

Proposal for Heritage Tourist Circuit Triangle in Madhya Pradesh

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Abstract – India is a large market place for travel-tourism. India has always been renowned for its rich heritage and ancient culture. Heritage tourism India has registered immense growth in the last few years. Thus within the tourism industry events are getting more and more important. Events can offer various economic and social benefits for destinations, and therefore destination managers can and should employ events efficiently in a tourism role.

As per the suggestion sent by The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Orchha is currently listed in a tentative heritage list for UNESCO and, on other hand Khajuraho inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1986 for its unique original artistic creation. The purpose of this paper is to explore the significance of Heritage of Gwalior, Orchha and Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh from the perspective of tourism and propose Heritage Tourist Circuit Triangle so it can attract more domestic as well as foreign tourists. More over this research paper also aims to promote the cultural and heritage value of the country, Socio-economic expansion of areas, protective national heritage and environment. The study is focus on the heritage of Orchha, Gwalior and Khajuraho with reference to the information gathered from the study, in accordance with the same relevant planning proposals, recommendation of conservation and preservation for the study area.

Key Words: Heritage, Heritage Tourism, Historical Monuments, Sculptures, Tourist Circuit, Hop-on hop-off, Tourism Planning

1. INTRODUCTION

Tourism consists of the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their habitual environment for not more than one succeeding year for leisure, business and other purposes. Tourism can be considered as a significant factor in the economy of many nations. Heritage Tourism has contributed to increase awareness about conservation of the environment and the values of heritage. Tourism is the fastest growing industry in modern world. According to IBEF report, total contribution by travel-tourism sector to India's GDP is expected to increase from Rs. 15.24 trillion (US\$ 234.03 billion) in 2017 to Rs. 32.05 trillion (US\$ 492.21 billion) in 2028.

Tourist Circuit is defined as a route having at least three major tourist destinations, which can be connected by specific travel path. Circuits should have well defined entry and exit points. A tourist who enters should get motivated to visit most of the places identified in the circuit. These circuits may have one dominant theme and may have other sub-themes. Such as, Ecotourism, Wildlife, Buddhist, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Coastal, Northeast, Rural, Himalayan, Tribal and Heritage and so on. The tourism study theme of this paper is Heritage Tourism.

1.1. Gwalior

Gwalior is a one of the metropolis city of India. Gwalior is located at 26.22°N 78.18°E in northern Madhya Pradesh .in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh and one of the Counter-magnet cities and located 343 kilometers (213 mi) south of Delhi, the capital city of India, and 414 kilometers (257 mi) from Bhopal, the state capital Madhya Pradesh.

1.2. Orchha Town

Orchha, nestled on the banks of river Betwa, it was founded in the 16th century by the Bundela Rajput Chief, Rudra Pratap, followed a proposal sent by The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is currently listed in a tentative heritage list for UNESCO by India. Orchha is an ancient town seems frozen in time, with its many monuments continuing to retain their original grandeur even to this day.

1.3. Khajuraho- group of monuments

The Khajuraho Group of Monuments is situated in Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh. It is a group of Hindu and Jain temples built by Candelas dynasty. The temples are famous for their nagara-style architectural representation and their erotic monuments. It was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1986 for its unique original artistic creation streets.

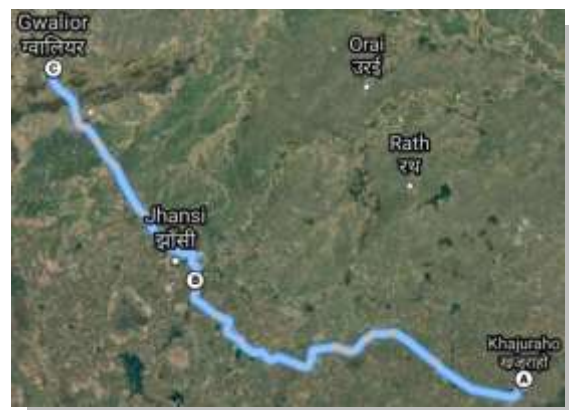
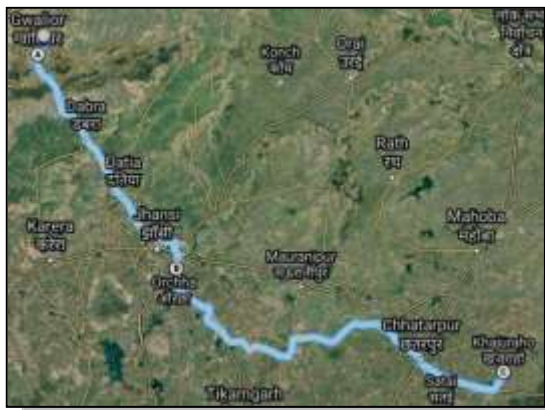
2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The core objective of the paper is to introduce a framework of heritage tourism in Madhya Pradesh as a tourism circuit. More over this research paper also aims to:

