



2nd QUARTER | APRIL - JUNE, 2015 | CHHATTISGARH | VOLUME 2



Chitrakote Waterfall - The Niagara falls of India

Chhattisgarh is a natural beauty that is also recognized for its tribal culture, and is now famous for its crafts. Among the most virgin and beautiful parts of India, it offers a quality of wildlife and ethnicity that is generally not seen in other parts of the country. During the monsoon the whole of Chhattisgarh sort of comes alive and brings great vistas for nature lovers. Chhattisgarh Tourism is all set to position the state as an alluring monsoon destination in the country.

Chhattisgarh Tourism Board has recently launched its two new products Sirpur Heritage Walk and Walk with the Tribe. It's an experiential luxury that costs nothing but leaves behind memories that will last forever.

If you are someone who really loves the rain, then opt for travel to unexplored Chhattisgarh. Experience a spectacular landscape, lush green scenery with the moist fragrance of teak and sal trees and gushing waterfalls.

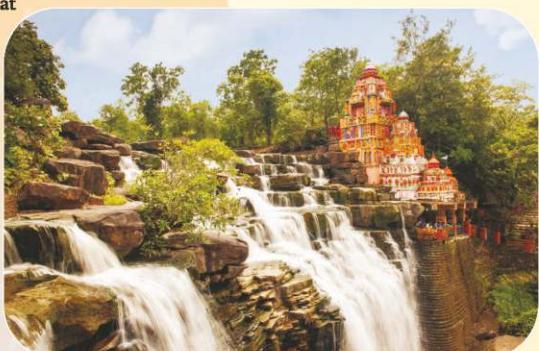
Monsoon Magic in Chhattisgarh!



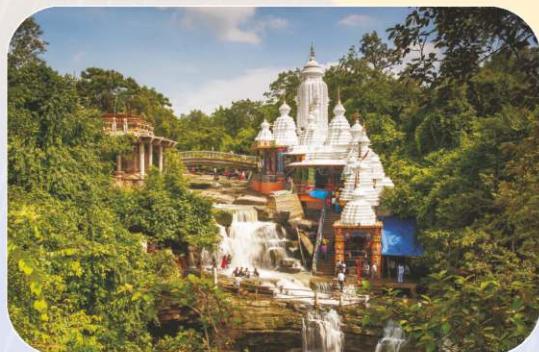
Tirathgarh



Mainpat



Ghatarani



Jatmai



Mendri Ghoomar Waterfall

Winding ghats, verdant greenery all around, mesmerizing waterfalls cascading down into a mist and overflowing rivers - these are but a few visual treats that Chhattisgarh offers during the monsoons. With an aim to present the best curated monsoon destinations, Chhattisgarh Tourism is all set to position the state as an alluring monsoon destination in the country.

Chitrakote: The pride of Chhattisgarh also happens to be India's best kept secret. Referred to as the Niagara Falls of India, Chitrakote has the distinction of being the broadest waterfall in India. Surrounded by dense forest, it is fed by the Indravati River. The sight of the waters flowing through dense vegetation and cascading from a height of about 95 ft attracts thousands of tourists. The most spectacular view of the waterfall is during the monsoon when the river flows in its full fury and touches both the banks.

Tirathgarh: This 300 ft high waterfall is situated in the Kanger Valley National Park. The fall here splits into multiple stunning vistas. Here, you may stand almost under them, or walk across the top to sit on a rock rising up out of the middle. Well maintained steps lead down to the bottom. There is a small temple on a large rock opposite the falls and around the falls are the ruins of a 1,000 year old Hindu civilisation.

Mendri Ghoomar Waterfall: This is a small but pretty waterfall which is located at about 24 km from Chitrakote. The view of the deep valley below and virgin forest beyond is spectacular. It is a lovely picnic spot. One can also visit haat (market) at Mardum village between Barsur and Chitrakote.

Jatmai and Ghatarani: The twin waterfalls of Chhattisgarh are surrounded by lush greenery which makes them a perfect location near Raipur to have a family picnic on the weekend, offering the family a different scene from the usual. At Jatmai, there is a temple of Goddess Jatmai adjacent to the waterfall. Ghatarani waterfall is 25 km from Jatmai and is slightly bigger. It is not easily accessible and takes a bit for trekking. The natural beauty is awesome.

Amritdhara waterfalls: The area is covered by dense forests, mountains and rivers. This makes it the right setting to result in a spectacular waterfall. This waterfall is great to see in any season with water flowing from the far reaches of central India. The falls are also close to the Shiva temple where the Mahashivaratri fair originated in 1936 and continues till date. At the fair you can pick up some awesome handicraft as memento too.

Gangrel Dam: Also known as Ravishankar Dam, it is a popular tourist spot of Dhamtari district. Built across the Mahanadi River, the reservoir offers a lot of water sports, virgin islands and much more. Gangrel Dam during monsoons becomes a must visit place with picturesque beauty.



Gangrel

(c) Santosh K Mans, IAS

Amarkantak: A pilgrimage destination, a part of which lies in Chhattisgarh, is the place of origin of the Holy Narmada river. After visiting temples and other holy places, tourists can visit nearby villages to experience the tribal culture and their rituals. Dudh Dhara and Johilla Udgam, two beautiful places in Chhattisgarh near Amarkantak, will please one's senses with scenic surroundings.



