



Fundas@50 Reunion: 22nd to 25th February 2025
Sterling Resort, Puri
Program Schedule & Excursion Details
 (version dated 1st January 2025)

Day / Time	Location	Event / Activity
Day 1: 22nd February (Saturday)		
On arrival	Bhubaneswar Airport /Railway Station	Arriving Fundas received by welcoming team and directed to vehicles for transfer to resort with light dry snack & soft drink
	Sterling Resort	Welcome, check-in and registration
1:30-3:30 pm	Dining Hall	LUNCH (available till 4:00 pm for late arrivals)
4:30-6:30 pm	Ballroom	Meet & Greet: set the tone for the reunion – celebrate friendships, connect and reconnect, and just relax over tea and light snacks
4:30-5:30 pm	Ballroom	Tea and light snacks
6:30-7:15 pm	Ballroom	Odissi/Sambalpur Dance performance by professional troupe
7:15-9:30 pm	Ballroom	Drinks and snacks Drinks served till 10:00 pm (Coupons for alcoholic drinks to be purchased in advance)
8:30-10:30 pm	Ballroom	WELCOME DINNER
Day 2: 23rd February (Sunday)		
4:00-6:00 am	Jagannath Temple	Early morning visit for Aarti and Darshan (see p. 6 for more details)
6:15-7:00 am	Lawn-1 next to Ballroom	Meditation with Swami Shailendra (40 minutes)
7:30-9:30 am	Dining Hall	BREAKFAST
9:00am-1:30 pm (EXCURSION 1)	Sudam Sand Art Museum & Raghurajpur	Excursion to the unique Sudam Sand Art Museum and the Heritage Crafts Village of Raghurajpur (see p. 3 for more details)
1:30-3:30 pm	Dining Hall	LUNCH (available till 4:00 pm for late arrivals)
3:00-4:00 pm	Ballroom	Entertaining and informative presentations by Fundas spouses on their pursuit of non-traditional activities they are passionate about
4:00-4:45 pm	Ballroom	Tea and light snacks
4:45-6:45 pm (EXCURSION 2)	Golden Beach	Excursion to witness the spectacular sunset at Golden Beach (see p. 4 for more details)
7:15-9:30 pm	Ballroom	Drinks and snacks; drinks served till 10:00 pm (Coupons for alcoholic drinks to be purchased in advance)
7:15-11:00 pm	Ballroom	DJ Night with professional DJ – a mix of danceable English and Hindi songs from our campus days to the latest disco hits – the music will start with drinks & snacks and go on past dinner
8:30-10:30 pm	Ballroom	DINNER

Day / Time	Location	Event / Activity
Day 3: 24th February (Monday)		
4:00-6:00 am	Jagannath Temple	Early morning visit for Aarti and Darshan (see p. 6 for more details)
6:15-6:45 am	Lawn-1 next to Ballroom	Meditation with Swami Shailendra (25 minutes)
7:30-9:30 am	Dining Hall	BREAKFAST
8:30 am-1:30/2:30 pm (EXCURSION 3)	Konark & Ramachandi Beach	Excursion to Konark along scenic Marine Drive; stop on return at Ramachandi Beach with boating option (see p. 5 for more details)
1:30-3:30 pm	Dining Hall	LUNCH (available till 4:00 pm for late arrivals)
3:30-4:00 pm	Reception Area	Group Photo with Professional Photographer (please wear your Fundas T-shirt for this souvenir photograph)
4:00-5:00 pm	Poolside	Demonstration of Odiya Cooking by resort chef
4:30-5:30 pm	Ballroom	Tea and light snacks
5:30-6:30 pm	Ballroom	Antyakshari
6:30-7:30 pm	Ballroom	Tambola
7:30-9:30 pm	Ballroom	Drinks & snacks – drinks served till 10:00 pm. All drinks on the house on Gala Dinner night
7:30-11:00 pm	Ballroom	“Fundas’ Got Talent” – showcasing our talented Fundas and their spouses – great singing, poetry, dance, and humor for nonstop entertainment!
8:30-10:30 pm	Ballroom	GALA DINNER (please come dressed to impress!)
Day 4: 25th February (Tuesday)		
6:15-6:45 am	Lawn-1 next to Ballroom	Meditation with Swami Shailendra (25 minutes)
7:30-9:30 am	Dining Hall	BREAKFAST
Morning	Reception area	Checkout, goodbyes; Transport available for return to Bhubaneswar Airport / Railway Station
Departure	Resort to Bhubaneswar Airport / Railway Station	Transportation provided for Fundas returning to Bhubaneswar Airport or Railway Station to meet their departure times

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE EXCURSIONS AND TEMPLE VISIT

- We hope that everyone can join us on the 3 excursions described on pages 3-5, which we view as group activities we can enjoy together.
- The early morning visit to Jagannath Temple described on page 6 is being organized expressly for those having an interest in making this visit.

