

राजास

Indore, Maheshwar,  
Mandu, Ujjain

# Tour Details and Map

3 Days

16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Delhi – Indore -  
Pune



Indore, Maheshwar,  
Mandu, Ujjain



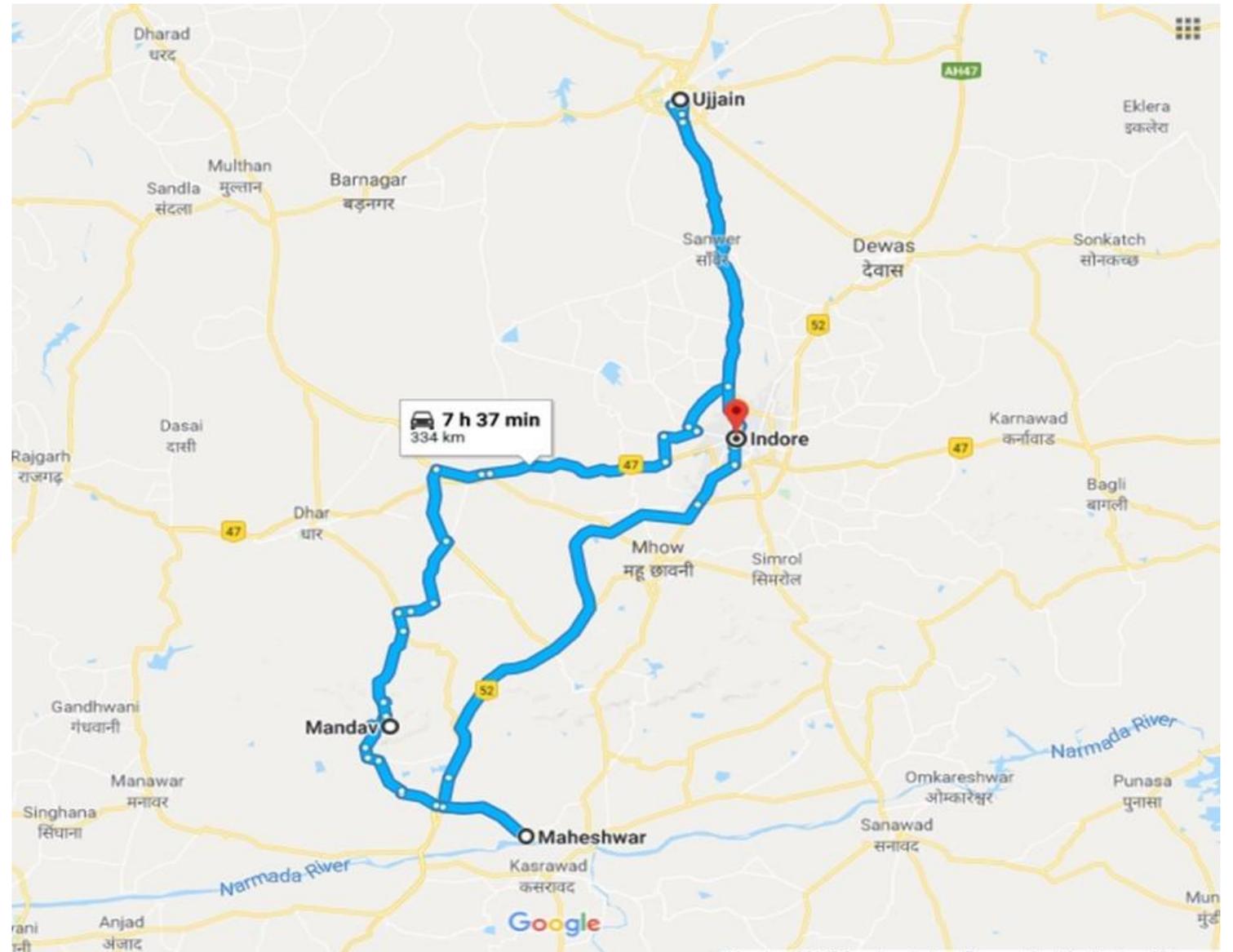
○ Indore, Madhya Pradesh

○ Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh 451224

○ Mandav, Madhya Pradesh

○ Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

○ Indore, Madhya Pradesh



# Indore



***Rajmata Ahilyabai Holkar***

Indore is the most populous and the largest city in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. Located on the southern edge of Malwa Plateau, at an average altitude of 553 meters (1,814 ft) above sea level, it has the highest elevation among major cities of Central India. The city is 190 km (120 mi) west of the state capital of Bhopal. The city is distributed over a land area of just 530 square kilometres (200 sq mi), making Indore the most densely populated major city in the central province. It comes under Tier 2 cities in India. The city is named after its Indreshwar Mahadev Temple. It is believed that Indra himself did Tapasya (meditation) in this place and led sage Swami Indrapuri to establish the temple.