Amritdhara

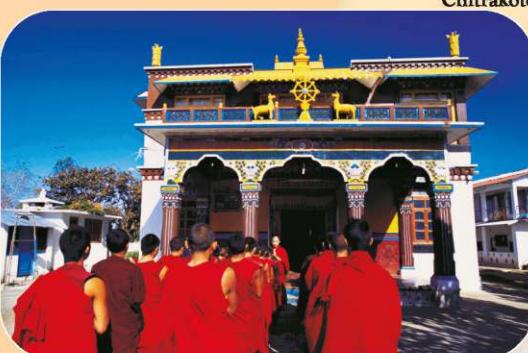
Kabir Chabutra: This is one of the sacred places near Amarkantak, where saint Kabir achieved salvation. Pilgrims coming to this place can also see the footwear of the saint kept inside a small temple near the chabutra.



Chitrakote Waterfall

Rajmergarh: A fascinating tourist spot close to Amarkantak is much admired by tourists for its forest and fauna, especially bear, which are sighted in large numbers. This also presents a picturesque site for the photographers.

Mainpat: The best time to visit Mainpat is during the monsoon. The place is lush green and the romantic dawn and dusk are very enchanting. It is also said to be the best honeymoon destination. The place provides options for hill biking, camping and caravan tourism. Mainpat is on a plateau with the area surrounded by jungles. It has beautiful hill slopes, jungles and waterfalls. There is a Tibetan settlement that offers an excellent opportunity for interaction with the community.



Mainpat

Hasdeo Bango Dam: Hasdeo Bango Dam is a dam constructed across the Hasdeo river in Chhattisgarh, India. It is located 50 km from Korba. The biggest and the longest dam in Chhattisgarh has an expansive catchment area which makes it a multipurpose storage reservoir. Its lush greenery and lake render it an ideal picnic spot.



Hasdeo Bango Dam

Jashpur: This district is divided in two parts as per the geographical point of views. The hilly belt that is the northern part, runs from Loroghat, Kastura, Narayanpur village, Bagicha up to the Surguja district. This belt is a forest area and contains a reserve forest. It covers Sanna, Bagicha and Narayanpur. The landscape is beautiful and taking a long drive in this stretch is very rejuvenating. The Upper Ghat is an extension plateau and is covered by a dense forest. The elevated plateau is called "Pat". The Upper Ghat is climbed through Loroghat that is about 4 km in length.



Sanna, Jashpur

There is a lot more that Chhattisgarh offers during the monsoons. The place can surprise one with its beauty and mesmerise with its exquisiteness. So this monsoon don't give Chhattisgarh a miss for its enthralling attractions and breathtaking landscape.



Mr. Dayaldas Baghel
Hon'ble Tourism, Culture & Cooperative minister,
Govt. of Chhattisgarh

Change is in the air *Congratulations!*

Mr. Dayaldas Baghel has taken over as new Tourism, Culture & Cooperative Minister. Mr. Baghel is a member of legislative assembly from Navagarh constituency. Previously he has handled Ministry of Industry and Revenue.

Glimpses of the Minister at CNBC travel Awards and lunch organized by Chhattisgarh Tourism Board on the occasion of CNBC Travel Awards.



Literally, Chhattisgarh's Favourite Son of the Soil - Shri. Arun Kumar Sharma (Archaeologist)

Chhattisgarh is a state steeped in history of the geographical kind. It is here that nature's best kept secrets continue to be guarded with passion. The state's pre-historic caves, gushing rivers, thunderous waterfalls and pristine landscapes are a result of a continuous policy that zealously preserves this rich natural legacy.

It is fitting then that one of India's most respected archaeologists calls Chhattisgarh his home. Home it has been since the day Arun Kumar Sharma was born – on 11th November 1933, in Mohdi village, Raipur, in what is today part of Chhattisgarh.

After completing his primary education, Sharma earned his M.Sc. from Sagar University before joining the Archaeological Survey of India. It was virtually what he was born for – destined to become one of the country's most renowned archaeologists.

A Mission Takes Shape

Nature and archaeology have remained his life's mission. His contributions to the cause of archaeology and Chhattisgarh have been exemplary. His extensive and notable works in the state include archaeological excavations in Sirpur, Rajim and pre-historic research in Karkabhaat region.

Sirpur particularly is his magnum opus. Not least because of the historic pre-eminence his work has helped confer the town with. Today Sirpur is the pride of Chhattisgarh's pre-historic legacy – a fact celebrated in many ways, but primarily through events like the internationally-acclaimed Sirpur Dance and Music Festival.

Widening Influence

Beyond Chhattisgarh, Sharma has carried out extensive archaeological diggings in the north-eastern states, chiefly Manipur and Meghalaya; has ventured deep north into the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh region; gone as far south and adrift as Lakshwadweep; in addition to projects in Maharashtra and Uttarakhand.

Sharma's influence has even permeated international borders. In 1983, he travelled to France as part of a cultural exchange program, which resulted in him heading the Indo-French Study group for Madhya Pradesh's Jhiri region.

Having since served as a Special Officer at Indira Gandhi National Art Centre, Delhi, and later appointed Senior Fellow at the Indian Council of Historical Research, Sharma has, over the past decade, been the Archaeological Advisor to the Chhattisgarh Government. In addition, he also sits on the board of the Central Advisory Council of ASI, and is a member of the Inspection Committee of National Memorial Mission, and Project Supervisor for Nagarjun Memorial Research Institute and Research Centre, Nagpur.

Personal Legacy

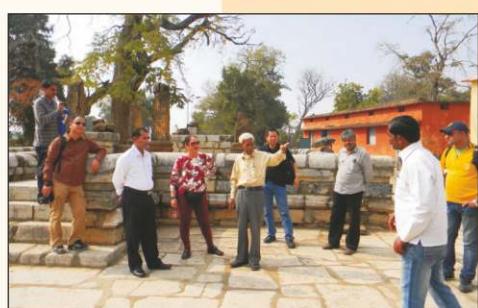
Arun Kumar Sharma is himself leaving a glorious legacy for future generations of archaeologists. He has authored some two dozen books and penned more than 60 articles in both national and international research magazines. He has been the driving force behind establishing museums in Mansar, Maharashtra and Kankhal, Hardwar. A few renowned research magazines have also benefited from his editorship.

