

Categorized list of tourist places in Odisha, including temples, nature spots, beaches, waterfalls, historical places, Buddhist sites, museums, zoos, and modern attractions — everything you'd need to build a rich RAG-based Odia AI tourist guide:

Temples & Heritage Sites

1. Jagannath Temple – Puri

1. Name

→ Jagannath Temple

2. Location

→ Puri, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Hindu Temple, Vaishnavite Pilgrimage Site, Char Dham Destination

4. Short Description

→ A 12th-century temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, known for its towering architecture and the famous Rath Yatra (chariot festival). The temple attracts millions of devotees annually and is a spiritual cornerstone of Odisha.

5. History / Background

→ Commissioned by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva and completed around 1230 CE, the temple is deeply rooted in the Jagannath cult. Its idols, uniquely made of wood, are replaced every 12–19 years through the Nabakalebara ritual. It represents the cultural and religious heart of Odisha and is closely associated with the Bhakti movement and Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

6. Best Time to Visit

- October to March (for pleasant weather)
- June–July (for the famous Rath Yatra)
- Avoid April–May due to heat and humidity

7. Opening Timings

- 5:00 AM to 10:30 PM daily
- Mangala Aarti and early morning rituals start around 5 AM

8. Entry Fee

- Free
- No entry permitted for non-Hindus inside the sanctum; however, they can witness the temple from an adjacent platform

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Rath Yatra – world's largest chariot procession

- Mahaprasad – cooked in earthen pots and served to thousands daily
- Non-casting shadow of the temple and the flag that flows opposite to wind direction
- Unique wooden deities without hands, believed to embody the Lord's formless nature

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar (~60 km)
- By Train: Puri Railway Station (~2 km)
- By Road: Well-connected by NH-316 and Odisha State Transport buses

11. Nearby Attractions

- Gundicha Temple (final stop of the Rath Yatra)
- Puri Beach (Golden Beach)
- Lokanath Temple, Swargadwar Cremation Ground
- Chilika Lake (Satpada) ~50 km

12. Visitor Tips

- Arrive early morning to avoid crowds
- Dress conservatively; photography and leather items are prohibited inside
- Avoid touts or unauthorized priests
- Store electronic items in lockers near the entrance

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Guides available; announcements mostly in Odia and Hindi

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1 to 2 hours on regular days
- Up to a full day during festivals

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Mayfair Heritage, Hotel Shreehari, Sterling Puri, Blue Lily Beach Resort, and government lodges

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Temple Office: +91 6752 222002
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police: 100

2. Lingaraj Temple – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

- Lingaraj Temple

2. Location

- Old Town, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Hindu Temple (Shaivism), Ancient Heritage Site

4. Short Description

→ The largest temple in Bhubaneswar dedicated to Lord Shiva as Lingaraj ("The King of Lingas"), this 11th-century architectural wonder showcases mature Kalinga style and is a centerpiece of the Ekamra Kshetra temple complex.

5. History / Background

→ Built around the 11th century by the Somavamshi dynasty, with further additions by the Ganga kings. The lingam is considered swayambhu (self-originated). The temple is surrounded by smaller shrines and a sacred tank, Bindu Sagar, associated with ritual purifications.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (ideal weather)

→ February or March during Mahashivaratri (celebrated with grandeur)

7. Opening Timings

→ 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM

→ Best time for darshan: 6:00 AM – 8:00 AM

8. Entry Fee

→ Free

→ Non-Hindus are not allowed inside the sanctum but can view from a special platform outside

9. Famous For / Highlights

→ Magnificent 180-foot spire and traditional temple layout

→ Sculptures of deities, guardians, lions, and dancers

→ Annual festivals: Mahashivaratri, Chandan Yatra, Ashokastami

10. How to Reach

→ By Air: Biju Patnaik International Airport (~4 km)

→ By Train: Bhubaneswar Railway Station (~5 km)

→ By Road: Easily accessible by city buses, autos, and taxis

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Bindu Sagar Tank

→ Mukteswar and Rajarani Temples (walkable)

→ Odisha State Museum

→ Ekamra Van heritage medicinal garden

12. Visitor Tips

→ Wear modest clothing; remove shoes before entry

→ Photography not allowed inside the temple premises

→ Visit early morning for peaceful darshan

→ Avoid touts

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Local guides available

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1 to 2 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Swosti Premium, Trident Bhubaneswar, Budget hotels in Old Town

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Temple Management Office
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police: 100

3. Konark Sun Temple – Konark (UNESCO site)**1. Name**

- Konark Sun Temple

2. Location

- Konark, Puri District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

- Hindu Temple (Surya), UNESCO World Heritage Site, Monument of National Importance

4. Short Description

→ A 13th-century architectural marvel shaped like a colossal stone chariot dedicated to the Sun God, Surya. Famous for its intricate sculptures and symbolic 24 wheels, each functioning as a sundial.

5. History / Background

→ Built by King Narasimhadeva I in 1250 CE of the Eastern Ganga dynasty. The temple originally included a 229-foot tower (now collapsed) and was constructed on the shore to align with the sunrise. It was abandoned after damage by natural elements and invasions but restored partially by the ASI in the 20th century.

6. Best Time to Visit

- October to February (pleasant climate)
- December during Konark Dance Festival

7. Opening Timings

- 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM
- Sound & Light show: 7:00 PM onwards (seasonal)

8. Entry Fee

- ₹40 for Indian nationals
- ₹600 for foreign tourists
- Free for children below 15 years

9. Famous For / Highlights

- 12 pairs of intricately carved wheels representing months and time
- Erotic sculptures, mythological panels, and celestial imagery
- Annual Konark Dance Festival and Light & Sound show
- Surviving structure is the Jagamohana (assembly hall)

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Bhubaneswar Airport (~65 km)
- By Train: Puri Railway Station (~35 km)
- By Road: Buses and taxis from Puri and Bhubaneswar; well-connected by NH-316

11. Nearby Attractions

- Chandrabhaga Beach (~3 km)
- Ramachandi Temple
- Konark Museum (ASI maintained)
- Marine Drive Scenic Road (Konark to Puri)

12. Visitor Tips

- Wear comfortable shoes and sun protection
- Hire an authorized guide for history and symbolism
- Visit in the afternoon for soft lighting on sculptures
- Photography allowed in most areas

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Guides and signage available in English and Hindi

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 2 to 3 hours (add 1 hour for museum and beach walk)

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Konark Lodge, OTDC Yatri Nivas, Lotus Eco Resort, hotels in Puri (35 km)

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- ASI Office, Konark: +91 6758 236821
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858

4. Mukteswar Temple – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

→ Mukteswar Temple

2. Location

→ Old Town, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Hindu Temple (Shaivite), Architectural Landmark

4. Short Description

→ A 10th-century temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its exquisite stone arch (torana) and finely carved sandstone work. It's considered a gem of early Kalinga architecture and a symbol of architectural evolution in Odisha.

5. History / Background

→ Constructed around 950–975 CE by the Somavamshi dynasty, the temple signifies a major transition from early Odishan temple architecture to later forms. Its hallmark is the elaborately carved arched gateway with scrollwork, feminine figures, animals, and mythological scenes. The temple also contains a sacred well believed to have healing properties.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (comfortable weather)

→ January during Mukteswar Dance Festival (classical Odissi and other Indian forms)

7. Opening Timings

→ 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM daily

8. Entry Fee

→ Free for all visitors

9. Famous For / Highlights

→ Unique arched torana (gateway) – a rare feature in temple architecture

→ Miniature sculptures of ascetics, female dancers, mythical animals

→ Healing water tank and intricate ceiling carvings

→ Celebrated for elegant proportions and balance in design

10. How to Reach

→ By Air: Biju Patnaik International Airport (~4 km)

→ By Train: Bhubaneswar Railway Station (~5 km)

→ By Road: Easily reachable by auto-rickshaw, taxis, or city buses from anywhere in Bhubaneswar

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Lingaraj Temple (10-minute walk)

- Rajarani Temple
- Bindu Sagar Lake
- Parasurameswar Temple

12. Visitor Tips

- Ideal for early morning or late afternoon visits for photography
- Hire a certified guide to understand symbolic art
- Carry drinking water and sun protection during daytime visits
- Respect the sanctity of the space; remove footwear at entrance

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Guide services and ASI signage available in English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 30 to 45 minutes (more if you explore nearby temples)

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Trident Bhubaneswar, Swosti Grand, The Crown, Hotel Kalinga Ashok

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police Station: 100
- ASI Bhubaneswar Office for heritage issues

5. Rajarani Temple – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

- Rajarani Temple

2. Location

- Tankapani Road, Rajarani Colony, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

- Hindu Temple (Shaivite origin), Architectural Heritage Monument

4. Short Description

→ A quiet and serene 11th-century temple known for its sensual sculptures and red-yellow sandstone (locally called Rajarani). It's often referred to as the "Love Temple" of Odisha due to its romantic themes, although no deity idol exists inside.

5. History / Background

→ Believed to have been constructed around the 11th century CE, likely during the rule of the Somavamshi or early Ganga dynasty. The temple doesn't house a presiding deity today

but is speculated to be dedicated to Lord Shiva due to iconographic evidence. The name "Rajarani" comes from the type of sandstone used, not from any royal association.

6. Best Time to Visit

- October to February (cool and dry climate)
- January–February during the Rajarani Music Festival (classical music concerts in the temple backdrop)

7. Opening Timings

- 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM daily

8. Entry Fee

- ₹5 for Indian nationals
- ₹200–250 for foreign tourists
- Free for children below 15 years

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Erotic and romantic carvings similar to Khajuraho-style architecture
- Unique blend of Odisha and Central Indian temple design
- Detailed stone reliefs depicting divine couples, dancers, and musicians
- Annual Rajarani Music Festival featuring Odissi, Hindustani, and Carnatic styles

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport (~4 km)
- By Train: Bhubaneswar Railway Station (~4 km)
- By Road: Taxis, autos, and buses from any point in the city; close to Mukteswar and Lingaraj temples

11. Nearby Attractions

- Mukteswar Temple (short walk)
- Lingaraj Temple
- Ekamra Kanan Botanical Garden
- Odisha Crafts Museum (Kalabhoomi)

12. Visitor Tips

- Visit during the golden hour (sunrise/sunset) for scenic photography
- Music lovers should attend the Rajarani Music Festival
- Carry water; shaded seating available in lawns
- Maintain silence and do not touch sculptures

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- ASI signage and guided tours in English available

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 45 minutes to 1 hour

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Hotels on Rajpath Road and Janpath: Swosti Premium, Ginger, The Crown
- Budget stays and heritage homestays available

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- ASI caretaker office at site
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Bhubaneswar Police: 100

6. Brahmeswar Temple – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

- Brahmeswar Temple

2. Location

- Brahmeswar Patna, Old Town, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

- Hindu Temple · Shaivism · Kalinga Architecture (Mature Phase)

4. Short Description

→ A magnificent 11th-century sandstone temple dedicated to Lord Shiva (as Brahmeswara), showcasing early evidence of advanced Odishan temple architecture, including iron-beam support and intricate carvings of dancers, musicians, and deities.

5. History / Background

→ Built in 1058 CE during the reign of King Udyotakesari of the Somavamshi dynasty. It was commissioned by his mother, Queen Kolavati Devi. The temple is a significant example of mature Kalinga style, marking a transition between the Mukteswar and Lingaraj temples. Notably, this is the first temple in Odisha to use iron beams in construction and features four subsidiary shrines at the corners of the compound—an architectural innovation of its time.