Indore traces its roots to its 16th century founding as a trading hub between the Deccan and Delhi. The city and its surroundings came under Hindu Maratha Empire on 18 May 1724 after Maratha Peshwa Baji Rao assumed the full control of Malwa, appointed his commander Malhar Rao Holkar as the Subhedar (Governor) of the province. His daughter-in-law Ahilyabai Holkar moved the state's capital to Maheshwar in 1767, but Indore remained an important commercial and military centre. During the days of the British Raj, Indore State was a 19 Gun Salute (21 locally) princely state (a rare high rank) ruled by the Maratha Holkar dynasty, until they acceded to the Union of India. Indore served as the capital of the Madhya Bharat from 1950 until 1956.

# Rajwada



Rajwada is a historical palace in Indore city. It was built by the Holkars of the Maratha Empire about two centuries ago. The existing building is rectangular with cylindrical bastions at the four corners. This seven storied structure is located near the Chhatris and serves today as a fine example of royal grandeur and architectural skills. It was constructed in 1766 and later the southern part was rebuilt in the years 1811–1833 after being damaged by fire.

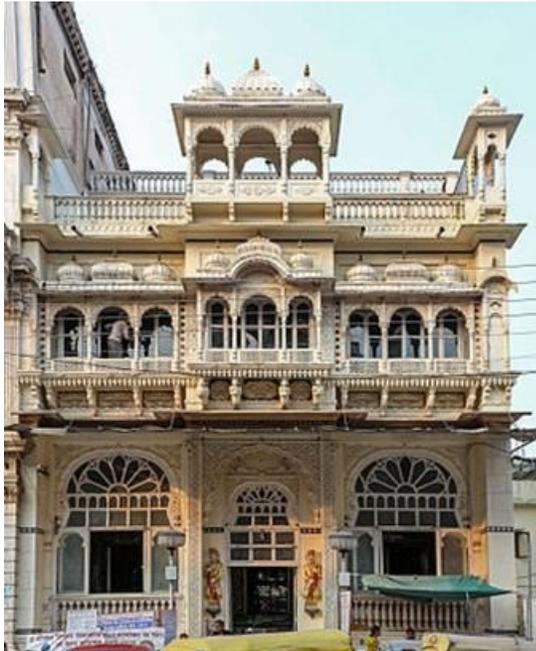
The structure comprises two parts, the first one located at the heart of the city and the second one standing in the old part of the town. Rajwada palace exhibits a blend of Maratha styles, the palatial structure is sure to leave you spellbound. The entrance itself is beautiful with lofty archway and a giant wooden door covered with iron studs. As one makes his way through the entrance, one is greeted with a courtyard comprising Maratha arched Ganesha hall, a number of balconies with Maratha ornamentation, windows, and corridors, surrounded by galleried rooms. The lower three floors are made of stone and the upper floors are made of wood.



# Lal Bagh Palace & Kanch Ka Mandir



Lal Bagh Palace is one of the finest buildings built by the Holkar Dynasty between 1886 and 1921. The interior is beautified with striated Italian marble pillars, lots of chandeliers and classical columns, murals of Greek deities, a baroque-cum-rococo dining room, an English-library-style office with leather armchairs, a Renaissance sitting room and a Palladian queen's bedroom which was the fashion among many of the late Raj-era Indian nobility, accompanied by a billiards room.



Kanch Ka Mandir, literally Temple of Glass, is a famous Jain temple in Indore, built by Sir Seth Hukumchand Jain. The construction began sometime around 1903.

Externally, the temple is built as a medieval mansion complete with a canopied balcony and a shikhara. The interior is entirely covered by glass panels and mosaics; including the floor, columns, walls and the ceilings. The ornamentation follows the old and medieval Jain style, with the major innovation being the use of multicolored glass and mirrors. In the main Garbhagriha, the idols of the Tirthankaras are flanked by mirrors on both sides, thus their images are seen infinite times.