His invaluable body of work also includes several educational films for television, of which the ones made for Manipur, Meghalaya, Almora, Anaghpur, Mansar, Sirpur and Tamsaghati, demand special mention.

Glittering Recognition

Recognition has rightfully followed him. He has been the recipient of several awards – amongst them, the Maulana Azad Gold Medal; Sir Mortimer Wheeler Award; Dr. K. N. Puri Memorial Award; and the prestigious Pandit Ravishankar Shukla Award conferred by the Chhattisgarh Government. Directorate of Culture and Archaeology, Government of Chhattisgarh has also proposed his nomination for Padma Vibhushana / Padmashree award.

Go Chhattisgarh salutes the extraordinary efforts of one who has earned national and international acclaim as an archaeologist, historian and seat of authority on tribal culture and dialects. Arun Kumar Sharma, may your tribe increase!



Bastar Dushehra -

The Longest Dushehra Celebration in the World!



Bastar abounds in natural beauty with rich deciduous forests, stunning waterfalls and caves, rare flora and fauna and enchanting tribal culture. Besides, it is also known for its unique Dushehra celebrations. Bastar Dushehra, a vibrant repertoire of rich tribal traditions, colourful rituals, folk music, dance and a lively crowd is simply not worth missing. This festival begins with the **dark moon** (amavasya) also known as **Hareli Amavasya** in the month of **Shravan** and ends on the thirteenth day of the bright moon in the month of **Ashwin**. It's the time when deities from all the villages congregate at the temple of Danteshwari in Jagdalpur, the district headquarters.

Bastar Dushehra reaches its crescendo in the last 10 days of the 75-day festival. The presiding deity is Maa Danteshwari Devi and Dushehra is propitiation of the goddess for having rescued the Bastar king from an evil opponent. Chalukya Purushottam Deo Kakatiya, the 15th century Bastar king, once visited Puri's Jagannath Temple and returned with the title of Rathpati. This fourth Kakatiya

king initiated the Dushehra Rathyatra which is celebrated to this day with the same enthusiasm.

The longest Dushehra celebrated in India begins with **Kachhangadi** and **Paat Jatra** ceremony in front of the Danteshwari temple. The rituals include making offerings to a wooden log brought from nearby Bilauri village for the preparation of an eight-wheeled, double-storied wooden chariot. After the divine sanction granted by a young girl, symbolising the goddess, the chief priest performs the **Kalash Sthapana** ceremony in the Maoli temple on the following day (Pratipada). On Maha-ashtami, Devi Maoli, a manifestation of Maa Danteshwari, is led to the temple at the Bastar palace. On the last day of Navratra, members of the royal family sit on the chariot and the head priest holds aloft the umbrella of Maa Danteshwari. The path of the chariot is lit by nearly 10,000 clay lamps. The festival concludes with **Kachan Jatra** (a thanksgiving ceremony) and a **Muriya Darbar** (tribal chieftains' meet).

Other important rituals at Bastar Dushehra



- Jogi Bithai** (The Jogi's Penance) A youth of the Halba tribe sits (buried shoulder deep in a pit) in penance for the success of the festival.
- Rath Parikrama** (Chariot Circuit) The four-wheeled flower chariot begins to circumambulate the Maoli Temple every evening up to the seventh day in the month of Ashwin.

- Nisha Jatra** (The Nocturnal Festival) On Durgashtami, a procession of lights leads to the puja mandap in Itwari.
- Jogi Uthai** (Raising of the Jogi) When the penance of the Jogi ends, he is ceremoniously raised from the pit he sat buried in, and honoured with consecrated gifts.
- Maoli Parghav** (Reception of Devi Maoli) A warm welcome is given to Devi Maoli, an elder sister of Danteshwari Devi at the congregation of deities, followed by gala event with spectacular fireworks.
- Bheeter Raini with Rath Parikrama** (The Inner Circuit) On Vijayadashami, the eight-wheeled chariot takes a circumambulatory course around the Maoli temple. After the completion of this inner circuit, it is parked for the night and, as a ritual, around 400 marias and murias steal the chariot away to Kumhda-kot (a sal grove).
- Baahar Raini with Rath Parikrama** (The Outer Circuit) The day after the chariot is stolen, the king visits Kumhda-kot to offer cooked rice of the new harvest to the Goddess. After having prasad from her, the chariot is pulled back ceremoniously through the main road to the Lion Gate of the palace.
- Ohadi** (Farewell to the Deities) After Kachan Jatra and Muria Darbar, the deities who congregated at Jagdalpur from various parts of Bastar are ceremoniously bid farewell. This marks the culmination of Bastar Dushehra.





Shri Santosh Misra (IAS) MD, CTB

Tourism Can Counter Naxalism

Chhattisgarh's rich natural resources are the best bet to build the economy and fight terror outfits. Driving on NH43 takes you through some of the most pristine landscapes of the country - down Bastar plateau, past villages with neat rows of mud houses tucked inside lush groves. As you head towards the Kanger Valley National Park, sunlight weaves a magical fabric of sun and shade. Inside the park, the amazing Tirathgarh waterfall glistens like silver as it cascades over a 100 feet into a pool below.

After a refreshing bath when you come up feeling hungry, you can choose from about a dozen shops. One little shop stands apart for its neat decor and clean tables and chairs. The owner, a lady in her mid-50s, is a local; the tattoos on her arms indicate she belongs to the Halbi tribe. She opened her shop about two years ago and says that on a good weekend she makes over Rs 2,000-3,000. She has hired her neighbour's son to deal with the increased workload. Business has improved, especially since the approach road was repaired. She has just received a lunch order for about 20 persons from a group of tourists from Nagpur. Her daughter goes to a government school nearby.