- Socio-economic development of areas;
- Preserving national heritage and environment;
- Develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner;
- Enhancing the tourist attractiveness by developing the circuit;
- Creating awareness among the local communities about the importance of tourism for them in terms of increased sources of income, create employment improved living standards and overall development of the area;
- Increase India's share in world tourism

3. DETERMINE ROUTES AND CLUSTER FOR HERITAGE TOURISM

The study is based on data collection from different sources, i.e. on site travel experience, articles, books, newspapers, internet documents, etc. The collected data are processed and analyzed by using suitable statistical tools as per the need of the study. The route of travel is route linking several. The route is determined as an optimum distance between places and find out travel time. There are three major cluster of heritage is covering in this circuit named Gwalior, Orchha and Khajuraho in such a way that averagely heritage tourism would be taken a place within a week, it may varies from minimum 5 days to 10-12 days



This circuit can be enrooted as from and to in two ways such as;

- A (Gwalior) to B (Orchha) to C (Khajuraho)
- A (Khajuraho) to B (Orchha) to C (Gwalior)

3.1. Details of Circuit

Name: Heritage Tourist Circuit Triangle in MP

Destination Covered: 3 Clusters of Heritages and Monuments in M.P.

Name of Clusters : Gwalior, Orchha and Khajuraho

Duration of circuit: A week (Averagely)

4. Destinations of Heritage Circuit

4.1. Khajuraho

Gwalior is a one of the metropolis city of India. It holds a major and a special position in the Indian palaces and fort, classical music, art and literature, it has emerged as an important tourist attraction in central India while many industries and administrative offices came up within the city.

4.1.1. Gwalior forts and Palaces

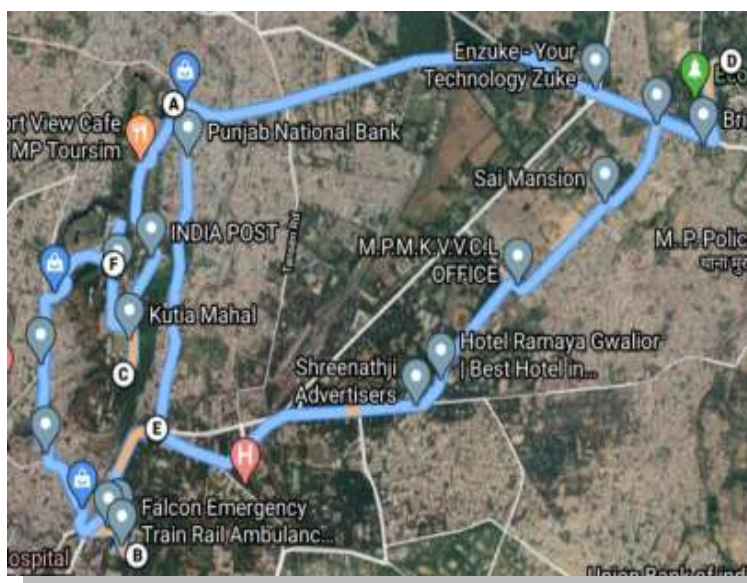
There are some palaces to explore for tourist having interest in past glory. One day can be spent to explore fort and palaces.



List of Palaces given besides(with possible route)

- A. Jahangir Mahal
- B. Karn Mahal
- C. Vikram Mahal
- D. Archeological Museum
- E. Man Singh Palace
- F. Chaturbhuj Temple
- G. Gwalior Fort & Gujari Mahal

4.1.2. Others Monuments of Gwalior



List of Monuments given besides(with possible route)

- A. Fort and Mahals
- B. Jay Vials Palace
- C. Gopachal Palace
- D. Sun Temple
- E. Samadhi of Rani Lakshmi Bai
- F. Suraj Kund

Apart from these, Other monuments and sight-seeings are,

- Gujari Mahal Archaeological Museum: To Know The History Better
- Man Mandir Palace: For Its Grandeur
- Gwalior Zoo: To Interact With Wildlife
- Teli Ka Mandir: Seek Blessings
- Madhav National Park: To Spot Animals
- Tomb Of Mohammad Ghaus: For Sufism
- Tighra Dam: For Adventure
- Tomb Of Tansen: For A Glimpse Of History
- Saas Bahu Temple: A Vishnu Temple
- Scindia Museum: A European Style Museum
- Padavali And Bateshwar: An Ancient Fortress
- Suraj Kund: An Ancient Reservoir
- Gopachal Parvat: To Witness Iconography
- Gurudwara Bandi Chor Sahib: A Historical Gurudwara
- Sarafa Bazar: For Shopping
- Sarod Ghar: A Museum Of Musical Heritage
- Roop Singh Stadium: For All Cricket Lovers
- Chhatris Of Scindia Dynasty: Tribute To The Royal

