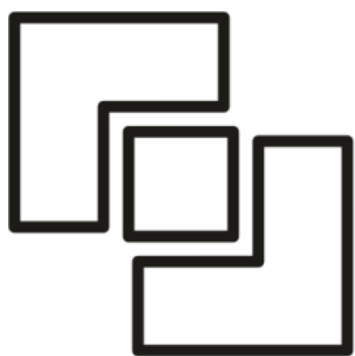


EXTENTIA CONNECT MANUAL



EXTENTIA

CONNECT

INTERNSHIPS

Extentia's Global Internship Program
A Guide for Prospective Interns

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ABOUT EXTENTIA



Extentia® is a global technology and services firm that helps clients transform and realize their digital strategies. With a unique Experience Centric Transformation approach, our ground-breaking solutions are in the space of mobile, cloud, and design. Our team is differentiated by an emphasis on excellent design skills that they bring to every project. Focused on enterprise mobility, cloud computing, and user experiences, we strive to accomplish and surpass their customers' business goals. Our inclusive work environment and culture inspire team members to be innovative and creative, and to provide clients with an exceptional partnership experience.

ABOUT CONNECT



Since 2004, we have hosted over 145 bright interns from all over the world – who learn, contribute, and grow professionally during their stay with us. The global internship program gives students and recent graduates the chance to acquire an international work portfolio in the context of a dynamic, challenging, and exciting workplace. Working in one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, they are able to increase their social and business network through integrating with colleagues, co-interns, and the local community – all in the context of a vibrant new culture.

Working across teams, interns are assigned responsible tasks and deal with actual business events. This allows them to gain both invaluable skills and hands-on project experience. At the same time, CONNECT interns are given multiple opportunities to explore India through travel and participation in cultural events.

To settle quickly in a new cultural environment, CONNECT interns receive a monthly stipend and are provided with accommodation. During work, they are further assigned a mentor and have regular feedback sessions.

CONNECT Opportunities

Areas of Deployment

CONNECT offers internship opportunities to students and recent graduates with different professional backgrounds. Apart from the area of specialization, drivers for the area of deployment can also be the selected thesis topic or individual interest. Ongoing, Extentia offers internships in the following fields:

Software Development

Interns participate in various activities throughout the software development life cycle. Besides coding, they are introduced to the latest technologies. Interns with IT backgrounds are preferred, specifically in the fields of computer science, software engineering, and electronic engineering.

Business Development

Working with the business development team, interns deal with prospective customers across markets. Among other assignments, this includes direct client contact and market research. Prospective interns are required to have experience in marketing management, business administration, and/or business development.

Marketing and Corporate Relations

The marketing department handles internal and external communication for Extentia. Interns with experience in marketing management, business administration, and/or business development are preferred for this role. Photo/video shooting and editing are additional good to have skills here as the marketing team organizes several event shoots through the year, with interns actively involved.

UI/UX Design

Interning in the Experience Studio is about more than just improving technical skills. While storyboarding, designing, and implementing UI as well as testing usability, interns let their creativity thrive in this role. Students with experience in visual design and an impressive portfolio are invited for this department.

Quality Assurance (QA)

Within QA, interns assist in writing and maintaining test plans, testing environments, cases, and tools, as well as in tracking defects. They also help with translations from English to their native language. Excellent communication skills with a functional knowledge of English are two of the primary pre-requisites for this internship.

Human Resources

HR interns closely work on various employee engagement activities. They also coordinate various employee engagement activities and work closely with various departments to ensure smooth process flow and function.

Eligibility

To ensure a basis for a successful internship experience, all interns should have excellent communication skills with a functional knowledge of English, and be open to new experiences and learnings.

Further requirements for different internship positions can be found in the respective job profiles on the CONNECT website.

Application Process

To apply for the CONNECT internship program, applicants can write to

connect@extentia.com

Or fill the online form

www.extentia.com/connect-internships/

In case an internship other than the continuously offered positions is intended, a contact form is available under the same link.

After receiving an application, Extentia's HR team reviews and shortlists the application based on certain criteria. They then get in touch with the applicant for further information. The final selection process consists of a telephonic or personal interview, conducted by the respective department head.

Ask an Intern Program

The 'ask an intern program' was implemented to give prospective interns a chance to communicate with CONNECT alumni or current interns first-hand. This implies that all questions are answered accurately and honestly. This also gives prospective interns a better understanding of the work culture in India.

For any questions, write to askanintern@extentia.com.

Working at Extentia

First Days

When joining Extentia, interns gradually get introduced to their new workplace and responsibilities. As in marriages, the first week is the honeymoon period.

