

History

Formerly known as Kalinga, Utkala and more recently Orissa, Odisha (per a long-standing name-change campaign that finally received government approval in 2010) was once a formidable maritime empire that had trading routes leading down into Indonesia, but its history is somewhat hazy until the demise of the Kalinga dynasty in 260 BC at the hands of the great emperor Ashoka. Appalled at the carnage he had caused, Ashoka forswore violence and converted to Buddhism.

Around the 1st century BC, Buddhism declined and Jainism was restored as the faith of the people. During this period the monastery caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri (in Bhubaneswar) were excavated as important Jain centres.

By the 7th century AD, Hinduism had supplanted Jainism. Under the Kesari and Ganga kings, trade and commerce increased and Odishan culture flourished – countless temples from that classical period still stand. The Odishans defied the Muslim rulers in Delhi until finally falling to the Mughals during the 16th century, when many of Bhubaneswar's temples were destroyed.

Until Independence, Odisha was ruled by Afghans, Marathas and the British.

Since the 1990s a Hindu fundamentalist group, Bajrang Dal, has undertaken a violent campaign against Christians in Odisha in response to missionary activity. The often illiterate and dispossessed tribal people have suffered the most from the resulting communal violence, which has been as much about power, politics and land as religious belief.

Violence flared up again in 2008 after the killing of a Hindu leader in Kandhamal district, and thousands of Christians were moved to government relief camps outside the district after their homes were torched. There has been little Bajrang Dal activity in Odisha since, but the group has been implicated in violent acts in recent years in Uttar Pradesh.

The creation of the neighbouring states of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh has prompted calls for the formation of a separate, tribal-oriented state, Koshal, in the northwest of Odisha, with Sambalpur as the capital. A separatist political party, the Kosal Kranti Dal (KKD), fielded candidates in the 2009 state election and took to disruptive transport protests in 2010. Maoist activity flares up occasionally in Odisha's tribal country.

i Dangers & Annoyances

Mosquitoes in some parts here have a record of being dengue and malaria carriers. Arm yourself with repellent and cover up.

i Tourist Information

Odisha Tourism (www.orissatourism.gov.in) has a presence in most towns, with offices for information and tour/hotel bookings. **Odisha Tourism Development Corporation** (www.otdc.in), the commercial arm of Odisha Tourism, runs tours and hotels throughout the state.

i Getting There & Away

Air routes connect Bhubaneswar with Bengaluru (Bangalore), Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai (Bombay), Kolkata (Calcutta) and Chennai (Madras). Major road and rail routes between Kolkata and Chennai pass through coastal Odisha and Bhubaneswar with spur connections to Puri. Road and rail connect Sambalpur with Kolkata, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

BHUBANESWAR

☎ 0674 / POP 885,363

Once dubbed the 'Temple City', chaotic Bhubaneswar is a worthwhile pit stop for a day or two as you take in the old city's holy centre around the ceremonial tank called Bindu Sagar. Here once stood thousands of medieval stone temples; now around 50 remain. Temples aside, there are a couple of highly worthwhile museums, an ancient cave complex and

ODISHA BHUBANESWAR

TOP STATE FESTIVALS

Adivasi Mela (p599) Features art, dance and handicrafts of Odisha's tribal groups in Bhubaneswar.

Rath Yatra (p605) Immense chariots containing Lord Jagannath, brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra are hauled from Jagannath Mandir to Gundicha Mandir.

