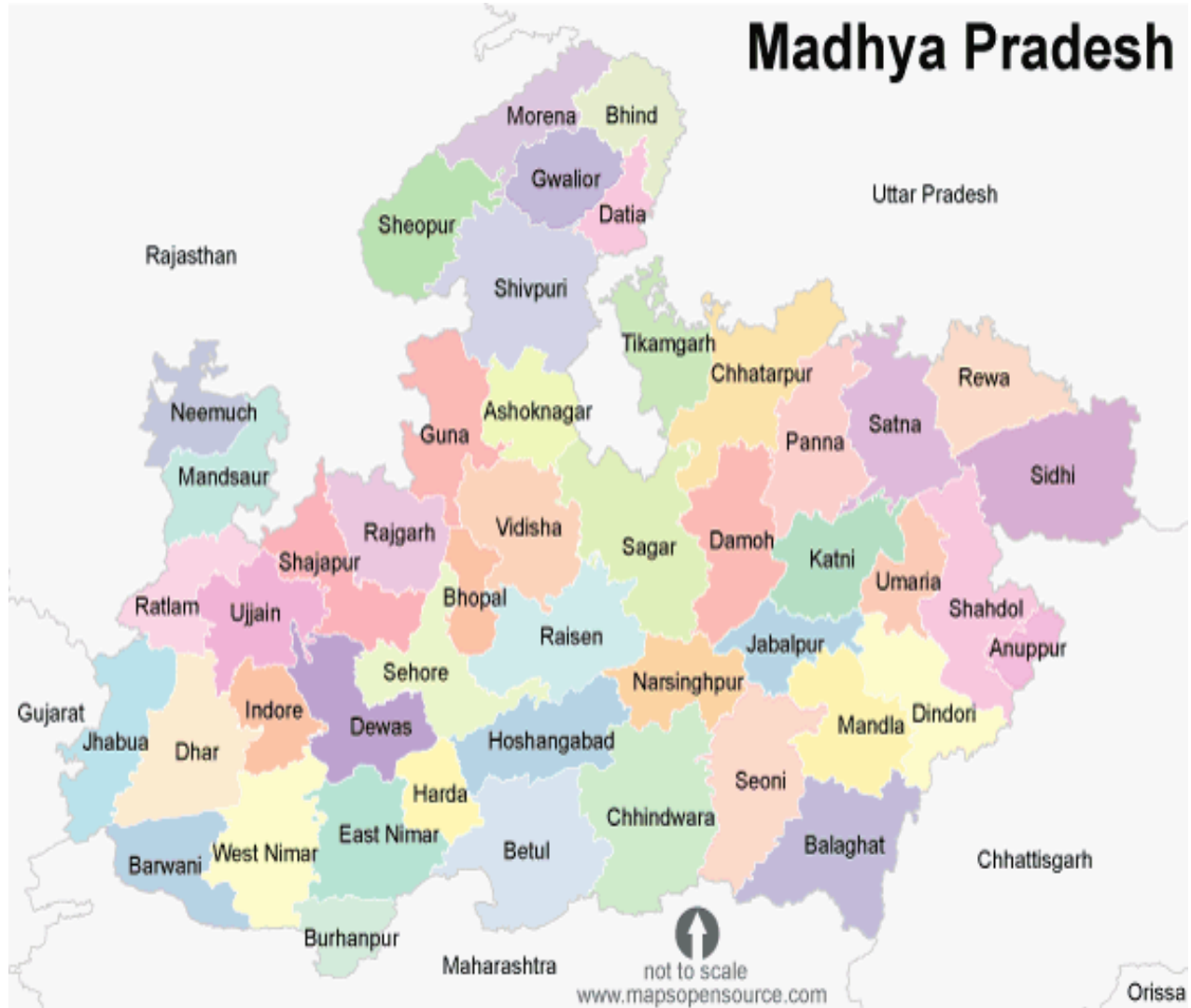




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# MADHYA PRADESH MONUMENTS

# Monuments to be visited in Madhya Pradesh ...



# 1. Sanchi Stupa, Bhopal



56 kms north-west of Bhopal city lies the historical architecture Sanchi Stupa, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1989. It's home to the relics of Buddha and his followers. Built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE; it is a remarkable specimen of Buddhist art and architecture. Sanchi's uniqueness lies in the fact that Buddha isn't represented by figures but through symbols.



