

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Madhya Pradesh

7-9 Days

From INR 25,000 per person

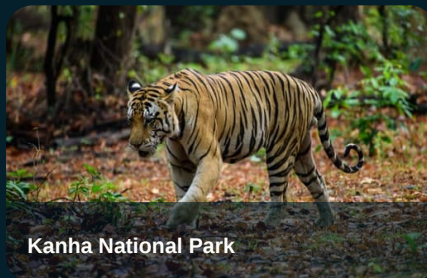
Best: Jan, Feb, Mar, Nov, Dec

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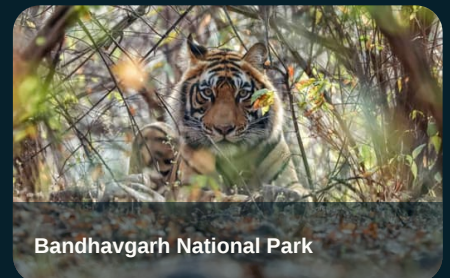
FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



Khajuraho Temples



Kanha National Park



Bandhavgarh National Park

DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

Madhya Pradesh sits in the middle of the country and rewards travellers who like their history and their forests on the same trip. The temple group at Khajuraho and the Buddhist stupas at Sanchi are among the most significant surviving works of early Indian architecture, the rock shelters at Bhimbetka carry prehistoric paintings, and Gwalior and Orchha add fortress walls, palaces and riverside cenotaphs. Against that, Kanha and Bandhavgarh are two of central India's best-known tiger reserves, with sal forest, open meadows and early-morning jeep safaris, while Pachmarhi provides a cooler, greener interlude in the Satpura hills. The state has useful air and rail gateways from across India, but its internal sectors are long, so a first itinerary is better built as a heritage route or a heritage-and-wildlife pairing rather than an attempt at everything.

PACKAGE DURATION

7-9 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 25,000 per person

BEST TIME

Peak: Jan, Feb, Mar, Nov, Dec | Shoulder: Apr, May, Jun, Oct | Avoid: Jul, Aug, Sep

TRIP TYPES

heritage, wildlife

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit



Khajuraho Temples

TEMPLE | HALF DAY

A group of sandstone temples built by the Chandela dynasty and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for the density and craftsmanship of their carved figures. The Western group is the largest and best preserved, and a guide helps make sense of iconography that is only partly erotic.



Kanha National Park

NATIONAL PARK | 2 DAYS (SAFARIS)

A large tiger reserve of sal forest and open grassy meadows in the Maikal hills, and the stronghold of the hard-ground barasingha. Visits are by shared or private jeep on fixed zone routes, morning and afternoon, always accompanied by a forest guide.



Bandhavgarh National Park

NATIONAL PARK | 2 DAYS (SAFARIS)

A reserve of forested hills and valleys wrapped around an old hilltop fort, known for its tiger density and for reliable sightings of deer, langur and birdlife. Safaris run at dawn and in the afternoon along allotted zone routes in open jeeps.



Sanchi Stupa

MONUMENT | 2-3 HOURS

A hilltop Buddhist complex begun under Ashoka and centred on a great hemispherical stupa with elaborately carved stone gateways that tell the Buddha's life through symbols. Monastery ruins, temples and a pillar surround it, with a small museum below. The site is quiet and easily walked.



Orchha

PALACE | FULL DAY

A small town on the Betwa river that history left behind, with a Bundela palace complex, the towering Chaturbhuj temple and a line of royal cenotaphs along the riverbank. Visitors climb through the palaces, watch the evening light on the chhatris and can raft on the river.



Pachmarhi

HILL STATION | 2 DAYS

The only hill station in Madhya Pradesh, set on a plateau in the Satpura range among sandstone ravines, waterfalls and caves. Visitors take permitted vehicles or walk to the viewpoints, bathe at the falls and climb to hilltop shrines; much of it lies within a biosphere reserve.



Bhimbetka Caves

HERITAGE SITE | 2-3 HOURS

A cluster of natural rock shelters in sandstone outcrops, painted in red and white with prehistoric hunts, animals, dancers and later horsemen. A marked walking circuit links the main shelters across the hillside, and the site is inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Gwalior Fort

FORT | HALF DAY

A hilltop fortress above the city, entered by a long ramp that passes rock-cut Jain figures. Inside are the tiled Man Singh Palace, temples, water tanks and a small museum, with wide views over Gwalior. A sound-and-light programme runs in the evenings in season.

7 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Khajuraho Temples and Gwalior Fort

Visit Khajuraho Temples, Gwalior Fort.

02

DAY 2

Kanha National Park

Visit Kanha National Park.

03

DAY 3

Bandhavgarh National Park

Visit Bandhavgarh National Park.

04

DAY 4

Sanchi Stupa

Visit Sanchi Stupa.

05

DAY 5

Orchha

Visit Orchha.

06

DAY 6

Pachmarhi

Visit Pachmarhi.

07

DAY 7

Bhimbetka Caves

Visit Bhimbetka Caves.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee. Cities and park gateway towns have ATMs and accept cards, but forest lodges and village markets frequently need cash.

LANGUAGE

Hindi is the everyday language and is used everywhere. English is comfortable in hotels, safari lodges and with naturalists and heritage guides.

TIME DIFFERENCE

India uses one national time zone, so no clock change is required. Daylight hours vary by season and longitude.

WEATHER

Cool dry winters from November to February, very hot summers that nonetheless bring the best tiger sightings, and a green monsoon from July when the parks largely close.

CONNECTIVITY

Reliable mobile data in cities and towns. Signal drops inside the national parks, and the Kanha, Bandhavgarh and Pench cores are effectively offline during safaris.

Food and culture

Madhya Pradesh spans several food traditions: Bhopal is known for kebabs, korma and biryani, while Malwa and Bundelkhand offer vegetarian dishes such as poha-jalebi, dal bafla and bhutte ka kees. Gond and Bhil communities contribute distinct crafts, music and festival traditions in forest districts.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Bhopal and Indore are major gateways; Jabalpur supports wildlife circuits and Khajuraho has limited air links. Select the airport around the route.

RAIL

Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior and other major stations receive long-distance trains from many parts of India.

ROAD

The state is large, so road sectors between heritage towns and wildlife reserves take time. Build the itinerary around a logical regional cluster.

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- Core zones at Kanha, Bandhavgarh and the other tiger reserves shut for the monsoon, roughly July to September, so plan safaris in the October-to-June window.
- Safari entry is by pre-allotted gate and zone with a capped number of vehicles, and the jeep and forest guide are assigned to you rather than chosen.
- Winter mornings in the parks are genuinely cold in an open jeep, so carry a windproof layer, a cap and gloves even when the afternoon turns warm.
- Khajuraho's temples are split into separate groups, with the Western group the largest; allow a full morning and take a guide, as the sculpture needs explaining.
- Bhimbetka is a walking circuit over uneven open rock, so sturdy shoes, a hat and water make the difference between an easy visit and a hot one.
- Khajuraho, the tiger reserves, Sanchi and Pachmarhi are separated by long drives, so use trains where the route allows and avoid scheduling night road transfers.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Explore
Experience
Remember

This itinerary is a planning guide based on the approved destination information held by Orbitz Holidays. Final services and inclusions depend on the confirmed booking.