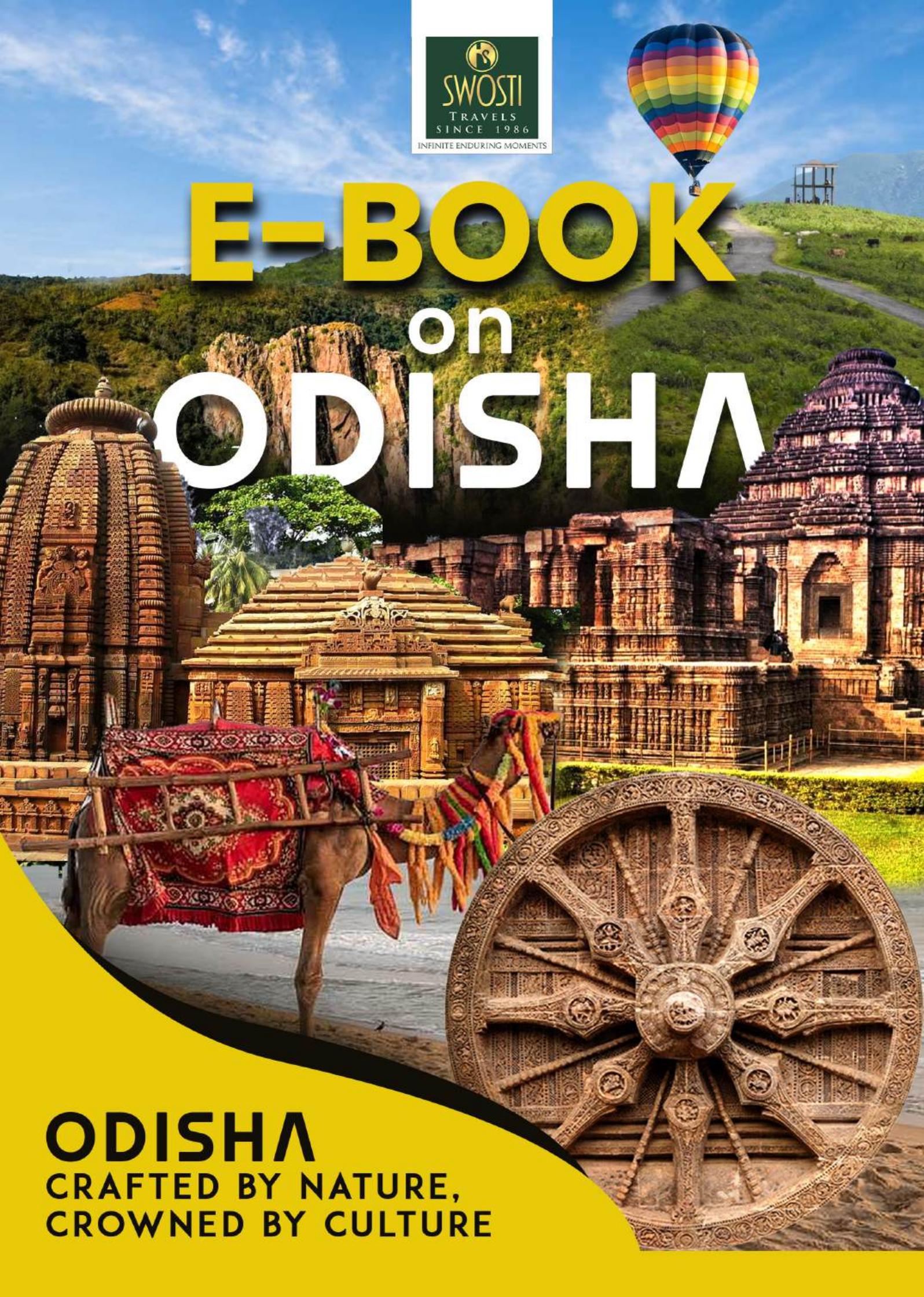


E-BOOK on ODISHA



ODISHA
CRAFTED BY NATURE,
CROWNED BY CULTURE

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ABOUT ODISHA

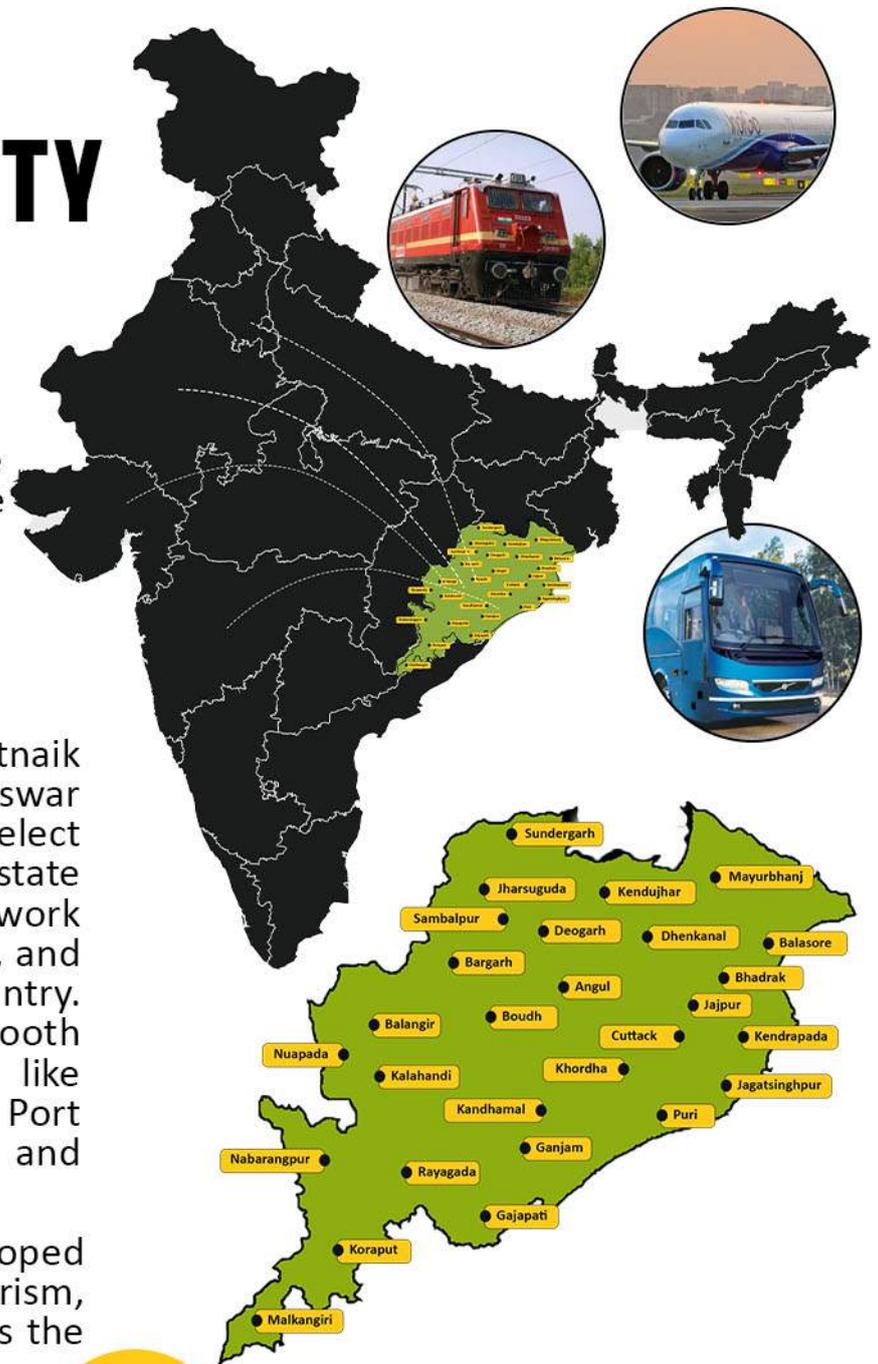
Odisha, located on the eastern coast of India along the Bay of Bengal, is a land of rich culture, ancient heritage, and natural beauty. Known for its majestic temples, vibrant festivals, classical dance forms like Odissi, and exquisite handicrafts, the state offers a perfect blend of tradition and charm. From the architectural wonder of the Konark Sun Temple to the serene beaches of Puri and the wildlife of Similipal and Bhitarkanika, Odisha is a treasure trove for travelers. Its warm hospitality, diverse cuisine, and deep-rooted spirituality make it a destination where every journey feels like a story waiting to be told.