6. Best Time to Visit

- October to March for cool and dry weather
- Shivaratri is an important festival celebrated here with devotion

7. Opening Timings

- 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM

8. Entry Fee

- Free

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Carvings of musicians playing instruments like flute, veena, and drum
- Sculpted figures of Surasundaris (celestial maidens), fierce guardians, and mythological animals
- First known use of iron beams in Odisha temple construction
- Pyramidal vimana and jagamohana

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport (~4 km)
- By Rail: Bhubaneswar Station (~5 km)
- By Road: Connected via Cuttack Road and Tankapani Road; auto-rickshaws and cabs easily available

11. Nearby Attractions

- Mukteswar Temple, Lingaraj Temple, Rajarani Temple, Bindu Sagar Lake

12. Visitor Tips

- Visit in the morning for softer light and fewer crowds
- Wear culturally appropriate attire
- Hire a local guide for architectural insights
- Avoid touching carvings; photography allowed

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Multilingual signage available

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1 to 1.5 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Hotel Kalinga Ashok, Swosti Premium, Ginger Bhubaneswar, The Crown

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police: 100

7. Alarnath Temple – Brahmagiri

1. Name

- Alarnath Temple (Alarnatha Mandira)

2. Location

- Brahmagiri, ~23 km from Puri, Odisha

3. Category / Type

- Hindu Temple · Vaishnavism · Jagannath Cult

4. Short Description

- A sacred temple where Lord Vishnu is worshipped as Alarnath. It gains prominence during the 14-day "Anavasara" period of Lord Jagannath when devotees believe the Lord resides here, making it the spiritual substitute for darshan.

5. History / Background

→ This temple is closely linked to Saint Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, who meditated here. It is said to be one of the 108 Abhimana Divya Desams in the Vaishnavite tradition. The legend narrates that when Jagannath falls sick after Snana Yatra, He retreats here in the form of Alarnath. The sanctum houses a black stone idol of Vishnu with four arms holding shankha, chakra, gada, and padma.

6. Best Time to Visit

- June–July (during Anavasara period)
- Also during Vaikuntha Ekadashi and other Vishnu-related festivals

7. Opening Timings

- 6:00 AM – 9:30 PM
- Heavy rush during Anavasara; plan early morning visits

8. Entry Fee

- Free

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Pakhala Bhog (fermented rice dish offered to the Lord)
- Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's footprint inside temple
- Massive footfall during Anavasara—alternative darshan for Jagannath devotees
- Recently enhanced traffic and police arrangements during peak periods

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Bhubaneswar (~65 km)
- By Train: Puri Station (~23 km)
- By Road: Buses and autos ply regularly during festival season

11. Nearby Attractions

- Chilika Lake (Satapada), Gundicha Temple, Golden Beach Puri

12. Visitor Tips

- Visit early during Anavasara to avoid extreme crowds
- Carry water; queues can be long in summer
- Avoid carrying bags or leather items
- Prasad can be bought from stalls nearby

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Local volunteers help during peak seasons

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1–2 hours (more during Anavasara)

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Lodges in Brahmagiri; Puri hotels like Mayfair Heritage, Sterling, Blue Lily

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Brahmagiri Police Station
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858

8. Tara Tarini Temple – Ganjam

1. Name

- Tara Tarini Temple

2. Location

- Kumari Hills, Near Purushottampur, Ganjam District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

- Hindu Temple · Shakti Peetha · Pilgrimage Site

4. Short Description

→ A revered Shakti Peetha perched on Kumari Hills, dedicated to the twin goddesses Tara and Tarini, considered the breast relic site of Sati. It's known for its panoramic views, ropeway access, and lakhs of devotees during Chaitra Jatra.

5. History / Background

→ One of the four major Shakti Peethas in India, associated with the tantric tradition. Believed to be established in the 1st century CE. Mythologically, this is the site where Sati's breasts fell. The idols are made of stone and are adorned with silver crowns and gold jewelry. The temple has received ₹68 crore modernization funds recently, with plans for a new helipad, rest sheds, ropeway upgrades, and enhanced infrastructure.

6. Best Time to Visit

- March–April for Chaitra Jatra (especially Tuesdays)
- October to February for sightseeing

7. Opening Timings

- 6:30 AM – 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM – 9:30 PM

8. Entry Fee

- Free
- Ropeway: ₹60 per person; ₹100 for round trip
- Nominal puja charges for vehicle puja, tonsure, and rituals

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Ropeway or 999 steps to reach the summit
- Scenic view of Rushikulya River and surrounding forest
- Newborn hair offering (Mundan ceremony), vehicle puja, Navratri celebrations
- Eco-friendly hilltop with meditation centers planned under redevelopment

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Bhubaneswar (~170 km)
- By Train: Berhampur (~32 km)
- By Road: NH-16 to Purushottampur, then local transport to temple base

11. Nearby Attractions

- Gopalpur Beach, Tampara Lake, Jaugada Fort

12. Visitor Tips

- Ropeway is safe and scenic—ideal for senior citizens
- Start climb early to avoid sun; monkeys are common—secure food and bags
- Photography is allowed, but avoid disturbing rituals

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Ropeway staff, trust office provide basic support

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 2 to 3 hours including climb/ropeway and puja

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Pilgrim rest houses at foothill
- Hotels in Berhampur (The South Park, City Palace Hotel)

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Temple Office: Tara Tarini Temple Trust
- Ganjam District Emergency Control Room
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858

9. Chausathi Yogini Temple – Hirapur

1. Name

- Chausathi Yogini Temple

2. Location

- Hirapur Village, 18 km southeast of Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

- Tantric Temple · Open-Air Shrine · Archaeological Monument

4. Short Description

→ A rare and fully intact 9th-century circular Yogini shrine featuring 64 intricately carved female goddess statues arranged in niches. The only roofless, open-to-sky Yogini temple in Odisha, offering insight into ancient tantric practices.

5. History / Background

→ Built by Queen Hiradevi of the Bhauma dynasty (8th–9th century CE). Worship here involved tantra, mysticism, and yoga. It remained hidden for centuries until rediscovered by the ASI in the 1950s. The Yoginis are believed to represent female energies that aid in transcendence and enlightenment.

6. Best Time to Visit

- October to March for pleasant weather
- Navratri and Solstice periods are spiritually significant

7. Opening Timings

- 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM (sunrise to sunset)

8. Entry Fee

- Free

9. Famous For / Highlights

- 64 Yoginis sculpted from black chlorite, each with unique posture and mount
- Central idol of Goddess Kali or Mahamaya standing on a human head
- Roofless circular architecture signifying yogic energy flow and cosmic openness

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Bhubaneswar Airport (~15 km)
- By Rail: Bhubaneswar (~16 km)
- By Road: Private taxi or auto from Bhubaneswar; close to Baliantha and Baramunda

11. Nearby Attractions

- Udayagiri & Khandagiri Caves, Lingaraj Temple, Dhuli Shanti Stupa

12. Visitor Tips

- Peaceful during weekdays; best visited at dawn
- Avoid loud noise; meditate if possible
- Do not touch or climb on sculptures; ASI protected site

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- ASI signage in English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1 to 1.5 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Bhubaneswar: Swosti Premium, Hotel Empires, Mayfair Lagoon

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- ASI Bhubaneswar Office
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police: 100

10. Puri Beach – Puri

1. Name

→ Puri Beach (also known as Golden Beach)

2. Location

→ Puri, Odisha (Bay of Bengal coast)

3. Category / Type

→ Natural Beach · Cultural Hub · Blue Flag Certified

4. Short Description

→ A prominent beach destination with spiritual significance, known for its golden sands, beautiful sunrises/sunsets, and vibrant atmosphere. It is adjacent to the Jagannath Temple and features acclaimed sand art.

5. History / Background

→ Puri Beach has long served as a sacred bathing site for pilgrims visiting the Jagannath Temple. It gained global attention through the annual Puri Beach Festival and the works of internationally acclaimed sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik. In 2020, a portion was certified as a “Blue Flag Beach,” making it one of the cleanest and most tourist-friendly in India.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March for ideal weather
→ December during the Puri Beach Festival

7. Opening Timings

→ Open 24/7, but best visited from sunrise to 9:00 PM for safety

8. Entry Fee

→ Free
→ Nominal fees may apply for paid zones or parking

9. Famous For / Highlights

→ Sudarsan Pattnaik's sand sculptures
→ Sunrise and sunset views
→ Beach Festival (cultural performances, exhibitions)
→ Blue Flag-certified zone with clean amenities

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Bhubaneswar Airport (~60 km)
- By Rail: Puri Railway Station (~2 km)
- By Road: Connected via NH-316; autos and cabs readily available

11. Nearby Attractions

- Jagannath Temple, Swargadwar Market, Gundicha Temple, Marine Drive

12. Visitor Tips

- Swim only in lifeguard-monitored areas
- Avoid street food from unverified vendors
- Early morning or late afternoon is best for fewer crowds
- Respect local customs and beach cleanliness rules

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Tourist police and information desks available nearby

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1 to 2 hours (can extend for leisure or festivals)

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Mayfair Heritage, Sterling Puri, Blue Lily Beach Resort, OTDC Panthanivas

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Lifeguard and Police Booths along Marine Drive
- Local Police: 100

11. Chandrabhaga Beach – Near Konark

1. Name

- Chandrabhaga Beach (also known as Konark Beach)

2. Location

- Near Konark Sun Temple, approximately 3 km east of Konark, Odisha

3. Category / Type

- Natural Beach · Pilgrimage Site · Eco-tourism Destination · Blue Flag Certified

4. Short Description

→ A serene, mythologically significant beach known for its sunrise views, Blue Flag-certified cleanliness, and spiritual energy. Popular for rituals, festivals, and hosting Odisha's International Sand Art Festival.

5. History / Background

→ Named after the mythological river Chandrabhaga, believed to have vanished beneath the sand. As per legend, Samba (Lord Krishna's son) cured his leprosy here by worshipping the Sun God. The beach holds immense spiritual significance for pilgrims, especially during Magha Saptami. It was one of the first beaches in India to receive the Blue Flag tag for cleanliness and eco-sustainability.

6. Best Time to Visit

- October to March for pleasant weather
- January–February: Magha Saptami Mela
- December: International Sand Art Festival (1st–5th Dec)

7. Opening Timings

- 5:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Peak hours: early morning for sunrise and during festival times

8. Entry Fee

- Free
- Parking and Blue Flag facility charges may apply (~₹20–₹30)

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Mesmerizing sunrise point, especially for pilgrims
- International Sand Art Festival with artists from across the world
- Blue Flag zone with eco-friendly facilities: toilets, watchtowers, changing rooms, water stations
- Magha Mela spiritual bathing ritual attracting thousands

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar (~65 km)
- By Train: Puri Railway Station (~30 km)
- By Road: Accessible via Marine Drive Road; local buses, autos, and taxis available

11. Nearby Attractions

- Konark Sun Temple (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Ramachandi Temple
- Marine Drive Scenic Route to Puri
- ASI Museum, Konark

12. Visitor Tips

- Swim cautiously; tides can be unpredictable—prefer designated safe zones
- Avoid plastic; it's an eco-sensitive zone
- Early morning visits offer peaceful experiences and photo ops
- Wear slippers/sandals with grip; sand gets hot during the day

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Most signage in English and Odia; volunteers available during festivals

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1 to 2 hours (longer during festivals or sand art events)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Yatri Nivas (OTDC), Lotus Eco Resort, Forest Rest House Ramachandi
→ More options available in Puri (30–40 min drive)

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→ Blue Flag Information Kiosk on-site
→ Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
→ Local Police: 100

12. Gopalpur Beach – Ganjam

1. Name

→ Gopalpur Beach (also called Gopalpur-on-Sea)

2. Location

→ Gopalpur, Ganjam District, Odisha (around 16 km from Berhampur)

3. Category / Type

→ Seaside Town · Heritage Beach · Leisure Destination

4. Short Description

→ A tranquil, less-crowded beach known for its gentle waves, colonial ruins, lighthouse views, and golden sands. Ideal for peaceful getaways, seafood lovers, and offbeat beach experiences.

