

Madhav National Park, Shivpuri

Introduction:

The Madhav National Park is situated on the northern fringe of the Central Highlands of India forming a part of the Upper Vindhyan Hills intermixed with plateaus, and valley sections. The slopes are generally gentle and rarely steep. Spreading over an area of almost 355 Sq kms, Madhav National Park is a fascinating mix of natural splendours of history and architectural wonders. Madhav National Park is situated in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh in Shivpuri District, very close to the Shivpuri township. This was notified as a National Park in the year 1958.

The Park is unique in having both lake, meadow and forest ecosystems. Sakhya Sagar and Madhav Sagar are the two lakes in the southern part of the park, providing the aquatic biodiversity and lifeline for the terrestrial species. These lakes not only add to the natural beauty of the area, but also provide a permanent source of water to the wildlife, and a fine wetland habitat to the aquatic fauna including thousands of migratory waterfowls. Marsh Crocodiles are in abundance in Sakhya Sagar lake. Due to this, the lake looks like a "Crocodile Safari" and attracts special attention of tourists. Madikhera dam is situated in the North Western part of the Park.

Flora and Fauna:

The Park represents the Northern Tropical dry deciduous mixed forest as well as dry thorn forest, typical of North-Western Madhya Pradesh. *Kardhai* is the dominant tree species. The forests here are home to antelopes like *Nilgai*, *Chinkara* and *Chowsinga* and *Deers* including *Chital*, *Sambar* and *Barking Deer*. One can see animals like *Leopard*, *Wolf*, *Jackal*, *Fox*, *Wild Dog*, *Wild Pig*, *Porcupine*. *Marsh Crocodile*, *Turtles* and the *Snakes* represent the reptilian fauna.

Having a varied terrain of wooded hills, dry, mixed deciduous forests, and flat grasslands around the lakes, the park offers abundant opportunities of sighting a variety of wildlife including the avian fauna.

History of the Park:

Shivpuri town in the state of Madhya Pradesh was once the summer capital and the former hunting ground of the Maharaja of Gwalior. Even before this, during the reign of the Mughals, its dense forests were the hunting grounds of the Mughal emperors. Large herds of elephants were captured here by Emperor Akbar. Since the area was a Royal shooting reserve, it was well protected, which was abounded with wildlife and was famous for its tigers. Tigers and other co-predators were known to wander in great numbers in the area. It is reported that in 1916, Lord Hardinge shot eight tigers in one day at Shivpuri.

Lord Minto supposed to have shot 19 tigers during his trip to Gwalior state. The last of the resident wild tigers were seen in Madhav National Park around late 1970. Owing to dedicated efforts, the habitat has bounced back and has become a secured habitat for the transient tigers. Occasional presence of the tigers is being in the Park since October 2007.

On the shores of Sakhya Sagar lake which edges the forests, is a Boat Club, from where the park visitors can see a number of migratory birds especially in winter, when a large number of migratory waterfowls visit the area. A viewing lodge constructed by the Maharaja called the Shooting Box, is situated above the Sakhya Sagar lake. In the older days, prior to the commencement of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, one could shoot wildlife, both with a gun and camera from here. Visitors could sit under cover and watch a tiger at a kill.

All around the lake (at suitable points), the Maharaja constructed boat landing areas, picnic shelters, watch towers, hides etc. and a network of well laid out metalled roads.

Deep inside the Madhav National Park, at its highest point, stands the exquisite George Castle at a height of almost 484 m (1597 feet). Interestingly the castle was built by Jivaji Rao Scindia of the Gwalior Royal family for an overnight halt for tiger shooting by the British King George V, when he was to pass that way during his visit to India in 1911. Ironically, it so happened that the emperor could shoot a tiger on the way itself and did not stop at the Castle.

Other Places of Interest:

Apart from the Park Safari, other places of tourist interest are Tunda Bharka spring, Bhura-kho spring, George Castle, Shooting Box, Baradari, Sailing Club, Ghadi Ghar, Watch towers, Golf Tower and Churanchhaj ancient wall paintings.

General Information:

Total Park Area	: 354.61 Sq Km.
Legal Status	: National Park was established in 1958 (165.32 sq.km.), Extension Area was added in 1982 and 1999 (189.29)

Geographic Location

Longitude	: 77°38'E 77°57'E
Latitude	: 25°20'E 77°35'E
Altitude	: 380 to 480 m (MSL)

Atmospheric Parameters

Precipitation	:	800 mm
Maximum Temperature	:	47°C
Minimum Temperature	:	03°C

Seasons

Monsoon	:	July - September
Summer	:	March - June
Winter	:	November - January

Entry Points:

Madhav National Park can be visited from two Gates. Link to the Google directional maps are within the brackets.

