

Incredible India



Scenic · Serene · Sublime

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GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA**

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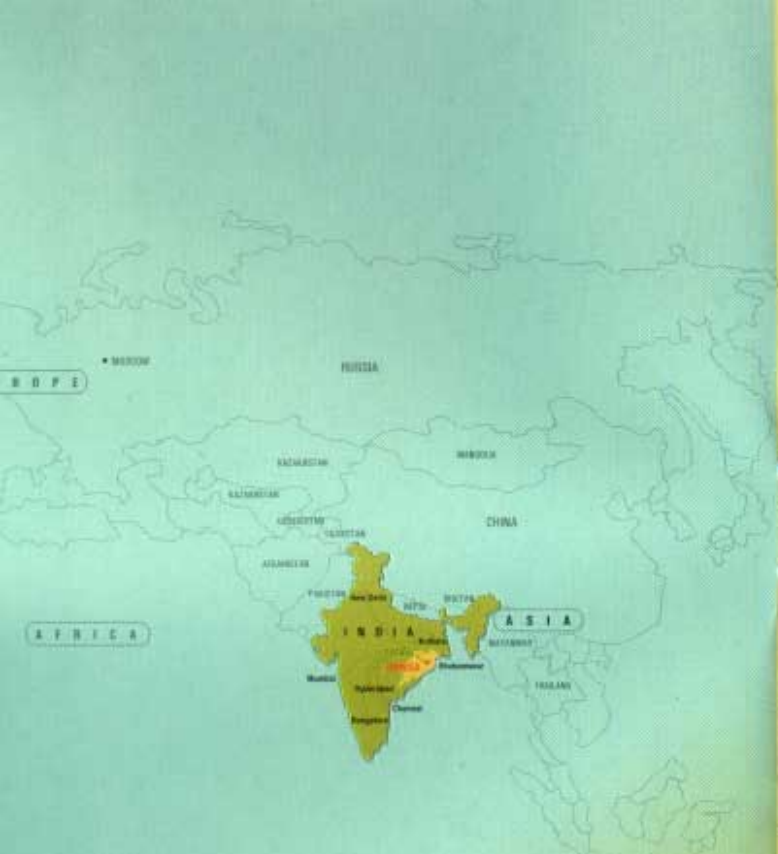
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**Explore
Orissa**

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Pride of Heritage

Orissa, a land of quintessential charm, with its natural bounties, gracefully blends the old world splendour with the modern day developments.

While nature abounds in all its glory with unspoilt and alluring beaches, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, hills, forests, wildlife and a tribal culture, which is still vibrant with its unique lifestyle, Orissa is impressive with its rich tradition of art, architecture and sculpture.

A visual feast of colours, varieties and surprises, a cultural journey into one of the oldest civilizations in the world and as a holiday destination, Orissa promises wonderful experience.

The 11th century temple of Lord Lingaraj at Bhubaneswar is the epitome of architectural beauty and sculpted elegance.



Sublime Orissa

Orissa is dotted with ancient temples all over. And every temple has a tale of its own. Bhubaneswar, the temple city, still reverberates with holy chants everyday. The Golden Triangle, Bhubaneswar- Puri-Konark, is a treasure-trove of Orissan art and architecture.

Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar, the capital city, boasts of monuments starting from 2nd century B.C. (Khandagiri - Udayagiri caves) to the temples of 7th to 13th century A.D. The temples are embellished with finest carvings. The Nandankanan Zoological Park, Ashokan Rock Edict and the Peace Pagoda at Dhuli are added attractions.

Puri



Known as one of the four holiest places (*Char Dham*) in India, Puri is world-famous for its Jagannath temple. It has also a vast expanse of beach and is known for exquisite traditional art and craft.

Konark



Konark's stupendous Sun Temple, one of the greatest wonders of ancient India, is a UNESCO's World Heritage Monument. Its lovely sun-kissed Chandrabhaga beach is a pristine treasure and is thronged by people to see the sunrise.

