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Essential
MADHYA PRADESH
The Wild Heart of India



At the heart of India lies a region which will surprise even the most seasoned traveler. Madhya Pradesh, or MP as it is lovingly called, is both superlative in its offerings and peculiarly untouched. In the state's wilderness, peacocks wander wild through thick teak forests and tigers prowl through several of the country's best wildlife sanctuaries. The state is home to 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites - the 10th century temples of Khajuraho, covered in ecstatic erotic sculpture, are reminders of India's ancient artistic heritage. Millennia old Buddhist monuments can be found at Sanchi and Paleolithic cave paintings at Bhimbetka- so much of the subcontinent's unimaginably long history compressed into a single, vastly unexplored region.

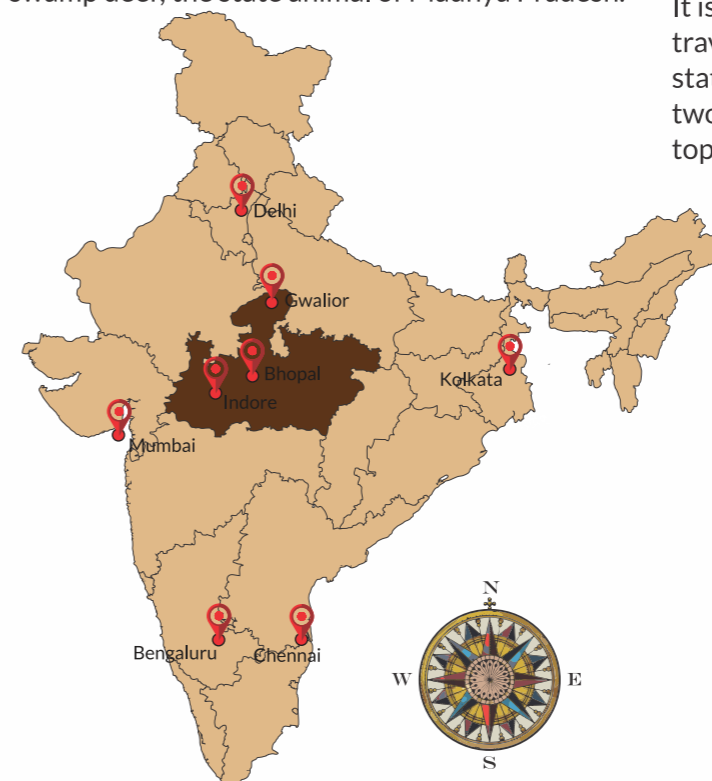
Rich forests form about 25 per cent of MP's land area. Within these forests lie 25 sanctuaries and nine national parks covering an area of about 10,000 sq km. Madhya Pradesh also accounts for almost 20 per cent of India's tiger population. By virtue of being a sanctuary for India's National Animal, it has been deemed a 'Tiger State'. The vast tracts of forested land are also a refuge for barking deer, leopards, cheetah, wild boars, blackbucks, nilgais and crocodiles. Barasingha (literally translated to 'one with 12 horns') is a swamp deer, the state animal of Madhya Pradesh.

MP is home to 6 tiger reserves and visitors keen to go tiger-watching should particularly concentrate on Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Panna, Satpura and Pench National Park. Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary has also been deemed a tiger reserve now. In addition, the National Chambal Sanctuary, home to gharials and the rare Gangetic Dolphin, is fast gaining popularity. The Pench



Tiger Reserve and its neighborhood provided inspiration for the setting of Rudyard Kipling's novel, *The Jungle Book*. Mowgli was inspired by a true story narrated by Sir William Henry Sleeman's pamphlet 'An Account of Wolves Nurturing Children in Their Dens' which describes a wolf-boy captured in a village called Seoni. In fact, many of *The Jungle Book's* locations can still be found in the vicinity.

Madhya Pradesh has something to offer to every kind of traveler. Gwalior is of great interest to music buffs (it also boasts a magnificent ancient fort); Orchha and Mandu are a must-visit for those interested in exploring the palaces of ancient India. Places of natural scenic beauty (Bhedaghat, Tawa) abound as do sites of religious interest (Ujjain, Amarkantak). The state is also known for its varied culinary delights which range from Mughal inspired meat dishes to unique local street food. It is also considered a safe place for single female travelers with high women's safety record. The state is also recognized for its cleanliness with two cities, Indore and Bhopal featuring among the top 5 cleanest cities in India.



MADHYA PRADESH

The Heart of Incredible India

Few regions in India can match Madhya Pradesh in sheer diversity, its rich heritage, legendary pilgrim centres, breathtaking scenic beauty and unparalleled wildlives, makes it truly unique. It has three world heritage sites Sanchi, Khajuraho and Bhimbetka and it is also the Tiger State of India. *Welcome to a many-splendored land!*

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

KHAJURAHO

The temples of Khajuraho are India's unique gift to the world, representing, as they do, a paean to life, to love, to joy; perfect in execution and sublime in expression. Life, in every form and mood, has been captured in stone, testifying not only to the craftsman's artistry but also to the extraordinary breadth of vision of the Chandela Rajputs under whose rule the temples were conceived and constructed. The Khajuraho temples were built in the short span of hundred years 950-1050 AD, in a truly inspired burst of creativity. Of the 85 original temples, 22 have survived till today to constitute one of the world's greatest artistic wonders. Lost among the forests for centuries, after the fall of the Chandelas, these temples were discovered by a British engineer, TS Burt, in 1838. The architectural style of the Khajuraho temples is very different from the temple prototype of that period. Each stands on a high masonry platform instead of within the customary enclosure.

