"Bundelkhand ..... Utterly Enchanting, Majestically Marvellous

the heritage
Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh

Bundelkhand. It's a captivating region in central India where rugged terrain gently blends into royal splendour. Across the centuries, various dynasties, kings and queens have ruled and left their sagas of valour and magnificence etched into every corner of Bundelkhand. Bundelkhand's recorded history dates back to 9th century when it was ruled by Chandela Rajput kings for hundreds of years. The Chandelas were followed by the Bundela dynasty. Both Chandelas and Bundelas created many splendourous buildings and temples here. In the 19th century, Bundelkhand played a key role during India’s First War of Independence when the charismatic and brave Queen Laxmi Bai of Jhansi led from the front against the British forces and was martyred for the national cause.

Today's Bundelkhand is split between the two leading states of Uttar Pradesh (districts Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Banda, Mahoba and Chitrkoot ) and Madhya Pradesh (districts Sagar, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Panna, Damoh, Gwalior, Datia, Shivpuri and Chanderi). Bundelkhand has cherished and preserved its treasures and today tourists from across the world visit the region to savour its one-of-a-kind appeal. As the entire region is gloriously steeped in history, it has many treasures for the discerning holidayer to discover. If the glorious cities, forts, palaces and temples of Bundelkhand are truly tourists’ delight, its inimitable folk arts too are treasure troves for discerning buyers.

As a matter of fact, if you are looking for a holiday that’s unique and quaint, Bundelkhand is what you are seeking.

Area: 25,510 sq km

**Major tourist destinations:**  ● Jhansi  ● Deogarh  ● Barua Sagar  ● Sukwa-Dhukwa  ● Mahoba  ● Kalpi  ● Chitrakoot  ● Kalinjar

**Major airports in vicinity:**  ● Bhopal  ● Khajuraho  ● Gwalior  ● Kanpur  ● Lucknow
The historical city of Jhansi is often called the 'Gateway to Bundelkhand', synonymous with its brave queen, Laxmibai, monuments and memorials of Jhansi recount the tale of her martyrdom, when the young widowed queen had led her troops into battle against the mighty British force during the First War of Independence in 1857.

Widely acclaimed 'Ayurved Jhansi Festival', an annual event held in November/December, is renowned for its comprehensive display of art, craft, culture, herbal and Ayurvedic products. Jhansi is also an entry gate from North, South, West, East and Central India and is a very convenient central point for visiting many Bundelkhand tourist destinations such as Baruasagar, Jarai Math, Deogarh, Orchha, Talbehat, Datia, Shivpuri and Khajuraho.

How to reach Jhansi:

**Air** - Nearest airports are Gwalior -103 km and Khajuraho -175 km.

**Rail** - Situated on the Delhi-Agra-Jhansi Route and is rail-linked to nearly all major Indian cities.

**Road** - Situated on National Highways (NH-25, 26 and 75) Jhansi is well connected to the entire country.
What to see in Jhansi:

Jhansi Fort: Originally built by Raja Bir Singh Ju Deo in 1613, the majestic Jhansi Fort is silent witness to the fierce battle led by Rani Laxmibai. It houses the 'Karak Bijli' and 'Bhawani Shankar' cannons of the Queen. The fort also has temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and Lord Ganesha.

Sound & Light Show: The son-et-lumiere (sound & light show) is held every evening at the Fort, depicting the story of 1857 war of independence & Rani Laxmibai Bai Story

Show Timing: 6.30 PM (Winter), 7.30 PM (Summer)
Entry Fee Rs. 5/- for Indians & Rs. 100/- for Foreigner.
Reception Office at Fort- Tel. 0510-2442325.

Rani Mahal: Queen Laxmibai's palace houses a fine collection of antique sculptures (9th -12th centuries), displayed here by the Archaeological Survey of India. Tel: 0510-2328220.

The Govt. Museum: The Govt. Museum displays an amazing collection of terracotta, bronzes, sculptures, arms, manuscripts, paintings and coins of gold, silver and copper. An exclusive gallery on Rani Laxmibai, the Amar Shaheed gallery, animated visuals, and children's games are other major attractions. Tel: 0510-2330035

Visiting hours: 10:30am to 4:30pm
(Closed on Mondays & second Sunday) Entry by ticket
Lord Ganesh Temple: An old temple built by the Marathas, where Queen Laxmibai’s marriage ceremony rituals were performed.

