

**Orchha** (1/14/2008 to 1/16/2008)

Today Orchha is a small sleepy little village but it was once the capital of a princely state during the 16<sup>th</sup> to late 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Decaying reminders of its grander past lie scattered around the village in the form of palaces, ruined havlies, temples, and cenotaph's (monuments built on the sites of cremations) of the former rulers. Today the village's business revolves around tourists (mostly the backpacker type) and pilgrims who flock here to visit the Ram Raja temple apparently the only one where the Hindu God Rama (incarnation of Vishnu) is worshipped as a king. It's a pleasant place to wander enjoying the rural landscape and decaying monuments, with the orange clad sadhus (Hindu holy men) decorate the temples and river bank. There was also a major bathing festival occurring while I was there so more pilgrims than usual were in town to bath in the river. It was an easy place to spend three days.



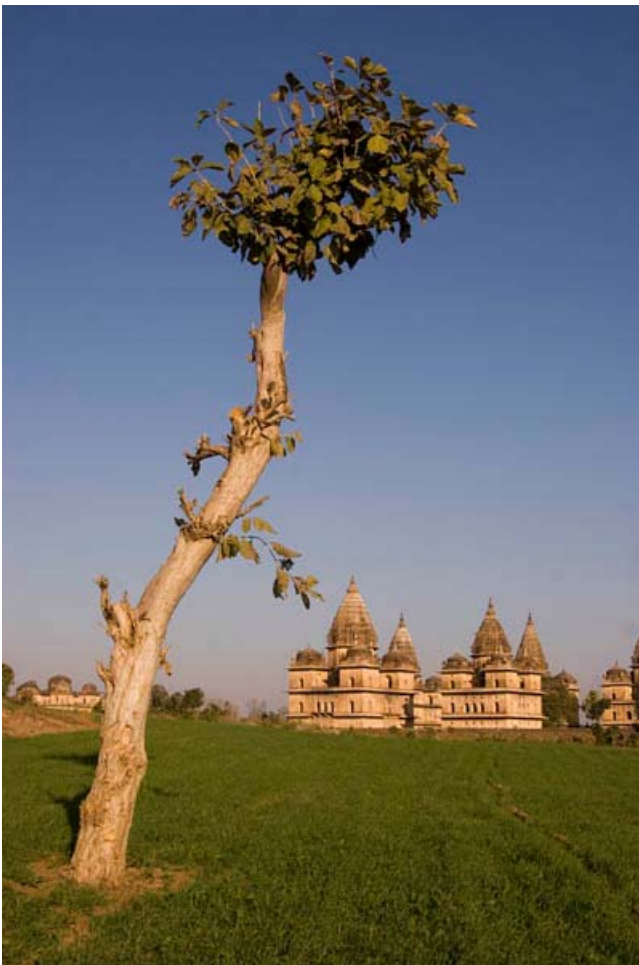
**Towards Chaturbhuj Temple from the Cenotaphs, Orchha.**

