



## Odisha Tour 04 Nights/05 Days

### Reporting Day:

#### Day 01: Arrive Bhubaneswar

Meet and assist on arrival at Bhubaneswar Airport and transfer to Hotel. Later visit of Lingaraja Temple The great Lingaraja (eleventh century), which soars above the city of Bhubaneswar and dominates the landscape as far as 15 kms away, represents Odishan temple architecture at its most mature and fully developed stage. It has, in fact, been described as 'time quintessence of Odishan architecture'. Although the temple as it now exists can be dated to the eleventh century, Sanskrit texts hold that there was a stone temple here as early as the seventh century AD, and fragments of this earlier structure do seem to appear in the extant building. Unlike most of the other important temples in Bhubaneswar, the Lingaraja is very much in active worship, and entrance to the temple compound is prohibited to non-Hindus. There is a viewing platform to one side, however, from which a good look at the compound and the main buildings can be had. The deul (tower) of the Lingaraja reaches a height of just over 180 feet (55 meters). It is completely curvilinear, and the extraordinary soaring tower can be seen to incorporate miniature replicas of itself, in turrets inserted on the ribs of the spire. In addition to the deul and the jagmohana (porch), the Lingaraja adds two new structures: the natamandira (hall of dance) and the bhoga-mandapa (hall of offering). The former was undoubtedly associated with the rising prominence of the devadasi system. Many of the sculptures on the temple itself represent groups of people engaged in various religious and musical activities, and these perhaps relate to the increasing range of activities carried out at the temple, for instance in the two new structures. By the time the Lingaraja temple was constructed, the Jagannath cult had become predominant through out Odisha. This is reflected in the fact that the temple deity here, the Svayambhulinga, is not, as in all other cases, strictly a Shiva linga. It is considered to be a 'hari-hara' linga, that is, half Shiva, half Vishnu. This and the variety of deities represented elsewhere on the temple, once again point out the basically syncretic nature of so much of Odishan religion.

**Lingaraj Temple (Non Hindu are not allowed inside the temple. To be viewed from a platform outside)**

Overnight at Bhubaneswar.

**(Dinner)**

#### Day 02: Bhubaneswar, Explore the ancient Temples & Jain Trails

After breakfast visit of Bhubaneswar – The Temple city of India Being the seat of Tribhubaneswar or 'Lord Lingaraj', Bhubaneswar is an important Hindu pilgrimage centre. Hundreds of temples dot the landscape of the Old Town, which once boasted of more than 2000 temples. It is the temple city Bhubaneswar that calls for attention, dotted as it is with temples — big, small, ancient and in clusters. As the city bustles with modern life, the skyline awakens curiosity with its sky-kissing spires of the Lingaraja Temple, the white-domed Peace Pagoda on Dhauli hill and the pink hue of MahaviraJina on the Khandagiri. The three epitomise the advent of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism during different periods of Orissa history. Among the finest of its 600 temples is the Lingaraj Temple of Shiva built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it is also the biggest in Bhubaneswar. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva, also known as 'Lingaraj'. It is adorned with beautiful sculptures, which have been

carved on the spire. Bindusagar Lake lying to the north of the Lingaraja Temple, is one of the popular tourist attractions of Bhubaneswar. **Lingaraj Temple (Non Hindu are not allowed inside the temple. To be viewed from a platform outside)**. Rajarani Temple is one of the most renowned temples in Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Orissa. It is made from the wonderful red and gold sandstone, which is locally known as Rajarani and this is what gives the temple its name of 'Raja Rani'. Mukteshwar Temple, is one of the most prominent temples of Bhubaneswar and has been constructed in the style that is quite similar to the one used in the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture. Parashurameswar Temple, built in 650 AD, is one of the oldest temples existing in Bhubaneswar. A typical example of the Orissan style of temple architecture, the temple features pine spire curving up to a point over the sanctum and the pyramid-covered Jagamohana, where people sit and pray. Small but richly decorated shrine of Lord Shiva, the Parashurameswar Temple has sculptures of amorous couples, animals and floral designs. Later explore the Khandagiri and Udaygiri hills which were carved and tunneled, to create this multi-storied ancient apartment residence for Jain monks. They were the work of the first known Orissan ruler, King Kharavela, and probably begun in the first century BC. Kharavela was a king of the Mahameghavahana dynasty, who is known for expansion of the Kalinga empire and his installation of public improvements, such as canal systems. His queen was evidently quite a patron of the arts, and probably had much to do with the impressive sculptural decoration of the caves. Overnight at Bhubaneswar.

**(Breakfast & Dinner)**

#### **Day 03: Bhubaneswar – Puri (180 Kms, 3.5 Hrs)**

After breakfast drive to Puri en-route visit Dhauli (Buddhist stupa/peace pagoda), Hirapur (64 yogini temple), Pipli (the appliqué work village) & Raghurajpur (the Artisan village, the most famous attraction here are the Pattachitra (miniature paintings), palm leaf engravings, stone carvings, wooden toys, tusser paintings etc. Proceed to Puri and check in to the hotel. Evening visit of Lord Jagannath Temple (Non Hindus are not allowed)/Relax on the golden beach of Puri.

Overnight at Puri.

**(Breakfast & Dinner)**

#### **Day04: Puri- Konark – Puri (75 Kms, 2.5 Hrs each way)**

After breakfast drive to Konark to visit the Sun temple (one of the world famous heritage site & famously known as Black Pagoda). En-route visit to Ramchandi temple & Chandrabhaga beach (one of the finest beaches with a long stretch of clean sands & the beach has its own lovely serenity). Return back to Puri. Evening visit to beach market. Overnight at Puri

**(Breakfast & Dinner)**

#### **Day05: Puri- Bhubaneswar Departure**

After breakfast Check-out from hotel and transfer to Bhubaneswar Airport for your onward journey.

**(Breakfast)**

#### **HOTELS CONSIDERED**

| <b>Place</b>       | <b>Name of Hotel</b>            |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Bhubaneswar</b> | <b>Hotel Vits / Similar</b>     |
| <b>Puri</b>        | <b>Fort Mahadadhi / Similar</b> |

**The above tour cost/air fare component does not include Government service tax of 9.00%**

**Tour Cost Includes:**

- Accommodation on Twin/Double Sharing with Breakfast & Dinner
- **A/c Vehicle** for transfers and sightseeing.

**Tour Cost Excludes:**

- Lunch or other meals/snacks/juice
- Train /Bus/Flight ticket
- Travel Insurance/Visa
- Personal expense like Laundry, phone bill, portage, tip, entry fee etc..
- Not mentioned above inclusion.
- Standard check in time 14.00 hrs and check out 12.00 hrs

**Note:-Please carry valid photo ID proofs to the above tour without fail.**