

Other Monuments

There are other monuments in Mandu which do not fall in any group but which merit special attention.

Nilkanth : This sacred Shiva shrine is sited in a magnificent setting, at the very edge of a steep gorge. In its tree-shaded courtyard, a sacred pond is fed by a stream, and pilgrims still gather to worship here.

Nilkanth Mahal : Belonging to the Mughal era and close to the Nilkanth shrine, this palace was constructed by the Mughal governor, Shah Badgah Khan, for Emperor Akbar's Hindu wife. On the walls here are some inscriptions of the time of Akbar, referring to the futility of earthly pomp and glory.

Hathi Mahal, Darya Khan's Tomb, Dai ka Mahal, Dai ki Chhoti Behan ka Mahal, Malik Mughith's Mosque and Jal Mahal are some of Mandu's other fascinating monuments. There is also the Echo Point, the 'Delphic Oracle' of Mandu. A shout from here reverberates far below and is heard clearly back. The Lohani Caves and Temple ruins, not far from the royal enclave area, also merit a visit due to their association with Mandu's history and monuments. Sunset Point, in front of the caves, affords a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

Fort of Dhar: On the way to Mandu, one can halt at Dhar to see the fort built by the Parmara rulers. Sheesh Mahal built inside the fort is one of the attractive buildings. Kharbuja Mahal, Vishram Bhavan, Madan Kui Sarai, Kothari Sarai, Caravan Sarai, Lady Sufi Saint Roza ki Dargah, Chhapan Mahal and the other buildings are worth a visit.

How To Reach

By Air : The nearest airport is at Indore, 100 km away, connected to Mumbai, Delhi, and Bhopal.

By Rail : Convenient railheads are Ratlam (124 km) on the Mumbai-Delhi main line and Indore (99 km).

By Road : Regular bus services connect Mandu with Indore, Dhar, Mhow, Ratlam, Ujjain and Bhopal.

Best Season : July to March, with the monsoon months being the best.

Your Host

Malwa Resort

Tel : 07292-263235, E-mail : mresortm@mptourism.com

Malwa Retreat

Tel : 07292-263221, E-mail : mretreatm@mptourism.com



Malwa Resort

MADHYA PRADESH

STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

HEAD OFFICE-BHOPAL

Marketing Division - Paryatan Bhawan, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal - 462 003
Tel: 0755-2774340/42, 4027100, 2778383, Fax: 0755-2779476, 2774289, Toll Free: 1800 233 7777,
E-mail: info@mptourism.com

MARKETING OFFICES

AHMEDABAD - 219, 'Supermall' 2nd Floor, Near Lal Bungalow, C.G. Road, Ahmedabad - 380 006
Tel: 079 - 26462977, 32939000, Telefax: 079-26462978, E-mail: ahmedabad@mptourism.com

BENGALURU - Premise No. 4/3, Shop No. 5, Sunkada Chikanna Complex Loop Lane off, Race Course Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560009 Tel : 080-25502288, 09407515764, E-mail : bengaluru@mptourism.com

HYDERABAD - Ground Floor, Balyogi Paryatak Bhavan, Opp. ITC Kakatiya Hotel, Begumpet Main Road, Hyderabad - 500 016 Tel: 040-40034319, Telefax: 040-23407785, E-mail: hyderabad@mptourism.com

KOLKATA - 'Chitrakoot', Room No. 67, 6th Floor, 230-A, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata - 700 020
Tel: 033-22833526, 32979000, Telefax: 033 - 22875855, E-mail: kolkata@mptourism.com

LUCKNOW - Rajarishi Purshottam Das Tandon Paryatan Bhawan, 1st Floor, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226 010, Tel: 0522-4021413, E-mail: lucknow@mptourism.com

MUMBAI - 45, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Mumbai - 400 005
Tel: 022-22187603, Telefax: 022-22160614, E-mail: mumbai@mptourism.com

NAGPUR - 407-A, 4th Floor, Lokmat Bhawan, Wardha Road, Nagpur - 440 012
Tel: 0712 - 2442378, 3259000, Telefax: 0712-2423374, E-mail: nagpur@mptourism.com

NEW DELHI - Room No.12, Hotel Janpath, Janpath Road, New Delhi - 110 001 Tel: 011-23366528, 32599000, 23341185/86/87, Telefax: 011-23347264, E-mail: delhi@mptourism.com