Her shop is located at Tirathgarh in interior Bastar. Yet tourism is on the rise with the lives of the locals now changing for the better. They welcome this constant stream of visitors; it has opened a new chapter for them.

Transformers for Real

Tourism is a transformer in Chhattisgarh. It has opened new avenues for the local population and they feel its impact in the form of economic freedom. This reinforces the fact that tourism creates opportunities in remote areas and suggests that Naxalism can be vanquished by the economics of tourism.

Tourism is a money multiplier par excellence as it engages everyone from the community and celebrates innovation and the entrepreneurial spirit. When the shop-owner proudly says her school-going daughter helps her with the accounts, I feel confident that this will sow the seeds of entrepreneurship in the next generation.

This is a story of transformation, empowerment and hope. While India has vouched for the concept of "Atithidevo bhava" (the guest is a god) since ancient times, tourism has been a major social phenomenon. The urge to travel and be social has been a dominant strand in our culture.

Motivated by the natural urge of every human being for new experiences, things like adventure, education and entertainment, travel and tourism have played an important part in matters of economic development and employment generation, particularly in regions where there is little or no development.

Huge Potential

India has great potential in terms of topographical features that make it a prime tourist destination. From lofty mountains to scenic beaches, and from interesting people to more interesting stories, India is a mix of people, culture and natural endowments. Take any part of the country, and you are sure to come across an unforgettable experience.

Chhattisgarh, with its virgin forests and magnificent landscape, is a backpacker's dream. No wonder that last year it had more than two million visitors. The State which boasts numerous waterfalls and plateaus, a variety of flora and fauna, national parks, temples and rich tribal art and craft, also faces a grim threat from Naxalism.

Despite the fact that Naxalite-Maoist activities are mostly limited to the border areas of the State, their psychological impact is significantly higher. Only after tourists arrive in Raipur, either via its modern airport or railway station, do they realise that Chhattisgarh is no different from Maharashtra or Madhya Pradesh.

But tourism can be developed as an instrument for the eradication of Naxalism. By positioning tourism - eco tourism, ethnic tourism, wildlife tourism, adventure tourism, rural tourism, tribal tourism and heritage tourism - as a major engine of economic growth, poverty elimination, job creation and eliminating extremists, the State intends to give fresh impetus to sectoral development and create a sustainable model for tribal development.

It is well known that tourism is a critical economic sector which, with positive Government support, can ensure far-reaching development in the State. Growth can be stimulated through forward linkages and cross-sectional synergies with varied sectors. By means of connecting tourism with tertiary activities such as agriculture, horticulture, poultry, handicrafts, transport, construction and so on, it is possible to bring about overall development and enable greater socio-economic prosperity.

A Wide Net

Tourism spawns a whole ecosystem and engages lot more people indirectly. Consumption demands as generated by increasing tourist expenditure also go forward in helping generate greater employment opportunities. As a result, additional income and employment opportunities will be generated; thus the State tourism sector can enable large-scale employment generation and poverty alleviation.

Chhattisgarh is an interesting case study, with its natural and tribal resources on one hand, and underdeveloped economy and poor Human Development Index on the other. Involving local communities in improving their living standards and bringing new wave of growth and development at the grassroot level can contribute in tackling Naxalism on the ground. This initiative can also help foster economic integration through collaboration with other sectors.

Thus, by positioning tourism as a major engine of economic growth, the State government can harness the direct and perceived effects of tourism for greater employment generation and economic development. An umbrella development in the Chhattisgarh tourism sector will greatly benefit the 32 per cent tribal population by creating employment opportunities and boosting the economy.

The writer is the Managing Director of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board. The views expressed are personal.

Chhattisgarh - An Undiscovered Whitewater Paradise!

Indravati River the lifeline of Bastar landscape and home to large variety of flora and fauna comprising India's biggest waterfall Chitrakote (100 ft gradient) is every kayaker's dream. After cascading over the impressive Chitrakote waterfalls, the river meanders through the widening valley and loses its gradient evenly for 40 km. The belt from Chitrakote to the Saath Dhara Bridge further down at Barsur, is ideal for commercial rafting. It is an opportunity for any professional outdoor enthusiast / entrepreneur.

The world's best kayakers have recently undertaken kayaking at Indravati River.

"We haven't been disappointed, least so on our unexpected visit to Chhattisgarh, a new and exciting destination for whitewater kayaking," says James Smith.

For more details follow the links below:

<https://www.youtube.com/theoutdoorjournal>

<https://vimeo.com/outdoorjournal>



Chhattisgarh Beat

1. **Chhattisgarh Tourism Board has introduced two new attractions:** Sirpur Heritage Walk and Walk with the Tribe. Walking tours in Chhattisgarh are the best and most interesting way to understand the place, people, culture and historical past.