MAP & CONNECTIVITY

Odisha is located on the eastern coast of India, bordered by West Bengal to the north, Jharkhand to the north-west, Chhattisgarh to the west, Andhra Pradesh to the south, and the Bay of Bengal to the east. Its strategic coastal position makes it a key gateway to eastern India.

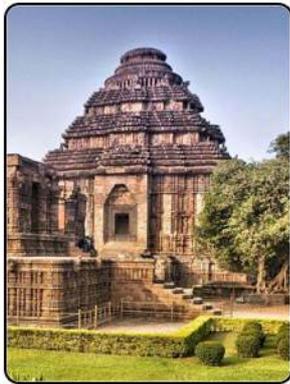
In terms of connectivity, Odisha is well linked by air, rail, road, and sea. Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar connects major Indian cities and select international destinations. The state has an extensive railway network connecting cities like Cuttack, Puri, and Sambalpur to the rest of the country. National Highways provide smooth road access, while major ports like Paradip Port and Dhamra Port strengthen maritime trade and logistics.

Overall, Odisha's well-developed transport network supports tourism, trade, and industrial growth across the region.

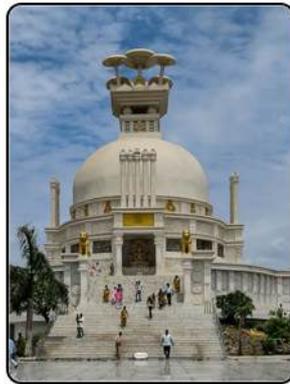


MONUMENTS & TEMPLES

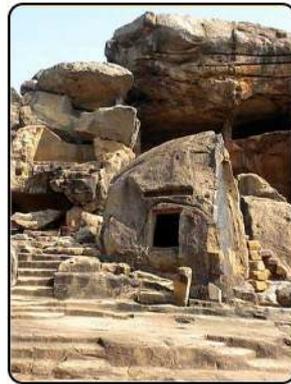
Odisha is often called the Land of Temples, home to some of the most stunning architectural marvels and sacred sites in India. From the world-famous Sun Temple of Konark, to the majestic Jagannath Temple in Puri and the intricately carved shrines of Bhubaneswar, every monument reflects centuries of devotion and artistic excellence.



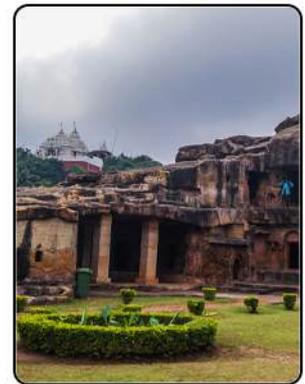
KONARK TEMPLE



DHAULI TEMPLE



KHANDAGIRI CAVE



UDAYAGIRI CAVE

Odisha is home to several revered Shaktipeeths, with key sites including the Tara Tarini Temple (Ganjam), Bimala Temple (Puri), Biraja Temple (Jajpur), Charchika Temple (Banki), Bhagabati Temple (Banapur), Samaleswari (Sambalpur), Kakatpur Mangala Temple (Puri), 64 Yogini (Bhubaneswar), Sarala Temple (Jagatsinghpur), and Ugaratara Temple (Khordha). These temples, associated with Goddess Sati, represent major centers of Shakti worship, often considered part of the main Shaktipeeths or Adi Shakti Pithas.