NOIDA - Mrganayane Emporium, Brahmputra Shopping Complex, Sector 29, Noida
Tel : 0120-4330070, E-mail: noida@mptourism.com

PUNE - Shop No. 6, 1st Floor, Bhosle Shinde Arcade, J.M. Road, Deccan Gymkhana, Pune - 411004
Telefax: 020-25536616, E-mail: pune@mptourism.com

RAIPUR - 103 First Floor, MM Silver Plaza, Ring Road No.1 Raipur.
Tel: 0771-4048810, Telefax : 0771-4049115, E-mail: raipur@mptourism.com

RAJKOT - 122, First Floor, Cosmo Complex, Near Mahila College Chowk, Kalawad Road, Rajkot-360001. Tel: 0281-2927966, Mob. : 09429197990, E-mail: rajkot@mptourism.com

SURAT - C/O Gujarat Tourism, Jilla Seva Sadan-2, Block-A, Ground Floor, Athhava Road, Surat
Tel: 0261-2918688, Mob.: 09978794098, E-mail: surat@mptourism.com

VARANASI - 52, Patel Nagar, Mint House, Nadesar, Varanasi (UP) - 221 002
Mobile No. 09235402180 Email : varanasi@mptourism.com

REGIONAL/TOURIST OFFICES

Bhopal - Paryatan Bhawan, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal Tel:0755-2766750, 2779631
E-mail: bhopal@mptourism.com, **City Booking Office**: Palash Residency Tel: 0755-2550588 E-mail: ctobhopal@mptourism.com, **Airport Counter Bhopal** Tel: 0755-2646667, E-mail: bhobjairport@mptourism.com, **Tourist Office**: Railway Station, Bhopal, Tel: 0755-2746827 E-mail: tobhopal@mptourism.com,

Gwalior - Tansen Residency, 6, Gandhi Road, Gwalior Tel: 0751-2234557, 4056726, Fax: 0751-2340371, E-mail: gwalior@mptourism.com, **Tourist Office, Deori**, Mob. : 09329170105

Indore - 42, Residency Area, Opp. Saint Paul H. S. School, Indore, Tel: 0731-2499566, 2499466, Telefax: 0731-2491345, E-mail: indore@mptourism.com, **Airport Counter**, Indore, Tel: 0731-2620404, E-mail: Indoreairport@mptourism.com

Jabalpur - Rani Durgavati "Paryatan Bhawan" Paryatan Tiraha, Near Collectorate North Civil Lines, Jabalpur, Tel: 0761-2677290, Telefax: 0761-2677590, E-mail: jabalpur@mptourism.com

Tourist Information Counter: Khatia (Kanha National Park) Tel: 07649-277242, E-mail: khatia@mptourism.com

Jhansi - Railway Station, Jhansi. Tel: 0510-2442622, E-mail: tojhansi@mptourism.com

Khajuraho - Tourist Interpretation & Facilitation Centre, Near Circuit House, Khajuraho
Tel: 07686- 274051, Fax: 07686-272330, E-mail: khajuraho@mptourism.com **Airport Counter**, Khajuraho, Tel: 07686-274648, **Tourist Information Counter**, Railway Station, Khajuraho

