

MADHYAPRADESH YATHRA SPECIAL 2011

BHOPAL – SANCHI – UJJAIN – OMKARESHWAR – MAHAKALESHWAR -
INDORE - JHANSI – ORCHA – KHAJURAHO – CHITRAKOOT

Duration	Starting Dates	Tour Charge Per Head
7	Every Friday September & October	Rs. 6800/-

Day 1 : Pick up from Bhopal Railway station ,transfer to hotel ,freshup and local sightseeing : places to visit - Sanchi, Sanchi stupa, Upper lake , Lower lake , and Night rest at the Bhopal hotel

Day 2: Early morning journey to Ujjain , transfer to hotel. Go for prayers at Mahakaleshwar jyotirlinga temple, Lunch and sightseeing - places to visit : Gadkalika temple, Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan Temple (ISKCON), Chintaman Ganesh Maa Wagheshvari Temple, Harsidhhi Temple, Sandipani Ashram, Prasanthi Dam etc. and Night rest at Ujjain hotel

Day 3 : Early morning journey to Indore ; Palace darshan and journey to Om - kareshwar jyothirlinga temple , Omkareshwar darshan and return journey to Ujjain and Night rest Ujjain

Day 4 : Morning journey to Jhansi. Night rest in Jhansi.

Day 5: Jhansi Fort, Orcha Fort and journey to Khajuraho. Khajuraho sightseeing and Night rest in Khajuraho

Day 6 : Khajuraho darshan and journey to Chitrakoot and Night rest in Khajuraho hotel

Day 7: Drop at Jhansi Railway station

Terms& Condition

1. Accommodation : Dormitory accommodation will be provided by the company as per the tour schedule. Double bedroom accommodation can be arranged as per the specific request of the pilgrims at their own expense .
2. Food : Normal type vegetarian food can be served by the company except during the train journey
3. Transport : Semi luxury road transportation cost will be arranged by the company as per the tour schedule, the cost for which is included in the tour charge
4. Cost of Entry tickets where ever necessary is excluded in the tour charge
5. Cancellation and refund :: 50 % of the advance amount will be lost against the cancellation not received before 30 days of the tour starting dates. Cancellations received thereafter will not be eligible for refund.
6. **Booking and payment :**
 - a) The passengers can book their tickets six month before the tour starting dates by remitting an advance amount of Rs. 1000/=.
 - b) Second payment of Rs. 1500/- should be remitted before 90 days of the tour starting dates and the balance amount can be remitted 15 days prior to the tour starting dates
 - c) Remittances could be made through the company's Bank account (details given below).

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BHOPAL

Bhopal is the capital of the state of Madhya Pradesh and the administrative headquarters of Bhopal District. The city was also the capital of the former Bhopal State. Bhopal is also known as the *Lake City* (or *City of Lakes*) owing to its various natural as well as artificial lakes and is one of the greenest cities in India.

The city attracted international attention after the Bhopal disaster, when Union Carbide India Limited, a pesticide manufacturing plant, leaked a mixture of deadly gases on the night of 2/3 December 1984, leading to the worst industrial disaster in history and a loss of thousands of lives. Many more were rendered sick and have been facing chronic health problems such as psychological and neurological disabilities, blindness, skin, vision and breathing disorders and the children, whose parents or even grandparents (i.e. second generation) were exposed to the gas, still suffer of serious birth defects. Though the official death roll was record around 5,000, it is said that about 18,000 died within two weeks of the disaster. Many sources say that about 8000 have died since then on account of gas-poisoning related diseases. The Greenpeace organization cites a total casualty figure of 20,000 as its own conservative estimate..

Sight Seeing Places

Located at 28 km from Bhopal, the Bhojeshwar Temple at Bhojpur was built by King Bhoj about a millennium ago.

The city has uneven elevation and has small hills within its boundaries. The major hills in Bhopal comprise of Idgah hills and Shyamala hills in the northern region and Arera hills in the central region.

The municipality covers 298 square kilometres. It has two very beautiful big lakes, collectively known as the Bhoj Wetland. These lakes are the Upper Lake (built by King Bhoj) and the Lower Lake. Locally these are known as the Bada Talab and Chota Talab respectively. The catchment area of the Upper Lake is

361 km² while that of the Lower Lake is 9.6 km². The Upper Lake drains into the Kolar River.

The Van Vihar National Park is a national park situated besides the Upper

state. **Ujjain**

Ujjain (**Hindi**: उज्जैन) [pronunciation](#) ([help](#)·[info](#)) (also known as *Ujain*, *Ujjayini*, *Avanti*, *Avantikapuri*), is an [ancient](#) city of [Malwa](#) region in central [India](#), on the eastern bank of the [Kshipra River](#) (**Hindi**: क्षिप्रा), today part of the [state](#) of [Madhya Pradesh](#). It is the [administrative](#) centre of [Ujjain District](#) and [Ujjain Division](#).

