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# Orissa

Odisha is one of the states in the country which is known for their rich heritage and lineage of vibrant and colourful culture. Invaded by many rulers in the due course of its history, the place today is the ninth largest state by area and the eleventh largest by population in the country. Be it Puri Jagannath Temple or Pre-historic paintings in Kalahandi, the place has something to offer to everyone.



Famous For : State / Province

The name of the state called Odisha is almost synonymous with the grand Konark Sun Temple, which is anyway one of its kind. The state is not only known because of what it offers with its structures but is also one of the topmost choices for any traveller because of its natural beauty. With Chilika Lake, it boasts of being one of the biggest Wetlands areas in the world along with a vast migratory bird hotspot. The lake is also popular for housing cute little sea turtles and dolphins. The charm of the state does not end to impress you there. It is also the home to Pipli which is famous world wide for its art and craft. Bhubaneshwar, the capital of the state is popular for its architectural marvels including Mukteshwara Temple and the very recent The Indo-Japanese White Pagoda in Dhauligiri along with being one of the most prominent Hindu and Buddhists pilgrimage spots in the country. And trust us when we say this, it is like just the tip of the iceberg. You have to visit the place to

believe what all this marvellous place has to offer. stone carvers were brought in to work on it.

## What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-orissa-lp-1273344>

### 1 Jagannath Temple



Grand Road, Puri, Odisha 752001, India

A must visit place if not for religious inclinations, then for its architectural magnificence, Jagannath Temple is indeed a sight to behold. It is constructed by a group of Oriya workers, who wished to replicate the architecture of the Jagannath temple in Puri. The peak of the temple reaches 21.3m in height. The temple complex is tinted in the shade of burnt brick, because of the use of sandstone brought from Orissa. More than 600 tonnes of sandstone was used to

Though the main deity is Jagannath (the main deity of the Oriya people) along with his siblings Balabhadra and Subhadra, there are separate shrines for Goddess Laxmi, Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha and the Navagrahas. Rathayatra, the main festival of Orissa, is celebrated in a big way at the Jagannath Temple of Puri. Hence, the annual Rath Yatra festival is also celebrated at this temple, during which the three main deities are carried out as a grand procession with a lot of pomp and show.

### 2 Puri



Among the most revered cities for Hindus, Puri is part of the Char Dham pilgrimages and also one of the 7 holy Indian cities. The beach here is wonderful for swimming and perfect for watching the sunrise and sunset. Puri's top attraction is the highly revered Jagannath Temple, famed for its Chariot Festival. No less astounding is the Sun Temple at Konark amongst a slew of other

sightseeing wonders. The Sun Temple is a World Heritage Site and dazzles the onlooker with its amazing sculptures and architectural brilliance.

### 3 Konark



Konark (Konarka) is true blend of history, culture and natural beauty. The famous Sun Temple along with the Sun Festival and the five day long dance festival make this tiny place an ever hustling tourist destination in Orissa. The Craft Mela and Handicraft exhibition organised as part of the dance festival is also a hit among the locals and the travellers alike. Display of the ethnic Oriyan architecture, the Sun Temple becomes a beautiful backdrop to this fair. If all these are not enough, you are bound to love a long walk on the beach nearby.

### 4 Rourkela

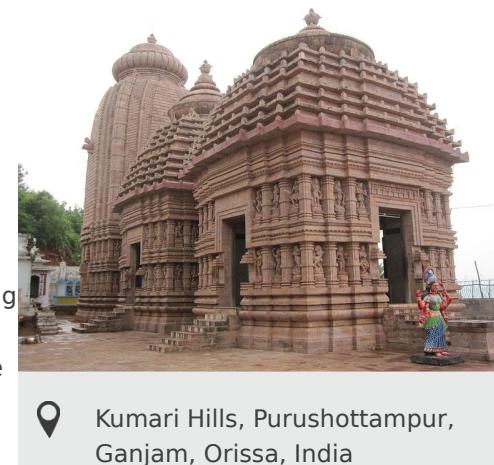


Situated amidst dense forests surrounded by a beautiful range of hills and encircled by rivers flowing through red soils, Rourkela is aptly labelled as the fourteenth most clean and green city of India. It is situated about 340 kilometres north of state capital Bhubaneswar. Red and laterite soils are found here which are quite rich in minerals and iron ore. Historical monuments and forts, archaeological excavations with ancient caves complete with the sylvan backdrop and clear blue waters make this steel city stand out among the rest. This commercial and industrial capital of Orissa has not just earned repute internationally for its iron and steel trades but also managed to fetch revenue for the country.

