



Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh

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Best Tiger Parks

- Kanha (p676)
- Bandhavgarh (p678)
- Pench (p680)
- Panna (p647)
- Satpura (p659)

Best Places to Stay

- Kipling Camp (p678)
- Friends of Orchha (p636)
- Laboo'z Cafe (p669)
- Manu Guest House (p667)
- Treehouse Hideaway (p679)

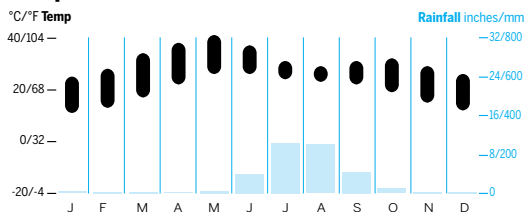
Why Go?

The spotlight doesn't hit Madhya Pradesh (MP) with quite the same brilliance as it does on its more celebrated neighbouring states, which is why it rewards travellers with unparalleled opportunities to detour from the tourist trail and delve into India's heartland.

Khajuraho's temples boast some of the finest stone carvings in India, but these exquisite erotic sculptures are a mere slice of architectural wonder in a region blessed with palaces, forts and stupas, the former most gloriously prominent in the postcard-perfect village of Orchha. Tigers are the other big attraction, and your chances of spotting a wild Royal Bengal in MP's national parks are as good as anywhere in India. Laid-back traveller havens like Maheshwar and Omkareshwar display the spiritual, scenic, and chilled-out flavours for which India is renowned, while the adventurous can foray into tribal Chhattisgarh, which split from Madhya Pradesh in 2000 and remains fascinatingly far removed from mainstream Indian culture.

When to Go

Bhopal



Nov–Feb The most pleasant time to visit central India, despite chilly mornings.

Apr–Jun Best chance of spotting tigers due to thin vegetation and fewer water sources.

Jul–Sep Monsoon time, but places such as Chhattisgarh are at their most beautiful.



Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh Highlights

- 1 Tracking tigers at one of India's two best tiger parks: **Bandhavgarh National Park** (p678) or **Kanha National Park** (p676)
- 2 Blushing at the erotic carvings on the exquisite temples in **Khajuraho** (p638)
- 3 Sleeping in a mud hut homestay in **Orchha** (p636)
- 4 Dining like a prince at **Ahilya Fort** (p669) in Maheshwar
- 5 Cooling off under a waterfall in **Pachmarhi** (p657), Madhya Pradesh's only hill station
- 6 Cycling around India's finest Afghan ruins in **Mandu** (p669)
- 7 Marvelling at the Jain Rock Sculptures at the magnificent **Gwalior Fort** (p629)
- 8 Wandering the fascinating tribal markets of Baster near **Jagdalpur** (p683)