

# E-BOOK on ODISHA

**ODISHA**  
CRAFTED BY NATURE,  
CROWNED BY CULTURE



# ABOUT ODISHA

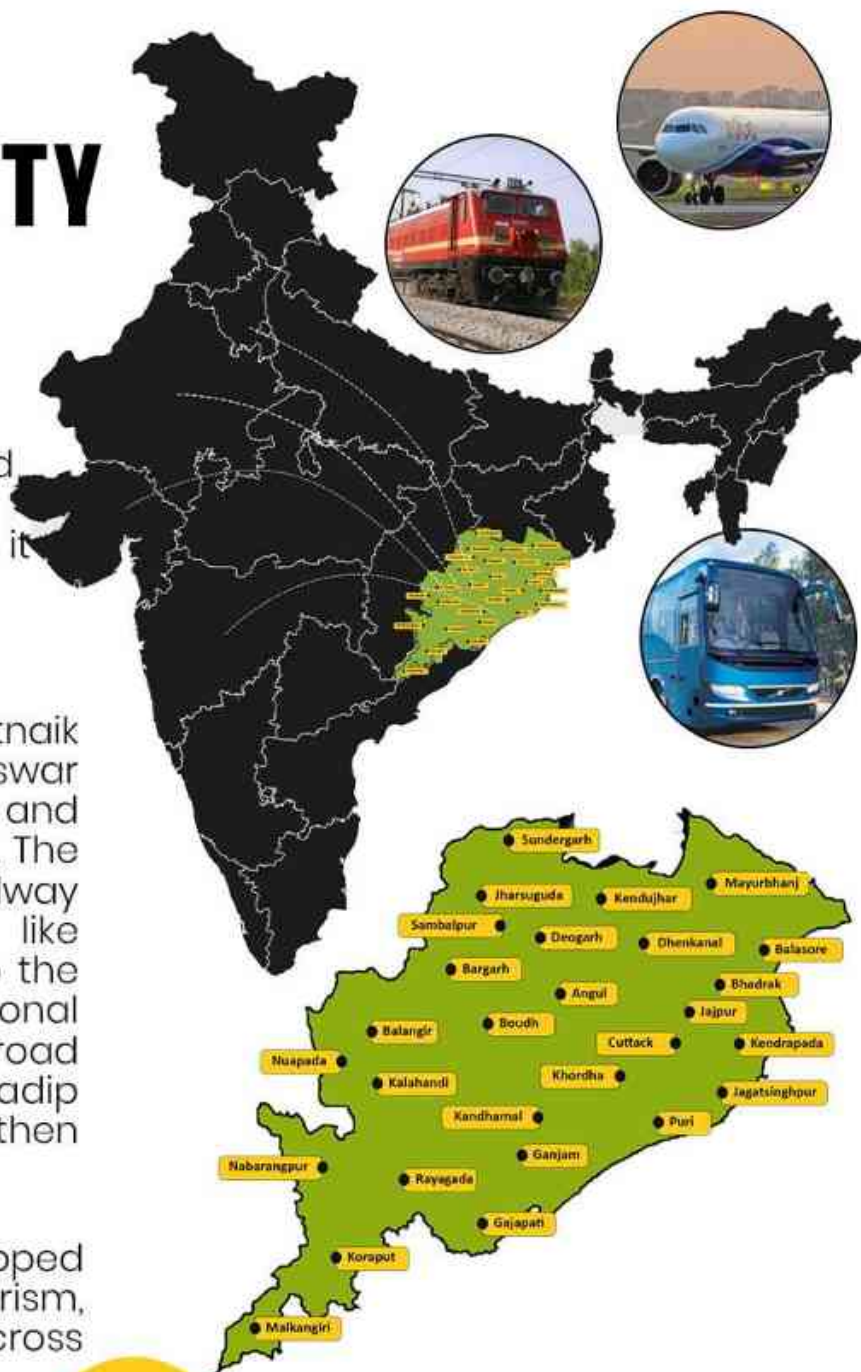
Odisha, located on the eastern coast of India along the Bay of Bengal, is a land of rich culture, ancient heritage, and natural beauty. Known for its majestic temples, vibrant festivals, classical dance forms like Odissi, and exquisite handicrafts, the state offers a perfect blend of tradition and charm. 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.

