JHANSI

In Bundelkhand region Jhansi is the principal town, any mention of which revives memories of that heroic young Rani Lakshmi Bai, who during the turbulent days of 1857-58 led her forces into battle against British imperialism with sword in hand and breathing defiance. This walled city was founded by Raja Bir Singh Deo who built its fort on a rocky hill in 1613 A.D.

Area around Jhansi is studded with the remains of numerous Vaishnava, Shaiva and Jain temples, a few of which date as far back as Gupta times, some belong to the post-Gupta period (many being attributed to the Gonds) and a large number to Chandella times. The most outstanding of the Gupta period temples is the Vishnu temple of Deogarh which was built of large blocks of dressed stone, red in colour. The monuments belonging to the post-Gupta period are some rock sculptures including the Saptamatrika (seven mothers), the ruined temple of Varaha and the great Jain temple which is the most important structure of that period and lies, with some thirty other Jain shrines, inside the precincts of what was the fort of Deogarh. Some of the pillars and columns in or near these temples are of exquisite workmanship. The most important temples built during the times of the Chandellas are at Deogarh, Chandpur, Dudhai, Madanpur, Bar, Banpur, Siron, Budhni, Barwa Sagar, Sakrá, Pachwara, Khisni Khurd and Bangawan. Medieval Muslim structures are but a few in the district such as the Bansa (of the times of Firoz Shah Tughluk) at Lalitpur, the mosque in the ruined fort at Erich and dargah (tomb) near the lake at Talbehat. Bundela buildings include the palace and temple at Banpur and the temple at Vijaipur.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area 20.7 sq. km. (8 sq. miles)
Population 1,98,000 (1971)
Altitude 845’ approx.
Type of clothing Summer: Cottons
Winter: Woollens
Climate Max. Min.
Summer 36.7°C 26.2°C
Winter 29.1°C 14.1°C
Annual Rainfall 936 mm.
Languages Hindi, English, Urdu, Punjabi

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Air Nearest airport is Gwalior 98 km.
Rail A junction station on Bombay-Delhi route.
Road Jhansi is situated on National Highways No. 25 and 26.

BUS CONNECTIONS

Regular bus services connect Jhansi with Khajuraho, Gwalior, Chattarpur, Mahoba, Deogarh, Orchha, Lucknow, Kanpur, Datia, Shivpuri, Fatehpur, Chitrakoot, Jabalpur and other places in the neighbourhood.

Bus station is about 3 kms. from railway station.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Tongas
Tempos
City Bus service
ACCOMMODATION

Hotels
Western Style

Jhansi Hotel
Civil Line Jhansi, Tel No. 1360

Block ‘A’ (Continental plan)
Single bed room Rs. 60.00
Rs. 35.00
Double bed room Rs. 110.00
Rs. 80.00
Rs. 60.00

Block ‘B’ (European plan)
Including breakfast Rs. 150.00
(One km. from Rly. Station)

Indian Style

Ashok Hotel
Civil Line Jhansi, Tel No. 761
(1/4 from Rly. Station)
Single bed room Rs. 15.00
Double bed room Rs. 25.00 and Rs. 40.00

Prakash Hotel
Civil Line Jhansi, Tel No. 964
(1/3 km. from Rly. Station)
Single bed room Rs. 25.00 and Rs. 20.00
Double bed room Rs. 40.00

Sipri Hotel
Sipri Market, Jhansi
(1/3 km. from Rly. Station)
Single bed room Rs. 2.00, 6.00 and 12.00

Shiljeet Hotel
Sipri Market, Jhansi
Single bed room Rs. 10.00
Double bed room Rs. 16.00

Lodges
Shri Ram Lodge
Near Khandere Gate, Jhansi
Single Rs. 14.00
Double Rs. 24.00
Dormitory Rs. 2.00

OTHER ACCOMMODATION

Rly. Retiring Room
P.W.D. Inspection Bungalow
Suits Rs. 16.00
Rs. 3.00 per day (for Govt. Employee)
Reservation Authority
Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Jhansi

Circuit House, Tel No. 527
Rs. 10.00 per day
5.25 Paise for Govt. Employee
Reservation Authority
District Magistrate

DHARMSHALAS

Narayan Dharmsala, Jhokanbagh, Jhansi.
Gopal Dharmsala, Near Sabji Mandi, Jhansi.
Baldeo Dharmsala, Civil Line, Station Road, Jn
Amba Wali Dharmsala, Rani Mahal, Jhansi.
Sindhi Dharmsala, Rani Mahal, Jhansi.
RESTAURANTS
Jhansi Hotel, Sadar Bazar; Ashok Hotel, Civil Lines; Bundela Restaurant, Manik Chowk; Mansarover Restaurant, Sadar Bazar; Nav Bharat Restaurant, Sadar Bazar. Holiday Restaurant, Sadar Bazar.