On the first day, interns are given a tour through the office and are introduced to the management. To promote easy networking and first connections, interns are further assigned to one of the Extentia houses and a designated mentor. Finally, a welcome email to everyone in the company introduces them as the latest member of the Extentia family.

On entering their department, interns meet their team members and get an overview of recurring tasks and the latest projects. Based on that, they get assigned to a particular task.

An induction to the company, the program, and Pune completes the overview.

Attendance

At Extentia, office hours are Monday to Friday, from 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. In these nine hours, interns are expected to be available for work at their desk, in meetings, or in the form of trainings or other work-related sessions.

This nine-hour work period includes a flexible one-hour break during lunchtime. Lunch break can be spent inside the company premises, as well as outside.

For traveling and other reasons, interns can take a certain amount of leave days per month. However, taking further unpaid leaves is possible, if discussed with and approved by the respective manager and team.

Work Culture

Extentia has an open-minded and warm work culture. All employees – including the management – address each other informally, while pursuing an open-door policy.

Concomitant with this culture, interns are encouraged to express their opinion, criticism, and suggestions for improvement. At the same time, opinions of others and criticism should not just be accepted, but appreciated.

Trainings, Presentations, and Other Sessions

To enable a well-balanced combination of theory and practice, CONNECT interns are given the chance to join every training or seminar relevant to them – whether it is about technological knowledge or soft skill improvement.

Soft skills can also be trained by giving a presentation, as every CONNECT intern is asked to do. The topic can be chosen freely, relevance being the only selection criterion.

Further, Extentia organizes a variety of internal as well as public talks, in addition to other events. For the 'Breakfast Talk' series, external guests are invited to speak on a particular topic, after having breakfast together. Other events include presentations on recent business activities, client networking sessions, and panel discussions.

Sakaar

Throughout the year, the Extentia houses organize various activities within the frame of Sakaar, Extentia's social outreach program. Just as permanent employees, interns are invited to participate in these activities.



Leisure Time

Living in a foreign country is exciting, but sometimes the new experience also brings challenges. To support interns orientate themselves quickly in the new environment, and to prevent homesickness – Extentia has set up various events to give interns a better understanding of their temporary home.

GAP Day

Staying in a foreign country, most CONNECT interns do not know about Indian family life. To give them an insight into it, GAP day was initiated. GAP is an acronym of the Hindi phrase 'Ghar Aaya Pardesi', which means as much as 'Bring a Foreigner Home'.

On GAP day, CONNECT interns are invited into an Indian family's home where they get to interact with the family members and have a home-cooked meal together. Apart from getting to know the hosting colleague better, GAP day is a chance to learn more about each other's cultures and exchange views.

Company Events

Throughout the year, Extentia organizes several company events, such as parties, cultural activities, sports meets, and quizzes. In addition, there is an annual company party and as part of Team Extentia, interns are invited to join every event – or even participate in related activities such as dance performances and games.



Costs and Financing

To support interns in financing their sojourn abroad, Extentia provides them with a cost-free accommodation and a monthly stipend.

The amount of the stipend is designed to comfortably cover basic living expenses, like for food, day-to-day products, and transportation, in addition to a buffer for personal comfort items. However, if traveling is intended, it is beneficial to have some additional savings.

In the course of the internship, CONNECT interns receive feedback on their work in the form of an appraisal. Depending on the rating the intern receives, a monthly bonus is issued in addition to the stipend.

Checklist: What Should I do Before Leaving for India?

Visa

Students or recent graduates require an Entry Visa (X). This type of visa is extremely difficult to renew, for that it is strongly recommended to initially get a visa that's valid for the entire internship period.

It can take up to three weeks for the visa to be issued. For that reason, the application should be submitted well in advance. However, submitting the application does not guarantee the visa to be actually issued. It is recommended that you do not book your flight ticket before the visa is issued. In case of difficulties during the visa application process, the intern should communicate with Extentia after which Extentia will get in touch with the application center and try to settle the issue.

For more information on visa, click [here](#).

Documents

To avoid difficulties with the visa and while in India, all travel documents should be valid long enough. When planning to rent a vehicle in India, interns should make sure to get an international driver's license and – as the combination of both documents is required – their national driver's license.

It is advisable to bring a couple of copies of your documents since it is best to keep your documents in a safe place when leaving the house in India. Also, when traveling, hotels and hostels are required to send a copy of the guests' passports to the local police station to report their stay.

Booking Flights

When booking flight tickets to India, it is good practice to compare various routes and airlines for the best value for your money. Pune has got an international airport (PNQ), therefore it is possible to fly in directly. However, it can be cheaper to book a ticket to Mumbai (BOM) – transportation is provided by Extentia from and to both airports.