TARA TARINI TEMPLE



BIMALA TEMPLE



CHARCHIKA TEMPLE



BHAGABATI TEMPLE



SAMALESWARI TEMPLE



KAKATPUR MANGALA TEMPLE



64 YOGINI TEMPLE



SARALA TEMPLE



UGARATARA TEMPLE

LAKES & BEACHES

Odisha's coastline stretches over 480 km, offering some of India's most serene and unspoiled beaches. From the golden sands of Puri Beach and the calm shores of Chandipur, where the sea famously recedes, to the tranquil beauty of Gopalpur-on-Sea and Chandrabagha, each beach has its own unique charm. The state is also home to breathtaking lakes, most notably Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and a haven for migratory birds. Whether it's the rhythmic waves of the sea or the peaceful expanse of shimmering lakes, Odisha's waterscapes are perfect for both relaxation and adventure.



LAKES

**CHILIKA LAKE, ANSUPA LAKE,
TAMPARA LAKE**



BEACHES

**GOPALPUR
CHANDIPUR
PURI**

TALSARI

Palm-fringed red sands

RAMCHANDI

PARADEEP

Near the port, good for fishing

ASTARANGA

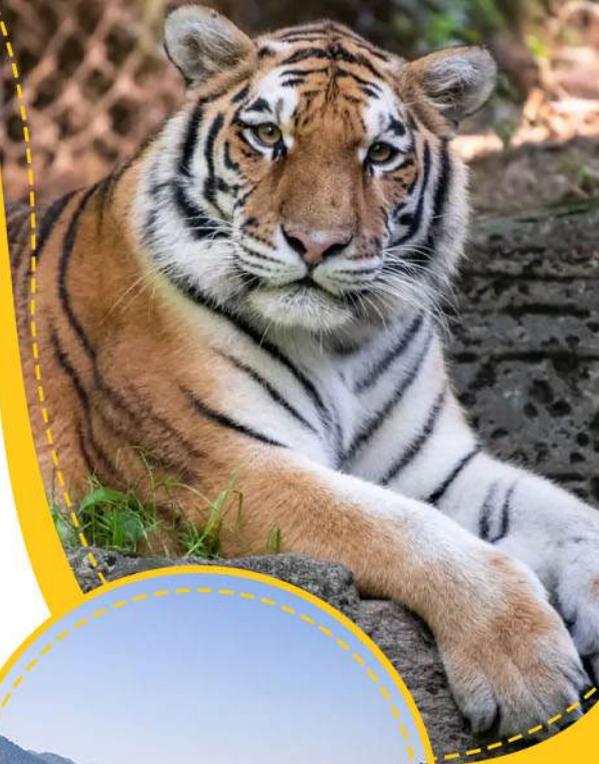
SONAPUR

GAHIRMATHA

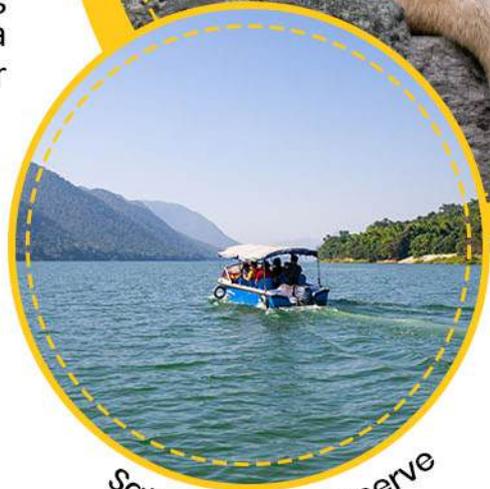
Turtle nesting site in Bhitarkanika

WILDLIFE

Odisha is home to a rich variety of wildlife, with diverse habitats ranging from lush forests and wetlands to coastal ecosystems. The state shelters famous national parks and sanctuaries like Similipal Tiger Reserve, Bhitarkanika National Park (home to saltwater crocodiles), and Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and a haven for migratory birds. Odisha also supports elephants, leopards, deer, and rare species like the endangered olive ridley turtles that nest along its coast. With its unique biodiversity, Odisha stands as one of India's prime destinations for wildlife and eco-tourism.



