

Nature And Spirituality



Days: 11

Price: 1450 USD
International flight not included

Comfort: ★★★★★

Difficult: ★★★☆☆

📍 Wildlife 📍 Spirituality

If you wish to travel in India off the beaten track, then this tour in India to discover the state of Orissa will be your ideal choice. From the ancient capital of the British Empire: Calcutta to Puri and its sacred temple passing by the impressive park of Bhitarkanika, you will be transported into the vibrant heart of India with its religions, its myths and its traditional way of life. The state of Odisha (Orissa) has some of the most beautiful Indian temples, spectacular nature reserves and endless beaches. The perfect blend for a trip combining spirituality and nature. Visit of Bhitarkanika Park would allow the amateurs of nature to observe the rich local birdlife. Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri form a trio of Buddhist sites, made of temples and sculptures carved from rock or hidden in mysterious caves, less than 90 km from Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha (Orissa). They are called the Golden Triangle. The caves, sometimes double-decked, have a large number of cells, each opening onto a large common space. Finely carved, sculptures adorn the walls, representing animals, plants and various flowers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Victoria Memorial and other sights in the colourful city of Kolkata
- Amazingly rich and unique biodiversity of Bhitarkanika Park
- Bhubaneswar - City of thousands of medieval stone temples
- Beautifully carved rocks of Udaigiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri
- Immense Jagannath temple in Puri
- Majestic Sun Temple in Konark

Day 1. Traditional welcome on arrival



Kolkata 📍

- Upon arrival at the international airport and after the traditional welcome 'Swagat', we are transferred to the hotel. Located on the east bank of the Hooghly river, Kolkata is the principal commercial, cultural, and educational centre of East India, while the Port of Kolkata is India's oldest operating port as well as its sole major riverine port. As a nucleus of the 19th and early 20th-century Bengal Renaissance and a religiously and ethnically diverse centre of culture in Bengal and India, Kolkata has established local traditions in drama, art, film, theatre and literature that have gained wide audiences. Kolkata also holds a unique and rich colorful cultural heritage.

🏠 Accommodation

The Lindsay

Day 2. Sightseeing of Kolkata



Kolkata 📍

- We begin our day with the visit of the **Mother Teresa's House** to see her tomb and then to **Nirmal Hriday**. It is here where Mother Teresa along with her sisters lived. From here, we move to the famous **Howrah Bridge**, also known as the Rabindra Setu. Continuing our sightseeing, we drive to **St. John Church**, the oldest architecture of the British rule in the city. Then, we visit exquisitely designed **Marble Palace**. Lying in the midst of a lush green meadow with artistic sculptures, this building is a treasure house of antiques, like curios from China and paintings of Ruben. Sightseeing of the day comes to end with a visit to the majestic **Victoria Memorial**, a marble edifice constructed in memory of Queen Victoria. Now, it has been converted into a museum displaying paintings, miniatures, statues and book and offers an indepth knowledge of Indian history to visitors.

☕ Breakfast	The Lindsay
🏠 Accommodation	The Lindsay

Day 3. Kolkata - Chandipur by train



Kolkata 📍
🚗 234km - ⌚ 4h
Chandipur 📍

- Today in the morning, we will leave for the Kolkata station to board our train to Balasore . Upon arrival in Balasore, transfer to the hotel in Chandipur. The sea of Chandipur has a particularity to retreat on 5 kilometers. This tidal game happens twice a day and is a particularly unbelievable phenomenon to observe. Add to that a peaceful atmosphere, solitary sand dunes, and the gentle sound of waves. Then, we will visit **Remuna and its temple Khirachora Gopinatha**. Remuna is a small town located 9km east of Balasore.

☕ Breakfast	The Lindsay
🏠 Accommodation	Arpita Beach Resort

Day 4. Submerge in the lapse of nature



Chandipur 📍
🚗 140km - ⌚ 4h
Bhitarkanika National Park 📍

Chandipur - Bhitarkanika National Park

- Today, we will depart towards the **Bhitarkanika Park**. It is the nesting site of a million olive Ridley turtles that come ashore to the 35 km long stretch of beach at Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary, **a World Heritage site**. On arrival, we relax in our Swiss tent. After a delicious home style lunch, we leave for a cruise to Kalibhanja Diha Island on countryside boat approved by Wildlife Department to enjoy panoramic view of Ramsar site. Thereafter, we visit to **Dhamara Port and Dhamarai Temple**. In the evening, enjoy the camp fire with our Snacks and Dinner .

