

## PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST

- Atri** : (42 km from Bhubaneswar) near Khurda known for its hot sulphur spring with water at a constant temperature of 55 Celsius and the Siva temple of Lord Hatakeswar. Approach: by road from Bhubaneswar.
- Balighai** : (8 km from Puri) A lovely sea side resort where the river Nuanai meets the sea. Approach: by road from Puri.
- Banpur** : (10 km from Barkul, 42 km from Rambha) Quite close to the Chilika Lake, Banpur is famous for the shrine of Bhagabati. Approach: by road from Bhubaneswar.
- Banki** : (50 kms from Bhubaneswar) a beautiful place on the bank of the river Mahanadi, famous for the shrine of Goddess Churchika. Approach by road from Bhubaneswar.
- Bhitar-Kanika** : (230 km from Bhubaneswar) The seashore area has been a crocodile sanctuary since 1975. Close by is the coastal area of Gahirmatha, the nesting place of the Olive Ridley sea-turtles. Approach: from Chandbali by motor boat.
- Bhubaneswar** : The capital city of the state, it is a veritable museum of temples - the Lingaraj, Mukteswar, Rajarani, Parasurameswar, Vaital, Brahmeswar and many others. Northwest of the city are the twin hills Khandagiri and Udaygiri with ancient rock-cut caves. About 2 km to the east of the Lingaraj temple is situated Sisupalgarh with ruins dating back to third century BC; about 6 km south from Bhubaneswar is Dhauli with its Peace Pagoda and Ashok's rock edict inscribed in the wake of the Kalinga War. The biological park of Nandan Kanan is at a distance of 20 km from Bhubaneswar. Approach: by air, train and road.
- Chandipur- on-sea** : (16 kms from Balasore) Perched on a calm, beautiful beach, it is a lovely sea resort and a base for excursions to Similipal, Khiching, Panchalingeswar, etc. in the northern Odisha region. Approach: by road from Balasore.
- Chilika Lake** : (105 km from Bhubaneswar, 75 km from Berhampur) The biggest inland lake in the country, the Chilika with its bird-beaded blue expanse of water is a paragon of natural beauty. Approach: by road from Bhubaneswar, Puri and Berhampur.
- Cuttack** : The former capital and commercial centre of Odisha, it is a historic city that has completed a thousand years. The places of historic interest

- include the medieval Barabati Fort and the unusual shrine of Kadam Rasool. Centre of filigree work, base for excursion to Dhavaleswar temple by boat. Approach: by rail and road.
- Dhauri : (see Bhubaneswar)
- Gahirmatha : (see Bhitara Kanika)
- Gopalpur-on-sea : (16 km from Berhampur) Charming seaside resort which attracts tourists from all over the country and abroad round the year. Approach: by road from Berhampur.
- Harishankar : (165 km from Sambalpur) Temple in the slope of the beautiful Gandhamardan hills; on its opposite is the temple of Nrusimhanath. The plateau between the two temples is strewn with ancient Buddhist ruins, which are considered to be the remnants of the ancient University Parimalgiri. Approach: by road.
- Hirapur : (12 km from Bhubaneswar) famous for the circular, roofless Chausathi Yogini Temple. Approach: by road from Bhubaneswar.
- Hirakud : (16 km from Sambalpur) famous for the longest river dam in the world and the largest artificial lake in Asia. Approach: by road and rail from Sambalpur.
- Jajpur : (60 km from Cuttack) Situated on the bank of the holy river Baitarani, it is famous as a Shakti Pitha dedicated to goddess Viraja. There are a number of temples in the place including the famous Viraja. Approach: by road from Cuttack or Jajpur Rly. Stn.
- Jaugada : (35 km from Berhampur) Jaugada is the site of rock edict of Emperor Asoka and of a sixth century fort. A few kilometers away at Buguda, there is also an ancient fort and a temple with wood carving and wall paintings. Approach: by road from Berhampur.
- Kapilas : The holy peak of the Kapilas Hill - 26 km away from Dhenkanal town-contains the beautiful Siva temple at a height 457 metres, with 1351 steps leading to it. Approach: by road from Dhenkanal.
- Khandagiri : (also see Bhubaneswar) A fair is held here commencing on the Magha Saptami (Feb-March).
- Khiching : (205 km from Balasore, 150 km from Baripada) Site of many temples including the temple of Kichakeswari and Chamunda. Approach: by road.
- Konark : (65 km from Bhubaneswar, 35 km from Puri) The Sun Temple of Konark, one of the wonders of the world, is a major source of tourist attraction. There is a fair at Chandrabhaga near Konark on Magha Saptami (February-March) and in recent years an annual dance festival is being held at Konark around the last week of November. Approach: by road.

- Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri : (90 km from Bhubaneswar and 60 km from Cuttack) Sites of a Buddhist monastic complex belonging to the 7th century A.D. Approach: by road (by boat and rickshaw to Ratnagiri).
- Nandankanan : (20 km from Bhubaneswar) A famous biological park in the country. The zoo is remarkable for its white tiger and lion safari. Boating facilities are available. Approach: by road and railway.
- Nrusimhanath : (see Harishankar)
- Pipili : (20 km from Bhubaneswar) On the way to Puri from Bhubaneswar, the place is famous for applique work. Approach: by road.
- Puri : (60 km from Bhubaneswar) One of the four Dhams (holiest places), Puri is famous as the seat of Lord Jagannath and a seaside town. Puri is the religious centre of Odisha and its chief source of attraction for tourists, both religious and secular. Approach: by road and rail.
- Ranipur-Jharial : (104 km from Balangir) Seat of the circular Chausathi Yogini temple. Approach: by road.
- Remuna : (10 km from Balasore) Famous for the temple of Khirachora Gopinath.
- Ratnagiri : (See Lalitgiri)
- Sakhigopal : (20 km from Puri) famous for the temple of Sakhigopal.
- Similipal : (94 km from Baripada, 368 km from Bhubaneswar) Site for Project Tiger. The area covering 2,750 sq.km is a lovely sight. Approach: by road.
- Sonepur : (48 km from Balangir) known as the temple town of Western Odisha, it is a beautiful place located at the confluence of the rivers Mahanadi and the Tel. The temple of Gnanadevi Maluni and Stambhesvari on the confluence are famous.
- Tikarpara : (120 km from Dhenkanal, 180 km from Cuttack) known for the Satkosia Gorge stretching 22 km, is also the site of a crocodile sanctuary. Opportunities for boating, fishing and trekking available. Approach: by road.
- Udaygiri : (see Bhubaneswar)
- Ushakothi : (48 km from Sambalpur) Sanctuary for elephants, tigers, gaurs, sambar, panther, deer, etc. Approach: by road.