RECREATION
Clubs Jhansi Club, Tel No. 715.
Cinema Natraj, Elite, Minerva, Chitra, Krishna, Lascala, Laxmi, Khilona, Bhushan and Nandini.
MISCELLANEOUS

Places of Worship

Hindu
- Ragunath Ji Ka Mandir, Manik Chowk, Murli Manohar Mandal, Sabji Mandi.
- Kali Temple (Near Sainyar Gate).
- Bhoot Nath Temple.
- Laxmi Mandir (Laxmi Gate).
- Hanuman Ji ka Mandir, Chatala Toria.

Muslim
- Idgah, Bisat Khana Mosque.

Sikh
- Gurdwara, Sipri Bazar Jhokan Bagh, Talai.

Christian
- St. Marks Church, Isagarh Church, St. Francis Church.

Banks
- State Bank of India, Civil Lines, Jhansi. Tel No. 534.
- Central Bank of India, Civil Lines, Jhansi. Tel No. 561.
- Allahabad Bank of India, Civil Lines, Jhansi. Tel No. 567.
- Punjab National Bank, Civil Lines, Jhansi. Tel No. 638 & 1282.
- Union Bank of India, Civil Lines, Jhansi. Tel No. 1251.
- United Commercial Bank, Civil Lines, Jhansi. Tel No. 1031.
- The New Bank of India, Civil Lines, Jhansi.
- Bank of Baroda, Civil Lines, Jhansi.
- Cooperative Bank Ltd., Near Tehsil. Tel No. 634

LOCATIONS OF TOURIST INTEREST AT JHANSI

Rani Mahal
- This was the residence of Rani Luxmibai, the great heroine of first war of Independence. Archaeological Survey of India has a museum here, with a good collection of exquisite sculptures belonging to the period 9th to 12th centuries. (Open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.) Admission-Free.

Jhansi Fort
- This used to belong to Rani Luxmibai of Jhansi.
- Visiting hours 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. (On Sundays only)
- Admission Free

Museums
- Archaeological Museum, Rani Mahal Admission-Free.

Hospitals
- Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College, District Hospital (Tel No. 572).
- St. Judas Hospital.
- Christian Hospital, Jhokan Bag (Tel No. 830)

LOCAL CUSTOMS AND FESTIVALS
- Deepawali, Holi, Shivaratri, Raksha Bandhan, Krishna Janmashtami, Naag Panchami, Teej, etc.

INFORMATION
- Tourist Bureau, Prakash Hotel, Civil Lines, Jhansi. (Tel No. 1267).
- District Information Officer, Manik Chowk, Jhansi. (Tel No. 1334).
**Distance from major cities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>Distance</th>
<th>Route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Khajuraho</td>
<td>178 Kms. (111 Miles)</td>
<td>Khajuraho-Chattarpur-Mauranipur-Jhansi.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOME OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN BUNDELKHAND REGION

Babina

Babina is a flourishing town on Jhansi-Sagar national highway, about 22 kms. south, of Jhansi from where at a distance of about 11 Kms. lies Dukhwa dam on the Betwa. The site is bordered with jungle-clad hills and the reservoir forms a charming piece of water. Good fishing is obtainable below the weir. There is an inspection house near the dam.

Barwa Sagar

Barwa Sagar is a small town at a distance of about 24 kms. on the road going from Jhansi to Mauranipur. Bus and rail services are available. It is a historic place where Joti Bahu, the elder brother of Mahraja Madhuji Sindhi was killed in a battle fought between the Peshwa’s troops and the Bundelas in the year 1744. A fine old fort, built by Raja Udit Singh is picturesquely situated here on an eminence and commands an excellent view of the large lake and surrounding landscape. Near the north-eastern corner of the lake there is an inspection bungalow belonging to the public works department which is picturesquely situated and the ruins of two old Chandela temples, the older one (known as Ghughua Math) being of granite and consisting of four cells, each with an ornamented doorway, three bearing the image of Ganesh and the fourth the figure of Durga. About 4.8 Kms. west of the town there is an old mound crowned with a tower (known as Jarah-ki-Math) which contains an image of Shiva and Parvati. The eastern side of the tower is lavishly decorated with carving, hooded balconies being projected on the north and south. The lintel, bearing a beautifully carved ceiling, is supported at each of its eight angles by a massive stone shaft of the later Gupta period. A fragmentary inscription of the same period is to be found on an image of Durga.

