SINHAGAD FORT: WAYFINDING & SPATIAL IDENTITY

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3rd yr Communication Design



The Objective

- **The Site:** Sinhagad is a historic 17th-century Maratha fort experiencing massive daily tourist footfall.
- **The Problem:** The current spatial narrative is fractured, making navigation confusing and unsafe for first-time visitors.
- **The Goal:** To design a cohesive, accessible, and weather-resilient wayfinding system.
- **The Vision:** To honor the fort's royal heritage while solving modern navigational and environmental challenges.



Site Analysis & The Existing Reality

- **On-Ground Research:** Conducted a comprehensive site audit to track the standard tourist walking route and map physical touchpoints.
- **Information Gaps:** Crucial directional poles were found heavily rusted, with entirely missing panels at major junctions..
- **Language Barriers:** Existing signboards were exclusively in Marathi, excluding non-native tourists from understanding vital context.
- **Visual Clutter:** Regulatory warnings, ecological notices, and historical facts were mixed haphazardly on single boards, diluting urgency.









Site Analysis & The Existing Reality







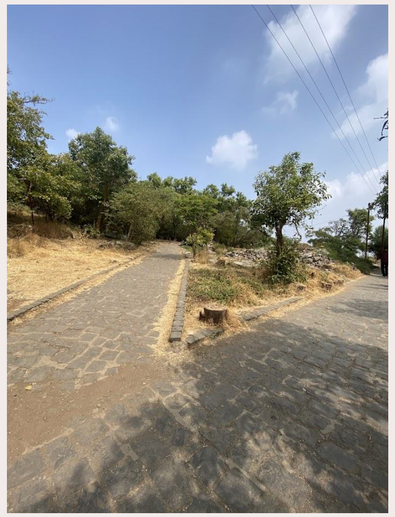














Design Strategy & Identity

- **Weather Resilience:** Upgraded materials from rust-prone iron to weather-treated aluminum to survive intense monsoons.
- **Heritage Colors:** 'Deep Maroon' (#8f1a1e) was selected to represent Maratha royalty and provide high visual contrast against the green landscape.
- **Architectural Tones:** 'Stone Grey' (#bcbcbc) serves as a grounding base, mimicking the fort’s natural basalt rock structures.
- **Bilingual Typography:** The 'Mukta' sans-serif typeface was chosen for its clean geometry, ensuring maximum legibility from a distance in both English and Marathi.

Color Scheme

#8F191F #BCBCBC

Sinhagad Fort किल्ले सिंहगड

Sinhagad Fort **किल्ले सिंहगड**

Sinhagad Fort **किल्ले सिंहगड**

Mukta Font

Spatial Orientation

- **Rapid Reading:** Replaced visually overwhelming, cluttered map layouts with a minimal, high-contrast visual hierarchy.
- **Shape-Coded Icons:** Assigned specific geometries for quick scanning (Squares = Gates, Octagons = Samadhis, Shields = Amenities).
- **Logical Flow:** Prioritized the natural walking sequence, mapping essential facilities first, followed by the heritage trail.
- **Instant Anchoring:** Integrated precise "You Are Here" markers so users can instantly orient themselves upon arrival.