Chiteri Art: It is a traditional folk art in which only natural colours taken from vegetables are used.

Karguan Jain Temple: Situated on foothill, it houses a 14th century idol of Jain deity Lord Parshvanath.

Other places of interest here are Laxmital, Narayanbagh, Gangadhar Rao Chhatri, Goddess Kali Temple, Kaimasan Mata Temple, Lahardevi Temple, Murli Manohar Temple, Ram-Janki Temple, Jeevan Shah ki Mazar, St. Jude’s Shrine, Laxmibai and Panchtantra Parks etc.

Tourist Information Centres:
U.P. Govt. Regional Tourist office, Hotel Veerangana campus, Shivpuri Road, Jhansi.
Tel. : 0510-2441267.
E-mail : jhansiuptourism@gmail.com

Tourist Information Centre, Jhansi Railway Station,
Tel. : 0510-2442622.

Where to stay:
Hotel Veerangana (U.P.S.T.D.C), Shivpuri Road, Tel. : 0510-2441267 Fax: 0510-2449473.
Around Jhansi

Pahuj Dam: 8 km from Jhansi, the Pahuj Dam and a waterfall on the Pahuj River are beautiful picnic spots on the Jhansi-Gwalior route.

Parichha Dam: Built on the river Betwa, it is about 25 km from Jhansi on the Jhansi-Kanpur Highway No. 25. The whole area is rich in scenic beauty.

Talbehat and Matatila: 50 km from Jhansi on the Jhansi-Lalitpur-Deogarh Highway, at Talbehat are located Mansarovar Lake, Fort of Mardan Singh, Hazaria Mahadev Temple and Ghats & Boat Club. 10 km away is the Matatila water reservoir built on the Betwa river.
Fort Talbehat

The Fort is situated on Jhansi-Lalitpur four lane road. Raja Mardan Singh ruled here from this fort & he fought along with Rani Laxmi Bai against the Britishers in 1957. The Fort has got three temples inside, dedicated to Angad, Hanumanji & Narsingh Bhagwan. The Fort have massive structures and is situated on the bank of massive Mansarover Lake. This lake is suitable for various water sports activities. At present the facility of boat club with paddle boats is available, there is Ghat, Jetty & Restaurant also. In the premises there is Hazaria Mahadev Temple on the banks of Lake.
Sukwa-Dhukwa: 39 km from Jhansi lies Dhukwa Weir built in 1909. During rainy season, a gorgeous 1 km wide waterfall can be viewed from a tunnel below the Betwa river.

Orchha (M.P.): 18 km from Jhansi, lies the 16th century Bundela capital, Orchha. Built on the bank of river Betwa, the splendidous remnants of its fort, palaces, Ram Raja Temple, cenotaphs, museum and temples are worthy of exploration.

Shivpuri (M.P.): 101 km from Jhansi & Shivpuri located on the main Delhi - Mumbai highway, is famous for its reserved forests, wild life and natural surroundings.

Datia (MP): 28 km from Jhansi, Datia is an ancient town which has at present Peetambra Peeth Shivling & Dhumawati Devi Temple. The seven-storied ancient palace, a temple with Mughal style frescoes and other temples are also worth seeing.

Open window tunnel below Sukwa Dukwa Dam
Jarai-ka-Math:

Ruins of two ancient Chandela temples built of granite lie to the north-east of the Baruasagar. Situated on Jhansi - Khajuraho Highway. Massive stone sculptures, both these temples give testimony to their lavish past.
Garhmau Lake: 12 km from Jhansi, the 14-km. long Gharmau Lake lies surrounded by low-lying hills, approachable from N.H. 25 on Kanpur road.

Sonagiri: 45 km. from Jhansi, this sacred Jain site, built in 17th century, has 77 Jain temples built along a hill and its slopes call for a visit. (M.P.)

Pawagiri: 45 km. from Jhansi, it is another famous Jain pilgrimage site.

Kalpi: 142 km. from Jhansi, Kalpi played a key role during the First War of Independence in 1857. Mantrana Kaksha, Vyas Tila Temple, New Vyas Temple, Lanka Meenar are the attractions here.

Kedareshwar (Mauranipur): 70 km. from Jhansi, lies this temple that’s situated on a hillock. 600 stone steps lead to the temple that has a unique Shivalinga placed on the back of Lord Nandi, the divine bull carrier of Lord Shiva.

