

## Evaluating the Historical and Cultural Tourism Potential of Gwalior: A Comprehensive Analysis

Arsh Emmanuel Lall<sup>1</sup>, Aparna Rawat<sup>2</sup> Anupam<sup>3</sup> Shishir Kumar<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Student, Masters in Urban & Regional Planning, GCA, AKTU, Lucknow

<sup>2</sup>Student, Masters in Urban & Regional Planning, GCA, AKTU, Lucknow

<sup>3</sup>Assistant. Professor, Faculty of Architecture & Planning, AKTU, Lucknow

<sup>4</sup>Assistant. Professor, Faculty of Architecture & Planning, AKTU, Lucknow

### ABSTRACT

This paper explores the tourism potential of Gwalior, a historical city with rich cultural heritage. By providing background information on the city, it aims to identify key factors shaping its tourism landscape. The research objectives include studying tourism potential, identifying challenges faced by locals and tourists, assessing existing infrastructure facilities, and delineating the scope for tourism development. Primary data was collected through a multiple-choice questionnaire, targeting both locals and tourists, to decode prevalent issues. Additionally, the quality of urban spaces was analysed across various parameters. This study contributes to understanding Gwalior's tourism prospects and provides insights for planning interventions for enhancing visitor experiences and fostering sustainable tourism growth in the city.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- Tourism encompasses a wide range of leisure activities pursued by individuals traveling for pleasure, relaxation, or business. It has evolved into one of the world's largest industries, driving rapid global economic growth. India, celebrated for its rich cultural heritage and geographical diversity, is a prominent global tourism destination.
- According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), tourism contributed significantly to India's GDP, accounting for 6.6% in 2012, with a projected robust annual growth rate of 7.9% from 2013 to 2023. By 2017, India ranked as the seventh-largest tourism economy in terms of GDP. The Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2021 ranked India 54th out of 117 countries, with France, the United States, Spain, Turkey, and Germany leading the list. India was the 25th most visited country.
- As of 2021, tourism is a vital contributor to India's economy, accounting for approximately 6.8% directly and 8.4% indirectly of GDP, providing employment to over 79 million people. Madhya Pradesh ranks 8th in domestic tourism with a 3.94% contribution and 3.5% in international visits.
- Despite Gwalior's immense tourism potential, it remains underexplored due to neglect and a tarnished reputation. Rich in historical, archaeological, religious, and ecological sites, Gwalior's tourist footfall remains low. This city, with its rich history from Vedic times through various dynasties, forms the historical core of the Chambal division in Madhya Pradesh. Strategically located between major tourist destinations like Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, Gwalior is the starting point of the primary tourist circuit in Madhya Pradesh, which includes Shivpuri, Orchha, and Khajuraho. Despite this, in 2021, Gwalior contributed only 1.01% of domestic tourists and 0.48% of international tourists in Madhya Pradesh.

## 2. FEATURES AT GLANCE

- It was founded by Rājā Shoor Sen and named on Saint Gwalipa. Gwalior is inscribed in Mahābhārat as Goprāshtra.
- It is famous as Tānsen Nagri and famous as the Historical City of Madhya Pradesh. Today's Geography of Gwalior is divided into 3 parts which also have historical and architectural significance i.e Kila Gate, Morar, and Lashkar.
- Kila Gate (Gwalior) is the oldest region and having the influence of Rajput and Islamic architecture, whereas as in Morar, some buildings have British architecture and in Lashkar region, most of the buildings belong to Scindia dynasty.
- Gwalior is awarded as the “Best Heritage City” in National Tourism Award 2013-14.

## 3. GWALIOR HISTORICAL TIMELINE

### 1000-1500: Flourishing Beginnings

- Gwalior thrived around natural boundaries, with the fort as the central hub. Activities focused in the fort and the northern part of the town.
- Key sites include Jayanti Thora temple, Sagar Tal, Masjid and Jain temples.

### 1501-1650: Mughal Rule and Trade Centre

- Under Mughal rule (16th-18th century), a mosque near Badal Garh Gate became the trade centre.
- Growth extended from north to east (Hazira area).

