

# Unexplored India

Madhya Pradesh is called the "Heart of India", not only for its location in the centre of the country, but for its Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Islamic cultural heritage. Innumerable monuments, exquisitely carved temples, stupas, forts and palaces stand in testament. The natural beauty of Madhya Pradesh is equally varied, with spectacular mountain ranges, meandering rivers and dense forests. This tour takes you back to India's early history, while including the immortal Taj Mahal.

Above: Rock Painting - Bhimbetka  
Main image: Jahaz Mahal - Mandu



Hindu Temple - Maheshwar



## Day 1 Arrive Delhi

Arrive Delhi and transfer to your hotel. Overnight at The Claridges.

## Day 2 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi. The former a bustling city of crowded bazaars built by Mughal emperors, the latter a distinctive metropolis of wide avenues, landscaped gardens and stately monuments built by the British. Overnight at The Claridges. (B)

## Day 3 Delhi to Agra

Early train to Agra. Visit the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and the Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah. Overnight at the Trident Agra. (B)

## Day 4 Agra to Bhopal

Train to Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. Founded in the 11th century the city bears an aristocratic imprint of former rulers. Visit Taj-ul-Masjid, a towering edifice built by Shah Jahan Begum. Overnight at Noor-Us-Sabah Palace. (B)

## Day 5 Sanchi and Bhimbetka

At Sanchi, the stupas, monasteries and temples date from the 3rd century B.C. to the 12th century A.D. While at Bhimbetka, over six hundred rock shelters of the Neolithic period were recently discovered. Overnight at Noor-Us-Sabah Palace. (B)

## Day 6 Bhopal to Indore

Drive via Ujjain, city of ancient temples, to Indore, built by Rani Ahilya Bai the Holkar queen. A bustling and vibrant city, the tour includes the Lal Bagh Palace, Kanch Mandir (Glass Temple) and town hall. Overnight at Fortune Landmark. (B)

## Day 7 Indore to Mandu

Drive to Mandu, an ancient hilltop fortress city. Architectural gems include the Jahaz and Hindola Mahal palaces. The Jami Masjid and Hoshang Shah's tomb gave inspiration to the builders of the Taj Mahal centuries later. Overnight at Malwa Resort. (B)

## Day 8 Mandu to Maheshwar

To Maheshwar via Omkareshwar, a sacred Hindu island. Maheshwar's temples and mighty fort-complex stand in quiet beauty, mirrored in the river below. Overnight at Ahilya Fort. (B.L.D)

## Day 9 Maheshwar

The ambience of Ahilya Fort reflects its grand 18th century origins. From here explore Maheshwar, famed for its superb hand-loomed textiles and exquisite lac bangles. Overnight at Ahilya Fort. (B.L.D)

## Day 10 Maheshwar to Mumbai

Morning at leisure. Afternoon drive to Indore and fly to Mumbai. Overnight at The Taj Mahal & Palace. (B)

## Day 11 Mumbai

Morning visit Elephanta Island's cave temples. Afternoon sightseeing of Mumbai City. Overnight at The Taj Mahal & Palace. (B)

## Day 12 Mumbai and Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