Chitrakoot: 270 km. This hallowed center is famous for its religious importance and close association with Lord Rama.
Deogarh

Ancient Temple Town by Betwa

133 km from Jhansi, Deogarh, in district Lalitpur, is of great antiquarian, epigraphical and archeological importance and has figured in the history of Guptas, the Gurjara - Pratiharas, the Gondas, the Muslim rulers of Delhi & Kalpi, the Marathas and the British. It is situated on the right bank of the river Betwa, at the western end of the Lalitpur range. The cliffs overhanging the bank rise to a height of 300 feet and form a long steep ridge of red sandstone. The river takes a deep curve to the west at this juncture and passes through an extremely picturesque country side.

What to see in Deogarh:

Dashavatara Temple: This Gupta period Vishnu temple is the earliest known Panchayatan temple of north India. The terraced basement above the high temple plinth is adorned with a continuous row of sculptured panels. A highly carved doorway with Ganga-Yamuna figures leads to the sanctum sanctorum or the garbhagriha. Three big Rathika Panels - Gajendra Moksha, Naranarayan tapasya and the Anantshai Vishnu- set in the side walls depict Vaishnava mythological scenes carved in high relief. The temple is noted for being the first north Indian temple with a spire or shikhara. Erotic panels are an added attraction.
Deogarh

New Discovery at Deogarh

Lord Buddha :- Near the present Jain Complex at Deogarh, some Lord Budhha's beautiful rock cut images have been found in the near by forest & hillock.

Shivlinga :- In the same area Shivlings have also been found in the rock cut form. Thus Devgarh has become religious place for Jains, Budhists & Hindus.

Rock Painting :- Here very beautiful rock paintings have been also found in the Hillock. Rock Painting are mainly of Animals.
Jain Shrines: A later-era group of 31 Jain temples located here are also worth seeing. Once a Jain centre, from the post-Gupta times till the 17th century, these temples have panels depicting scenes from Jain mythology including Tirthankara images, a Manastambha (votive pillar), Ayagratta (votive tablet) Sarvatobhadra Pratima (Jain images visible from all sides) and Sahastrakuta (pillar carved with a thousand Jain figures). At one particular place, more than 2000 sculptures can be seen.
Varah Temple: This temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu's Varah incarnation, is now in ruins. It is situated in the forest on the banks of Betwa River.

Archaeological Museum: The museum has a fine collection of sculptures. Other attractions are Nahar Ghati, Raj Ghati, Siddha Gufa on Betwa river bank within the forest.

Jain Museum: A new Jain Museum on the entry of the Jain Complex has come up recently. It has got very good collection of Sand Stone Jain Sculptures and paintings related to Jainism.

Places to visit around Deogarh:

Pali: 25 km. from Deogarh, Pali has an ASI protected Neelkantheshwar Mahadev Temple that houses a unique three headed Shiva sculpture, each depicting a different aspect of Lord Shiva.

Chanderi (M.P.): A town famous for its gossamer Chanderi saris also has some of the finest examples of Bundela, Rajput and Malwa Sultanate architectures. A magnificent Mughal fort dominates the skyline.

Among the worthy sites here are the Koshak Mahal, an old palace the Badal Mahal Gate, Jama Masjid, the Shahzadi ka Rouza, Parmeshwar Tal and a number of ancient Jain Temples.
Dhaujari: 25 km. from Deogarh, and reachable via village Dhaurra, this place has the ASI protected Ranchhoreji Temple on the bank of Betwa river.

Muchkund Cave: 5 km. from Dhaujari, 30 km. from Deogarh and approachable by a forest road, these natural caves situated in a valley are believed to have sheltered Saint Muchkund who lived and meditated here. Lord Krishna is also said to have visited these caves during the Mahabharata era.

Dudhai: 40 km. from Deogarh, Dudhai has a magnificent 56 feet high rock cut sculpture of Narsimha Avatar carved on a hillock in the forest area.

Raj Ghat: 55 km. from Deogarh, it is a huge water reservoir on Betwa River.
Mahoba, 140 km from Jhansi, is another fascinating and historical destination. The ancient capital of the Chandela kings who were great warriors and builders, houses their extraordinary legacy. There is an impregnable old fort on top of a hill and a series of lakes created using brilliant engineering. Chandelas' efficient water management systems still draw much appreciation. Mahoba was once a thriving centre for art and culture. Bards still sing praises of its glorious days and of the sage of Alha and Udal, legendary brothers who sacrificed their lives for the honour of their land. Today, the town is a major betel farming centre that supplies betel leaves to pan lovers across the nation. Here also, in excavation Lord Buddha & Jain sculptures were found which are kept in the Govt. Museum Jhansi.

