

RATH YATRA FESTIVAL



KOLKATA + BHUBANESHWAR + PURI + BHUBANESHWAR + KOLKATA

Rath Yatra - the spectacular chariot festival celebrated for 8 days is held at the famous Jagannath Temple at Puri. Thousands of devotees flock to Puri during the occasion, as they believe that a glimpse of Lord Jagannath in his chariot gives salvation. Images of Lord Jagannath - the Lord of the Universe, his sister Subhadra and brother Balbhadra are taken out in a procession in three immense chariots. The main chariot is 14 meters high and 10 meters square with 16 wheels.

Jagannath Rath Yatra is a festival that celebrates the annual visit of the God to his birthplace. The Jagannath Temple at Puri, Orissa is the venue for all celebrations. Several lakh people converge at Puri for this festival. An atmosphere of almost hysterical devotion prevails on this day and in earlier years; devotees were known to have thrown themselves under the wheels of the rath in the hope of obtaining instant salvation.

15TH JUNE 2012: ARRIVAL KOLKATA

Fly to Kolkata. On arrival in Kolkata you will be greeted and escorted by Indo Asia Tour's staff to your hotel. On arrival, check in the hotel. (Room will be available from 1200 Noon).

Overnight stay at hotel

16TH JUNE 2012: KOLKATA

In the morning after breakfast visit the **Famous Jain Temples** of Kolkata, **The flower Market** of Kolkata, The **Howard Bridge**, The cantilevered bridge, also known as Rabindra Setu, is similar in size to the Sydney Harbour Bridge but carries a flow of traffic which Sydney could never dream of .It is the busiest bridge in the world. Later drive to the **Kali ma temple** located near



HOWRAH BRIDGE - KOLKATA

the banks of the River Ganges at Kali Ghat. According to popular legend the Lord Shiva's consort sati killed herself by burning herself as her parents humiliated Lord Shiva, Shiva reached too late and then he picked up her charred body and began the 'tandav' the dance of cosmic destruction. To prevent the destruction of the world Lord Vishnu chopped Sati's charred body into 51 pieces that fell in different parts of the earth and a part fell on the banks of the Ganges and thus the name Kali Ghat and consequently the name Kolkata.

Also visit **Victoria Memorial** that is a huge white-marble structure and the most enduring of remains of the British Raj in India. Built by Lord Curzon in memory of the popular monarch, Queen Victoria, it is a wonderful example of the Western style of architecture. It has been now converted in a museum that houses the most impressive collection of memorabilia from the days of Raj. The manuscripts, paintings and sculptures here are outstanding.

Overnight in the Hotel

17TH JUNE 2012: KOLKATA / BHUBANESHWAR



LINGARAJA TEMPLE - BHUBANESHWAR

After breakfast transfer to the Airport to board the flight to Bhubaneswar. On arrival, transfer to the Hotel and check in. Bhubaneswar, the ancient capital of the **Kalinga empire**, and now the capital of Orissa, its history goes back over 2000 years. "Bhubaneswar" means the "abode of God" or "master of the universe" and it was also, once known as the 'Cathedral of the East', on account of the large number of shrines. At one time, the Bindu Sagar tank was bordered by over 7000 temples. Of these, 500 still survive, all built in the extravagant Oriya style.