3. International Yoga Day:

Destination promotion with Yoga at Chitrakote Waterfall



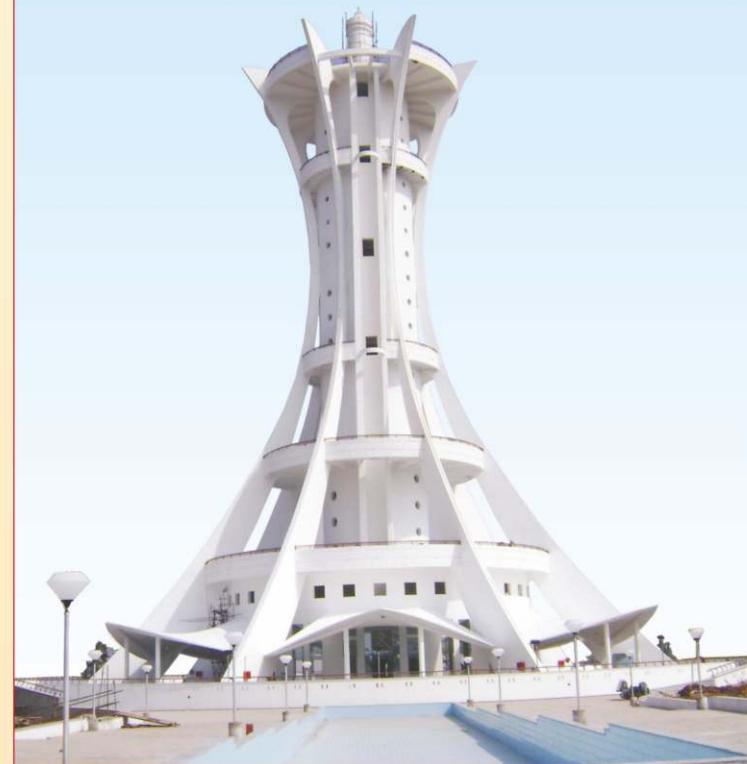
4. Chhattisgarh Tourism @GITB, 2015

Chhattisgarh Tourism Board has participated in the Great India Travel Bazaar - 2015 on 20th and 21st April 2015 held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Chhattisgarh Tourism Board's stall was greatly appreciated. The participation also resulted in large number of on-the-spot bookings for Chhattisgarh Tourism Board's properties.



2. **Kolkata Metro Branding:** To woo travel enthusiasts of Kolkata, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board took up the heart-line of Kolkata i.e. Kolkata Metro, and painted it in colours of Chhattisgarh.

5. **Girodpuri Dham:** Funds are sanctioned to develop Girodpuri Dham - Birthplace of Guru Ghasidas, as an all-inclusive pilgrim centre.



Chhattisgarh has Received Three Awards for the Best Emerging Tourism Destination in India.

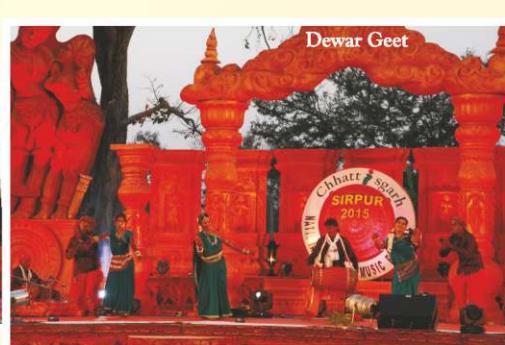
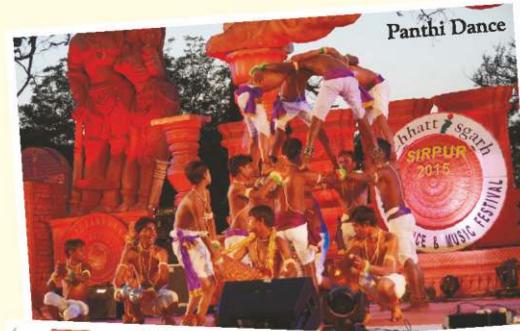


CNBC Travel Award (Received by Mr. Santosh K. Misra, IAS, Managing Director, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board)



Award by Travel Plus Leisure (Received by Mr. Manish Joshi & Mr. Bimal Ranjan Pandey)

Lonely Planet Travel Award (Received by Mr. Subhendra Singh Thakur)



DANCING ALL THE WAY TO THE HEART!



There is a fine line between the theatre and dance forms of Chhattisgarh as both are nearly always mutually inclusive in regional and, particularly, folk performing arts. Robust and earthy, almost all the dances are group dances demanding coordination and nimble footwork. The dancers usually dance in a line, gyrating in a circle, moving anti-clockwise accompanied by singing and drum beating.

The **Chandaini Gonda** form is typical of the Dantewada region. It entails a retelling of myth and legend. Common among the various types in the Durg area are the **Sonha Bihani**, **Lorik Chanda**, **Gammatiha** and **Kari**. Each of these brings alive mythological characters, folk and religious heroes, stirring up the imagination of their primarily rural audiences with colourful costumes and eloquent dialogues. Then there are the **Hareli** and **Rahas**—the latter is focused on combining traditional themes with a commentary on the present times.

A popular feature on the Diwali festival is the **Raut Nacha**, which enacts a battle episode from the story of the Hindu God Krishna. It also includes movements that resemble Lord Krishna's dance with the Gopis. The brilliant costumes are matched by a profusion of sticks and shields as the battle between good and evil is performed to its climax.

Loud drum beats, melodious singing and intricate dance steps characterise the **Panthi** dance of the Satnami sect. It celebrates the birth of Guru Ghasidas. The dancers move in a bent position with their arms swinging. As the pace quickens to symbolise the ultimate reunion with the divine, they even perform certain acrobatic movements culminating in human pyramids.

The **Sua** dance, accompanied by drums, has as its theme the love interest between a young girl and boy leading to a marriage proposal. It is also danced to please the goddess of wealth.

In **Saila**, only males of the plains participate, and it takes place particularly during festivals, public functions, political rallies and after cutting the harvest. Here, the dancers on both sides strike each other's bamboo sticks in a repeated rhythm as they move around in a circle.

In the **Karma** dance, male and female dancers pass a branch of the karam tree without letting it touch the ground. They sing and dance in praise of the tree, which is worshipped by the locals as it gave shelter to a young couple during an ancient war. Afterwards, the branch is washed in milk and rice beer and later planted in the middle of the dancing area.

The **Gedi** is a Gond dance done on a pair of bamboo stilts during the sowing season just before and during the monsoon. Usually performed in a circle, it can end as a pyramid when children do it.