Combined with the upward direction of the structure, which is further accentuated by vertical projections, the total effect is of grace and lightness, reminiscent of the Himalayan peaks. Each of the chief compartments has its own roof, grouped in such a way that the highest is in the center and the lowest over the portico; a triumph of skill and imagination in recreating the rising peaks of a range.

BHIMBETKA

Bhimbetka lies 46 km south of Bhopal. In this rocky terrain of dense forest and craggy cliffs, over 600 rock shelters belonging to the Neolithic age were recently discovered. Here, in vivid panoramic details paintings in over 500 caves depict the life of the prehistoric cavedwellers, making the Bhimbetka group an archaeological treasure and an invaluable chronicle in the history of man.



Executed mainly in red and white with the occasional use of green and yellow, animals such as bisons, tigers, lions, elephants, antelopes, dogs, lizards, crocodiles etc. have been abundantly depicted in some caves.

SANCHI

Located about 46km away from Bhopal, the town of Sanchi is an ensemble of Buddhist monuments. Considered to be one of the oldest stone structures in India, the Buddhist monuments at Sanchi are



classic illustrations of Mauryan art and architecture in the form of stupas, holy shrines and monasteries of the Buddha.

There are 50 monument remains on Sanchi hill along with three stupas and many temples, and a monolithic Asokan pillar that have been the focus of global interest and awe. Sanchi stupa is a major monument constructed to portray the life and journey of Gautam Buddha.



WILDLIFE

BANDHAVGARH

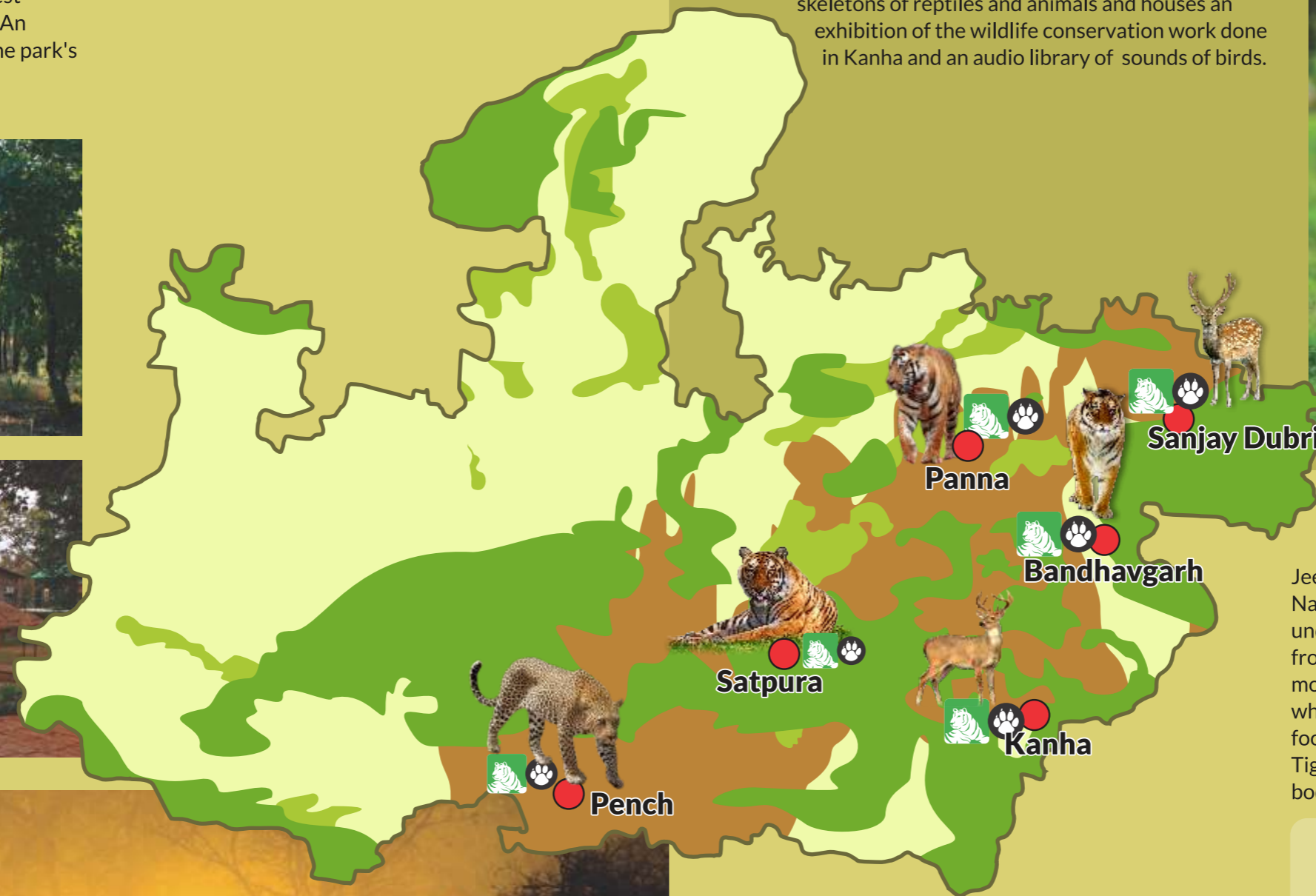
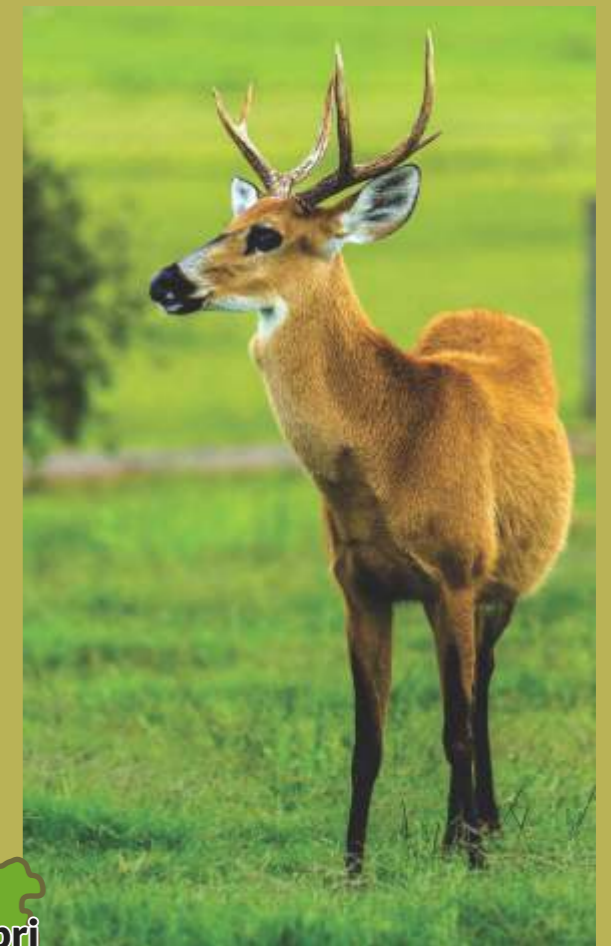
Bandhavgarh National Park has the highest density of tigers in the region. The core area of the park is spread over 100 square kilometers and is home to more than 50 tigers. This is the best chance in all of India of seeing a wild tiger. An added attraction is the village of Tala, by the park's main gate, which offers a great choice of accommodation to suit all budgets.