There are plenty of international airlines, which offer flights to airports all over India. Some of the ones with more frequent dates include Air India, British Airways, Air France, Delta, and Lufthansa. Other slightly less expensive airlines are Emirates, KLM, Gulf Airlines, and Turkish Airlines.

It is reasonable to research flight options on one of the many online price comparison portals for flight tickets. Even the origin of the portal can sometimes have an effect on the prices available (an Indian website might have cheaper offers than a German one). However, picking the least expensive flight might not always be the best option, as the itinerary might not be the most direct way to go.

Vaccinations

Before visiting India for the first time, a travel doctor should be consulted regarding routine vaccinations for precautionary measures. Further, the Department of Foreign Affairs provides recommendations for health vaccinations. These should also be considered if the intern has visited India before, as certain vaccinations require regular boosting to be effective.

As Pune is an urban area, hospitals are well equipped with medications. For this reason, Malaria prophylaxis is optional as long you don't intend to travel excessively to remote places.

Health Insurance

Accidents happen. Hence, it is recommended to arrange for insurance before traveling to India, as emergency evacuation is expensive – not uncommonly costs exceed US\$100,000. Even in less dramatic situations health insurance can be beneficial if it covers medical expenses for doctor visits and medications.

When taking up insurance, the duration of the internship should be considered. Insurance companies usually provide different offers and rates according to the duration of cover. Also, the purpose of travel can be relevant, so it should be ensured that the chosen policy is applicable for internships. Finally, it should be considered that students might get better deals.

Checklist: What Should I pack?

Clothing

What clothing should be packed is dependent on the season in which India is visited. In general, some long trousers, a couple of t-shirts, and a pair of solid shoes, as well as sandals, are always a good choice.

At Extentia, the dress code is very casual – therefore it is not necessary to pack too much formal wear. Men usually wear jeans and a t-shirt, and women either dress in traditional Indian garments or (also) jeans and a t-shirt or blouse. Unless there are specific formal meetings or occasions, no one wears a suit in the office.

For safety reasons, women are advised not to bring clothes which are too revealing. Pants and skirts should be at ankle length. If tops with spaghetti straps are packed, so should be some light cardigans or jackets to wear above. However, these recommendations do not necessarily apply for party outfits – Pune being a student city with many internationals, many women wear short skirts or dresses, or tight tops when going to clubs and bars.

Finally, when packing, it should be considered that India is a shopping paradise. Shops offer a broad variety of styles and especially compared to Europe, the US and other countries, clothes, shoes and accessories are very inexpensive; even branded products are relatively cheaper. For that reason, it might be advisable to leave some space in the suitcase.

Other Things to Bring

To stay connected in Pune, it makes sense to bring a mobile phone. Prepaid SIM cards are inexpensive and costs for calling, texting, and mobile internet are low. Further, bringing a laptop (if available) can be useful, as it can be used in the guesthouse. There are no custom controls on personal laptops in India. When bringing electronic devices it should be considered that – depending on interns' country of origin – these might need an adapter. However, since most adapter types are easily available here, it is not necessary to buy one before coming.

If special medications are required, a sufficient amount, plus a buffer in case of loss, should be brought. Standard medications are available in every medical shop.

Even though bed sheets and linens are available in the guesthouse, some interns prefer bringing

Passport pictures

In the first few weeks after arriving at India, passport pictures will be required regularly – when registering a SIM card, for the personal record at Extentia and even for the email which welcomes new interns. For that reason it is beneficial to bring a set of 4 to 8 passport pictures when coming to Pune.

Official passport pictures have a size of 3.5 x 3.5 cm, a white background, and the model facing straight forward.

their own. In addition, a blanket or sleeping bag can be useful, especially during winter and when traveling. In any case, a sufficient number of towels should either be packed or bought on-site, as they are not provided.

To ease homesickness, bringing some snacks can be a good idea. If they are not needed for that purpose, they are well appreciated by colleagues too.

As for shopping clothes, it should be kept in mind that almost everything can be bought inexpensively in Pune. Considering the high charges of excess baggage, it makes sense to keep the luggage light and buying missing items after arrival.

ARRIVING IN INDIA



First Steps on Arrival

Transport to Accommodation

To ensure a safe trip, transportation from the airport is organized by Extentia. Exiting the baggage claim area, interns are welcomed by a cab service, waiting for them with their name on a placard. Interns are then brought to the guesthouse, where co-interns welcome them.

Travel time strongly depends on the port of entry. When directly landing in Pune, transport will not take more than half an hour. If traveling from Mumbai, a three to four-hour journey (under regular traffic conditions) has to be accounted for.

