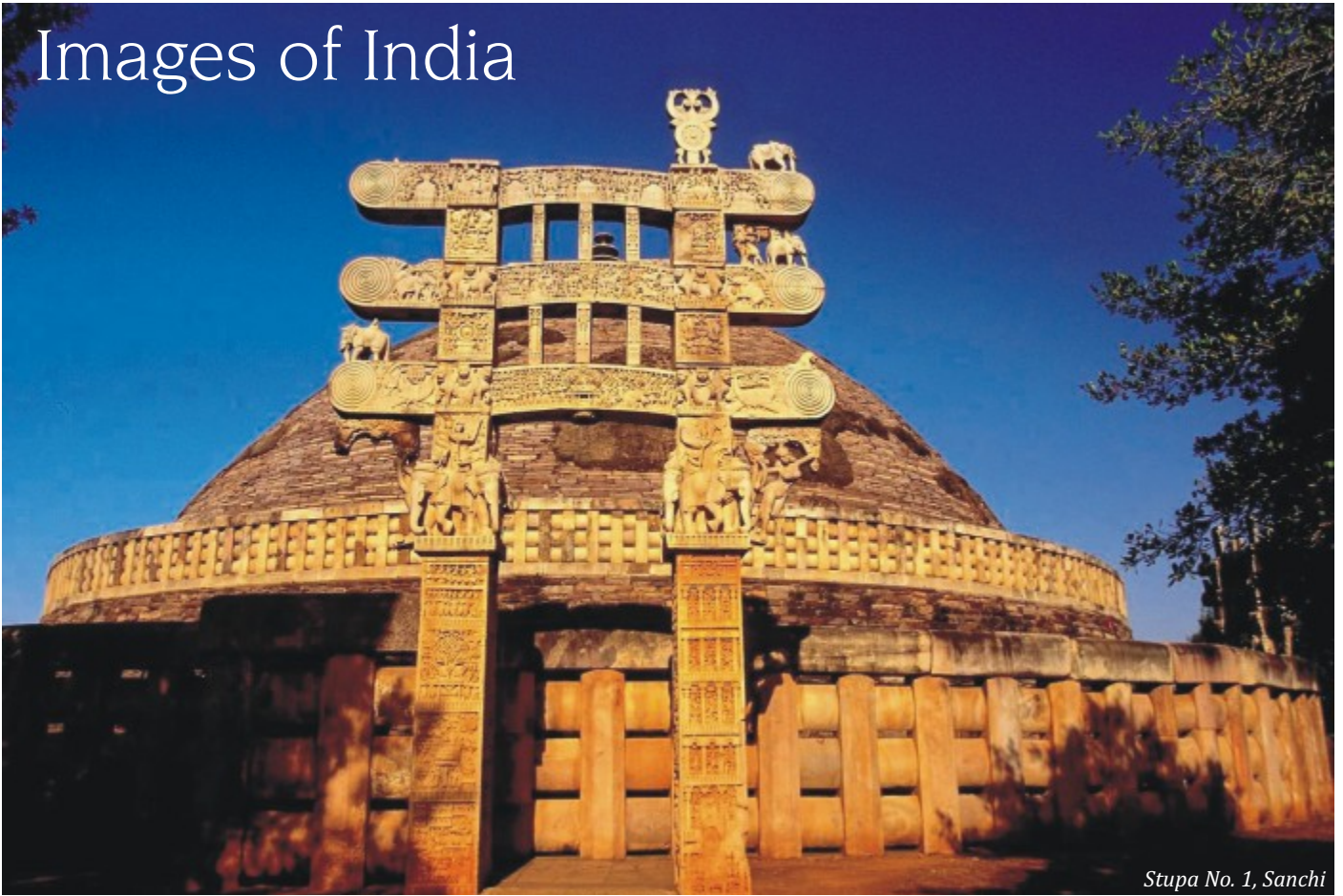
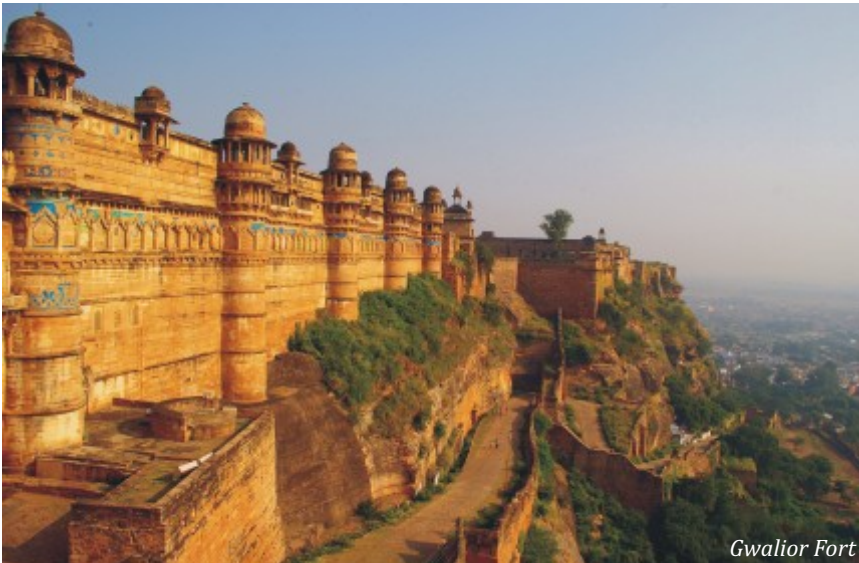