Chandpur

Chandpur is situated adjacent to the road which goes from Jakhlaun to Dhaura via Bant, half way between Dudhai and Deogarh, being 11.3 Kms. to the north-west of the former and upwards 9.6 Kms. to the east of the latter. The place is very rich in archaeological remains which are of Chandella and Jain origin and comprises five groups of ruined temples and many pieces of sculpture, some of exquisite craftsmanship. At a short distance lies another group of ruined Hindu temples mostly dedicated to Vishnu, one having an undated inscription, the character of which appear to belong to the 12th century.

Datia

Datia where the fort and palaces are worth seeing. Bus and train services are available.

Erich

Erich is a small town on the right bank of the Betwa about 70 Kms. north-east of Jhansi. Local tradition associates the town with the birth place of Prahalad, the son of Hirnakashyap. An old Hindu fort stands in ruins on the bank of the Betwa. A representation of Hanuman carved on one of its walls about 60' above the river and 30' from top is still in existence.

Gurha

Gurha is a small village on the left bank of the Dhasan about 15 Kms. south-east of Garautha, 88 Kms. east of Jhansi and 8 Kms. east of Markuan which lies on the road from Garautha to Mauranipur and from here one has to walk to reach the place. The Nagonath hill, a conspicuous land mark, lies a mile north-east of the village and on its crown there are two old temples and a shrine of Mahadeo in
GUIDE MAP OF BUNDELKHAND

NOT TO SCALE

- Banda
- Baberu
- Raiapur
- Karvi
- Mau
- Yamuna
- Chitrakoot
- Tourist Bungalow
- Markundi
- Manikpur
- Kalinjar
- Panja
- Satna
- Rewa
- Neemuch
- Kanpur
- Hamirpur
- Maudaha
- Narain
a cave and, at the foot of the hill on the eastern side there is a Chandella baithak (building, literally seat). There is also an image of the sage Vishwamitra which lies submerged in the Dhasan. A fair is held here in the honour of the saint on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

Deogarh

Deogarh is situated on the right bank of the Betwa at a distance of 123 Kms. from Jhansi at the western end of the tableland of the Lalitpur range of hills in extremely picturesque natural surroundings. Distance of Deogarh from Lalitpur is 33 Kms. The nearest railway station is Jakhlaun about 11 Kms. away.

Deogarh has great antiquarian, epigraphical and archaeological importance and figured in the history of the Guptas, the Gurjara Pratiharas, the Gonds, the Muslim rulers of Delhi, Kalpi, Malwa, the Bundelas, the Marathas and the British. It possesses the remains of a fine Vishnu temple of Gupta period and a group of old Jain temples. The former is also known as Sagar Marh. The exquisite execution and beautifully carved panels of the temple have called forth the remark that "few monuments can show such high level of workmanship, combined with ripeness and rich refinement in its sculptural effect as the Gupta temple at Deogarh."

Perhaps of somewhat later origin but no less rich in archaeological and epigraphical value is a group of Jain temples situated inside the fort of Karnali on the hill overlooking the Betwa. Some 31 of these are still standing. Some of the panels depict scenes from Jain mythology and there are typical pieces of Jain architecture and sculpture such as the Manastambha (votive pillar), Ayagapatta (votive tablet), Pratima-sarvato-bhadrika (Jain image visible from all sides) and Sahastrakuta (pillar carved with a thousand Jain figures).

The thick forest on the hill is a haunt of wild animals. Red stone and firewood are the two objects of commercial importance available in this area.
MAHOBA

Mahoba in the Distt. of Hamirpur is 140 kms. from Jhansi. It is associated with the history of the Chandells who ruled over modern Bundelkhand from 9th to 14th Century A.D. The tank and temple at Rahilla, 3 kms. S.W. of the city were built by the first king Rahillya. KAKRA MATHS is the only temple which has escaped destruction and is situated in the north-west corner of Madarv Sagar. It follows the plan of Khajuraho Temples. A mark of the lingam in the middle of Sanctum indicates its Shiva character. There are also the remains of a large temple, now known as Madan Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

Summer House

In the bed of the Madan Sagar are the ruins of an old building known as the Summer House of Chandel kings.

The Temple of Maniva Deva

The temple of the tutelary deity of the Chandellas stands on the northern bank of the Madan Sagar. In front of it stands an old monolithic granite pillar 18 ft. high and 1 3/4 ft. square at the base. It is octagonal in the middle and round in upper part. The upper part is also ornamented with chairs and bells suspended from four lion heads immediately beneath the capital. To-day it serves as a lamp post on festival occasions and is consequently known as Diwat or Alha Ki gili, but that could not have been it's original purpose.

