



**SOUL OF INDIA**

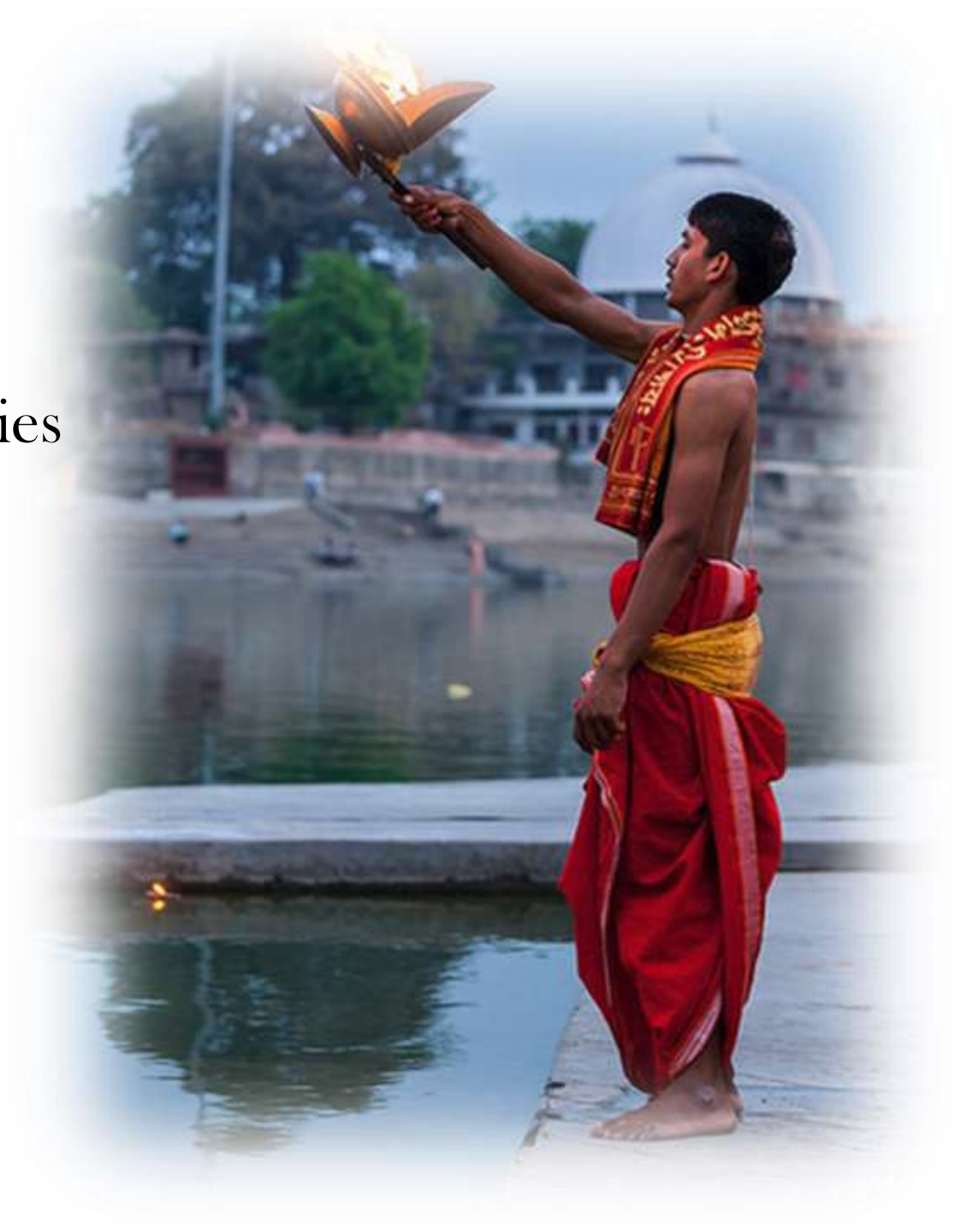
# PILIGRAMGE TOUR

A pilgrimage is a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance. A pilgrimage is a ritual journey with a hallowed purpose. Every step along the way has meaning. The pilgrim knows that life giving challenges will emerge. A pilgrimage is not a vacation; it is a transformational journey during which significant change takes place. New insights are given. Deeper understanding is attained. New and old places in the heart are visited. Blessings are received and healing takes place. On return from the pilgrimage, life is seen with different eyes. Nothing will ever be quite the same again.

Madhya Pradesh is a land filled with tranquility. Though in every nook and corner of the state, one can find religious adumbration, yet there are specific places that have emerged as centers of pilgrimage. The most important being the Indore , Ujjain , Orrcha, Omkareshwar and Chitrakoot. Hindu temples dominate the pilgrimage as the highest population here is of the Hindus. However one will come across Buddhist and Jain pilgrimages in some many places .

## WHAT THE TOUR INCLUDES.....

- Tour of holy temples and shrines
- Meeting with a poojari ( hindu priest )
- Pooja in ujjain along with offerings to the deities
- Witness the Bhasam Arti
- Distribution of prasad
- Visit to a local ashram
- Palm reader/ astrologer
- Train ride
- Traditional food at a local restaurant.
- Hindi speaking guide



# DAY – 1 :- ARRIVE INDORE

Apart from being known for its historical monuments, Indore is also famous for its religious places. There are a host of worship places here which attract pilgrims from all over the world. Each place is different from the other and unique in its own way. Away from the busy life of the city, these worship places provide relief and fill the mind and soul with divinity and peace.