# Images of India



*Stupa No. 1, Sanchi*



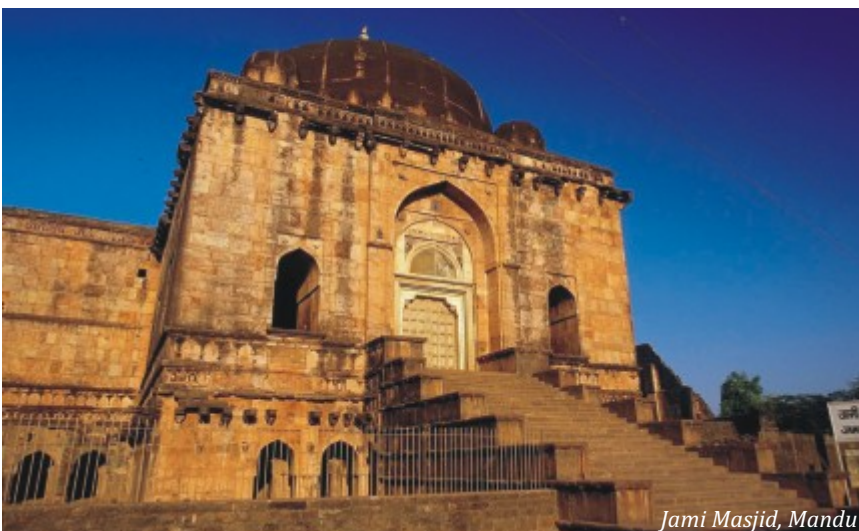
*Gwalior Fort*

It has been said that India is less a country and more a continent. It holds as many variations in religion, language, customs, art and cuisine as it does in topography. For the traveller, this cultural feast is India's great strength.

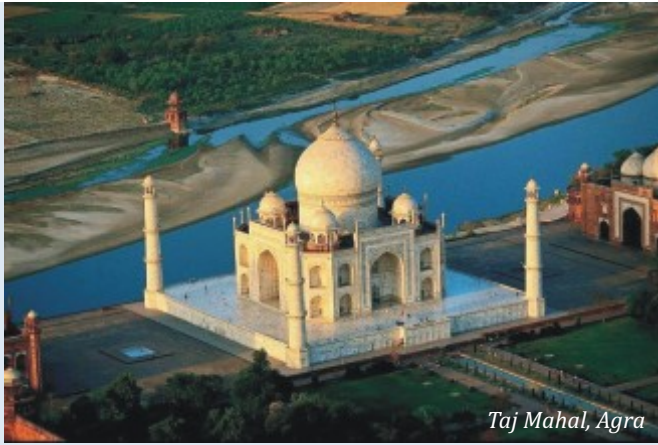
Our 'Images of India' tour starts at Delhi and passing through Agra moves on to the state of Madhya Pradesh. It is not difficult to understand why Madhya Pradesh is known as "the heart of India". Apart from its geographical location in central India, the State bears the marks of virtually all phases of Indian history - it is dotted with innumerable exquisite Hindu and Jain temples, Buddhist stupas, and imperial Mughal and British forts and palaces.