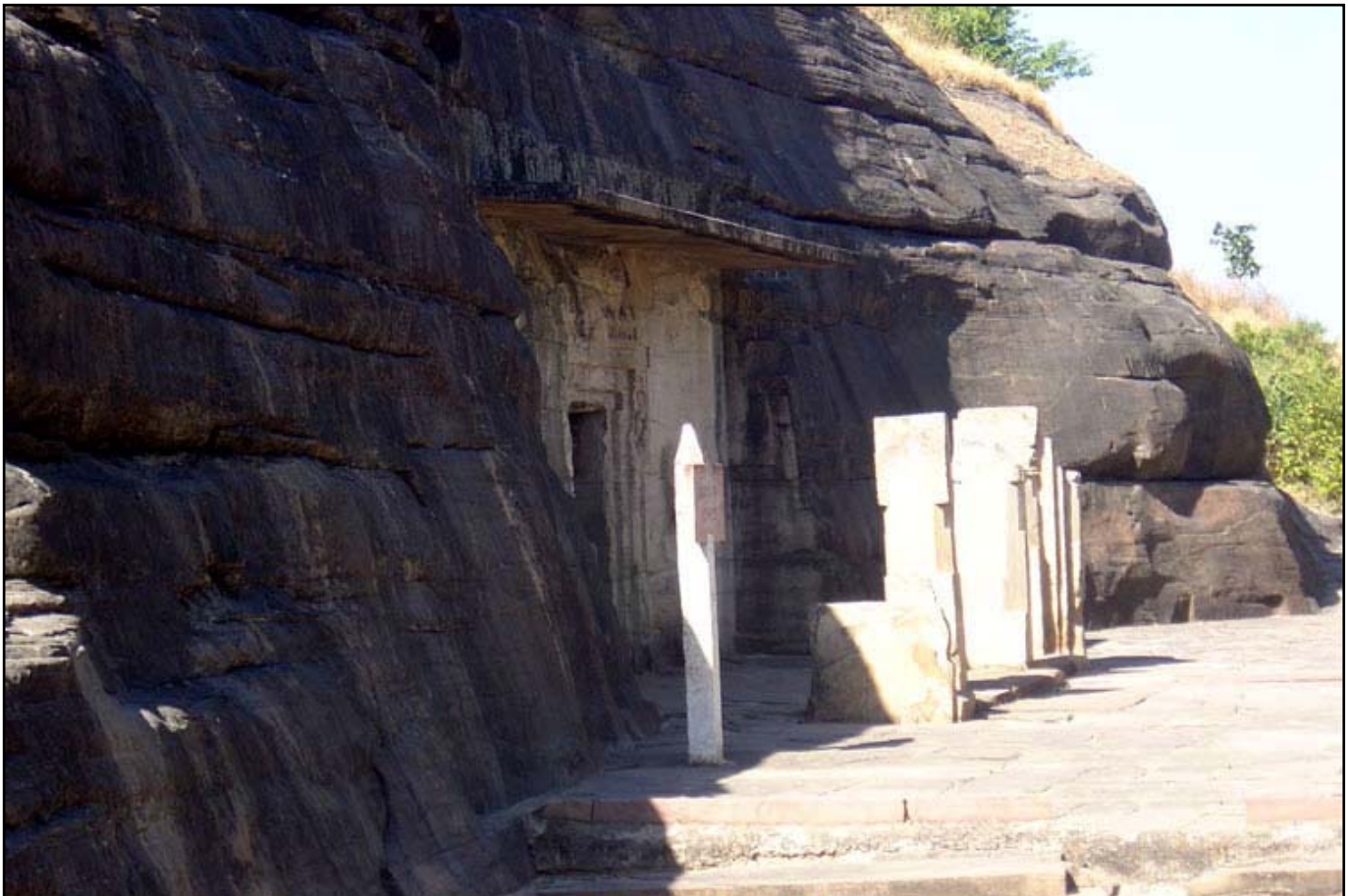
Later after some rest visit the **Lingaraja Temple**, a prime example of Indian architecture, in its most mature and fully developed state. The great Lingaraja soars above the city, and dominates the landscape.

Proceed to **Parasurameswara Temple**, built in 650 AD, is one of the few oldest surviving temples in Bhubaneswar. Also visit Rajarani Temple, built in the 11th century, famous for its ornate deul, or compass, decorated with some of the most impressive Oriya temple architecture.

Overnight in the Hotel

18TH JUNE 2012: BHUBANESHWAR

After breakfast drive for the excursion to the caves of Udayagiri (hill of sunrise) and Kandagiri (broken hill). The twin hills of Kumargiri and Kumarigiri known as Khandagiri and Udaygiri



CAVES - UDAIGIRI

contain varieties of rock-cut caves, built mainly for the Jain monks around 1st - 2nd century B.C. The thirteen years lithic record of King Kharavela engraved in Hatigumpha (elephant cave) is a magnificent specimen of Pali records so far found in India.

19TH JUNE 2012: BHUBANESHWAR / PURI

After breakfast drive to Puri.

Enroute visit Konark, one of the most vivid architectural treasures of Hindu India and a World Heritage site. The **Sun temple** is the last phase of the temple architecture of the Kalinga dynasty (13 Century). Dedicated to the Sun God "Surya", the temple is in the form of a chariot. It has 12 wheels, which denote the 12 months in a year and 7 horses denote the 7 days in a week.