Indore is the largest city in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It is situated on the banks of the River Khan and Sarawati. The two rivulets unite at the center of the city where a small temple of Sangamnath or Indreshwar exists. The city of Indore derived its name from the deity itself.

**Arrive Indore** and proceed to the hotel, Check in and freshen up... Followed by tour of the temples of Indore i.e **KANCH MANDIR KHAJRANA, BADA GANPATI, LAL BAGH PALACE.**

Overnight stay at the hotel



## INDORE :- KAANCH KA MANDIR ( TEMPLE OF GLASS )



**Kanch Ka Mandir:** literally Temple of Glass, is a famous Jain temple. The temple has more than 50 murals depicting Jain stories. They also depict scenes of conversion to Jainism, torture of sinners in the afterlife and 19th century court life. The temple is decorated with thousands of mirrors with patterned ceramic tiles. The Kanch Mahal is quite different from all the other such monuments in the country. The idol of Lord Mahavira, the founder of Jainism is made from shimmering black onyx. the idol of Lord Mahavira is adorned with colourful glass beads. The temple is entirely made of glass including the walls, ceiling, floor, pillars and doors. Along with mirrors, patterned ceramic tiles are also used for decorating the temple. The temple also features delicately crafted Chinese lantern type glass lamps and cut glass chandeliers..

## BADA GANAPATI



**Bada Ganpati Temple Indore Madhya Pradesh -** Bada Ganapati is better known for its size than antiquity, this temple houses very large idol of Ganesh measuring 25 feet from crown to foot. Created as a result of a dream to an Avantika (Ujjain) resident Shri Dadhich, it was built in 1875.

The idol has a most interesting configuration of ingredients: bricks, lime stone, masala made of Gud, methi dana, soil collected from seven moksha puris: Ayodhya, Mathura, Maya, Kashi, Kanchi, Avantika, and Dwaraka, mud from stables of horse, elephant and cow, the powder of Pancharatna : heera, panna, moti, manek and pukhraj (diamond, emerald, pearl, ruby and topaz) and the holy water from all major places of pilgrimage. The metallic frame is of gold, silver, copper, brass and iron.

## INDORE : Khajarana Ganesh Temple

This is one of the most visited temples in the city because of its history and religious beliefs attached to it. The locals especially have a lot of faith in the temple and the blessings that they get from here; which in a way makes it a priority in any traveller's list. It is believed that the temple was originally built by Ahilya Bai Holkar and was later subjected to some finishing touches by different historic personalities. According to several religious beliefs, it is said that whoever comes here and wishes for something, the wish gets fulfilled within a short span of time.

Khajrana Ganesh temple is a popular temple in the heart of Indore. This ancient temple was built in 1875 and has historical importance. Wednesdays and Sundays are popular days for devotees, along with festivals and public holidays.



## INDORE: Khajarna Ganesh



### Khajrana

Khajrana is famous for its Ganesh Temple, in which the local people of Indore have great faith. It is said that the temple was built by Ahilya Bai. According to the religious belief of the people, all the wishes of the person who prays here, gets fulfilled. There is also a dargah nearby, which is dedicated to Nahar Sayed. It is believed that he was buried headless here.