Old Chandella Forts

On the top of a hill near Kirat Sagar another remarkable monument of the same period is the tomb of Jalhas Khan, an officer of Jaichand of Kannauj who has come to arrest Bramha in his war against Prithviraj and was slain at the passage of the Betwa.

Jaina and Buddhist Shrines

Mahoba also boasted of a number of Jaina and Buddhist shrines. The former are survived by a number of statues mostly of the Thirthankaras in the different stages of preservation. On a hill adjoining the south-east bank of Madan Sagar there are inscriptions dated V. S. 1206 (A.D. 1149).

Lakes of Mahoba

An account of Mahoba in the Chandella period would not be complete without a mention of its magnificent lakes formed by throwing massive embankments across the shallow valleys, Kirat Sagar 1/2 miles in circumference has to the west of the city Madan Sagar with a circuit of 3 miles to its south, and Kalyana Sagar and Vijaya Sagar to east. Vijai Sagar is the largest, being not less than 4 miles in circuit and now known as Bijai Nagar tank but Madan Sagar is the most picturesque of all. With the granite hill of Gokhar on its west and the range of ghats and modern temples on the north and several rocky islets covered with the ruins of ancient buildings in its bed, it presents a very magnificent view. The famous Kajli Mela which figures prominently in Alha is still held on the bank of Kirat Sagar in the month of Sawan.
Lalitpur

Lalitpur is situated on the Jhansi-Bombay section of the Central Railway at a distance of 90 kms. from Jhansi. There are few archaeological remains at Lalitpur, the foremost being a small building known as Bansa. It has an inscription which bears the name of Firoz Shah Tughlak and the date Samvat 1415 (A.D. 1358)

Lalitpur is well known for its industries, the principal ones being the tanning of hides, sawing, the making of shoes, ironware, cement and soap.

Kamla Sagar Dam

About 6 Kms. south-west of Mauranipur the river Saprar has been dammed to form the Kamla Sagar reservoir which covers an area of about ten square kms. There is an inspection house (of the Irrigation Deptt.) and a hill and a ruined fort which is said to have been the residence of the legendary thief Bona, a character of Alha.

Sukhwa-Dukhwa

This masonry dam on Betwa river was constructed during 1905 and is located on Jhansi-Lalitpur highway. The same road goes to Matatila Dam. Bus service is available from Jhansi up to the dam.

The dam is about 4000 ft. in length. There is an inspection house here which offers a panoramic view of the dam and its upstream lake.

Bhasneh

Bhasneh is about 96 kms. from Jhansi on the Jhansi-Mauranipur-Gursarai Road. Local accounts associate the place with Bhasmasur, a demon king. Picturesquely situated at the foot of Vindhyan hill range there is a lake, artificial fall, Bhasmasur cave and lush green vegetation which make the place a picknicker’s paradise. An Inspection House is also available here.

Matatila Dam

Matatila Dam was constructed during 1952 to 1958 on the river Betwa. The dam is located in Lalitpur district 60 kms. from Jhansi. Daily bus service is available upto the dam from Jhansi.

The length of the dam at left side is 12,000’ and at right side 6,250’. Near the dam there is a temple of the goddess Mata on a tila (hillock) which is approached by a path of rough stones. There is a well laid out garden here with beautiful illumination arrangements which resembles Brindaban Gardens of Mysore.

Close to the dam is an inspection house of Irrigation Department which offers a nice view of the lake and the water falls. Eatables should be carried by the tourists as there is no cook in the inspection house. Permits can be had for angling in the down stream.

Banda

Banda is said to have derived its name from Bandeo, the name of a sage mentioned in Hindu mythology as a contemporary of Rama.

In Banda the places of interest include Nawab Ali Bahadur’s palace and other buildings in an open space in the city. There is a fine tank on the road to Kalinjar which is a large sheet of water, surrounded on all four sides by masonry banks or flights of steps leading to the water edge. Beyond the Nimni Nala lie the ruins of a well built fort and palace. Of the Hindu temples here the oldest and most celebrated are the two sacred to Bameshwar Devji and Bameshwar Mahadeo.

Bagrehi

Bagrehi is close to the Ohan river at a distance of eighteen kilometres from Karwi. The village is noted as containing the sacred and picturesquely wooded Lalapur hill, the reputed residence of the sage Valmiki. At the top is a trigonometrical survey station.
Kalinjar

The celebrated hill fort and town of Kalinjar is situated at a distance of 56 kms. from Banda. The nearest railway station is Atarsa which is 38.6 kms. from here. The hill, on which the fort is built, is situated at the southeastern edge of the plains of Bundelkhand. There are seven gates in the Kalinjar fort.