## **DELHI**

In Delhi, the capital of India, history brushes shoulders with modernity quite casually, and this endows it with an ancient soul with a unique appeal. The city, or rather the seven cities of Delhi prior to Lutyens Delhi has also witnessed the rise and fall of many empires. The majestic monuments in Delhi reflect its rich, glorious and troubled past in stones for you to see...and also hear.



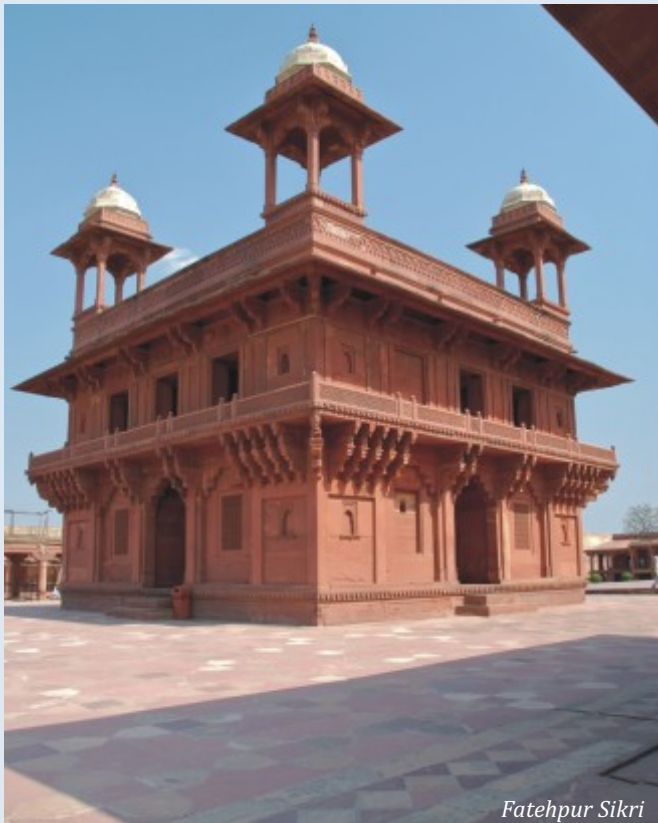
*Jami Masjid, Mandu*



*Taj Mahal, Agra*

## AGRA

Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World - the "TAJ MAHAL". The architectural splendor of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is a vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal Empire, of which Agra was the capital in the 16th and early 17th century. A pleasant town with a comparatively slow pace, Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals. The city is also famous for its carpets, gold thread embroidery and leather shoes.



*Fatehpur Sikri*

## FATEHPUR SIKRI

Fatehpur Sikri is regarded as Emperor Akbar's crowning architectural legacy. Its numerous palaces, halls, and masjids (mosques) display his creative and aesthetic impulses, typical of Mughals. Eventually, it is believed that water sources dried up and the fort had to be abandoned.

## GWALIOR

Gwalior's history is traced back to a legend in 8th century AD when a chief tain known as Suraj Sen was struck by a deadly disease and cured by a hermit-saint Gwalipa. As a gratitude for that incidence, he founded this city by his name. At the heart of Gwalior is its fortress (Gwalior Fort), built by Raja Man Singh Tomar, of the Tomar dynasty. This formidable structure had the reputation of being one of the most invincible forts of India. It occupies an isolated rock outcrop.



*Tele Ka Mandir (Temple), Gwalior*

## ORCHHA

Orchha, meaning a "hidden place", certainly lives up to its name. Languishing amid a tangle of scrubby dhak forest, the former capital of the Bundela dynasty abounds in architectural gems. Clustered around the foot of the exotic ruins lies a sleepy village of neatly painted houses and market stalls. A walk around the market place of this quaint little one can experience the fascinating public walkways with a backdrop of imposing monuments of the past.



*Orchha*

## SANCHI

It was Emperor Asoka who laid the foundations of a religious centre at Sanchi. He erected the Great Stupa (Stupa 1) here after redistribution of mortal remains of Lord Buddha for erecting several stupas all over the country in order to spread Buddhism. Sanchi's monuments consists of stupas, monolithic pillars, temples and monasteries and are about 50 in number.