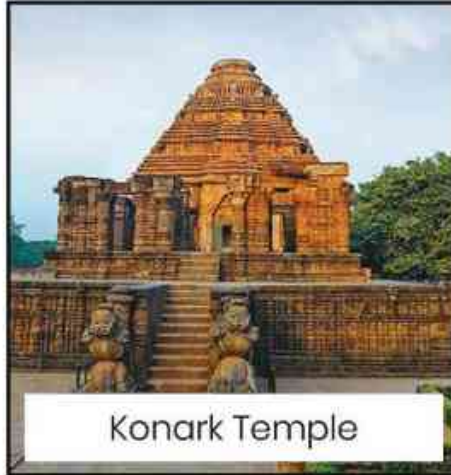


# MONUMENTS & TEMPLES

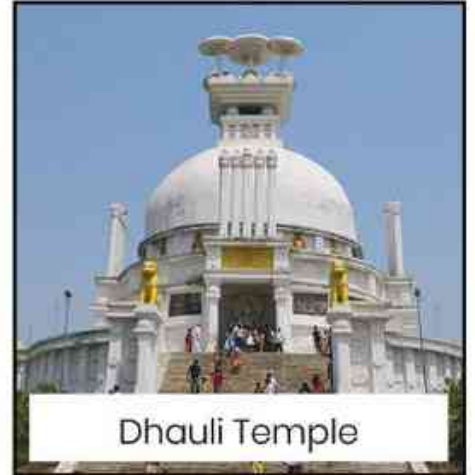
Odisha is often called the Land of Temples, home to some of the most stunning architectural marvels and sacred sites in India. From the world-famous Sun Temple of Konark, to the majestic Jagannath Temple in Puri and the intricately carved shrines of Bhubaneswar, every monument reflects centuries of devotion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



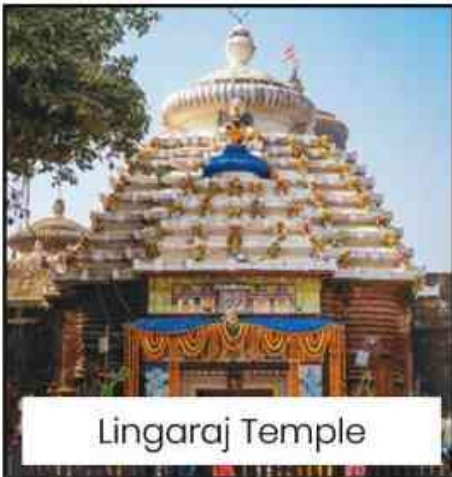
Jagannath Puri Temple



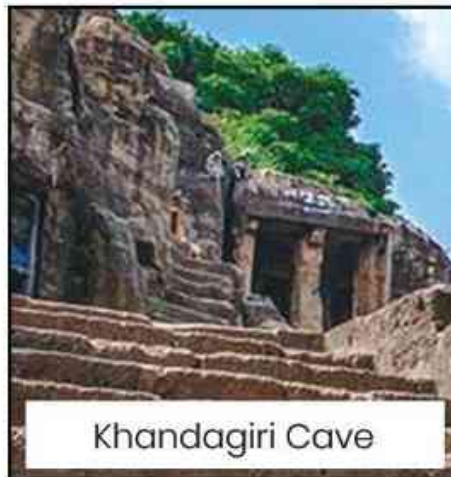
Konark Temple



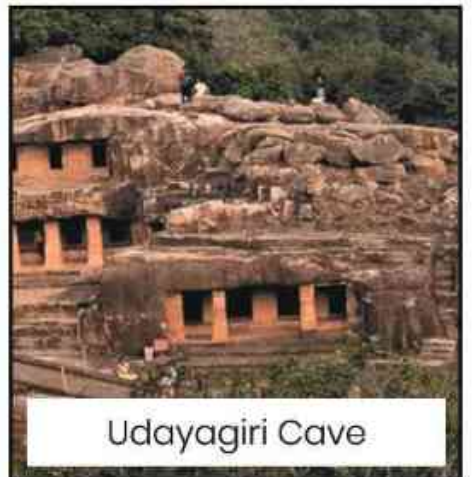
Dhauli Temple



Lingaraj Temple



Khandagiri Cave



Udayagiri Cave

## SHAKTIPEETHAS

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), Mohini Temple (Bhubaneswar) 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.