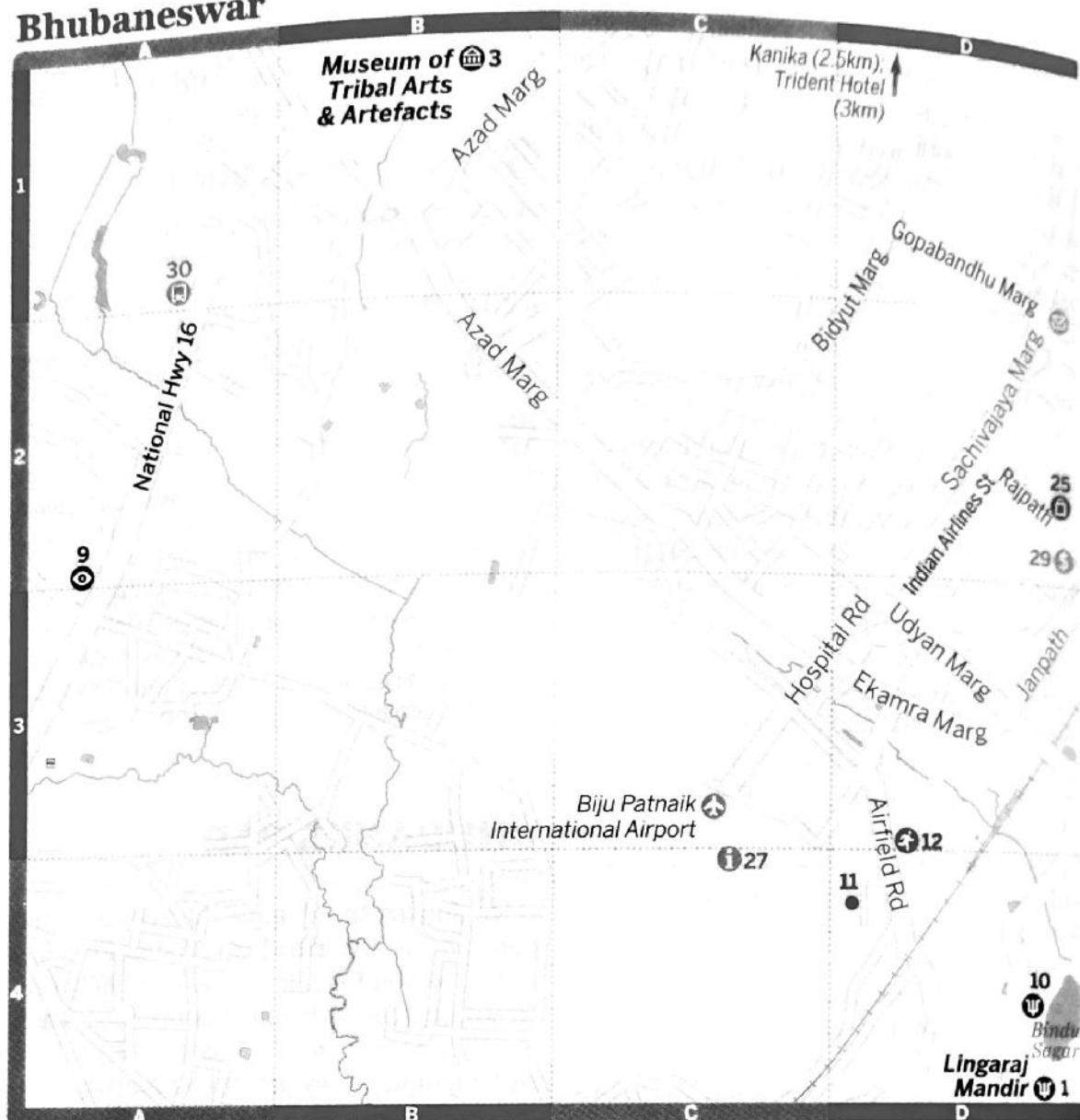
Puri Beach Festival (p605) Song, dance, food and cultural activities on the beach in Puri.

Bali Yatra (☺ Nov/Dec) Immense state fair in Cuttack, with fine silver filigree, *ikat* weaving and other crafts for sale.

Konark Festival (p609) Features traditional music and dance and a seductive temple ritual.

Bhubaneswar

ODISHA BHUBANESWAR



the most varied dining scene in Odisha, along with a smattering of decent hotels.

👁 Sights

★ Lingaraj Mandir

HINDU TEMPLE

(Lingaraj Temple Rd; ☀dawn-dusk) The 54m-high Lingaraj Mandir, dedicated to Tribhuvaneswar (Lord of Three Worlds), dates from 1090 to 1104 (though parts are more than 1400 years old) and is surrounded by dozens of smaller temples and shrines. The granite block, representing Tribhuvaneswar, is bathed daily with water, milk and bhang (marijuana). The main gate, guarded by two mustachioed yellow lions, is a spectacle in itself as lines of pilgrims approach, *prasad* (temple-blessed food offering) in hand. Take bus 333 here from Master Canteen bus stand.

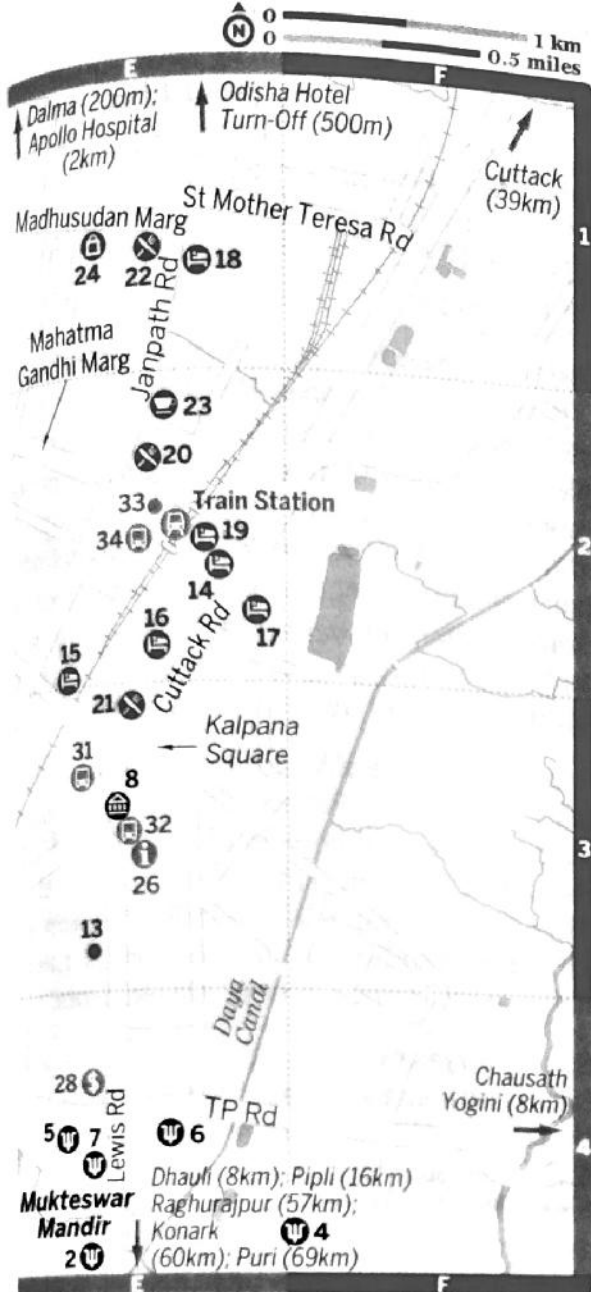
Because the temple is surrounded by a wall and closed to non-Hindus, foreigners can see it only from a viewing platform (this