4.2. Orchha

Orchha is an ancient town seems frozen in time, with its many monuments continuing to retain their original grandeur even to this day. On specific festivals there is a large number of tourist arrives;

Festivals	Approximate Number of Visitors
Maakar Sankrant (January 14)	50,000
Basant Panchami (February)	20,000-25,000
Shivratri (March)	20,000
Ram Navmi (April)	10,00,000
Kartik Poornima (October-November)	20,000
Vivaha panchami(November-December)	25,000-30,000

4.2.1. Destinations of Orchha Heritage Circuit

Heritages of Orchha town can be explored in one day only. Tourist can spend another day to explore other adventure and sight-seeing.



- A. Shree Ram Raja Mandir
- B. Laxminarayan Mandir
- C. Sundar Mahal
- D. Chaturbhuj Mandir
- E. Kriparam Gaur ki Haveli
- F. Cenotaphs of Orchha
- G. The Royal Chhatris, Kanchan Ghat
- H. Orccha Fort Complex
 - a. Raja Mahal
 - b. Jahangir Mahal
 - c. Sheesh Mahal
 - d. Rai Praveen Mahal
 - e. Hammam Khana
 - f. Phool Bhaug
- I. Dauji Ki Haveli

4.2.2. Schedule of Orchha Heritage Circuit

Tourists may follow this schedule of circuit to explore whole heritage circuit in a day. This schedule is prepared by author's own travelling and route is determined as an optimum distance between places and find out travel time.

Timing	Action
8:00 – 8:30	Gather at Tourist Information Center
8:30 – 9:30	Breakfast with Shri Ram Raja Mandir and LaxmiNarayan Mandir
9:30 - 9:45	Way to Sundar Mahal
9:45 – 10:15	Exploring Sundar Mahal
10:15 – 10:30	Way to Chaturbhuj Temple
10:30 – 11:30	Exploring Chaturbhuj Temple
11:30 – 11:35	Way to Kriparam Gaur ki Haveli
11:35 – 12:00	Exploring Kriparam Gaur ki Haveli
12:00 – 12:05	Way to Cenotaphs
12:05 – 2:00	Exploring Cenotaphs(with Lunch Time) One can have an experience of River Rafting here
2:00 – 2:10	Way to Dauji ki Haveli
2:10 – 2:30	Exploring Dauji ki Haveli
2:30 – 2:35	Way to Orchha Fort Complex
2:35 – 8:00	Exploring Orchha Fort Complex (Raja Mahal, Jahangir Mahal, Rai Praveen Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Hama Khana, Phool Baugh) With Light and Sound Show
8:00- 8:15	Return to Tourist Information Centre

(Where, Tourist Information Center is a pick up and drop Station)

4.2.3. Others Attraction of Orchha

Heritage places which are covered in circuit are given above; apart from that there are other places of tourist attraction that tourist may include in their travel. Such as;

- **Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary**

At a distance of 1 km from Chhatris and 2 km from Orchha Fort, Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary lies on the banks of Betwa River in Orchha town. It covers an area of around 46 sq. km. The river forms one of the main sources of water for the wildlife living within. Unlike other vast wildlife sanctuaries, Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary is comparatively smaller, around 25 km long and 15 km wide.

The visiting charge for Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary is INR 40 for Indians and INR 350 for Foreigners. The best time to visit Orchha Wildlife Sanctuary is from November to June. During the winter season, the sanctuary is at its best.

- **River Rafting & River Safari in Betwa**

At a distance of 1.5 km from Orchha Fort, Rafting in Betwa River is one of the top things to do in Orchha. 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 organized by MP Tourism, and starts from the scenic Kanchan Ghat. MP Tourism organizes 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 (32 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.

4.3. Khajuraho

Tourist can spend two to four days in exploring Khajuraho historical monuments as well as and it's nearby mesmerizing natural beauty.