Maa Tara Tarini Temple



Maa Vimala Temple



Maa Biraja Temple



Maa Charchika Temple

## Shaktipeethas of Odisha



Maa Bhagabati Temple



Maa Samaleswari Temple



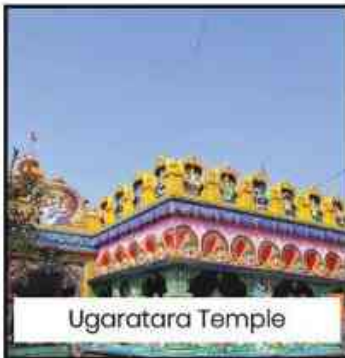
Kakatpur Mangala Temple



Chausathi Yogini Temple



Mohini Temple



Ugaratara Temple



Sarala Temple

## LAKES , BEACHES & PONDS

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.

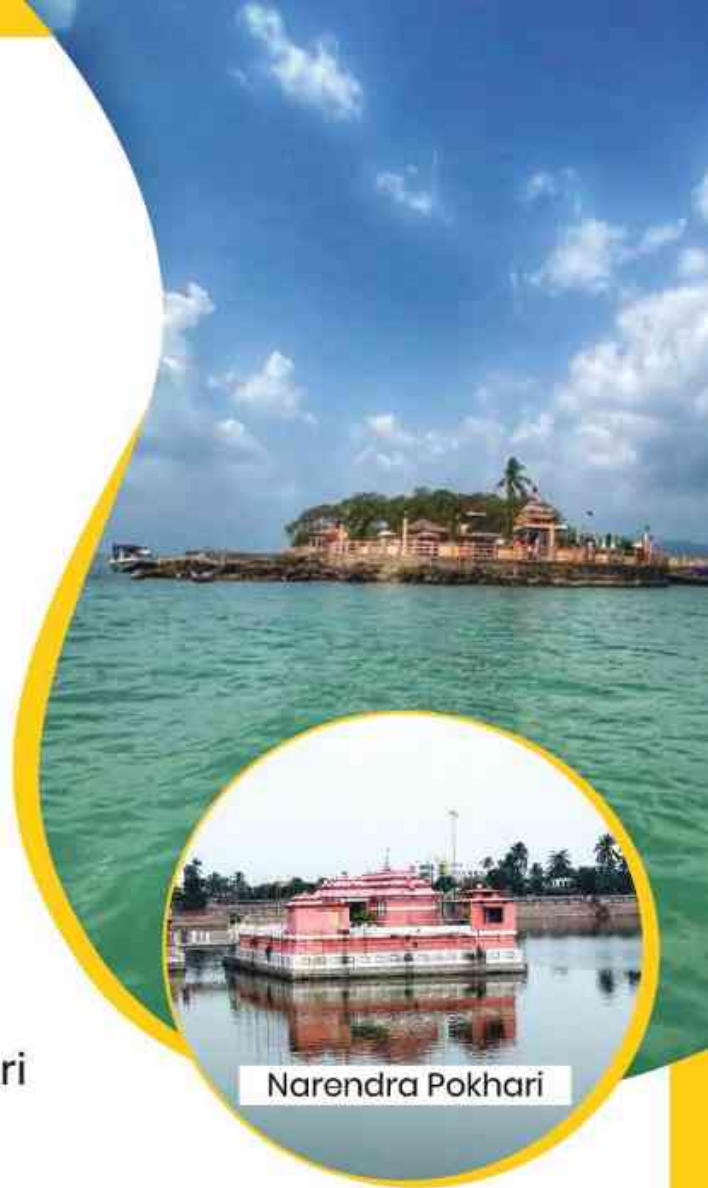


## BEACHES

## LAKES

Chilika Lake  
Ansupa Lake  
Tampara Lake

Gopalpur Beach  
Chandipur Beach  
Puri Beach  
Talsari Beach  
Ramchandi Beach  
Paradeep Beach  
Astaranga Beach  
Sonapur Beach  
Gahirmatha Beach