5. History / Background

→ Once a thriving port under British and earlier traders, Gopalpur lost prominence after WWII. Its lighthouse, old jetties, and warehouses stand as colonial remnants. Today, it's a calm tourist destination known for its scenic beauty and annual beach festival celebrating Ganjam's culture.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (pleasant coastal weather)
→ December: Gopalpur Beach Festival with folk music, food stalls, and sand art

7. Opening Timings

→ Open from 5:00 AM – 10:00 PM
→ Ideal visit time: Sunrise, sunset, or late evening

8. Entry Fee

- Free access
- Parking charges may apply (₹20–₹40)

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Historic lighthouse with panoramic sea views
- Quiet, unspoiled beachscape perfect for walks
- Beach festival with cultural performances
- Casuarina groves and seafood shacks lining the shore

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar (~180 km)
- By Train: Berhampur Railway Station (~16 km)
- By Road: Well connected via NH-16; buses and autos available from Berhampur

11. Nearby Attractions

- Tampara Lake, Taptapani Hot Springs, Mahuri Kalua Temple
- Lighthouse viewpoint, old jetty ruins

12. Visitor Tips

- Ideal for a peaceful retreat, not for crowded recreation
- Avoid swimming far—waves can be deceptive despite calm appearance
- Try the fresh seafood from beachside stalls
- Visit lighthouse during morning hours (open to tourists occasionally)

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Local vendors mostly bilingual; signage limited

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1.5 to 3 hours depending on activities (longer for festivals)

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Mayfair Palm Beach Resort, Swosti Palm Resort, Sea Pearl Hotel, OTDC Yatri Nivas

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Gopalpur Police Station: 100
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Lifeguard Station (seasonal)

13. Aryapalli Beach – Ganjam

1. Name

→ Aryapalli Beach

2. Location

→ Aryapalli village, near Chatrapur in Ganjam district, Odisha (around 30 km from Berhampur)

3. Category / Type

→ Remote Natural Beach · Marine Drive Stopover · Scenic Coastal Stretch

4. Short Description

→ A peaceful and lesser-explored beach known for its gentle waves, long stretch of sands, and raw, untouched coastal charm. Popular among solitude-seekers, bikers, and nature lovers looking for an escape from touristy crowds.

5. History / Background

→ Historically a fishing village, Aryapalli's beach gained attention as part of Odisha's hidden coastal circuit. Due to its remoteness and natural appeal, it's favored by locals and offbeat travelers rather than commercial tourists. The nearby Aryapalli Port (a minor port) has regional trade significance.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (comfortable weather, especially for early mornings and evening strolls)

7. Opening Timings

→ Open 24/7

→ Best hours: Sunrise (for solitude) or after 4 PM (for mild breezes)

8. Entry Fee

→ Free (no commercial entry checkpoints)

9. Famous For / Highlights

→ Unspoiled coastline ideal for picnics or quiet contemplation

→ Biking route along the Berhampur–Aryapalli–Gopalpur Marine Drive

→ Photography, shell collecting, and beachcombing

→ Strong local fishing community presence

10. How to Reach

→ By Air: Bhubaneswar Airport (~180 km)

→ By Train: Berhampur (~30 km)

→ By Road: Taxis or rented scooters from Berhampur or Gopalpur

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Gopalpur Beach, Tampara Lake, Taptapani Hot Springs, Mahuri Kalua Temple

12. Visitor Tips

- Carry water, snacks—few food stalls exist
- Wear shoes or slippers (some coarse patches on the beach)
- Not suitable for swimming due to unpredictable undercurrents
- Ideal for peaceful nature time, not group activities

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi
- English is limited—carry a guide or translation app if needed

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1 to 2 hours (perfect as a detour stop)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Stay in Gopalpur (~10–15 km): Mayfair Palm Beach, Swosti Palm Resort, or budget lodges

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Local Police Station (Chatrapur): 100
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Nearest hospital: MKCG Medical College, Berhampur

14. Talasari Beach – Balasore

1. Name

→ Talasari Beach

2. Location

→ Near Chandaneswar village, Baleswar (Balasore) district, Odisha (close to the Odisha–West Bengal border, ~10 km from Digha)

3. Category / Type

→ Estuarine Beach · Mangrove Coastline · Offbeat Nature Spot

4. Short Description

→ A tranquil and scenic beach bordered by casuarina trees, red crabs, estuary waters, and small sand dunes. Known for its shallow waves, fishing boats, and peaceful, untouched environment—offering a perfect weekend escape.

5. History / Background

→ “Tala” means palm and “Sari” means row in Odia—thus “Talasari” refers to rows of palm trees that fringe the beach. It’s part of the Udaipur–Talasari eco-tourism circuit and is overseen by the Odisha Forest Department, with community participation in tourism development.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to February for the best climate
- Avoid monsoon (June–August) due to high tides

7. Opening Timings

- Open 24 hours
- Best time: Sunrise to sunset

8. Entry Fee

- Free for beach access
- Nominal parking charges and optional boat service fees

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Estuarine charm with tidal patterns—at low tide, you can walk across sandbanks
- Dense casuarina & palm groves
- Red crab colonies across the shore
- Fresh seafood stalls and local fish market

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata (~190 km)
- By Train: Jaleswar (~35 km) or Digha (~10 km)
- By Road: Drive from Digha or Balasore; local autos and taxis available

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Chandaneswar Temple, Udaipur Beach, Talsari Estuary viewpoint, Digha Beach (West Bengal)

12. Visitor Tips

- Visit during low tide to walk onto the estuary flats
- Footwear advised—crab holes and wet sand can be slippery
- Carry water and essentials—limited shops around
- Sunrise here is exceptionally photogenic

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Bengali, Hindi
- Limited English support—bilingual local guides available on request

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 2 to 3 hours (perfect for a half-day picnic or peaceful retreat)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ OTDC Panthasala near the beach, budget lodges at Chandaneswar and Udaipur, or hotels in Digha (~15–20 min away)

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Jaleswar Police: 100
- Forest Rest House (Talasari) for local assistance
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858

15. Paradeep Beach – Jagatsinghpur

1. Name

- Paradeep Beach (also spelled Paradip Beach)

2. Location

- Paradip, Jagatsinghpur District, Odisha (at the confluence of the Mahanadi River and the Bay of Bengal)

3. Category / Type

- Port City Beach · Industrial Coastline · Leisure and Picnic Spot

4. Short Description

- A scenic beach at the edge of a major port town, where the Mahanadi River meets the sea. It offers a mix of commercial bustle, peaceful beach views, and green parks—making it a unique blend of industrial and natural beauty.

5. History / Background

- Paradeep rose to prominence with the establishment of the Paradip Port in 1966, a key cargo and maritime hub for eastern India. The beach area was later beautified with parks, sculptures, and walkways for public recreation, balancing industrial importance with coastal tourism.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to February for cooler, pleasant weather
- Evenings for refreshing sea breeze and park lighting

7. Opening Timings

- Open 24/7; parks and walkways accessible from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM

8. Entry Fee

- Free for beach access
- Nominal charges may apply for boating or park areas

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Viewpoint of massive cargo ships at sea
- Marine Aquarium, Smruti Udyan (memorial park), and lighthouse nearby
- Landscaped gardens, concrete pathways, and marine sculptures
- Sunrise and river-sea confluence views

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik International Airport, Bhubaneswar (~125 km)

- By Train: Paradeep Railway Station (~3 km)
- By Road: Well-connected by buses and taxis from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar via NH-53

11. Nearby Attractions

- Paradip Port, Marine Aquarium, Nehru Bungalow, Smruti Udyan (dedicated to 1999 Super Cyclone victims)

12. Visitor Tips

- Avoid swimming; strong waves and commercial shipping routes
- Ideal for long walks, picnics, and sunrise photography
- Some areas may be off-limits due to port security—follow signage
- Evening lighting in garden area offers a calm ambiance

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Tourist signage mostly in Odia and English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 1.5 to 2.5 hours (can extend for port viewing and park relaxation)

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Hotel Empires Paradeep, Blue Lily Hotel, Paradeep Port Guest House, OTDC Yatri Nivas

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Paradeep Port Security: On-site booths
- Jagatsinghpur Police: 100
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Health Centre & Port Hospital available

16. Chilika Lake – Asia's largest brackish water lagoon

1. Name

- Chilika Lake

2. Location

→ Spanning across Puri, Khurda, and Ganjam districts, Odisha (major access via Satapada, Barkul, Rambha, and Mangalajodi)

3. Category / Type

→ Brackish Water Lagoon · Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) · Ecotourism Spot

4. Short Description

→ Asia's largest coastal lagoon and the world's second-largest. Chilika is home to a rich variety of migratory birds, Irrawaddy dolphins, and aquatic life. A paradise for birdwatchers, eco-travelers, and nature lovers.

5. History / Background

→ Formed around 3500 years ago due to tectonic activity and river sedimentation. Recognized as a Ramsar Site in 1981. It once suffered ecological degradation but was revived by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA), making it one of India's success stories in wetland restoration.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to February (peak migratory bird season)
- Avoid monsoon (June–August) due to rough waters and reduced visibility

7. Opening Timings

- 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM (boating and sanctuary areas)

8. Entry Fee

- Entry Free
- Boating Charges: ₹100–₹500+ depending on location and boat type
- Dolphin-watching tours at Satapada may charge ₹200–₹800

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Irrawaddy dolphins at Satapada
- Migratory birds from Siberia, Iran, and Central Asia at Nalabana and Mangalajodi
- Sea mouth and Kalijai Island temple
- Floating villages and fish farming scenes

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Bhubaneswar Airport (~120 km to Satapada, ~100 km to Barkul)
- By Rail: Balugaon (for Barkul), Puri (for Satapada)
- By Road: Well connected to Bhubaneswar, Puri, Berhampur via NH-16

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Kalijai Temple, Nalabana Bird Sanctuary, Mangalajodi Wetlands, Sea Mouth (where lake meets Bay of Bengal), Rajhans Island

12. Visitor Tips

- Carry binoculars and camera for birding
- Hire CDA-authorized boats only for safety

- Pack water and snacks—limited shops on islands
- Ideal for early morning visits; avoid late afternoons for boat rides

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Guides available at key points; CDA signboards in English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- Half-day to full-day trip (especially with island hopping or birding)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ OTDC Panthanivas at Barkul and Rambha, Chilika Island Camps (seasonal glamping), budget hotels in Balugaon and Puri

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Chilika Development Authority: +91-674-2434042
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police: 100 (stations at Satapada, Balugaon)

17. Nandankanan Zoological Park – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

- Nandankanan Zoological Park

2. Location

- Barang, Bhubaneswar, Odisha (adjacent to Chandaka Forest)

3. Category / Type

- Zoological Park · Botanical Garden · Safari Park · Conservation Facility

4. Short Description

→ A renowned zoo nestled in a forested area featuring rare animals, a botanical garden, and India's first White Tiger Safari. It is both a zoo and a sanctuary, offering a natural habitat-like experience for visitors.