Rourkela is also considered a 'Tirtha', a place of religious sanctity. Asia's highest Hanuman statue, about 22 m high stands within a temple complex at Hanuman Vatika. On the outskirts of Rourkela is a picturesque pilgrimage spot on the confluence of two rivers, Sankha and Koel with hidden river Saraswati creates Brahmani here. It is a mythological belief that the great epic "The Mahabharat" was written by Maharshi Vyash at this place. The said name of the river Brahmani is perhaps due to the birthplace of Maharshi Vedavyash. The city is also popularly known as Ispat Nagar or the Steel City of Odisha as it has one of the largest steel plants of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) known as

Rourkela Steel Plant. The name Rourkela has two sisters (Tara and Tarini) in the house originated from the local tribal language of Sadri which means "Our Village"

### 5 Maa Taratarini Mandir



Kumari Hills, Purushottampur, Ganjam, Orissa, India

Dedicated to the twin goddesses Tara and Tarini, this temple is one of the 4 main ancient Shakti peethas in India. The other three being the Bimala temple inside the Jagannath Temple in Puri (Orissa), the Kamakhya Temple near Guwahati (Assam) and the Kalighat Temple in Kolkata (West Bengal). These four temples are the most revered temples for the Hindu sect of Shakta. Legend

Being a Shakti Peeth, the origin of the temple goes back to Daksha Yagya and Sati's self immolation. During Shiva's dance of destruction (Tandav) Sati's breast had fallen on this site. According to folklores, for many years, the temple remained inaccessible to humans until the mother goddess appeared

of a childless Brahmin called Basu Praharaj. They stayed with him for some years and then suddenly disappeared. After days of futile searching, Basu Praharaj was grief-stricken, until Tara and Tarini arrived and told him their true identity of being Adi Shakti. On their instructions, Basu Praharaj discovered the ancient presence of Taratarini on the Tarini hill and set about reconstructing the temple. Since then, according to ancient texts, the magnetism and the sanctity of the temple has drawn millions of devotees as well as religious icons like Shri Rama, Shri Krishna, Pandavas, Chaitanya Maharaj, Balyogi Neelkanth, etc. History The oldest data about this temple suggests it was present even during the time of Mahabharata. Other historical reports show that Taratarini was the principal deity of the Kalinga empire. After their fall, the Buddhism gained a stronghold in India. Initially Buddhists didn't believe in idol worship, but for the first time, Tara was accepted as the mother goddess. There is an image of a meditating Buddha in the inner sanctum of the temple that proves that at some point in history this was also a site for Buddhist Shakta practices. Today, Tara is the tantrik goddess and the consort of Avalokiteshvara in the Buddhist belief system.

Festivals

Chaitra Mela or Chaitra Yatra is the main festival which is celebrated on every Tuesday during the

Chaitra month ( Mar-Apr) each year. Grand congregations arrive at the temple, which remains open for extended hours. Locks of hair of new-born babies are offered to the goddess with the belief that she will protect the child hereafter.

# Where To Eat



5 Places

<http://www.ixigo.com/foods-in-of-orissa-lp-1273344>

## 1 Mainland China



 The Crown, A1, Near IRC Village, Nayapalli, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha 751015, India

 +91-674-3270327 | +91-86582-22220

The Mainland China in Bhubaneshwar has earned a reputation for dishing out great Chinese

food, day in and day out! Classy interiors, great staff, awesome food and a good ambience are the reasons you should walk into this place. If you can't decide what to eat, you always have the option of eating from the lavish buffet here. The service is quick, making this place ideal for a quick bite as well!