### 1841-1880: British Connection and Cantonment

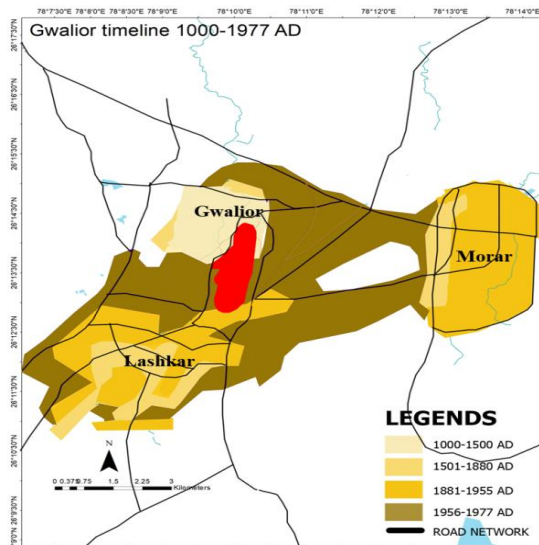
- Old Gwalior connected to Lashkar and Morar under British and Scindia rule.
- Morar, east of the fort, became the British cantonment with Phool Bagh and Jai Vilas palace.

### 1881-1925: Concentrated Settlements and Industrialization

- Lashkar, Hazira, and Morar formed concentrated settlements.
- Industrialization and railways linked the city (1881-1914).

### 1925-1956: Scindia's Last Phase and Industrial Boom

- Gwalior thrived under Scindia rule; industrialization surged.
- Textile mills in east Hazira transformed Gwalior into a bustling town.



Source: Author

Figure 9. 1 Gwalior timeline 1000-1977 AD

#### 4. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN GWALIOR

We divided the tourist attractions in Gwalior into following categories:

**Historical Spaces:** Spaces with have historical background and shows the history of Gwalior.

**Religious spaces:** Spaces which are used to worship and have spiritual feelings attached to them.

**Conserved spaces:** Historical spaces that were used for different purpose before but are now renovated and there utility is also changed.

**Recreational Space:** Spaces which are used for leisure and have eco-friendly environment, basically include green spaces.

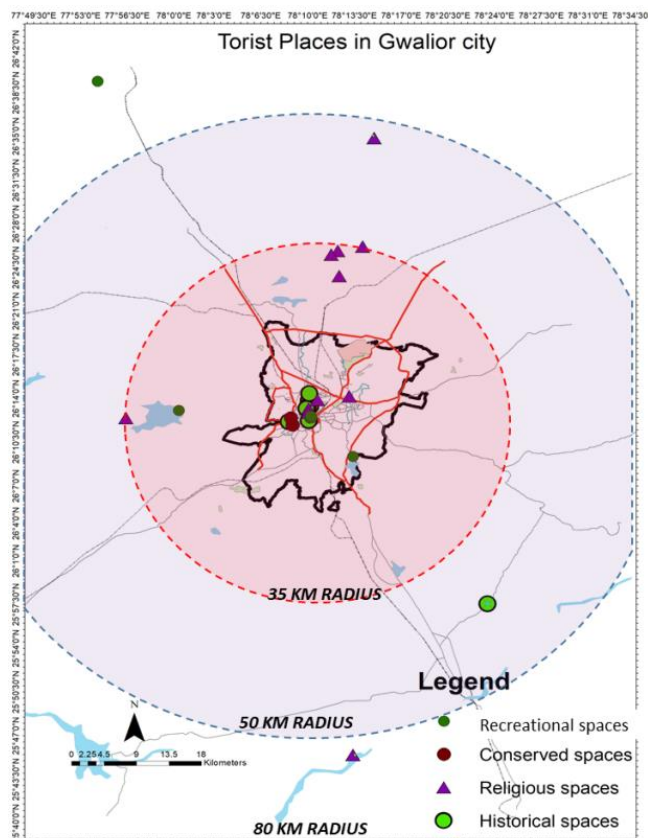
##### i. TOURIST ATTRACTIONS WITHIN THE CITY

There are total **17 tourist attractions** in Gwalior which include

**7 Historical spaces, 4 Religious spaces, 2 Conserved spaces ,4 Recreational Spaces.**

##### ii. EXCURSION SITES IN GWALIOR

- **Excursion sites** are tourist attractions that are located close to the city and can be visited in short span of time.
- There are total 10 excursion sites located near Gwalior, which include **1 historical spaces, 7 religious spaces and 2 recreational spaces**
- These Excursion sites are divided into three part:
  - Location under 35km
  - Location under 50Km
  - Location under 80Km radius
- There are about 6 location identified under 35km radius, 2 locations located under 50 km radius and 2 locations located under 80 km radius



