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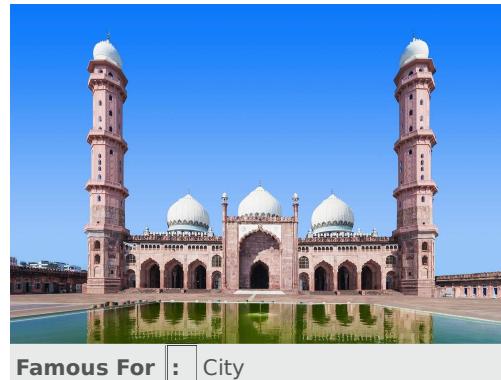
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Bhopal

Nestled between two artificial lakes, Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, is rightly known as "City of Lakes". It seamlessly integrates its glorious history and glittering present, promising a lifetime experience for those who visit it. There are several great places to visit in Bhopal like Van Vihar National Park, Bhojpur Temple, National Museum of Mankind, State Archaeological Museum, Birla Museum and Lakshmi Narayan Temple.



Surrounded by verdant forests, picturesque landscape, majestic mountains and beautiful artificial lakes, Bhopal calls for a fun-filled and memorable vacation. The beautiful mosques, museums and havelis are incredible testimonies of its rich culture and heritage. Bhopal is not only about the glorious past, it is lively, vibrant and cosmopolitan in nature. With a number of art performing centers, Bhopal is a cultural hub for tribal and folk artists. The place is also famous for its amazing cave paintings. Some of the major attractions include Taj-ul-Masjid, Van Vihar National Park and Upper Lake among others. Situated to the north of the Upper and Lower Lakes, old Bhopal is where you will find the regal echoes of the era of Begums and Nawabs. The newer city spreads to the south. The lakes in the centre provide balm to the eyes and moments of leisure on summer evenings and wintry afternoons. Legend has it that Parmara Raja Bhoj (1010-53 CE), affected by leprosy, was advised by sages to build a lake and bathe in it. Thus was born a bund—and a city. The

Parmaras went on to rule over Malwa till the 13th century. By 1565, the region was part of the Mughal Empire and, with its decline in the 17th century, it came to be dominated by local chieftains, the Gonds. The Afghan Dost Mohammad Khan fortified the fiefdom and laid the foundation of what was to grow into Bhopal city in 1723. Dost Muhammad's successor, Ghaus Mohammad, was Bhopal's fifth nawab. His wife Zeenat Begum was famed for rallying the women of Bhopal to fight in times of siege. Zeenat's widowed daughter, Qudsia, became the first of the famed Begums of Bhopal, in 1819.

Successive queens ruled the city, in an India ruled by kings and princes, through the 19th and early 20th centuries.

When To VISIT



<http://www.ixigo.com/weather-in-bhopal-lp-1138135>

Jan

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 17.89999961 **Min:** 10.60000038 **Rain:** 8530273°C 1469727°C 37mm

Feb

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 20.39999961 **Min:** 12.89999961 **Rain:** 8530273°C 8530273°C 7mm

Mar

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen.

Max: 25.29999923 **Min:** 17.39999961 **Rain:** 7060547°C 8530273°C 3mm

Apr

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen.

Max: 30.10000038 **Min:** 21.89999961 **Rain:** 1469727°C 8530273°C 3mm

May

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen.

Max: 33.20000076 **Min:** 26.10000038 **Rain:** 293945°C 1469727°C 37mm

Jun

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 31.29999923 **Min:** 25.39999961 **Rain:** 7060547°C 8530273°C 19mm

Jul

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 27.0°C **Min:** 23.60000038 **Rain:** 1469727°C 354.100006103515 6mm

Aug

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 25.70000076 **Min:** 22.79999923 **Rain:** 2939453°C 7060547°C 75mm

Sep

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen, umbrella.

Max: 26.10000038 **Min:** 22.0°C **Rain:** 1469727°C 185.100006103515 62mm

Oct

Pleasant weather. Carry Light woollen.

Max: 25.29999923 **Min:** 18.89999961 **Rain:** 7060547°C 8530273°C 31.0mm

Nov

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 21.5°C **Min:** 14.89999961 **Rain:** 8530273°C 27mm

Dec

Cold weather. Carry Heavy woollen.

Max: 18.5°C **Min:** 11.39999961 **Rain:** 8530273°C

What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-bhopal-ip-113813>

1 Sanchi Stupa



Sanchi, Raisen, Madhya Pradesh 464661, India

India's oldest stone structure, commissioned into existence by Emperor Ashoka and built over the remains of Buddha in a glorious endeavour to honour them, Sanchi Stupa is a magnificent example of not just Buddhist

and Mauryan art and architecture, but also of faith and reverence. While its foundation was overlain by Emperor Ashoka in 3rd century BCE, it was actually his wife, Queen Devi, a native of Sanchi, who eventually oversaw its establishment.