# Maheshwar

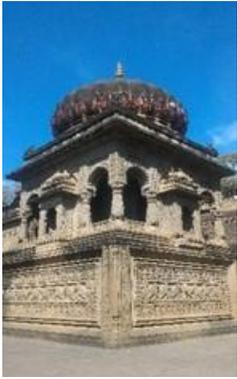


Maheshwar is a town in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh state, in central India. It is located 91 km from Indore, the commercial capital of the state. The Town lies on the north bank of the Narmada River. It was the capital of the Malwa during the Maratha Holkar reign till 6 January 1818, when the capital was shifted to Indore by Malhar Rao Holkar III.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, Maheshwar served as the capital of the great Maratha queen Rajmata Ahilya Devi Holkar. She embellished the city with many buildings and public works, and it is home to her palace, as well as numerous temples, a fort, and riverfront ghats (broad stone steps which step down to the river).

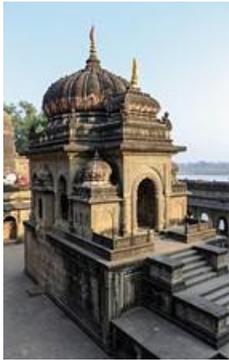
Jagadguru Kripaluji Maharaj has performed various akhand sankirtan outside the Shiva temple for more than months. He is from Mahu, MP, frequently visited this place in his early life with devotees of lord Krishna to perform sankirtan on the banks of the Narmada river in Maheshwar.

# Epic behind Maheshwar



Maheshwar is believed to be built on the site of the ancient city of Somvanshya Shastrarjun Kshatriya, and was the capital of king Kartavirya Arjuna, (Shree Shastrarjun) who is mentioned in the Sanskrit epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. According to a popular legend, one day the King Sahasrarjun and his 500 wives went to the river for a picnic. When the wives wanted a vast play area, the King stopped the mighty river Narmada with his 1000 arms. While they were all enjoying themselves, Ravana flew by in his Pushpak Vimana. Downstream, when he saw the dry river bed, he thought it was an ideal place to pray to Lord Shiva. He made a Shivalinga out of the sand and began to pray. When Sahasrajuna's wives were done playing and they stepped out of the river bed, he let the waters flow. The voluminous river flowed down sweeping Ravana's Shivalinga along, messing up his prayers. Furious, Ravana tracked Sahasrajuna and challenged him. Armed to the hilt the mighty Ravana was in for a huge surprise. The mighty Sahasrarjuna with the 1000 arms pinned Ravana to the ground. Then he placed 10 lamps on his heads and one on his hand. After tying up Ravana, Sahasrarjuna dragged him home and tied him up to the cradle pole of his son. A humiliated Ravana stayed prisoner until his release was secured. Jamadagni rishi, Renuka Devi and Lord Parashurama with whom Kartavirya Arjuna's story is closely associated also lived nearby.

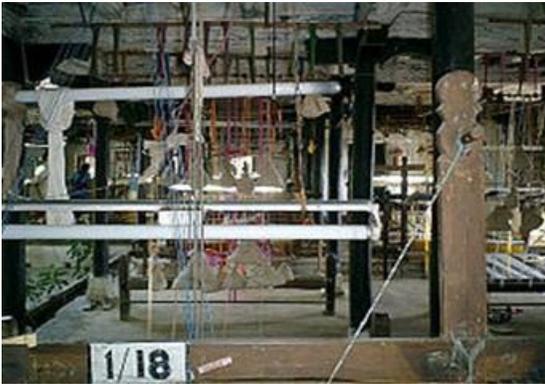
# Epic behind Maheshwar



As per the legend, there was a Nishada king named Nila who ruled over Mahishmati. King Nila had a daughter who was exceedingly beautiful. So much so that Agni (lord of fire) fell in love with her which was reciprocated. The princess always used to stay near the sacred fire of her father, causing it to blaze up with vigour. And king Nila's sacred fire, even if fanned, would not blaze until agitated by the gentle breath of her lips. Agni, assuming the form of a Brahman starts courting with the princess for long. But, one day the couple was discovered by the king, who became furious. Nila thereupon ordered the Brahman to be punished according to law. At this the illustrious deity flamed up in wrath and beholding the terrible flame, the king felt terrified and bent his head low on the ground. King hails Lord Agni and says he cannot punish a god who is responsible for the origin of Vedas, source of all Knowledge and Dharma. Pacified Agni then grants a boon to Nishada, and the King requests for the protection of his kingdom from any invasions.