As traveling by is tremendously time-consuming, interns who arrive at a further airport are advised to fly with one of the domestic airlines to get to Pune. Some of these airlines include: IndiGo, Jet Airways, and SpiceJet. Tickets bought well in advance can work out with a high discount on the regular fare.

Registration

As per Indian law, foreigners residing in India have to do a 'C registration' at the local authorities within 24 hours of their arrival at the accommodation. The registration is done by Extentia, so interns just need to sign the corresponding, prefilled form.

If a sojourn of more than 130 days in 6 months is planned, an additional registration at the Foreigners Registration Office (FRO) is required within 14 days after arrival. Even though an agent is there to support an intern who needs to register, this kind of registration is generally more time-consuming and costly. For that reason, it is recommended to avoid a stay exceeding 180 days for a short time only.

More information on registrations is available [here](#).

Accommodation

Location

CONNECT interns are provided accommodation in the company guesthouse, which is a flat in a society not far away from the office – traveling by rickshaw from the main road takes about 20 to 30 minutes, going by scooter or bike takes slightly less.

The society is located a bit off the main road and is surrounded by greenery. However, there are multiple local shops for groceries within walking distance. A little down the main road (about 2 minutes away, by bike) there is a market, which offers a big variety of daily fresh greens as well as fish for low prices. It is bordered by further local shops as well as internet cafés, and domestic needs. In the festival season, this market also turns into a small cultural hotspot for the direct neighborhood.



Apart from the market and local shops, there is a big supermarket in about 5 minutes from the guesthouse. Located in a mall, it also offers non-food items such as groceries, clothes, and stationery supplies. Other malls are reachable in 15 minutes by bike as well.

For going out, Koregaon Park with its many restaurants, bars, and clubs is not far either – it can be reached in about 5-15 minutes (depending on the destination).



Equipment

The bedrooms of the guesthouse are equipped with beds, wardrobes, and cupboards, as well as a desk and a chair. Every bedroom has a bathroom en suite.

In the common living room, there is a couch and chairs for comfortable get-togethers with flatmates, a TV, and a table for meals. The kitchen is equipped with a fridge with a freezer, a gas stove, crockery and cutlery, basic cooking equipment, and a water filter for drinking water. Further, a washing machine and Wi-Fi are available free of cost in the guesthouse.

Finally, a maid comes in every day except on Sundays for dusting, cleaning, and washing the dishes.

Living Arrangement

All CONNECT interns share the guesthouse. It means that depending on the number of co-interns the living arrangement changes. If there are more than 3 or 4 interns at the same time, they share a room. However, the guesthouse is spacious enough for everyone to find a quiet corner – even if the other flatmates are at home. If sharing a bedroom is required, a maximum of two people of the same sex accommodate together.

Note: *Interns can decide not to stay at the guesthouse as offered by Extentia. In this case, arrangements for an alternate accommodation as well as costs have to be covered by the respective intern.*



LIVING IN PUNE



Pune is a fascinating city with a rich culture and history. The district is marked by magnificent forts, which provide a testimonial of the glorious past of the long-standing Maratha Empire. It was only after 1761, in the battle of Panipat, that the empire began to decline, and in 1818, Pune was taken over by the British East India Company.

Today Pune is referred to as the cultural center of Maharashtra, as it is home to Marathi education, art and crafts, as well as theater. With the highest number of educational institutions in India and one of its oldest universities, it is also known as the Oxford of the East. Consisting of both Indians as well as internationals, Pune's student population makes for a cosmopolitan vibe and a lively nightlife.

Nowadays, Pune is also an important commercial center. Spacious new neighborhoods contrast the narrow roads of the old town, and its omnipresent cyclists, bikes, and rickshaws give the city its unique charm.

Language

The state language of Maharashtra is Marathi, but Hindi is spoken widely. There are various tutors that offer Hindi courses. Regardless, it is possible to pick up a bit of the language without a course – many colleagues are happy to teach interns some words and phrases.

In general, it is not necessary to learn the language, as almost everyone speaks English. However, basic Hindi knowledge is beneficial when shopping for groceries in one of the many markets or directing rickshaw drivers.

Weather

India has three major seasons – winter, summer, and monsoon. In Pune, the weather is much milder than in other parts of the country, which makes it a pleasant place to stay.

Winter months (November-February) are bright and pleasant, though it does get slightly chilly in the evenings. Temperatures range from 10-25 °C.

Summer (March-June) is hot, with temperatures ranging from 24-40 °C. However, due to the high altitude of Pune, the nights are usually cool. In May, the city often receives heavy thundershowers.

