

RUSTIC ODISHA & HAMPI - AURANGABAD

16 Days / 15 Nights



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

ROUTE: Delhi – Bhubaneswar – Pipili – Konark- Puri – Chilka Lake Barkul – Gopalpur-- Taptapani - Rayagada – Kothgarh – - Chatikona – Jeypore – Onukudelli- Kunduli- -Vishakhapatnam-Bangalore-Hampi - Bijapur -Pune– Ahmednagar – Aurangabad – Ajanta – Ellora -Mumbai

Day 01 Friday: Arrive Delhi

Arrive Delhi. Met on arrival and transfer to Hotel. Rest day free. Check in 14h. Overnight

Day 02 Saturday: Delhi - Bhubaneswar (Fly) – Dhauli – Pipli – Konark – Puri - 120kms/2.5hrs

In time transfer to Delhi airport to connect flight for Bhubaneswar. Arrive and drive to Puri en route visiting Dhauli, Pipli and Konark.

The Shanti Stupa at Dhauli Hills is a significant symbol of love and peace. The pilgrimage is significant because here King Ashoka resigned from violent wars. After witnessing the devastating sight of blood filled land and the Daya River that obtained red color because of the merciless slaughter of around 1,50,000 warriors, King Ashoka was filled with sheer grief and therefore decided to renounce wars completely all through the rest of his life. It is at Dhauli that Ashoka resorted to Buddhism and presented his sword in front of Lord Buddha.

Pipli – It is a centre for appliqué work, which depicts the essence of Oriya culture. It is also known for colorful and original awnings, canopies, garden and beach umbrellas, shoulder, and handbags etc. The cocktail effect of the colors is certainly a feast for the eyes. Pipli, Orissa's appliqué capital, announces itself with loud colorful splashes of bright color in the shop fronts.

Konark - The third link in the Orissan Golden Triangle, Konark is the site of one of the most spectacular examples of religious architecture in the world. The Sun Temple at Konark conceived as a massive chariot hauling the Sun God across the heavens by the might of seven splendidly carved horses, standing aloft on 24 chariot wheels-intricately carved - symbolizing the march of time, lies in solitary splendor surrounded by drifting sand three kilometers from the sea, but originally it was reported to be closer for which it was used as a navigational point by European sailors, who referred to it as the 'Black Pagoda'. This 13th century architectural marvel is one of the most magnificent monuments of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Visit the Jagannath Temple at Puri which is one of the most sacred pilgrimage spots in India. This 12th century temple is dedicated to Lord Jagannath – “The Lord of the Universe”. The wooden figures of the three deities, Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra stand in the sanctorum garlanded and decorated by the high priests. The extraordinary form that Jagannath takes, according to the legend, is the unfinished work of the craftsman god Vishwakarma, who in anger left this portrayal of Lord Vishnu incomplete. This majestic temple and its chronicles allure devotees from all over the world. The wide Bada Danda, the road which leads up to the majestic temple, provides a view of the grandness of scale and proportion that typifies Puri. This is also the path to Nirvana, where the chariots of the much-loved divine siblings, Jagannath, Subhadra and Balabhadra, roll down in the famous annual Rath Yatra, which inspires awe and draws tumultuous crowds. In Puri, everything has to be big. The main road is called Bada Danda, or Grand Road; the sea is Mahodadhi, or the widest ocean; the bhog is called Mahaprasad, or the great prasad.

(Non-Hindus are not allowed inside the Jagannath temple and to be viewed from Raghunathan library platform. Sunday this platform is closed but one can view from another platform outside the temple.) Later in the evening relax at the beach. Overnight at Puri.

Day 03 Sunday: Puri – Chilka Lake Barkul – Gopalpur - 200kms/4hrs

After breakfast drive to Gopalpur-on-Sea enroute visiting the Chilka Lake – no dolphin sighting at this part of the lake, mainly bird watching. A vast lake along the eastern coast of Orissa with beautiful islands, flamingoes wading in the shallow waters and the air echoing with the chirping of birds from as far as the Caspian Sea, Aral Sea and other parts of Mongolia, Central and South-East Asia, the Irrawaddy dolphins making the playful appearance in the water. Puri on the east, Khurdha on the North and Ganjam on the South. It is a haven for birdwatchers / nature lovers. Abounding in unique flora and fauna, Chilika supports the livelihood of more than hundred thousand families living in and around it. On the basis of salinity and the depth, the lake is divided into four natural sectors. It is dotted with numerous islands prominent among which are Nalabana, Kalijai, Somla, Honeymoon, Breakfast, Birds and Rajahans. These islands draw large crowds owing to their incredible beauty. The rich biodiversity and socio-economic importance of Chilika has earned it the status of Ramsar site. Winter is the best time to visit Chilika as over 160 species of migratory birds flock the islands during this time of the year.

**Enjoy a boat ride in the lake followed by lunch at the Chilka Lake Panthanibas restaurant.
After lunch leave for Gopalpur on Sea.**

Gopalpur – On-Sea which is a sleepy hamlet that betrays no traces of its glorious past. The ruins of an old port speak of a time that won Gopalpur its prominent place in Odisha's history. You can forget yourself at Gopalpur and have a lovely, lazy holiday. This virgin beach with coconut groves, casuarina coppices and gentle sand dunes is deserted for miles and perfect for an ultimate relaxation to prepare you for your adventurous tribal trail ahead. Overnight at Gopalpur.