Air - The nearest airport is Khajuraho (MP.) 63 km away.

Rail - Mahoba is well connected to major cities by rail service.

Road - Mahoba is linked by road to all major cities of UP and MP.

Where to stay:
U.P.S.T.D.C. Rahi Tourist Bungalow, Bajrang Chowk, Gandhi Nagar, Mahoba.
Tel: 05281-244108
E-mail: rahitb@mahoba.mp-tourism.com

Padmapani, Mahoba, 11th century A.D., Lucknow State Museum. The Bodhisattva Padmapani, the bearer of the lotus, is the embodiment of compassion. The figure sits gracefully, in a posture that has come to be known as "royal ease".
What to see in Mahoba:

Lakes of Mahoba: A visit to Mahoba is incomplete without visiting its magnificent lakes built during the Chandela period. Formed by building massive embankments across shallow valleys, these picturesque lakes show great architectural expertise. These lakes include Rahila Sagar, built by Rahila (885-905 AD), the Kirat Sagar (1060-1100 AD) and Vijay Sagar, (1035-1060 AD) and the Madan Sagar, (1128-1165 AD).

Temples and other famous monuments: Near Madan Sagar is the famous Lord Shiva temple known as Kakramath, built in the famous Khajuraho-style architecture. The Madan Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu also stands nearby. On an island in the lake stand ruins of Mahari, another Lord Vishnu temple. Along the northern embankment is an old Chandela Fort known as Qila Mumer. The celebrated Maniya Deve Temple, the massive stone pillar known as Deewat or Alha-li-Gilli and the Dargah of Pir Mubarak Shah, the tomb of a Muslim saint from Aurahia, also stand in the Fort area.

A roofless, granite-pillared Baradari, known as Alha’s Baithak, stands on the south-east end of the embankment. Near the southern end of Madan Sagar are temples of Bari Chandrika Devi, the Lord Shiva
cave temple of Katheshwar and on the adjoining hillock, 24 rock-hewn images of Jain Tirthankaras.

The Sun Temple: Among the rare few still to be found in northern India, the Sun Temple is located at Rahila Sagar. Though in a ruined state, it is still an excellent example of the awesome Chandela architecture dating back to 9th century.

Pools (Kund): Mahoba also has two famous Chandela period pools (kund) lined with granite slabs in a reverse pyramid shape. Ram Kund is located to the west of Madan Sagar, while Suraj Kund is near Rahila Sagar. Both originally served as havan kund (pits for sacrificial fires) for the Chandela rulers.

The Gorakhgiri Hill: This hill makes a breathtaking spectacle with massive granite rocks perched atop one another. This revered site has a gigantic Gajantak Shiva sculpture carved into the foothills.

Charkhari: 20 km from Mahoba on N.H. 86, Charkhari is noted for the Mangal Garh Fort located on the Mulia Hills. Guman Bihari Temple, Govardhan Temple and scenic lakes are its other attractions. The erstwhile Maharaja's palace (Tel: 05283-266138) is a heritage home stay. Govardhan Mela, celebrated during the Hindu lunar month of Kartik (October/November), draws a large number of devotees from far and near.
Chitrakoot, 'the hill of many wonders', the much revered pilgrimage town lies 8 km. south of Karvi town and 70 km. south-east of Banda district on the road to Allahabad.

A tranquil and divine retreat by the river Mandakini, it is located on the northern spur of the Vindhya range. Chitrakoot is a town with many mythological connections. Ramayana signifies it as the abode of Lords Ram, Laxman and Sita for eleven years of their exile. Sage Atri and sati Anusuya are also believed to have lived here. This holy city is set in sylvan surroundings and has innumerable temples and shrines for spiritual seekers and adventurous tourists.

What to see in Chitrakoot:

Ram Ghat: With the very first rays of the sun that gleam upon the river Mandakini, Ram Ghat stirs into life. Devotees of all ages take the ritualistic dips in the waters and invoke the blessings of the gods. The evening 'Arati' at Ram Ghat is a unique experience for the devotees as well as for the tourists. Raja Matagayendranath Temple, Bharatji Temple, Tulsidasji Temple, Budhey Hanumanji Temple and nearby Lord Tirupati Balaji Temple are other attractions.