25 Wildlife Sanctuaries
9 National Parks
6 Tiger Reserves

KANHA

The picturesque Kanha National Park takes a leaf out of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book." The park has large open meadows where chances of spotting wildlife, including tigers, are high. Kanha is also home to the hard-ground barasingha, an endangered species of deer only found here. Kanha Museum is a unique natural history museum that preserves skeletons of reptiles and animals and houses an exhibition of the wildlife conservation work done in Kanha and an audio library of sounds of birds.



Jeep safaris are a major attraction in all the National Parks. Jeep safaris are best undertaken from dawn until about 10 am and from about 4 pm until dusk, as the animals are most active during these periods. A dawn safari, when animals are out in the open looking for food and water, is an unforgettable experience. Tigers and leopards can be seen near water bodies and even on the roads in summer.

Madhya Pradesh offers an array of luxury jungle retreats for the more discerning traveler. Keeping ecological sensitivity in mind, most of the luxury lodges offer all the comforts and conveniences such as super-comfortable rooms coupled with fine dining and even spa treatments on offer.

Best time to visit: The parks are open from October to June, but the best time to see tigers is from April to June.

PENCH

The third of Madhya Pradesh's trio of best-known tiger parks, Pench is made up mostly of teak-tree forest rather than sal so has a different flavour than nearby Kanha or Bandhavgarh. Other animals regularly sighted include gaur, three-striped palm squirrel, common langur, jackal, wild pig, black buck, striped hyena, mouse deer, porcupine, chinkara and ant-eating pangolin.