There are many other dances like the **Phag** (sword dance), **Lota** (women dancing with a pot of water on the head), and the **Dandari** (similar to the Gujarati dandiya but with antlers instead of sticks).

With dance there must be music. Both vocal and instrumental music play an important role in the vocabulary of Chhattisgarhi folk traditions. Songs are sung at all major events at birth, marriages, to propitiate and give thanks to the deities, at the sowing and reaping of a harvest and for children. The words are simple, the renderings poetic and the melodies haunting.

Suggested Itineraries



Kailash Gufa Waterfall

© Santosh K Misra, IAS

1. Eco-Ethno Delight (3 Nights / 4 Days)

Get fascinated by the virgin and majestic waterfalls of Chitrakote and spot the wild in the mixed deciduous forests of Kanger Valley National Park. Embrace eternal peace in the temple towns of Dantewada and Barsur.

Ex-Raipur

Itinerary: Raipur - Jagdalpur - Chitrakote - Kanger Valley National Park - Barsur - Dantewada - Kondagaon - Gangrel - Raipur.

Day - 1 Pick-up from Raipur Railway Station/Airport, departure for Chitrakote, dinner and night stay at Dandami Luxury Resort, Chitrakote.

(Total road travel of approx 360 km in 7 hrs)

Day - 2 Sightseeing at Chitrakote waterfalls, Tirathgarh waterfalls, Kanger Valley National Park, Kutumsar caves, dinner and night stay at Dandami Luxury Resort, Chitrakote.

(Total road travel of approx 180 km in 8 hrs)

Day - 3 Visit to Maa Danteshwari Temple, Twin Ganesha Temple, local shopping and visit to Anthropological Museum, back to Chitrakote, dinner and night stay at Dandami Luxury Resort, Chitrakote.

(Total road travel of approx 350 km in 9 hrs)

Day - 4 Departure for Raipur via Kondagaon (Craft Centre), Gangrel Dam, back to Raipur.

(Total road travel of approx 350 km in 10 hrs)



Luxury Tent Resort, Chitrakote

2. Enchanting Highlands (3 Nights / 4 Days)

Intensify your desires in the serene environs of Khutaghat and Hasdeo Bango, visit an ancient amphitheater at Ramgarh and a Buddhist monastery at Mainpat. Explore the world beneath at Kailash Gufa.

Ex-Bilaspur

Itinerary: Bilaspur - Ratanpur - Khutaghat - Hasdeo Bango Dam - Kendai Waterfall, Buka Island - Mainpat - Ramgarh - Bilaspur.

Day - 1 Pick-up from Bilaspur Railway Station, departure to Machadoli via Ratanpur, Maa Mahamaya Temple, Khutaghat Dam, dinner and night stay at Madai Tourist Resort, Machadoli.

(Total road travel of approx 160 km in 6 hrs)

Day - 2 Sightseeing at Mini Mata Hasdeo Bango Dam, Kendai Waterfall, Buka Island, Tin-Tini Stone, Departure for Mainpat, dinner and night stay at Shaila Tourist Resort, Mainpat.

(Total road travel of approx 250 km in 7 hrs)

Day - 3 Visit to Tibetan Temple, Jal-Jali, Tiger Point, Machhali Point, Ramgarh, sightseeing, dinner and night stay at Shaila Tourist Resort, Mainpat.

(Total road travel of approx 250 km in 8 hrs)

Day - 4 Departure for Bilaspur.

(Total road travel of approx 350 km in 6 hrs)



Hasdeo Bango Dam, Khallari

3. Maikal Retreat (3 Nights / 4 Days)

Ensnoced between the picturesque surroundings of Maikal Mountains, the visit to this circuit is truly an unforgettable experience, where one finds the curious admixture of nature and culture, with awe-inspiring rhapsody in stone.

Ex-Dongargarh terminating at Bilaspur

Itinerary: Dongargarh - Khairagarh - Bhoramdeo - Achanakmar - Amarkantak - Bilaspur.

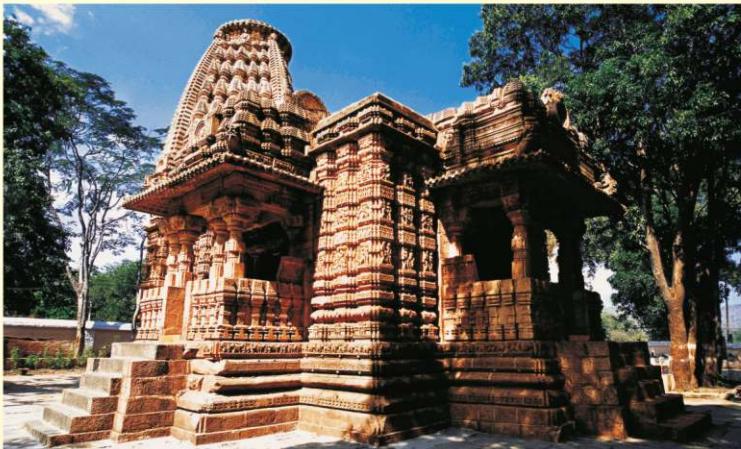
Day - 1 Pick-up from Dongargarh Railway Station, visit to Maa Bamleshwari Temple, departure for Khairagarh, visit Indira Kala Sangeet University, dinner and night stay at Nagmori Tourist Cottage, Bhoramdeo.

(Total road travel of approx 180 km in 7 hrs)

Day - 2 Visit to Bhoramdeo Temple, Saroda-Dadar, Bhoramdeo Sanctuary, dinner and night stay at Sonbhadrak Tourist Resort, Amadob.