Kamadgiri: 2 km. from Chitrakoot lies Kamadgiri, a place of immense religious significance as it is revered as the holy embodiment of Lord Ram. A forested hill here is skirted all along its base by a chain of temples. Pilgrims perform the holy Parikrama, the ritual circuit, of this sacred hill to seek divine blessings. Lord Kamtanathji Temple and the Bharat Milap Temple are two of its most prominent pilgrimage destinations.

How to get there:
Air - Nearest airports- Allahabad - 145 km. and Khajuraho (M.P.)-185km.
Rail - Nearest railway stations are Karvi - 8 km. and Banda - 70 km.
Road - It is well connected with the main cities of U.P. and M.P.

Tourist Information Centre:
Hanuman Dhara: Located on a steep hillside and approachable by a flight of 360 steps, here the waters of a spring tumble down over an image of Lord Hanuman.

Janki Kund: 3 km. from Chitrakoot, this cave close to river Mandakini is revered as the bathing spot of Sita during their exile.

Sphatik Shila: This unique and picturesque spot, located on a huge rock, is believed to have been a favourite of Lord Ram and Sita for viewing the scenic beauty all around.

Ramdarshan: Here different aspects of Lord Ram are shown through statues.

Places to see around Chitrakoot:

Sitapur: Located on the left bank of river Payaswini, Sitapur is closely connected with both Chitrakoot and Kamadgiri, which is just 2 km to the south-west of the town. Pilgrims first bathe in the Payaswini river at Sitapur and then move on to do the sacred encircling of Lord
Kamtnath Ganesh Bagh: 11 km from Chitrakoot, on the Karvi-Devangana road, near Siddhapur Banari village, lies Ganesh Bagh. An exquisitely carved Lord Shiva temple, ruins of a palace and a seven storied stepwell (baoli) signify the splendid art and architecture. Also worth visiting nearby are the Banke Siddha Koti Teerth and Devangana Valley.

Sati Anasuya: 13 km from Chitrakoot, Sati Anasuya Ashram is located further upstream. It was here that sage Atri, his wife Anusuya and their three sons (the three incarnations-Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh) are said to have meditated. River Mandakini is believed to have been created here by Anusuya through her meditations.

Gupt Godavari: 19 km from Chitrakoot, the Gupt-Godavari is a tiny rivulet flowing into a tank at the end of an underground cave. It is believed that Lord Ram and his brother Lakshman held court in the cave, which has two natural throne-like rocks.

Rajapur: 36 km from Chitrakoot, Rajapur is the birthplace of great poet-saint Goswami Tulsidas, the creator of epic Sri Ramcharitmanas.

Bharat Koop: 22 km from Chitrakoot lies the Bharat Koop that’s believed to contain the holy waters of sacred rivers brought by Lord Ram's younger brother Bharat, to celebrate the rajyabhishek (coronation) ceremony of Lord Ram.
Kalinjar
The Historical Citadel

Nilkantheswar Temple - Kalinjar Fort
280 km. from Jhansi, stand the Kalinjar town and the Fort, which have had tremendous strategic importance down the ages. In ancient times, this region of Bundelkhand was known as Jejakbhukti. Kalinjar Fort was an invincible stronghold of the Chandelas from the 9th to the 15th century. Mohammed Ghazni, Qub-uddin Aibak and Humayun, invaded Kalinjar but could not conquer it. Akbar was the emperor who finally won this important citadel in 1569, and handed it over to Birbal, one of its 'navratnas'. From Birbal it went to Chhatrasal, the legendary Bundela warrior and then to Hardev Shah of Panna. The British took over its control in 1812.

The township of Kalinjar was once enclosed within a high rampart wall with four gateways, only three of which exist today. These are popularly known as the Kamta Dwar, Panna Dwar and Rewa Dwar.