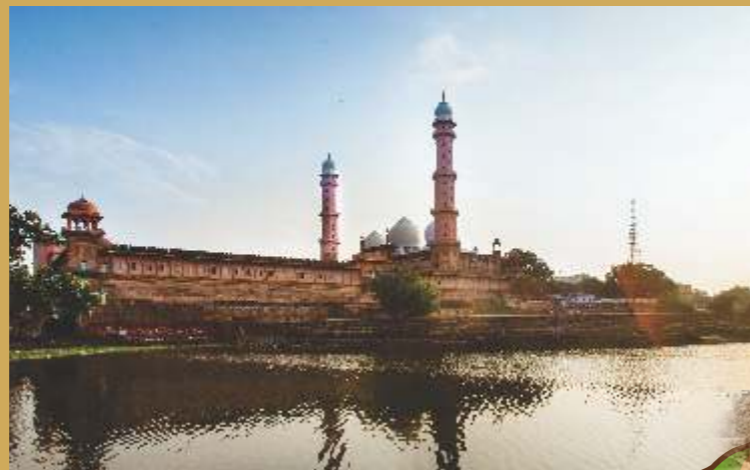


CITIES

BHOPAL

Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, is a dignified fusion of the old and the new, with its broad tree-lined roads, fashionable markets and cultural centres, as well as the mosques, winding alleys and bustling crowds of the old city. It is also the gateway to several exciting destinations, including two World Heritage Sites, Sanchi and Bhimbetka. The caves at Udaigiri and the Shiva Temple at Bhojpur are also worth visiting. For those looking for a short wildlife excursion, Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary is just 60 kms from Bhopal.

Spend a day by the Bhojtal, the largest man-made lake in India; acquaint yourself with the rich history of Bhopal by visiting the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Museum and Gohar Mahal; watch leopards soaking in the sun at Van Vihar National Park.



The largest mosque in Bhopal – and one of the largest in Asia – is the Taj-ul-Masajid. The massive structure, which can easily accommodate ten thousand worshippers at a time, dominates the skyline.

GWALIOR

Gwalior is best known for its imposing hilltop fort, which was famously described as 'the pearl amongst fortresses in India'. Historically, the city has been the cradle of a number of dynasties that ruled it over the years. Their influence is clearly seen in the many regal structures that dominate the cityscape. Gwalior holds an unparalleled reputation in Sangeet, and has retained Indian traditions and the wealth of music intact over the years. The Gwalior Gharana is one of the oldest Khayal Gharanas and the one to which most classical Indian musicians can trace the origin of their style. Legendary musicians like Tansen and Baiju Bawara belonged to Gwalior.



JABALPUR

Jabalpur is a place that has to be seen to be believed. Watching these mountains moonlit at Bhedaghat is as close as you can get to witnessing magic on Earth. The city of Jabalpur is truly blessed with the best of nature, offering spellbinding views of green landscapes and waterfalls. Interesting, the globally played game of snooker traces its origin to this city.

INDORE

Once a trading hub between the Deccan and Delhi, Indore today is the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh.



Several architectural gems dot the city's streets, co-existing with rising urban centres. Head to Sarafa Bazaar to munch on some lip-smacking Indori delicacies—piping hot poha jalebi, samosa, kachori, sabudana khichdi, bhutte ka khees, a variety of namkeens and more.

REWA

Once the summer capital Rewa today breathes stories of its glorious past through the ruins of its forts and palaces. The surrounding greenery only adds to the city's charm, with one-third of the land being covered with dense forests. Legend has it that Rewa's Maharaja was the first one to capture a living white tiger seen in nature, which in turn has put Govindgarh on the world map of wildlife safaris.

CULTURE

CHANDERI

In existence since the 11th century, Chanderi is blessed with scenic beauty in and around it. While picturesque hills, lakes and forts sit surrounding it, the exquisite hand-woven Chanderi saris adorn this historic town.

These saris are adored around the globe for the artistry behind their creation. The elegance of this matchless intricate art of embellishing silk and cotton fabric with zari weaving resides in harmony with the towering forts and palaces. It is a beautiful contrast rare to be found anywhere else.



UJJAIN

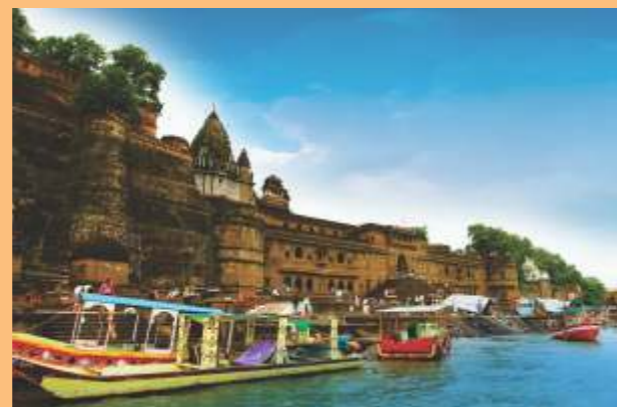


The ancient city of Ujjain lies on the banks of river Shipra. The number of temples in Ujjain, as popularly held, is so large that if one comes here with two cartloads of grain and offers only one handful at each temple, one would still run short of offerings. Legend has it that Ujjain is one of the saptapuris, or the seven holy cities of India that grant moksha or liberation from the cycle of birth and death. Ujjain hosts the Simhasth, popularly known as the Kumbh Mela, every 12 years, the latest of which was in 2016.