☕ Breakfast	Arpita Beach Resort
🍴 Lunch	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort
🍷 Dinner	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort
🏠 Accommodation	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort

Day 5. Bhitarkanika National Park



Bhitarkanika National Park 📍

- After a delicious home style breakfast, we visit the **Bird Sanctuary** where we observe variety of birds followed by trekking to **Hunting tower** of Ancient King and a cruise to different creeks on countryside boat approved by Wildlife Department, to spot crocodiles, visit to Museum and Project Area. After the lunch, enjoy the surrounding nature's beauty and paddy field. In the late afternoon, visit the **Jagannath temple** to participate in the **Live Aalati Darshan**. In the evening, enjoy the campfire with Snacks and Dinner.

☕ Breakfast	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort
🍴 Lunch	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort
🍷 Dinner	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort
🏠 Accommodation	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort

Day 6. Aul – Ratnagiri – Lalitgiri – Udaygiri - Bhubaneswar



Bhitarkanika National Park
🚗 140km - ⌚ 4h
Bhubaneswar

Bhitarkanika National Park - Bhubaneswar

- Today, we will leave for the Bhubaneswar. On the route, we visit the **Golden triangle** of Orissa. These three hills and their surroundings together form an incredible Buddhist complex. The Chinese pilgrim Hiuen T'sang founded there the seat of a flourishing Buddhist university: **Puspagiri**. Large ruins of brick pagodas, portals of carved stones and esoteric Buddhist images, testifying to its former glory, have been restored. We will visit **Ratnagiri**, nestled on the banks of the Birup River, and about 100km from Bhubaneswar, Ratnigiri contains some very beautiful Buddhist antiquities. Created in the 6th century AD, it would seem that Buddhism was taught in these places until the 12th century. The museum of Ratnagiri also deserves a detour. We then go to the **Lalitgiri**. It is one of the oldest Buddhist complexes, dating back to the 1st century. Thereafter, we go to **Udaygiri**, one of the largest Buddhist complexes in Orissa, and well known for its bell-shaped stupa, representing the Vajrayana (Tantric Buddhism). On arrival in Bhubaneswar, you will be transferred to the Hotel.

Breakfast	Bhitarkanika Jungle Resort
Accommodation	The Crown

Day 7. Sightseeing of Bhubaneswar



Bhubaneswar

- This day will allow us to follow the footsteps of the Jains. Religious centre of Tribhubaneswar or "**Lord Lingaraj**", Bhubaneswar is an important Hindu pilgrimage center. Hundreds of temples dot the landscape of the old city, which used to be around 2000. While the modern city is buzzing, its landscape awakens curiosity, between the bell towers of the **Lingaraja Temple**, the white dome of Peace Pagoda on the hill of Dhauli and the pink hues of Mahariva Jina. Together they embody the advent of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism through the different periods of Orissa's history. Among these 600 temples, the Lingaraj temple, dedicated to Shiva, and one of the most refined and imposing temples of Bhubaneswar. Non-Hindus can not enter it, but can observe it from an outside platform. We will also have the opportunity to visit the **Rajarani temple** built of pink and gold sandstone, one of the most recognized in the city. **The Mukteswar Temple** is one of the most remarkable temples in Bhubaneswar and its architectural style is close to that used to build the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture. We can also explore the **Parashurameswar temple**, built in the year 650 AD. Small, but richly decorated, the Parashurameswar Temple, Shiva Shrine, has many statues of couples, animals and floral motifs.

Breakfast	The Crown
Accommodation	The Crown

Day 8. Bhubaneswar – Pipli – Konark - Puri



Bhubaneswar
🚗 30km - ⌚ 50m
pipli
🚗 43km - ⌚ 1h
Konark
🚗 35km - ⌚ 1h
Puri

Bhubaneswar - pipili

- After delicious breakfast, we head towards **Pipli**. On the way, we stop by in the small villages along the road. Pipli, for example, center of applied arts, which transmits the essence of the arts of **Odisha**. This will be the occasion to bring back some typical souvenirs of our trip to India to our relatives. Infact, the village is also famous for its handbags and other traditional objects. This mix of colors is a feast for the eyes. Pipli, capital of the arts of Odisha, looks brightly in the storefronts.

pipli - Konark

- Thereafter, we resume our journey to Konark, one of the most spectacular examples of religious architecture in the world. **The Sun Temple of Konark** was conceived as a massive tank dedicated to carrying the God of the Sun in the sky by the power of seven magnificently sculpted horses. It was originally much closer to the sea and was used as a navigation point by European sailors, who nicknamed the temple the "Black Pagoda". This architectural wonder of the 13th century has been listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. You will also have the opportunity during this day trip to India to visit the **ASI Museum in Konark**, as well as the local fishing village.