**What to see in Kalinjar:**

Kalinjar Fort: Situated on a high hillock in the Vindhyan ranges, the fort was approached through seven gates or check posts before entering the main fort area. These splendid gateways are the Alam Darwaza or Alamgir Darwaza, Ganesh Dwar, Chandi or Chauburji Darwaza, Budha Bhadra Darwaza, Hanuman Dwar, Lal Darwaza and Bara Darwaza. Within the fort are the remains of two palaces, the Raja Mahal, Rani Mahal.
Sita Sej, a small cave containing a stone bed and pillow for use of hermits; Patal Ganga, a reservoir cut in rock; Pandu-Kund, where water trickles from the horizontal rock strata's crevices; Bhairon-ki-Jharia, with the colossal figure of Bhairon carved on the rock face - more popularly known as Manduk Bhairav and Mrigdhara or 'antelope's spring'-a small pool in the inner chamber of the rampart, where deer figures can be seen under the trickling water.

Koti Tirth and the Budha-Budhi Taal - said to possess great healing powers, are among the important pilgrim centres at Kalinjar.

Other places of interest are the Nilkanth Temple with the rock-cut Swargarohan Kund, where in a niche stands the colossal 18 armed, 17 feet broad and 24 feet high figure of Kal-Bhairav, ornamented with a garland of skulls and the Vankhandeshwar Mahadev Temple located at the source of the Shivasari Ganga.

Numerous fine pieces of sculptures, spread all over the front area, can be seen here.
How to get there:

Air: Nearest airports are Khajuraho (M.P.) - 130 km. and Allahabad (Bamrauli) - 210 km

Rail: The nearest railway stations are Atarra - 38 km. and Banda - 56 Km.

Road: Kalinjar is linked by road to major towns.
Kalpi

Battleground of Patriotic Warriors

Kalpi is situated at a distance of about 35 km. east of Orai, between Jhansi and Kanpur on National Highway No.25.

What to see in Kalpi:

Kalpi is believed to have been originally founded by Kalib Dev, a ruler of the area in ancient times. In the 17th century, the famous Bundela chief Chhatrasal made Kalpi his stronghold. Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi also held possession of the Fort for some time. Finally it fell into the hands of the British in 1857.

Mantra Kaksh: It was the place where Rani Laxmi Bai did her secret meeting, after abandoning fort at Jhansi.

The important remains at Kalpi are the Tombs of Madar Sahib, Ghafur Zanjani, Chol Bibi and Bahadur Shahid and the great enclosure commonly known as the Chaurasi Gumbaz, attributed to the Lodhis.

The Chaurasi Gumbaz is built of blocks of rubble set in lime mortar. The whole building is divided into square spaces, rather like a chess board, by eight lines of pillars that are linked by arches and topped by a flat roof. The rather dilapidated structure has a lofty dome that rises to a height of 60 feet. Its architectural style and stucco ornamentation clearly reveal its Lodhi origin.
Vyasa Temple is lauded as the place where Sage Vyasa dictated the Epic Mahabharat to Lord Ganesha. Lanka Minar, made of stone, is embossed with scenes of the Lanka Kand from the Sriramcharitmanas. Mantra Kaksha is where Queen Laxmi Bai consulted with her lieutenants during the war of Independence in 1857.

What to see around Kalpi:

Rampura: 80 km from Kalpi, there is a magnificent 300-year old fort set amidst ravines which is now a Heritage Home Stay property approved by UP Tourism.

For accommodation, contact: Mob.no. 94150-32466. website: www.fortrampura.com, E-mail: fort-rampura@yahoo.co.in

Jagmanpur: 9 km. from Rampura, Jagmanpur, once the headquarters of the Sengar Rajput clan under Raja Rup Shah, also houses a large masonry Fort. The confluence of five rivers nearby, known as the 'Pach Nada' is an added attraction.

The two Forts can be visited with due permission from owners.

How to get there:

Air: Nearest airport is at Kanpur-70km.

Rail: Kalpi lies on the Jhansi-Kanpur route, Kanpur - (70 km.) and Jhansi (145 km) are the closest important railheads.

Road: Located by National Highway No. 25, Kalpi is well linked to major towns in the area.
Jhansi Fort

Jhansi Fort: Originally built by Raja Bir Singh Ju Deo in 1613, the majestic Jhansi Fort is silent witness to the fierce battle led by Rani Laxmibai, it houses the 'Karak Bijli' and 'Bhawani Shankar' cannons of the Queen. The fort also has temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and Lord Ganesh. An utterly watchable son-et-lumiere (sound & light) show on Queen Laxmi Bai is a special evening attraction.
Rampura Fort

Fort Rampur heritage come home stay accommodation provides an experience of heritage as well as rural tourism. The fort of Rampura is about 700 years old and it is a living fort. The presents owners are the descendents of old royal family of Rampura. It is situated in village Rampura of Jalaun district. It can be reached via Etawah or Orai.

