

Article - Madhya Pradesh

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1. Wildlife spotting in Bandhavgarh National Park



MADHYA PRADESH

It is hard to imagine as you drive through these forests that this area was originally home to powerful kings and maharajas residing in the large hilltop fort; its meadows were rich agricultural lands tended by farmers and Buddhist monks; and sadhus

occupied an extensive cave system in 100 BC. Bandhav-garh means 'fort of the brother' and is believed to have been gifted by Lord Ram to his brother Lakshman. In the twelfth century, the fort was given in dowry to the Baghela clan, of which the present Maharaja of Rewa is a direct descendent. After almost continuous occupation, the capital of the Baghelas was moved to Rewa by the nineteenth century and the forests became the hunting reserve of the Maharaja and his guests. Gulab Singh of Rewa shot 480 tigers across his kingdom. By 1968, all the animals in the park had been hunted out and on the day the present Maharaja's late father gifted the forests to the State, there were no quadrupeds left in the park. Soon after, the forests were declared a National Park and later a Tiger Reserve. The park was extended in 1986 and today it covers 1,161 square kilometres, including the buffer areas, in which village communities exist. Famed over the years for its charismatic male and female tigers that are well documented, it today has over 90 individuals residing within its forests. The park is divided into three separate tourism zones - Jala, Magdhi and Khitauli.

Bandhavgarh is located in Vindhya hills of Umaria district, Madhya Pradesh. In 1968 the area got its status of a National Park and now has become one of the preferred parks for Tiger Safari in India that includes photographing and tracking Tigers in wild. The park is known to have World's highest density of Bengal Tigers. The four zones namely Magadhi, Khitauli, Jala and Panpatta-together clubbing the core and the buffer zone the total area of 1200 sq.km is home ground of over 55 tigers at present.

The historical links of Bandhavgarh are to be found in India's worshipped mythological heroes Rama and Laxmana. The name "bandhav-garh" translates to "the brother's fort" and believed to be gifted by Hindu God Rama to his devoted 'bandhav' (brother) Laxmana on his return from victory over Lanka (Ceylon). Inside the park there are 12 natural waterholes, several other historical monuments and remains of ancient caves that exhibit a 2000 year old rich historical past.



BEST TIME TO VISIT BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK



Sleeping lord Vishnu statue

The best time to see tigers in Bandhavgarh National Park – April and May – also coincides with scorching temperatures, but the park is open most of the year, with lush landscapes after the monsoon and crisp mornings during December and January. Read on to work out the best time to go to Bandhavgarh, what to do once here and

what not to, and discover some helpful tips from our travel suppliers and travellers.

2. River Rafting in Betwa River , Orchha



About the Activity:

- Built in the time of Emperor Jahangir, Orchha is a heritage city loved by all who visit here. But the adventurous side of the city begins when you start seeing rafts on the river Betwa, on the banks of which the city is based.*
- This rafting package brings you to the amazing rapids near Orchha and also provides you with an opportunity to see the amazing sights of the city from a different angle.*
- Enjoy a delicious breakfast before the activity and a filling lunch to complete the adventure.*
- Get picked up from your hotel and get dropped back after completion.*

At a distance of 1.5 km from Orchha Fort, Rafting in Betwa River is one of the top things to do in Orchha. Orchha is one of the top heritage destinations in Madhya

Pradesh and also a top rafting destination in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Also known as the Vetravati, the Betwa rises in the Vindhya Range just north of Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh and flows north-east through Madhya Pradesh and Orchha to Uttar Pradesh. The challenge of a turbulent current is no less than that of the rough landscapes. Nestled in the lap of lush greenery and massive cenotaphs, Orchha's mighty river Betwa swift right from the Vindhya Range and empties itself into the Yamuna. The river is wide and its placid flow is intermittently broken by Grade I to Grade II rapids and gives another reason to adventure lovers to experience world's most lovable water adventure.

The rafting at Orchha is organised by MP Tourism, and starts from the scenic Kanchan Ghat. MP Tourism organises two river safaris at Orchha. Tickets are arranged by MP tourism and are available at the Betwa retreat or at the Hotel Sheesh Mahal. Beginning from the scenic Kanchan Ghat, the 90-min package (31/2 km) culminates at Shiv Ghat with refreshments. The 3 hour package (6 km) includes breakfast or lunch at Shiv Ghat and goes up to Note Ghat.

Rafting charges vary depending on the season and group size. The usual charges for 8 km rafting stretch cost between Rs. 800-2000 per person. Rafting is closed during monsoons.

Rafting Timings: 10 AM to 4 PM

3. Kanha National Park

Kanha Tiger Reserve, also known as Kanha-Kisli National Park, is one of the tiger reserves of India and the largest national park of the state of Madhya Pradesh. The present-day Kanha area is divided into two protected areas, Hailon and Banjar, of 250 and 300 km² (97 and 116 sq mi), respectively. Kanha National Park was created on 1 June 1955 and was designated a tiger reserve in 1973. Today, it encompasses an area of 940 km² (360 sq mi) in the two districts Mandla and Balaghat.

Together with a surrounding buffer zone of 1,067 km² (412 sq mi) and the neighbouring 110 km² (42 sq mi) Phen Sanctuary, it forms the Kanha Tiger Reserve, which is one of the biggest in the country. This makes it the largest national park in central India.

The park hosts Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, sloth bear, barasingha and dhole. It is also the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot, Bhoorsingh the Barasingha.

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*Kanha National Park is the host of the major animals (mammals) including the Barasingha or swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), Indian wild dog and the most famed the India Tiger. This park is mostly renowned as the "Tiger Reserve" due to the significant amount of population of tigers in the Kanha land.*

BEST TIGER SIGHTING ZONES IN KANHA

- 1. Khatia Zone: This zone is also known as the Kisli gate.*
- 2. Sarhi Zone: You can visit Sarhi, Khatia and Kisli zone from this entry point. Sarhi zone is situated on the northern side of Kanha National Park.*
- 3. Mukki Zone: Mukki Zone is located at the southern side of Kanha.*



Kanha National park :-

- Kanha National park is the biggest park in Madhya Pradesh, India.
- This park is reserved for Tigers in the Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh, India.
- Kanha National park was created on 1 June 1955.
- This park has Royal Bengal Tiger, Leopards, the sloth bear, Barasingha and Indian wild dog.