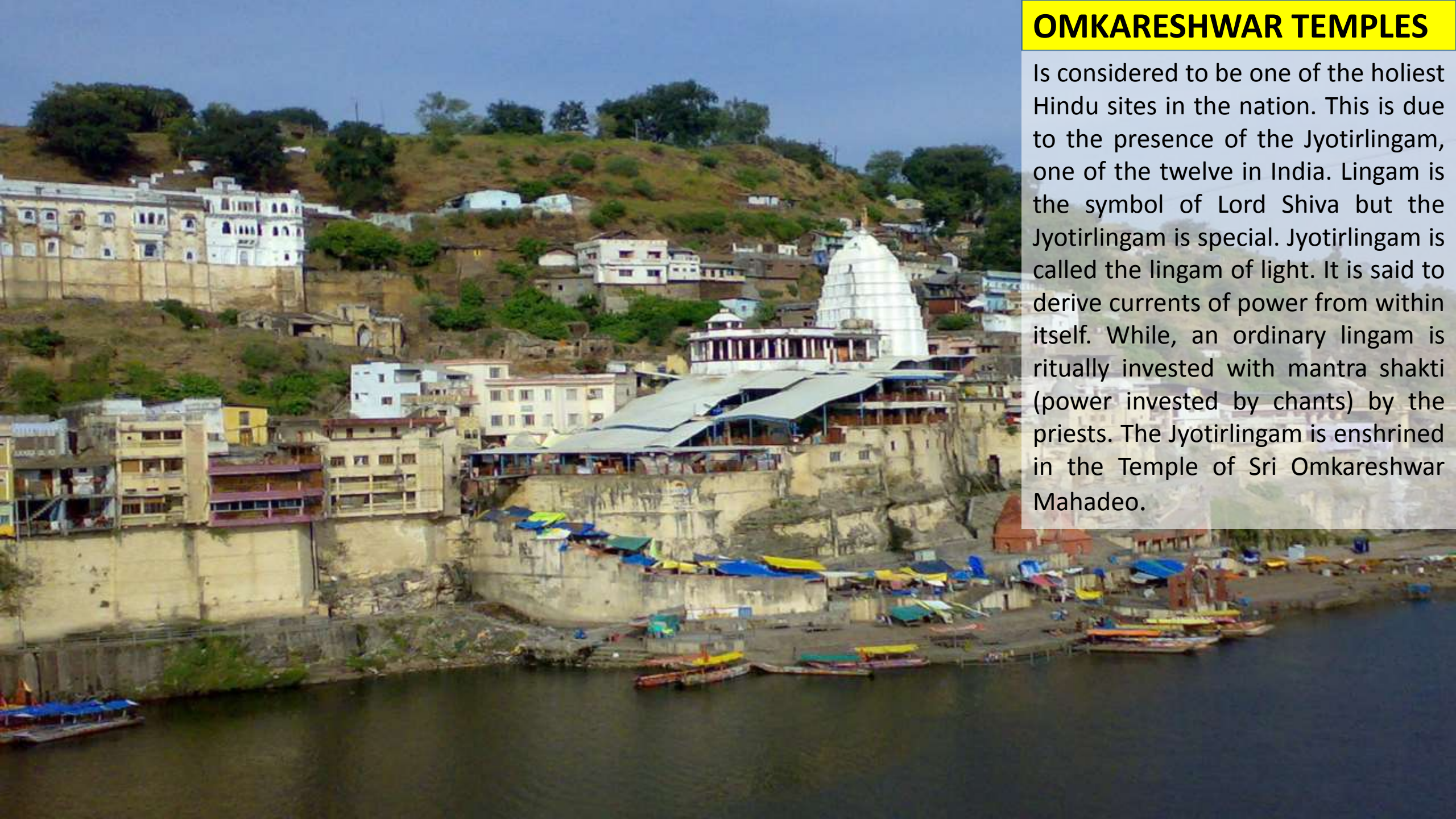
# Day 2 : MANDU, OMKARESHWAR, MAHESHWAR

After breakfast depart for Mandu enroute visit Omkareshwar and Maheshwar Temple. Overnight at the hotel in Indore.



Omkareshwar is a holy town situated in Indore. It derives its name from the sacred Hindu symbol of OM. The place is a pilgrimage site, as there are a number of Hindu and Jain temples located here. It is an island in the shape of an Om. On the confluence of the river Narmada and Kaveri. The island is divided into north and south by a deep gully and is linked by a bridge.





## OMKARESHWAR TEMPLES

Is considered to be one of the holiest Hindu sites in the nation. This is due to the presence of the Jyotirlingam, one of the twelve in India. Lingam is the symbol of Lord Shiva but the Jyotirlingam is special. Jyotirlingam is called the lingam of light. It is said to derive currents of power from within itself. While, an ordinary lingam is ritually invested with mantra shakti (power invested by chants) by the priests. The Jyotirlingam is enshrined in the Temple of Sri Omkareshwar Mahadeo.

## MAHESHWARA TEMPLE :

A historic temple town situated at the banks of the beautiful Narmada river, Maheswar in Madhya Pradesh is overflowing with its past glory. The literal meaning of the term Maheshwar means abode of Lord Mahesh, which shows this temple city's close connection with the Lord Shiva. The town enjoyed a golden age in the late 18th century under Holkar queen Ahilyabai, who built the towering fort and many other monuments.



# DAY 2 – MANDU



After breakfast depart for half day sight seeing of Mandu. Mandu or Mandavgad is a ruined city in the present-day Mandav area of the Dhar district. It is located in the Malwa region of western Madhya.

Visit the **The Darwazas, The Royal Enclave Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal** .

Overnight at the hotel.

# DAY 3 : UJJAIN

After breakfast, check out and drive to Ujjain. Arrive in Ujjain. Evening proceed for sight seeing of **Bade Ganeshji Ka Mandir, Sandipani Ashram**. Overnight at the hotel.



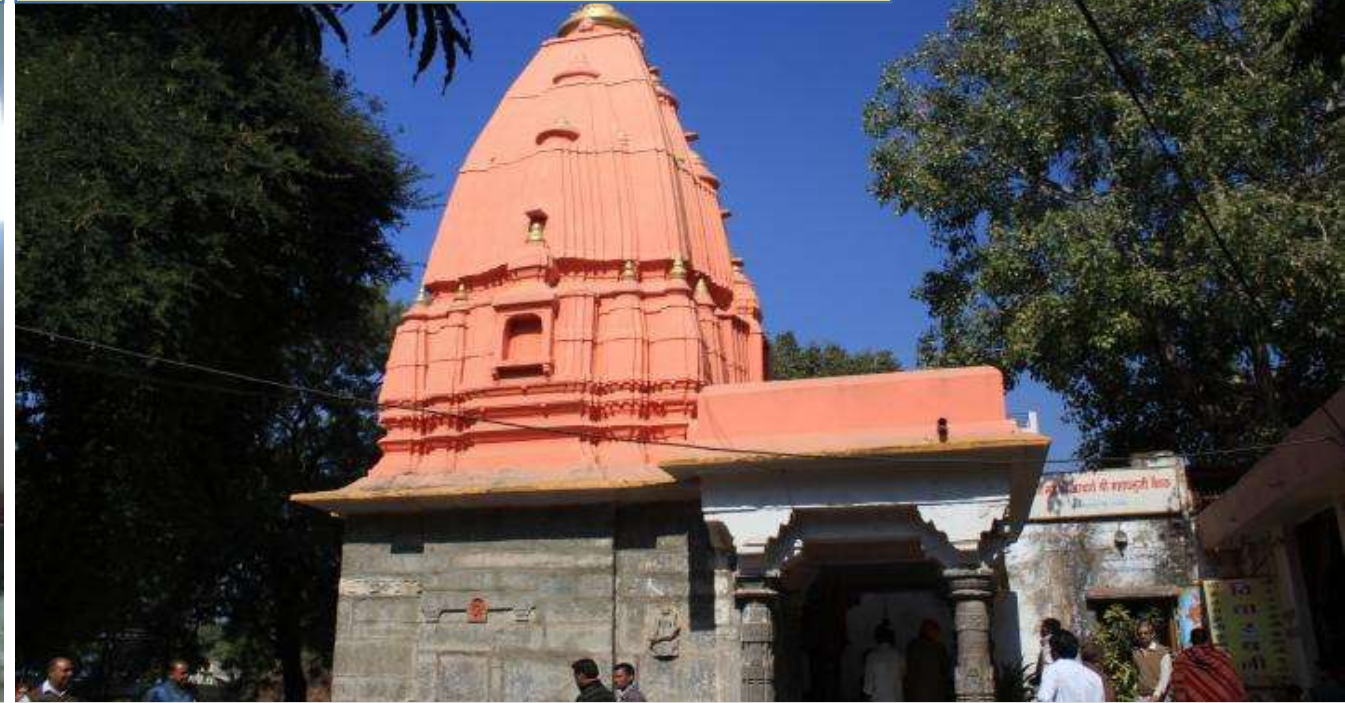
Ujjain is one of the ancient and holiest cities for Hindus, situated about 56 km from Indore in Madhya Pradesh, India. This is one of the seven sacred cities (Sapta Puri) of the Hindus and the site for the Kumbh Mela religious festival, which is held every 12 years. The city of Ujjain is one of the ancient cities of the country. Ujjain is famous for the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple, one of the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva. Ujjain is also said to be the place where Lord Krishna got education along with Balarama and Sudama from Maharshi Sandipani.