can also include foreign Hindus). Face the main entrance, walk right, then follow the wall around to the left and find the viewing platform on your left, just before you reach Chitrakarini Temple. There is occasional aggressive hassling for 'donations' at the viewing platform. The money will not go to the temple; stand your ground and do not pay.

★ Mukteswar Mandir

HINDU TEMPLE

(Kedar Gouri Ln; ☀dawn-dusk) This small but beautiful 10th-century temple is one of the most ornate temples in Bhubaneswar; you'll see reproductions of it on posters across Odisha. Intricate carvings show a mixture of Buddhist, Jain and Hindu styles – look for Nagarani (Snake Queen), easily mistaken by Westerners for a mermaid, whom you'll also see at the nearby Rajarani Mandir. The ceiling carvings and stone arch are particularly striking, as is the arched *torana* (architrave) at the front, clearly showing Buddhist influence.



★ Museum of Tribal Arts & Artefacts

(off National Hwy 16; ☉ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) **FREE**

This superb museum is a must for anthropologically inclined visitors interested in Odisha's 62 tribes or considering a visit to Odisha's tribal areas. Complete with interactive elements, its galleries display traditional dress, bead ornaments, heavy silver collars, coin necklaces, elaborate headdresses, ornate wine pipes and musical instruments. One gallery is dedicated entirely to weaponry, fishing, hunting and agricultural equipment. You can buy colourful cloth paintings by the Saora people here. Bus 801 goes to nearby Azad Marg.

Behind the museum are replicas of traditional houses of the Gadaba, Kandha, Santal, Saora and other tribes.

Udayagiri & Khandagiri Caves HISTORIC SITE
(entry both sites Indian/foreigner ₹15/200, video ₹25; ☉ dawn-dusk) Six kilometres west of the

Bhubaneswar

📍 Top Sights

- 1 Lingaraj Mandir D4
- 2 Mukteswar Mandir E4
- 3 Museum of Tribal Arts & Artefacts B1

📍 Sights

- 4 Brahmeswar Siva Mandir F4
- 5 Parsurameswar Mandir E4
- 6 Rajarani Mandir E4
- 7 Siddheswara Mandir E4
- 8 State Museum E3
- 9 Udayagiri & Khandagiri Caves A2
- 10 Vaital Mandir D4

📍 Activities, Courses & Tours

- 11 Alternative Tours D4
- 12 Kerala Panchakarma D3
- 13 Odisha Tourism Development Corporation E3

📍 Sleeping

- 14 Hotel Grand Central E2
- 15 Hotel Nirmal Inn E2
- 16 Hotel Upasana E2
- 17 Mango Hotel E2
- 18 New Marriion E1
- 19 Railway Retiring Rooms E2

📍 Eating

- 20 Hare Krishna Restaurant E2
- 21 Khana Khazana E3
- 22 Sri Ram Mandir Tiffin Centre E1
- Truptee (see 21)

📍 Drinking & Nightlife

- 23 BNC E2

📍 Shopping

- 24 Ekamra Haat E1
- 25 Utkalika D2

📍 Information

- India Tourism (see 26)
- 26 Odisha Tourism E3
- Odisha Tourism (see 19)
- 27 Odisha Tourism C4
- 28 SBI E4
- 29 State Bank of India D2

📍 Transport

- 30 Baramunda Bus Stand A1
- 31 Buses to Cuttack E3
- 32 Buses to Puri E3
- 33 Computerised Reservation Office E2
- 34 Master Canteen Bus Stand E2

city centre are two hills riddled with rock-cut shelters. Khandagiri is topped with a fine temple. Many of the caves are ornately

carved and thought to have been chiselled out for Jain ascetics in the 1st century BC. Buses don't go to the caves, but bus 801 runs to the nearby Baramunda bus stand. A shared/private autorickshaw shouldn't cost much more than ₹30/250.

Ascending the ramp at Udayagiri (Sunrise Hill), note **Swargapuri** (Cave 9) to the right with its devotional figures. **Hathi Gumph** (Cave 14) at the top has a 117-line inscription relating the exploits of its builder, King Kharevela of Kalinga, who ruled from 168 to 153 BC.

