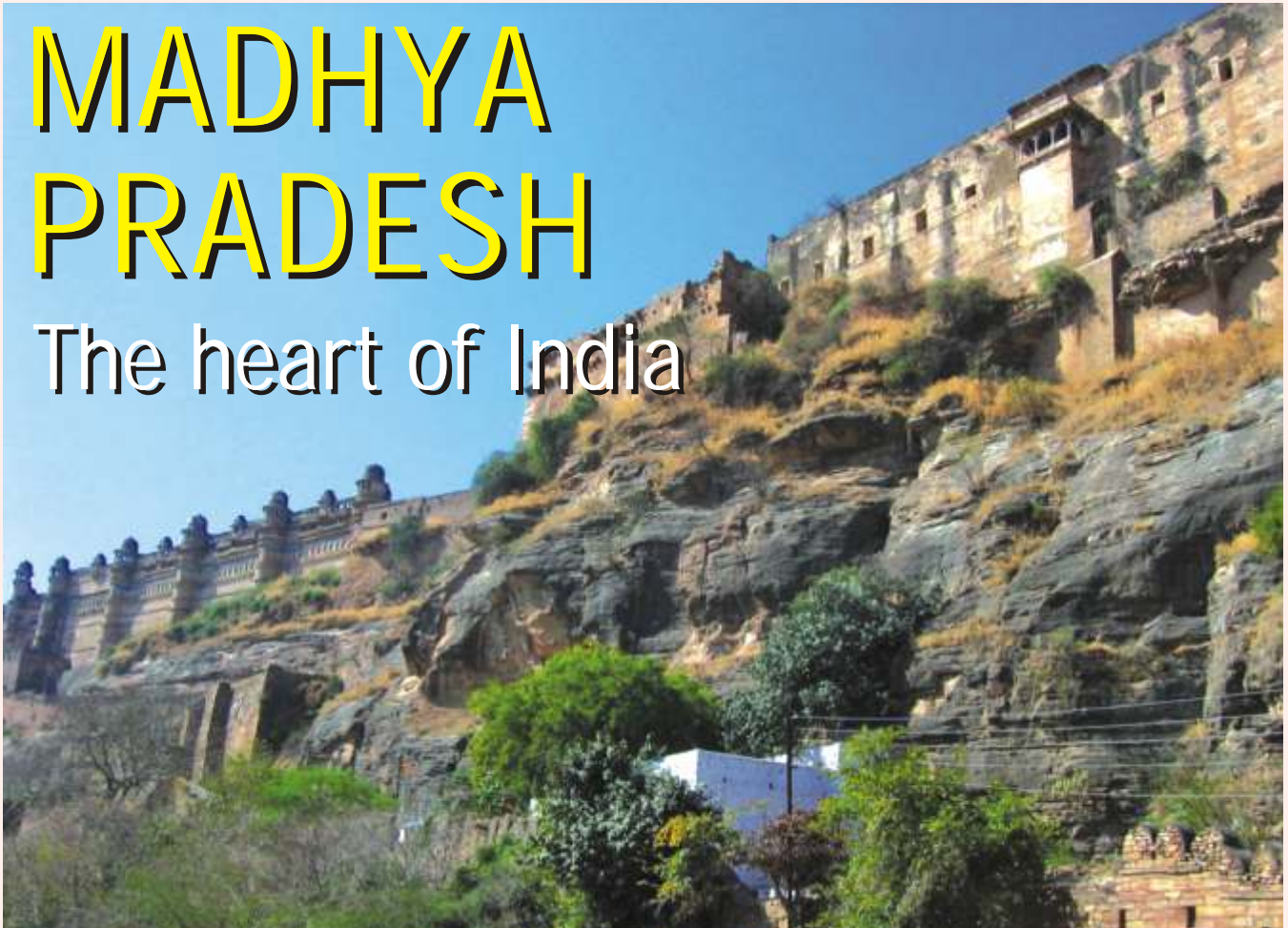


MADHYA PRADESH

The heart of India

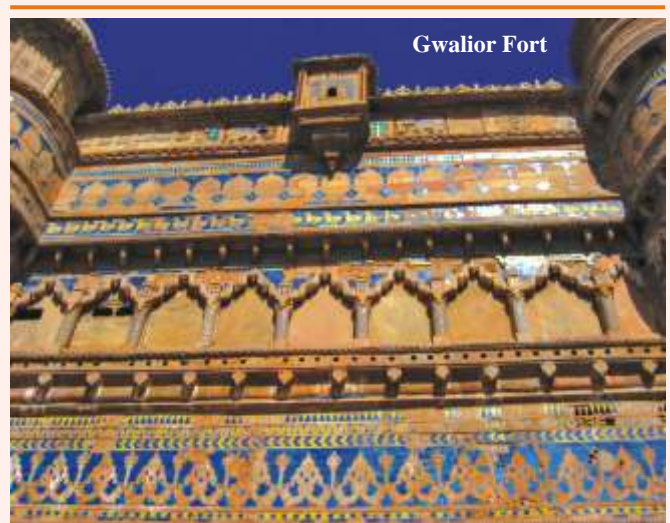


Madhya Pradesh, rightly called the “Heart of India”, is home to the cultural heritage of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Islam. Numerous monuments, exquisitely carved temples, stupas, forts and palaces are dotted all over this beautiful state. Consisting largely of a plateau, Madhya Pradesh is endowed with almost everything from spectacular mountain ranges and meandering rivers to miles and miles of dense forests offering a unique and exciting panorama of wildlife in sylvan surroundings.

Famous for the Khajuraho temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, exquisitely carved Jain temples, forts, palaces, the state is a glorious reminder of an erstwhile era of rajas and maharajas. The medieval cities, wildlife sanctuaries and holy pilgrimage centres of Madhya Pradesh offer a memorable experience to the tourists.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Gwalior Fort: Described as 'the pearl in the necklace of the castles of Hind' by Mughal Emperor Babur, the Gwalior Fort was mightier than any other Indian forts in the medieval ages



Gwalior Fort

and every powerful ruler dreamt of possessing it. The majestic fort has fascinated historians and poets alike down the ages, and continues to do so. The fort has changed hands many times, from the Tomaras in the 8th century, to the Scindias, who were its masters when India became independent. And each of these

dynasties adorned and embellished the fort. The fort is a fine blend of Hindu and Muslim architecture and dominates the city of Gwalior's skyline.

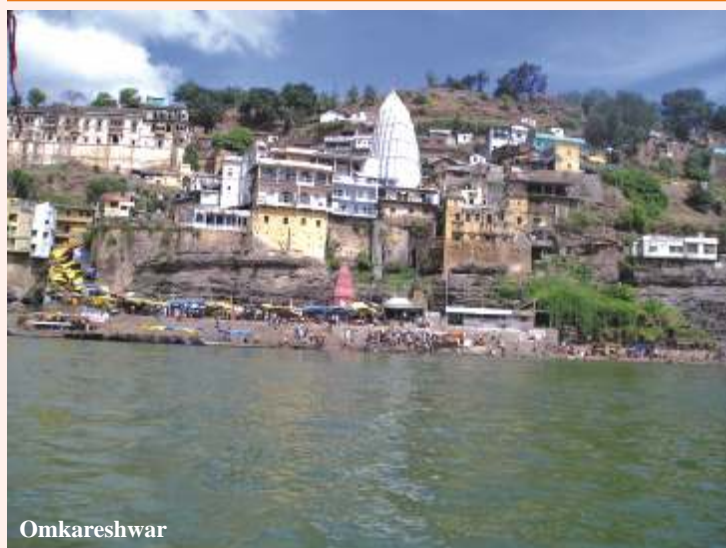


Khajuraho

Khajuraho: World Heritage Site Famous for its stones of passion, the Khajuraho temples are fine testimony of India's glorious architecture. Its temples have the most graphic, erotic and sensuous sculptures of India. The famous Western group of temples is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is enclosed within a beautifully laid out park.