## UJJAIN – BADE GANESHJI KA MANDIR



Bade Ganeshji Ka Mandir glorifies the city of Ujjain. Ganesh is considered to be the most benevolent God that blesses his followers with wealth and prosperity. He has a very sweet figure with a tusK of an elephant and is considered to be the favorite son of Parvati, or Goddess Durga. It is located very near the MahaKaleshwar Temple. Bade in Hindi means large, and Mandir in Hindi means a temple, so the entire phrase Bade Ganeshji Ki Mandir means The Temple of the Big Ganesh Statue. The centre of the temple has an idol of the pancha-mukhi (five faced) Hanuman.

## UJJAIN – SANDIPANI ASHRAM



Sandipani Ashram: The ashram temple contains idols of Sandeepa maharshi, Lord Sri Krishna, Lord Bala Rama and Sudama.

There is a pond in the ashram, called as Gomati kund. Kundeshwar Shiva linga is present beside the pond. The idol of Nandi of this temple is very old. Purushottam sagar, Sholah Sagar is present near the ashram. Seventy third Bithak of Mahaprabhu Vallabhacharya is present here.

# DAY – 4 BHASMA AARTI - UJJAIN

Pre dawn visit to witness the Bhasma Arti. After the Arti return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast proceed for sightseeing of **Harsidhi Durga Temple, Chintaman Ganesh Temple**. Overnight at the hotel



**The Bhasma Aarti** (offering of ashes) is a mandatory ritual offered to Lord Mahakaleshwar daily at 4 AM. This two hour long pooja is performed using burning cow dung cakes . During Aarti, chanting of mantras, sounds and vibrations within make it a very powerful aarti once in a life time experience. Among 12 Jyothirlingas, this jyothirlinga is the only place where bhasma aarti is performed.

During the bhasma aarti no one is allowed to enter into garbhagriha. Devotees are allowed to the Nandi hall to participating in the bhasma aarti. Nandi hall which is situated outside the sanctum sanctorum, accommodates 100 people where as 500 devotees could sit near barricades behind the nandi hall

# POOJA IN UJJAIN



## UJJAIN – MAHAKALESHWAR JYOTRILINGRA



### **Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga :**

Ujjain: is situated at a distance of 56 km from Indore. The city of Ujjain is one of the ancient cities of the country. It is considered to be one of the seven sacred places to attain Moksha. The city attracts a great deal of pilgrims, as it is the abode of one of the Jyotirlingas. Ujjain city of India is located on the banks of River Shipra and exists from the early days of the Indian civilization. It once used to serve as the capital of Avanti and a center of learning. It is also regarded as the Greenwich of Hindu astronomers and astrologers.

The temple is situated on the side of the Rudra Sagar lake. The presiding deity, Lord Shiva in the lingam form is believed to be Swayambhu, deriving currents of power (Shakti) from within itself as against the other images and lingams that are ritually established and invested with mantra-shakti.





**Harsiddhi Temple : Ujjain**

Harsiddhi Temple in Ujjain is one of the 52 Sakthipeeths according to the Hindu tradition and beliefs.

According to Hindu mythology, this ancient temple is believed to be the place where the elbow of Goddess Sati fell. The idol of the Goddess Harsiddhi is enshrined between the idols of Goddess Maha Lakshmi and Maha Saraswati. The goddess is worshipped here as Annapurna, and the idol is painted in dark vermilion colour.

Another remarkable feature of this shrine is the presence of Sri Yantra, the symbol of power or Goddess Shakti, which is formed of nine triangles. These nine triangles are to represent the nine names of Goddess Durga and also to symbolize the energy of this goddess. The red temple which is located behind the lamp-stands is to represent the effectiveness of Goddess Durga.