Around to the left you'll see **Bagh Gumph** (Tiger Cave; Cave 12), with its entrance carved as a tiger mouth. Nearby are **Pavana Gumph** (Cave of Purification) and small **Sarpa Gumph** (Serpent Cave), where the tiny door is surmounted by a three-headed cobra. On the summit are the remains of a defensive position. Around to the southeast is the single-storey elephant-guarded **Ganesh Gumph** (Cave 10), almost directly above the two-storey **Rani ka Naur** (Queen's Palace Cave; Cave 1), carved with Jain symbols and battle scenes.

Continue back to the entrance via **Chota Hathi Gumph** (Cave 3), with its carvings of elephants, and the double-storey **Jaya Vijaya Cave** (Cave 5), with a bodhi tree carved in the central area.

Across the road, Khandagiri offers fine views over Bhubaneswar from its summit. The steep path splits about one-third of the way up the hill. The right path goes to **Ananta Cave** (Cave 3), with its carved figures of athletes, women, elephants and geese carrying flowers. Further along is a series of **Jain temples**; at the top is another (18th-century) Jain temple.

Siddheswara Mandir HINDU TEMPLE
(Kedar Gouri Ln; ☉ dawn-dusk) In the same compound as Mukteswar Mandir, Siddheswara Mandir is a later but plainer temple with a fine red-painted Ganesha.

Vaital Mandir HINDU TEMPLE
(Rath Rd; ☉ dawn-dusk) This 8th-century temple, with a double-storey 'wagon roof' influenced by Buddhist cave architecture, was a centre of tantric worship, eroticism and bloody sacrifice. Look closely and you'll see some very early erotic carvings on the walls. Chamunda (a fearsome incarnation of Devi), representing old age and death, can be seen in the dingy interior, although her necklace of skulls and her bed of corpses are usually hidden beneath her temple robes.

Parsurameswar Mandir HINDU TEMPLE
(☉ dawn-dusk) Just west of Lewis Rd lies a cluster of about 20 temples that are smaller than others in Bhubaneswar but nonetheless important. Best preserved is Parsurameswar Mandir, an ornate Shiva temple built around AD 650. It has lively bas-reliefs of elephant and horse processions, and Shiva images.

Rajarani Mandir HINDU TEMPLE
(TP Rd; Indian/foreigner ₹15/200, camera ₹25; ☉ dawn-dusk) Built around AD 1100, this temple surrounded by manicured gardens is famous for its ornate *deul* (temple sanctuary) and tower. Around the compass points are pairs of statues representing eight *dikpalas* (temple guardians). Between them, nymphs, embracing couples, elephants and lions peer from niches and decorate the pillars.

Brahmeswar Siva Mandir HINDU TEMPLE
(off Brahmeswar Patana Rd; ☉ dawn-dusk) Standing in well-kept gardens, flanked on its plinth by four smaller structures, this 9th-century temple is a smaller version of Lingaraj Mandir. It's notable for its finely detailed sculptures with erotic elements.

State Museum MUSEUM
(www.odishamuseum.nic.in; Lewis Rd; Indian/foreigner entry ₹10/100, camera ₹10/100; ☉ 10am-4.30pm Tue-Sun) This museum houses Odisha's best collection of rare palm-leaf manuscripts, as well as *patachitra* (scroll paintings), traditional and folk musical instruments, Bronze Age tools, an armoury, and an impressive collection of Buddhist, Jain and Brahmanical sculptures (look for the haunting 8th-century sculpture of Chamunda).

Activities

Kerala Panchakarma AYURVEDA, MASSAGE
(☎ 0674-2590053; 240/90 Airfield Rd, Airport Sq; treatments from ₹600; ☉ 6am-9pm) A small ayurvedic clinic offering stress-busting full-body massages.

Tours

Odisha Tourism Development Corporation CULTURAL
(OTDC; ☎ 0674-2431515; www.otdc.in; Lewis Rd; ☉ 7am-8pm) Daily bus tours by OTDC include city tours (₹300, 9am) to Nandankanan Zoo, Dhauli, the Lingaraj and Mukteswar temples, the State Museum, and Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves. Another tour goes to Pipli, Konark and Puri (₹380, 9am), while a third takes in Puri and Satapada on Chilika

Lake (₹400, 8am). Book the day before from this OTDC office behind Panthanivas Hotel. Tour prices do not include entry fees.

Alternative Tours

(☎ 0674-2590830; www.alternativetoursindia.com; TOURS Room 5, BDA Market Complex, off Airfield Rd; ☎ 10am-6.45pm Mon-Sat) A veteran for tribal tours in Odisha, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh, its prices start at around ₹9000 per person per day, all inclusive. It also runs multiday wildlife and heritage tours of Odisha and organises private day tours to Puri and Konark.