1. NH-25 on Old Jhansi Road (<https://goo.gl/maps/E7zzynLG5EJ2>) and
2. NH-3 Agra-Mumbai Road on Shivpuri-Gwalior Road (<https://goo.gl/maps/w7i2EP3sP9v>).

Distance from Shivpuri (Kms):

Name of City		Distance	Name of City		Distance
Gwalior	:	115	Bhopal	:	320
Jhansi	:	95	Delhi	:	428
Agra	:	225	Indore	:	375
Mumbai	:	971	Lucknow	:	415

Nearest Railway Station (Kms):

Name of Railway Station		Distance
Shivpuri	:	0
Gwalior	:	115
Jhansi	:	95

Nearest Airport:

Gwalior - 115 Kms

Best Season:

The Park is open round the year. October to March is the best season to witness the different shades of the forest. Waterfalls in Bhura Kho and Tunda barkha during the peak monsoon are a treat to watch and not to be missed. During summer, wildlife sightings are much better compared to the rest of the seasons. Winter season provides the best opportunity for watching migratory waterfowls in Sakhya Sagar and adjoining water bodies.

Park Timings:

Park is open to the visitors from Sunrise to Sunset. Timings are subjected to change with the season of the year.

Park Entry Fees (Rupees):

Madhav National Park does not have any registered vehicle for Park Safari. All the entry permits are issued for Unregistered vehicles at the following notified rates for the Year 2017-18.

Activity	Mode of Entry	Rate
Park Safari	Jeep/Car/Gypsy (LMV) (Max of 6 persons)	1500
	Mini Bus	3000
Visit to All Specified Destinations (Sailing Club, Bhura Kho, Tunda Barkha)	Two Wheelers (Max of 2 persons)	200
	Jeep/Car/Gypsy (LMV) (Max of 6 persons)	600
	Mini Bus	1200
Visit to a Single Specified Destination	Two Wheelers (Max of 2 persons)	100
	Auto Rickshaw (Max of 3 persons)	200
	Jeep/Car/Gypsy (LMV) (Max of 6 persons)	300
	Mini Bus	600

Note: Guide/Naturalist Fees shall be payable extra

Guide/Naturalist Fees (Rupees):

Guide Class	Visit by Vehicle Per Round	Visit by Trekking/Cycle	Camping One Night & Two Days
G 2	360	700	1400

Photography/ Filming Fees (Rupees):

Permission for special filming/Videography/Photography in the Park shall be given by the Chief Conservator of Forest & Director, Madhav National Park in the name of the Camera Man at the following scheduled rates:

Duration	Indian Educational/Research Institutes/Departments and Institutes of Govt of India and State of Madhya Pradesh	Others	Remarks
First 7 Days	5000	20000	Per Camera Man Per Day
8 th to 15 th Day	3750	15000	
16 th Day Onwards	2500	10000	

Accommodation Rates (Rupees):

A modest accommodation is available in the National Park premises in Sailing Club area. To avoid inconvenience, rooms can be booked in advance by request over mail or phone.

Name of the Unit	Room Details	Number of Rooms	Rate for Visitors
Sailing Club	AC Suite	2	2500
Band Stand	AC Rooms	3	1500
Ladies Club	AC Rooms	2	1500
Eco Lodge	Non AC Rooms	2	1000

Note: Canteen Facility is available for all the rooms and food can be served on prior intimation at scheduled rates.

Contact Details:

Should the visitors require any assistance, please feel free to communicate.

Chief Conservator of Forest and Director

Madhav National Park, Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh - 473551

Email: fdmnp.svp@mp.gov.in

Phone: +91 7492 223379

Note: Rates shown in the Tables are vide Notifications of Govt of Madhya Pradesh and Orders of Chief Conservator of Forest and Director, Madhav National Park, Shivpuri. *These rates are subject to change.*

Madhya Pradesh Tiger Foundation Society:

One can avail the Opportunity to become a Proud Member of Madhya Pradesh Tiger Foundation Society and can Donate and help for the Conservation of the Wild.

The donations given to the society entitle the donor to claim income tax exemption under section 80 (g) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

M.P. Tiger Foundation Society is eligible for CSR spendings according to Schedule VII , Clause 135 of Companies Act, 2013.

For more details, please log on to <http://mfp.mpforest.org/tiger/Home.aspx>