Narendra Pokhari



Gopalpur Beach



Chandipur Beach



Puri Beach

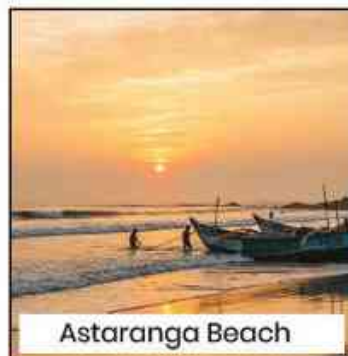


Talsari Beach



Ramachandi Beach

## BEACHES



Astaranga Beach



Sonapur Beach



Gahirmatha Beach

# WILDLIFE

**O**disha 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.



Satkosia Tiger Reserve

## SATKOSIA TIGER RESERVE:

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

## BHITARKANIKA NATIONAL PARK:

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



Bhitarkanika



Gahirmatha

## GAHIRMATHA MARINE SANCTUARY:

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



Chilika

## CHILIKA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

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



Similipal National Park

## SIMILIPAL NATIONAL PARK:

Located in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, is a 2,750 sq km tiger reserve and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve famous for its, Bengal tigers—including unique melanistic (black) tigers—and diverse flora

# TRIBAL

**O**disha 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.

Bondo: (about 5,000 in Malkangiri, known as "Naked People").

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



# ECO-RETREAT

**O**disha 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), Hirakud (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



Hirakud Eco- Retreat



Putsil Eco- Retreat



Sonapur 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.