★ Festivals & Events

Adivasi Mela

(☎ 26-31 Jan) Bhubaneswar goes tribal for the annual Adivasi Mela festival, celebrating the art, dance and handicrafts of Odisha's tribal groups. CULTURAL

🛏 Sleeping

Many hotels have 24-hour checkout. The cheapest and less salubrious hotels are clustered around the train station. There are several midrange places along Janpath and Cuttack Rds, while the city's plushiest offerings are found just north of Route 16 that circles the city, in BDA Colony.

Mango Hotel

(☎ 0674-7119000; www.staymango.com; CUTTACK RD; HOTEL ₹ ₹2616-3815; 🍷🍷) With friendly front-desk staff, a decent restaurant serving a mix of North Indian and Odishan dishes, and spotless rooms with comfy beds and decent wi-fi, this is the best midrange choice along Cuttack Rd. The train station is a five-minute walk.

Hotel Upasana

(☎ 9439865225, 9439865227; www.hotelupasana.com; 2282 Laxmisagar, off Cuttack Rd; ₹ ₹990, with AC from ₹1300; 🍷🍷🍷) This family-run place, located behind Bhubaneswar Hotel, has rather rundown rooms that could be cleaner, with hot showers and small balconies. There are computer terminals in the lobby and wi-fi extends to some rooms. No restaurant.

Hotel Nirmal Inn

(☎ 0674-2534411; Rajpath; ₹ ₹1000, with AC ₹1400; 🍷🍷) This no-frills place has good-value rooms, which are of the can't-swing-a-cat variety but are relatively clean and modern. Has a restaurant, but wi-fi is in the lobby only. HOTEL ₹ ₹

Railway Retiring Rooms

(Platform 1, Bhubaneswar train station; dm ₹90-300, ₹ ₹260-520, r with AC ₹480-940; 🍷) These large GUESTHOUSE ₹

SLEEPING PRICE RANGES

The following price ranges refer to a double room with bathroom and are inclusive of tax:

\$ less than ₹800

\$\$ ₹800-₹2500

\$\$\$ more than ₹2500

but simple rooms are a place for ultra-shoe-stringers to rest for a few hours before catching a train. Rooms are in a quiet corner of the station, but it's still a train station so it's pretty noisy. Secure your room at the booking window beside 'Enquiries', which is just inside the station's main entrance.

★ Trident Hotel

RESORT \$\$\$

(☎ 0674-3010000; www.tridenthotels.com; CB-1 Nayapalli; r/ste from ₹12,000/22,000; 🍷🍷🍷) The spacious, stylish rooms at the Trident, decorated with fine examples of Odishan stonework, textiles and metalwork, look out onto the peaceful gardens. There's a private jogging track, luxurious pool and one of the best restaurants in town. It's located 6km north of the train station.

Hotel Grand Central

HOTEL \$\$\$

(☎ 9437001152, 9937439074; www.hotelgrandcentral.com; Old Station Bazaar; s/d incl breakfast from ₹2800/3200; 🍷🍷) Whitewashed corridors and marble floors lead to smart, well-fitted rooms at this business-class hotel, located just behind the train station. There's a restaurant, bar and car rental.

New Marrion

HOTEL \$\$\$

(☎ 0674-2380850; www.hotelnewmarrion.com; 6 Janpath Rd; s/d from ₹6100/6500; 🍷🍷🍷) A central top-end hotel, Marrion has rooms with a contemporary, classy design - LCD TVs, dark-wood panelling and a small sofa space. Restaurants include South Indian, Italian-Mexican combo and Chinese, a great kebab house, a Café Coffee Day in the building out front and a contemporary Scottish bar. There's a Thai spa to round off the allure, and service is top-notch.



Eating

Dalma

ODISHAN \$

(www.dalmahotels.com; 157 Madhusudan Nagar; mains ₹70-180, thali ₹150-240; ☎ 11am-4pm & 7-10.30pm) This outlet of the small Bhubaneswar chain is widely regarded by locals as

ODIA CUISINE

Mustard is the staple in Odishan kitchens, used ubiquitously in seed, paste and oil forms, giving many Odia dishes a distinct pungent flavour. A typical meal consists of *bhata* (rice) served alongside a variety of tasty side dishes such as *ka-haru phula bhaja* (fried pumpkin flower); *dalma* (dhal cooked with pumpkin, potato, plantains and eggplant, then fried in a five-spice oil of fenugreek, cumin, black cumin, anise and mustard, topped with grated coconut); and *besara* (vegetables or river fish with mustard-paste gravy). *Saga bhaja* (leafy greens lightly fried with garlic paste and a five-seed mixture called *pancha phutan* (cumin, mustard, anise, black cumin and chilli) is also a treat here. On the coast, fish and prawns are omnipresent: *sarison macha* is a superb favourite fish dish cooked in a mustard-based curry.

the best place in town to sample authentic Odia cuisine, including *aloo bharta* (a delicious mashed potato and aubergine combination), *dalma* (the restaurant's speciality dhal dish, cooked with coconut), *chenna poda* (Orissa's cottage-cheese dessert from heaven) and numerous Odishan thalis.