MAHESHWAR

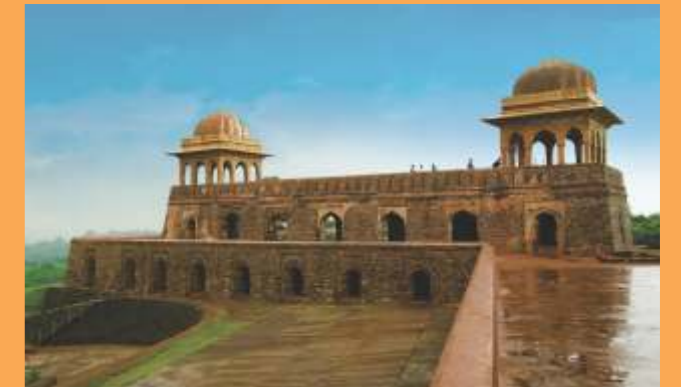
Situated on the banks of river Narmada, Maheshwar appeals to both, the pilgrim as well as the tourist. The town possesses a treasure trove of beautiful temples that calm the soul, alongside man-made creations that please the eyes.

A centre of handloom weaving since the 5th century, Maheshwar has been producing the exquisite Maheshwari saris and fabric. The town also holds the distinction of being the capital of Rajmata Ahilya Devi Holkar's empire during the 18th century.



MANDU

Perched along the Vindhyan ranges at an altitude of 2,000 feet, Mandu, with its natural defences, was originally the fort-capital of the Parmar rulers of Malwa. The array of medieval architectural splendor includes Hoshang Shah's Tomb, Jami Masjid, Ashrafi Mahal, Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal, Champa Baoli, Ropmati's Pavalion, Baz Bahadur's Palace being to name a few.



ORCHHA

Orchha's grandeur has been captured in stone, frozen in time; a rich legacy to the ages. For in this medieval city, the hand of time has rested lightly and the palaces and temples built by its Bundela rulers in the 16th and 17th centuries retain much of their pristine perfection.



PACHMARHI

Situated at 1100 m, Pachmarhi, popularly known as (Queen of Satpura), sits beautifully, embellished by nature and history, amidst the Satpura range. Legend says the Pandava brothers visited Pachmarhi during their exile.

This beautiful region in the hills, was discovered by Captain James Forsyth in 1857. This most popular hill station of Madhya Pradesh is a treasure with ancient caves of the Buddhist era residing in harmony with serene waterfalls.



MUSIC & DANCE

MP is a state which is rich in tribal culture. It is therefore natural to find that both music and dance are heavily influenced by the folk and traditional way of life. The music of Madhya Pradesh can be seen in three dominant forms- Tribal, Countryside music and Bhakti Cult. Tribal music is rich in the simple melody and rhythm, countryside music is reflected in legendary narratives and occupational songs while the Bhakti cult music comprises Bhajans, lyrics of great poets and devotional songs. The state is known as the birthplace of two famous music gharanas.

The Khajuraho Dance Festival is held every year between the end of February and first week of March week where thousands of artists from across the country display their talent. This festival showcases some of the best dance forms such as Kathak, Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam. Besides the dance, there is also a display of the art and craft of the craftsmen.



KHAJURAH
Dance Festival
is held every year.
1000s of artists from across the
country display their talent.

INNOVATIVE TOURISM PRODUCTS

JALMAHOTSAV

India's one of its kind water and adventure festival.

Hanuwantiya is a serene destination by the banks of the Indira Sagar dam offering unmatched scope for



adventure lovers. The two and a half month long adventure carnival is

a treat for all those who seek excitement and a break from

routine. A wide range of water, land and air activities is available

to choose to from with activities such as parasailing, para motoring,

hot air ballooning, wind surfing, para-sailing, island camping, jet-skiing,

artificial climbing wall, Burma bridge, night camping, bird watching on offer. This quiet,

secluded island is abuzz with activities when it transform into a tented city to host the guests from

India and abroad. The cultural extravaganza includes Craft bazaar, food bazaar, cycle rides and many more recreational activities waiting to be explored.



www.jalmahotsav.com



TOUR DE SATPURA

An enthralling event of cycle tourism has been introduced by Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board for the first time this year. The Tour De Satpura is a 400 km long event involving 4 days of riding through breathtaking hills and picturesque forests. Cyclists from various states in India and abroad participated and renowned cyclists shared their experiences and views on various aspects of cycling.