5. History / Background

→ Established in 1960 and opened to the public in 1979. It is the first zoo in India to become a member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). Notably, the first white tiger cubs in captivity were born here in 1980.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to February (cooler weather and animal activity peak)

7. Opening Timings

→ 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Mondays)

8. Entry Fee

→ Adults ₹50, Children ₹20
→ Safari ride: ₹30–₹50
→ Still Camera ₹50, Video Camera ₹100

9. Famous For / Highlights

→ White Tiger Safari
→ Lion Safari and Bear Safari
→ Reptile Park and Aquarium
→ Botanical Garden and Orchid House
→ Nature Interpretation Centre

10. How to Reach

→ By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport (~20 km)
→ By Train: Bhubaneswar Railway Station (~18 km)
→ By Road: Accessible by buses, autos, and cabs from Bhubaneswar city

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Kanjia Lake (within premises), Ekamra Kanan, Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, Odisha State Museum

12. Visitor Tips

→ Safari queues are longer during holidays—visit early
→ Carry water and sun protection; the area is large
→ Use the battery-operated vehicles for easier mobility
→ Avoid plastic; the zoo is eco-sensitive

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English
→ Signboards and announcements available in English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 3 to 5 hours (half-day trip recommended)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Hotel Empires, Mayfair Lagoon, Swosti Premium, OTDC Panthanivas Bhubaneswar

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→ Nandankanan Zoo Office: +91-674-2466075
→ Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
→ Local Police: 100

18. Bhitarkanika National Park – Kendrapara

1. Name

→ Bhitarkanika National Park

2. Location

→ Kendrapara District, Odisha (approx. 160 km from Bhubaneswar)

3. Category / Type

→ Mangrove Forest · Estuarine Wetland · Wildlife Sanctuary · Ramsar Site

4. Short Description

→ A biodiverse paradise of mangrove forests, tidal rivers, estuaries, and mudflats, Bhitarkanika is India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem and home to the largest population of saltwater crocodiles in India, along with over 250 bird species.

5. History / Background

→ Declared a national park in 1998 and a Ramsar Site in 2002, the area was once the private hunting grounds of the Kanika royal family. Now it is a vital wetland habitat supporting crocodile conservation and migratory birds.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ November to February (pleasant weather and peak birdwatching season)
→ Avoid monsoons (July–September) due to flooding and restricted access

7. Opening Timings

→ 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
→ Park closed during peak monsoon (exact dates may vary)

8. Entry Fee

→ Indian Visitors: ₹20, Foreigners: ₹100
→ Camera and boating charges extra (₹50–₹500 depending on boat type and duration)

9. Famous For / Highlights

→ Giant estuarine crocodiles (over 20 ft long recorded)
→ Migratory birds from Siberia and Central Asia
→ Mangrove boat cruises through narrow creeks
→ Spotted deer, wild boars, monitor lizards, king cobras
→ Ancient hunting towers and forest rest houses

10. How to Reach

→ By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar (~160 km)
→ By Train: Bhadrak (~70 km), Cuttack (~130 km)
→ By Road: Reach Khola or Gupti entry points via Chandabali or Rajnagar by taxi

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Dangmal Crocodile Research Centre, Pentha Sea Beach, Kanika Palace ruins, Habalikhathi Beach (requires boat access)

12. Visitor Tips

- Boating is the best way to explore—start early for calm waters
- Carry insect repellent, water, and snacks
- Book forest guest houses or OTDC stays in advance
- Wear light, forest-friendly clothing; avoid bright colors

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Limited signage—prefer guided tours or forest officer assistance

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- Half-day to full-day visit (best with boat safari and birding)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Forest Guest House (Dangmal), OTDC Ecotourism Cottages at Gupti and Habalikhathi, budget hotels in Chandabali or Rajnagar

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Forest Range Office (Dangmal): +91-94383-94141
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police/Rajnagar: 100

19. Simlipal National Park – Mayurbhanj (Tiger Reserve)

1. Name

- Simlipal National Park and Tiger Reserve

2. Location

- Mayurbhanj District, Northern Odisha (nearest town: Baripada)

3. Category / Type

- Tiger Reserve · National Park · Biosphere Reserve · Waterfall & Forest Zone

4. Short Description

→ A sprawling reserve with dense sal forests, majestic waterfalls, and rare wildlife, Simlipal is one of India's original Project Tiger sites. It offers jungle safaris, tribal heritage exposure, and scenic trails amidst pure wilderness.

5. History / Background

→ Formerly the royal hunting ground of the Mayurbhanj kings, Simlipal was declared a tiger reserve in 1973 and a national park in 1980. It became part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009, covering an area of over 2,750 sq. km.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to mid-June
- Closed during monsoon (mid-June to October)

7. Opening Timings

- 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM (daily, except monsoon closure period)
- Gate entries: From Pithabata (Baripada side) and Jashipur (NH-6 side)

8. Entry Fee

- Indians: ₹100, Foreigners: ₹1,000
- Guide and vehicle entry charges extra (~₹500–₹1,500 based on zone and safari type)

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Royal Bengal Tigers, elephants, gaurs, leopards
- Two major waterfalls: Barehipani (399 ft) and Joranda (150 ft)
- Tribal villages and medicinal plant trails
- Rich birdlife: hornbills, peacocks, and crested serpent eagles
- Dense forest safari in open jeeps

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar (~270 km)
- By Rail: Baripada (25 km from Pithabata gate), Balasore (nearest major railhead ~110 km)
- By Road: Accessible by cabs from Baripada or Jashipur

11. Nearby Attractions

- Ramtirtha Crocodile Breeding Centre, Khiching Temple, Lulung Forest Rest Zone, Devkund Waterfall

12. Visitor Tips

- Book forest lodges/safaris in advance (limited capacity)
- Carry warm clothes for winter; jungle mornings are chilly
- No mobile network deep inside park—carry offline maps
- Avoid plastic, maintain silence, and follow guide instructions strictly

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English, and tribal dialects
- Forest staff and guides mostly bilingual

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- Minimum: Half-day safari; Full experience: 2–3 days with overnight stay

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Forest Rest Houses (Pithabata, Jamuani, Gurguria, Chahala)
- Baripada town: Hotel Ambika, Aranya Nivas (OTDC)

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Simlipal Forest Division: +91-94371-41539
- Simlipal National Park Helpline: 06792-259126

- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police & Medical Center in Baripada

20. Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary – Bargarh

1. Name

- Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

2. Location

- Bargarh District, Western Odisha (near Hirakud Dam and Sambalpur)

3. Category / Type

- Wildlife Sanctuary · Eco-tourism Zone · Hill Forest Region

4. Short Description

→ A serene sanctuary known for dry deciduous forest, rich wildlife, and its proximity to the Hirakud Reservoir. Popular for eco-tourism, jungle safaris, birdwatching, and panoramic views of water-meets-forest landscapes.

5. History / Background

→ Declared a sanctuary in 1985. Historically linked to freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai, who used the forest as a hideout during his rebellion against British rule. Debrigarh is also part of the Eastern Highlands moist deciduous eco-region.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to February (cool, pleasant, and animal-sighting friendly)
- Avoid peak summer and monsoon

7. Opening Timings

- 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Entry only with prior permits; check availability online or via forest office

8. Entry Fee

- Indian Adults: ₹40, Foreigners: ₹100
- Safari Jeep & Guide Fees: ₹700–₹1,000 per vehicle (with capacity)
- Online booking: <https://www.ecotourodisha.com>

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Leopards, spotted deer, sloth bears, hyenas, sambar
- Over 200 bird species including migratory waterfowl
- Proximity to Hirakud Dam and reservoir shoreline
- Eco cottages with stunning sunrise/sunset views

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur (~265 km), or Jharsuguda Airport (~90 km)
- By Rail: Sambalpur Railway Station (~40 km)
- By Road: Accessible by taxi or private vehicle from Bargarh or Sambalpur

11. Nearby Attractions

- Hirakud Dam, Gandhi Minar, Huma Leaning Temple, Ghanteswari Temple

12. Visitor Tips

- Book safaris and cottages well in advance
- Carry warm clothing, binoculars, and insect repellent
- Mobile signal is weak in core zones—carry offline maps
- Strictly avoid plastic and loud noise

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi
- English-speaking guides available on request

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- Half-day for safari; 1–2 days for full eco-tourism experience

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Debrigarh Nature Camp (managed by Odisha Ecotourism), hotels in Sambalpur or Bargarh

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Forest Range Office (Debrigarh): +91-94373-34119
- Odisha Ecotourism Helpline: +91-94371-62869
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Nearest hospital: Sambalpur District Hospital

21. Satkosia Tiger Reserve & Gorge – Angul

1. Name

- Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Gorge

2. Location

- Angul, Nayagarh, Boudh, and Cuttack Districts, Odisha (core zone near Tikarpada, Angul)

3. Category / Type

- Tiger Reserve · River Gorge · Wildlife Sanctuary · Ecotourism Hub

4. Short Description

→ A spectacular convergence of forests and the majestic Mahanadi River carving through a 22 km-long gorge. Satkosia is a haven for tigers, crocodiles, birds, and elephants, with thick sal forests, river islands, and deep biodiversity.

5. History / Background

→ Declared a sanctuary in 1976 and a tiger reserve in 2007 under Project Tiger. The name “Satkosia” is derived from “Sat” (seven) and “Kos” (a traditional unit of distance), referring to the 22 km stretch of the Mahanadi Gorge.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to March (comfortable weather and best wildlife sightings)
- Avoid monsoon due to river swelling and forest closure

7. Opening Timings

- 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed during monsoon, mid-June to October)

8. Entry Fee

- Indian Adults: ₹20, Foreigners: ₹100
- Camera, safari jeep, and boat safari fees extra
- Eco-camp packages available with food, stay, and activities

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Mahanadi Gorge and river safari
- Tigers, leopards, elephants, mugger & gharial crocodiles
- Rare birds: Indian skimmer, crested serpent eagle, Malabar pied hornbill
- Tikarpada Crocodile Breeding Centre
- Tent stays on riverbanks and forest lodges

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar (~150 km to Tikarpada)
- By Rail: Angul Railway Station (~50 km)
- By Road: Well connected by NH-55 and NH-224; taxi and bus options from Angul and Nayagarh

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Tikarpada Eco Camp, Baliput, Purunakote Forest Camp, Satkosia Sandbar Camping, Mahanadi boat trails

12. Visitor Tips

- Online booking is advised at <https://www.ecotourodishia.com>
- Carry binoculars and light jackets
- Boat safaris may depend on river conditions—check in advance
- Stay within marked trails and zones

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Guides available; signage in English and Odia

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ Half-day to 2 days for full safari and eco-stay experience

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Satkosia Sand Resort (Tikarpada), Purunakote and Chhotkei Nature Camps, Forest Rest Houses

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Satkosia Wildlife Division: +91-94385-47364
- Tikarpada Forest Camp Office
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Nearest Hospital: Angul District Hospital

22. Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary – Kalahandi

1. Name

→ Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary

2. Location

→ Kalahandi District, Odisha (nearest town: Bhawanipatna, ~15 km)

3. Category / Type

→ Wildlife Sanctuary · Dry Deciduous Forest · Lesser-Known Eco Destination

4. Short Description

→ Nestled in the Eastern Ghats, Karlapat is a quiet sanctuary rich in medicinal plants, waterfalls, and endemic wildlife. Ideal for eco-travelers and researchers seeking offbeat biodiversity and tribal culture.

5. History / Background

→ Declared a sanctuary in 1992, Karlapat is located in the Niyamgiri foothills and is home to Kondha tribal communities. It plays a role in preserving medicinal plants and lesser-known Eastern Ghats fauna.