It's nothing flash – there's a canteen feel to the place, with dishes served on metal trays – but the food is nothing short of sensational, especially when you consider the prices. First-time visitors to the region will welcome the well-translated menu with clear, English descriptions of every dish.

Khana Khazana

INDIAN \$

(Kalpana Sq; mains ₹50-170; ☎ 5.30-10.30pm) This long-standing evening-only street stall – with plastic chairs and tables spread across the pavement – does a bang-up job with tandoori chicken, delicious chow mein and tasty biryanis. The *chicken dum biryani* (₹100) is particularly popular with the locals, as are the great-value rolls (roti wraps that come with various fillings and are a speciality of Kolkata; ₹40 to ₹60).

★ Kanika

ODISHAN \$\$\$

(www.mayfairhotels.com; Jaydev Vihar, Mayfair Lagoon; mains ₹429-995; ☎ noon-3pm & 7-11pm) Located at the Mayfair Lagoon hotel, tiny Kanika does a don't-miss job with regional Odishan recipes, excelling with local seafood. Special-

ities include *kankada yarkari* (crab curry); slow-cooked, spiced pomfret; mustard-based dishes; and Odisha's most traditional dessert, the seriously addictive *chhena poda* (literally 'burnt cheese', cooked with sugar, cashew nuts and raisins). There are also excellent veg and nonveg thalis (from ₹399).

Odisha Hotel

{ ODISHAN \$\$ }

(Market Bldg, Sahid Nagar; thali ₹140-340; ☎ 12.30-10.30pm) This dead-simple restaurant is one of the best spots to try authentic Odia cuisine, served in huge proportions thali-style. The menu board is entirely in Odia, so just order veg or nonveg and sit back and await this Hindu last supper! It's on the second street on the left if heading east along Maharishi College Rd, past Bhawani Mall.

Make sure you ask for a small spread, and double-check the price of it before you tuck in. Otherwise you'll be given the enormous ₹400 thali, which one person could never finish.

Truptee

SOUTH INDIAN \$

(Cuttack Rd; mains ₹70-160; ☎ 7am-10.30pm) A great choice for South Indian breakfasts, this clean, family-friendly restaurant does a fine line in dosas (large savoury crêpes), *vada* (doughnut-shaped deep-fried lentil savoury) and *idlis* (spongy, fermented rice cakes) before bringing out the curries and tandoor flat breads later in the day. Also does thalis (₹100 to ₹150).

Sri Ram Mandir Tiffin Centre

STREET FOOD \$

(Janpath Rd; dishes ₹10-40; ☎ 6.30am-9pm) *Dahi vada* (*vada* in a slightly spicy yoghurt sauce) is the classic Odishan breakfast dish, and locals flock to this streetside stall beside Sri Ram Mandir to have their fill of it, along with other tasty offerings such as samosas, *alu chops* (deep-fried potato snacks) and small portions of veg curry. Point at what you want and tuck in.

Hare Krishna Restaurant

INDIAN \$\$

(Lalchand Shopping Complex, Janpath Rd; mains ₹120-260; ☎ 11.30am-3.30pm & 7-10.45pm) The beautifully lacquered Gujarati *sankheda* furniture stands out at this stylish but unpretentious veg restaurant where you can enjoy delicious curries, biryanis and tandoor flat breads in a soothing atmosphere. Enter through Lalchand Shopping Complex.



Drinking & Nightlife

BNC

CAFE

(Brown n Cream; Janpath Rd; ☎ 8am-10.30pm) An AC-cooled coffeeshop with good-value fresh

coffee (₹80), plus sandwiches, muffins and ice cream.

Shopping

Utkalika

(Odisha State Handloom Cooperative;  0674-2530187; <http://utkalika.co.in/contactus.php>; Eastern Tower, Market Bldg; ☉ 10am-8.30pm) Located in the busy all-day market streets known as Market Building, Utkalika features Odishan textiles, including appliqué and *ikat* (a technique involving tie-dyeing the thread before it's woven), as well as traditional palm-leaf paintings, fine stone carvings, silver filigree from Cuttack, brasswork and tribal jewellery.

Ekamra Haat

(www.ekamrahaat.in; Madhusudan Marg; ☉ 9am-9pm) A wide-ranging exposition of Odishan handicrafts (and snack stalls) can be found at the 50 or so stalls at this permanent market, located within pleasant, well-tended gardens.

Information

MEDICAL SERVICES

Apollo Hospital ( 0674-7150382, 0674-6661016; www.apollohospitals.com; Plot No 251, Old Sainik School Rd; ☉ 24hr) Private medical facility with a 24-hour trauma centre and pharmacy.

MONEY

ATMs including **SBI** (Lewis Rd) are plentiful along Janpath Rd, Cuttack Rd and Lewis Rd. There are also a couple at the train station.

BUS

For destinations northeast of Bhubaneswar, it's quicker catching a bus to Cuttack's Badambari bus stand and then catching an onwards service from there; jump on any of these **buses** heading east along Cuttack Rd. Puri-bound buses from Baramunda bus stand spend ages going around the city and picking up passengers; catch them **outside the State Museum** to save time, though they'll be pretty full by then.

