

## ITINERARY CODE: MP BPL 1794

**Tour duration:** 06 Nights / 07 Days

**In:** Bhopal, **Out:** Bhopal

**Destinations Covered:** **Bhopal--Sanchi Stupa** (UNESCO World Heritage Site) - **Gyaraspur** (Historical Site) - **Bhimbetka** (UNESCO World Heritage Site)-**Pachmarhi** (Hill Station) - **Satpura National Park** (The National Tiger Reserve)

Night stay at	No. of Nights	Itinerary Brief
Bhopal	02	Day 01: Arrive Bhopal and Sightseeing  Day 02 – Bhopal – Sanchi (1.5 Hrs) – Gyaraspur (01 Hr) - Bhopal (2.5 hrs drive one way)
Pachmarhi	02	Day 03: Bhopal – Bhimbetka (01 Hrs)- Pachmarhi (4 to 5Hr Drive)  Day 04 – Pachmarhi Sightseeing by Gypsy
Satpura	02	Day 05 – Pachmarhi - Satpura( 2-3Hrs Drive)  Day 06 – Satpura  Day 07 - Satpura – Bhopal Departure (3to 4 Hrs Drive)

### DETAIL TOUR PROGRAM:

#### **Day 01: Arrive Bhopal and Sightseeing**

Pick up from Bhopal Airport / Railway station. Transfer to Hotel. Check in to the Hotel & relax. Later proceed to visit Local Bhopal Sightseeing. Visit Gohar Mahal, Shaukat Mahal, Bharat Bhavan, Mankind Museum and Tribal Museum. Evening Spend time at Upper Bhopal Lake. Night stay in Bhopal.

**Gohar Mahal** is a unique amalgamation of Hindu and Mughal architecture, Gohar Mahal was built by Qudisiya Begum or Gohar Begum, the ruler of Bhopal. It was constructed in 1821 and boasts a spacious hall overlooking a beautiful lake in the vicinity.

**Shaukat Mahal** was constructed in the 1830s as a wedding gift for Sikander Jehan Begum, the first full-fledged female ruler of Bhopal. It is an integral part of the famous royal quadrangle of Bhopal around the Iqbal Maidan, earlier known as Khirniwala Maidan.

**Bharat Bhavan** is an autonomous multi-arts complex and museum. Its architect of the Bharat Bhavan is Charles Correa. Opened in 1982, it houses multiple art galleries, a graphic printing workshop, a ceramics workshop, an open-air amphitheatre, a studio theatre, an auditorium, a museum of tribal & folk art, and libraries of Indian poetry, classical music & folk music.

**Mankind Museum** or **Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS)** is an anthropology museum to present an integrated story of the evolution of man and culture with special reference to India.

**The Tribal Museum** was designed by Revathi Kamath. It was inaugurated in 2013. The museum is divided into six different themes galleries showcasing traditional art, craft and culture of various tribes of Madhya Pradesh like Gonds, Bhils, Bharias, Sahariya, Korku, Kol, and Baiga.

**Upper Lake** is The lake is also known as Bada Talab ("Big Pond") until March 2011 it was renamed to Bhojtaal in honour of the Great King Raja Bhoj who built it. A huge statue of Raja Bhoj, standing with sword, was also installed on a pillar on one corner of the lake to cement the name of Bhopal as the city of lakes.

### **Day 02 – Bhopal – Sanchi (1.5 Hrs) – Gyaraspur (01 Hr) - Bhopal (2.5 hrs drive one way)**

After breakfast, proceed to Sanchi. Visit Sanchi Stupas (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and Udaigiri Caves. Later proceed to Gyaraspur and Visit Maladevi, Hindola torna and Bajramath Temple. Later You will come back to Bhopal in the evening. Overnight stay at Bhopal.

**Tip:** Guide recommended for Sanchi.

Guests can do Early morning Bhopal Heritage walk with Guide with an Extra Cost.

**Sanchi Stupas** was originally commissioned by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka the Great in the 3rd century BCE. Its nucleus was a simple hemispherical brick structure built over the relics of the Buddha. It was crowned by the chatra, a parasol-like structure symbolising high rank, which was intended to honour and shelter the relics. The original construction work of this stupa was overseen by Ashoka, whose wife Devi was the daughter of a merchant of nearby Vidisha. Sanchi was also her birthplace as well as the venue of her and Ashoka's wedding.

**Gyaraspur** was of considerable importance in medieval India. The place has several ruins of several old Hindu, Jain and Buddhist places of worship. These include Maladevi Temple, Hindola Torna and the Bajramath Surya Temple

- **Maladevi temple** is in fact imposing and stupendous building. It comprise an entrance-porch, a hall and a shrine surrounded by a circumambulatory passage and crowned with a lofty Shikara all covered with rich carving.
- **Hindola Torna** is a large temple either of Vishnu or of Trimurti. The four sides of the two lofty pillars are carved into panels with insets of the ten incarnations of Vishnu.
- **Bajramath Temple** is a fine example of a very rare class of temples with three shrines. The carving of the doorway is exceptionally fine and vigorous.