6. Best Time to Visit

- November to February (ideal for trekking and wildlife sighting)
- Avoid rainy season due to slippery terrain

7. Opening Timings

→ 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM (open year-round, entry via forest gate at Jamgaon)

8. Entry Fee

- Indians: ₹20, Foreigners: ₹100
- Guide and vehicle charges extra

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Leopards, barking deer, jungle cats, various birds and reptiles
- Phurlijharan Waterfall inside the sanctuary
- Rich flora including over 200 medicinal plant species
- Tribal eco-villages and nature trails

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Swami Vivekananda Airport, Raipur (~250 km)
- By Rail: Bhawanipatna Railway Station (~12 km)
- By Road: Well-connected by road from Bhawanipatna via Jamgaon entry

11. Nearby Attractions

- Phurlijharan Falls, Bhawanipatna temples, Belkhandi ruins, Lanjigarh Hills

12. Visitor Tips

- Carry water, wear trekking shoes, and avoid plastic
- Hire local guides from the eco-tourism center
- Avoid disturbing wildlife or venturing off-trails
- Great for trekking and nature photography

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Kui (tribal), Hindi
- Limited English; guides usually Odia/Hindi-speaking

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- Half-day to full-day depending on trekking trails used

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Forest Rest House (Karlapat), OTDC Panthanivas in Bhawanipatna, basic lodges

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Divisional Forest Office, Kalahandi: +91-94371-16523
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Local Police/Bhawanipatna Medical Center: 100 / 108

23. Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

→ Chandaka Elephant Sanctuary

2. Location

→ Outskirts of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, Odisha (entry points: Godibari, Deras, and Jhumka)

3. Category / Type

→ Elephant Reserve · Dry Deciduous Forest · Eco-Conservation Zone

4. Short Description

→ A protected forest known for its population of wild elephants, Chandaka serves as a green lung for the twin cities. It is a biodiversity hotspot offering eco-tourism, birdwatching, and forest safari experiences close to the capital.

5. History / Background

→ Declared a sanctuary in 1982 under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Once part of the dense Eastern Ghats corridor, Chandaka helps preserve elephant migration routes and native flora and fauna. It also supports research and education on urban-wildlife coexistence.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ November to February (pleasant weather, wildlife sightings more frequent)
→ Avoid monsoon (access roads get slippery and safaris may pause)

7. Opening Timings

→ 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Mondays and national holidays)

8. Entry Fee

→ Indian Adults: ₹20, Foreigners: ₹100
→ Safari vehicle and guide charges: ₹500–₹1,000 depending on trail and time

9. Famous For / Highlights

→ Wild Asian elephants, leopards, barking deer, pangolins
→ Over 170 species of birds including peafowl, racket-tailed drongo, crested serpent eagle
→ Watchtowers at Kumarkhunti and Matha Sahi
→ Deras and Jhumka Reservoirs (picnic spots)

10. How to Reach

→ By Air: Biju Patnaik International Airport (~20 km)
→ By Rail: Bhubaneswar Railway Station (~22 km)
→ By Road: Entry via Godibari (~18 km from city center); accessible by cab, private vehicle

11. Nearby Attractions

- Deras Dam, Jhumka Reservoir, Nandankanan Zoo, Udayagiri & Khandagiri Caves

12. Visitor Tips

- Book safaris in advance on <https://www.ecotourodishia.com>
- Carry drinking water, wear forest-colored clothes
- Avoid plastic; be silent near watering holes
- Ideal for nature walks and short eco-retreats

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Odia, Hindi, English
- Forest guides primarily speak Odia and Hindi; basic English available

14. Estimated Time to Explore

- 3 to 4 hours (including safari, dam visit, and watchtower trek)

15. Accommodation Nearby

- Chandaka Eco Retreat (cottages near Deras Dam), hotels in Bhubaneswar city (Swosti Premium, Ginger, Empires)

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

- Chandaka Forest Division: +91-94385-47370
- Eco-tourism Office (Godibari Gate)
- Odisha Tourism Helpline: 1800-212-5858
- Nearest Hospital: Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar (approx. 20 km)

24. Daringbadi – Kandhamal (aka Kashmir of Odisha)

1. Name

- Daringbadi

2. Location

- Kandhamal District, Odisha (altitude ~3,000 ft above sea level)

3. Category / Type

→ Hill Station · Eco-Tourism Destination · Tribal Region

4. Short Description

→ Popularly known as the “Kashmir of Odisha,” Daringbadi offers pine forests, coffee plantations, waterfalls, and misty mornings. It is Odisha’s only hill station where temperatures can drop below 0°C in winter.

5. History / Background

→ Named after British officer Daring Saheb who was posted here during colonial times. The area is inhabited largely by tribal communities such as the Kutia Kondhs. Over time, it has evolved into a peaceful eco-tourism hub promoting tribal culture and sustainable travel.

6. Best Time to Visit

- October to March (winter chills and scenic fog)
- Avoid heavy monsoon (July–September) due to slippery roads

7. Opening Timings

- Open all-day for sightseeing
- Tourist spots like waterfalls may have time restrictions (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

8. Entry Fee

- No general entry fee
- Local attractions like parks and gardens may charge ₹10–₹20

9. Famous For / Highlights

- Hilltop pine forests and coffee gardens
- Daringbadi Nature Park and Lover’s Point
- Hill Viewpoint, Duluri River, Putudi & Midubanda Waterfalls
- Tribal art and local organic turmeric (“Daringbadi Haldi” GI-tagged)

10. How to Reach

- By Air: Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar (~250 km)
- By Rail: Berhampur Railway Station (~120 km)
- By Road: Direct buses from Berhampur, Phulbani; taxis and tourist vehicles available

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Belghar Sanctuary, Hill View Park, Putudi Falls, Balaskumpa Temple, Coffee Plantation zones

12. Visitor Tips

- Pack woollens even in late autumn—temperatures dip suddenly
- Drive carefully—roads are steep and curvy
- Try local tribal cuisine and handicrafts
- Book accommodation in advance during peak winter

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

- Kui (tribal dialect), Odia, Hindi
- Local tourist guides usually speak Hindi; English support limited

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ Full-day to 2-day trip (for hill circuit and nearby falls)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Eco Retreat Daringbadi (seasonal), OTDC Panthanivas, Hotel Utopia, budget lodges in Daringbadi town

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→ Daringbadi Police Station: +91-94375-68516

→ OTDC Helpline: 1800-345-7461

→ Nearest hospital: Community Health Center, Daringbadi

25. Harishankar & Nrusinghanath – Balangir/Bargarh**1. Name**

→ Harishankar & Nrusinghanath Temples

2. Location

→ Harishankar: Balangir District | Nrusinghanath: Bargarh District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Temple / Pilgrimage / Scenic Site

4. Short Description

→ Twin religious sites on opposite sides of the Gandhamardan Hills, combining spiritual significance, waterfalls, and natural trekking trails through thick forests.

5. History / Background

→ Harishankar Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva, and Nrusinghanath to Lord Nrusingha (Narasimha, an avatar of Vishnu). Both date back to the 14th century and were built under the Chauhan dynasty. Gandhamardan is also linked to the Ramayana, as the mountain believed to have been carried by Hanuman.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (cool weather, waterfalls flowing)

7. Opening Timings

→ 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM (both temples)

8. Entry Fee

→ **Free**

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- **Sacred Gandhamardan Hills**
- **Scenic forest trails between both temples**
- **Small waterfalls and medicinal flora**

10. How to Reach

→

- **Harishankar: 81 km from Balangir**
- **Nrusinghanath: 110 km from Bargarh**
- **Nearest Railway Stations: Balangir & Bargarh Road**
- **By Road: Local taxis and buses available**

11. Nearby Attractions

→ **Ranipur Jharial, Belkhandi, Ghantapada Valley**

12. Visitor Tips

→

- **Forest trek between temples (15–20 km) recommended for nature lovers**
- **Carry water and insect repellent**
- **Avoid during peak summer or monsoon**

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ **Odia, Hindi, Sambalpuri**

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ **Full day (both temples + trek)**

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ **OTDC Harishankar Panthanivas, local guesthouses at Paikmal and Balangir**

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline: 1800-208-1414**
- **Police (Balangir/Bargarh): 112**
- **Ambulance: 108**
- **Nearest Hospitals: Balangir DHH (80+ km), Bargarh DHH**

26. Khandadhar Waterfall – Sundargarh

- 1. Name**
→ **Khandadhar Waterfall**
- 2. Location**
→ **Bonaigarh, Sundargarh District, Odisha**
- 3. Category / Type**
→ **Waterfall / Natural Scenic Spot**
- 4. Short Description**
→ **One of the highest waterfalls in Odisha, cascading down 244 meters (801 ft) in a single drop, surrounded by dense forest and tribal settlements.**
- 5. History / Background**
→ **The name derives from the word “Khanada” (sword) due to the water’s sharp fall from a height. It holds cultural significance among local tribal communities and is also associated with myths of divine origins.**
- 6. Best Time to Visit**
→ **October to February (waterfall is full and weather is pleasant)**
- 7. Opening Timings**
→ **Open all day (daylight hours recommended)**
- 8. Entry Fee**
→ **Free**
- 9. Famous For / Highlights**
→
 - **Odisha’s second-highest waterfall**
 - **Rich biodiversity in the surrounding forests**

- **Tribal folklore and scenic trek paths**

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Town: Bonaigarh (19 km)**
- **Nearest Railway Station: Rourkela (104 km)**
- **By Road: Jeep or private vehicles recommended**

11. Nearby Attractions

→ **Vedvyas, Darjing picnic spot**

12. Visitor Tips

→

- **No formal tourism infrastructure—carry all essentials**
- **Avoid during monsoon (slippery trails)**
- **Ideal for trekking enthusiasts and nature lovers**

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ **Odia, Sadri, Ho, Hindi**

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ **Half day**

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ **Lodges at Bonaigarh, hotels in Rourkela**

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline: 1800-208-1414**
- **Police (Bonaigarh): 112**
- **Ambulance: 108**
- **Nearest Hospital: CHC Bonaigarh (20 km)**

27. Barehipani Waterfall – Simlipal

1. **Name**
→ **Barehipani Waterfall**
2. **Location**
→ **Simlipal National Park, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha**
3. **Category / Type**
→ **Waterfall / Wildlife & Nature**
4. **Short Description**
→ **At 399 meters (1,309 ft), Barehipani is the tallest waterfall in Odisha and the second-highest in India, located within the pristine biosphere of Simlipal Tiger Reserve.**
5. **History / Background**
→ **The name “Barehipani” is derived from local words meaning "downward fall of water". It emerges from the Budhabalanga River and flows down in two distinct drops, creating a breathtaking sight.**
6. **Best Time to Visit**
→ **November to March (cool, dry weather; park open)**
7. **Opening Timings**
→ **6:00 AM – 5:00 PM (entry regulated inside Simlipal)**
8. **Entry Fee**
→ **₹100 (Indian visitors), Additional for vehicles & guides**
→ **Online permit required (via Simlipal Forest Dept.)**
9. **Famous For / Highlights**
→
 - **Highest waterfall in Odisha**
 - **Viewpoint from Chahala and Joranda trails**
 - **Surrounded by tiger reserve and lush forest**
10. **How to Reach**
→
 - **Nearest Town: Baripada (120 km)**
 - **Railway Station: Baripada or Balasore**
 - **By Road: Via Jashipur (entry gate) → Barehipani trail**

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Joranda Waterfall, Chahala, Uski Waterfall

12. Visitor Tips

→

- **Strictly regulated park entry; apply for permits early**
- **Use forest-approved guides**
- **No mobile network inside forest—travel in groups**

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Santhali, Hindi, English (limited signage)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ Half day (as part of Simlipal tour)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Forest rest houses in Jashipur, OTDC Baripada

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline: 1800-208-1414**
- **Forest Dept Helpline (Simlipal): +91-9437033870**
- **Police (Jashipur): 112**
- **Ambulance: 108**

28. Joranda Waterfall – Simlipal

1. Name

→ Joranda Waterfall

2. Location

→ Simlipal National Park, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Waterfall / Nature / Wildlife

4. Short Description

→ A 150-meter-high single-drop waterfall located deep inside Simlipal National Park, offering one of the most picturesque sights in the region.

