





*Krishnapura Chhatris*

Indore is the largest city in Madhya Pradesh, and together with its satellite towns of Pithampur and Dewas, is one of the fastest-growing economic regions in India. Its proximity to the Gujarat-Mumbai grid is a major factor behind its huge economic potential. Indore is also one of the foremost centres of education in central India and produces over 50,000 graduates each year, 30% of whom have technical training.

It was once the capital of the Holkars, who, with their keen interest in city planning and education, shaped much of Indore. Many civic institutions in the city predate India's Independence. Today, Indore is a perfect mélange of the old and the new, where old heritage structures coexist with modern multi-storeyed buildings.

#### What to see

The biggest tourist attraction in Indore is the **Rajwada**, built in 1749 by Malhar Rao Holkar to serve as his palace. The mammoth seven-storeyed palace, a combination of Maratha, Mughal and French architectural styles, reaches out to the sky from the chaotic lanes of Khajuri Bazaar, in the heart of the old city. The palace has recently



*The splendid interiors of Lalbagh Palace*

been renovated.

**Beautiful chhatris** commemorating Holkar kings are located on the banks of the Khan river, at **Chhatripura** and **Krishnapura**. All the chhatris have spires and enshrine life-size statues of Holkar rulers and their queens.

Set amidst manicured gardens spread over nearly 72 acres in the southwest of the city is the magnificent **Lalbagh Palace**, built between 1886 and 1921. The palace blends Renaissance, Palladian and Baroque elements and houses grand chandeliers, rich Persian carpets and stuffed gaming trophies.

Indore has an eclectic mix of temples, mosques and churches that are integral to its unique social fabric. Close to Lalbagh Palace is **Annapurna Mandir**, inspired by the Meenakshi Temple of Madurai. Nearby is the **dargah of Shahanshah-e-Malwa**, with a banyan tree said to be over 700 years old.

The beautiful **Kanch Mandir** near Rajwada was built by the Jain industrialist, Seth Hukumchand, in the early 20th century. The walls, ceiling, floor and doors, even the paintings and murals here, are all made of glass, with cut-glass chandeliers adorning the ceiling. On the top floor is a special glass chamber that multiplies the images of three tirthankaras – Adinath, Shantinath and Chandraprabha – made of shimmering black onyx, to an infinite number.



*Bada Ganapati Mandir*

West of Kanch Mandir, is the 19th-century **Bada Ganapati Mandir** that houses, what is believed to be, the largest Ganesh idol in the world, measuring 8 m from head to foot.

Built by Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar, **Khajrana** is another Ganesh temple that is deeply revered by the locals. Nearby is the famous **Dargah of Nuhar Sayed**.

The relatively new **Gita Bhavan** is adorned with many statues of gods and goddesses of various religions.

Indore's stunning Indo-Saracenic Town Hall was inaugurated in 1905. In 1948 it was christened **Gandhi Hall**. It has a four-faced domed clock tower in front, because of which it is locally known as **Ghanta Ghar**.

There are several beautiful churches clustered around the Residency area, including **Red Church**, **White Church** and **St. Anne's Church**. The latter is the oldest church in

central India, built in 1858. King Edward Hospital and Medical School nearby has a unique architectural style.

Indore's **Central Museum** possesses one of the best collections of Hindu and Jain sculptures from Madhya Pradesh, dating from the Gupta to Paramara periods.

Over the last decade, Indore has been witness to a mushrooming of trendy malls, especially around M G Road. However, for a flavour of the old city and good bargains, the markets around Rajwada like **Sarafa Bazaar** and **Khajuri Bazaar** sell everything from silver and gold jewellery to Maheshwari saris.

Soon after the jewellery shops shut in the evening, Sarafa Bazaar becomes a food lovers' paradise. Food vendors converge here to set up temporary stalls along the road, offering a variety of mouthwatering snacks including, samosa, kachori, pani puri, pav bhaji, chhole tikiya and sabudana ki khichdi.

**Residency Kothi:** The 1857 War of Independence had taken previous form in the city of Indore during that time. The revolutionaries had made an unsuccessful plan to blow off the Kothi, as it was the hub of the activities of the British Government. These revolutionaries, Bhagirath Silwat and Saadat Khan were hanged later on, nearby one can also see the Mazaar of Saadat Khan.

On a hillock near the airport is the **temple of Bijasen Mata**, built in 1920, and a heritage building that now houses the Border Security Arms Museum. A popular picnic spot, the place offers a breathtaking view of Indore city by night.



*Gandhi Hall, locally also known as Ghanta Ghar*

**Sound and Light Show :** Rajwada has witnessed the glorious rule of Ahilya Bai Holkar. It was from here that Yashwant Rao Holkar began guerilla warfare against the British. See this SEL show to know how Indore became what it is today. The narrative tells us about the wedding of Ahilya bai to the royal house of the Holkars and her rise to the throne and the chaos for power subsequent to her demise. How the Marathas held Malwa under their sway, the advent of the Britishers, the struggle for freedom and finally the transformation of Indore into the economic capital of Madhya Pradesh. All these incidences in the life of Indore city are interwoven in an interesting narrative.

**Pipliyapala :** The family entertainment park at Pipliyapala lake has a food zone and boat club with Malwa Queen Cruise. Other attractions include musical fountain, artist village, biodiversity park and labyrinth.

**Thing to do :** Indore is known for its street food. The Sarafa bazaar is specially famous street food lane. When in Indore breakfast of pohe-jalebi must be tried.