Joranda



Joranda is the principal centre of Mahima Cult (*Sunya Mandir* and *Dhwani Mandir*). Besides that, the celebrated Kapilash hill has a mystic aura with its surrounding verdant hills and gurgling springs. Saptasajya and Satkosia Gorge are awesome scenic beauties.

Sambalpur



Sambalpur, with its fabulous forest lands, is the site of unique temples of Samaleswari, Patneswari, Budharaja and Gopaljee. Added attractions are the Leaning Temple of Huma, Hirakud Reservoir & Dam, Ghanteswari and Nrusimhanath.



Serene Orissa

Nestled amidst the emerald hills of Eastern Ghats on one side and the azure blue waters of Bay of Bengal on the other, Orissa is a kaleidoscope of natural beauties and bounties – sometimes tender, sometimes awe-inspiring, but all the time exciting and enchanting. The lush green forests teeming with colourful wildlife, sparkling waterfalls, bubbling hot springs, meandering rivers, large lakes and reservoirs, long coastline with wide and clean beaches, and above all the tranquility of her verdant valleys can keep the visitors spellbound.

Gopalpur-on-Sea



The crumbling walls and pillars of an ancient jetty are witness to Gopalpur's maritime past when it was an active port. Today, it is thronged with visitors and is still pristine. Taratarini, Pati Sonapur and Taptapani are nearby places of interest.

Taptapani



Taptapani, surrounded by hills, is famous for its natural hot sulphur spring and beautiful environs. It makes a nice stopover from Gopalpur-on-sea and Berhampur to Koraput.

Chandipur-on-Sea



The beauty of Chandipur-on-sea is that one can walk kilometres into sea when waters recede. It is a beach-combers' delight with abundant sea-shells and driftwoods. Other places of attraction are Panchalingeswar, Remuna, Sajanagarh and Talasari.

Chandrabhaga



Chandrabhaga, famous for its spectacular sunrise, rated as one of the finest beaches in the world, is at a strolling distance from the Sun Temple, Konark.

Dhableswar



A small but beautiful island in river Mahanadi, Dhableswar is an enchanting place. The *Shiva* Temple, perched on a hillock, attracts visitors throughout the year. Cuttack, a millennium-old city of Orissa, is on the way to Dhableswar.

With 482km-long coastline, Orissa has some of the finest beaches in India.



Wild Orissa

One of the greatest benefits of Orissa's vast expanses of unspoilt natural landscape has been its ability to offer a protected yet natural habitat to its incredible wildlife. Its sanctuaries and reserve forests are home to a wide variety of fauna and flora. Some of the most important experiments of wildlife conservation are taking place in these natural habitats, giving the tourists an excellent opportunity to see nature's beauty and bounty, propagated in an environment that is as healthy as it is beautiful.

Similipal



Similipal is one of the significant Wildlife Sanctuaries in India. It is declared as a Tiger Reserve under "Project Tiger". Its major waterfalls are Barehipani and Joranda. Lulung, one of its entry points, has a Forest Lodge of Orissa Tourism.

Bhitarkanika



The Wildlife Sanctuary (a Ramsar Site) is the largest mangrove forest in Orissa. Bhitarkanika is the Sanctuary of Estuarine Crocodiles. Thousands of migratory birds nest on its mangrove island. Further down at Gahirmatha, mass nesting of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles offer a lifetime experience.

Ushakothi



This Sanctuary, also known as Badrama, is situated 48km away from Sambalpur. The gorgeous waterfall of Pradhanpat is the nearest tourist attraction.

Nandankanan



Nandankanan Zoo is encapsulated in a lush landscape. It runs a lion safari and white tiger safari. A major attraction is its ropeway over the lake. Nearby is the Chandaka Elephant Reserve.