Rambha Palace



Gajalaxmi Palace



Dhenkanal Palace



Kila Dalijoda Palace



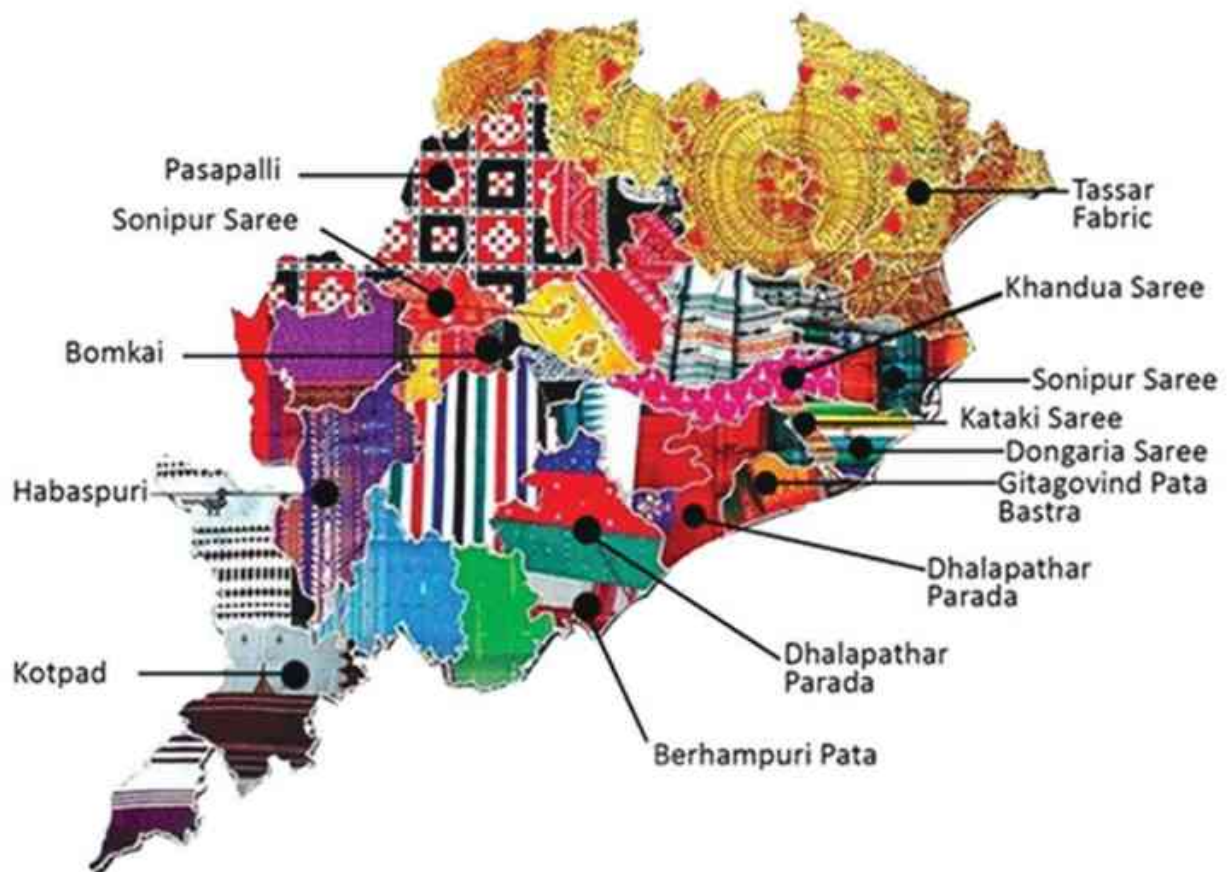
Kalahandi Palace

# 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.



## Sambalpuri Ikat

Odisha's most famous handloom. Uses the Bandha (Ikat) tie-and-dye technique, where threads are dyed before weaving. Features motifs such as conch shells (shankha), wheels (chakra), flowers, and geometric designs. Produced mainly in Sambalpur, Bargarh, Sonapur, and nearby districts.

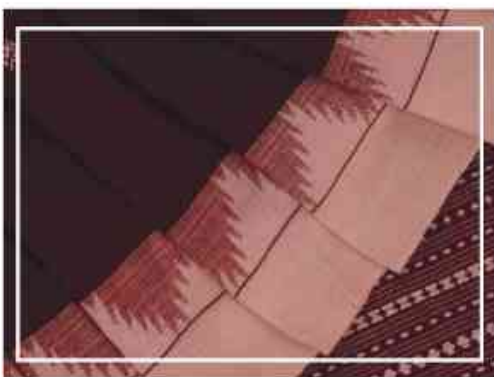


## Khandua

Traditionally offered to Lord Jagannath. Woven mainly in Nuapatna and Maniabandha. Features motifs like conch shells, lotus

## Bomkai (Sonepuri)

Originated in Ganjam district. Known for elaborate borders and pallus with tribal and nature-inspired motifs such as fish, deer, and temple patterns. Combines ikat effects with supplementary-weft designs.



## Kotpad

Produced by tribal weavers of Koraput district. Famous for natural dyes extracted from the Aal tree root. Characterized by earthy shades of maroon, rust, brown, and black. Odisha's first handloom product to receive a GI tag.

## Berhampuri Patta

A luxurious silk weave from Berhampur. Recognized for temple borders and rich silk texture. Commonly worn during religious ceremonies and special occasions.



## Habaspuri

Originates from Kalahandi district.  
Features tribal motifs and earthy color palettes.  
Holds a GI tag and reflects local cultural heritage.



## Pasapalli

A distinctive variation of Bandha weaving from Bargarh.  
Famous for its chessboard-like check patterns inspired by traditional board games.



## Dhalapathar Saree

Produced in Dhalapathar village of Khordha district.  
Woven manually using traditional techniques without jacquard or dobby mechanisms.  
Known for precise and intricate motifs.



Some important weaving centers include:



# HANDCRAFTED HERITAGE OF ODISHA

## Applique Works

Applique work is a type of embroidery work or needlework in which smaller patch or fabric is applied or stitched onto a larger fabric. Tiny mirrors with different designs and geometrical shapes are enclosed by thread embroidery to create a striking work of art. In this craft, four basic traditional colors are used such as red, black, white and yellow.



## Bamboo & Cane Crafts

Bamboo and cane crafts are tribal craft work of Odisha. Many useful items are made from bamboo and canes such as baskets, mats, durries, lamp shades and so on. This tribal handicraft tradition used widely by tribal communities across Odisha.



## Sabai Grass Weaving Crafts

Sabai Grass are also known as Kaincha. It is a wild grass which is found in many parts of Odisha after rainy season. This grass is used to make baskets, boxes, tray, penstands, hand fans, floor mats, etc. The products are eco-friendly and biodegradable. Jajang and Barua of Kendrapara, Gadamadhpur of Jajpur, Japanga of Sundergarh and Gop in Puri district are known for this craft.



## Horn & Bone Craft

Esteemed handicraft of Odisha mainly made by Santhals, Oraons and Mijias tribes. Famous in Paralakhemundi and Cuttack. Horn and bone crafts are widely range with decorative and utility items such as cranes, birds, lobsters, animals, combs etc. And this crafts are combined with silver filigree for ornaments.



## Lac Crafts

Lac Crafts are famous handicraft of odisha of Nabarangpur Koraput district. Produced by insects on palash, ber and kusum trees. The famous handicraft of odisha locally known as Lac Siredi Comb is an important utility item.