# DAY 5: – BHOPAL

After breakfast , check out and drive to Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh. Check in to the hotel. Later depart on a sightseeing of Bhopal.

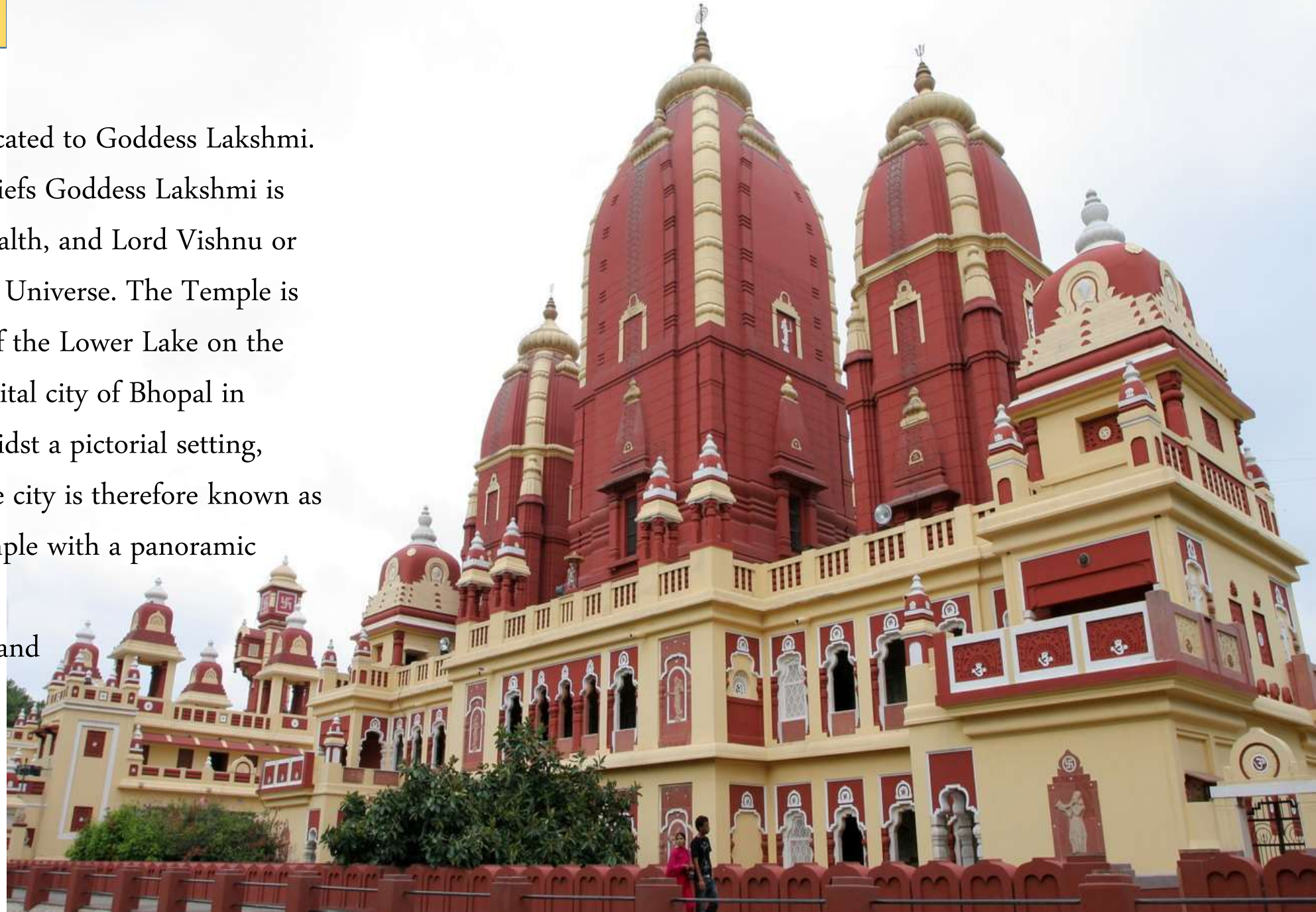
Bhopal has a host of religious site that are worth visiting. These include, Temples, Stupas and Monasteries. Overnight at the hotel.



## TEMPLES IN BHOPAL

### Lakshmi Narayana

This temple in Bhopal is dedicated to Goddess Lakshmi. As per the Hindu religious beliefs Goddess Lakshmi is considered the Goddess of Wealth, and Lord Vishnu or Narayana, the Preserver of the Universe. The Temple is located on the southern part of the Lower Lake on the Arera Hills of Bhopal. The capital city of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh is located amidst a pictorial setting, around two artificial lakes. The city is therefore known as the city of lakes. The huge temple with a panoramic landscape adds to its beauty. Apart from Goddess Lakshmi and Narayana, Lord Shiva and his wife Goddess Parvati are also worshiped in the temple.



## GUFA MANDIR ( CAVE TEMPLE )



**Gufa Mandir** is located at Lalghati, near the Idgah hill which is about 5kms from the city center. Gufa Mandir is a temple believed to be discovered by late Swami Narayandas during the year 1949. The large temple complex of Gufa Mandir with many natural caves, houses beautiful idols of Lord Shiva, Ram- Laxman, Sita, Hanuman and Goddess Durga. Every day, large number of devotees from different parts of the world throng here to have darshan . The statue of lord situated under the waterfall in the caves is simply breath-taking.