Source: author

Figure 9. 2 Excursion sites near Gwalior

## 1. GWALIOR TOUR TIMELINE:

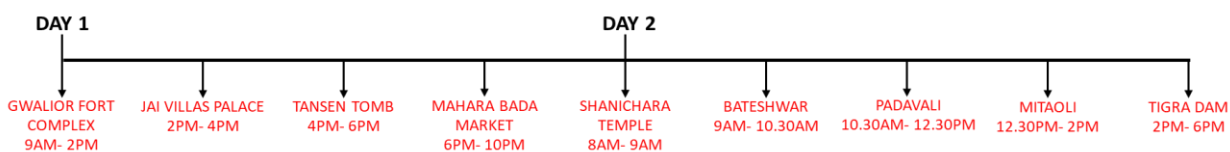
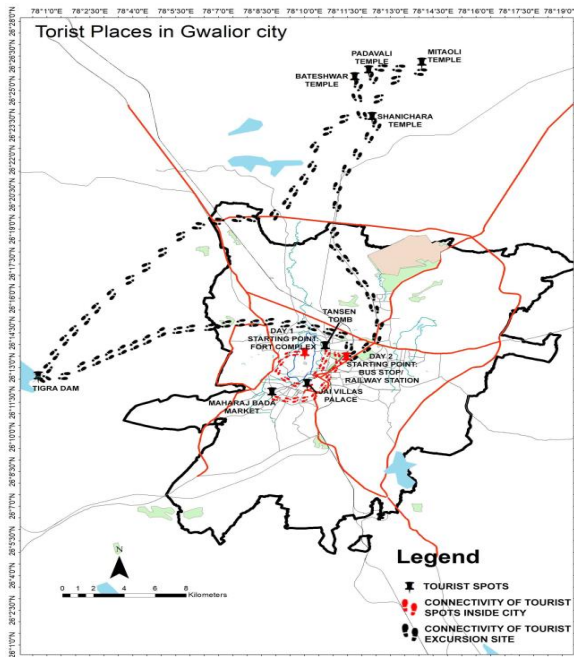


Figure 9. 3 Gwalior Tour Timeline



Source: author

Figure 9. 4 tour guideline connectivity

## 5. URBAN DESIGN ANALYSIS

### Parameters of place making (Urban Design)

- **Sociability**-social activity, Interaction , the ability for the public to become attracted to a space that allows them to conduct social and leisure activities, whether individually or as a group
- **Activity**- This involves the no of activates happening, incorporating green infrastructure, or the activity is happening there which it was made for.
- **Linkage Access**-the ease of crowd can reach to that place .ease of finding the means of transport to reach.
- **Comfort Image** -designing public spaces that are comfortable, safe, and the image of the place should be comfortable read relate & connect .Should be inclusive
- **Note**-The rating has been given on the basis 200 of sample survey in the public

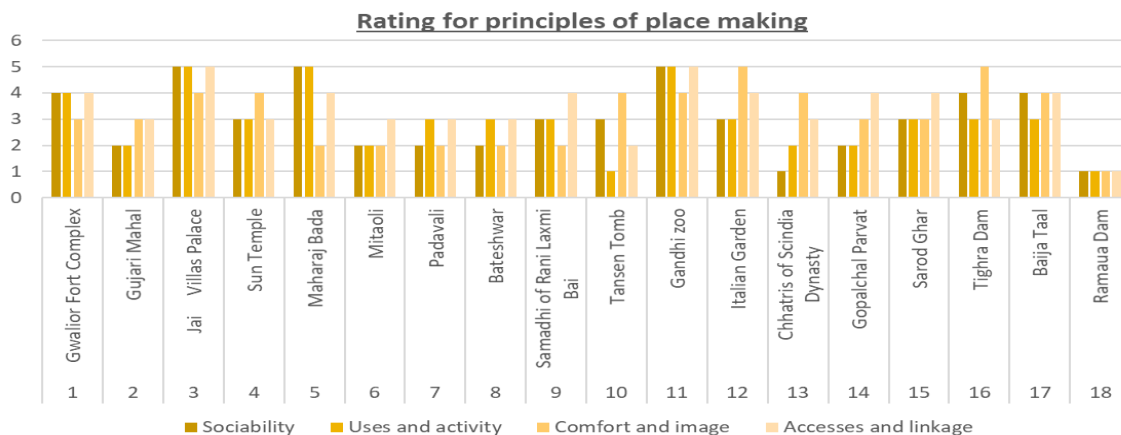


Figure 9. 5 Analysing the urban spaces on the measurement scale

## A. FIELD SURVEY

There are total 200 samples collected from household survey.