## Lacquer Crafts

Lacquer crafts are traditional craft in Nabarangpur in Koraput district. In this craft Lac melted, mixed with colors and applied on bamboo products. Beautiful folk designs added in vibrant floral and geometric shapes. Items includes Animals, Wall Hangings, Coasters and boxes. Artisan's hands melts lac, mix with colors and apply in layers for stunning patterns on.

## Dhokra Metal Crafts

Dhokra Craft is the Ancient Tribal Craft of Odisha created by Situlia tribal community. This tribal craft are made items like Toys, Jewelry, God , Goddesses, Animals , birds, Vessels and Home Decors. This famous dhokra crafts have craft centers in Adakata (Nayagarh), Sadeibareni (Dhenkanal), Kuliana (Mayurbhanj), Jigidi Fadar (Rayagada) and Badamba & Narsimhapur (Cuttack) and more parts of Odisha.



## Brass & Bell Metal Crafts

Brass and bell metal crafts are famous in Cuttack, Khordha, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Sambalpur, Kantilo, & Balakati (Puri) and Khalisahi (Nayagarh). This craft is usually done using traditional methods to create many items including bangles, pots, lamps, rice measuring bowls and ornaments. This work is done using brass, bell metal and copper.

## Silver Filigree

Silver Filigree is originated in Persian countries during the 15th century. Also known as Tarakasi, prominent in Cuttack district. Made items like Necklaces & Pendants, Anklets, Key rings, Boats, Temples, Elephants, chariots and other items like plates, bowls, glasses and handbags.



## Paper Mache Crafts

This craft is made from waste paper. This traditional craft is mainly practised in Puri, Paralakhemundi and Chikiti (Ganjam) and villages around cuttack of Odisha. Many items are made using this technique such as face mask, paper mache bird, hanging parrots, hanuman face, handbags & toys.

## Pattachitra

Pattachitra is a traditional method of painting made on tala patra also known as Palm Leaf engravings. After processing the palm leaves as per the required size, these are sewn together to form a canvas for tracing the images by a sharp pointed tool known as lekhami. This tracing is done using a sharp iron tool. Grooves are filled with black or white ink to the canvas.



## Wood Carving

Wood carving is a subtractive woodworking craft that uses sharp hand or power tools to shape wood into artistic figures, decorative ornaments, or functional objects.

## Stone Carving

Stone carving is a subtractive art form where natural stone is shaped by the controlled removal of material using manual, pneumatic, or power tools. Historically one of the most durable forms of artistic expression, it ranges from ancient temple sculptures like those in Konark, Odisha to modern architectural elements.