Agni swears to protect his kingdom on the condition that the king should sanctify pleasure out of pure love a legitimate action in his kingdom. Liberated from the orthodoxy of marriage as a prelude, women of Mahishmati enjoyed freedom that was then unheard of elsewhere in Arya-Varta. Years later, after the epic war the victorious Yudhishtira plans on conducting a Yagna by winning over everyone else on Earth. Sahadeva, the youngest of Pandavas knowing that Lord Agni was protecting the Nishada kingdom, prays to Lord Agni successfully and there upon moves to Saurashtra kingdom. Of note, even to this day, the Sahasrarjun temple at Maheshwar lights 11 lamps in honour of Lord Agni blessing the Kingdom. Alternatively, this tradition is attributed to Sahasrarjun queens humiliating captive ten-headed Ravana by lighting up candles on his foreheads.

# Maheshwar



There are more than 100 temples in Maheshwar, spread along the right bank of the river near Maheshwar ghat and the vicinity of the fort.

SahastarArjun Temple, Rajrajeshwar Mandir, Kashi Vishwanath Mandir, Chaturbhuj Narayan Mandir, Ahilya Mata's Chhatris, Chintamani Ganpati Mandir, Pandharinath Mandir, Bhawani Mata Mandir, Gobar Ganesh Mandir, Banke Bihari, Anant Narayan Mandir, Khedapati Hanuman, Ram and Krishna Mandir and Narsingh Mandir, Kaleshwar and Jwaleshwar mandirs, Baneshwar Mandir, Vindhyavasini Maheshwari, Ek Mukhi Datta Temple are the devoted ones.

Maheshwar has been a centre of handloom weaving since the 5th century, noted as a centre for weaving colourful Maheshwari sarees. Dream under the rule of Queen Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar. Weavers from Mandu and Surat were hired and Maheswari saree and turban were weaved. It is said that Ahilya Bai herself designed first saree. To save the local handloom industry Rehwa Society, an NGO founded by the Holkars, in 1979. This NGO gave women employment and revived the town's textiles. About 130 weavers associated with the society produce over 100,000 metres of fine fabrics a year. The weaving centre is located in one of Maheshwar's historic buildings.

Ahilya Fort which is now converted into a heritage hotel, founded by 'Maharajkumar Shrimant Shivaji Rao Holkar' (Prince Richard Holkar of Indore), a descendant of both Ahilyabai Holkar and the only son of M.Gen. HH Maharaja Shrimant Yeshwant Rao II Holkar of Indore.

# Mandu



Mandu or Mandavgad is an ancient city in the present-day Mandav area of the Dhar district. In the 11th century, Mandu was the sub division of the Tarangagadh or Taranga kingdom. This fortress town on a rocky outcrop about 100 km (62 mi) from Indore is celebrated for its architecture.

An inscription discovered from Talanpur (around 100km from Mandu) states that a merchant named Chandra Simha installed a statue in a temple of Parshvanatha located in the Mandapa Durga. While "Durga" means "Fort", the word "Mandu" is a Prakrit corruption of "mandapa", meaning "hall, temple". The inscription is dated 612 VS (555 CE), which indicates that Mandu was a flourishing town in 6th century.

Mandu was founded as a fortress retreat in the 10th century by Raja Bhoj and conquered by the Muslim rulers of Delhi in 1304. When the Mughals captured Delhi in 1401, the Afghan Dilawar Khan, governor of Malwa, set up his own little kingdom and Mandu's golden age began.

Although Dilawar Khan established Mandu as an independent kingdom, it was his son, Hoshang Shah, who shifted the capital from Dhar to Mandu and raised it to its greatest splendour. Hoshang's son Mohammed ruled for just one year before being poisoned by the militaristic Mohammed Khalji, who then ruled for 33 years.

# Mandu



Ghiyas-ud-din succeeded Mohammed in 1469 and spent the following 31 years making his father turn in his grave, devoting himself to women and song (but not wine). He was poisoned, aged 80, by his son, Nasir-ud-din.

In 1526, Bahadur Shah of Gujarat conquered Mandu, only to be ousted in 1534 by the Mughal Humayun, who in turn lost the kingdom to Mallu Khan, an officer of the Khalji dynasty. Ten more years of feuds and invasions saw Baz Bahadur eventually emerge in the top spot, but in 1561 he fled Mandu rather than face Akbar's advancing troops.

After Akbar added Mandu to the Mughal empire, it kept a considerable degree of independence, until taken by the Marathas in 1732 by Peshwa Baji Rao I. The capital of Malwa was then shifted back to Dhar by Marathas under Maharaja Pawar, re-establishing Hindu rule.