4.3.1. Khajuraho group of Monuments

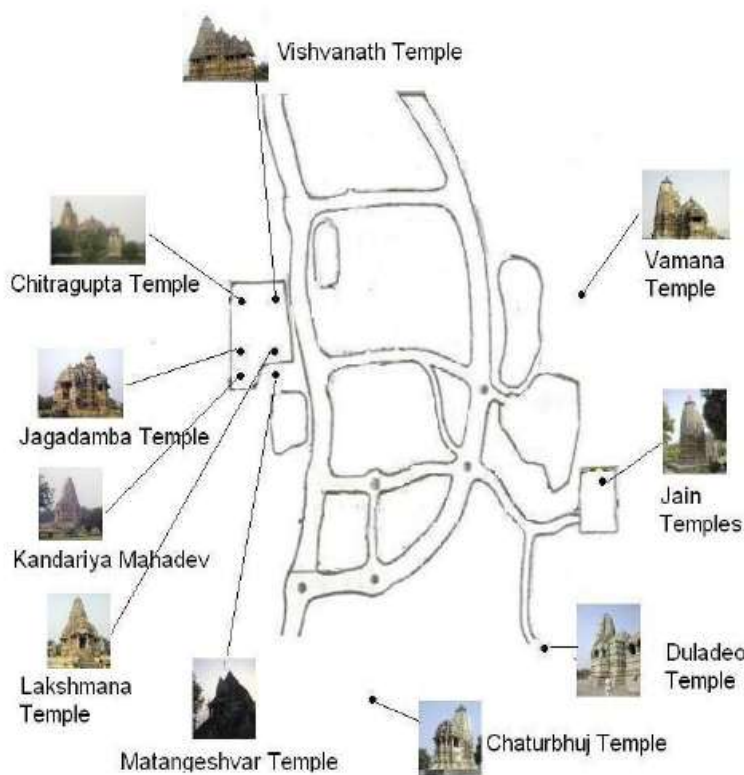
The Khajuraho Group of Monuments is a cluster of Hindu temples and Jain temples in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh. The temples are renowned for their nagara-style architectural symbolism and their erotic sculptures. Most Khajuraho temples were built in the middle of 950 AD and 1050 AD by the Chandela Empire. The whole cluster is divided into three major sub cluster named as eastern group of temples, western group of temples and southern of temples which are showed in given picture.

The Western Group of monuments covers Kandariya Mahadev, Lakshmi Temple, Devi Jagadambi, Chitragupta Temple, Nandi Temple, Varah Temple, Vishvanath Temple, Matangeshwar Temple, Chausath yogini, Parvati Temple, Archaeological Museum, Pratapeshwar Temple and Lalguan Mahadev.

The Eastern Group of monuments covers Vamana Temple, Javari Temple, Ghantai Temple, Brahma Temple, and State Museum of Tribal and Folk Art.

The Southern Group of monuments covers Chaturbhuj Temple, Duladeo Mahadev, Adinath Temple, Parshvanath Temple, Shantinath Temple, Jain Museum, Vishnu Temple and Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain Art Museum.





4.3.2. Sight-seeing and other attraction in Khajuraho

Tourists can visit museums for details and explore more from past time and history as per their choice of interest. The western group of monuments is mostly preferred to visit in evening due to their mesmerizing 'Light and Sound Show'. Apart from this, visitors can take a pleasure of having experience the soothing Ayurvedic Spa and Ayush Arogyam. If tourists visit Khajuraho during Feb-March, They could enjoy the Art and Culture, Dance festival.

Other nearby attractions are Ajaygarh Fort, Pandavas waterfall, Kalinjar Fort, Shivsagar Lake, Ken Gharial Sanctuary, Raneh Falls, Panna National Park.

Hence, Tourist can spend two to three days in exploring Khajuraho.

5. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

On the basis of travel and exploring experience, these findings are carried out by interpretation of many aspects regarding the timing related to travel time as well as exploring time

- ✓ This whole schedule of timing is prepared with including delay timing travel by car/mini bus/tempotraveller.
- ✓ This whole circuit is divided into small here cluster as per their town, hence it can be also done by PBS (Public Bicycle Sharing) Project in particular cluster;
- ✓ Government can propose this own project with of Hop-on Hop-off Bus in every cluster as well as connect clusters;
- ✓ To attract more domestic as well as foreign tourist, complete circuit should connect or provide with major nearer transportation as well as nearer international airports;
- ✓ Some of monuments are deterioration condition, it should be preserve and conserve with suitable tools and techniques;
- ✓ For revenue generation, make an each cluster circuits with nominal chargeable amount in terms of entry fees, excluding side activities.
- ✓ i.e. Light shows, Boating, Charges for photography and videography.

6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Citizen Hence, in this paper Heritage Tourist Circuit Triangle in Madhya Pradesh is proposed to enhance systematic way to have an experience of Madhya Pradesh heritage, preservation national heritage and its environment and promote sustainable eritage tourism. If this is implemented by ULB/Government, it would be the source of revenue generation. It can also help to

increase socio-economic development of areas, local employment generation and indirectly boost up the standard of living and economic status and enhancing the tourist attractiveness by developing the planned circuit.

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BIOGRAPHIES



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