When the humdrum of life becomes cacophonous, it is time to head to the Madhav National Park in Shivpuri, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.

Here, listen to the sounds of silence in a retreat ideal for both nature lovers and those seeking to reconnect with their souls. The rich, lush forest reserve will transport you to another world.

It is with a feeling of wonder that visitors soak in the natural wealth of the reserve and its erstwhile grandeur reflected in the architectural wonders that dot the park. In pre-independence India, Shivpuri was the summer capital of the Scindia rulers of Gwalior.

Situated on the gentle slopes of the upper Vindhyan hills, the park is spread over 355 square kilometres. The terrain definitely sets the mood — of unhurried ease, in the lap of mother nature. Nearly 15 km south west of Gwalior, which is also the nearest airport, the park is almost 430 km south of Delhi.

To city-concrete weary eyes, the Sakhya and Madhav Sagar lakes present nature in all its glory. Deep and calm, their waters provide just the right aquatic wetland for migratory birds...
The forests of the Madhav National Park are so vast that it is an experience to spot large-eyed and graceful deer lounging in a shady glade, casting their get-together! Even though startled, an impressively curious buck stops and stares.

The forest guards are zealous in guarding the flora and fauna of the forest. If you do step off your vehicle, be ready to be accosted by a majestic King Cobra with its hood spread out most threateningly. The forest guide will immediately warn you to be careful as the snakes move in pairs. The important lesson is to treat the animals’ habitat with respect.

Other species at the park are nilgai, sambar, four-horned antelope, sloth bear, leopard and the common langur. 

When night falls, a surreal hush descends. Sit on a bench; be prepared to have your breath taken away as you gaze at the crystal clear night sky in its stunning view of the Milky Way. You will alternate between disbelief at the majesty of the skies and a deep spiritual dawning within you.

Once you have rested your body and soul, it is time to begin your day early, with a jungle safari. The forest is marked between disbelief at the majesty of the skies and a deep spiritual dawning within you.

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