



Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh

Includes ➔

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Gwalior | 623 |
| Orchha | 630 |
| Khajuraho | 635 |
| Bhopal | 645 |
| Sanchi | 650 |
| Indore | 659 |
| Mandu | 665 |
| Jabalpur | 673 |
| Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve | 678 |
| Jagdulpur | 683 |

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Under the Mango Tree (p649)
- ➔ Ahilya Fort (p671)
- ➔ Sarafa Bazar (p661)
- ➔ Mediterra (p661)
- ➔ Baghvan (p681)
- ➔ Silver Saloon (p627)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Kipling Camp (p677)
- ➔ Orchha Home-Stay (p634)
- ➔ Sarai at Toria (p645)
- ➔ Baghvan (p681)
- ➔ Salban (p677)

Why Go?

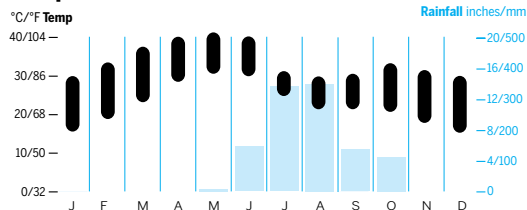
The spotlight doesn't hit Madhya Pradesh (MP) with quite the same brilliance as it shines on more celebrated neighbouring states, so you can experience travel riches ranking with the best without that feeling of just following a tourist trail.

Khajuraho's temples bristle with some of the finest stone carving in India, their exquisite erotic sculptures a mere slice of the architectural wonders of a region exceedingly well endowed with palaces, forts, temples, mosques and stupas, most gloriously in the villages of Orchha and Mandu. Tigers are the other big news here, and your chances of spotting a wild Royal Bengal in MP are as good as anywhere in India.

Pilgrimage-cum-traveller havens such as Maheshwar and Omkareshwar on the Narmada River are infused with the spiritual and chill-out vibes for which India is renowned, while the adventurous can foray into the tribal zones of Chhattisgarh, 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 Hot, but best chance of spotting tigers; thin vegetation and few water sources.

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



Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh Highlights

- 1 Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** (p678) Tracking apex predators at top tiger parks.
- 2 Khajuraho** (p635) Blushing at the erotic carvings on the Chandela dynasty's exquisite temples.
- 3 Orchha** (p630) Bedding down in a village homestay at this beautiful, laid-back town.
- 4 Mandu** (p665) Cycling along rural lanes to magnificent medieval buildings.
- 5 Jungle Lodges** (p677) Obeying the call of the wild in comfort and style at top-class lodges such as Kipling Camp.
- 6 Sanchi** (p650) Travelling back two millennia to the golden age of Indian Buddhism.
- 7 Gwalior** (p625) Exploring the city's historic cliff-girt fort.
- 8 Bastar Haats** (p684) Experiencing tribal culture at fascinating markets.
- 9 Omkareshwar** (p672) Absorbing the spiritual atmosphere at the riverside pilgrimage centre.