(Total road travel of approx 200 km in 8 hrs)

- Day-3 Visit to Achanakmar Sanctuary, Amarkantak, Kabir Ashram, dinner and night stay at Sonbhadra Tourist Resort, Amadob.
(Total road travel of approx 200 km in 8 hrs)
- Day-4 Departure for Bilaspur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 4 hrs)



Bhoramdeo Temple

4. Heritage Trail (2 Nights / 3 Days)

Stimulate a sense of fulfillment and experience divinity at Champaranaya. Become one with God at Rajim and get amazed by the rustic beauty of Sirpur. Lose yourself to the captivating nature surroundings at Barnawapara.

Ex-Raipur

Itinerary: Raipur - Sirpur - Seorinarayan - Barnawapara - Rajim - Champaran - Purkhauti Muktangan - Raipur.

- Day-1 Pick-up from Raipur Railway Station / Airport, departure for Sirpur via Kodar Dam, sightseeing at Sirpur, dinner and night stay at Hiuen Tsang Tourist Cottage, Sirpur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 3 hrs)
- Day-2 Visit to Seorinarayan, departure for Mohda Barnawapara Sanctuary, dinner and night stay at Hareli Eco Resort, Mohda.
(Total road travel of approx 210 km in 6 hrs)
- Day-3 Departure for Rajim, Champaran, Purkhauti Muktangan and back to Raipur.
(Total road travel of approx 225 km in 5 hrs)



Sirpur

5. Call of the Jungle (3 Nights/4 Days)

Capture the intriguing beauty and chase the wilderness in Barnawapara and Achanakmar.

Ex-Raipur terminating at Bilaspur

Itinerary: Raipur - Barnawapara - Achanakmar - Amarkantak - Bilaspur.

- Day-1 Pick-up from Raipur Railway Station / Airport, departure for Barnawapara Sanctuary, dinner and night stay at Hareli Eco Resort, Mohda.
(Total road travel of approx 120 km in 3 hrs)
- Day-2 Departure for Amadob, Achanakmar Sanctuary, dinner and night stay at Sonbhadra Tourist Resort, Amadob.
(Total road travel of approx 275 km in 6 hrs)
- Day-3 Departure for Amarkantak visit to Narmada Kund, Sonbacharwar, Kabir Ashram, dinner and night stay at Sonbhadra Tourist Resort, Amadob.
(Total road travel of approx 110 km in 6 hrs)
- Day-4 Departure for Bilaspur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 4 hrs)



Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

6. Shaktipeeth Abode (3 Nights / 4 Days)

Amplify your emotions at the majestic holy shrines of Dantewada, Dongargarh and Ratanpur.

Ex-Raipur and terminate at Bilaspur

Itinerary: Raipur - Dantewada - Dongargarh - Ratanpur - Bilaspur.

- Day-1 Pick-up from Raipur Railway Station / Airport, departure for Chitrakote, Sightseeing at Chitrakote waterfalls, dinner and night stay at Dandami Luxury Resort, Chitrakote.
(Total road travel of approx 350 km in 8 hrs)
- Day-2 Departure for Dantewada to visit Maa Danteshwari Temple, departure for Rajnandgaon via Kanker - Bhanupratapur, dinner and night stay at Jawara Tourist Resort, Rajnandgaon.
(Total road travel of approx 525 km in 10 hrs)

- Day-3 Departure for Dongargarh to visit Maa Bamleshwari Temple, departure for Khutaghat via Kawardha, dinner and night stay at Gaura-Gori Lake View Tourist Cottage, Khutaghat.
(Total road travel of approx 275 km in 9 hrs)
- Day-4 Departure for Ratanpur to visit Maa Mahamaya Temple, departure for Bilaspur.
(Total road travel of approx 60 km in 3 hrs)



Maa Mahamaya Devi, Ratanpur Maa Bamleshwari Devi, Dongargarh Maa Danteshwari Devi, Dantewada

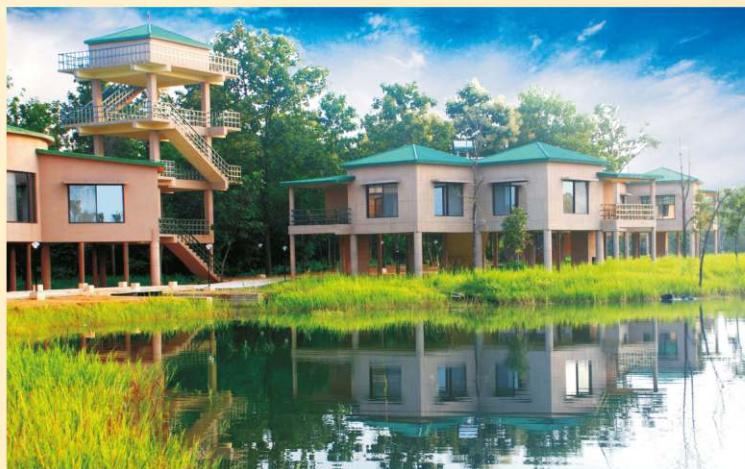
7. Hiuen Tsang Trail (2 Nights / 3 Days)

Get enchanted with the beauty of Barnawapara, and feel the historical wonder at the magnificent archaeological site of Sirpur on the banks of the Mahanadi River.

Ex-Raipur

Itinerary: Raipur - Sirpur - Barnawapara - Raipur.

- Day-1 Pick-up from Raipur Railway Station /Airport, departure for Sirpur Via Kodar Dam, sightseeing at Sirpur, dinner and night stay at Hiuen Tsang Tourist Cottage, Sirpur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 3 hrs)
- Day-2 visit to Nagarjuna Cave, departure for Mohda Barnawapara Sanctuary, dinner and night stay at Hareli Eco Resort, Mohda.
(Total road travel of approx 110 km in 6 hrs)
- Day-3 Departure for Raipur.
(Total road travel of approx 125 km in 2 hrs)



Barnawapara (Hareli Eco Resort)

8. Sylvan Surroundings (2 Nights / 3 Days)

Have an enthralling experience at the wildlife paradise of Achanakmar.

