

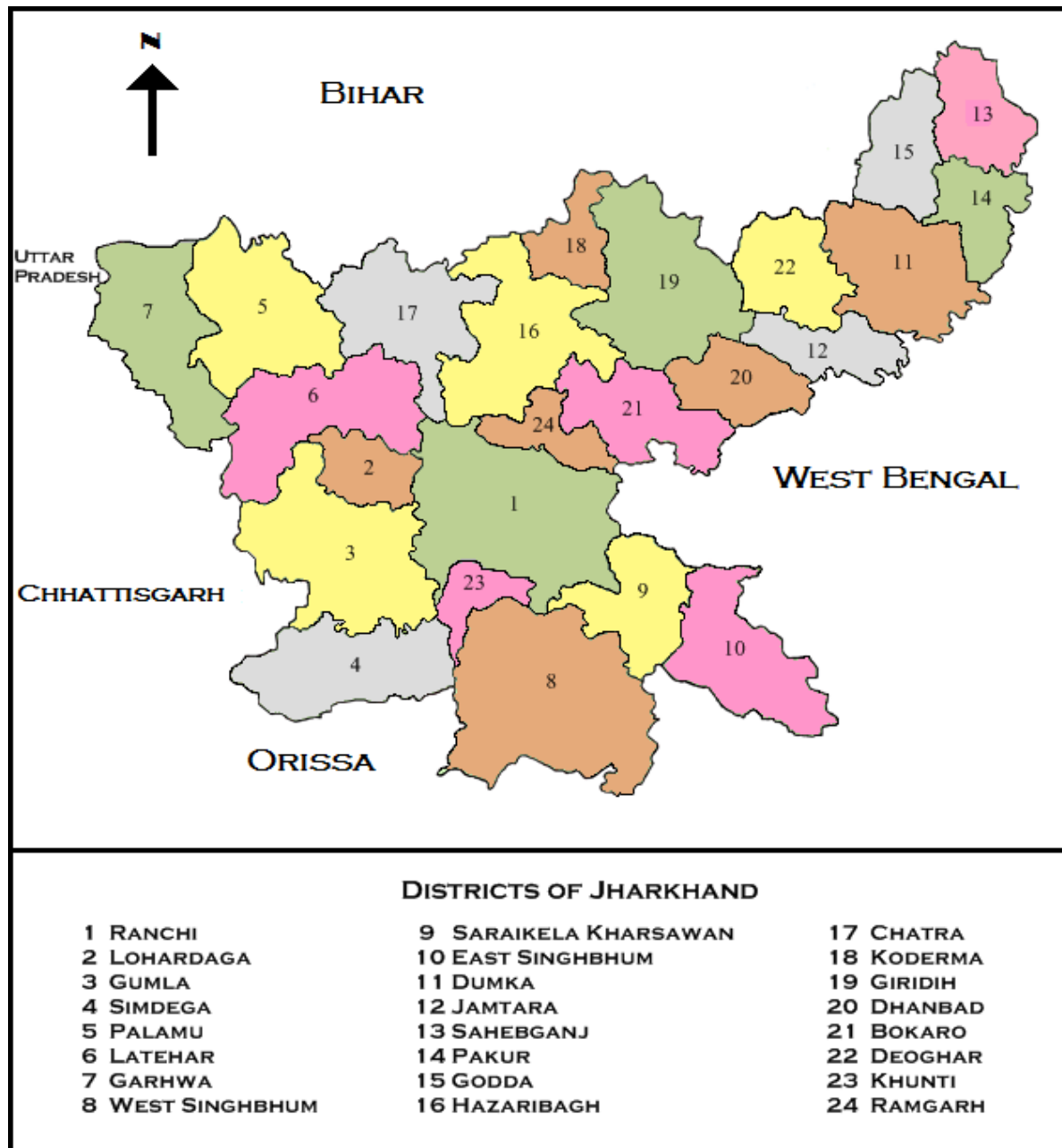


JHARKHAND TEMPLES

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Temples to be visited in Jharkhand ...



1. Jagannath Temple, Ranchi



Built to resemble the Jagannath Temple in Puri, it is a prime attraction of the city. Dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Vishnu, and his brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, the original temple was constructed in 1691 AD by Thakur Ani Nath Shahdeo.

Perched atop a hill, the temple serves as a peaceful getaway for city dwellers who enjoy scenic views of their city from here. Spend some time taking a parikrama and appreciate the imposing sculptures that adorn the 108ft white marble

shikhara. The priests at the temple would love to tell you about its intriguing history and myths.

2. Deori Temple, Bundu



If you are an MSD fan, you have to visit this one. Yes, this is the same temple that cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni visits before crucial tournaments. It is the only temple in the state where Pahans, or tribal priests, conduct the prayer service along with the conventional Brahmins or Pandas. The garbagriha, or sanctum sanctorum, houses the ancient idol of the 16-armed Goddess Durga along with an idol of Lord Shiva. Priests of the temple claim that the idol has been here since time immemorial. The imposing shikhara boasts intricate bas-reliefs featuring idols of Lakshmi, Saraswati, Ganesh and other deities and mythological figures.

3. Baidyanath Temple, Deogarh



One of the 12 jyotirlingas in the country, Baba Baidyanath Dham in Deogarh is possibly the most important pilgrimage destination in Jharkhand. The origins of this temple are steeped in mythology and history. Its earliest mention dates back to the 8th century. A reference of the temple can also be found in the Shiva Purana.

The attractive pyramidal tower of Baidyanath Temple is 72ft high and its top is embellished with three gold vessels. In the inner sanctum stands a large shivalinga. The complex houses as many as 22 smaller temples dedicated to the worship of different deities.

4. Shikharji Temple, Parasnath



Located in Giridih district, the Shikharji Temple is one of the most important Jain pilgrimages in the country. Perched at the peak of the Parasnath Hills, which are named after the 23rd Jain Tirthankara, the temple is a prominent tourism spot in Jharkhand. It stands as a fine specimen of temple architecture with attractive murals that depict the basic tenets of Jainism. When here, you can also indulge in a slew of adventurous activities including parasailing and paragliding.

5. Rajrappa Temple



Been facing issues with your rahu of late? Head to the popular Rajrappa Temple near Bokaro and get it treated. The temple is believed to be the best place in the country for Rahu Nivarana Puja (a special prayer service done by the priests for the removal of rahu from one's kundali).

The age-old temple is among the 51 shaktipeethas spread across the country and it is believed that this is where the head of Goddess Sati fell. This is why the temple is also known as Chhinnamastika Temple because Goddess Sati is worshipped here as Chhinnamastika, one of the ten tantric goddesses or Mahavidyas. Nestled along the confluence of river Damodar and river Bhairavi, the temple boasts a bright red shikhara bedecked with gorgeous carvings.