**Bhandara**

Bhandara is one of the major administrative districts in Maharashtra. It is located in the Nagpur division. The current name of Bhandara is derived from the term 'bhana' meaning 'brass', as the town is dominated by brass-working industry. With more than 3500 small lakes in and around the district, this 'Brass City' is also referred to as the 'District of Lakes'. It is characteristic of a mixed economy with agriculture, industries and forest resources contributing to it.  Bhandara district is mainly popular for its large production of rice, and is thus termed as the 'rice bowl of Maharashtra'. With several ancient temples and historical monuments, along with beautiful lakes, parks and sanctuaries, Bhandara attracts plenty of tourists every year.

1. **Koka Wildlife Sanctuary**

Koka was approved as a wildlife sanctuary only a year ago in 2013.. The park is situated barely 20 km from the district of Bhandara and close to Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary. The total area of the park is 92.34 sq. km. Koka has an abundant population of tigers and leopards. There are herbivores like Gaurs, Cheetals and Sambhars. Koka plays the role of a safe haven for animals that wander away from Nagzira and New Nagzira Sanctuaries in search of a new habitat. It is located 60 kilometers from Nagpur, which has an international airport. Trains, buses and cabs are available for Koka from here. The nearest railhead is Bhandara, 20 kilometers away. Tourists can either hail a cab or take a bus from here to Koka.  
The jungle safaris operate from 6:30 to 10:30 in the morning and from 3:00 to 6.00 in the evening. The route is 44 km. long and takes about 3-4 hours to cover. The park stays closed on Thursdays.The best time to visit the park is during and between the months of November and June. An unusual thing about the sanctuary is that vehicles are not available for hire. Tourists need to bring your own vehicles. The vehicle they bring must not be too old, noisy or chuck out too much smoke. Such vehicles may be turned away. It would be a good idea to seek permission from the forest authorities in Bhandara for your vehicle prior to setting out from home. Those planning to book a vehicle must also take note.

1. **Mahasamadhi Bhumi**

2500 years ago Buddha Dharma raised in India and after 1700 years it was extinct from India. The birth place of Buddha Dharma is India. Pannya (Wisdom) Metta (Mercy) Sangha (PMS) was established to spread Buddha Religion. The motive was manifestation and expansion of Buddhism, social, educational and cultural progress of the poor and troddens all over India thru its work. For this purpose Mahasamadhi Bhoomi was made in 1987 in Ruyad situated at Tah. Pauni District Bhandara in state of Maharashtra. Pauni was an ancient town and known as one of the main centres of Buddha culture from the times of Samrat Ashoka. Since 1987, every year people gather together for the Dhamma Mahotsav as a religious festival at Mahasamadhi Bhoomi.  
In this same sector, on the bank of Wainganga river Mahasamdhi Bhumi Maha Stupa inaugurated on 8th of February 2007. Many other people from different countries like monks and other famous personalities came here to celebrate this festival. On the day Poornima and Amavasya of every month thousands of people came together to pray and worship the god. Now a day’s Mahasamadhi Bhoomi which is one of the best samples of Buddhist sculpture and become a Buddha Pilgrimage site. In this environment the important events of the life of Buddha are presented in the form of Statues, which create religious feelings in the minds of incoming viewers.

**3)Umred Karhandla wildlife Sanctuary**

**Umred-Pauni-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary**, about 50 km from [Nagpur](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagpur) and 60  km from [Bhandara](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhandara" \o "Bhandara), is spread over Pauni Tahsil of [Bhandara district](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhandara_district" \o "Bhandara district) and Umred, Kuhi and Bhivapur Taluka of [Nagpur district](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagpur_district). This sanctuary has a connection with [Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tadoba_Andhari_Tiger_Reserve" \o "Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve) through the forest along [Wainganga river](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wainganga_river). The sanctuary is home to resident breeding tigers, herds of Gaur, wild dogs and rare animals like flying squirrels, pangolins and honey badgers.

It is bounded roughly by the [Wainganga river](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wainganga_river) and the [Gose Khurd Dam](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gose_Khurd_Dam" \o "Gose Khurd Dam) on the northeast, State Highway 9 and Bhiwapur Town on the south, Umred on the west and a narrow 10 km long range of 600 – 800 m hills to the northwest. It is located 40 km north of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and 50 km southwest of Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary & 60 km from Nagpur, Maharashtra. Pench Tiger Reserve is 80 km to the northwest

The number of tourists is increasing because it is very close to the Umred and Nagpur city. Tigers are commonly seen here by many villages around the sanctuary.

**4)Rawanwadi Dam**

Official Designation of Rawanwadi Dam Irrigation Project is ” Rawanwadi Dam , D – 04708 ” . However local and popular name is ” Rawanwadi Lake / Rawanwadi Talav “. Rawanwadi Dam was constructed as part of irrigation projects by Government of Maharashtra in the year 1960.  
It is built on and impounds a Local nallah , Nearest city to dam is Bhandara in Bhandara District of Maharashtra . The dam is an Earth fill Dam .The Length of dam is 96 m ( 314.961 Feet ) , while the Height of the dam above lowest foundation is 12.44 m ( 40.8136 feet ) . Project has no proper spillway as such.Length of the spillway is not known. The Dam has ungated .Dam’s catchment area is not known . Maximum / Gross storage capacity is 6.9 MCM. Live storage capacity is 8.75 MCM. Now a days almost all the water bodies make for good picnic spots. Rawanwadi Lake is also a popular Tourist attraction for its scenic beauty .Hilly terrain and forest adds to the natural beauty.