# Palm Reading

Palm Reading is an ancient occult science which had its origins in Babylon, India, China, Sumeria and Ancient Israel. Fortune telling is done by studying the lines, symbols present in the palm of the hand, the shape of the hand and fingers, etc. The hand acts as the gateway to the person's past, present and future experiences and much can be known about the subject by following ancient palm reading techniques. The heart line, the head line, the life line are among the major lines that are studied commonly in palm reading. There are several more such lines on the palm which are equally important and should be analyzed for an accurate understanding of the person. Aristotle had observed, "Lines are not written into the human hand without reason." It couldn't be truer. The lines have great significance in astrology and astrology enthusiasts will find this science to be highly fascinating.



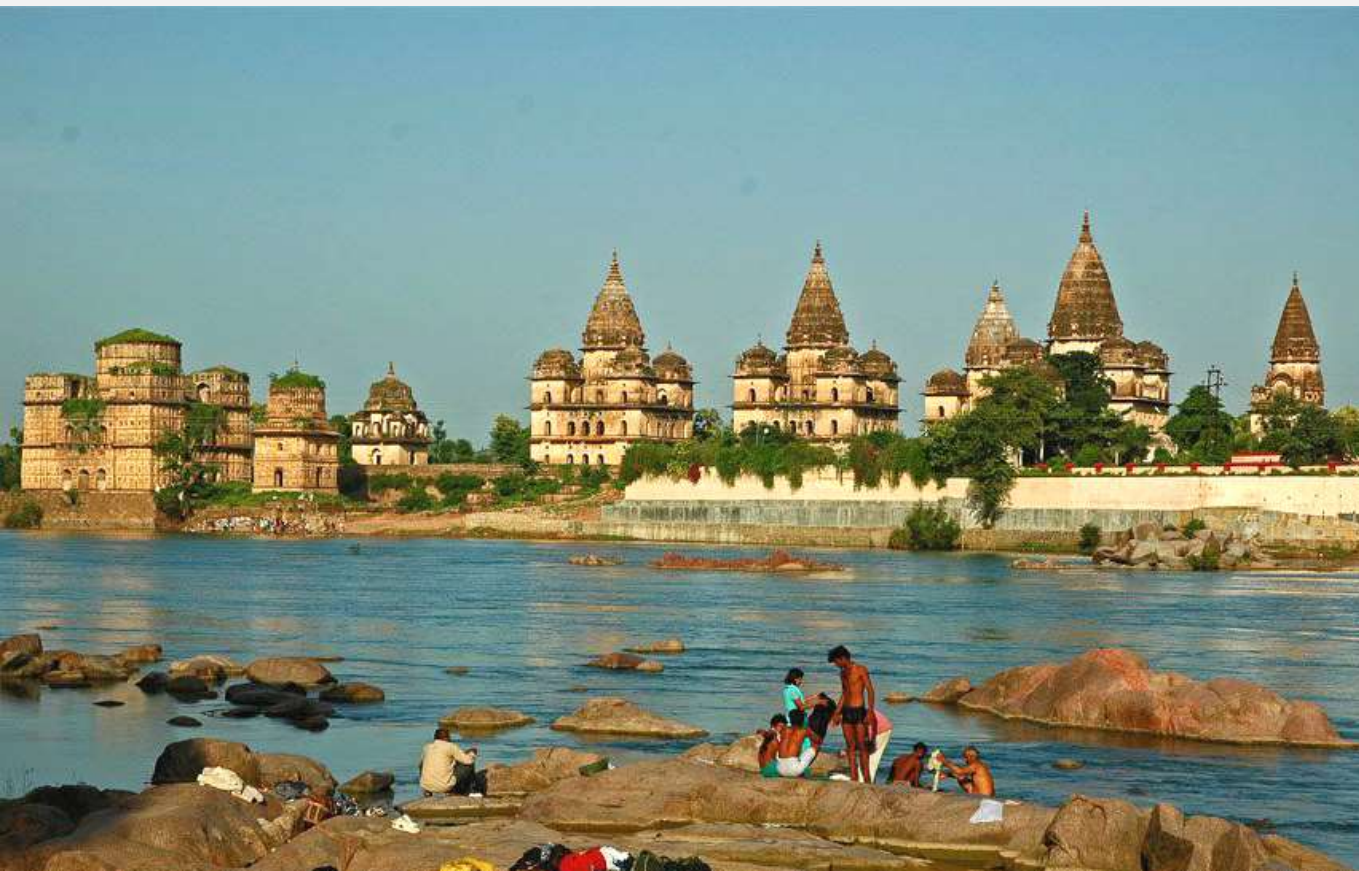
# DAY 6 - UJJAIN TO ORCHHA

After breakfast , morning at leisure. Afternoon drive to the Railway station for a train ride to Jhansi. ( 6 hours )

Arrive Jhansi and drive to Orchha. ( 30 minutes ). On arrival, checkin at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Orchha is a town in Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh state, India. The town was established by Rudra Pratap Singh some time after 1501, as the seat of an eponymous former princely state of central India



# DAY – 7 ORCHHA – DRIVE TO KHAJURAHO ( 3 hrs 30 mins)

After breakfast, proceed for the sightseeing of Orchha.



Later, drive to Khajuraho. On arrival, Check into the hotel In Khajuraho.

## Evening, witness the Sound and light show in Khajuraho

This fascinating sound and light show spectacle depicts the life and times of the great Chandela kings and traces the history of the Temples from the 10th century to present times. The 50 minute show is entertaining and informative about the importance of the temples. Watch the temples come hauntingly alive.

Timings: English 6:30 pm – 7:25 pm  
Hindi 7:40 pm – 8:35 pm





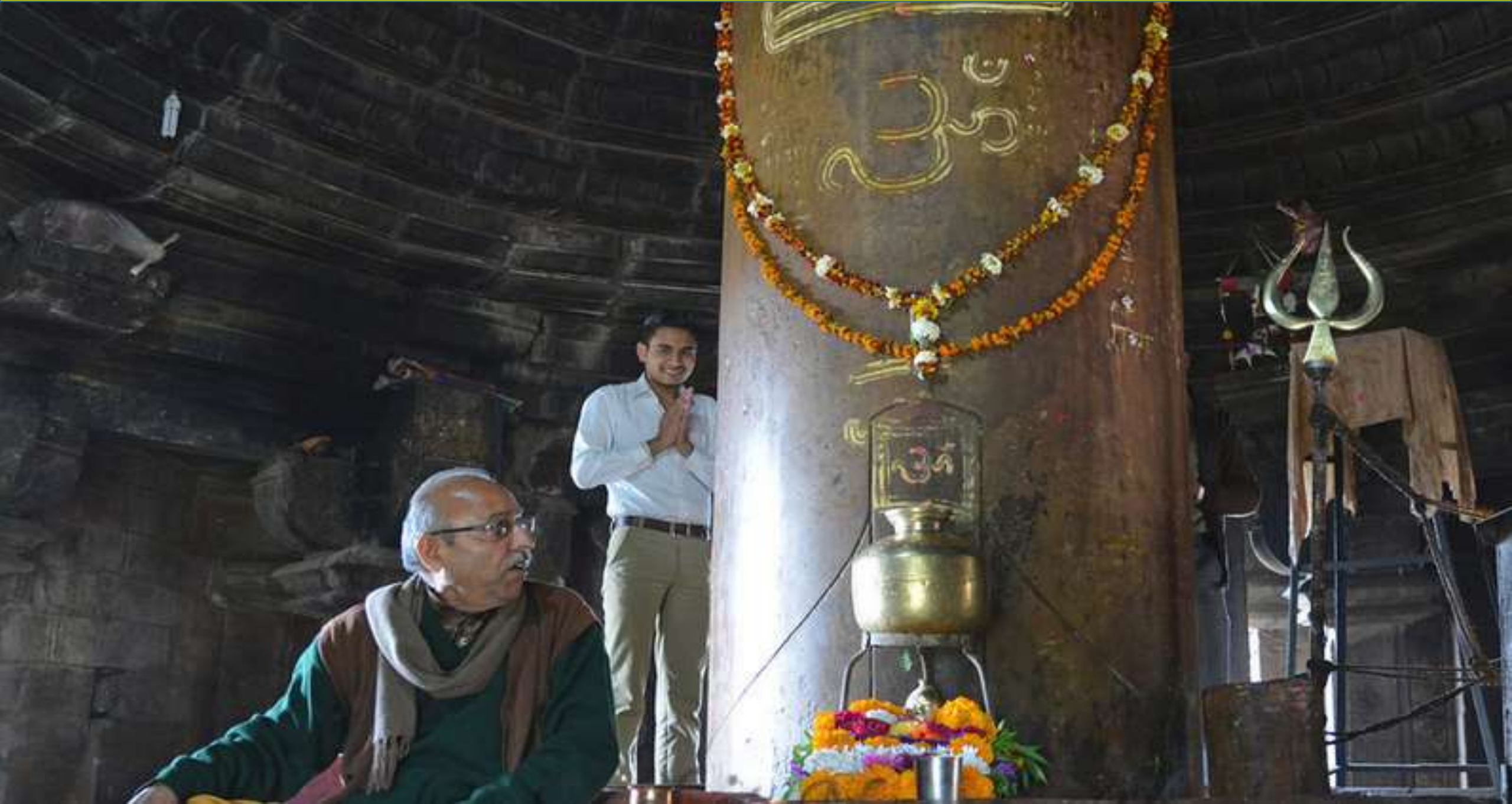
# KHAJURAHO – DANCE FESTIVAL – 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH



The exquisite 1000 year-old temples of Khajuraho serve as the idyllic backdrop to an art genre with an equally impressive pedigree. As dusk gives way to the nights darkness, lamps bathe the temples in a surreal golden glow creating the perfect ambience for the past to juxtapose with the present. The mellifluous strains of the flute and the tanpura set the mood; the mridangam and the tabla beat out the rhythms echoed by the ghungroo of the dancer and time stops. Sculpted dancer come to life? Nimble footwork arrested in mid step? A dancer captured in stone or just a moment out of time?

**Khajuraho Festival of Dances** is celebrated at a time when the hardness of winter begins to fade and the king of all seasons, spring, takes over. The most colorful and brilliant classical dance forms of india with their roots in the ling and rich cultural traditions across the country, offer a feast for the eyes during a weeklong extravaganza here.

# POOJA AT THE SHIVLINGA IN KHAJURAHO



# DAY 8 - EXCURSION TO CHITRAKOOT

Chitrakoot, 'the hill of many wonders', nestles peacefully in the northern spurs of the Vindhyas, a place of tranquil forest glades and quiet rivers, and streams where calm and repose are all pervading. This loveliest of Nature's gifts is also hallowed ground, blessed by the gods and sanctified by the faith of pilgrims. For Chitrakoot's spiritual legacy stretches back to legendary ages: it was in these deep forests that Rama and Sita spent eleven of their fourteen years of exile; here that the great sage Atri and Sati Anusuya meditated; and here where the principal trinity of the Hindu pantheon, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh, took their incarnations.