1. How frequently do you visit tourist places?

Duration of Time	No. of People
Once a month	37
Twice a month	21
More than twice	21
Occasionally	74
No response	41

Table 9. 1 Domestic visitors to tourist spaces

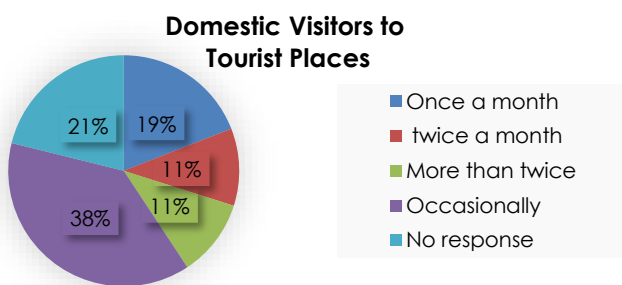


Table 9. 2 Percentage of number of time domestic visitors visit tourist spaces

### Inference:

- As we see that major population visit tourist place occasionally but there is potential to increase the visitors when we notice the people who visit is -79.
- Answers like “nothing will be visible in evening.”
- OUTPUT**-Place making of the place for the people to make that place a go to visits option.

2. If Gwalior goes under redevelopment which tourist location (building or bazaar) would you want should develop first?

Tourist Attractions	No. of People
Fort Complex	3
Bada Bazar	5
Sun Temples	0
Zoo	0
Jai Villas Palace	0
No Suggestion	191

Table 9. 3 Tourist location to be developed first

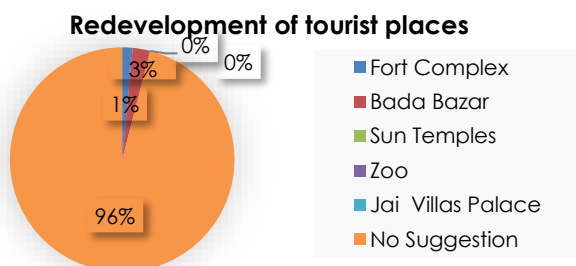


Figure 9. 6 Percentage of redevelopment of tourist places

#### Inference:

- As per survey, most of the people suggested Bada followed by fort complex to be redeveloped
- OUTPUT**-To make the Maharaja Bada and its market a priority in the sequence of development. Followed by Fort complex.

### 3. Visiting these old forts and other tourist places at evening? (Y/N)

Yes	154
No	44

Table 9. 4 survey answers (yes/no)

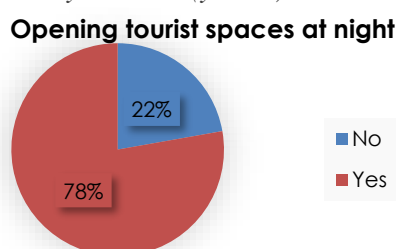


Figure 9. 7Percentage of people saying yes/no

#### Inference:

- Due to the clash of free hours in daily schedule of working people (generally 9-5) they never visit these places .they only
- People tend visit those place which are open in late evening like Italian garden, Bejha taal.
- OUTPUT**-Some amendments for the timing to make those places as an option to visit.

### 4. How frequently do you visit the old bazaar?

Duration of Time	No. of People
Once a month	28
Twice a month	41
More than twice	27
Occasionally	56
No response	46

Table 9. 5 No. of times domestic visitors visiting old bazaar

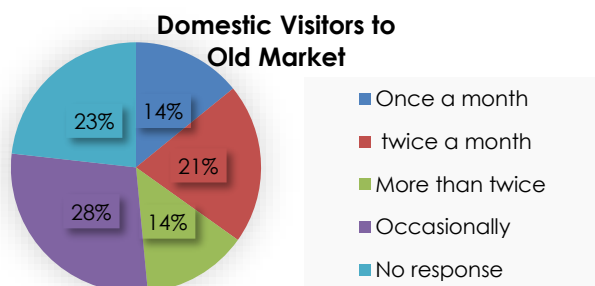


Figure 9. 8 Percentage of No. of times domestic visitors visiting old bazaar

#### Inference:

- Generally people go to Bada market for shopping
- People visiting there occasionally

Reason –Vehicular congestion, overcrowding .

- **OUTPUT-** To make that place safe for pedestrian and to counter the vehicular congestion to reach the Bada market.

