



## **Jyotirlinga & Holy Narmada Pilgrimage**

**Duration: 4 Nights/ 5 Days**

**Destinations Covered: Bhopal – Hoshangabad – Salkanpur – Ujjain – Omkareshwar - Indore – Bhopal**

### **Day 1: Bhopal-**

Tour starts from Bhopal, the city of lakes. You will be picked up from the location of your choice in Bhopal and transferred to the hotel.

A half-day site seen is arranged in Bhopal. Bhopal city is also referred to as the City of Lakes because of the two beautiful lakes. The city has immense archaeological, historical and political importance attached to it. The origin of the city dates back to the eleventh century when Raja Bhoj founded the Bhojpal City. However the Bhopal of today was built during the eighteenth century by Dost Mohammed. The site seen in Bhopal includes the visit to Indira Gandhi RashtriyaManavSangrahalaya (National Museum of Mankind) and GauharMahal. Indira Gandhi RashtriyaManavSangrahalaya (National Museum of Mankind) is a unique museum situated on a prehistoric site and the only museum in the world scattered with numerous prehistoric painted rock shelters. The cultural diversity and religion of India's tribes is highlighted in the museum. Tribal Habitat is an open-air exhibit; an entire fishing village has been replicated featuring Coastal Village with a Kerala snake boat, Desert Village from Rajasthan as well as a Himalayan Village. The museum is created in about 80 hectares of undulating land on the bank of upper lake of Bhopal. In the evening you will be visiting GauharMahal, one of the first buildings built by the nawabs of Bhopal in 1816. The Mahal is a magnificent expression of the fusion of Hindu and Mughal architecture. GauharMahal is situated behind ShaukatMahal on the banks of the Upper Lake. It is an architectural gem built by Kudsia Begum, also known as Gohar Begum. Later in the evening, you may also opt to visit Chowk bazaar. In the heart of the city, the Chowk is lined with old mosques and havelis are reminders of a bygone era. The shops in its narrow alleys are treasure troves of traditional Bhopal crafts: silver jewelry, exquisitely fashioned beadwork, embroidered and sequined velvet fashioned purses and cushions. You will be staying in Bhopal tonight.



### **Day 2: Bhopal - Hoshangabad - Salkanpur-**

Today, early in the morning you start the journey to visit Salkanpur and Hoshangabad. Hoshangabad is a holy place and picturesque town situated on the bank of Narmada River. It is an important district of the state because of its natural heritage and historical importance. Since ancient time to 19th century it was the centre of power of emperors (Rajvans) and it was known as Narmdapur. It is believed to have been founded at the beginning of the 15th century (1504) by Sultan Hoshanga Shah Gauri, the second of the Malwa kings, from whom it accordingly derives its name. The Narmada river is considered extremely holy by Hindus. The river has beautiful ghats built on its banks at Hoshangabad. You can enjoy boat rides in the Narmada river and relax yourself in serenity of holy river. In the afternoon we will drive back to Bhopal. On the way we will stop over to Salkanpur. The Salkanpur temple is devoted to goddess Durga and the presiding deity here is MaaDurgaBeejasan, one of the incarnations of the goddess Durga. The Temple is situated on an 800 ft high hillock and have more than 1000 stairs and road is also available to reach the top at temple. In the evening, you will be driving back to Bhopal and stay overnight in Bhopal.

### **Day 3: Bhopal - Ujjain-**

Today, we will start journey early in the morning to visit the ancient city of Ujjain. Ujjain is a venerated pilgrimage center enshrining Mahakaleshwara, one of the Jyotirlinga manifestations of Shiva. Situated on the banks of the sacred river Shipra, Ujjain which is the modern name of Ujjaini. It is one of the sacred places of the Hindus, and the KumbhMela (religious fair) is held there every twelve years. There are many great mythological legends about Ujjain city. Apart from mythological legends, the city has a long distinguished history. It was governed by the likes of Vikramaditya and Ashoka. Kalidas wrote his souls stirring poetry here. After reaching Ujjain in the afternoon, you will check-in to the hotel. Get yourself refreshed and proceed to Mahakaleshwara temple for the darshan of Shree Mahakaleshwara. One of the twelve Jyotirlingas in India, the lingam at the Mahakala is believed to be born of itself (swayambhu) deriving currents of power (shakti) from within itself as oppose to the other images and lingams which are ritually established and invested with the mantra-shakti. You will be staying in Ujjain tonight.



#### **Day 4: Ujjain - Omkareshwar - Indore-**

This morning we will be driving to Omkareshwar. Omkareshwar is a sacred island, shaped like the holiest of all Hindu symbols, 'Om'. Omkareshwar is situated on the banks of the Narmada, and is one of the 12 revered Jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva. The significance of this linga is that the linga is not situated below the cupola. The idol of Lord Shiva is situated on the top of the temple. The temple can be reached by ferry from the banks of the river. We will come back to Indore in the evening where you will be staying overnight.

#### **Day 5: Indore - Bhopal-**

This morning you will be visiting the Indore city. Indore is known as the city of the Holkars. The city was built by a Holkar Rani Ahilya Bai, one of the famous queens of India. Here you will be visiting some of the famous historical monuments and religious centers – Rajwada, Kanch Mandir and Bada Ganapati. The Rajwada or the Old Palace is located in the old city, the building is a blend of French, Mughal and Maratha architecture. This 200 year old palace belonged to the Holkar dynasty. The Kanch Mandir (Glass Temple), which is a Jain mandir (temple), is a marvel in glass. The walls, ceiling, floor, pillars, doors are entirely inlaid with glass creating a stunning kaleidoscope of reflections. Bada Ganapati, better known for its size than antiquity, this temple houses perhaps the largest Ganesh idol in the world measuring 25 feet from crown to foot. It was built in 1875. After lunch, we will be driving back to Bhopal. Tour ends here.