Monsoon is usually between June to September along the West Coast, and mid-October to December along the East. Temperatures range from 18-30 °C.

Money and Banking

In India, the currency is the rupee. One rupee is divided in 100 paise – however, paise are barely used.

In cities, many international credit cards are widely accepted. However, small businesses usually accept cash only. It is also a good idea to always carry a sufficient number of small notes and coins, as rickshaw drivers and merchants sometimes have no change.

To ensure access to money, it is beneficial to plan how to spend before arrival. CONNECT interns receive their monthly stipend in cash. If expenses exceeding the stipend amount are planned, the possibilities to get cash can be via exchanging foreign currency or withdrawing money. If possible, paying via a credit card can be a good alternative. As always with credit cards, precaution against identity theft should be taken.

Exchange currency: Rupees are officially not convertible, for that reason exchanging money can only be done at the airport in India. Outside airports there are numerous foreign exchange conversion units – including banks – exchange foreign currencies. However, rates may be better at the airport.

ATMs: There are numerous ATMs of a variety of banks available, from which money can be withdrawn with a credit card. For most ATMs, the maximum amount paid out per transaction is ₹ 10,000. State Bank of India (SBI) is the biggest bank in India and has the most ATMs, followed by ICICI bank. International Banks, such as Citibank, HSBC, Barclays, Deutsche Bank, RBS, and Standard Chartered are also present in big Indian cities. Generally, banks charge a fee of ₹ 200 for credit card withdrawals. However, some charge more. The respective fee should be confirmed before the transaction.

Living Expenses

In general, India is much cheaper compared to other countries. Therefore, it is possible to live on the stipend money only, as it covers all basic necessities. Typical living expenses are:

Bottled water (1l):	₹ 20
Meal at the office:	₹ 50
Meal at a restaurant:	₹ 150 - ₹ 500
Beer at a bar:	₹ 150 - ₹ 500
Rent for a two-wheeler:	₹ 2,500 - ₹ 3,000
Haircut:	₹ 50 (for men) - ₹ 700 (for women)
T-shirt:	₹ 250

Like everywhere else in the world, prices vary depending on location and stores. Branded products tend to be more expensive than non-branded, just as high-end restaurants are more expensive than street cafés.

A more detailed list of prices can be found [here](#).

Safety

Pune is generally considered to be a safe city – watchmen are guarding most houses and societies, and even women can get around town safely on their own. However, it is recommended not to be careless and to take certain precautions.

Although people in Pune are generally used to seeing foreigners, there can still be curious glances at times. In this case, it is best to ignore these looks and just keep walking. If assistance is needed, locals are usually friendly and approachable. It is neither uncommon for them to strike a casual conversation with foreigners, but caution should be maintained. Especially women are advised not to be too friendly with anyone who starts chatting with them on the street while out alone. As in many places, it is still advisable to avoid dark, unknown areas.

Further safety recommendations as advised by the local police are available [here](#).

Medical Treatment

Working at Extentia, CONNECT interns have the exclusive ability to seek any medical assistance on the office premises. A highly qualified physician comes to the office every week and is available for consultation on appointment. Upon arrival, interns are requested to see the doctor within the first two weeks, to ensure a good adjustment to the new climate and diet. In case of emergency or for any health-related query the doctor can be contacted 24/7.

In case of illness, interns can also contact the CONNECT team. They will organize for a member of Extentia's administration staff to pick interns up from the guesthouse, bring them to a doctor close-by, and support them by getting medications from a medical store.

Communication

Telephone

As mentioned, it is useful to bring a mobile phone. SIM cards are available by different providers. It is a good idea to choose a provider with a large network such as Vodafone, Airtel, or Jio, to ensure reception.



If staying in another city for a while after arriving in India, it is recommended to only acquire a SIM card in Pune. Different areas generally use different networks, and using a SIM card from another network might lead to roaming charges.

For foreigners, activating prepaid SIM cards requires the submission of several documents proving the identity of the applicant. Once these documents are submitted to the network provider, it can take up to a week until the SIM can be used.

More information can be found [here](#).

Internet

Besides the Wi-Fi access in the guesthouse, internet access is available 24/7 in the office. In addition, some coffee shops like Starbucks offer free Wi-Fi to their customers. If without your own laptop, internet can be easily found in one of the cyber cafés, in almost every street. Although speed and prices vary from place to place, checking emails, visiting Facebook, and loading pictures is always possible. An hour of internet usually costs between ₹ 10 - ₹ 50.

Post

For post, there is an option for interns to address a member of the administration team in the office to mail it for them.

Alternatively, there are various providers to mail post. A good price-performance ratio is offered by the India Post. The company has post offices all over Pune – the closest one is conveniently located 15 minutes from Extentia's office. Other providers available include DHL, as well as various local couriers.