More detail History:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandu, Madhya Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandu,_Madhya_Pradesh)

# Mandu



Mandu, due to its strategic position and natural defences, was an important place with a rich and varied history. It was an important military outpost and its military past can be gauged by the circuit of the battlemented wall, which is nearly 37 km (23 mi) and is punctuated by 12 gateways. The wall encloses a large number of palaces, mosques, Jain temples of 14th century and other buildings. The oldest mosque dates from 1405; the finest is the Jama Masjid or great mosque, a notable example of Pashtun architecture. The marble-domed tomb of this ruler is also magnificent

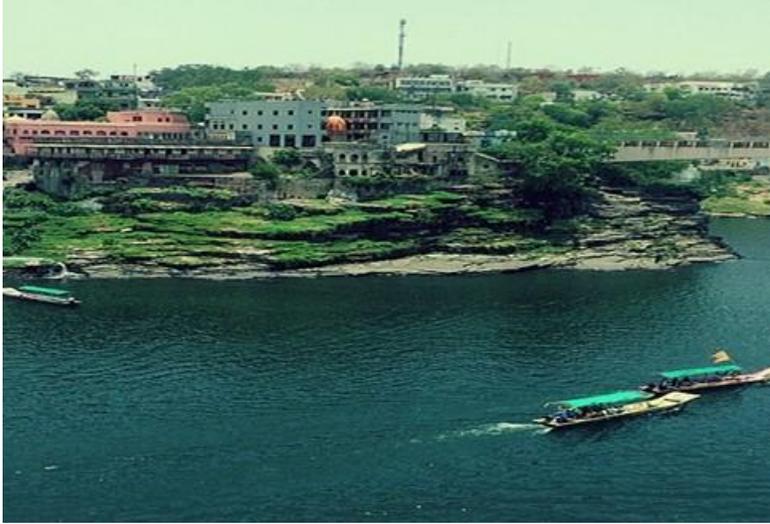


Some of the notable places, listed in South to North direction are:

- Roopmati Pavilion
- Baz Bahadur's Palace
- Rewa Kund
- Darya Khan's Tomb Complex
- Shree Mandavgadh Teerth
- Jami Masjid
- Hoshang Shah's Tomb
- Hindola Mahal
- The Darwazas
- Sagar Talab



# Ujjain



Ujjain is a city in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, is north of the upper limit of the Vindhya mountain ranges. Located on the Malwa plateau, it is higher than the north Indian plains and the land rises towards the Vindhya Range to the south. Ujjain's co-ordinates are  $23^{\circ}10'N$   $75^{\circ}46'E$  with an average elevation of 494 m (1620 ft). The region is an extension of the Deccan Traps, formed between 60 and 68 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous period. An important Hindu pilgrimage destination, it's known for the centuries-old Mahakaleshwar Temple, a towering structure with a distinctively ornate roof. Hindu ritual Kumbh Mela held here every 12 years.



An ancient city situated on the eastern bank of the Kshipra River, Ujjain was the most prominent city on the Malwa plateau of central India for much of its history. It emerged as the political centre of central India around 600 BCE. It was the capital of the ancient Avanti kingdom, one of the sixteen mahajanapadas. Ujjain continues to be an important place of pilgrimage for Shaivites, Vaishnavites and followers of Shakta.

Ujjain's history passed through different era's; Prehistoric Era, Ancient Period, Medieval Period, Modern Period.

# Mahankaleshwar Jyotirlinga



Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and one of the twelve Jyotirlingams, shrines which are said to be the most sacred abodes of Lord Shiva. It is located in the ancient city of Ujjain. The temple is situated on the side of the holy river KShipra. 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.

As per the Shiva Purana, Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu once had an argument over who was supreme in the creation. To test them, Shiva pierced the three worlds as an endless pillar of light, the jyotirlinga. Lord Vishnu and Lord Brahma decide to travel along the pillar downwards and upwards respectively, to find the end of the light. Brahma lied that he had found the end, while Vishnu conceded his defeat. Shiva appeared as a second pillar of light and cursed Brahma that he would have no place in ceremonies while Vishnu would be worshipped till the end of eternity. The jyotirlinga is the supreme reality, out of which Shiva partly appears.

The idol of Mahakaleshwar is known to be dakshinamukhi, it is facing the south. This is a unique feature, upheld by the tantric shivnetra tradition to be found only in Mahakaleshwar among the 12 Jyotirlingas.