Chilika



The brackish water wetland (a Ramsar Site), largest in Asia, spread over more than a thousand square kilometres, Chilika lake is a home to numerous migratory birds. Pleasure boat-rides are supplemented by sighting of Irrawady Dolphins. Satapada, Balugaon, Barkul and Rambha are located in the vicinity.



Tribal Orissa

Orissa has the third largest concentration of tribals of India, forming about one fourth of its total population, mostly inhabiting the jungles and hilly regions. Most of the tribal communities have a fairly high degree of performing and primitive arts, which punctuate their individual and community lives. Each tribe has its rich music and dance, which are variegated, specialized and artistic. They decorate their bodies with tattoo marks and occasionally paint with white and red stripes. They profusely use ornaments like bangles, anklets, earrings and huge necklaces. Special permission is required to visit some of the primitive tribal groups.

Phulbani



Kandhas, mostly seen in Phulbani & Raygada, are the second largest tribe in India and constitute 8% of the total population of Orissa.
Places of Interest: Putudi Waterfall, Boudh, Belghar, Baliguda, Daringibadi & Charisambhu

Raygada



Kandha woman is hard working and helps her husband on economic front. Besides *Kandhas*, *Sauras* are also seen in Raygada.
Places of Interest: Hatipathar, Chatikona, Raygada & Putasingh

Koraput



Tribals of Koraput (*Bonda, Gadaba, Paraja, Koya & Didai*) continue to be of great interest to sociologists and tourists alike.
Places of Interest: Nandapur, Subai, Deomali, Sunabeda, Gupteswar, Machhkund, Onakadelli & Koraput

Mayurbhanj



The antiquity of Mayurbhanj is endorsed by the tribals (*Juanga, Munda, Mankadia & Santhal*), who still prefer to dwell in deep forests and hilly terrains.
Places of Interest: Khiching, Pradhanpat & Deokund

Keonjhar



The tribes of Keonjhar are *Santhal, Juanga & Munda*. Besides habits and habitats, their art, music and dance exude a mystique charm.
Places of Interest: Sanghagra, Badaghagra and Ghatagaon.



Buddhism prospered unhindered from 6th to 12th century AD in Orissa. The concentration of Buddhist antiquities at Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri is an example of the bygone era.



Buddhist Orissa

The great transformation of Emperor Ashoka, after the Kalinga War at the bank of River Daya near Bhubaneswar in 261 BC, led to subsequent patronage and propagation of Buddhism. It was after the Kalinga War that Buddhism spread to Sri Lanka, South-East Asia and the Far East. Chinese traveller Hiuen T'sang, who visited Kalinga in the 7th Century AD, saw more than 100 Buddhist Monasteries and some excellent Centres of Learning.

Dhauli



Dhauli, the Peace Pagoda, lies on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar. It was the site of Kalinga War fought in 261 B.C. It houses one of the many rock-edicicts of Emperor Ashoka. The famous applique work of Pipili is only a few kilometers from here.

Ratnagiri



Ratnagiri has a rich concentration of Buddhist antiquities. Initially evolved as a Mahayana Buddhism Centre, it later on promoted Vajrayana art and philosophy. Its most treasured monument is its beautifully carved stone Door Jamb.

Lalitagiri



Lalitagiri is one of the oldest Buddhist Centres of Orissa, which sang the glory of Buddhism from 3rd century B.C to 15th century A.D. The discovery of Golden Caskets here in 1985, containing sacred bone relics, confirms the sacredness of stupas.

Udayagiri



The third point of the Buddhist Diamond Triangle, Udayagiri has the largest Buddhist complexes, such as Brick Monasteries, Brick Stupa, Dhyani Buddha and Tara.

Langudi



Close to Ratnagiri-Lalitagiri-Udayagiri complex is Langudi, yet another Buddhist site. Recent excavations have unearthed a treasure trove of Buddhist remains.

Odissi, the classical dance form, owes its origin to Orissa.