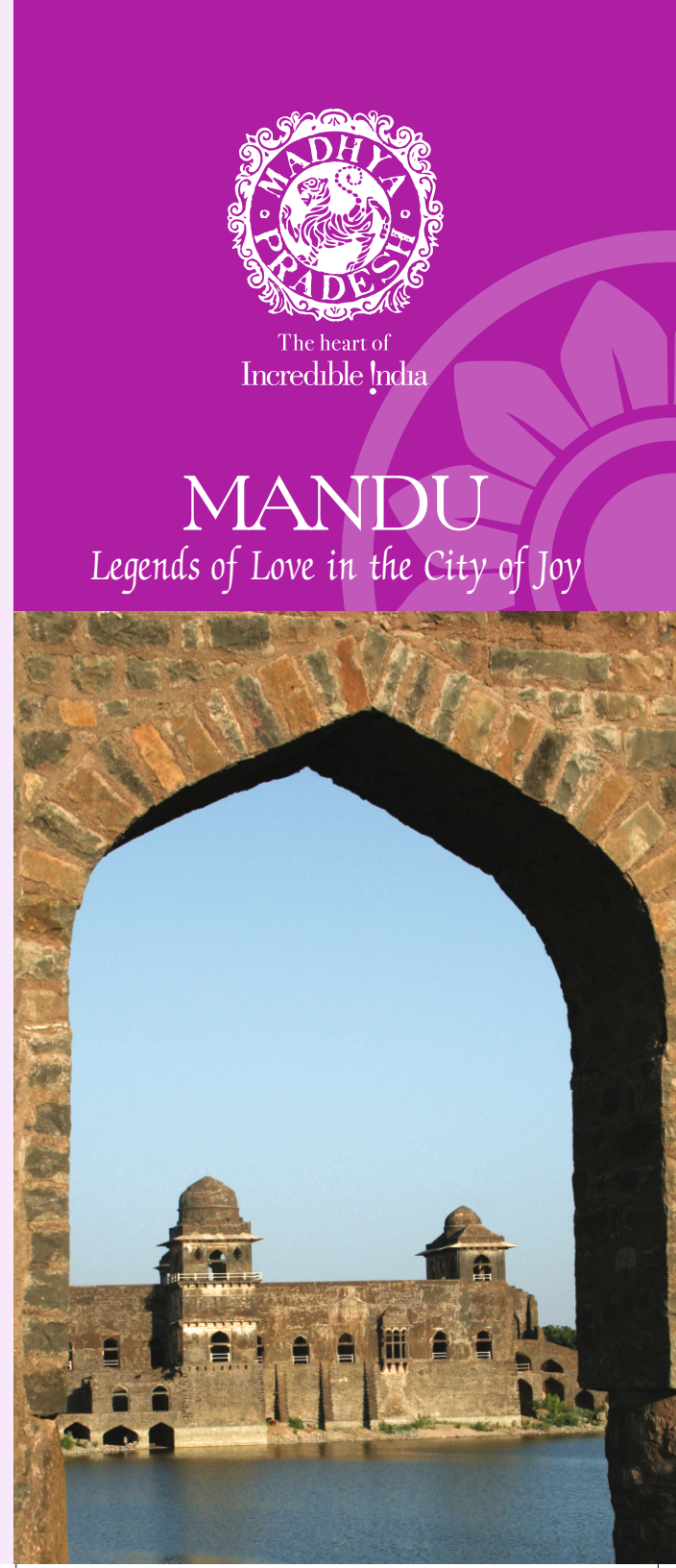
Pachmarhi - Amaltas Complex, Near Tehsil, Pachmarhi, Tel: 07578-252100, Fax: 07578-252102, E-mail: pachmarhi@mptourism.com, **Tourist Office** : Bus Stand, Pachmarhi, Tel : 07578-252029,

Ujjain - Tourist Office : Near Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, Tel : 0734-2552263, E-mail: toujjain@mptourism.com

For more information, log on to www.mptourism.com



Wayside Amenities



The heart of
Incredible India

MANDU
Legends of Love in the City of Joy

The elevated plateau is a scene of the most enchanting variety. Contrasting with undulating tracts shaded by trees, are dark pools nestling in the hollows and larger lakes glistening in the sunshine, while rocky ravines alternate with sloping swards, the entire effect being almost unreal in its beauty. And to complete the illusion, a thousand feet below are spread vast plains of the Narmada, the delicate opalescent tints of which... provide an entrancing background to the whole. On many of the prominent positions within the broken surface of this magic landscape... crowning the heights, are arcaded pavilions and pillared kiosks, turrets and cupolas.

Percy Brown : Indian Architecture
(The Islamic Period)



Jahaz Mahal, the elegant 'Ship Palace'

Mandu is a celebration in stone of life and joy, of the love of the poet-prince Baz Bahadur for his beautiful consort, Rani Roopmati. The balladeers of Malwa still sing of the romance of these royal lovers, and high up on the crest of a hill, Roopmati's pavilion still gazes down at Baz Bahadur's palace, a magnificent expression of Afghan architecture.

Perched along the Vindhyan ranges at an altitude of 2,000 feet, Mandu, with its natural defences, was originally the fort-capital of the Parmar rulers of Malwa. Towards the end of the 13th century, it came under the sway of the Sultans of Malwa, the first of whom renamed it Shadiabad-the City of joy, and indeed, the pervading spirit of Mandu was of gaiety; and its rulers built exquisite palaces like the Jahaz and Hindola Mahals, ornamental canals, baths and pavilions, as graceful and refined as those times of peace and plenty.