Bhitarkanika National Park



Satkosia Tiger Reserve



Chilika Wildlife Sanctuary

BHITARKANIKA NATIONAL PARK:

Known for its mangrove ecosystem and diverse wildlife, including saltwater crocodiles, it's India's second-largest mangrove area.

GAHIRMATHA MARINE SANCTUARY:

Known as the world's largest nesting beach for Olive Ridley turtles.

SATAPADA DOLPHIN:

Satapada is famous for its Irrawaddy dolphins. Visitors can enjoy boat rides to spot dolphins in their natural habitat, making it a popular tourist attraction in Odisha.

SATKOSIA TIGER RESERVE:

A significant tiger reserve encompassing a large area of forests and the Mahanadi River gorge.

CHILIKA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

A large coastal lagoon and wetland, famous for its migratory birds and diverse aquatic life.

SIMILIPAL NATIONAL PARK:

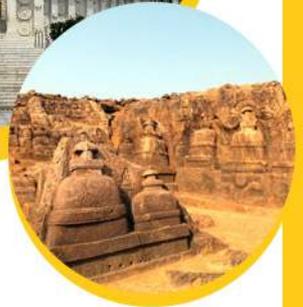
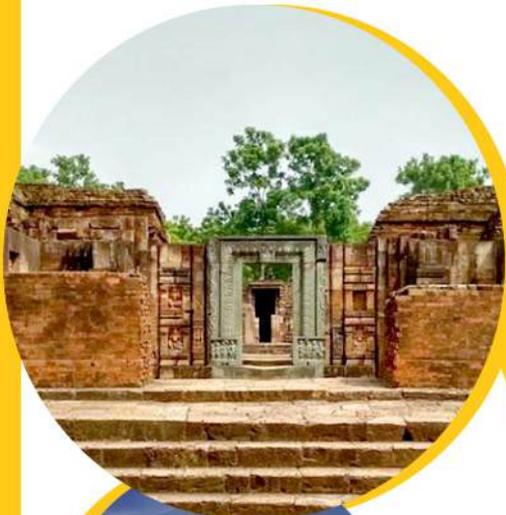
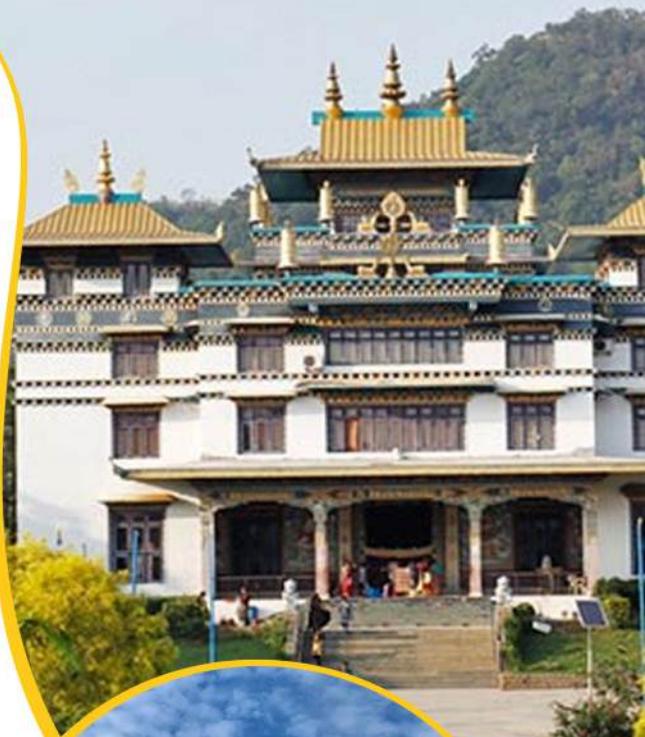
Located in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, is a 2,750 sq km tiger reserve and UNESCO Biosphere