Festive Orissa

The spirit of fun and fiesta of Orissa finds its roots in the fascinating lifestyle of tribals and the fabulous traditions of the land. Be it the famous **Rath Yatra** exuding religious fervour or the exquisite art forms of dance and music, the calendar of festivity is full.

Rath Yatra



Every year during June-July, Lord Jagannath, brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, step out of the temple premises in Puri, on colourful chariots, to meet and mingle with the masses.

Shreekshestra Utsav



The Puri Festival, held in December, offers the finest of Orissan handloom, handicraft, cuisine, dance, music and its famed sand-art.

Konark Festival



Organised during 1-5 December every year in an open air auditorium with Sun Temple, the World Heritage Monument, as the backdrop, the festival showcases India's classical and traditional dance forms.

Parab



Held in Koraput every November, Parab has emerged as one of the leading tribal festivals of Orissa.

Ekamra Utsav



Bhubaneswar holds major festivals, like: **Ekamra Utsav**, a 15-day bonhomie of dance, music, cuisine & floral shows during the first half of January; **Kalinga Mahotsav**, the festival of Indian martial dance forms, held every February on the foothill of Dhauli and **Rajarani Music Festival**, brings together the music maestros from all over India during the last week of February.



Artistic Orissa

Orissa's rich artistic legacy permeates through time into modern décor, without ever deviating from the basics. Each motif or intricate pattern draws its inspiration from a myth or a folklore, or from the general ethos itself.

Applique Work



The applique works of Pipili, a small village between Bhubaneswar and Puri, are as colourful as they are useful and decorative. The bright cloth motifs are stitched together to create wall-hangings, bags, lamp-shades & umbrellas.

Patta Painting



Depicting religious themes and painted on primed & processed cloths, both cotton and silk, patta paintings are a testimony to the sublime art form of Orissa. The patta painting is mostly practised in Raghurajpur, Puri & Bhubaneswar, using natural colours.

Silver Filigree



The silver filigree of Cuttack is the most intricate metal art form. Its fine needle work and subtlety in creation have given it world-wide popularity.

Stone Carving



Inspired by the ancient temple art and architecture, the Orissan sculpture is sensual as well as spiritual, in spirit and style. Skilled in carving granite, sand and serpentine stones, the sculptors hail mostly from Lalitgiri, Khiching, Khurda, Puri and Bhubaneswar.

Textile



Orissan Handloom is appreciated in India and abroad for its elegance, quality and unique designs. The master weavers mostly hail from Sambalpur, Sonepur, Nuapatna and Berhampur.



TOURIST INFORMATION

Location : 17°.49' and 22°.34' North Latitude, 81°.29' East Longitude on Eastern Coast of India.

Language : Native language is Oriya, a regional language of India. But the travel trade & hotel industry people fluently speak and understand English, Hindi and Bengali as well.

Currency : Indian Rupee

Climate : Tropical. Temperature- Max 40°C(Summer), Min 7°C(Winter) & Average Rainfall 150cm.

Season : Summer - March to June, Rainy - July to September & Winter - October to February. Every season has its own charm. Orissa can be visited round the year. However, the best period is from September to March.

Clothing : Lightweight cotton for summer and rainy season. Warm garments for winter. An umbrella will be useful during Rainy/Summer season.

Approach : **Air**: Orissa is linked with major cities of India through Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar. Kolkata is the nearest international airport. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore are also connected.

Rail: Bhubaneswar is linked by Fast, Super Fast & Express Train services from all major cities of the country.

Road: All tourist spots are connected by fairly good roads with nearby cities on the highways where Taxis & Auto-rickshaws are available. Conducted Package Tours are operated during tourist season from Bhubaneswar, Puri & Cuttack.

Accommodation: Ranging from budget to star category, there are a number of reasonably priced hotels in Orissa. Links to different hotels can be accessed from the website www.orissatourism.gov.in