www.tourdesatpura.com



AIRPORTS

BHOPAL

Delhi - 4 flights a day
 - Air India-Star Alliance
 - Jet Airways

Mumbai - 4 flights a day
 - Air India-Star Alliance,
 - Jet Airways

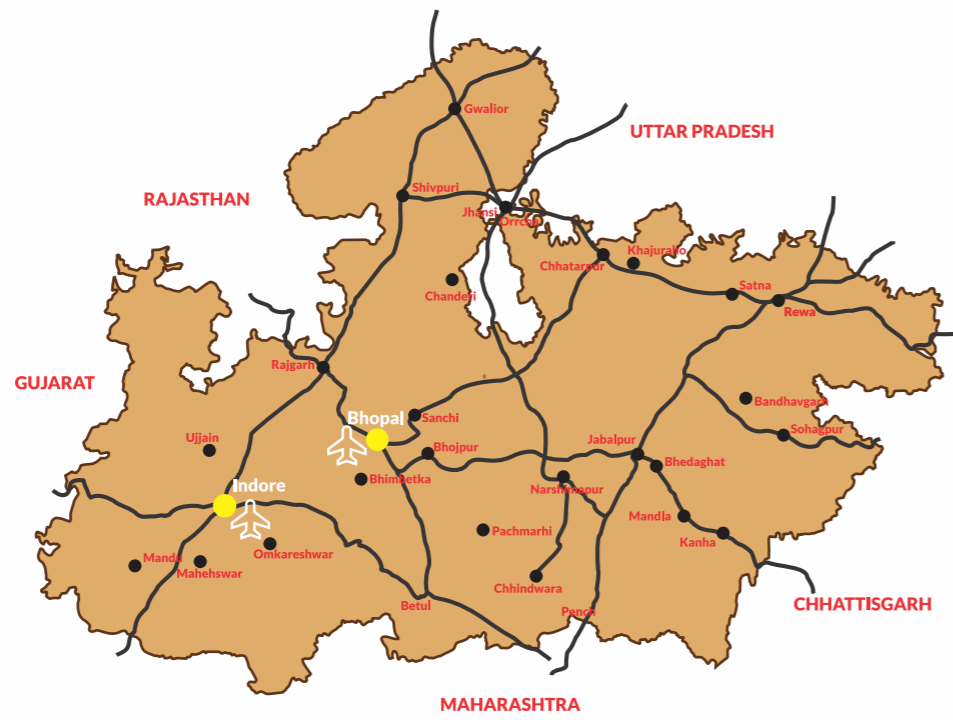
INDORE

Delhi - 8 flights a day
 - Air India-Star Alliance
 - Jet Airways
 - Indigo

Mumbai - 8 flights a day
 - Air India-Star Alliance
 - Jet Airways
 - Indigo

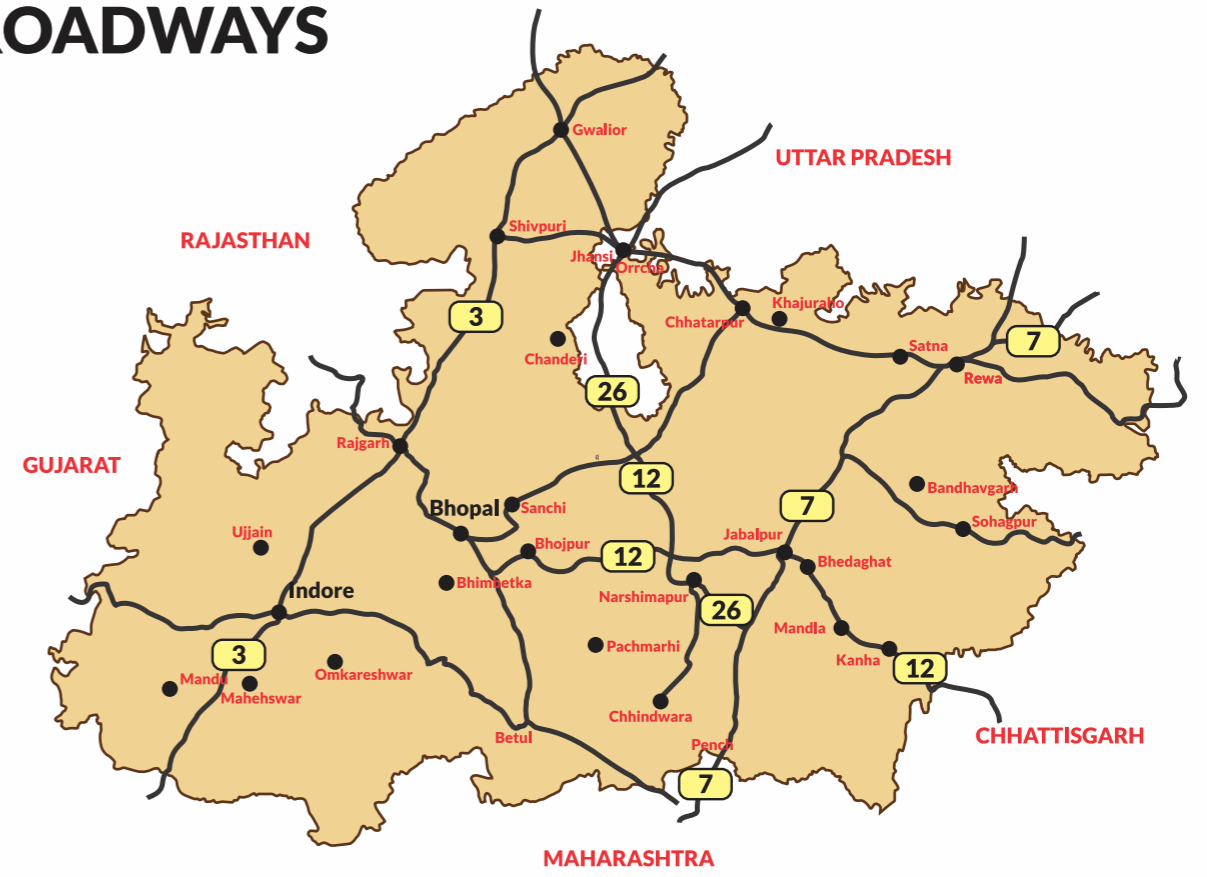


Additional Line: Air India-Star Alliance, Jet Airways and Indigo operate flights to Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Goa, Jaipur, Nagpur, Gwalior and Raipur



ROADWAYS

Madhya Pradesh has an well organised and connected roadways system throughout the state.