Konark - Puri

- After the visit, we will head towards Puri. On arrival, transfer to the hotel. Rest of the evening is free to explore the beach during sunset.

☕ Breakfast	The Crown
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Shree Hari

Day 9. Excursion to Satpada Chilka Lake – Raghurajpur



Puri 📍

- Today, we visit the **Lord Jagannath Temple** in Puri. This temple is one of the most sacred of India, it is a high place of pilgrimage. According to legend, the most extraordinary form Jagannath takes is that of the unfinished work of the god Vswakarma, who in anger did not finish his portrait of Lord Vishnu. A mythical place not to be missed during a trip to India in the region. **Attention:** *Non Hindus are not allowed inside the Jagannath Temple, but can see this one from the platform of the Raghunathan library. On Sunday, this platform is closed, but the temple can be seen from another platform outside the temple*
- After the visit of the temple, we head to **Chilka Lake** to observe the Dolphins. This vast lake on the east coast of **Orissa** boasts magnificent islands, flamingos floundering in shallow waters and birds that come from as far away as the Caspian Sea, the Aral Sea, and other parts Mongolia, Central and Southeast Asia. And this is only a glimpse of what Chilika Lake can offer. Extending over 1,100 square kilometers, and covering three districts of Orissa, the place is a paradise for nature lovers and bird watchers. The best time to visit the lake is Winter as it is the time that birds choose to migrate to the Island. **Optional:** *Boat ride on the lake to see the dolphins.*
- Late afternoon, we will visit **Raghurajpur**, a charming village not far from Puri. The artisan activities of Raghurajpur contribute to the reputation of the village throughout the country. There are about 100 homes and 300 craftsmen in the village. We can walk around, admire the magnificent frescoes painted on the walls, interact with craftsmen, see them in action and of course, shop, the opportunity to bring back authentic souvenirs. **Optional:** *During our visit in Raghurajpur enjoy a unique **Gotipua dance**, a typical folk dance. It is a form of dance originating in this village. It is performed by young boys who transform into feminine and graceful dancers. Acrobatic postures and movements are inspired by the life of Radha and Krishna and other mythological narratives*

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Shree Hari
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Shree Hari

Day 10. Return to Bhubaneswar



Puri 📍

🚗 70km - ⌚ 1h 30m
 Bhubaneswar 📍
 ✈️ 380km - ⌚ 1h
 Kolkata 📍

Puri - Bhubaneswar

- Today we will be transferred to the airport of Bhubaneswar to board the flight to Kolkata.

Bhubaneswar - Kolkata

- On arrival, we would be received by our representative and will be transferred to the Hotel in Kolkata.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Shree Hari
🏠 Accommodation	The Lindsay

Day 11. Depart from Kolkata



Kolkata 📍

- This tour concludes today. We will be transferred to **Kolkata International airport** to catch our flights to our respective destinations.

🍳 Breakfast

The Lindsay

Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
1690 USD	1600 USD	1550 USD	1450 USD

Included

- Accommodation for 08 nights on the basis of double room in the hotels mentioned or equivalent on breakfast basis
- 02 nights on Full board in Bhitarkanika
- Cruise to Kalibhanja Diha Island on Countryside boat
- All ground transportation included in the program using private air-conditioned vehicle with English speaking driver
- Park and monuments entrance fees as described in the programme
- Train tickets in Chair Car AC for the sector as mentioned below: (Kolkata - Chandipur)
- English speaking Local city guide as mentioned in the programme (Till 05 Pax)
- English speaking tour leader throughout the trip (From 06 Pax onwards)
- Govt. Taxes

Not included

- International flight tickets
- Travel insurance
- These rates will not be valid for peak season from 20 December 2019 to 10 January 2020 , Christmas and New Year's extra supplement cost will be charged during this period
- Domestic flight tickets for the Sector: (Bhubanehsvar - Kolkata)
- Miscellaneous Expenses - drinks, souvenir, personal expenses etc.
- Tips for driver and other local staff
- Lunch and Dinner during the trip except Full board in Bhitarkanika
- Charges for Camera in the monuments and Parks
- The cancellation and baggage insurance, assistance and repatriation
- Any optional activity
- Indian Visa
- All services not mentioned in "Inclusion"