Each of Mandu's structures is an architectural gem; some are outstanding like the massive Jami Masjid and Hoshang Shah's Tomb, which provided inspiration for the master builders of the Taj Mahal centuries later. Under Mughal rule Mandu was a pleasure resort, its lakes and palaces the scenes of splendid and extravagant festivities. And the glory of Mandu lives on, in its palaces and mosques, in legends and songs, chronicled for posterity.

What To See

Darwazas (Gateways): The 45 km parapet of walls that encircle Mandu are punctuated by 12 gateways. Most notable of these is Delhi Darwaza, the main entrance to the fortress city, for which the approach is through a series of gateways well fortified with walled enclosures and strengthened by bastions such as the Alamgir and Bhangi Darwaza, through which the present road passes. Rampol Darwaza, Jehangir Gate and Tarapur Gate are some of the other main gateways.

The Central Group

Hoshang Shah's Tomb : India's first marble edifice is one of the most refined examples of Afghan architecture. Its unique features are the magnificently proportioned dome, marble lattice work of remarkable delicacy and porticoed courts and towers to mark the four corners of the

rectangle. Shah Jehan sent four of his great architects to study the design & draw inspiration from the tomb. Among them was Ustad Hamid who was also associated with the construction of the Taj Mahal.

Jami Masjid : Inspired by the great mosque of Damascus, the Jami Masjid, was conceived on a grand scale, with a high plinth and a huge domed porch projecting in the centre, the background dominated by similar imposing domes with the intervening space filled up by innumerable domes. One is struck by the hugeness of the building's proportions and the mosque is enclosed on all sides by huge colonnades with a rich and pleasing variety in the arrangement of arches, pillars, number of bays, and in the rows of domes above.



Hindola Mahal

Ashrafi Mahal : Built by Hoshang Shah's successor, Mahmud Shah Khilji, this 'palace of gold coins', facing the Jami Masjid, was conceived as an academic institution (madarassa) for young boys, and sundry cells still remain in a fair state of preservation. In the same complex he built a seven-storeyed tower to celebrate his victory over Rana Khumba of Mewar; of which only one storey has survived. Also in ruins is the tomb which was intended to be the largest structure of Mandu, but which collapsed due to hasty and faulty construction

The Royal Enclave

Jahaz Mahal: This 120 metre long 'ship palace' built between the two artificial lakes, Munj Talao and Kapur Talao, is an elegant two-storeyed palace. Probably it was built by Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din Khilji for his large harem. With its open pavilions, balconies overhanging the water and open terrace, Jahaz Mahal is an imaginative recreation in stone of a royal pleasure craft. Viewed on moonlit nights from the adjoining Tavali Mahal, the silhouette of the building, with the tiny domes and turrets of the pavilion gracefully perched on the terrace, presents an unforgettable spectacle.

Hindola Mahal : An audience hall also belonging to Ghiyas-ud-din's reign, it derives the name of 'Swinging Palace' from its sloping sidewalls. Superb and innovative techniques are also evident in its ornamental facade, delicate trellis work in sandstone and beautifully moulded columns.

To the west of Hindola Mahal there are several unidentified buildings which still bear traces of their past grandeur. Amidst these is an elaborately constructed



Jami Masjid

well called Champa Baoli which is connected with underground vaulted rooms where arrangements for cold and hot water were made.

Other places of interest in this enclave are Dilawar Khan's Mosque, the Nahar Jharokha (tiger balcony), Tavali Mahal, the two large wells called the Ujali (bright) and Andheri (dark) Baolis and Gada Shah's Shop and House, all worth a visit.

Rewa Kund Group

Rewa Kund : A reservoir built by Baz Bahadur with an aqueduct to provide Roopmati's palace with water. Today the pool is revered as a sacred spot.

Baz Bahadur's Palace : Built by Baz Bahadur in the early 16th century, the palace's unique features are its spacious courtyard surrounded by halls and high terraces which afford a superb view of the surrounding countryside.

Roopmati's Pavilion : The pavilion was originally built as an army observation post. From its hilltop perch, this graceful structure with its two pavilions was a retreat of the lovely queen, from where she could see Baz Bahadur's Palace and the Narmada flowing through the Nimar plains far below.



Roopmati's Pavilion