 7964, 11 KK Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 034), email (listings@timeoutmumbai.net) or fax (6660-1112) to Pooja Das Sarkar. Include details of event, dates, times, address of venue, nearest train station and bus stop, telephone number and any entry fee. *Time Out* is a fortnightly publication, appearing on the stands every other Thursday. **Deadline for information is ten days before publication.** Listings are free, but inclusion cannot be guaranteed due to limited space.

Ongoing

Della Adventure Claiming to be India's largest recreation park, Della offers 86 activities including 42 adventure activities like Zorbing, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), dirt bikes and paragliding. See Action station. *Della Adventure, Kunegaon, Lonavala.* For details, call 9664-66000 or email info@dellaadventures.com. Packages start at ₹500 per person.

Old Mumbai Bicycle Tour Woodside Inn collaborates with Oditi Adventures to hold bicycle tours in the Fort area. Bike through empty roads on a Sunday morning as you admire the buildings, lanes and neighbourhoods. When you get hungry after all the pedalling, they will take you to an Irani café for refreshments and to Woodside Inn for breakfast.

To book a tour, call 2287-5752. ₹1,350.

Olympic Poster Exhibition The Bhau Daji Lad Museum has organised an exhibition of Olympic posters from the last hundred years. Seventy posters from the Victoria & Albert Museum, London are exhibited. The highlights include the official Olympic posters since the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, and important works by David Hockney, RB Kitaj, Andy Warhol and Victor Vasarely.

Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Veermata Jijabai Bhonsle Udyan (Byculla Zoo), Ambedkar Road, Byculla (E) (6556-0394/3249-9155). **M** Byculla (CR Main). **B** Jijamata Udyan. *Thur-Tue 10.45am-5.45pm. Tickets available until 5pm. Children above five years ₹5, adults ₹10. Foreigners above five years ₹50, adults ₹100.*

Thurs Feb 17

FREE Medicine and Human Rights Talk Dr Jonathan Fine, who founded the Nobel Peace Prize-winning organisation Physicians for Human Rights, delivers a lecture titled "Why Physicians Should Engage with