# 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.



**ODISSI**



**CHHAU**



**SAMBALPURI**



# FAMOUS CUISINES

**O**disha 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.



**Dalma** – Odisha's signature dish made with lentils and vegetables.

**Chhena Poda** – Odisha's iconic baked cottage cheese dessert.



**Rasagola** – Traditional Odia sweet made from chhena and sugar syrup.

**Arisa Pitha** – A classic festive sweet made from rice flour and jaggery.



**Kakara Pitha** – Sweet fried dumpling filled with coconut and jaggery.



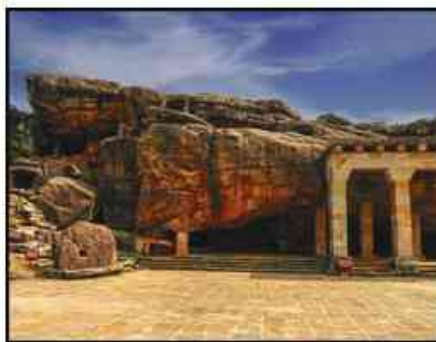
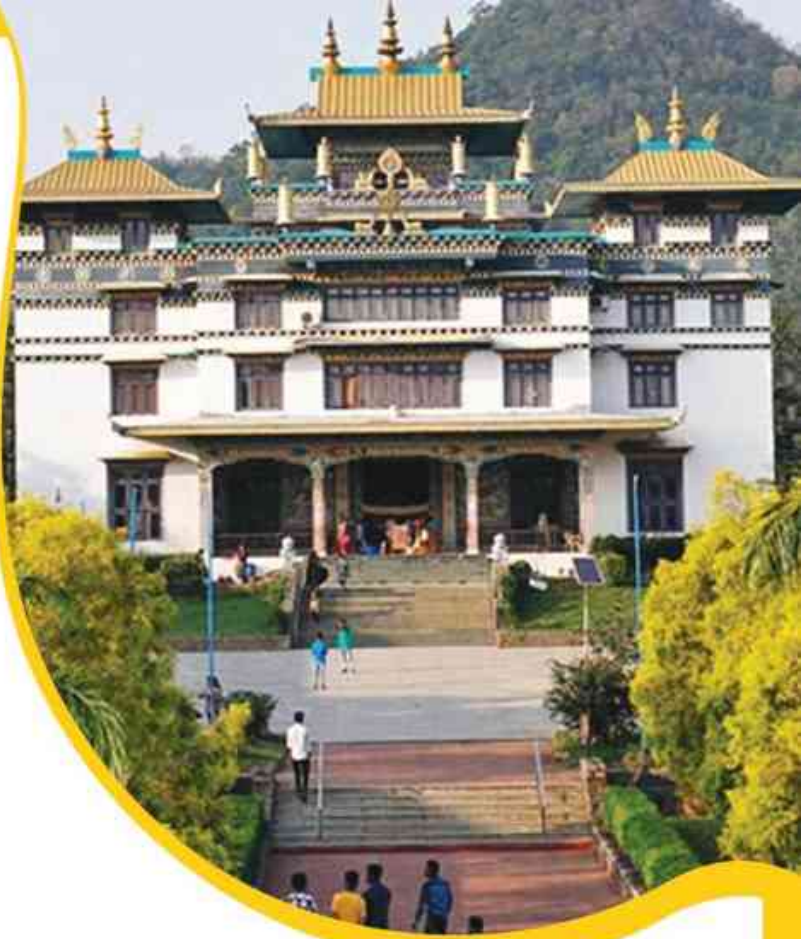
**Enduri Pitha** – Rice cakes steamed in turmeric leaves, giving a unique aroma.



**Sarapuli** – A rich layered milk-based delicacy from Odisha.

# BUDDHIST

**B**uddhism 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 Buddhist Monastery, Udayagiri Buddhist Complex, Kuruma Buddhist Heritage Site, Lalitgiri Buddhist Complex, Dhauli Shanti Stupa and Padmasambhava Mahavihara Monastery is the Buddhist Heritage Monastery Sites in Odisha.

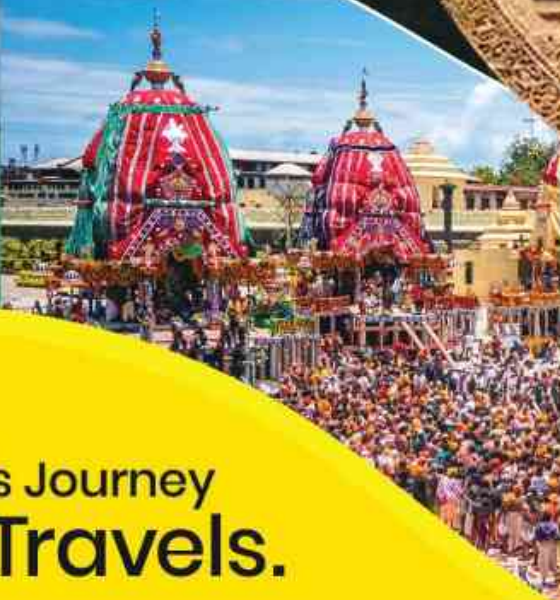


In Odisha, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) continues to explore and excavate ancient Buddhist sites that reveal the region's rich Buddhist heritage. Ongoing work at places like Ratnagiri in Jajpur district, part of the famous Buddhist "Diamond Triangle" along with Lalitgiri and Udayagiri, has 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.

## Discover the Soul of Odisha

From ancient temples and timeless heritage to pristine beaches, vibrant festivals, breathtaking wildlife, and scenic hill stations, Odisha offers experiences that stay with you forever.

Whether you're seeking spiritual journeys, cultural immersion, family holidays, adventure escapes, or luxury retreats, Odisha welcomes you with warmth and authenticity.



Plan Your Odisha's Journey  
**with Swosti Travels.**

☎ +91 9338091727/ 9937015933

✉ info@swosti.com

🌐 www.swostiindia.com

📍 103, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha