Prepared by VT-RNS (Dec 2021)

Mumbai (Western Suburbs) to Hyderabad:

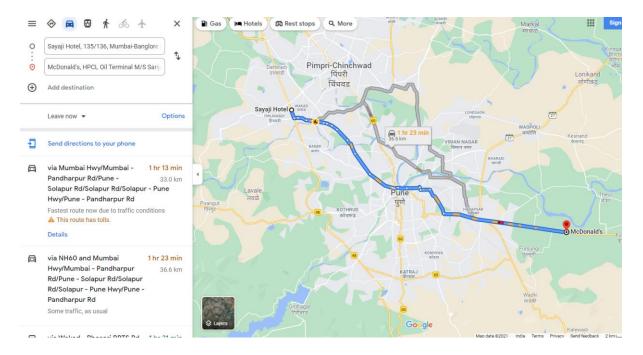
Distance: 750 kms Time: Only driving time is of 10-12 hours + Time for rest stops

Speed cameras are in action on Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Pune-Solapur 4/6 lane highway and then again near Hyderabad. These are popular places for Police and fines are steep, so keep an eye on random speed limits (MH police is known to hide behind curves, and a random speed limit will be in place)

Once outside of Mumbai, there are 2 key places you can expect traffic:

1) Crossing Pune city:

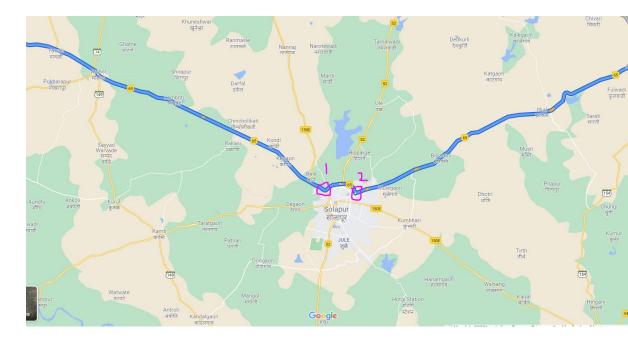
The Sayaji Hotel is just before Hinjewadi Flyover, marked for reference, as you will likely enter Pune from here. Then you cross Pune and reach on Solapur highway, which is marked by McDonalds (this is a good rest stop too, we stopped here in 2019 and I have marked it later under Rest-stops).



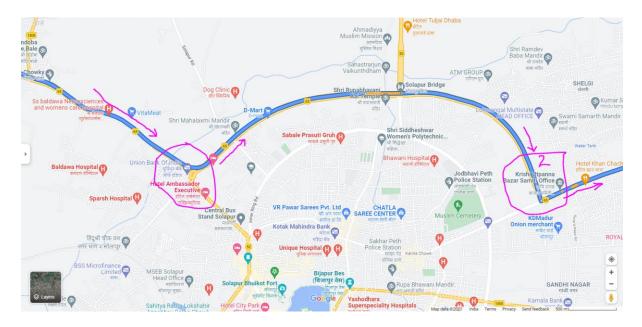
2) Solapur bypass at APMC junction:

Once you hit Solapur bypass: two key junctions will come through.

- a. Junction 1 (marked in map below) was less busy, but Junction 2 (marked) is near APMC and often has trucks occupying the lanes. So be careful of trucks but also avoid getting stuck behind a truck since they will not take left for Hyderabad but rather waiting for entry into APMC. On a good day, you can pass this in 10-15 mins, or it can take 45 mins to 1 hour too as per reports.
- b. All through, you stay on NH 65 (marked in google's blue color)

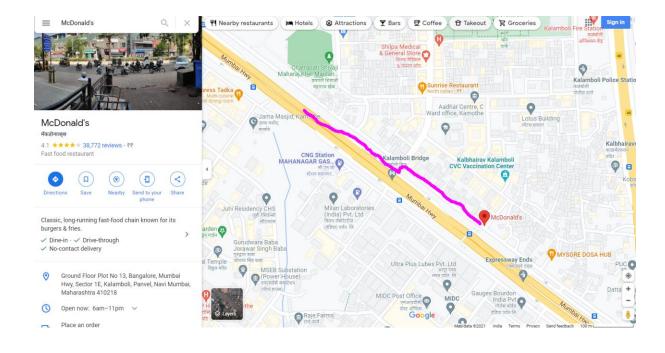


Close up of junctions 1 & 2:



Rest stops:

 McDonalds (Kalamboli – just before start of expressway): Just keep in mind that you need to stay below at Kalamboli bridge and take the side-road to reach McDonalds. Else, you will be on highway and not easy for kids (last I remember, they have put some railings there between side-road & highway)



- 2) The usual Expressway stop once you cross the first toll on Mumbai Pune Expressway
- Ideally, after this, you want to stop only after you cross Pune. A good spot is the McDonalds as soon as the Solapur road begins (its right after a toll naka). Exact spot is as follows: McDonalds (start of Pune-Solapur Highway): <u>https://goo.gl/maps/dxfTGuyWkBU6uU4R8</u>
- 4) Pune outskirt (from McD) to Solapur entry itself is 240 kms (Around 3.5 hours of driving). We didn't stop anywhere, but we were 4 adults back then. Since you are with kids, you'll probably have to find some spot. Don't have much options of my own, but on TeamBHP, I found people to recommend this place (and its kinda midway in terms of distance & also right on the highway):

Deshpande Veg. Guravary Tambekar Nagar, Mahatma Phule Chowk Pune - Solapur, Bypass Bypass Corner, Indapur, Maharashtra 413106 098606 15943 https://goo.gl/maps/8JUv2UC4ea4aWFcx8

- 5) We didn't stop anywhere near Solapur, though that's the likely place you can have choice of restaurants. We hadn't found anything good on Highway when searching, and didn't want to go inside of Solapur due to traffic. We stopped at a place once we crossed Solapur. Marked on next point.
- 6) Hotel Sai Prasad is where we had our lunch. Good food, clean washrooms, open space for sitting, car & kids. Find google location here: <u>https://goo.gl/maps/j2JVb9tVSuSdxqVA7</u> This would be ~45 kms after you leave Junction 2 (APMC junction of Solapur) shown previously.
- 7) After this, you will cross (bypass) towns like Omerga, Zahirabad, Sadashivpet, Sangareddy. You'll find places for tea here am sure, but I don't have a specific reco since we never stopped anywhere. That said, you will cross into KA state for a bit, and then into TS. If you

are asked by KA police about destination, mention its Hyderabad and they will let you go without asking for RT-PCR. Else, KA mandates RT_PCR for people coming from MH & KL (weird rule!).

Expect some bad road near/between Omerga & Naldurga. Rest should be all good roads as per latest reports.

Also expect Police checks, so keep your PUC, RC, DL, Insurance ready.

 8) For us specifically, after lunch stop at Sai Prasad, we directly stopped at Hyderabad outskirts for tea & snacks. It's a fairly crowded place so hard to miss: Sweet Heart Restaurant: <u>https://goo.gl/maps/fxLpNNuoTZaZvQoB8</u>

On our drive to Hyderabad, this was our timelines, just for reference. But :

Departure from Goregaon: 5.20 am

First Stop @8 am: McDonalds after crossing Pune on Solapur Highway (the one I marked above). It was a good long break of 45 mins.

Second stop @1 pm or so: at the Sai Prasad Restaurant mentioned above for Lunch.

Third Stop @ 5.15 pm or so at outskirts of Hyderabad @ Sweet Heart Restaurant for Tea.

Ofcourse, with kids, you will probably take more stops. But you also have a more capable car so that should help maintain good speeds (though beware of speed cameras). Roads are brilliant largely so it should be a comfy ride.

PS: KA has cheaper fuel prices than TS & MH. So if you get a chance, tank up when you are in KA part!

Safe & Happy Driving!

Best, VT-RNS

Team-BHP Memeber