Day 04 Monday: Gopalpur – Taptapani -Rayagada - 235kms/5.5hrs

After breakfast leave for Rayagada enroute visiting Taptapani which is famous for its Hot Spring. One of the many marvels of nature, hot springs are generally said to be endowed with curative properties. Taptapani is a hot spring, and according to local folklore, has been around for more than 300 years. Gradually we cross over to the small village hamlets of the Saora tribes who also find mention in the epic Ramayana. The Saoras are adept in art, painting, and crafts. They use trees, animals, tribal people, and instances from their daily life as their motifs for the paintings. They have a distinctive shamanic culture wherein they believe in evil spirits and worship them apart from numerous other deities. Overnight at Rayagada.

Day 05 Tuesday: Rayagada – Kothgarh – Rayagada - Must be a Tuesday-190kms/4hrs

After breakfast visit the Tuesday weekly Kothgarh market in Rayagada. Rayagada is a district of meadows, forests, waterfalls, and terraced valleys, thickly inhabited by colorful ethnic and tribal groups. The scenic beauty and heritage on the land is an unexplored paradise. The systematic relationship between men and nature is a feast to the eyes of an outsider. A district of many charms, it is a thrill to the searching eyes with its own appeal. Packed lunch from Hotel. Visit their markets locally called 'Haat' and make your way through the swarm of buyers and sellers, buy fresh produce, and enjoy a traditional local cuisine experience. Visit the Kondh tribal community which were once famous in history for their Meriah-Human Sacrifice. Explore their lifestyle and the varied handicraft villages. Swing to the rhythmic moods of the tribal people who enjoy their lives through dance and music. Tribal villages often vibrate with drumbeats and hills echo with resonance of music. The waterfalls, springs, hills, and forests come to life with the rhythmic musical moods almost every day. Overnight at Rayagada.

Day 06 Wednesday: Rayagada- Chatikona – Jeypore - Must be a Wednesday- 225kms/5.5hrs

After breakfast visit the weekly Wednesday market of the Dongaria Kondha at Chatikona. Dongaria Kondha are one of the original ethnic tribal groups of Orissa who have retained their culture and tradition till date. The Dongaria family is often nuclear, although extended families are found. Female family members are considered assets because of their contribution inside and outside the household and women are on equal footing with the male members in constructing a house to cultivation. Women do all the work for household ranging from fetching water from the distant streams, cooking, serving food to each member of the household to cultivating, harvesting, and marketing of produce in the market. Due to this, the bride price is paid to her parents when she gets married which is a striking feature of the Dongaria. Lunch at Hotel and then proceed to Jeypore. Overnight at Jeypore.

Day 07 Thursday: Jeypore - Onukudelli – Jeypore - Must be a Thursday- 190 kms / 4hrs

After breakfast visit the weekly Thursday market of the Bondas at Onkudelli. Nature has showered its bounty on the undivided Koraput district replete with meadows, forests, waterfalls, terraced valleys, and darting springs. This land of abundance is home to Orissa's vast tribal population. A real paradise for the nature-lover, Jeypore offers an additional benefit to the visitor of firsthand meeting with its ancient civilization.

Today visit the home of the approximately 6000 members of the famed Bonda Tribes—one of the most fascinating tribes of the Country. They live in the remote hills and keep themselves isolated. They grow rice by shifting cultivation and keep domesticated cows and goats. They can only be seen when they come to trade at the local weekly Thursday market. The Bonda women are noticeable by the chunks of beaded necklaces that cover their upper body, striking brass and silver necklace and their shaved heads decorated with colorful beads. In Bonda society, the women enjoy a privileged position. They are the primary workers and providers of food for the community. Bonda girls largely marry boys who are at least five to ten years younger than them. Thus, the girl looks after her husband as he grows up and in turn he cares for his elder wife. In contrast with many other populations in India, the number of women among the Bondas greatly exceeds the number of men. Packed lunch from Hotel.

Also, we will visit another ethnic tribal group of the Gadabbas. Both men and women tie their long hairs with linseed oil and decorate it with forestry flowers and different ornaments. The women wear a long strip of cloth tied around the waist and a second piece of cloth is worn across the breasts and tied over one shoulder. Gadabas are renowned for their tribal dance known as 'Dhimsa'. It is performed by the women of the tribe who wear the famous karenga saree. This colorful dance is mesmerizing in the way it starts off with bare footed swaying movements into a synchronized circular dance that peaks with astounding fervor as the performance gives expression to their inner feelings, joys, affection, passion and their appreciation of beauty in nature. Overnight at Jeypore.

