

Travel Itinerary

Okay, here's a possible 3-day itinerary from Ranchi (RKL) to Rourkela, focusing on mountain views and keeping it within your budget of Rs. 4566. It assumes you're travelling solo and prioritizing cost-effectiveness.

****Assumptions:****

- * ****Rs. 4566 is for EVERYTHING (transport, accommodation, food, activities).**** This requires very budget-conscious choices.
- * ****You're okay with basic accommodation.**** Think dorms, budget guesthouses, or very simple hotels.
- * ****You're comfortable with public transport.**** Buses and shared taxis will be key.
- * ****Food will be simple and local.****

****Day 1: Ranchi to Simdega - Scenic Drive and Hillside Exploration****

- * ****Morning (7:00 AM):**** Start from Ranchi. Take a local bus to Simdega. (Approx. Rs. 150-200). Check for Jharkhand State Road Transport Corporation (JSRTC) buses or private bus operators.
- * ****Afternoon (11:00 AM):**** Arrive in Simdega. Check into a very basic guesthouse or dorm. (Approx. Rs. 300-400 for the entire stay - negotiate!) Search for "budget guesthouse Simdega" online or inquire locally at the bus stand.
- * ****Lunch (1:00 PM):**** Have a simple, local lunch at a roadside eatery. (Rs. 100)
- * ****Afternoon/Evening (2:00 PM - 6:00 PM):**** Explore Simdega and surrounding hills.
 - * ****Option 1 (Budget-Friendly):**** Hire an auto-rickshaw or shared jeep to visit a nearby viewpoint or small hill like *Dangargarh Pahar*. It may require some bargaining (Rs. 300-400) for a round trip if it is very close.

Travel Itinerary

* **Option 2 (Walking):** If the viewpoint is within walking distance (1-2 km), walk! Enjoy the scenery and save money.

* **Evening (7:00 PM):** Have dinner at a local dhaba. (Rs. 100)

* **Night (8:30 PM):** Relax at guesthouse and prepare for the next day.

Day 1 Budget Breakdown:

* Transport (Ranchi to Simdega): Rs. 200

* Accommodation: Rs. 350

* Food: Rs. 200

* Activities/Transport: Rs. 400

* **Day 1 Total: Rs. 1150**

Day 2: Simdega to Rourkela - Crossing the Border and Steel City Introduction

* **Morning (7:00 AM):** Have a quick breakfast at your guesthouse or a local tea stall. (Rs. 50)

* **Morning (8:00 AM):** Take a bus or shared taxi from Simdega to Rourkela. This crosses the state border into Odisha. (Approx. Rs. 200-300)

* **Late Morning (11:00 AM):** Arrive in Rourkela. Find a budget accommodation ? again, a very basic guesthouse or dorm will be crucial. Look near the bus stand or railway station. (Rs. 400-500 for the entire stay ? negotiate!)

* **Lunch (1:00 PM):** Have lunch at a local restaurant near your guesthouse. (Rs. 100)

* **Afternoon (2:00 PM - 6:00 PM):** Explore Rourkela's nearby attractions. Given the budget, focus on places accessible by public transport or walking:

* **Hanuman Vatika:** A famous temple with a large Hanuman statue. (Entry is typically free.

Travel Itinerary

Auto fare - Rs. 100-150 round trip)

- * **Indira Gandhi Park:** A park near the city centre. (Entry fee may apply, but likely minimal.

Walkable from many locations).

- * **Evening (7:00 PM):** Dinner at a local eatery. (Rs. 100)

- * **Night (8:30 PM):** Rest at hotel/ guesthouse.

Day 2 Budget Breakdown:

- * Transport (Simdega to Rourkela): Rs. 300

- * Accommodation: Rs. 450

- * Food: Rs. 250

- * Activities/Transport: Rs. 150

- * **Day 2 Total: Rs. 1150**

Day 3: Rourkela - Mountain Views and Departure

- * **Morning (7:00 AM):** Breakfast at a local stall. (Rs. 50)

- * **Morning (8:00 AM - 12:00 PM):** Focus on a mountain view. This is where pre-planning and asking locals are critical.

- * **Mandar Hills:** Some sources suggest this is near Rourkela, but confirm transport availability and distance. If possible, take a bus or shared transport.

- * **Local Advice:** Ask your guesthouse owner or people at the bus stand for the closest accessible viewpoint. Be prepared to hike a little. Keep costs minimal. Aim for max. Rs. 200 for transportation.

- * **Lunch (12:30 PM):** Have a quick and cheap lunch. (Rs. 100)

Travel Itinerary

* **Afternoon (2:00 PM):** Begin your return journey. Take a bus from Rourkela back to Ranchi or your onward destination. (Rs. 300 -400)

Day 3 Budget Breakdown:

- * Food: Rs. 150
- * Activities/Transport: Rs. 200
- * Transport (Rourkela to Ranchi): Rs. 400
- * Accommodation: Rs. 0
- * **Day 3 Total: Rs. 750**

Total Budget Spent: Rs. 1150 + Rs. 1150 + Rs. 750 = **Rs. 3050**

Saving Amount: Rs. 4566 - Rs. 3050 = **Rs. 1516**

Important Notes and Tips:

- * **Flexibility:** This is a *very* tight budget. Be prepared to adjust the itinerary if transport costs are higher than anticipated. Have backup plans.
- * **Negotiation:** Bargain respectfully for accommodation and auto-rickshaw fares.
- * **Safety:** Be aware of your surroundings, especially when travelling alone and in unfamiliar areas. Inform someone of your itinerary.
- * **Hydration:** Carry water at all times.
- * **Local Language:** Knowing some basic Hindi or Oriya phrases will be helpful.
- * **Travel Light:** A backpack is much easier to manage on buses and shared transport.
- * **Check Bus Timings in Advance:** Confirm bus schedules from Ranchi and Rourkela to avoid

Travel Itinerary

delays.

- * **Food Safety:** Choose restaurants and dhabas that appear clean and have a good turnover of customers.

Possible Budget Cutbacks:

- * **Pack your own snacks:** Reduces food costs.
- * **Stay in a dorm:** Almost always cheaper than a private room.
- * **Walk instead of taking transport:** When possible.
- * **Skip paid attractions:** Focus on free natural scenery.

This itinerary is ambitious given the budget. It will require careful planning, resourceful travel, and a willingness to embrace basic conditions. Good luck!