TIKARAPADA:

Tikarpada is a beautiful eco-tourism spot located inside Satkosia Tiger Reserve. It is famous for the stunning gorge of the Mahanadi River, rich

BUDDHIST

Buddhism has played a significant role in the cultural and historical development of Odisha. The state of Odisha has Buddha statues and many ancient forts that tourists and Buddhists come from around the world to visit. Odisha has more than 100 Buddhist heritage sites, the most popular of which are Chandragiri Buddhist Monastery, Ratnagiri Monastery, Udayagiri Buddhist Complex, Kuruma Buddhist Heritage Site, Lalitgiri Buddhist Complex, Dhuli Shanti Stupa and Padmasambhava Mahavihara Monastery is the Buddhist Heritage Monastery Sites in Odisha.



In Odisha, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) continues to explore and excavate ancient Buddhist sites that reveal the region's rich Buddhist heritage. Ongoing work at places like Ratnagiri in Jajpur district, part of the famous Buddhist "Diamond Triangle" along with Lalitgiri and Udayagiri, has unearthed monasteries, colossal Buddha heads, votive stupas, inscribed relics, sculptures, and architectural remains dating back over a millennium — and these investigations are still yielding new discoveries and insights into early Buddhist culture in Odisha.

“

These places offer a mix of spiritual, historical, and archaeological experiences — from ancient relics to peaceful meditation zones.

”

TRIBALS

Odisha is known as the land of tribes, with over 60 tribal communities forming a significant part of its population.

Tribes like the Dongria Kondh, Juang, Kharia, Birhor, Didayi, and Kutia Kondh preserve unique traditions, languages, and lifestyles deeply connected to nature. They are skilled in crafts, music, dance, and sustainable farming practices. Festivals, colorful attire, and vibrant rituals reflect their cultural richness, while weekly markets (haats) remain central to their social and economic life. Odisha's tribal heritage is not just an identity but also a living treasure of indigenous wisdom and culture.



Regional Distribution of Major Tribes-

The tribal population is not uniform across the state but concentrated in specific "pockets":

Northern Odisha (Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh):

Home to the Santal, Ho, Munda, Bhuiyan, and Juang.

Santal: Around 800,000, primarily in Mayurbhanj.

Southern Odisha (Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur): Dense tribal belt featuring the Kondh (largest tribe), Paroja, Gadaba, Bondo, and Koya.

Kondh (or Kandha): Over 1 million people, mainly in Kandhamal, Rayagada, Koraput, Balangir, and Boudh districts.

Bonda: (about 5,000 in Malkangiri peoples).

Western Odisha (Sambalpur, Bolangir, Nuapada): Significant populations of Gond, Binjhal, and Dal.



ECO-RETREAT

Odisha Eco Retreat is a flagship luxury glamping festival organized by the Government of Odisha to promote sustainable tourism. Spread across exotic destinations like Konark (beachside), Satkosia (tiger reserve), Bhitarkanika (mangrove paradise), Hiraikud (lake view), and Daringbadi (hill station), the retreat offers visitors a unique way to experience nature without compromising on comfort.

Guests stay in luxury Swiss tents equipped with all modern amenities while enjoying activities such as water sports, nature trails, cultural evenings, bonfires, star gazing, and wellness programs like yoga and meditation. The retreat also highlights local cuisine, handicrafts, and folk performances, offering a taste of Odisha's vibrant heritage.