The outlet here might not quite be up to the Delhi or Mumbai mark, but is undoubtedly amongst the best upper scale restaurants in town. The Lamb and Prawn starters served

Mainland China manage to stand out and the desserts are great to say the least. All in all, MC is a good place to head for a fine dine experience on your Bhubaneshwar holiday!

## 2 Honey Bee Bakery & Pizzeria



 C T Road, Puri, Odisha, 752002, India

 +91-6752-320479

Come here to enjoy the best pancakes and pizzas, of different varieties in town. If sandwiches are your thing, then this place will surely make you drool over their extensive menu. Try the amazing grilled and toasted sandwiches and fry-up brekkies. You'll love them all.

Enjoy all this with a cup of hot coffee, which is another speciality of the place. But here comes the biggest surprise, what one might never expect from such a place. You will for sure relish the most amazing lassi here.

## 3 Tangerine 9



 Master Canteen Area, Kharabela Nagar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751001 751001, India

 +91-674-2533009

Known for its yummy Indian and Chinese cuisines, the Tangerine Restaurant in Bhubaneshwar is one place you can rely on for a hearty

meal. The menu offers a lavish spread by the local standards and it's very likely that you will find one of your favourite dishes on there. The staff here is very quick on their feet and willing to please and all this along with the cheery ambience of the place will surely brighten up your mood. Do try the Chicken Lollipop, Mushroom Masala and

Masala Kulcha. If you happen to be here on a Friday or Saturday, you are surely in for a gala time as a musical night is organised on the former and on the latter, candle-light dinners.

## 4 The Treat



 Near High Court, Chandini Chowk, Cuttack, India

With a pleasant ambiance, The Treat is an affordable eating joint which certainly does promise a treat. The menu offers a variety of dishes at reasonable prices. The 'Dahibara Aludum' is famous for its authentic taste and spicy flavour.

## 5 Vyanjan



- Hotel Anandamayee, Odisha, India
- +91-33-23970427

The in-house restaurant of Hotel Anandamayee, Vyanjan is one place which will take care of your hunger pangs in the best possible way. The impressive menu here boasts of Indian, Chinese and local dishes prepared by the expert chefs and each dish that is brought to your table is nothing short of a treat for your taste buds.

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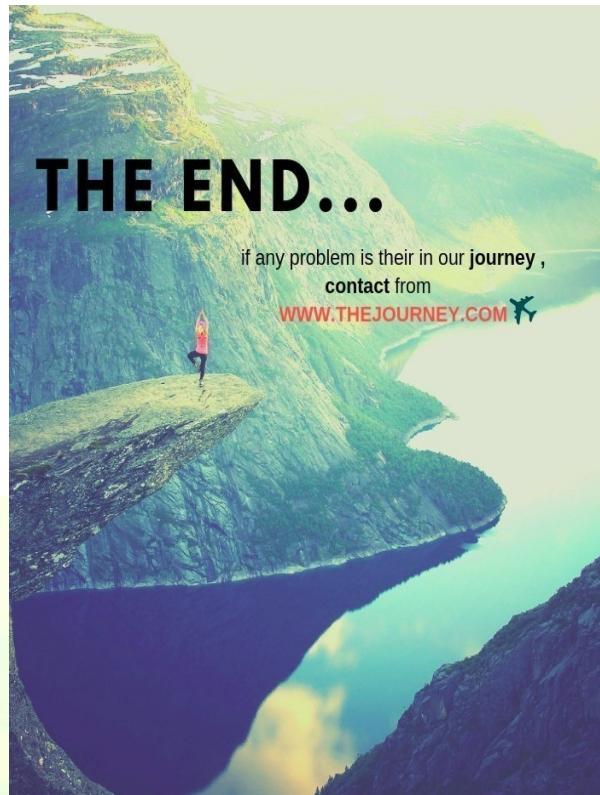
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