5. History / Background

→ Formed by the Mayurakshi River, the waterfall lies amidst dense sal forests. It's often overshadowed by the nearby Barehipani but is equally impressive for those who appreciate natural tranquility.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ November to March (Simlipal open to tourists)

7. Opening Timings

→ 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM (regulated with park hours)

8. Entry Fee

→ Same as Barehipani (Simlipal park permit covers both)

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Vertical single-drop fall
- Surreal forest ambiance
- Ideal for nature photographers

10. How to Reach

→

- Via Simlipal entry gates (Jashipur/Baripada)
- Accessible via jeeps only with forest guide

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Barehipani Waterfall, Chahala, Uski Falls

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Carry forest entry documents
- No plastic allowed; follow forest rules
- Ideal for peaceful, immersive nature experience

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Santhali, Hindi

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–2 hours (as part of park itinerary)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ **Forest cottages near Chahala/Jashipur, Baripada OTDC**

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline: 1800-208-1414**
- **Forest Range Office (Simlipal): +91-9437033870**
- **Ambulance: 108**
- **Nearest Hospital: Jashipur CHC (30–40 km)**

29. Phurlijharan Waterfall – Kalahandi

1. Name

→ **Phurlijharan Waterfall**

2. Location

→ **Near Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi District, Odisha**

3. Category / Type

→ **Waterfall / Picnic Spot**

4. Short Description

→ **A 16-meter-high perennial waterfall located amidst dense forest, known for its rainbow mist effects and eco-park surroundings.**

5. History / Background

→ **A local favorite, this spot has been developed by the forest department with walking trails and viewing platforms, making it a family-friendly picnic destination.**

6. Best Time to Visit

→ **October to February**

7. Opening Timings

→ **8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

8. Entry Fee

→ **₹20 (adults), ₹10 (children), Parking extra**

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- **Rainbow-like mist effects**
- **Forest trail and picnic facilities**
- **Eco-tourism park**

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Town: Bhawanipatna (15 km)**
- **Railway Station: Bhawanipatna**
- **By Road: Autos and taxis from town**

11. Nearby Attractions

→ **Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Asurgarh Fort**

12. Visitor Tips

→

- **Ideal for families and kids**
- **Bring packed lunch, drinking water**
- **Avoid monsoon—trail becomes slippery**

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ **Odia, Hindi, Kui**

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ **2–3 hours**

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ **OTDC Bhawanipatna, Hotel Grand Aryan**

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline: 1800-208-1414**
- **Police (Bhawanipatna): 100 / 112**
- **Ambulance: 108**

- **Nearest Hospital: District Hospital, Bhawanipatna (16 km)**

30. Duduma Waterfall – Koraput

1. **Name**
→ Duduma Waterfall
2. **Location**
→ Near Machkund, Koraput District, Odisha
3. **Category / Type**
→ Waterfall / Nature
4. **Short Description**
→ A majestic 175-meter-high waterfall on the Machkund River, located on the Odisha–Andhra Pradesh border, known for its scenic beauty and hydroelectric significance.
5. **History / Background**
→ Also known as Matsya Tirtha, the area is considered sacred by local tribes. The Duduma Hydroelectric Project (a joint Odisha–Andhra venture) harnesses the river's power for electricity generation.
6. **Best Time to Visit**
→ October to February (post-monsoon flow and cooler weather)
7. **Opening Timings**
→ Open all day (visit during daylight hours)
8. **Entry Fee**
→ Free
9. **Famous For / Highlights**
→
 - One of Odisha's tallest waterfalls
 - Trekking trails and viewpoints
 - Nearby Machkund hydroelectric station

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Railway Station:** Koraput (92 km)
- **By Road:** Via Jeypore → Onukudelli → Duduma
- **Nearest Airport:** Visakhapatnam (200 km)

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Onukudelli tribal market, Deomali Hills, Gupteswar Cave

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Ideal for trekkers and photographers
- Basic amenities only—carry food and water
- Caution during rainy season (slippery terrain)

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Telugu, Kui, Hindi

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ Half day

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ OTDC Panthanivas Koraput, lodges in Jeypore

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Local Police (Onukudelli):** 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Jeypore Sub-divisional Hospital (70 km)

31. Badaghagara & Sanaghagara Waterfalls – Keonjhar

1. **Name**

→ Badaghagara & Sanaghagara Waterfalls

2. **Location**

→ Near Keonjhar Town, Keonjhar District, Odisha

3. **Category / Type**

→ Waterfalls / Scenic Spots

4. **Short Description**

→ Two picturesque waterfalls located in close proximity: Sanaghagara (30 ft) is accessible and ideal for families, while Badaghagara (60 ft) is wilder and less frequented.

5. **History / Background**

→ Located amidst forested hills and rocky terrains, these waterfalls are a major attraction in the tribal belt of northern Odisha. A reservoir has been constructed near Badaghagara.

6. **Best Time to Visit**

→ October to February (monsoon-fed waterfalls look majestic)

7. **Opening Timings**

→ 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM

8. **Entry Fee**

→ ₹10 (at Sanaghagara Eco Park)

9. **Famous For / Highlights**

→

- Forest treks, picnic spots
- Eco-park with boating (Sanaghagara)
- Photography and birdwatching

10. **How to Reach**

→

- **Nearest Railway Station:** Keonjhar (7 km)
- **By Road:** Accessible by auto or taxi
- **Nearest Airport:** Bhubaneswar (220 km)

11. **Nearby Attractions**

→ Gonasika Hill, Murga Mahadev Temple

12. **Visitor Tips**

→

- Visit early to avoid crowds
- Sanaghagara is family-friendly; Badaghagara is more rugged
- Wear sturdy footwear for rocky paths

13. **Languages Spoken / Language Support**

→ Odia, Hindi, Ho, Santali

14. **Estimated Time to Explore**

→ 2–3 hours

15. **Accommodation Nearby**

→ OTDC Panthanivas Keonjhar, Hotel Prince

16. **Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline**

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Keonjhar):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Keonjhar DHH (6 km)

32. **Barabati Fort – Cuttack**

1. **Name**

→ Barabati Fort

2. **Location**

→ Near Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha

3. **Category / Type**

→ Historical Fort

4. **Short Description**

→ 13th-century fort on the banks of the Mahanadi River, featuring a moat and

gateway ruins, and surrounded by lush greenery and a modern stadium.

5. History / Background

→ Built by King Anangabhimha Deva III of the Eastern Ganga dynasty around 1229 CE. It was later used by the Mughals and Marathas. Only the arched gate and moat remain today.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March

7. Opening Timings

→ 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

8. Entry Fee

→ Free

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Massive gateway ruins
- Moat and fortifications
- Cultural events near the amphitheater

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Railway Station:** Cuttack (3 km)
- **Airport:** Bhubaneswar (30 km)
- Well-connected by local transport

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Cuttack Chandi Temple, Maritime Museum, Netaji Birthplace

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Early morning or late evening visit recommended
- Photography allowed
- Combine with walk to Mahanadi riverbank

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–1.5 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Grand Residency, Hotel Akbari Continental

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Cuttack):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** SCB Medical College (2 km)

33. Raibania Fort – Balasore

1. Name

→ Raibania Fort

2. Location

→ Raibania, Balasore District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Fort / Historical Site

4. Short Description

→ Cluster of ancient forts built by the Ganga dynasty to defend the northern frontier, featuring temple ruins and forested surroundings.

5. History / Background

→ Constructed by Narasingha Deva I (13th century) as a military defense against Muslim invasions from Bengal. Over 160 small forts were once located here, some of which still have visible ruins.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ November to February

7. Opening Timings

→ Open all day (preferably 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

8. Entry Fee

→ Free

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Fort walls and gates
- Ancient Shiva temples
- Peaceful forest setting

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Town:** Jaleswar (13 km)
- **Railway Station:** Jaleswar
- **Airport:** Kolkata (nearest major), Bhubaneswar (250 km)

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Bhusandeswar Temple, Talsari Beach, Chandaneswar

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Visit with a guide; ruins are spread out
- Carry food and water
- Avoid visiting late evening

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Bengali, Hindi

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 2–3 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Jaleswar lodges, Balasore hotels

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Jaleswar):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Jaleswar Community Health Center (14 km)

34. Belgadia Palace – Mayurbhanj

1. **Name**
→ Belgadia Palace
2. **Location**
→ Baripada, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha
3. **Category / Type**
→ Heritage Palace / Boutique Stay
4. **Short Description**
→ A 200-year-old Victorian-style palace turned into a boutique heritage homestay, offering a royal experience and a glimpse into Mayurbhanj's regal history.
5. **History / Background**
→ Built in the 1800s by Maharaja Sri Ram Chandra Bhanj Deo, inspired by Buckingham Palace. The present descendants of the royal family still live here and manage it as a hospitality and cultural tourism hub.
6. **Best Time to Visit**
→ October to March
7. **Opening Timings**
→ Open for registered guests and guided tours (by prior appointment)
8. **Entry Fee**
→ Guided tours ₹500 onwards (free for guests)
9. **Famous For / Highlights**
→
 - Colonial architecture and vintage décor
 - Royal family history exhibits
 - Luxurious heritage stay experience

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Railway Station:** Baripada (5 km)
- **By Road:** Well-connected from Balasore and Bhubaneswar
- **Nearest Airport:** Bhubaneswar (240 km)

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Simlipal National Park, Khiching Temple, Jagannath Temple (Baripada)

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Book tours in advance
- Dress formally for photography or events
- Respect private sections of the palace

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ English, Odia, Hindi

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–2 hours (tour); Full stay experience: 1–2 days

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Belgadia Palace itself, OTDC Panthanivas Baripada

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Baripada):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** PRM Medical College & Hospital, Baripada (3 km)

35. Khiching Temple Complex – Mayurbhanj

1. **Name**

→ Khiching Temple Complex (Kichakeswari Temple)

2. **Location**

→ Khiching, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha

3. **Category / Type**

→ Temple Complex / Historical Site

4. **Short Description**

→ An ancient temple town known for the Kichakeswari Temple, dedicated to the Goddess Chamunda (Durga), showcasing intricate stone carvings and tribal architecture.

5. **History / Background**

→ Believed to date back to the 8th–10th centuries during the Bhanja dynasty. The temple was reconstructed using original stone blocks by Maharaja Purna Chandra Bhanjdeo in 1934. Once a capital of Bhanja kings, Khiching was a religious and political center.

6. **Best Time to Visit**

→ October to March (festivals like Durga Puja are grandly celebrated)

7. **Opening Timings**

→ 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM

8. **Entry Fee**

→ Free (Museum on-site may have a nominal entry fee)

9. **Famous For / Highlights**

→

- Beautiful chlorite stone sculptures
- Museum with tribal artifacts and archaeological finds
- Kichakeswari idol with 18 arms

10. **How to Reach**

→

- **Nearest Railway Station:** Rairangpur (28 km)
- **By Road:** Well connected via NH-18; buses and taxis from Baripada
- **Nearest Airport:** Bhubaneswar (approx. 270 km)

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Simlipal National Park, Devkund Waterfall

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Respect temple customs and dress modestly
- Combine with Simlipal visit for a fuller experience
- Check museum hours separately

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, Santali, English (limited)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–2 hours (temple + museum)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ OTDC Panthanivas Rairangpur, local lodges in Khiching

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Rairangpur):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Rairangpur Sub-Divisional Hospital (28 km)

36. Lalitgiri-Ratnagiri-Udayagiri (Buddhist Circuit) – Jajpur**1. Name**

→ Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri & Udayagiri (Buddhist Circuit)

2. Location

→ Jajpur District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Buddhist Monastic Complex / Archaeological Site

4. Short Description

→ A renowned triangle of ancient Buddhist centers dating back to the 1st–12th

centuries CE, reflecting Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism through stupas, viharas, and monasteries.