**Jehangir Mahal (17<sup>th</sup> century), Orchha.**





**Chaturbhuj Temple,  
Orchha.**



**Cenotaphs, Orchha.**



**Parakeet perched on a branch growing out  
of one of the cenotaphs, Orchha.**



**Cenotaphs, Orchha.**



**Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha.**



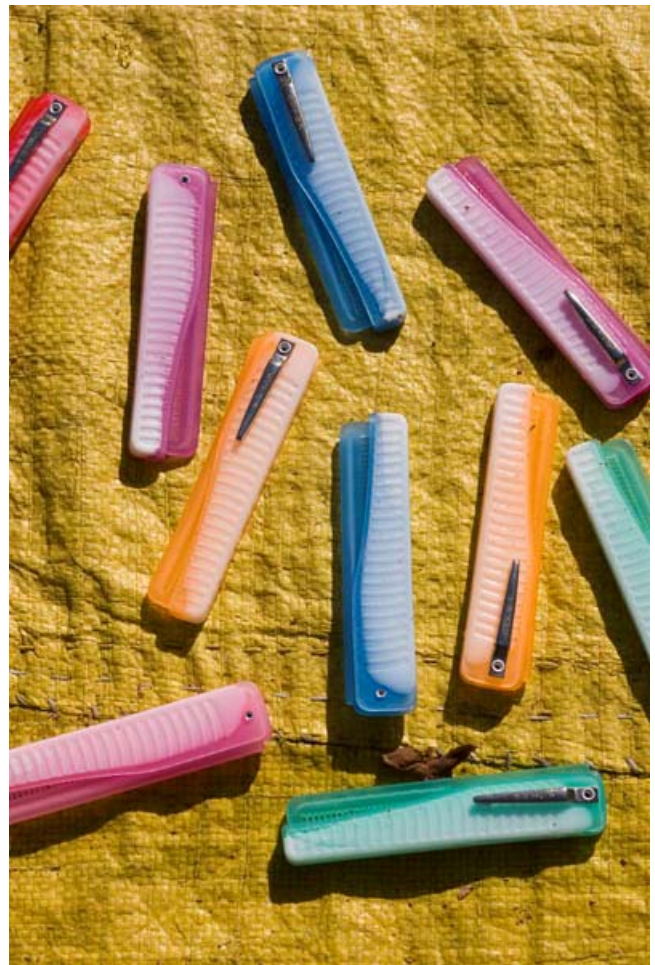
**A French guy I met was gave his camera to a kid and had him take some pictures, Orchha.**



**Colorful saris, Orchha.**



**Colorful dyes, Orchha.**



**Colorful combs, Orchha.**



**Drying a sari after bathing in the river, Orchha.**



**Selling "festive hats," Orchha.**



**A nice smile, Orchha.**



**Sunset by the river and the cenotaphs, Orchha.**



**Orchha.**



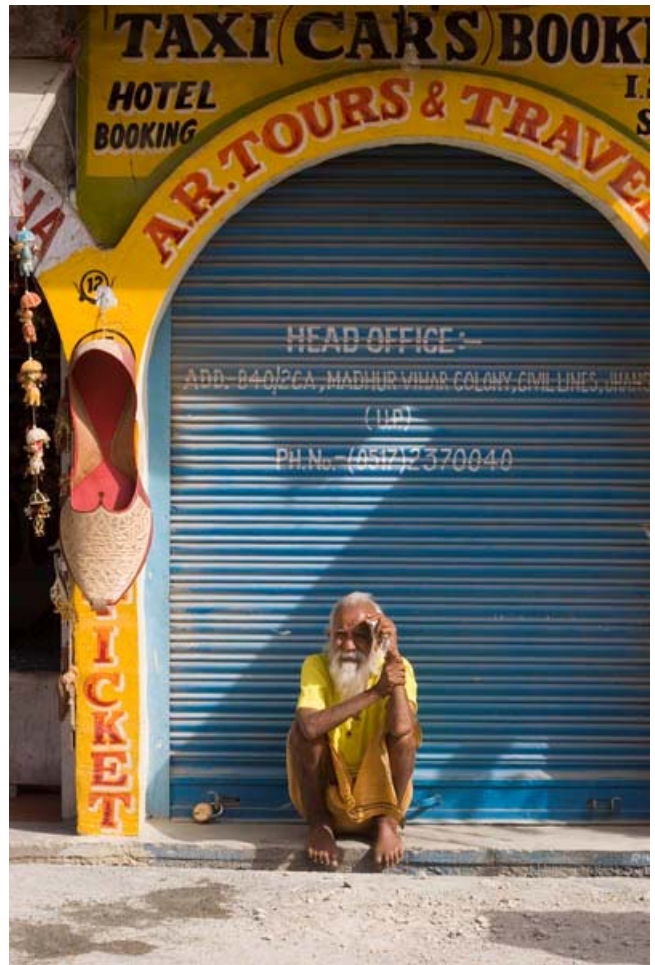
**Holding a flower, Orchha.**



**Sadhu at sunset, Orchha.**



**Meditating sadhu, Orchha.**



**Just waiting around next to a shoe shop, Orchha.**



A guy gets a “very masculine” tattoo on the street, Orchha. I’m sure it was cheap but I wasn’t tempted either by artist’s talent or the reused needle.



Words of wisdom being exchanged on a doorstep in Orchha.



Orchha.



**Sunset over the cenotaphs, Orchha.**



**Bringing water into the house, Orchha.**



**Idle time, Orchha.**