After an early breakfast, drive to Chitrakoot , spend the day sightseeing Chitrakoot and evening return to the hotel in Orchha.

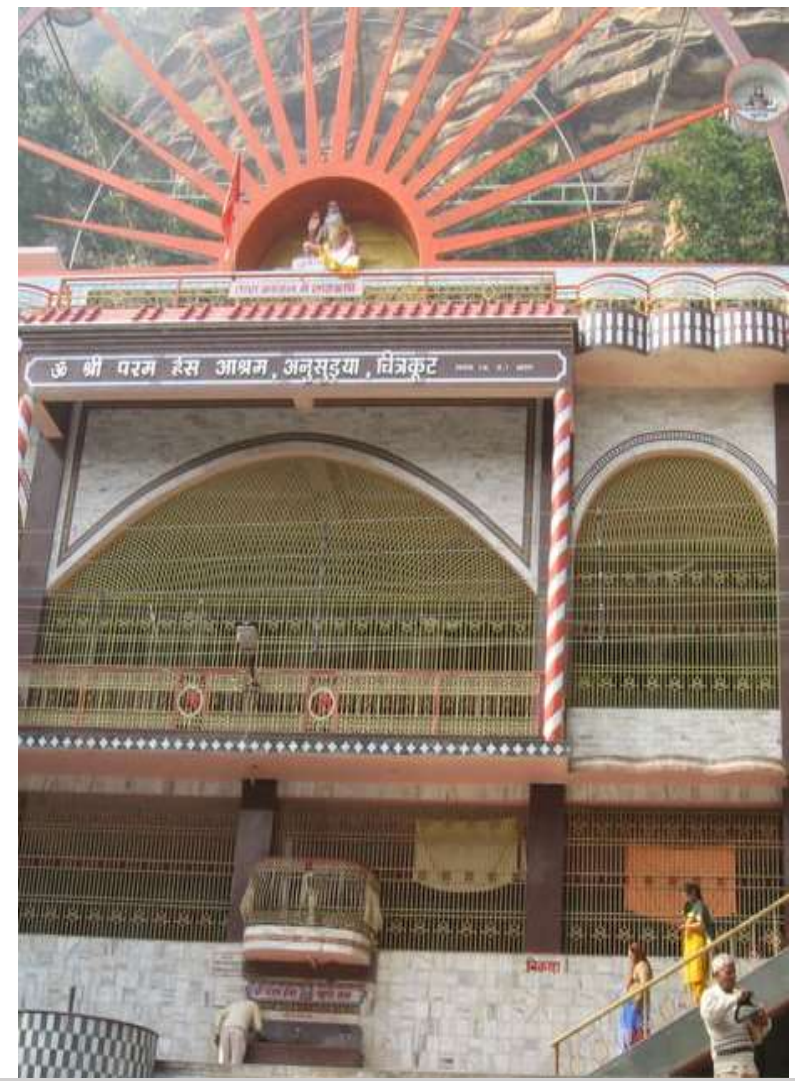
# Chitrakoot



Janaki Kund is situated upstream of the Ramghat where it is believed that Sita bathed here during the years of her exile with Rama.



Bharat Milap temple is located here, marking the spot where Bharata is said to have met Rama to persuade him to return to the throne of Ayodhya



Sati Anusuya Ashram, dedicated to Maharshi Atri and his wife Sati Anusuyalt is believed that at this place Sati Anusuya had transformed the three sons, who were incarnations of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh (Shiv)

# CHITRAKOOT – BOAT RIDE



Here, amidst the chanting hymns and the sweet fragrance of incense, holy men in saffron sit in silent meditation or offer the solace of their wisdom to the countless pilgrims who converge here. The evening arti here witnesses a deep and abiding faith in the sanctity of Chitrakuta.

During the exile period Rama, Lakshmana and Sita took bath here and believed to have appeared before the poet Tulsidas. Tulsidas has expressed that historical and religious incidence in the following metre in Hindi

**After boat ride ,  
overnight at the hotel.**

# DAY 9 - KHAJURAHO

After breakfast visit the Temples and monuments in Khajuraho. Later drive to the airport for your onward journey.



# KHAJURAHO SIGHTSEEING



The Khajuraho Group of Monuments is a group of Hindu and Jain temples in Madhya Pradesh, India. They are one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India. The temples are famous for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures.

Most Khajuraho temples were built between 950 and 1050 CE by the Chandela dynasty. Historical records note that Khajuraho temple site had 85 temples by 12th century, spread over 20 square kilometers. Of these, only about 20 temples have survived, spread over 6 square kilometers. Of the various surviving temples, the Kandariya temple is decorated with a profusion of sculptures with intricate details, symbolism and expressiveness of ancient Indian art.

The Khajuraho group of temples were built together but were dedicated to two religions namely Hinduism and Jainism - suggesting a tradition of acceptance and respect for diverse religious views among Hindus and Jains.

# TEMPLES AT KHAJURAHO



The Kanḍāriyā Mahādeva Temple, meaning "the Great God of the Cave", is the largest and most ornate Hindu temple in the medieval temple group .



Dedicated to the Sun God, the octagonal ceiling is the most fascinating aspect of this temple.



# DAY 10 – DEPART KHAJURAHO

After breakfast, checkout from the hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi.