5. History / Background

→ Discovered during excavations in the 20th century. Ratnagiri is believed to have been a major tantric Buddhist university. Lalitgiri is the oldest, dating back to the 1st century CE, and yielded a relic casket believed to contain Buddha's remains. Udayagiri served as a monastic university and cultural hub.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ November to February

7. Opening Timings

→ 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Fridays – Museum only)

8. Entry Fee

→ ₹25 (Indians), ₹300 (Foreigners), Children under 15 free

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Mahastupa and votive stupas
- Stone sculptures of Avalokitesvara, Tara, Buddha
- Archaeological Museum (at Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri)
- Excavated monasteries and meditation cells

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Railway Station:** Cuttack (70 km), Jajpur Keonjhar Road (50 km)
- **Nearest Airport:** Bhubaneswar (90 km)
- **Road:** Well-connected by road to Bhubaneswar and Cuttack

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Langudi Hill, Biraja Temple, Haripur Fort

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Wear comfortable shoes (walking between sites)
- Carry snacks and water, minimal facilities on-site

- Visit early for better lighting and less heat

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English (museum guides available)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ Full Day (for all three sites and museums)

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ OTDC Yatri Nivas (Ratnagiri), hotels in Chandikhol or Jajpur Road

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Jajpur Road):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Jajpur District Hospital (60 km)

37. Dhauli Shanti Stupa – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

→ Dhauli Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda)

2. Location

→ Dhauli Hills, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Buddhist Monument / Historical Landmark

4. Short Description

→ A serene white peace pagoda built on the site of the Kalinga War, marking Emperor Ashoka's transformation from a warrior to a follower of Buddhism.

5. History / Background

→ Built in 1972 by the Japan Buddha Sangha and Kalinga Nippon Buddha Sangha. The site is believed to be where Ashoka renounced violence after witnessing the horrors of the Kalinga War in 261 BCE.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to February (cool and clear skies)

7. Opening Timings

→ 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM (open all days)

8. Entry Fee

→ Free; Light & Sound Show: ₹25 (Adults), ₹10 (Children)

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Shanti Stupa and Ashokan rock edicts
- River Daya view (site of Kalinga War)
- Evening light and sound show narrating Ashoka's story

10. How to Reach

→

- **Airport:** Biju Patnaik Airport (10 km)
- **Railway:** Bhubaneswar Station (9 km)
- Local buses, taxis, and autos available

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Udayagiri-Khandagiri Caves, Lingaraj Temple, State Museum

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Visit during sunset for scenic views
- Watch the light & sound show for historical context
- Modest dress and silence is appreciated at the Stupa

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English (show available in English & Odia)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1.5 to 2 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Hotel Sidharth, Pal Heights, Trident Bhubaneswar

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Local Police Station:** 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar (6.5 km)

38. Asurgarh Fort – Kalahandi

1. **Name**
→ Asurgarh Fort
2. **Location**
→ Narla, Kalahandi District, Odisha
3. **Category / Type**
→ Fort / Archaeological Site
4. **Short Description**
→ An ancient fortified city believed to be older than Sisupalgarh, Asurgarh offers evidence of a planned urban settlement with fortification walls and a moat.
5. **History / Background**
→ Believed to date back to 800 BCE – one of the earliest urban settlements in Odisha. Excavations revealed a fortified area with habitation zones, pottery, beads, and copper tools. It may have been a tribal capital or early state-like polity.
6. **Best Time to Visit**
→ October to February (dry season)
7. **Opening Timings**
→ Open all day (outdoor site)
8. **Entry Fee**
→ Free
9. **Famous For / Highlights**
→
 - Ancient moat and fort walls
 - Water reservoirs and granaries

- Artefacts indicating urban planning

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Town:** Bhawanipatna (25 km)
- **Railway Station:** Narla Road (5 km)
- **Airport:** Jharsuguda (260 km); better accessed by road/train

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhawanipatna Palace

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Site is in remote countryside—carry essentials
- No tourist infrastructure; hire a guide from Bhawanipatna
- Ideal for archaeology students and heritage lovers

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Kui, Hindi (English not widely spoken)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–2 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ OTDC Bhawanipatna, Hotel Grand Aryan

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Narla):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Bhawanipatna District Hospital (25 km)

39. Sisupalgarh Ruins – Near Bhubaneswar

1. **Name**

→ Sisupalgarh Ruins

2. **Location**

→ Near Lingipur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. **Category / Type**

→ Ancient Fortified City / Archaeological Site

4. **Short Description**

→ Ruins of a 3rd-century BCE urban fortification believed to be the capital of Kalinga before Ashoka's conquest; known for its early urban planning and megalithic walls.

5. **History / Background**

→ Excavated by B.B. Lal in the 1940s and later by the University of California, Sisupalgarh is dated to the Mauryan and pre-Mauryan period. The site shows evidence of a planned grid layout, gates, and civic infrastructure, suggesting it was a major urban settlement.

6. **Best Time to Visit**

→ October to March

7. **Opening Timings**

→ Open all day (best visited during daylight)

8. **Entry Fee**

→ Free

9. **Famous For / Highlights**

→

- Massive stone gateways and walls
- Early urban grid system
- Pottery, coins, and megalithic remnants

10. **How to Reach**

→

- 6 km from Bhubaneswar city center
- 8 km from Biju Patnaik Airport
- Easily accessible via cab or auto

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Dhauli, Lingaraj Temple, State Museum

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Carry water and sun protection
- Area is not fenced—respect the heritage
- Avoid visiting during monsoon (muddy pathways)

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–1.5 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Hotel Pal Heights, Ginger Bhubaneswar

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Local Police:** 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar (6 km)

40. Udayagiri & Khandagiri Caves – Bhubaneswar**1. Name**

→ Udayagiri & Khandagiri Caves

2. Location

→ Bhubaneswar, Khordha District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Historical Site / Rock-Cut Caves / Archaeology

4. **Short Description**

→ Ancient twin hills housing rock-cut caves carved by Jain monks during the rule of King Kharavela. The caves combine religious, artistic, and historical value.

5. **History / Background**

→ Dating back to the 2nd century BCE during the Mahameghavahana dynasty, Udayagiri (meaning “Sunrise Hill”) has 18 caves, while Khandagiri has 15. The caves were believed to have served as residential blocks for Jain monks. Udayagiri is more elaborate and includes inscriptions like the Hathigumpha inscription by King Kharavela.

6. **Best Time to Visit**

→ October to March (pleasant winter season)

7. **Opening Timings**

→ 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Open all days)

8. **Entry Fee**

→ ₹25 (Indians), ₹300 (Foreigners), Children under 15 free

9. **Famous For / Highlights**

→

- Hathigumpha inscription
- Rani Gumpha (Queen's Cave)
- Intricate carvings of Jain Tirthankaras
- Panoramic view of Bhubaneswar from the hilltop

10. **How to Reach**

→

- **Nearest Airport:** Biju Patnaik Airport (8 km)
- **Nearest Railway Station:** Bhubaneswar (7 km)
- Public transport and auto-rickshaws easily available

11. **Nearby Attractions**

→ Dhauli Stupa, Lingaraj Temple, State Museum

12. **Visitor Tips**

→

- Wear comfortable walking shoes (hilly terrain)

- Morning or late afternoon visits are ideal
- Carry water, limited facilities on site

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English (ASI signage available in English)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 2–3 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Hotel Pal Heights, Hotel Sidharth, Swosti Premium

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Local Police Station:** 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar (4.5 km)

41. Ravana Chhaya Rock Shelter – Keonjhar

1. Name

→ Ravana Chhaya Rock Shelter

2. Location

→ Sitabinj, Keonjhar District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Archaeological Site / Prehistoric Rock Art

4. Short Description

→ A prehistoric rock shelter with ancient cave paintings believed to be from the 5th–6th century CE, depicting royal processions and mythological scenes.

5. History / Background

→ The name “Ravana Chhaya” means "Shadow of Ravana". It contains one of the earliest surviving examples of rock art in Eastern India. The site is associated with the myth that Ravana once sheltered here while abducting Sita, hence its name.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to February (dry season, good for trekking)

7. Opening Timings

→ Open during daylight hours (no formal ticket counter)

8. Entry Fee

→ Free

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Cave paintings of a royal procession with elephants and horses
- Natural stone formations and scenic valley view
- Mythical and archaeological relevance

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Town:** Anandapur (approx. 25 km)
- **Nearest Railway Station:** Jajpur Keonjhar Road (75 km)
- Best reached via private vehicles or hired taxis

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Sitabinj Temple, Gonasika Hill, Murga Mahadev Waterfall

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Carry water and snacks—no nearby shops
- Moderate trekking required
- Hire a local guide for better understanding of artwork

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia (primary), Hindi, limited English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–2 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Forest rest houses near Sitabinj, hotels in Keonjhar town

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Anandapur):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Anandapur Sub-divisional Hospital (28 km)

42. Gonasika Cave – Keonjhar

1. Name

→ Gonasika Cave (Also known as Guptaganga Cave)

2. Location

→ Gonasika Hills, Keonjhar District, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Natural Cave / Pilgrimage / Scenic Spot

4. Short Description

→ A sacred cave where the Baitarani River originates from the nose of a stone cow idol, set amidst dense forest and hills—both a natural and religious attraction.

5. History / Background

→ Mythologically significant as the starting point of Baitarani River. The term "Gonasika" literally means "Cow's Nose". The cave is revered and is associated with many tribal beliefs and local legends.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to February (cool weather and clear views)

7. Opening Timings

→ Open all day; best visited before sunset

8. Entry Fee

→ Free

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Source of the Baitarani River

- Stone cow mouth (Gomukh) from which water flows
- Surrounding Sal forests and hill views

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Town:** Keonjhar (45 km)
- **Nearest Railway Station:** Harichandanpur (25 km)
- Private vehicles or hired jeeps are preferred for remote access

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Murga Mahadev Temple, Ravana Chhaya, Sitabinj

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Carry drinking water and food
- Ideal for trekking and nature photography
- Area can be slippery during monsoons

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, Tribal languages

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–2 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Eco-tourism cottages, basic lodges at Gonasika, better hotels in Keonjhar

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Local Police:** 112
- **Medical Emergency:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Gonasika PHC (basic), Keonjhar DHH (45 km)

43. Odisha State Museum – Bhubaneswar

1. **Name**

→ Odisha State Museum

2. **Location**

→ Near Kalpana Square, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. **Category / Type**

→ State Museum / History & Culture

4. **Short Description**

→ A premier institution showcasing Odisha's art, archaeology, anthropology, coins, manuscripts, and natural history in a well-organized, multi-gallery format.

5. **History / Background**

→ Established in 1932 during the British period in Cuttack, later shifted to Bhubaneswar. Managed by the Government of Odisha, it houses over 60,000 artefacts and rare manuscripts.

6. **Best Time to Visit**

→ October to March

7. **Opening Timings**

→ 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays)

8. **Entry Fee**

→ ₹10 (Indians), ₹100 (Foreigners), Free for students with ID

9. **Famous For / Highlights**

→

- Manuscripts on palm leaves
- Rare coins and copper plates
- Armoury and weapon gallery
- Buddhist and Jain antiquities

10. **How to Reach**

→

- 4 km from Bhubaneswar Railway Station
- 5.5 km from Biju Patnaik Airport

- Easily accessible by city buses, auto-rickshaws

11. **Nearby Attractions**

→ Ekamra Kanan, Khandagiri Caves, Lingaraj Temple

12. **Visitor Tips**

→

- Allocate time to cover all sections
- Photography may require permission
- Carry student ID for discounts

13. **Languages Spoken / Language Support**

→ Odia, Hindi, English

14. **Estimated Time to Explore**

→ 2–3 hours

15. **Accommodation Nearby**

→ Hotel Excellency, The New Marrion, Mayfair Lagoon

16. **Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline**

→

- **Tourism Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Kalpana Square):** 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Capital Hospital (1.5 km)

44. Tribal Museum (Museum of Tribal Arts and Artifacts) – Bhubaneswar

1. **Name**

→ Tribal Museum (Museum of Tribal Arts and Artifacts)

2. **Location**

→ CRP Square, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. **Category / Type**

→ Ethnographic Museum / Tribal Heritage

4. **Short Description**

→ A specialized museum dedicated to Odisha's 62 tribal communities, featuring their arts, crafts, weapons, costumes, music, and architecture.