In ancient times the city was called Ujjayini. As mentioned in the [Mahabharata](#) epic, Ujjayini was the capital of the [Avanti Kingdom](#), and has been the [Prime Meridian](#) for [Hindu geographers](#) since the 4th century BCE. Ujjain is one of the seven sacred cities ([Sapta Puri](#)) of the [Hindus](#), and the [Kumbh Mela](#) religious [festival](#) is held there every 12 years. It is also home to [Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga](#), one of the twelve [Jyotirlinga](#) shrines to the god [Shiva](#) and is also the place where Lord Krishna got education with Balarama and Sudama from Maharshi [Sandipani](#).

Coin showing [Karttikeya](#) and [Lakshmi](#) (Ujjain, circa 150–75 BC)

The earliest references to the city, as *Ujjaini*, are from the time of the [Buddha](#), when it was the [capital](#) of the [Avanti Kingdom](#). Since the 4th century B.C. the city has marked the first meridian of longitude in Hindu geography. It is also reputed to have been the residence of [Ashoka](#) (who subsequently became the emperor), when he was the viceroy of the western provinces of the [Mauryan empire](#).

In the Post-Mauryan period, the city was ruled by the [Sungas](#) and the [Satavahanas](#) consecutively. It was contested for a period between the Satavahanas and the [Ror Sakas](#) (devotees of [Shakumbari](#)), known as [Western Satraps](#); however, following the end of the Satavahana dynasty, the city was retained by the [Rors](#) from the 2nd to the 4th century CE. Ujjain is mentioned as the city of *Ozene* in the [Periplus of the Erythraean Sea](#), an antique [Greek](#) description of sea ports and trade centers in the western [Indian Ocean](#). Following the enthroning of the [Gupta dynasty](#), the city soon became an important seat in the annals of that empire. Ujjain is considered to be the traditional capital of King [Chandragupta II](#), also known as *Vikramaditya*, at whose court the nine poets known as the *navaratna* (nine jewels) of [Sanskrit](#) literature are said to have flourished.

Mahakal Temple Ujjain

In the 6th and 7th centuries, Ujjain was a major centre of mathematical and astronomical research. The famous mathematicians who worked there included: [Brahmagupta](#), whose book [Brahmasphutasiddhanta](#) was responsible for spreading the use of [zero](#), negative numbers and the positional number system to [Arabia](#) and [Cambodia](#); [Varahamihira](#), who was the first to discover many [trigonometric identities](#); and [Bhaskaracharya](#), or [Bhaskara II](#), whose book [Lilavati](#) broke new ground in many areas of mathematics.

Ujjain was invaded by the forces of the [Delhi Sultanate](#) led by [Iltutmish](#) in 1235, suffering widespread destruction and systematic desecration of temples. Under the [Mughal](#) emperor [Akbar](#) it became the capital of [Malwa](#).

During the last half of the 18th century Ujjain was the headquarters of the [Maratha](#) leader [Scindia](#). The Scindias later established themselves at [Gwalior](#), and Ujjain remained part of Gwalior state until Indian Independence in 1947. [Gwalior](#) state became a [princely state](#) of the [British Raj](#) after the Maratha defeat in the [Third Anglo-Maratha War](#), and Gwalior, Ujjain, and the neighboring princely states were made a part of the [Central India Agency](#). After Indian independence, the Scindia ruler of Gwalior acceded to the [Indian Union](#), and Ujjain became part of the [Madhya Bharat](#) state. In 1956 Madhya Bharat was merged into the [Madhya Pradesh](#)

Ancient monuments and tourist sites in Ujjain

Sri Sri [Radha Krishna](#) with [Gopis](#), [ISKCON](#) Temple Ujjain

[Jagannath Ratha Yatra](#) Grand annual festival by [ISKCON](#) Temple Ujjain.

- The [Mahakal Temple](#), one of the twelve [Jyotirlingas](#), is a famous and venerated [Shiva](#) temple. The Shivling in this temple is supposed to be the only Jyotirling which faces south and hence it is known as Dakshinmukhi or the south-facing ling. It is the most popular and important temple of Ujjain. Every year on shivratri (claimed to be the Wedding day of Lord Shiva), there is a huge crowd of devotees for darshan. The same kind of public crowd can be seen in the month of Savaan, NagPanchami. On every Monday of "Savan", there is a huge procession for the Lord Shiva idol in the city attended by large numbers of devotees from across the India.

Mahakal derives its name from "kaal" meaning end of life - death; the word Mahakaal means Lord of Death.

- Sri Sri Radha Madan Mohan Temple, of the [ISKCON](#) (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) or [Hare Krishna](#) Movement, also has a guest house and restaurant, and is a major attraction for tourists, though it is very new on the map of Ujjain.
- The temple of [Chintaman Ganesh](#) is the biggest ancient temple of Lord Ganesha in Ujjain.
- The temple of **Maa Wagheshwari** is known for its tall idol of the goddess Wagheshwari and "Sinh (lion) - Dwar (gate)".
- The Harsidhhi Temple is one of the [Shaktipeeth](#), situated at 52 places in India.
- The [Sandipani Ashram](#) is where tradition says Shri [Krishna](#) was educated with [Balarama](#) and [Sudama](#) from Maharshi [Sandipani](#).
- The Siddha Ashram, located between Ramghat and Narshinghat, is known for research in [Ayurvedic medicine](#) and [Kundalini](#) Shaktipat.
- The Kaliyadeh Palace, located on the outskirts of the city, is one of the palaces belonging to royal Scindia family of Madhya Pradesh.

- The Bhrathari caves is an ancient site which has some interesting legends associated with it. It is said that it holds tunnels which lead directly to 4 ancient dhams (char dham). These ways were later shut down by Britishers.
- Canopy (*Chhatra* or *Dewali*) of Veer Durgadas Rathore "the Great Warrior and protector of Marwar" at Chakratirth.
- The [Observatory \(Vedha Shala\)](#) built by a Rajput king, Raja [Jai Singh II](#), in the 1720s, is one of the five such observatories in India and features ancient astronomical devices.
- The Prashanti Dham is a holy place, where Sai Baba's Ashram is situated.
- Jain temples: Jai Singh Pura Atishay Kshetra, Tapobhoomi, Avanti Parshwanath, Hanumant baag, Manibhadradham [Bhairavgarh](#).
- The Kothi Palace presents a sight worth watching in the evening.
- The Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan museum, located near Chamunda tower, holds many ancient objects.
- The throne of Maharaja [Vikramaditya](#), known as the "seat of judgment (salabanjika throne)" may be located in the Rudra Sagar lake.
- Other temples are Harsidhhi (Durga Temple), Gadh Kalika, Kaal Bhairav, Triveni (Nav Graha Shani Mandir), Mangalnaath, Siddhhanath and Shiv Shakti.

Sanchi

- **Sanchi is** a small [village](#) in [Raisen District](#) of the [state](#) of [Madhya Pradesh](#) of the Indian Union. It is located 46 [km](#) north east of [Bhopal](#), and 10 [km](#) from [Besnagar](#) and [Vidisha](#) in the central part of the state of [Madhya Pradesh](#). It is the location of several [Buddhist](#) monuments dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 12th century CE and is one of the important places of [Buddhist pilgrimage](#). It is a [nagar panchayat](#).
- The '**Great Stupa**' at Sanchi was originally commissioned by the emperor [Ashoka the Great](#) in the 3rd century BCE. Its nucleus was a simple hemispherical brick structure built over the relics of the [Buddha](#). It was crowned by the *chatra*, a parasol-like structure symbolising high rank, which was intended to honour and shelter the relics. [Toranas](#) surround the Stupa and they each represent love, peace, trust, and courage.
- The **stupa** was vandalized at one point sometime in the 2nd century BCE, an event some have related to the rise of the Sunga emperor [Pusyamitra Sunga](#) who overtook the Mauryan Empire as an army general. It has been suggested that Pushyamitra may have destroyed the original stupa, and his son Agnimitra rebuilt it.^[2] During the later rule of the Sunga, the stupa was expanded with stone slabs to almost twice its original size. The dome was flattened near the top and crowned by three superimposed parasols within a square railing. With its many tiers it was a symbol of the [dharma](#), the Wheel of the Law. The dome was set on a high circular drum meant for [circumambulation](#), which could be accessed via a double staircase. A second stone pathway at ground level was enclosed by a stone balustrade with four monumental gateways ([toranas](#)) facing the cardinal directions. The buildings which seem to have been commissioned

during the rule of the Sungas are the Second and Third stupas (but not the highly decorated gateways, which are from the following [Satavahana](#) period, as known from inscriptions), and the ground balustrade and stone casing of the Great Stupa.

- The gateways and the balustrade were built and appear to have been commissioned by the [Satavahana](#). An inscription records the gift of one of the top [architraves](#) of the Southern Gateway by the artisans of the Satavahana king [Satakarni](#):
- Although made of stone, they were carved and constructed in the manner of wood and the gateways were covered with narrative sculptures. They showed scenes from the life of the Buddha integrated with everyday events that would be familiar to the onlookers and so make it easier for them to understand the Buddhist creed as relevant to their lives. At Sanchi and most other stupas the
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- local population donated money for the embellishment of the stupa to attain spiritual merit. There was no direct royal patronage. Devotees, both men and women, who donated money towards a sculpture would often choose their favourite scene from the life of the Buddha and then have their names inscribed on it. This accounts for the random repetition of particular episodes on the stupa (Dehejia 1992). On these stone carvings the Buddha was never depicted as a human figure. Instead the artists chose to represent him by certain attributes, such as the horse on which he left his father's home, his footprints, or a canopy under the [bodhi tree](#) at the point of his enlightenment. The human body was thought to be too confining for the Buddha.
- Further stupas and other religious Buddhist and early [Hindu](#) structures were added over the following centuries until the 12th century CE. Temple 17 is probably one of the earliest Buddhist [temples](#) as it dates to the early [Gupta](#) period. It consists of a flat roofed square sanctum with a portico and four pillars. The interior and three sides of the exterior are plain and undecorated but the front and the pillars are elegantly carved, giving the temple an almost 'classical' appearance (Mitra 1971). With the decline of [Buddhism](#) in India, the monuments of Sanchi went out of use and fell into a state of disrepair.
- Today, around fifty monuments remain on the hill of Sanchi, including three stupas and several temples. The monuments have been listed among the [UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#) since 1989..
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Omkareshwar

Omkareshwar is a [Hindu temple](#) in the [Khandwa district](#) of [Madhya Pradesh](#) state of the Indian Union.. It is on an island called [Mandhata](#) or [Shivapuri](#) in the [Narmada](#) river. It is one of the 12 revered [Jyotirlinga](#) shrines of [Shiva](#). It is about

12 miles (20 km) from [Mortakka](#) in [Madhya Pradesh](#). The shape of the island is said to be like the Hindu [Om](#) symbol. There are two temples here, one dedicated to Omkareshwar (whose name means "Lord of Omkaara or the Lord of the Om Sound") and another to Amareshwar (whose name means "Immortal lord" or "lord of the Immortals or Devas").

Omkareshwar is formed by the sacred river Narmada. This is one of the most sacred of rivers in India and is now home to one of the world's biggest dam projects.

Legends of Omkareshwar

Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga also has its own quota of legends, amongst which the following are prominent.

The first story is about Vindhya Parvat (Mount). Once upon a time Narada (son of Lord Brahma), known for his non-stop comic travel, visited Vindhya parvat. In his spicy way Narad told Vindhya Parvat about the greatness of Mount Meru. This made Vindhya jealous of Meru and he decided to be bigger than Meru. Vindhya started worship of Lord Shiva to become greater than Meru. Vindhya Parvat practiced severe penance and worshipped parthivlinga (A linga made from physical material) along with Lord Omkareshwar for nearly six months. As a result Lord Shiva was pleased and blessed him with his desired boon. On a request of all the gods and the sages Lord Shiva made two parts of the lingas. One half is called Omkareshwara and the other Mameshwar or Amareshwar. Lord Shiva gave the boon of growing, but took a promise that Vindhya will never be a problem to Shiva's devotees. Vindhya began to grow, but did not keep his promise. It even obstructed the sun and the moon. All deities approached sage Agastya for help. Agastya along with his wife came to Vindhya, and convinced him that he would not grow until the sage and his wife returned. They never returned and Vindhya is there as it was when they left. The sage and his wife stayed in Srisailam which is regarded as Dakshina Kashi and one of the Dwadash Jyotirlinga.

The second story relates to Mandhata and his son's penance. King Mandhata of Ishvaku clan (an ancestor of Lord Ram) worshipped Lord Shiva here till the Lord manifested himself as a Jyotirlinga. Some scholars also narrate the story about Mandhata's sons-Ambarish and Mucchkund, who had practiced severe penance and austerities here and pleased Lord Shiva. Because of this the mountain is named Mandhata.

The third story from Hindu scriptures says that once upon a time there was a great war between Devas and Danavas(demon), in which Danavas won. This was a major setback for Devas and hence Devas prayed to Lord Shiva. Pleased with their prayer, Lord Shiva emerged in the form of Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga and defeated Danavas.

While traveling from Khandwa to Omkareshwar, on the left side of road in the outskirts of Khandwa you can see the memorial to the celebrated singer, [Kishore Kumar](#).