Mobility

Even though public transport is not as organized as it may be in many Western countries, there are many options to travel around Pune.

Rickshaws

Auto-rickshaws are everywhere and shape the image of Pune's streets. Rickshaws are metered, meaning that the fare is calculated based on the meter reading. Still, interns should be prepared to bargain, as some rickshaw drivers insist on not going by meter, depending on the time of the day and the requested destination. After sunset, an additional charge of 40-50% can be applicable. Also, the fare might be higher when going to a place where it is hard for drivers to find passengers.



If bargaining is necessary, it might be helpful to go for a 'meter+' strategy and agree on the meter price plus a fixed amount, if the regular fare to the desired destination is unknown. Under regular conditions, the metered fare for a ride from the office to the guesthouse is about ₹ 50.

Two-Wheelers

Many interns decide to rent a motorbike or scooter for optimal mobility when coming to Pune. However, it is strongly recommended to have some driving experience and an international driving license before getting into Pune traffic. Alternatively, interns can apply for an Indian Learner's license, but since the procedure, until the issue can be lengthy, it is not recommended.

For the first weeks, it is advisable to observe traffic conditions. When making the decision to rent a two-wheeler, Extentia supports interns by connecting them to a reliable rental company and providing them with a helmet. Interns should note that Extentia employees are obliged to wear a helmet when riding on a two-wheeler – both as driver and pillion passenger.

Alternative Means of Transportation

Pune's municipal transport system PMPML consists of a wide bus network, with almost 300 routes. However, going by bus is not recommended as they are often overcrowded.

It is possible to travel by taxi. Although there are many taxi companies, such as Uber and Ola, it is rather difficult to find a taxi on the street. For that reason, it should be called via phone or app, or even booked in advance. Taxis can also be booked for traveling outside Pune.

Eating and Drinking

There are multiple options for CONNECT interns to choose from. As the guesthouse is provided with everything required for cooking, interns can buy groceries and prepare them at home. For lunch, they can bring a pre-cooked meal and reheat it in one of the microwaves available in the lunch area.

Alternatively, breakfast and lunch can be bought from one of the company's caterers. While there is only one breakfast offer,



the lunch menu provides different combinable meal options, including different gravies and vegetables, dal, rice, and chapatti. The menu offered by caterers with both vegetarian and non-vegetarian options changes daily and is inexpensive. Additionally, Extentia's employees receive a snack and tea or coffee in the office.



Finally,

Pune's numerous restaurants and street food stalls are to be considered when thinking about where to eat. India is a paradise for vegetarians. Almost every restaurant offers a huge variety of vegetarian food – even McDonald's. Some restaurants even offer vegetarian dishes only. Further, menus are typically marked with signs for 'veg' and 'non-veg', or accordingly divided into categories.



Pune has a great variety of inexpensive Indian cuisine. There is something for every budget and taste, in terms of restaurants and food stores. Generally, the food in Pune is not as spicy as compared to other cities.

Apart from Indian food, there are plenty of restaurants offering international cuisine. Especially Chinese and Italian restaurants can be found in many places. In general, these restaurants are slightly more expensive than Indian restaurants.

When coming to India for the first time, it is advisable to be careful with outside food and avoid raw vegetables and fruits. During monsoon season, it is also advisable to choose closely where to eat chicken and meat. Exercising caution is also recommended for drinks:

in any case, do NOT drink tap water. It is best to only drink bottled water until being used to normal filtered water. After one to three months the body should have adjusted.

Numerous local restaurant ratings can be found [here](#).

Recreation

Pune offers activities for every taste, from cultural activities to sporting and going out. Even when not traveling, interns are guaranteed not to get bored on the weekends.

Sightseeing

In the first few weeks of their sojourn in Pune, many CONNECT interns choose to explore their new environment. The old town of Pune has a unique charm and invites visitors to explore its many small roads and rustic houses. However, there are a lot more things to see.

Shaniwar Wada is the ruin of an old palace in the north of the old city. Before being destroyed in a fire in 1828, it was the seat of the rulers of the Maratha Empire and home to about 1000 people. Today all that remains is the outer walls and the structure of the destroyed buildings inside.

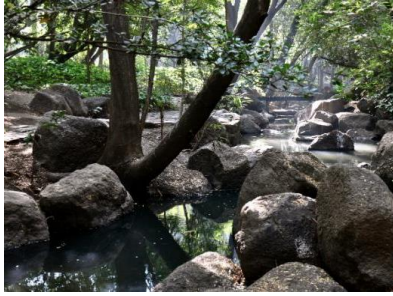


On the other side of the river, only a few minutes from Shaniwar Wada, the **Pataleshwar Temple** can be found. This rock-cut cave temple was started in the 8th century but left incomplete.