Ex-Bilaspur

Itinerary: Bilaspur - Achanakmar - Amarkantak - Bilaspur.

- Day-1 Pick-up Bilaspur Railway Station departure for Amadob, Achanakmar Sanctuary, dinner and night stay at Sonbhadrta Tourist Resort, Amadob.
(Total road travel of approx 175 km in 3 hrs)
- Day-2 Visit to Amarkantak, Kabir Ashram, dinner and night stay at Sonbhadrta Tourist Resort, Amadob.
(Total road travel of approx 200 km in 8 hrs)
- Day-3 Departure for Bilaspur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 4 hrs)



Amadob Resort

9. Temple Trail (2 Nights / 3 Days)

Marvel at the artistic splendour of Indian temple architecture with Asia's one and only Music University at Khairagarh.

Ex-Raipur

Itinerary: Raipur - Rajim - Champaran - Dongargarh - Khairagarh - Bhoramdeo - Raipur.

- Day-1 Pick-up from Raipur Railway Station /Airport, departure to Rajim, Champaran, comeback to Raipur visit to Budheshwar Temple, Mahamaya Temple, Dudhadhari Math, dinner and night stay at Hotel Johar Chhattisgarh Raipur.
(Total road travel of approx 175 km in 10 hrs)
- Day-2 Departure for Dongargarh, visit to Maa Bamleshwari Temple, Saroda-Dadar, Chilfi, dinner and night stay at Nagmori Tourist Cottage, Bhoramdeo.
(Total road travel of approx 275 km in 8 hrs)
- Day-3 Visit to Bhoramdeo Temple, departure for Raipur via Somnath Temple, Banjari Temple, back to Raipur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 5 hrs)

10. Buddhist Circuit (3 Night / 4 Days)

Embrace complete spiritual bliss as you feel closer to Lord Budhha. Let tranquillity touch your heart as you escape into the enigmatic charms of the most soul-stirring environs.



Champaran

Ex-Dongargarh and terminate at Bilaspur

Itinerary: Dongargarh - Sirpur - Mainpat - Bilaspur.

- Day-1 Pick-up from Dongargarh Railway Station, visit to Pragyagiri and Maa Bamleshwari Shaktipeeth Temple at Dongargarh, visit to Kaiwalya Dham Jain Temple at Kumhari, departure for Raipur, dinner and night stay at Hotel Johar Chhattisgarh Raipur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 7 hrs)
- Day-2 Departure for Sirpur, sightseeing at Sirpur, dinner and night stay at Hiuen Tsang Tourist Cottage, Sirpur.
(Total road travel of approx 150 km in 8 hrs)
- Day-3 Departure for Mainpat, dinner and night stay at Shaila Tourist Resort, Mainpat.
(Total road travel of approx 550 km in 11 hrs)
- Day-4 Visit to Buddhist Temple, Jal-Jali, Tiger Point, Machali Point, departure for Bilaspur.
(Total road travel of approx 375 km in 10 hrs)



Kanthideval Temp, Bilaspur

11. Archaeological Treasure (3 Nights / 4 Days)

Delve into the timeless historic treasures of Chhattisgarh's most gifted lands. The antique charm and mesmerizing sculpture of Malhar, Madkudweep, Bhoramdeo and Tala create an ambience that can never be forgotten by archaeologists, historians and passionate travellers.

Ex-Bilaspur and terminate at Raipur

Itinerary: Bilaspur - Pali Temple - Tala - Malhar - Madkudweep - Bhoramdeo - Sirpur - Raipur

- Day-1 Pick-up from Bilaspur Railway Station, departure for Pali Temple, Tala, Malhar, dinner and night stay at Gaura-Gori Lake View Tourist Cottage, Khutagaht.
(Total road travel of approx 175 km in 8 hrs)
- Day-2 Departure for Madkudweep, visit to Bhoramdeo Temple, dinner and overnight stay at Hotel Johar Chhattisgarh, Raipur.
(Total road travel of approx 350 km in 10 hrs)
- Day-3 Departure for Sirpur, sightseeing at Sirpur, dinner and night stay at Hiuen Tsang Tourist Cottage, Sirpur.
(Total road travel of approx 175 km in 9 hrs)
- Day-4 Departure for Raipur.
(Total road travel of approx 120 km in 3 hrs)



Madkudweep

Upcoming Fairs and Festivals of Chhattisgarh

- Hareli: August (Shravan)
- Bastar Dushehra, Jagdalpur, Distt. Bastar: August to October (Shravan - Ashwin)
- Kamarchath (Hal Shashti): September (Bhardapada)
- Ratanpur Festival, Ratanpur, Distt. Bilaspur: September
- Chakradhar Samoroh, Raigarh, Distt. Raigarh: September
- Pola: September (Bhadrapada)
- Nua Khai: Mid September (Bhadrapada)



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ists an unforgettable experience”**

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GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH

Chhattisgarh Tourism Board

Chhattisgarh Tourism Board

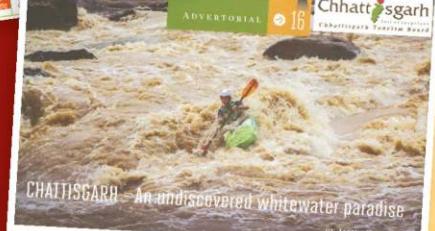
Patrika

**Chhattisgarh के जलप्रयात चित्रकों
ये हैं मानसून के फैवरेबल डेरिटनेशन**

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