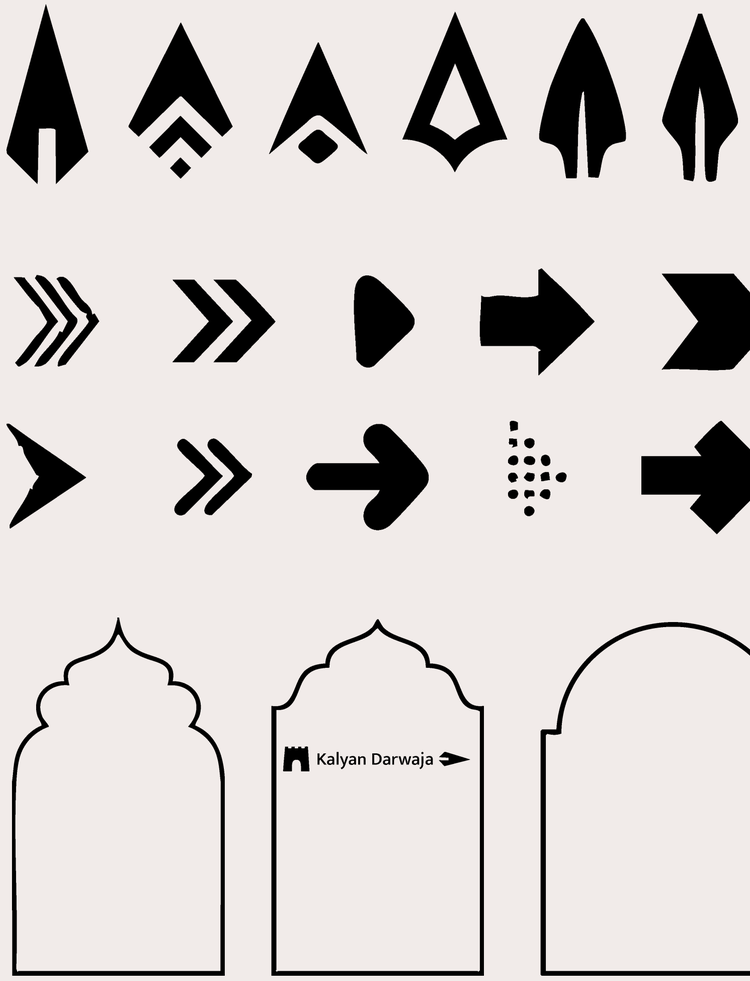


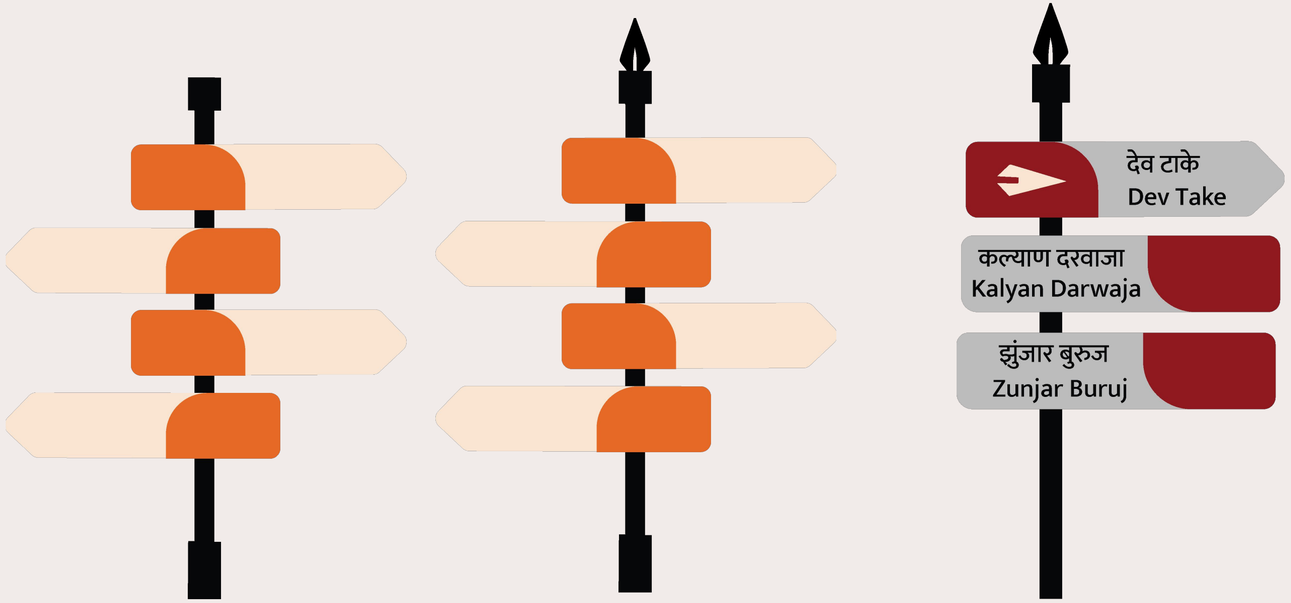
Existing Map



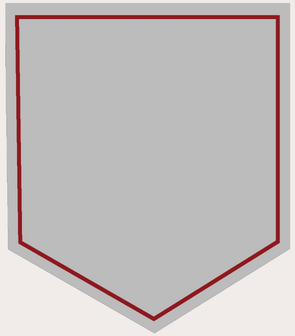
Redesigned Map

Signage Explorations



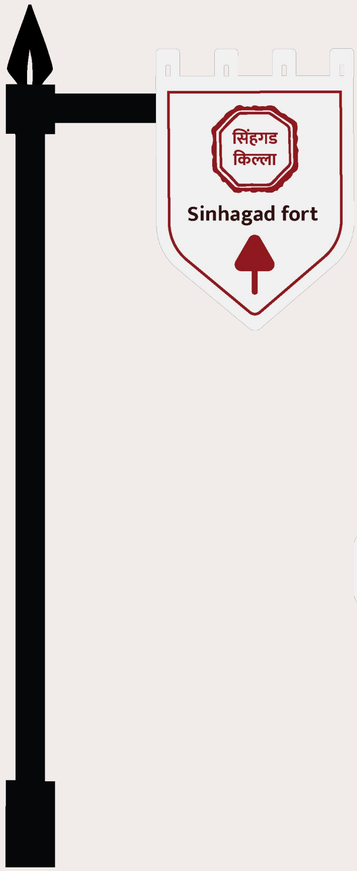






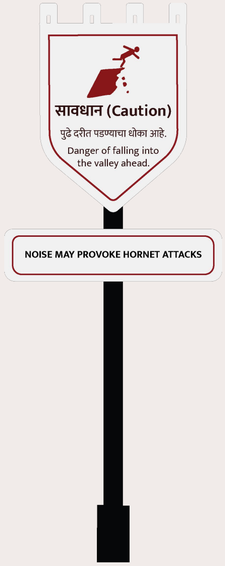
Different types of arrows, signage forms and colors were explored before finalizing the final signages.

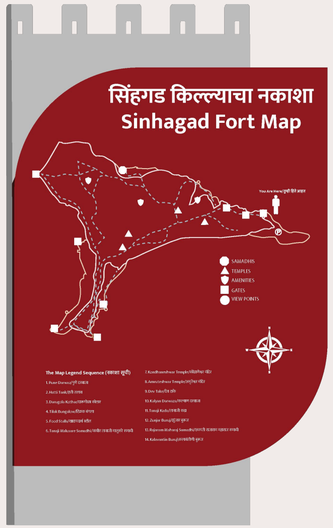
Final Signage



















Final Signage Sizes

Signage System	Total Height	Width	Scale Context (Compared to Human)
Vrindavan Monolith	7.5 feet	3.5 ft	Towering: Stands nearly 2 feet above the crowd for maximum visibility from a distance.
Finger Post	7.0 feet	2.5 ft	Overhead: Arrows are placed high enough so crowds do not block the view.
Regulatory Shield	6.5 feet	1.5 ft	Eye-Level: The warning shield sits directly in the average line of sight.
Map Monolith	6.0 feet	3.0 ft	Life-Size: Slightly taller than average; allows users to step up close to read the map details.
Directory Totem	6.0 feet	2.5 ft	Life-Size: Matches the Map Monolith height to create a consistent visual horizon.
Heritage Milestone	3.0 feet	1.6 ft	Waist-High: Designed to be easily readable while looking down on a walking path.


सिंहगड किल्ल्याचा नकाशा
Sinhagad Fort Map


कल्याण दरवाजा
Kalyan Darwaja
झुंजार बुरुज
Zunjar Buruj
देव टाके
Dev Take


सिंहगड किल्ला
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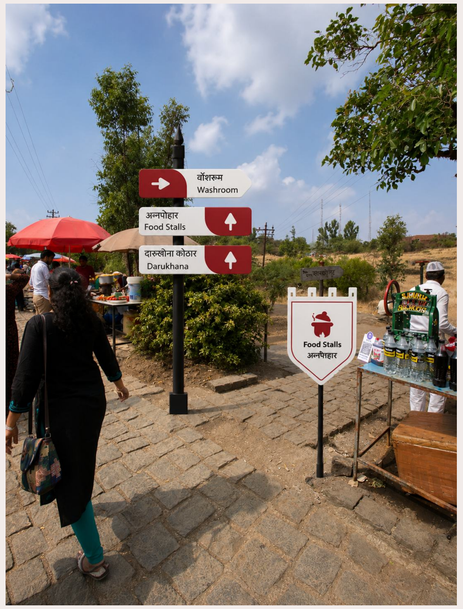
कि.मी.


सिंहगड किल्ला
Sinhagad fort


सिंहगड किल्ला
Sinhagad fort
पुणे दरवाजा
Pune Darwaja


सावधान (Caution)
इथली कोणत्याही मार्गावर नाही.
Danger of fall while not on any path.
INCASE WAR PROVIDECE HIGHEST ATTACKS


Pune Darwaja
पुणे दरवाजा

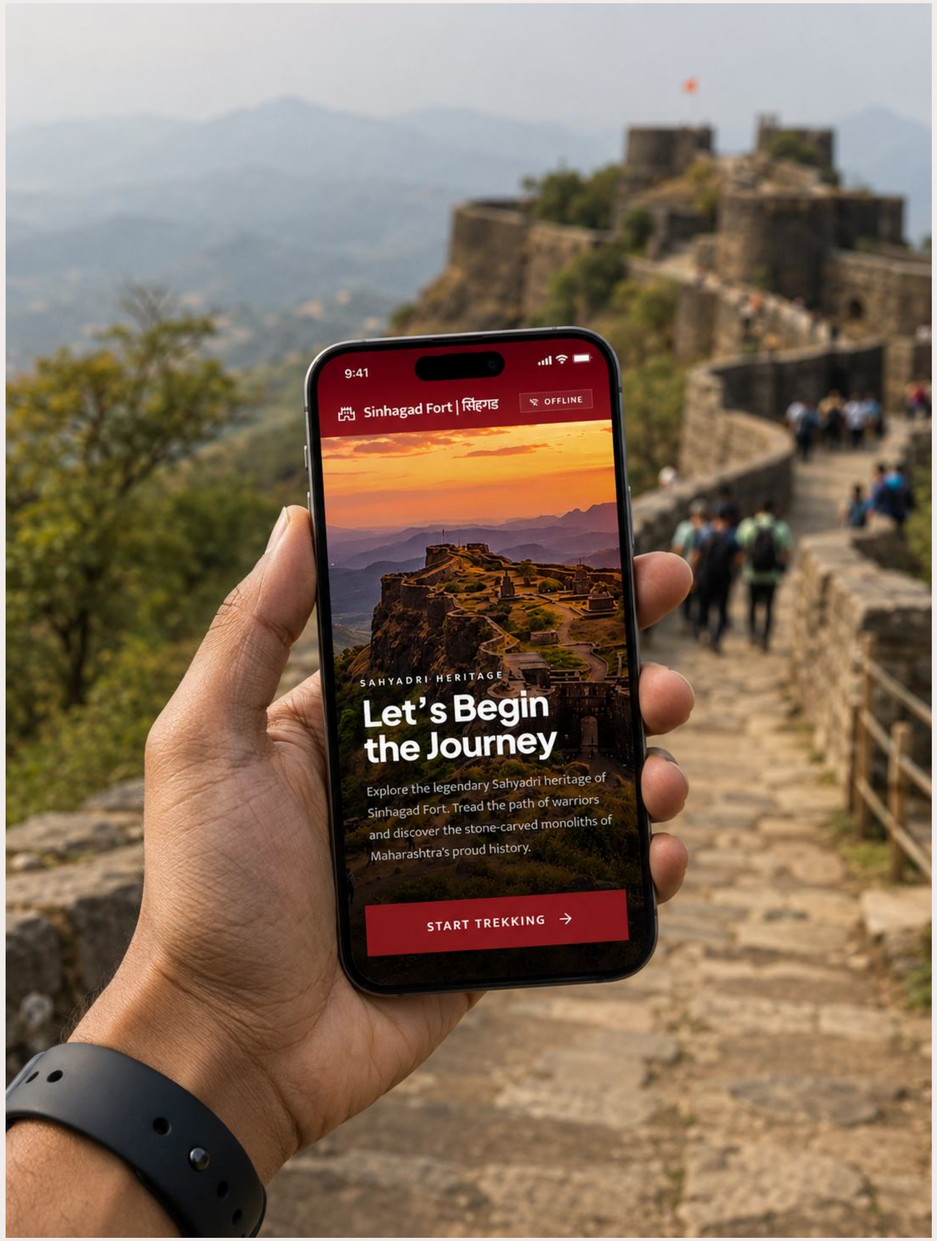

वॉशरूम
Washroom
अन्नपोहार
Food Stalls
दारूखाना कोठार
Darukhana
Food Stalls
अन्नपोहार


देव टाके
Dev Take
कल्याण दरवाजा
Kalyan Darwaja
झुंजार बुरुज
Zunjar Buruj

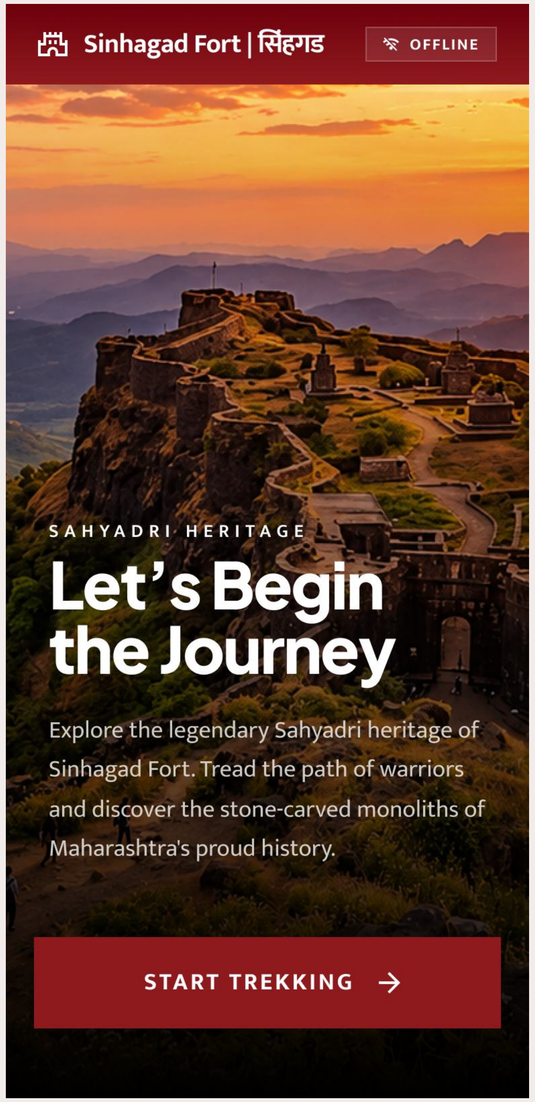

सिंहगड किल्ला

The Offline Pocket Companion

- **The Constraint:** Zero mobile network connectivity on the mountain necessitated an offline-first, pre-downloaded application.
- **UI Process:** Mapped a user journey from a base-village download to GPS-driven route guidance, utilizing the same Maroon & Grey brand system.
- **Logical Flow:** Prioritized the natural walking sequence, mapping essential facilities first, followed by the heritage trail.
- **Instant** Anchoring: Integrated precise "You Are Here" markers so users can instantly orient themselves upon arrival.



UI Screens

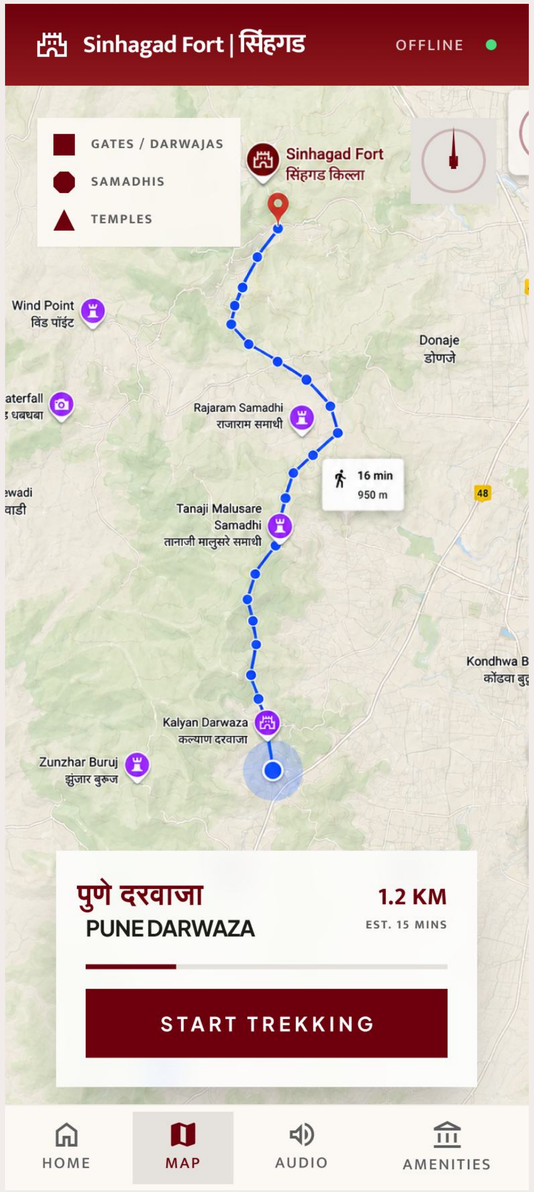


OFFLINE MODE ACTIVE
All historical data and maps are stored locally.

OPEN MAP
Navigate the bastion trails

AUDIO GUIDES
Hear the tales of Tanaji

FIND AMENITIES
Water points and restrooms



The Pune Darwaza is the main entrance to the fort, strategically built to face North-East toward the city of Pune. Its massive stone bastions and arched gateway demonstrate the pinnacle of Maratha military architecture.

Constructed using large blocks of chiseled stone, this gateway was designed to withstand elephant charges and heavy artillery. The intricate carvings on the keystones and side pillars reflect the cultural richness of the era.

पुणे दरवाजा हा किल्ल्याचा मुख्य प्रवेशद्वार असून तो पुणे शहराच्या दिशेने ईशान्येला तोंड करून आहे.

या दरवाज्याची भक्कम बांधणी आणि विशाल बुरुज मराठा लष्करी स्थापत्यशास्त्राचा उत्कृष्ट नमुना आहेत. शत्रूच्या हत्तींना आणि तोफांना थोपवून धरण्यासाठी याचे बांधकाम अत्यंत विचारपूर्वक करण्यात आले होते.

HISTORICAL AUDIO GUIDE
The Echo of Sahyadri
02:14
06:45

ELEVATION
1,312m

ESTABLISHED
~2000y

NAVIGATE HERE