Another must-see temple is the **Dagdusheth Ganpati Temple**, which is dedicated to Ganesh. The popular and magnificent temple lies directly on a busy street and is visited by thousands of people every year – especially during the annual Ganpati celebrations.

Pune is also home to various museums. For art lovers, the **Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum** holds an interesting collection of Indian art and everyday objects from the 18th and 19th centuries, such as music instruments, textiles, toys, furniture, and other things. Also, the **Tribal Museum** is worth a visit. The small museum showcases artifacts from the tribal communities of Maharashtra.

A must-visit place is the **Aga Khan Palace**, whose history is closely linked to the Indian Freedom Movement. In the 1940s, Mahatma Gandhi, his wife, and his secretary were interned at the palace, and today it holds a Gandhi memorial museum. The palace is surrounded by a marvelous park.



Another beautiful park is **Saras Baug**. The 25-acre park complex functions as a popular retreat for people of all ages. There is also a Ganesh temple which receives thousands of visitors every day. However, the most beautiful park is probably the **Osho Teerth Park**, which lies in the heart of Koregaon Park. Although linked to the Osho Ashram, it is open to the public in the morning and late afternoon.

Sports

There are many options to choose from when it comes to staying active in Pune. CONNECT interns accommodated at the guesthouse can use the society's gym after registration. Apart from that, there are many groups in Extentia – who meet on one of the many grounds to play cricket, football, badminton, and other team sports. As everyone is invited to join, it is also a great chance to meet new people.

Films

With its rich cinema culture, India is a good place to be for movie fans. Almost every mall in Pune houses a theatre. Here, not only the latest Hollywood blockbusters are screened, but also the latest Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, and other Indian movies. Although Indian movies usually do not have English subtitles, it is possible to follow the story, according to previous CONNECT interns – thanks to the inclusion of English words.

In addition to this program, the Pune International Film Festival takes place every year in January. Within the festival, movies from countries all over the world are shown and awarded.

Going Out

Pune is famous for its nightlife. There are numerous bars and clubs, and some of them are even open until the early morning. When going out, Koregaon Park is the favorite for many revelers. Apart from its many bars, the area holds a high number of clubs and lounges.

Other Things to Do

Some CONNECT interns choose to use their time in India to learn a new language. Conversation-oriented language courses are offered on a regular basis by The Cultural Center (TCC), which is just down the road from the guesthouse. TCC also offers various other courses related to Indian culture, such as Mehendi, Rangoli, cooking classes, or treks and tours to sights inside or outside the city.

Shopping



Pune offers many options to go shopping. The city of Pune has numerous small shops that offer almost everything the heart can desire for a low price. Streets like M.G. Road or Laxmi Road attract thousands of shoppers daily. A variety of shops and boutiques can also be found in Koregaon Park and Kalyani Nagar, only a few minutes from the guesthouse and Extentia's office. However, shopping there can be relatively expensive.

Besides individual shops, Pune is home to various malls. One of the biggest and most popular among them is 'Phoenix Marketcity' in Viman Nagar, about ten minutes away from the office. Malls hold many American and European brands, which offer relatively lower prices.

Some Shopping Recommendations

One of the most famous shopping roads is **Mahatma Gandhi Road (M.G. Road)**. There is a wide variety of items, ranging from electronics to clothes and household items. Many old and well-known shops, restaurants, bakeries, and medical or optical practices are based there. It also has some international chains. M.G. Road is a great place for an evening hangout.



Laxmi Road is considered one of the heartlands of shopping in Pune. There are a variety of items available in this area, including clothing, jewelry, bangles, and household necessities. In order to get the true flavor of the Indian culture, one can simply walk into this bustling street and check out the numerous fashionable and traditional stores.

Fergusson College Road (F.C. Road) Market is a good roadside shopping place for clothing, footwear, fashion accessories, and home decor items at cheap prices.

Hongkong Lane is a must-see place in Pune for shopaholics, offering a unique collection of bags, clothes, accessories, books, and footwear.

An inexpensive market for street shopping is **Fashion Street**. It is one of the best places to buy readymade garments, footwear, leather items, and fashion accessories. Located near East Street in central Pune, Fashion Street has over 450 stalls, each 20 – 30 square feet.

When in search of copper and brass idols – as well as household utility items – **Tulshibaug** is the place to go. It is famous for being popular among female consumers, offering gift items, cosmetics, containers, artificial gold jewelry, and other fashion and trendy items. It is also known for its low price market and affordability.