Chitrakoot : Situated at around 175 km from Khajuraho, Chitrakoot is considered a sacred place for the Hindus and is known for its scenic beauty.

According to legend, Lord Rama and his wife Sita spent 11 out of their 14 years of exile in the jungles of Chitrakoot. Chitrakoot forms the tip of the district of Satna. Its Narmada Udgam temple at the source of the river Narmada is famous among the Hindus.



Omkareshwar

Omkareshwar Tourism: Shaped like 'Om', the island, is one of the holiest Hindu sites in India by virtue of the presence of a jyotirlingam (lingam of light). It is believed to derive currents of power from

within itself as opposed to an ordinary lingam which is ritually invested with mantra shakti (power invested by chants) by the priests.



Kanha National Park

Kanha National Park: The lush sal and bamboo forests, grassy meadows and ravines of Kanha inspired Rudyard Kipling to pen down his famous novel 'Jungle Book'. The park's landmark achievement is the preservation of the rare hard ground Swamp Deer (Barasingha), saving it from near extinction.

Courtesy: India Digest

TOURIST INFORMATION

How to reach

- **By Air:** A number of airports are located within the state including capital Bhopal. All public and private airlines operate regular flights to these airports.
- **By Rail:** Bhopal, Indore and Gwalior are the main railway stations in the state.
- **By Road:** The tourist destinations within the state located at convenient distances from Bhopal.
- **Best time to visit:** Best time to visit the state is from November to February.
- **Where to stay:** From luxury to economy hotels plus government accommodation, all are available in the state.

For more on India tourism, visit:

www.mptourism.com
www.mp.nic.in
www.hcilondon.net