## 2. Gwalior Fort, Gwalior



Referred to as 'the pearl amongst fortresses in India' by Mughal emperor Babur, the Gwalior Fort is one of the most impenetrable fortresses located in the entire northern and southern India and is a place you definitely must visit. Situated on the top of a vast rocky mountain near Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh in central India, this imposing structure dominates the entire city of Gwalior. An inseparable part of the identity and architecture of the city, evidence suggests that it has been around since 6th Century. It is also the places where the second oldest reference of the number 'zero' has been found in the form of a carving inside a temple on the top of the fort.

### 3. Jahaz Mahal, Mandu



The splendid architecture of Jahaz Mahal occupies an expense in the Mandu region of Madhya Pradesh. It was built during the reign of Mandu Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din Khilji, who is believed to have as many as 15,000 women as his consorts. In order to accommodate the women belonging to the royal consortium, Jahaz Mahal was built in second-half of the 15th century. It is a stunning historical place in Madhya Pradesh.



#### 4. Jai Vilas Palace, Gwalior



The Jai Vilas Palace, also known as the Jai Vilas Mahal is situated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh and is a symbol of age-old Indian culture and opulence, preserved in the modern day. The Maharaja of Gwalior, Jayaji Rao Scindia, had this magnificent edifice built to ensure a grand welcome for King Edward VII, the then Prince of Wales in 1874. Today this historical place in Madhya Pradesh serves as a residence for the descendants of the royal Maratha Scindia family.

## 5. Bhimbetka Rock Caves



The Bhimbetka rock shelters are an archaeological site and historical place in Madhya Pradesh, exhibiting the earliest traces of human life on the Indian subcontinent, and thus the beginning of the South Asian Stone Age. It was declared a World Heritage Site in 2003.

Best Time: October to April



## 6. Rajwada, Indore



Rajwada is a magnificent and historical palace that is located in the city of Indore and was constructed by the Holkars more than 200 years ago. It is a seven-storied structure located near the Chhatris and serves as an excellent example of royal grandeur and architectural skills. Located near the famous Kajuri Market in Indore, Rajwada stands out from the surroundings. However, there are two parts to this architectural landmark - The newer one lies in the northern part of the city while the older one, lies in the old town place.



## 7. Holkar Fort



As the name precisely suggests, this was the opulent palace of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar which the reason why it is also known as the Queen's fort. This fort was also the administrative headquarter of Rani Ahilyabai during her reign and currently it has been converted into a guesthouse, which is managed by the son of the last Maharaja of Indore, Prince Shivaji Rao Holkar.

This palace is the zenith of the Maratha architecture. To add to this, the palace is also host to a weaver's cooperative society in its premises. This structural marvel is sure going to teleport you to the ancient times.

Best Time: October to March

## 8. Rani Mahal, Orchha



Wrapped in elegance and magnificence that only befits the royalty, the Rani Mahal of Orchha is an enchanting fortification right from the pages of the history bygone. The fort is beautifully embellished with intricate carvings and colourful paintings which make quite the statement about the art and artists of Uttar Pradesh. Translating to 'the queen's palace', this destination once served as the royal quarters for the wife of Raja Madhukar Singh, and its last occupant was Rani Laxmi Bai herself. The palace has now been converted into a museum.



## 9. Raja Mahal, Orchha Fort, Orchha



The Orchha Fort complex comprises several formidable structures including forts, palaces, temples, cenotaphs and historic monuments. The majestic fort speaks volumes of the glorious Bundela Rajputs and their stories of valor. Situated on the banks of the River Betwa, the fort offers impressive artwork of paintings and stone carving within its premises, catering to the desire of history and nature lovers.

The fort complex houses the prominent Raja Mahal, which is the definition of intricate architecture. A part of it converted into Ram Raja Temple is the only place in the country where Lord Rama is worshipped as King Rama.

Other popular structures in the fort premises include Jahangir Mahal, built by Bir Singh Deo in 1605 and Rai Parveen Mahal, which was built by Raja Indrajit exclusively for dancer-poetess Rai Praveen. The light and sound show in Orchha Fort is a major tourist attraction for people exploring Orchha tourist places.

Timings: 9 am – 5 pm.

Entry fees: INR 10 for Indians, INR 250 for foreigners.

Location: Orchha Fort is located in the Orchha town of Tikamgarh district. The fort complex is nestled near the confluence of Betwa and Jamni rivers in Orchha.

Distance from Orchha Bus Stand: 15.2 km.