Day 08 Friday: Jeypore – Kunduli- -Vishakhapatnam - Must be a Friday

After breakfast visit another interesting Paraja tribe assembles at Kunduli every Friday. The Parajas are divided into different sub-groups viz., Sodia, Jadia and Parenga; each of them seems to be a separate ethnic group. The Parajas have a number of totemistic septs like Bagh-tiger, Bokda-goat, Netam-Dog, Pandki-Dove, and the like, and harming or eating the totem animal is forbidden. Instead such animals should be respected. They also worship various gods and goddesses residing in hills or forests.

As you drive past the last scenic stretch of Orissa you subconsciously dwell and try to ascertain the life of a tribal who inspite of being diametrically opposite to the urban man is more adept in upholding the ethos of society by protecting Mother Nature and its bounty. The sheer prominence of women and the tremendous respect they garner in their community is a right they are entitled to and not one to be struggled for as in the Cosmopolis city.

Later we proceed to Vishakhapatnam and so ends our tryst with the fascinating tribal who leave behind a smile to beckon you! (Lunch at local restaurant)

Vishakhapatnam - The crest of natural beauty of Andhra Pradesh. Located in the north of the coastal part of the State, the district and surrounding areas have some of the most fascinating places that one would love to visit. Vishakhapatnam, originally a small fishing village, is one of the biggest ports in the country housed in a natural harbor with a picturesque hill resembling a dolphin, aptly named Dolphin's nose, forming the recess.

Simhachalam Temple - The hill of the lion is located at a distance of 18 km from Vishakapatanam refers to the 11th century temple of Lord Narasimha - an incarnation of Vishnu. Millions of devotees from round the world visit this temple every year. The presiding deity here is Varaha Lakshmi Narasimha, combining the iconographic features of Varaha and Narasimha. The image resembles a Shiva lingam covered with sandal paste. It is only once a year, during the Chandana Visarjana that the sandal paste is removed, and the image is seen by pilgrims. The artwork here has elements of similarity with that of Konark. Elephants, flowers, and plants are portrayed in plenty. The outer walls of the sanctum depict images of a royal personality (said to be King Narasimha) in various postures. The Kalyana Mandapa within the temple has 16 pillars with bas relief depicting the incarnations of Vishnu.

Overnight at Vishakhapatnam.

Day 09 Saturday: Vishakhapatnam-Bangalore (Fly)-Hampi (350 Kms/7 Hrs appx)

In time transfer to Vishakhapatnam airport to connect flight for Bangalore. Arrive and drive to Hampi. Rest of the day free in Hampi. Night

Day 10 Sunday: Hampi

Full day visit Hampi ruins. The ruins are set in a mystical boulder-strewn landscape interspersed with groves of coconut palms. Day dedicated to visit the most beautiful Hindu temple Virupaksha, Hampi Bazaar, monkey temple and visit the beautiful village of Anegundi, known for its artisans and social enterprises. Also visit the birthplace of Lord Hanuman and enjoy sun set at the Hemakuta hill. Night stay.

Day 11 Monday: Hampi - Bijapur (205 Kms/4-5 Hrs)

Drive to Bijapur a minor provincial town dotted with gems of Islamic architecture. Check in hotel and in the afternoon visit some of the finest mosques in the Deccan and, in the medieval period. Also enjoy local market. Night stay.

Day 12 Tuesday: Bijapur –Pune (350 Kms/7-8 Hrs)

Breakfast at Hotel and drive to Pune. Arrive and check-in. rest of the day free. Overnight

Day 13 Wednesday: Pune – Ahmednagar – Aurangabad (236 Kms/5 Hrs appx)

Morning visit important sites of Pune. In the afternoon drive to Aurangabad via Ahmednagar. Check in and rest day free. night.

Day 14 Thursday: Aurangabad – Ajanta – Aurangabad (100 Kms/2.5 hrs one way)

Full day excursion to visit the most world-famous Ajanta caves, a fine example of Buddhist monasteries and Hindu temples which is a vast collection of art, paintings, and scriptures. They are 30 caves in numbers. After sightseeing return to Aurangabad for night stay. Night

Day 15 Friday: Aurangabad – Ellora – Aurangabad

Breakfasts. Morning Visit the caves of Ellora, enroute Visit Daulatabad Fort. Most of the caves are a fine collection of Buddhist monasteries and Hindu temples. Afternoon Visit Aurangabad City Including Water Mil and Mini Taj. Overnight

Day 16 Saturday: Aurangabad – Mumbai (Fly) Dep

In time fly to Mumbai and connect flight back home.

End of the Tour

Important Remarks:

- The Human Safari has been banned in tribal areas of Orissa especially at Rayagada and Jaypore. Please note, we need to apply for local permission from District Collector office with scanned copies of valid passport and visa at least four weeks in advance to process the permit for visiting the tribal areas. To value the local sentiments of the tribal community photography is also prohibited at the tribal weekly markets+ primitive village. The tour can only be operated by a tour operator recognized by the State Government and clients to be accompanied by a licensed local guide. Since Nov 2012 tribal tours are successfully operating but with conditions mentioned above. All visits to the tribal areas/tribal markets are subject to local conditions prevailing at the time of visits and permission from respective District Collectorate. Accommodation in tribal areas are extremely basic.

PHOTOGRAPHY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN THE ODISHA TRIBAL VILLAGES AND MARKETS.