RAILWAYS

BHOPAL

248 Arrivals/Departures a day connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Goa etc.

Categories of trains:

Rajdhani, Garib Rath, Superfast, Express, Sampark Kranti

INDORE

54 Arrivals/Departures a day connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune etc.

Categories of trains:

Superfast, Express, Sampark Kranti

GWALIOR

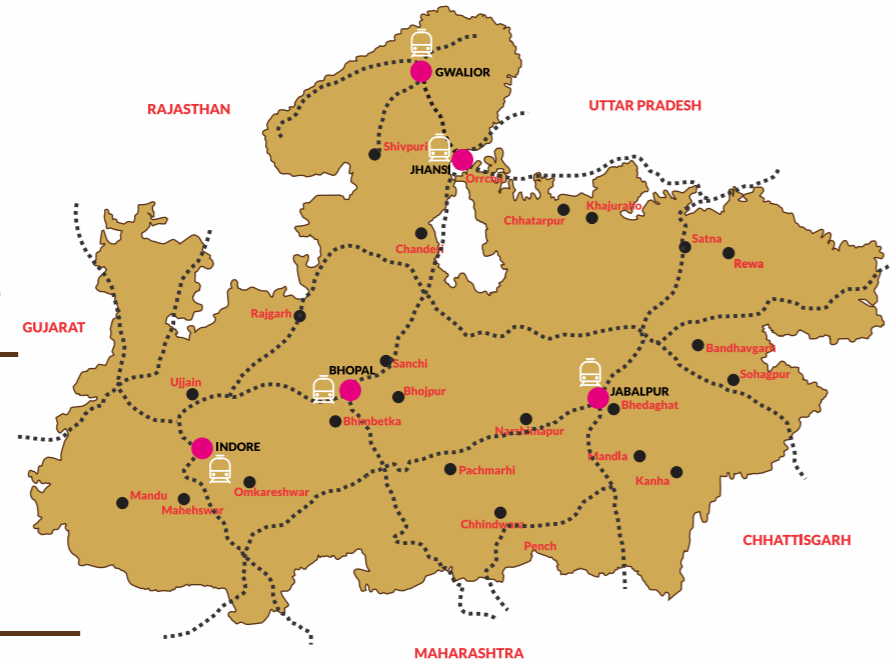
162 Arrivals/Departures a day connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore etc.

Categories of trains: Rajdhani, Garib Rath, Superfast, Express, Sampark Kranti

Other important stations: Sanchi, Ujjain, Jabalpur

JHANSI - The station for Orchha:

Connecting Delhi with Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Superfast, Express trains



HOTELS



Bhopal: Business hotels, Heritage hotels

Indore: Business hotels

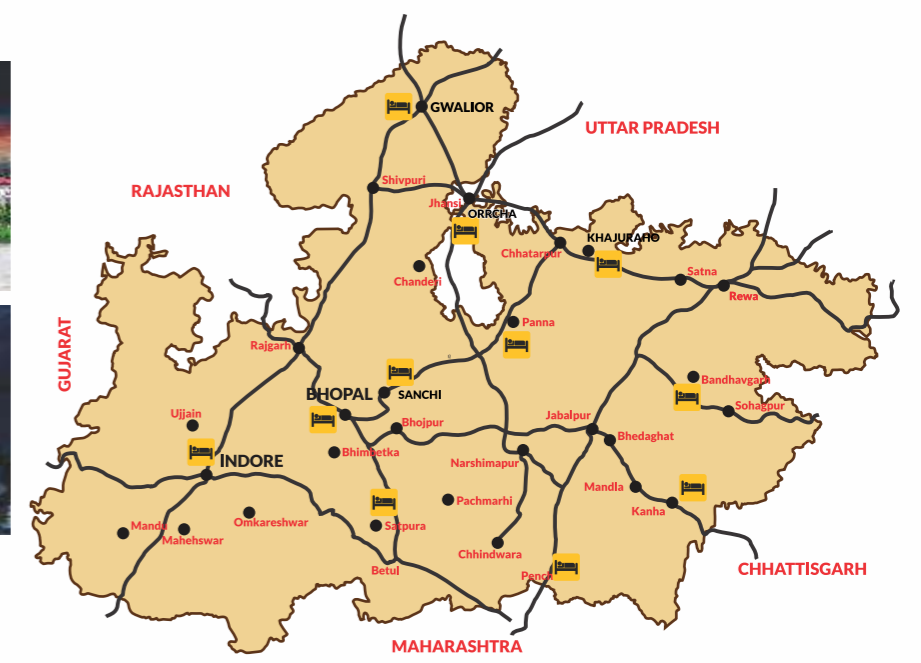
Sanchi: Resorts

Orchha: Resorts, Heritage hotels

Gwalior: Hotels, Resorts, Heritage hotels

Khajuraho: Hotels, Resorts, Heritage hotels

Panna, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Kanha, Satpura: Jungle lodges, Resorts