#### 5. What is your preference for visiting that place?

Tourist Attractions	No. of People
Fort Complex	47
Bada Bazar	14
Sun Temples	9
Zoo	9
Jai Villas Palace	15
Others	101

Table 9. 6 Most preferred tourist attraction

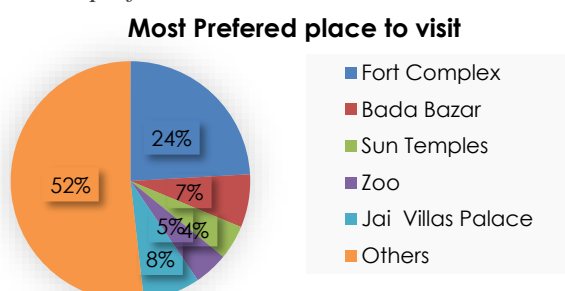


Figure 9. 9 percentage of most preferred tourist attraction

#### Inference:

- Reason –The fort complex have many place to visit –Man singh Palace, Gujri Mahal, Sura Kund, Sahatrabahu temple, Teli ka mandir, Gurudwara. As we see that the whole hill top is covered with different function.

## 6. Does your coming generation wish to stay and settle? (Y/N)

Yes	106
No	92

Table 9. 7 Survey answer (yes/no)

### Coming generation wish to stay and settle

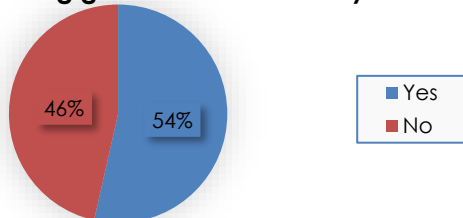


Figure 9. 10 Percentage of people said yes/no

### Inference:

- As per the interview the main reason to out-migrate from the city is employment.
- OUTPUT** – To strengthen the tourism sector in order to create employment.

## B. ISSUES AS PER OBSERVATION

### i. FORT COMPLEX

- The property which ASI maintains are properly kept but the area is under the state archaeology dept. is not maintained properly.

#### Discontinued pathway –cleanliness-Legibility

- The face-lifting done under the Smart City initiative is not maintained properly there is confusion about maintaining the body.
- There is only one vehicular access to the hilltop Urvai gate, which is not wide enough to segregate the pedestrian. Thus it makes pedestrian movement unsafe, and there is no segregation.
- The sculptures on the way of the mountains are not maintained properly and are under shadow zone, which results in anti-social activities after evening.
- All water bodies such as Suraj Khund, Jauhar Khund, etc. are contaminated.

### ii. TANSEN TOMB

- It is located near a dense area Tansen Nagar the approach road is very narrow hence it is not visible.
- There is no information regarding the structure made.
- There is no interactive space for people to relate with Tansen's history



Figure 9. 11 Tansen tomb and Maraja Bada

### iii. MAHARAJA BADA

- Identity- people identify it as a big market rather than to be identified as a historical place.
- Parking, vehicular congestion, not a pedestrian-friendly street.

#### iv. BATESWAR, KAKANMATH, MATAVALI & PADAVALI

- Not connected to the major area and one has to reach by own convenience and arrangements.
- Not formally branded as other sites in Gwalior.



Figure 9. 12 Bateswar, Kakanmath, Matavali & Padavali

## 6. CONCLUSION

Undoubtedly, Gwalior possesses significant potential in the realm of tourism, particularly in historical and cultural sectors. It is imperative for the government to undertake necessary measures to bolster tourism in Gwalior. The Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. needs to focus more attention on this historically rich city. Furthermore, the Government of India should allocate a substantial financial package to this tourist destination, which should be utilized to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure and to promote the city effectively.

Though city has responsive authorities, they need to come together and synchronize in the execution of the strategies. In order to execute the development strategies they need to avoid piece-meal execution and follow the project timeline.

Strategies should be made for the public visiting hours in historic places as per the public convenience to maintain the connection between the locals and the places .

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Sangeetha R. (2012). "Scope of Tourism: Indian Perspectives" International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology, Vol. 1, Issue 2, December 2012, pp. 247 251
- The Central India State Gazetteer series Gwalior state Gazetteer: Captain Luard C.E, Rai Sahab Pandit Dwarka Nath Sheopuri (1908) Gwalior State Gazetteer, Volume I, Superintended Government Printing, and India.
- Gwalior's Political and Cultural History of India: Khan Gulab Gauri, Ph.D Thesis, Jiwaji University, Gwalior
- Report-integrated tourism development plan Gwalior region 2022 By MPTB
- Report- India Tourism Statistics, 2022
- M.P Tourism, The Heart of Incredible India.
- Gwalior smart city report & Gwalior masterplan 2021
- Madhya Pradesh District Gazetteer, Krishnan, V.S, 1965, Bhopal Government Central Press.