Designed with eco-friendly practices, the initiative not only provides a premium holiday experience but also promotes responsible tourism, benefiting local communities and preserving the natural environment.

Odisha Eco Retreat is truly a celebration of nature, culture, and sustainable luxury.



Satkosia Eco- Retreat



Konark Eco- Retreat



Bhitarkanika Eco- Retreat



Daringbadi Eco-Retreat



Sonapur Eco-Retreat



Hiraikud Eco-Retreat



Putsil Eco-Retreat

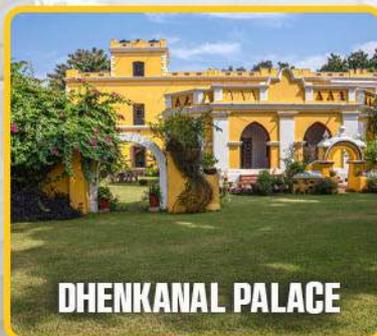
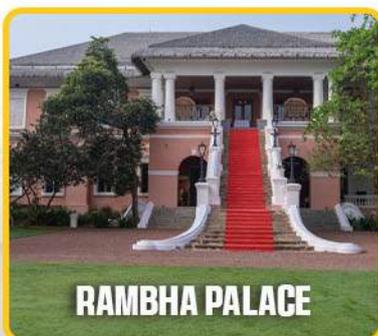
ODISHA'S HERITAGE HOMESTAYS



Odisha's heritage homestays offer travelers a chance to experience the charm of royal and traditional lifestyles while enjoying warm local hospitality. Many of these homestays are housed in ancient palaces, forts, and traditional Odia homes that have been carefully restored to retain their architectural grandeur.

Guests can enjoy authentic Odia cuisine, cultural interactions, folk performances, and guided tours that showcase the state's rich history and traditions. Staying in a heritage homestay also allows visitors to connect with local communities and experience Odisha's way of life beyond regular hotels.

From the royal heritage homes of Dhenkanal and Gajapati to the seaside colonial-era houses in Puri, these stays combine comfort with a deep sense of culture, making them ideal for travelers who want more than just sightseeing—a true immersion into Odisha's living heritage.



HANDLOOMS & HANDICRAFTS

HANDLOOMS

The handlooms of Odisha are celebrated for their intricate designs, vibrant colors, and centuries-old hand weaving traditions.

Each region of the state has its own distinctive style, with famous varieties including Sambalpuri Ikat (known for unique tie-dye patterns), Bomkai (rich in tribal motifs), Berhampuri Pata (luxurious silk with temple borders), and Kotpad (natural-dyed cotton) and many more. These handwoven fabrics often feature motifs inspired by nature, mythology, and Odisha's cultural heritage. Passed down through generations, Odisha's handlooms are not just textiles—they are timeless works of art that blend tradition with elegance.



HANDICRAFTS

Odisha is renowned for its rich tradition of handicrafts, reflecting the state's vibrant culture and artistic heritage. Skilled artisans create exquisite works using wood, stone, metal, palm leaves, appliqué, and terracotta.

The world-famous Pipili Appliqué work, silver filigree of Cuttack, Pattachitra paintings of Puri, and stone carvings of Konark and Dhokra craft are some of the most iconic crafts. Each piece narrates stories from mythology, folklore, and nature, preserving centuries-old techniques passed down through generations. Odisha's handicrafts are not just art forms but also symbols of the state's identity, attracting admirers worldwide.



MUSIC & DANCE

Odisha is a land of vibrant cultural traditions, where music and dance form an integral part of daily life and celebrations. The state is world-renowned for Odissi dance, one of the oldest classical dance forms of India, known for its grace, sculptural poses, and devotional expression. Folk dances like Gotipua (young boys dressed as female dancers), Chhau (a martial and folk dance with masks), Danda Nata, and Sambalpuri folk dance and tribal dances such as Karma and Changu, Ghumura from Kalahandi with hanging drums, Daskathia devotional narratives with clapping sticks, and Pala showcase the diversity of Odisha's traditions.