EXCURSION 1: Sudam Sand Art Museum and Raghurajpur (23rd February 2025)

Expected duration 4 h 30 m (9:00 am – 1:30 pm). *Light dry snack and water provided.*

Itinerary:

- Leave Sterling at 9:00 am after breakfast
- Travel to Sudam Sand Art Museum (18 km, 30 min)
- At Sudam Sand Art Museum for approx. 45 min at the Museum
- Travel from Museum to Raghurajpur (16 km, under 30 min)
- At Raghurajpur for approx. 2 hours
- Return from Raghurajpur to Sterling in time for lunch (16 km, under 30 min)

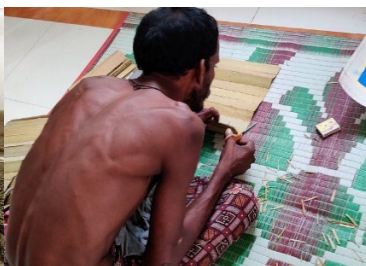
Description of Attractions:

Sudam Sand Art Museum (<https://www.sudamsandartmuseum.com/>). Established by internationally acclaimed sand artist Sudam Pradhan, this rare and unique museum is home to 3D sand art models on numerous themes and in various styles. Some of the prominent and popular sculptures on display include the colorful sand art of Lord Jagannath at the entrance; Konark Sun Temple, Taj Mahal, Lord Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi, and Spider Man. Some of the sculptures are 15-20 feet in height and are standing without any external support. This environment-friendly museum has no wastage, and the sand is reused to cast new sculptures at regular intervals.

Raghurajpur (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raghurajpur>). This village was chosen in 2000 to be developed as Odisha's first heritage craft village. Each of its 120-odd houses has an artist engaged in the trade, making it perhaps the only place in India with such a concentration of artists. It is best known for its Pattachitra art, used to decorate Lord Jagannath and his siblings. Pattachitra literally means painting on a piece of cloth. Portraying scenes from mythology with vibrant colours and superb craftsmanship, the art form has captured the imagination of artists and art lovers alike. Apart from that, the village is also home to crafts like Tussar painting, palm leaf engraving, stone and wood carving, papier-mache toys, and masks.



Sand Art at Sudam Museum



Craftsmen at work in Raghurajpur

EXCURSION 2: Sunset at Golden Beach (23rd February 2025)

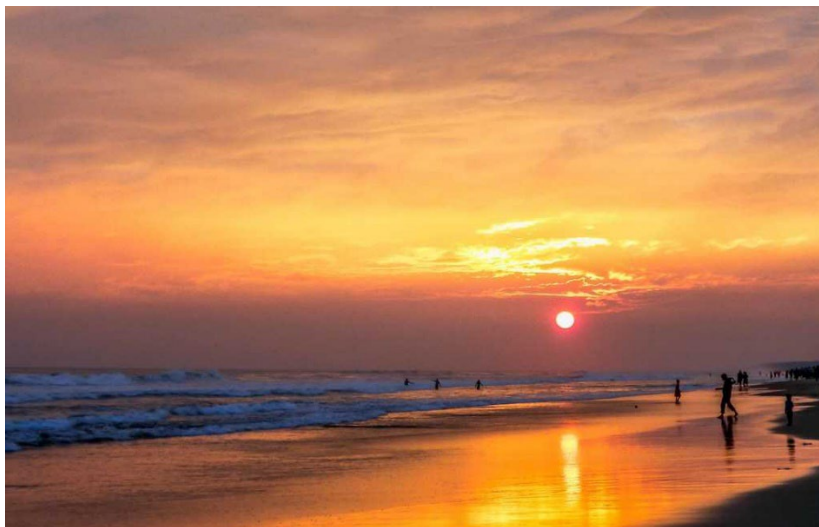
Expected duration 2 h (4:45 – 6:45 pm)

Itinerary:

- Leave Sterling at 4:45 pm after tea and light snacks
- Travel to the Golden Beach (6 km, 15 min)
- At the Golden Beach – sunset at 5:50 pm, 1 hr 30 min at the beach
- Return to Sterling (6 km, 15 min)

Description of Attraction:

Golden Beach (<https://www.orissatourism.org/golden-beach-puri/>). This is the most popular beach in Puri, nearly a kilometer long, and recognized for its golden sand and spectacular sunrise and sunsets. The Golden Beach has received the Blue Flag Certification from the international non-government organization, The Foundation for Environmental Education, for achieving high standards in water quality environment management, environment education, and safety. Funding from the World Bank has been used for core infrastructure development (including public toilets, showering facilities, watch towers and a solar powered lighting system).