5. **History / Background**

→ Operated by the SC & ST Research and Training Institute, it was inaugurated in 2001. It aims to preserve and promote tribal heritage and cultural practices through immersive displays.

6. **Best Time to Visit**

→ October to February (festival season enhances tribal activity)

7. **Opening Timings**

→ 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Mondays)

8. **Entry Fee**

→ Free (small fees may apply during special exhibitions)

9. **Famous For / Highlights**

→

- Replica tribal huts of different communities
- Traditional weapons, jewelry, textiles
- Tribal musical instruments and dance displays
- Documentation on tribal rituals and customs

10. **How to Reach**

→

- 6 km from Bhubaneswar Railway Station
- 7.5 km from Airport
- Easily accessible via public buses and taxis

11. **Nearby Attractions**

→ Kalabhoomi Crafts Museum, Ekamra Haat, Udayagiri Caves

12. **Visitor Tips**

→

- Photography allowed in outdoor huts
- Ideal for anthropology students and culture lovers

- Best visited in morning hours

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English (informative boards available)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 2 to 3 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Trident Bhubaneswar, Hotel Excellency, Hotel Sidharth

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police Station (CRP Square):** 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar (7 km)

45. Regional Museum of Natural History – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

→ Regional Museum of Natural History

2. Location

→ Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Natural History Museum

4. Short Description

→ A government-established museum highlighting India's ecological diversity, particularly from Eastern India. It offers educational exhibits on environmental conservation and natural ecosystems.

5. History / Background

→ Inaugurated in 2004 under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Designed to raise public awareness about wildlife, biodiversity, and

ecological relationships using preserved specimens and dioramas.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (pleasant weather)

7. Opening Timings

→ 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Mondays and Government Holidays)

8. Entry Fee

→ Free for all visitors

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Dinosaur skeleton replicas
- Display of marine, forest, and desert ecosystems
- Rare fossils and minerals
- Exhibit on tribal ecological balance

10. How to Reach

→

- **Nearest Airport:** Biju Patnaik International Airport (7 km)
- **Nearest Railway Station:** Bhubaneswar (6 km)
- **Road:** Easily accessible via local buses, taxis, and auto-rickshaws

11. Nearby Attractions

→ ISKCON Temple, Ekamra Kanan Botanical Garden, State Museum

12. Visitor Tips

→

- School groups can request guided tours
- Maintain silence in galleries
- Carry water bottles and light snacks

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1.5 to 2 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Swosti Premium, Ginger Bhubaneswar, The Presidency

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Odisha Tourism Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Bhubaneswar):** 100 or 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar (2.5 km)

46. Pathani Samanta Planetarium – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

→ Pathani Samanta Planetarium

2. Location

→ Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Planetarium / Science Education

4. Short Description

→ An educational center dedicated to astronomy and astrophysics, offering 3D space shows and telescope-based night sky observations.

5. History / Background

→ Established in 1990 to honor the 19th-century Odia astronomer Pathani Samanta, who made astronomical observations using traditional Indian instruments.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ November to February

7. Opening Timings

→ 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

→ Shows at 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM

→ Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays

8. **Entry Fee**

→ ₹30 (Adults), ₹20 (Students), ₹10 (School Group), Concessions for educational institutions

9. **Famous For / Highlights**

→

- Astronomy shows and documentaries
- Telescope viewing during night programs
- Solar system and rocket model displays

10. **How to Reach**

→

- **Airport:** 6 km from Biju Patnaik Airport
- **Railway Station:** 5 km from Bhubaneswar Station
- Located near Jayadev Bhavan

11. **Nearby Attractions**

→ Regional Science Centre, IG Park, Odisha State Museum

12. **Visitor Tips**

→

- Check show language and timings in advance
- Best to reach 20–30 minutes before showtime
- Keep mobile phones silent during shows

13. **Languages Spoken / Language Support**

→ Odia, Hindi, English (Show languages rotate)

14. **Estimated Time to Explore**

→ 1 to 1.5 hours

15. **Accommodation Nearby**

→ Hotel The Crown, Hotel Sidharth, Pal Heights

16. **Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline**

→

- **Tourism Helpline:** 1800-208-1414

- **Bhubaneswar Police Control Room:** 100 / 112
- **Medical Emergency:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Apollo Hospitals Bhubaneswar (5 km)

47. Regional Science Centre – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

→ Regional Science Centre

2. Location

→ Acharya Vihar, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Science Centre / Interactive Museum

4. Short Description

→ An interactive space promoting scientific awareness through hands-on exhibits, outdoor science installations, and 3D visual learning.

5. History / Background

→ Managed by the National Council of Science Museums, the center was established to nurture scientific temper, especially among students.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (dry and cooler season)

7. Opening Timings

→ 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM (Closed only on Holi and Diwali)

8. Entry Fee

→ ₹25 per head; extra ₹20–30 for 3D shows

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Outdoor science park
- 3D film projection on science concepts
- Regular thematic exhibitions and workshops

10. How to Reach

→

- **Airport:** 6.5 km from Biju Patnaik Airport
- **Railway:** 5.5 km from Bhubaneswar Station
- Easily accessible by auto, cab, and public buses

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Planetarium, Botanical Gardens, Ekamra Haat

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Best visited during weekdays
- Take a packed lunch if visiting with family
- School trips can book in advance for special demonstrations

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English (staff and display boards)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 2 to 3 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Hotel Empires, Mayfair Lagoon, The Presidency

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Emergency Services:** Dial 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** Kalinga Hospital (4.5 km)

48. Netaji Birth Place Museum – Cuttack

1. **Name**
→ Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Birth Place Museum
2. **Location**
→ Janakinath Bhawan, Odia Bazar, Cuttack, Odisha
3. **Category / Type**
→ Heritage Museum / Freedom Fighter Memorial
4. **Short Description**
→ Historical site marking the birth and early life of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, showcasing his personal belongings and revolutionary journey.
5. **History / Background**
→ Converted from Netaji's ancestral house, this museum was inaugurated in 1998 by the Odisha government. It traces Netaji's ideological development and nationalist activism.
6. **Best Time to Visit**
→ October to March (comfortable for city exploration)
7. **Opening Timings**
→ 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays)
8. **Entry Fee**
→ Free of cost
9. **Famous For / Highlights**
→
 - Original documents, clothing, and photographs
 - Letters exchanged with Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Display of INA uniform and memorabilia
10. **How to Reach**
→
 - **Airport:** 28 km from Bhubaneswar Airport
 - **Railway:** 3 km from Cuttack Station
 - Rickshaws and taxis easily available
11. **Nearby Attractions**
→ Barabati Fort, Odisha Maritime Museum, Cuttack Chandi Temple

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Avoid peak hours on weekends
- Keep your phone on silent
- Ideal for those interested in India's freedom movement

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1–1.5 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Grand Residency, Hotel Akbari Continental, Hotel Seetal

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Odisha Tourism:** 1800-208-1414
- **Police (Cuttack):** 100 / 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** SCB Medical College & Hospital (1.5 km)

49. Sudarsan Sand Art Museum – Puri

1. Name

→ Sudarsan Sand Art Museum

2. Location

→ Puri Beach Road, near Light House, Puri, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Art Gallery / Outdoor Museum

4. Short Description

→ Unique open-air museum of sand sculptures created by internationally recognized artist Sudarsan Pattnaik, promoting messages of peace and sustainability.

5. History / Background

→ Founded by Sudarsan Pattnaik to provide a permanent exhibition space for his otherwise ephemeral art. Aims to raise awareness on social and environmental issues through sand art.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ November to February (cool breeze and beach climate)

7. Opening Timings

→ 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM daily

8. Entry Fee

→ ₹20 (Adults), ₹10 (Children)

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Sculptures themed on peace, climate change, patriotism
- Depictions of Lord Jagannath and international icons
- Regular updates with new creations

10. How to Reach

→

- **Railway:** 2 km from Puri Station
- **Airport:** 60 km from Bhubaneswar
- Close to Marine Drive and Puri Beach

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Puri Beach, Jagannath Temple, Swargadwar

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Visit early morning or late afternoon for best photos
- Do not touch the sculptures
- Combine with a beach walk

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 1 hour

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Mayfair Heritage, Hotel Puri Holiday Resort, Toshali Sands

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Puri Tourism Office:** 06752-223636
- **Tourist Helpline:** 1800-208-1414
- **Local Police:** 112
- **Nearest Hospital:** District Headquarters Hospital, Puri (2.5 km)

50. Odisha Crafts Museum (Kalabhoomi) – Bhubaneswar

1. Name

→ Odisha Crafts Museum – Kalabhoomi

2. Location

→ Gandamunda, Pokhariput, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

3. Category / Type

→ Art & Handicraft Museum

4. Short Description

→ A cultural space showcasing Odisha's rich craft traditions including handlooms, tribal art, stone, wood, and applique work, with immersive digital and physical exhibits.

5. History / Background

→ Opened in 2018 as part of Odisha's initiative to promote and preserve traditional craft heritage. Built with modern architecture and curated spaces that celebrate artisan narratives.

6. Best Time to Visit

→ October to March (ideal weather and art festivals)

7. Opening Timings

→ 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Closed on Mondays)

8. Entry Fee

→ ₹20 (Indians), ₹100 (Foreigners); Guided tours extra

9. Famous For / Highlights

→

- Live demos of handloom and craft making
- Thematic galleries with tribal and rural artwork
- Gift shop for authentic handmade souvenirs

10. How to Reach

→

- **Airport:** 5 km from Biju Patnaik Airport
- **Railway:** 8 km from Bhubaneswar Station
- Taxis and e-rickshaws available

11. Nearby Attractions

→ Dhauli Peace Pagoda, Lingaraj Temple, Tribal Museum

12. Visitor Tips

→

- Take a guided tour for in-depth knowledge
- Allocate enough time to visit all sections
- Best visited during craft festivals

13. Languages Spoken / Language Support

→ Odia, Hindi, English (Audio guides and signage available)

14. Estimated Time to Explore

→ 2 to 3 hours

15. Accommodation Nearby

→ Fortune Park Sishmo, Trident Hotel, Hotel Excellency

16. Emergency Contacts / Tourist Helpline

→

- **Tourism Helpline:** 1800-208-1414

- **Local Police:** 112
- **Ambulance:** 108
- **Nearest Hospital:** AIIMS Bhubaneswar (4.5 km)

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- Google Maps, Google Earth & Wikimapia. *Location, terrain, and distance verification*
- TripAdvisor, HolidayIQ, and Lonely Planet. *User reviews, travel tips, and visitor experiences*
- District Administration Portals (Balangir, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Bargarh, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Balasore, Sundargarh)
- UNESCO Tentative List Documentation (for Lalitgiri–Ratnagiri–Udayagiri Buddhist Complex)
- Research papers: Smith, Monica L. (UCLA); B.B. Lal (Former ASI Director) on Sisupalgarh
- Travel Blogs & Personal Travelogues (e.g., Odisha Backpackers, Rustic India, MyOdishaDiary)