



SHREE MANDIR (THE TEMPLE OF LORD JAGANNATH)

The Temple and the Icon-The temple of Jagannath built on elevated ground about twenty feet above the level of the surrounding area, presents an imposing sight and can be seen from miles away. The height of the main temple or Vimana above the road level is 214.8". It is a fine specimen of the 'Pancharatha' style of Orissan temple architecture. The construction of the present edifice is credited to Anantavarma Chodaganga Dev (1078-1147 A.D.) of the illustrious Ganga dynasty. The main shrine consists of four-distinct buildings viz., the Vimana or the Great Temple, 'Jagamohan' or the Hall of Audience, 'Natamandapa' the Dancing Hall and 'Bhogamandapa' or the refractory. The Natamandapa is approachable by two entrances on the north and south. The main entrance from Natamandapa to Jagamohan is called Jaya Bijaya Dwar and there is another door to Jagamohan on the south side. The only entrance door to Bimana is known as Kalahata Dwara, which is considered very sacred.

The images of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Chakraraj Sudarshana are installed in the inner sanctuary of the temple on a raised platform called the 'ratnavedi' or the jewelled platform. The miniature images of Laxmi, Saraswati and Madhab are also placed on the Ratnavedi along with the main deities and worshipped. The platform made of stone is 16 ft. long, 13 ft. wide and 4 ft. high. There is a circumambulating path around the platform.

The temple has two massive enclosures. The two concentric stone walls known as KURMA PRACHIRA (Or inner wall measuring 400' x 278') and MEGHANADA PRACHIRA (Or outer wall measuring 665' x 644' with height varying from 20' to 24') were constructed in the reign of Purusottama Deva (1467-1497) and Kapilendra Deva (1435-1467) respectively. The whole temple complex comprises an area of 10.7 acres. The space between the temple complex and the inner enclosure goes by name of KURMA BEDHA owing to its shape resembling a tortoise.

The temple has four gates at the eastern, southern, western and northern mid-points of the outer wall, known as 'SIMHADWARA (Lions Gate), ASHWA DWARA (Horse Gate) VYAGHRA DWARA (Tigers Gate) and HASTI DWARA (Elephants Gate). They are said to represent Dharma, Mana, Vairagya and Aishwarya. In front of the Singhadwara is installed the ARUN STAMBHA made of a single solid chlorite stone and upon it beautiful Arun squatting in obeisance.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS OF LORDS

- (i) December-January (Pausa)-Navanna and Dhanu Sankranti
- (ii) January-February (Magha)-Makara Sankranti and Sripanchami
- (iii) February-March (Phalgun)-Dola Purnima
- (iv) April-May (Baisakha)-Chandan Jatra
- (v) May-June (Jyestha)-Nrusingha Janma & Snana Jatra
- (vi) June-July (Asadha)-Ratha Jatra and Bahuda Jatra
- (vii) July-August (Sravana)-Jhulana Jatra

- (viii) August-September (Bhadra)-Krushna Janmastami and Kaliya Dalana
- (ix) September-October (Aswina)- Durga Puja and Dussehra
- (x) October-November (Kartika)-Rasa Purnima, Kartika Purnima, Panchuka
- (xi) November-December (Margasira)-Prathamastami

THE VESHAS (COSTUMES) OF LORD JAGANNATH

- (i) Suna Vesha-The 11th day of the bright fortnight of Asadha
- (ii) Banabhojee Vesha-The 10th day of the dark fortnight of Bhadraba
- (iii) Kaliya Dalana Vesha-The 11th day of the dark fortnight of Bhadraba
- (iv) Pralambasura Badha Vesha-The 12th day of the dark fortnight of Bhadraba
- (v) Krushna Balaram Vesha-The 13th day of the dark fortnight of Bhadraba
- (vi) Bali Vamana Vesha-The 12th day of the bright fortnight of Bhadraba
- (vii) Raja Vesha-The 10th day of the bright fortnight of Aswina, the full moon of Pausa and the full moon of Phalguna.
- (viii) Radha Damodar Vesha-The 10th day of the bright fortnight of Aswina, the full moon of Pausa and the full moon of Phalguna.
- (ix) Thia Khia Vesha-The 11th day of bright fortnight of Kartika
- (x) Bankachuda Vesha-The 12th day of the bright fortnight of Kartika
- (xi) Nagarjuna Vesha-During Panchuka in the month of Kartika
- (xii) Adakia Vesha-The 13th day of the bright fortnight of Kartika
- (xiii) Dalikia Vesha-The 14th day of the bright fortnight of Kartika
- (xiv) Raja Rajeswari Vesha-The full moon of Kartika
- (xv) Padma Vesha-The 2nd day of the bright fortnight of Magha
- (xvi) Sradha Vesha-From the 1st to 3rd day of the dark fortnight of Magha
- (xvii) Gaja Uddharana Vesha-The full moon of Magha
- (xviii) Chacheri Vesha-From the 9th day of the bright fortnight to the full moon of Phalguna
- (xix) Chandana Lagi Vesha-From the 19th day of dark fortnight to the full moon of Jyestha
- (xx) Gajanana Vesha (Ganesh Vesha)-Devasnana Purnima.