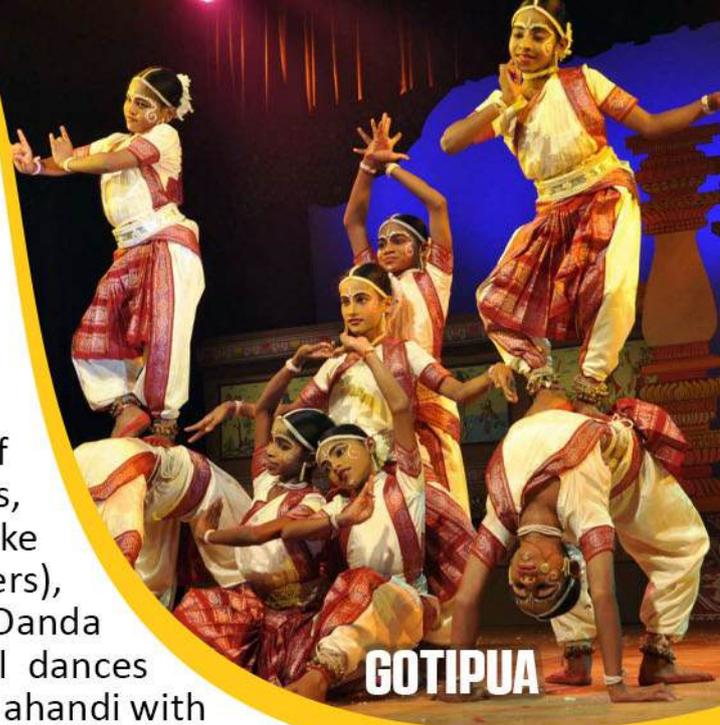
In music, Odisha has a rich legacy of Odissi music, a classical form with roots in temple traditions, recognized alongside Hindustani and Carnatic music. The soulful Pala and Daskathia performances narrate stories of mythology and folklore through song and rhythm. Sambalpuri songs with their lively beats and earthy lyrics are popular across the country today.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

Annual events showcase these arts:

Konark Music and Dance Festival (late February) at the Sun Temple features classical performances; Rajarani Music Festival (January 18-20) highlights Odissi and Hindustani music; and others like Mukteshwar (January 14-16) and Dhauli-Kalinga Mahotsav (early February) blend folk and classical.

Together, Odisha's music and dances reflect its spiritual depth, artistic elegance, and festive spirit, making them an inseparable part of its cultural identity.



GOTIPUA



ODISSI



CHHAU



SAMBALPURI



FAMOUS CUISINES

Odisha is known for its rich and diverse culinary heritage, offering a blend of simple yet flavorful dishes. The cuisine is largely influenced by tradition, temple culture, and local produce. The famous Mahaprasad of Jagannath Temple, Puri, is a spiritual and culinary delight, prepared without onion and garlic. Staple foods include rice, dal, and vegetables, often cooked with less oil and mild spices, making them light yet delicious. Popular dishes include Dalma (lentils cooked with vegetables), Pakhala Bhata (fermented rice with curd and fried sides), Chhena Poda (a baked cottage cheese dessert), Rasogolla (which has its origin in Odisha), and seafood delicacies along the coastal regions. Odisha's cuisine beautifully reflects its culture simple, healthy, and deeply rooted in tradition.



MAHA PRASAD

DAHI BARA ALOO DUM



CHENA PODO



RASOGOLLA



KHAJA



CRAB & PRAWN CURRY



DAHI PAKHALA





Bhubaneswar

Cuttack

Puri

Chilika

Koraput

Similipal

Satkosia

www.swostiindia.com

Contact No: 9338091727 / 9937015933

Email: info@swosti.com

103 Jannath, Bhubaneswar Odisha -751001