2 Taj-ul-Masjid



National Highway 12, Kohefiza, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462001, India

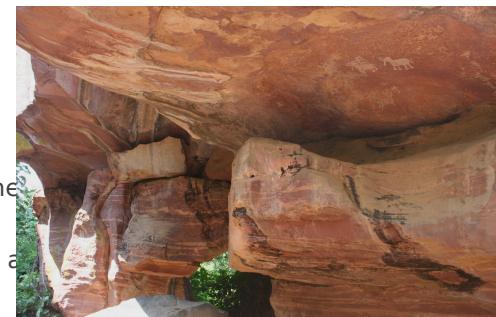
The name Taj-ul-masjid literally means 'The Crown of Mosques', which is truly reflected in the majestic architecture of the mosque, a magnificent spectacle in its own right. Also used as a madrasah, its construction was started by Sultan Shah Jehan Begum of Bhopal (1868-1901) and it was completely built only after 1971 by the great efforts of

Allama Mohammad Imran Khan Nadwi dating back to 5,500-1,000 BCE. Set in the

middle of the Ratapani Sanctuary (famous for its leopards, jackals and sloth bears), the mosque features a pink facade, on top of which stands the two 18-storeyed octagonal minarets. These minarets each have a huge bulbous dome, below which lies a main hallway with beautiful pillars and marble flooring. Apart from this, the mosque also encompasses a courtyard with

a large tank in the centre. The double-storey gateway in the courtyard, with 9 cusped, multifold openings and 4 recessed archways, leads to the main prayer hall. The Quibla Wall within the prayer hall is adorned with 11 recessed arch carvings and repeatedly used. Fortunately, the colours have remained intact — thanks to the chemical reaction from the oxide present on the surface of the rocks.

3 Bhimbetka Caves and Rock Shelters



Bhimbetka caves and rock shelters, Bhimbetka, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462038, India

Further down south-east, you will find a historic site hedged by the Vindhya Ranges. Bhimbetka consists of 600 rock shelters

Scenes of hunting, dancing, horse and elephant rides, animal fights, masks and household tableaux, chronicle lives long gone. Interestingly, the top crust in some paintings shows that the walls were

repeatedly used. Fortunately, the colours have remained intact — thanks to the chemical reaction from the oxide present on the surface of the rocks.

4 Van Vihar National Park



Shymala Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462002, India

Maintained and administered by Forest Department of Madhya Pradesh,

Van Vihar National Park, Madhya Pradesh is spread across an area of 445 hectares. More of a zoo than a sanctuary, this place houses a variety of animals, orphaned or brought from other parts of the state or exchanges from other zoos. Even though Van Vihar was declared to be a national park in 1983, it has been developed and managed as a modern zoological park, featuring a natural habitat that houses both carnivores and herbivores.

This one of a kind national park allows herbivores to roam freely while the carnivores are kept inside enclosed areas, bounded by trenches and walls so as to prevent poaching. The dietary needs of the animals are taken care of, for example the captives like panther, tiger, lion and more are fed on mutton while the free ranging animals like chital, black buck, sambar and blue bull are feed grass and other plant species growing within Van Vihar National Park.

Apart from these, Van Vihar National Park is also home to several animals belonging to endangered species. The varied flora and wilderness of

the park also makes an ideal place for avian century AD. fauna, consisting of over 200 species of birds migrating to the park during the winter season, along with a variety of butterflies and insects.

5 Birla Museum



Vallabh Bhavan, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462011, India

Situated atop the hilly terrains of Bhopal, Birla Museum is an archaeological museum set up in 1971. This one of its kind museum in Bhopal preserves the evidences and artifacts, dating right back to prehistoric periods. Apart from this, it also provides its visitors a glimpse of the social culture of primitive men. Other items housed at the museum include tools and equipment that were used by primitive men during the Palaeolithic and Neolithic ages, coins, manuscripts and terracotta objects, all dating back to the period between 2nd century BC and 6th

You will be amazed by the collection here, ranging from a model of Bhimbetka rock shelter to ancient wall paintings of the Stone Age. You can also find displays of stone sculptures, belonging to 7th to the 13th century, which were collected from the various archaeological sites.

Where To Eat

5 Places

<http://www.ixigo.com/foods-in-of-bhopal-lp-1138135>

1 Pind Balluchi



R- 6, 3rd Floor, DB City, Arera Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462011, India

+91-755-6644105 | +91-97555-80230

Craving for some authentic Punjabi food in the historic city of Bhopal? If the answer is yes then its time to make your way to Pind Balluchi, the famous chain of restaurants. The lavish menu here has loads of options for food, mocktails and cocktails and we suggest you to try the speciality, Dahi ke Kebab when you visit here!

2 Under The Mango Tree



157, Shymala Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 4620133, India

+91-755-2661100

The upscale fine dining restaurant is as famous for its ambiance as it is for mughlai food. Under The Mango Tree is a pretty restaurant which has an extensive menu for mughlai dishes. Don't loose your heart if you are a veggie as the place has limited options in veg food as well.

3 New Inn



 28, Bhadbhada Road, New Market, South TT Nagar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462003, India
 +91-755-4223777

A good value for money restaurant in Bhopal, New Inn is a lovely place to treat your taste buds to a wide variety of cuisines with impeccable client service and tasteful decor. The staff is quick, polite and always on its toes to help you with the best of choices on the menu.

4 Manohar Dairy



 Plot No 6, Hamidia Road, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462001, India
 +91-755-2740465|+91-755-4012000

Looking for Indian Fast food? Well, look no further as Manohar offers a scrumptious array of yummy 'Desi' fast food. Be it Dahi Kachori, Pav Bhaji, Matka Kulfi, Dahi Puri, Rabdi or Indrani, everything here tastes

absolutely great. Apart from this, they also serve delectable Pizzas, Chinese and South Indian, though only mid-day onwards. Their confectionery counter is quite impressive too.

5 Cafe Chokolade



 206, Zone 2, Near Arya Bhavan, Maharana Pratap Nagar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462013, India
 +91-98260-75149

This peppy cafe is a perfect place to savour some amazing snacks and refreshing beverages including shakes. Some top recommendations are grilled sandwich, aromatic coffee and chocolate drinks.