For details please contact : Mob. 094150-32466, Website : www.fortrampura.com, E-mail : fort-rampura@yahoo.co.in
Kalinjar Fort

Kalinjar Fort: Situated on a high hillock in the Vindhyas ranges, the fort was approached through seven gates or check posts before entering the main fort area. These splendid gateways are the Alam Darwaza or Alamgir Darwaza, Ganesh Dwar, Chandni or Chambrjal Darwaza, Budha Bhadra Darwaza, Hanuman Dwar, Lal Darwaza and Bala Darwaza. Within the fort are the remains of two palaces, the Raja Mahal and the Rani Mahal.
Samthar Fort

Samthar Fort: A well maintained Samthar Fort is located at a distance of 70 km. from Jhansi and 13 km. from Moth. Formerly called ‘Samabergah’, an independent principality under the great Gujjar warriors of the 17th and 18th centuries. Chandrabhan Bar Gujar and his grandson Madan Singh, governors of the state of Datia, are credited with the creation of the independent state of Samthar. The royal gold throne and gilded palanquins displayed inside the Fort are worth seeing.
Todi Fatehpur Fort

Todi-Fatehpur Fort: 12 km from Jhansi, the ruins of this fort are spread across an area of 5 acres. Built on a hillock and is surrounded by three massive stone walls, the complex is divided into 4 main parts - Gusain Mahal, Ranwas, Rajgarh Palace and the Rangmahal Palace, the last being a splendid four storied building embellished with paintings on the walls and ceilings.
Jagmanpur Fort

Jagmanpur: 9 km. from Rampura, Jagmanpur, once the headquarters of the Sengar Rajput clan under Raja Rup Shah, also houses a large masonry Fort. The confluence of five rivers nearby, known as the 'Pach Nada' is an added attraction.
Baruasagar Fort

Baruasagar Fort and Lake: 21 km from Jhansi, en route to Khajuraho. The fort is named after the Baruasagar Tal, a large manmade lake. Built by Raja Udit Singh of Orchha more than 270 years ago, the lake and the fort are a major tourist attraction.
Convenient Circuits:

For a tourist from northern region of India, the convenient itinerary for Bundelkhand begins from Delhi, from where one can start for Gwalior proceeding to Jhansi - Orchha - Khajuraho - Mahoba - Kalinjar - Chitrakoot - Allahabad and back to Delhi. From Jhansi one can also choose the alternate route - Jhansi - Matatila - Lalitpur - Deogarh - Chanderi - Datia - Sonagiri - Gwalior and Delhi.

From eastern India one can start from Kolkata go via Varanasi and Allahabad, stepping into Bundelkhand through Chitrakoot moving on to Mahoba - Khajuraho, Jhansi - Gwalior - Delhi and back to Kolkata. From western India, starting from Mumbai, a convenient itinerary would be Bhopal - Deogarh - Lalitpur - Jhansi - Orchha - Khajuraho - Mahoba - Chitrakoot - Allahabad and Back to Mumbai.

For visitors from the southern India, Bhopal, easily accessible from Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangaluru or Thiruvananthapuram would be the ideal starting point for a visit to this area. An interesting route to choose would be via Bhopal to Deogarh - Lalitpur - Jhansi - Orchha - Khajuraho - Mahoba - Chitrakoot - Jhansi and back.

Jhansi is the Gateway to Bundelkhand for travellers coming from central and western India. As a matter of fact, Jhansi railway station is a major railway junction for tourists coming from any direction.

ITINERARIES

1. Jhansi-Baruaagar-Jarai Math- Kedareshwar (650 steps)- Khajuraho (1 Day)
2. New Delhi - Etawah - Rampura Fort - New Delhi (2 Nights - 3 Days)
5. The 1857 Circuit: Pune - Jhansi - Kalpi - Kanpur (Bithoor) - Lucknow - Pune - (3 Nights - 4 Days)
7. Jhansi - Mahoba - Charkhari (1 Night - 2 Days)

For reservations, details or any other assistance, please contact at the following:
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Email : uptourslko@up-tourism.com, hotelgomti@up-tourism.com
Jhansi : UPTours, Hotel Veerangana, Shivpuri Road, Jhansi. Tel. : 91-510-2442042 Fax : 91-510-2449473
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