# Astronomical Significance of Ujjain



As per the Surya Siddhanta, a 4th-century astronomical treatise, Ujjain is geographically situated at the precise spot where the zero meridian of longitude and the Tropic of Cancer intersect. This is why it was considered the navel of the earth, and is called the “Greenwich of India”. Indicating the great age of India’s zero longitude, or Prime Meridian, of Avanti, the ancient name for the historic city of Ujjain  $23^{\circ}10'58''\text{N}$  &  $75^{\circ}46'38''\text{E}$ .

Ujjain’s location pinpointed on the Tropic of Cancer. The Tropic of Cancer is significant because, as the earth revolves around the sun, this latitude marks the northernmost position at which the sun can be seen directly overhead. The Tropic of Cancer crosses the spire of Mahakal Temple in Ujjain, as it does the Somnath Temple in Gujarat. This imaginary line is also said to pass through Ujjain’s temple of Mangalnath, considered in Hindu cosmogony to be the birthplace of Mangal (Mars) and the closest point from Earth to Mars. The Tropic of Cancer is the line of the most Northern position of the Sun in his yearly course. From mid-winter till mid-summer the Sun’s course is north. In India this is called Utarayana. Between mid-summer and mid-winter the Sun moves south, called Dakshinaya. These are not real but apparent movements caused by the tilt of the earth’s axis. It is the cause of the seasons on our planet.



# Kal Bhairav Temple



The Kal Bhairav temple is a Hindu temple located in the Ujjain city of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is dedicated to Kal Bhairav, the guardian deity of the city (Senapati, Commander-in-Chief or Chief General), located on the banks of the Shipra River.

The original temple is believed to have been built by king named Bhadrasen. The temple walls were once decorated with Malwa paintings, now only traces of these paintings are visible. The present-day structure shows Maratha influence. According to the local tradition, after the Maratha defeat in the Third Battle of Panipat (1761 CE), the Maratha general Mahadaji Shinde offered his pagri (turban) to the deity, praying for victory in his campaign to restore the Maratha rule in North India. After successfully resurrecting Maratha power, he carried out restoration of the temple.

The deity's image is a face in form of a rock layered with kumkuma. The worship of Ashta (eight) Bhairava is a part of the Saivite tradition, and the Kal Bhairav is considered their chief. The worship of Kal Bhairav was traditionally popular among the Kapalika and Aghora sects, and Ujjain was a prominent centre of these sects.

Liquor is offered to the temple deity as one of the five tantric ritual offerings known as panchamakara: madya (alcohol), maansa (meat), meena or matsya (fish), mudra (gesture or parched grain) and maithuna (sexual intercourse). In older times, all five offerings were made to the deity, but now only alcohol is offered; the other four offerings are in form of symbolic rituals.

# Navgraha Shani Mandir, Ujjain



This temple is situated in Dedhiya region which is around 8 km from Ujjain, on the confluence of three rivers; Kshipra, Gandaki and Saraswati. It is dedicated to the nine planets Surya, Chandra, Mangal, Budh, Guru, Shukra, Rahu, Ketu and Shani.

Shani, touted as one of the strongest planets, is the god of justice and has a great impact on astrological charts. According to Hindu scriptures, Shani is the greatest judge and teacher. He is a well wisher and gives prosperity and wealth to follow good deeds as well as severely punishes those who are evil and indulge in wrong doings. Hence people worship the Shani planet more than anyone else and strive to be in his good books. Saturday is the day to visit this temple.



Standing strong for over 2000 years, the Shani Mandir in Ujjain is India's first Navgraha mandir and the only Shani temple in the world where Shanidev has been idolised as Lord Shiva. Amavasya nights are given special importance at the temple with thousands of devotees offer more than 5 quintals of oil to the lord.

# Street Food in Indore



**Poha**



**Lassi**



**Gulab Jamun**



**Goradu Chaat**



**Bhutte Ka Kees**



**Shikanji**



**Jalebi**



**Maalpuas**

**SARAFI BAZAAR**

**CHAPPAAN DUKAAN**

**LAAL BALTI**



**Parathe**



**Johny Hot Dog**



**Khopra Patice**



**Dahi Vadaas**



**Moong Bhajiya**



**Sabudana Khichadi**



**Daal Bati**



**Sandwitch**



**Laal Balti Aloo Kachori**



**Kachori**



**Bina Tawa Samosa**

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