Baramunda bus stand is reachable by bus 801 from Master Canteen bus stand (₹10, 20 minutes) or autorickshaw/Uber (around ₹100 from the centre).

Services from **Baramunda bus stand** (National Hwy 16) are listed below:

DESTINATION	FARE (₹)	DURATION (HR)	DEPARTURES
Baripada	300	6	hourly 9am-11pm
Berhampur	150	4	every 2 hours
Cuttack	25	40min	frequent
Jeypore	433-540	13-16	5 daily
Kolkata	non-AC seat/sleeper 340/700, AC seat/sleeper 475/800	9	frequent 7.30-9pm
Konark	55	2	hourly
Koraput	non-AC seat 420	14	five daily
Puri	40	2	hourly

State Bank of India (Rajpath; ☉ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) Exchanges foreign currencies and has ATMs.

POST

Post Office (www.indiapost.gov.in; cnr Mahatma Gandhi & Sachivajaya Marg; ☉ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat, 3-7pm Sun) Main post office.

TOURIST INFORMATION

Odisha Tourism ( 0674-2432177; www.orissatourism.gov.in; Paryatan Bhavan, 2nd fl, Museum Campus, Lewis Rd; ☉ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) The main branch of the tourist office, with maps and lists of recommended guides. Other branches are at the **airport** (☉ by flight schedule) and **train station** (☉ 6am-10pm).

India Tourism (www.incredibleindia.org; Paryatan Bhavan, 2nd fl, Lewis Rd; ☉ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 1pm Sat) Info on nationwide attractions; in the same building as the main Odisha Tourism office.

Getting There & Away

AIR

Bhubaneswar's modern **Biju Patnaik International Airport** (<http://airport-departures-arrivals.com>) is 2km from the centre.

Destinations served by Air India, IndiGo and GoAir:

Bengaluru ₹5585, two hours, three daily

Delhi ₹5720, 2½ hours, 10 daily

Hyderabad ₹2790, 1½ hours, five daily

Kolkata ₹3130, one hour, five daily

Mumbai ₹5360, 2½ hours, four daily

TRAIN

Foreigners queue at window 3 at the **computerised reservation office** (☎ 8am-10pm Mon-Sat, to 2pm Sun), in a separate building in front of the train station. Destinations:

Berhampur (Brahmapur) 2nd class/sleeper ₹35/170, two to four hours, more than a dozen, 7am to 9.25pm

Kolkata 2nd class/3AC ₹160/745, seven to eight hours, at least 10 daily, 4.55am to 11.55pm

Puri 2nd class/general ₹55/70, two hours, more than a dozen, 7am to midnight

i Getting Around**AUTORICKSHAW**

An autorickshaw to the airport, if hailed on the street, costs around ₹200; an autorickshaw summoned with the Uber/Ola app costs around ₹60. The Uber/Ola apps also give you the option of hiring an autorickshaw by the hour if you want a tour of the city. Shared rickshaws ply main routes around the city and charge locals ₹5; they tend to demand considerably more from foreigners unless you just pay your fare and hop out.

BUS

Bhubaneswar has a relatively foreign-friendly numbered city-bus system that runs between 7am and 9pm from the bus stand known as **Master Canteen**, by the train station. Double-check your bus is going where you want it to, as some bus numbers run along more than one route.

City buses leaving from Master Canteen bus stand:

Airport Bus 207A, ₹10, 15 minutes

Baramunda Bus Stand Bus 801, ₹10, 20 minutes

Dhuli Bus 225, ₹10, 30 minutes

Lingaraj Mandir Bus 333, ₹10, 20 minutes

Mayfair Hotel Bus 207N, ₹10, 20 minutes

Mukteswar Mandir Bus 225, ₹10, 15 minutes

Pipli Bus 701, ₹50, 50 minutes

Puri Bus 701, ₹100, two hours

Udayagiri Caves Bus 801 or 405, ₹10, 30 minutes

CAR & TAXI

Uber and Ola trips all the way across the city cost around ₹100 or less. Ola also gives you the option of hiring a car on a per-hour basis (around ₹80) and organising a one-way drop-off (to, say, Puri or Konark).

Odisha Tourism Development Corporation

(p598) offers car-and-driver services for tours around the area. For destinations within 200km, the charges are ₹110 per hour and ₹11 per kilometre for an AC Indigo, or ₹72 per hour and ₹7 per kilometre for a non-AC Ambassador. Book in person at least a day in advance.

There's a prepaid taxi stand at the airport; taxis to the centre cost ₹300.

AROUND BHUBANESWAR

Scattered around the countryside, south, east and west of the capital, several worthwhile sites make easy half-day trips from Bhubaneswar. These include a zoo, wildlife sanctuary, craft village, tantric temple and centuries-old rock edicts.

👁 Sights**★ Chausath Yogini**

HINDU MONUMENT

(☎ dusk-dawn) Rediscovered in the 1950s among rice fields 15km south of Bhubaneswar, this small but serene 9th-century open-roofed temple (pronounced 'chorsat jorgini') is dedicated to *yoginis* (female tantric mystics) and is one of only four of its kind in India. The temple – no larger than a village hut – contains 64 (*chausath*) carved *yoginis*, each shown standing on top of her *vaharna* (vehicle; often in animal form). No buses go here; a return trip by rickshaw/Uber costs around ₹450/540.