RECOMMENDED ITINERARIES

A Dive Into The Architectural Grandeur & Rich History Of Madhya Pradesh
 Route: Gwalior - Chanderi - Orchha - Khajuraho - Panna



Madhya Pradesh Through The Eyes Of Nature Lovers
 Route: Jabalpur - Bhedaghat - Kanha - Bandhavgarh



Spiritual Sojourn In Madhya Pradesh
 Route: Indore - Ujjain - Maheshwar - Omkareshwar - Mandu

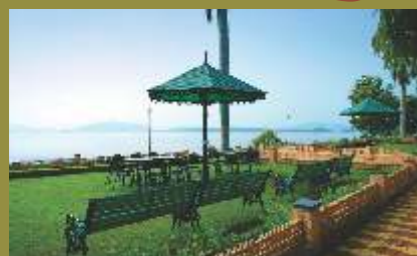


Myriad Colors Of Madhya Pradesh
 Route: Sanchi - Bhopal - Bhojpur - Bhimbetka - Pachmarhi



MPSTDC HOTELS

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation offers a wide variety of accommodation choices at most tourist destinations in the state. No matter where you travel in MP, you will find a warm and welcoming place to stay somewhere nearby. Whether you want to travel alone or with friends, family and kids, whether you want to stay close to MP's bustling cities or escape into the bracing wilderness - MPSTDC has the place right for you.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Travel from Delhi to Madhya Pradesh

Travel by air

There are regular flights from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport to the major cities of Madhya Pradesh: Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Khajuraho and Jabalpur.

For info visit www.newdelhiairport.in

Airline websites:

www.airindia.in

www.goindigo.in

www.jetairways.com

www.goair.in

www.spicejet.com

Travel by rail

The Indian Railways connects the capital to most major and minor destinations in Madhya Pradesh.

Rail reservations start from 90 days before the date of travel. For last minute plans, a tatkal/ ticket can be bought 24 hrs prior to departure time.

Customer care phone number: 139

Website: www.indianrail.gov.in

Travel by bus

Delhi has 3 ISBT (Inter State Bus Terminal) Kashmere Gate, Ph 23868836, 23865181 Sarai Kale Khan, Ph 24358092 Anand Vihar, Ph 22152431

Travel in Madhya Pradesh

Taxis can be hired from outside railway stations, taxis stands or from hotels. The roads in Madhya Pradesh, particularly the state highways, are smooth and make for pleasant journeys.

Most destinations are connected by State Transport buses. Madhya Pradesh Tourism also organises cars if you book them in advance.

Important STD Codes

New Delhi	011
Bhopal	0755
Chanderi	07547
Gwalior	0751
Jabalpur	0761
Jhansi	0517
Khajuraho	07686
Orchha	07680
Pachmarhi	07578
Shivpuri	07492
Ujjain	0734

Tourism Information Offices in Delhi

Tourist Office, Govt. Of India

88, Janapath
Ph. (011) 23320005

Madhya Pradesh Tourism

Room No. 12, Ground Floor,
Hotel Janapath, 80-84, Janpath.
Ph (011) 23366528, 32599000
Email: delhi@mptourism.com

Ashoka Travels & Tours (ITDC)

3rd Floor, Jeevan Vihar
3, Parliament Street.
Ph (011) 23748155/ 65

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Offices

Bhopal (Head Office)

Paryatan Bhawan, Bhadbhada Road
Ph (0755) 2778383, 2774340/42-44
Email: info@mptourism.com

Tourist Office: Railway Station, Bhopal

Ph (0755) 2746827

Email: tobhopal@mptourism.com

New Delhi

Room No. 12, Ground Floor,
Hotel Janapath, 80-84, Janpath.
Ph (011) 23366528, 32599000
Email: delhi@mptourism.com

Gwalior

Railway Station, Gwalior
Ph (0751) 2540777

Email: togwalior@mptourism.com

Jabalpur

Railway Station, Jabalpur
Ph (0761) 2677690

Email: jabalpur@mptourism.com

Jhansi

Railway Station, Jhansi
Ph (0517) 2442622

Email: tojhansi@mptourism.com

Khajuraho

Tourist Reception Centre
Ph (07686) 274051

Email: tokhajuraho@mptourism.com

Bus Stand, Khajuraho

Ph (07686) 274163

Email: tokhajuraho@mptourism.com

Pachmarhi

Bus Stand, Pachmarhi
Ph (07578) 252029

Railway Station, Pipariya
Ph (07576) 223499

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