Bargaining

When shopping, it is important to distinguish where it is appropriate to bargain. In general, malls and boutiques have a fixed price for their products. However, shoppers should always haggle when buying from markets or street stalls, as the first price is usually much higher than the actual price. Even in smaller shops, it is sometimes possible to bargain for a lower price. If in doubt, it is preferred to ask if the offered price is fixed – this way misunderstandings can be avoided.

Traveling Outside Pune

Doing an internship abroad is about more than just gaining work experience – it is also a great opportunity to travel. India is an extremely multifaceted country with greenery, climate, and culture.

Traveling in Maharashtra

Mulshi

Mulshi is a great attraction, not too far from Pune. Just an hour and a half drive, the pleasant weather and stunning view regularly attract Pune-kars for a relaxed afternoon picnic. During monsoon season, the village changes its character with lush greenery and heavy flowing waterfalls.

Lonavala

To get away from the chaotic streets of Pune, a trip to Lonavala is the right thing to do. Located 65 km from Pune, the hill station has a cool climate throughout the year and is perfect for some peace and quiet. During and directly after the monsoon, thousands of waterfalls can be seen here.

Khandala

Also known as Lonavala's twin hill station, Khandala is endowed with natural beauty, several waterfalls, and other tourist attractions. Just like Lonavala, it is a great spot for a serene weekend out of the busy city.

Matheran

Slightly further away but worth the visit is Matheran. Located close to Mumbai, Matheran offers spectacular views of surrounding forests, even for people who do not like to trek. Apart from horse rides through the misty hills, visitors can take a ride on the narrow-gauge railway to reach the mountain top.

Mumbai (Bombay)

Just 147 km from Pune, the vibrant metropolis is the main hub for people from all over the world. Especially the south of Mumbai holds many tourist sites – visitors can explore through the streets of Colaba, see the famous Gateway of India, stroll down Marine Drive, or visit the city's well known 'Chor Bazaar'. The hustle and the bustle of Bombay should not be missed!

Mahabaleshwar

Probably the most popular hill station around Pune is Mahabaleshwar, located 120 km from the city. Many newlyweds visit the area to enjoy the pleasant walks, boat on the beautiful Venna Lake and admire the stunning views from its many viewpoints.

Alibaug

140 km away from Pune, the city is perfect for a coastal break, and a popular beach destination for a weekend getaway. Alibaug has mostly black sand beaches and rocky stretches but is still a quaint and beautiful coastal town to see.

Aurangabad

Located in the Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, the famous Ajanta and Ellora caves impress millions of visitors every year. Cut out of rock by hand, the caves rank amongst some of the most outstanding specimens of ancient Indian architectural heritage. Apart from the caves, Aurangabad is home to the Bibi Ka Maqbara, a smaller copy of the Taj Mahal.

A Little Further Down South...

Goa

The state of Goa is the favorite weekend getaway for many. The coastal paradise located about 450 km from Pune is popular for its sun-kissed sandy beaches and stunning countryside, easy-going lifestyle, as well as its various fairs and festivals.

Hampi

In the southern state of Karnataka lies 'the greatest Hindu kingdom in India'. Hampi's magnificence awes even people who claim to have seen everything, as they get emerged in its ancient ruins and spend a weekend exploring the village.

Kerala

Literally 'God's own country', Kerala is one of India's most renowned states and definitely worth a visit. Visitors can travel down south to the backwaters of Alleppey or catch the seaside city of Cochin for a different cultural experience.

Pondicherry

Sitting on the Bay of Bengal, the former French colony has a charming mix of colonial buildings and cathedrals, beautiful beaches, and colorful festivals throughout the year. The city can easily be explored by cycle and on foot.

Up North!

New Delhi

As the capital of India and the second-largest city in the world, Delhi is a melting pot of cultures. The city presents itself to visitors not only from his historic site, with sights like the India Gate, the Jama Masjid, or the Red Fort, but it is also famous for its diverse food and shopping places.

Agra

The city of Agra is probably best known for the spectacular Taj Mahal. However, there are other memorizing forts that give a glimpse of old Mughal architecture. Although it is more than 1200 km away from Pune, it is definitely worth the trip.

Thar Desert

Located in the west of Rajasthan, on the border to Pakistan, travelers can experience the diversities of the 200 KM² Thar Desert. Many travel agents offer camel or truck safaris through the desert, including a night under the starlit sky in a camp.

[Click here to find even more inspiration for travel destinations – especially around Pune](#)

Did you find all this interesting? We hope you find this guide useful during your internship. Feel free to ask us any questions. And we want your feedback on what can be added or made better in this document!