### **Day 03: Bhopal – Bhimbetka (01-02 Hrs) - Pachmarhi (03 Hrs)**

After Breakfast proceed to Pachmarhi. En-route visit the Bhojpur Temple and Bhimbetka (UNESCO World Heritage Site). Check in to the Pachmarhi Hotel & relax. Night stay at Pachmarhi.

**Bhojpur Temple's** construction is believed to have started in the 11th century, during the reign of the Paramara king Bhoja. The construction was abandoned for unknown reasons, with the architectural plans engraved on the surrounding rocks. The unfinished materials abandoned at the site, the architectural drawings carved on the rocks, and the mason's marks have helped scholars understand the temple construction techniques of 11th-century India.

**Bhimbetka** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that consists of seven hills and over 750 rock shelters which were inhabited more than 100,000 years ago. The rock shelters and caves provide evidence of human settlement and the cultural evolution from hunter-gatherers to agriculture, and expressions of prehistoric spirituality. Some of the Bhimbetka rock shelters feature prehistoric cave paintings and the earliest are about 10,000 years old corresponding to the Indian Mesolithic. These cave paintings show themes such as animals, early evidence of dance and hunting from the Stone Age as well as of warriors on horseback from a later time. The Bhimbetka site has the oldest-known rock art in India, as well as is one of the largest prehistoric complexes.

### **Day 04 – Pachmarhi Sightseeing by Gypsy**

After breakfast, proceed for sightseeing by Gypsy, Visit Bison Museum, Pandav Caves, Bee Fall, ReechGarh and Dhoopgarh. Night stay in Pachmarhi.

**Tip:** Local Gypsy need to book in advance for sightseeing to avoid walk.  
Wednesday -second half sightseeing is closed for maintenance.

**Pachmarhi:** The name Pachmarhi is believed to be derived from the Hindi words Panch ("five") and Marhi ("caves"). According to a legend, these caves were built by five Pandava brothers of Mahabharatha era during their thirteen years of exile. The caves are situated on a hilltop and provide an excellent vantage point. Pachmarhi, also known as Satpura ki Rani, is a hill station in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

- **Bison Museum :** Small museum dedicated to animals & plants featuring life-sized sculptures depicting local wildlife. It is a lovely museum exhibiting paintings / photos of the bio-diversity of Pachmarhi . The exhibits are housed in two bungalows . It depicts the history of Pachmarhi . It is quite informative.
- **Pandav Caves:** 5 hilltop caves believed to have been carved more than 1,000 years ago, with a formal garden below. The Pandav Caves were cut into a low hill. Buddhist monks created the caves anytime from the first century AD to the 10th century AD.
- **Bee Fall:** This is a waterfall in Pachmarhi. It is so named because from a distance the waterfall sounds like a bee. Bee Falls takes its name from bees since this place is famous for honey bees.
- **Reechgarh** - one of the biggest natural cave in Pachmarhi. Reech stands for Bear and the cave is said be the place for bears. Quite a massive cave and very interesting inside. The place is very picturesque and a rough terrain.
- **Dhoopgarh** is the highest point in the Mahadeo Hills (Satpura Range). it has an elevation of 1,352 metres (4,429 ft). The top of the hill is a popular area to watch sunsets.

#### **Day 05 – Pachmarhi - Satpura(5 to 6 Hrs Drive)**

After Breakfast, proceed for Satpura. Check in to the Hotel & relax. Overnight at Satpura Hotel.

#### **Day 06 – Satpura Safari**

Morning and Afternoon Safari. Overnight at Satpura Hotel.

**Satpura is The Tiger Reserve National Park.** Its name is derived from the Satpura range. It covers an area of 524 km<sup>2</sup> (202 sq mi). Satpura National Park, along with the adjoining Bori and Pachmarhi wildlife sanctuaries Satpura National Park is rich in biodiversity. The animals here include leopard, sambar, chital, Indian muntjac, nilgai, four-horned antelope, Chinkara, wild boar, bear, black buck, fox, porcupine, flying squirrel, mouse deer, and Indian giant squirrel. There are a variety of birds. Hornbills and peafowl are common birds found here. The flora consists of mainly sal, teak, tendu, Phyllanthus emblica, mahua, bel, bamboo, and grasses and medicinal plants.

Afternoon Safari Drives Will Not Be Conducted On Wednesdays

**Day 07 - Satpura – Bhopal Departure (3 to 4Hrs Drive)**

After Breakfast, Proceed to Bhopal Airport/Railways Station for your onward Journey.

**MP Incoming**

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