KONARK SUN TEMPLE - PURI

Later visit the Pipli Village. Pipli in Orissa is known for its applique work. Applique work forms a major part of the handicrafts of Orissa. The applique work is a piece of art that is done by cutting beautiful pattern on a piece of cloth. Beautiful patterns depicting flowers, animals, etc are made, which are then stitched beautifully on another piece of cloth. In Pipli, one can across rows of shops flaunting the applique work. The applique work in Pipli includes bed covers, letter cases, cushion covers, wall hangings, pillow covers, bed sheets, hand bags, canopies, garden umbrellas, etc.

On arrival in Puri check in at the hotel
Overnight in the Hotel

20TH JUNE 2012:**PURI**

After breakfast drive for the excursion to Chilika Lake. Spread over an area of 1,100-sq-km, the glorious stretch of the Chilika is Asia's largest brackish water lake. Home to thousands of colourful birds throughout the year, it is particularly noisy with the din of the raucous influx of migratory birds that descend on it from as far off as Siberia in winter. Later derive back to Puri and visit important temples like Gundicha, Lokanath, Sunaragauranga, Daria Mahabir and Tota Gopinatt. There are also a number of holy tanks like Narendra, Markandeya, Sweta Ganga and Indradyumna. There are many Monasteries locally known as Mathas also of touristic interest.

Overnight in the Hotel

21ST JUNE 2012:**PURI**

After breakfast visit **Jagannath Temple**, an attraction for the Hindus. Non-Hindus are not allowed into the temple. From the terrace of a Library opposite the temple, you can have a view of the inner temple.



JAGANNATH TEMPLE - PURI

Also witness the famous festival of Puri Rath Yatra - it is a chariot festival in which images of Lord Jagannath, his sister Subhadra and his brother Balbhadra are taken out in procession in 03 chariots. The main chariot is 14 mts high, 10 mts wide with 16 wheels. The ropes of the chariots are pulled by million of devotees.

Overnight in the Hotel

22ND JUNE 2012: PURI



SUN RISE AT BEACH - PURI

Day is free to explore the beaches.

Overnight in the Hotel



23RD JUNE 2012: PURI / BHUBANESHWAR / KOLKATA

After breakfast drive to Bhubaneshwar Airport to board the flight to Kolkata.

On arrival transfer to the Hotel

Overnight in the Hotel

24TH JUNE 2012: KOLKATA DEPARTURE

On time transfer to the Airport to board the flight for onward journey.

== End of the Services ==

Hotel List:

| Place | Hotel | Room Type | Dates |
|--------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Kolkata | Peerless Inn www.peerlesshotels.com | Superior Room | 15 – 17 June 2012 |
| Bhubaneshwar | Hindusthan International http://www.hhihotels.com/bhubaneswar/index.php | Standard Room | 17 – 19 June 2012 |
| Puri | Toshali Sands www.toshalisands.com | Standard Room | 19 – 23 June 2012 |
| Kolkata | Peerless Inn www.peerlesshotels.com | Superior Room | 23 – 24 June 2012 |
| | | | |

Prices:

| Slab | Prices |
|--|----------------------------|
| Prices on twin sharing basis | EUR 841.00 PER PERSON |
| Single Room Supplement | EUR 468.00 PER SINGLE ROOM |
| Supplement for Entrances in the monument | EUR 29.00 PER PERSON |
| Supplement for airfare between Kolkata / Bhubaneshwar / Kolkata in economy class | EUR 194.00 PER PERSON |
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Regarding Airfare:

- Kindly note that the above airfares are the CURRENT fares of the Airlines for the given sectors & is subject to change at the time of booking.



Cost includes:

- Double room on twin sharing basis on bed & breakfast basis.
- All transfers and sight seeing by air-conditioned Vehicle.
- Services of German / English Speaking local guides in each city for sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- Boat Ride in Chilika Lake
- Service Tax.

Cost does not include:

- Any airport taxes.
- Any airfares.
- Any new tax imposed by the Government.
- Any entrances
- Any meals other than specified
- Any expenditure of personal nature such as tips, drinks, telephone charges, laundry etc.

IMP:

- In case of waitlisted booking we have to hold the alternate, for which we will advise the supplement OR reduction accordingly.
- The above rates are based on presently prevailing taxes and entrances to the monuments. If there is any change, prices will also change accordingly.
- Check in and check out time is 1200 Hrs noontime.
- *In case of fluctuations in the Rate of Exchange, the above-mentioned prices will change.*