## BHOPAL

The capital of the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh Bhopal is known as the City of Lakes as its landscape is dotted with a number of natural as well as man made lakes. Bhopal is said to have been founded by the Parmara King Bhoj (1000–1055), who had his capital at Dhar. The fortunes of the city rose and fell with that of its reigning dynasty.



*Udaygiri Caves*

## UJJAIN

Ujjain is situated on the banks of the river Shipra, regarded since times immemorial as sacred. The belief in the sacredness of Shipra, has its origins in the ancient Hindu mythological tale of churning of the Ocean by the Gods and the Demons.

In ancient times the city was called Ujjayini. It has been the first meridian of longitude for Hindu geographers since the 4th century BC. It is one of the seven sacred cities of the Hindus. It is also home to Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga, one of the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines to the god Shiva.



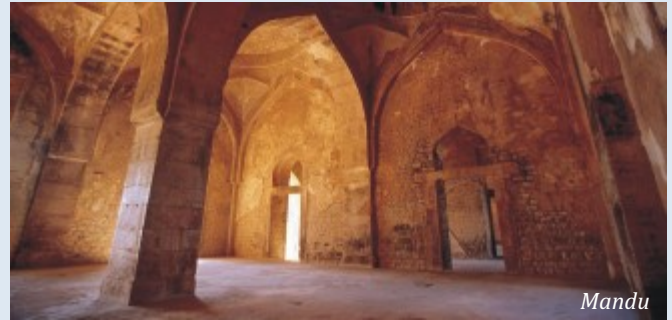
*Ritual bathing, Ujjain*

## OMKARESHWAR

Omkareshwar is a Hindu temple in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. It is one of the 12 revered Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva.

## MANDU

Mandu, the fortress town on a rocky outcrop, is famous for its fine architecture. Mandu celebrates in stone the life and love of the poet-prince Baz Bahadur for his consort, Rani Roopmati.



*Mandu*

### BASIC ITINERARY

- DAY 1 - Arrive Delhi. Overnight in Delhi.
- DAY 2 - City tour of Old and New Delhi. Overnight in Delhi.
- DAY 3 - Drive to Agra en route visiting Sikandra. Arrive Agra. Overnight in Agra.
- DAY 4 - Morning visit the Agra Red Fort. Afternoon visit to Itmad-ud-daulah. Evening visit the inimitable Taj Mahal. Overnight in Agra.
- DAY 5 - Morning drive to Gwalior. Afternoon visit the historic Gwalior Fort along with the Archaeological Museum. Overnight in Gwalior.
- DAY 6 - Morning drive to Orchha en route visiting Datia and Jhansi. Arrive in Orchha. Afternoon excursion to view the archaeological marvels of Orchha. Overnight in Orchha.
- DAY 7 - Morning drive to Sanchi en route visiting Deogarh and Chanderi. Arrive at Sanchi. Overnight at Sanchi.
- DAY 8 - Morning visit the famous Great Stupa No 1 at Sanchi. Later visit to Vidisha. Evening drive back to Sanchi. Overnight at Sanchi.
- DAY 9 - Morning drive to Bhopal en route visiting the Udaigiri Caves. Arrive in Bhopal. Overnight at Bhopal.
- DAY 10 - Morning half day excursion to the Bhimbekta rock shelters. Afternoon city tour of Bhopal. Overnight at Bhopal.
- DAY 11 - Morning drive to Ujjain. Arrive in Ujjain. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight at Ujjain.
- DAY 12 - Morning, drive to Omkareshwar en route visiting Indore. On arrival at Omkareshwar visit the famous temples. Overnight at Omkareshwar.
- DAY 13 - Morning drive to Mandu en route visiting Maheshwar. Overnight at Mandu.
- DAY 14 - Day trip of Mandu. Overnight at Mandu.
- DAY 15 - Morning drive to Indore en route visiting Dhar. Overnight at Indore.
- DAY 16 - After breakfast transfer to the airport for a flight to Delhi or Mumbai. Evening transfer to the International airport for flight back home.

### TAILOR MADE TRAVEL

Our private tailor made journeys offer complete freedom of choice. The itineraries shown are designed to give you a flavour of what is possible and can be tailored to suit your preferences. Prices vary according to selection of accommodation and season.