TRAINS FROM BHUBANESWAR

DESTINATION	TRAIN NO & NAME	FARE (₹)	DURATION (HR)	DEPARTURE
Chennai	12841 Coromandal Exp	560/1470/2110	19½	9.25pm
Kolkata (Howrah)	18410 Sri Jagannath Exp	270/715/1015	8¼	11.55pm
Koraput	18447 Hirakhand Exp	370/995/1425	14	8.25pm
Mumbai	12880 Bbs Ltt S Exp	705/1845/2685	30½	7.10am
New Delhi	12801 Purushottam Exp	705/1845/2685	29¼	11.15pm
Ranchi	18452 Tapaswini Exp	350/950/1355	13¾	9.20pm
Rayagada	18447 Hirakhand Exp	310/830/1180	8¾	8.25pm

Fares: sleeper/3AC/2AC

SATKOSIA TIGER SANCTUARY

Comprising the Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and the Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary, 964-sq-km forested **Satkosia Tiger Sanctuary** (☎ 8763102681; www.satkosia.org; per day Indian/foreigner ₹40/2000; ☀ 6am-6pm), 125km northwest of Bhubaneswar, is straddled by a breathtaking gorge, cut by the mighty Mahanadi River, and is one of the most beautiful natural spots in Odisha. However, tourists are not allowed inside the park's core zone, where most of the wildlife is found, and 4WD safaris are not on offer. The main appeal of coming here is to spend some time amid the stunning natural scenery.

The sanctuary as a whole is home to significant populations of gharial and mugger crocodiles, plus 38 species of mammals, including elephants, leopards, sambar deer, wild dogs, jackals, giant squirrels and around a dozen tigers. As of 2016, boat trips on the river have been discontinued but you may still spot crocodiles and birds from the river bank.

The main entry gate of the reserve is at Pampasar, 30km southwest of Angul.

You'll need to stop by **Satkosia Wildlife Division** (☎ 8763102681, 06764-236218; www.satkosia.org; Hakimpada, Angul) for permissions and reservations – a mere formality, but bring a copy of your passport and visa. From the train station it costs around ₹100 to get here in an autorickshaw.

Few tourists make it out here, which adds to the tranquillity of the location. For unique Odishan crafts, check out **Soumya Handicraft** (☀ hours vary) nearby.

Dhauli

BUDDHIST MONUMENT

(Ashoka Rock Edicts) In about 260 BC, 11 of of Ashoka's 14 famous edicts were carved onto a rock at Dhauli, 8km south of Bhubaneswar. Above the edicts, the earliest Buddhist sculpture in Odisha – a carved elephant, representing Buddha – emerges from a rock.

From the Dhauli turn-off, accessed by Bhubaneswar-Puri buses (₹14, 30 minutes), it's a tree-shaded 3km walk or shared/private autorickshaw ride (₹10/70 one way) to the rock edicts and then a short, steep walk to the stupa. Uber drop off costs around ₹120.

Just beyond the rock edicts, each translated into English, is the huge, white Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda), built by Japanese monks in 1972 on a hill to the right. Older Buddhist reliefs are set into the modern structure, and there are great views of the surrounding countryside from the top.

Pipli

VILLAGE

This colourful village, 16km southeast of Bhubaneswar, is notable for its locally made brilliant appliqué craft, which incorporates small mirrors and is used for door and wall hangings and the more traditional canopies hung over Jagannath and family during festival time. Inexpensive lampshades and parasols hanging outside the shops turn the main road into an avenue of rainbow col-

ours. During Diwali the place is particularly vibrant. Take any Bhubaneswar-Puri bus and hop off en route.

Nandankanan Zoological Park

ZOO

(www.nandankanan.org; Indian/foreigner ₹25/100, digital camera/video ₹10/500; ☀ 7.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep, 8am-5pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar) Famous for its blue-eyed white tigers, the zoo – one of India's better ones – also boasts rare Asiatic lions, rhinoceros, copious reptiles, monkeys and deer. Don't get food out of your bag in front of any of the monkeys that roam free around the zoo; trust us. Forty-five-minute safaris to see the lions and tigers cost ₹30 per person. Uber autorickshaw/car drop-off costs around ₹200/250.

i Getting There & Away

Pipli and Dhauli are easily accessible by frequent bus from Bhubaneswar. To visit the other attractions, you have to go as part of an organised tour or commandeer an autorickshaw or car with driver for a day or half-day.

SOUTHEASTERN ODISHA

Southeastern Odisha hugs the coast of the Bay of Bengal and is home to the state's most visited spots, including the backpacker outpost of Puri and the Unesco-protected Sun Temple at Konark. Tiny Raghurajpur is craft central, Chilika Lake offers ample birding and dolphin-watching opportunities, and you can hit the beach at Golpalpur-on-Sea.