EXCURSION 3: Konark Sun Temple and Ramachandi Beach (24th February 2025)

Expected duration 5 h (8:30 am – 1:30 pm)* or 6 h (8:30 am – 2:30 pm).** *Light dry snack and water provided.*

**If you opt out of boat ride at Ramachandi Beach **If you opt for 45-60 min boat ride*

Itinerary:

- Leave Sterling at 8:30 am after breakfast
- Travel to Konark (45 km, 1 hr) along scenic Puri-Konark Marine Drive
- At Konark Sun Temple approx. 2 hr
- Travel from Konark to Ramachandi Beach (9 km, approx. 15 min)
- At Ramachandi Beach: 90 min for those interested in the boat ride; for others, 30 min (group splits in two depending on interest in the boat ride.)
- Return from Ramachandi Beach to Sterling in time for lunch (40 km, under 1 hr)

Description of Attractions:

Konark Sun Temple (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konark_Sun_Temple). Without a doubt, the Konark Sun Temple is a premier tourist attraction in Odisha. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. On the shores of the Bay of Bengal and bathed in the rays of the rising sun, the temple is a monumental representation of the sun god Surya's chariot; its 24 wheels are decorated with symbolic designs and it is led by a team of six horses. Built in the 13th century around 1250 CE, it is one of India's most famous Brahman sanctuaries and one of the earliest centres of Sun worship in India. Some prior research on Konark's rich history and significance will make the experience of our visit more valuable.

Ramachandi Beach (<https://www.tourmyindia.com/states/odisha/ramchandi-beach.html>). Situated on the junction of the River Kusabhadra and the Bay of Bengal, Ramachandi is one of Odisha's most pristine beaches, which got its name from Goddess Ramachandi, the presiding deity of the Konark region. We will stop at this picturesque spot just 9 km from Konark on our return. After about 30 minutes of taking in the scenery, you can choose either to (a) return to Sterling or (b) take a ride in small power boats carrying about 10 passengers each to the meeting point of the river and the sea and back (approx. 45-60 min total) before taking the bus back to Sterling.



Konark Sun Temple



Ramachandi Beach

JAGANNATH TEMPLE VISIT: Morning Aarti and Darshan at Jagannath Temple (23rd and 24th February 2025, subject to level of interest on each day)

Expected duration 2 h (4:00 – 6:00 am)

Itinerary:

- Coach boarding at 4:00 am
- Travel to Jagannath Temple (8 km, approx. 15 min)
- Aarti and Darshan at Jagannath Temple – approx. 75 minutes
- Return to Sterling (8 km, 15 min)

Note: *The early morning visit to the temple has been specially arranged to facilitate entry and darshan, as well as attendance of the morning aarti, while avoiding the daytime crowds. You will be accompanied by someone who will lead you through the visit and help you to have the best possible experience. This will be the only time that arrangements have been made for visiting the Jagannath Temple.*

Description of Attraction:

Jagannath Temple (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jagannath_Temple,_Puri; see also <https://indianculture.gov.in/stories/jagannath-temple-puri>). The Jagannath Temple in Puri is one of India's Char Dham, a collection of four pilgrimage sites. For centuries, the Hindus have revered the Jagannath Puri temple. Devotees visit the temple in tens of thousands each day to pay homage to Lord Jagannath, an avatar of Lord Vishnu, and receive good wishes from him. According to legend, as the Pandavas set out to heaven to meet Yamraj, the Saptarishis urged them to stop by the 'Chaar Dhaam,' one of which is Lord Jagannath Temple.

The temple was built on the orders of the Ganga dynasty King Anantavarman Chodaganga in the 12th century, but the structure was only fully completed by his son, Anagabheema Deva III, in 1230 AD, and all three deities (Jagannath, Subhadra, and Balabhadra) were subsequently erected. Non-Hindus are still not allowed to enter the temple; however, visitors can pay a moderate price to go straight to the statues for a unique darshan.

Also note that non-Hindus (excluding Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists) and foreigners are not permitted to enter the temple. There is also a strict dress code and rules about what is allowed inside the temple. (For example, you will need to deposit your mobile phone before entry and reclaim it after your visit.)