Patal Ganga, Pandu Kund, Buddhi Talao, Siddh-ki-Gupha, Rani-ki-aman, Mirhe-Bhairon, Mrigdhara, Kumbhu, the Boar Avatar, Nilkanth temple and the cave are some of the attractive places of tourist interest at Kalinjar.

Kalpi

The town of Kalpi is situated on Jhansi-Kanpur road at a distance of 128 kms. from Jhansi.

There is a fort, now in ruins, situated on the bank of the river. The western out-skirt of the town along the Jamuna is a region of fine old tombs, the more important being the great tomb called ‘Chaurasi Gumbaz’. In the town is situated a lofty tower, known as the ‘Lanka’.

Parichha

Parichha headworks is located at a distance of 22.5 kms. from Jhansi, on Jhansi-Lucknow Road. Here the masonry dam was constructed in 1885. Close to the headworks is the Inspection House of Irrigation Department perched on a high mound which offers a panoramic view of the upstream lake and the water falls. Permits for occasional angling can be had from the Irrigation Deptt.

Chitrakoot

Chitrakoot, the haven of love-lorn ‘Yaksha’ of Kalidasa lies among the northern spurs of Vindhyan ranges, at a distance of 70 kms. from Banda, 130 kms. from Allahabad and 270 kms. from Jhansi. Chitrakoot is not the name of any particular place or township, but it represents a group of five small townships which are Karwi, Sitapur, Kamta, Khoihi and Nayagaon. The present name of this complex is Chitrakoot Dham. The most important of the five townships is Sitapur which is generally known as Chitrakoot. During Treta Yug Lord Ram along with Sita and Lakshman lived here for sometime, during exile.

There are many sacred spots here studded in the ranges of low hills and thickly wooded areas along the banks of the Mandakini. These include Kamadgiri, Pramod Van, Janki Kunda, Sati Anusuiya, Gupta-Godavari, Hanuman Dhara, Bharat Koop, Ganesh Ghat, Ram Ghat, Sphatikshila, and Koti Tirtha.

U. P. Tourism maintains a newly constructed and well furnished Tourist Bungalow at Chitrakoot with modern amenities. The rates are Rs. 5 per bed per day in dormitory, Rs. 10 per deluxe single bed room, Rs. 15 per deluxe double bed room and Rs. 20 per triple bed room.

P.W.D. Inspection House and Forest Rest House belonging to Uttar Pradesh Government and that belonging to Madhya Pradesh Government are also available. Other accommodation available here include Jaipuria Guest House, Goenka Dharmshala, Sri Ram Dharmshala, Calcutta Dharmshala, Maa-ki-Dharmshala.
POST CHANDELLA MONUMENTS

Temple of Bari Chandrika

The temple of the Chandrika deity is on the bank of Madan Sagar. This deity is very famous in Alha and is universally worshipped by the residents of the Mahoba and vicinity.

Sahi Mosques and Tombs

The mosques and tombs built during the Muslim period were generally constructed out of the materials of the earlier temples. One of the oldest is the flat roofed mosque supported on Hindu Pillars just outside the Bhamsa Darwaza which according to an inscription over the doorway was built by Malik Tajuddin Ahmad in H 722 (A.D.1322). Likewise the Dargah of Pir Mubarak Shah stands on the site of a temple of Kirtivarman whose inscription was recovered from the site.

Surwaya

Surwaya is situated on Shivapuri-Jhansi Road at a distance of 80 kms. from Jhansi. It has archaeological remains of a fort, temple and monastery.

Orchha

Orchha, in Madhya Pradesh, is 12 kms. from Jhansi, situated on the bank of river Betwa. Bus and rail services are available. The places of attraction here are fort and palaces, temple of Ram Rajaji, temple of Chaturbhuj Nath, Luxmi Narain Temple, Nar Singh Temple, Temple of Mahavir, Foolbagh, Jahangir Mahal, etc.

The factual information in this publication is liable to change from time to time. Tourists are advised to consult their Travel Agents or the nearest U.P. Govt./Govt. of India Tourist Office for up-to-date information. List of hotels, shops, chemists, etc., in this publication are NOT exhaustive nor does their inclusion herein necessarily signify official approval or recognition of the establishment by the Department of Tourism.
Uttar Pradesh
India

BUNDELKHAND
JHANSI