



Traditional Gotipua Dancers

## art & culture

7 Days • Bhubaneshwar - Bhubaneshwar • €490\*

India is a country of vastly differing scenery and people. Exemplified as much in the mountains, plains, rivers, forests and coastline, as in the countries rich cultural diversity. Orissa is one of India's remotest regions and also one of its most distinctive. □

On the west Orissa is bounded by the thickly forested hills of the Eastern Ghats while the east boasts a 500km coastline facing the Bay of Bengal. The hinterland a lush stretch of green paddy fields dotted with ancient Buddhist ruins and tranquil hamlets where traditional crafts flourish.

Unlock ancient art and craft traditions. Meet the people behind the products and discover what it means to paint mythology, dance legends and weave symbolic stories. Behold the irrepressible man-made marvels of ancient India's earliest temples at Konark. Stroll around the sea swept

### profile

Some walking around rural villages, bouncing along country roads and camping at Chilika Lake and on the riverbed of the almighty Mahanadi. Orissa is a remote region and lacks many basic facilities of developed countries. Consequently travel can be more physically demanding than your typical tour package. Adapting to basic infrastructure and simple resources are essential. As always in India, those with patience, openness and a healthy spirit of adventure are amply rewarded.

temple town of Puri, limber up with god's own children, tie timeless threads and take part in a traditional temple ritual. Spend the night on an island in the middle of Orissa's almighty River Mahanadi. Delight in the diversity of cultural expression. Discover the source of a community's culture and celebrate the ancient, living traditions that miraculously continue to thrive.

### fast facts

**Support:** Passionate Local Leader throughout

**Activities:** UNESCO World Heritage Konark Sun Temple Entry, Puri Old City by Cycle Rickshaw, Heritage Painting Village (Raghurajpur) Visit, Temple Dance Village (Gotipua) Visit, 2 Weaving Village & Weaver's Co-operative (Nuapatna & Maniabandh) Visits, 2 Temple Rituals, Kantilo Camp & Old City Orientation.

**Accommodation:** Hotel/guesthouse (3 nights), Tourist Bungalow/dormitory (1 night), Tent Camp (1 night).

**Transport:** Private transport, local ferry, pole boat, cycle rickshaws and foot.

**Meals:** 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners. Please allow approx. €10 per day for additional meals.

**Arrival/Departure:** Bhubaneshwar, the capital of Orissa is well connected to the rest of India by Domestic Airlines and the Indian Railway network.

**Tipping:** An essential way of life in India, we will provide you appropriate guidelines.

## itinerary

**Day 1 Arrive Bhubaneshwar**, the lively capital of Orissa since the ancient 'Kalinga' empire boasts settlement stretching back 2000 years. Explore animated medieval temples and broad tree lined avenues to unearth the spirit behind the city.

**Group Meeting:** Travellers are requested to arrive on by Day 1 before 18:00 so we can give you an overview of the exciting things in store and some practical advice on how to make the most of your journey. Please bring your passport and a copy of your insurance policy as we need to verify essential details.

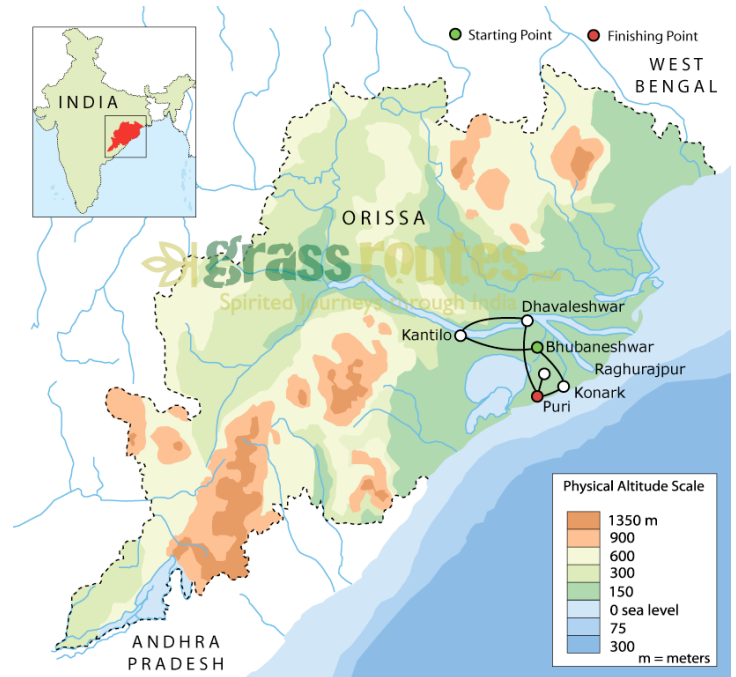
Bhubaneshwar's impressive skyline; the towering spire of the Lingaraja temple, the magnificent Japanese built Peace Pagoda of Dhauli hills and the remarkable temple of Mahavir Jina on Khandagiri hills exemplifies the arrival and evolution of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism during different periods of Orissa's long spiritual odyssey.

### Day 2 Puri

Watch skilled craftsmen stitch appliqué in a village that has done just that for centuries. Marvel at the irrepressible **UNESCO World Heritage** site at Konark. Conceived as a giant solar chariot and executed to perfection, this is one of India's most sublime monuments. Examine the intricate carving and blush at the erotic imagery. Soak up the traditional temple culture of Puri, saunter medieval by-lanes, sample the local take on cheesecake and stroll through the evening beach market.

### Day 3 Puri

Meet a lineage of traditional painters and learn to mix organic colours. Unearth the secret behind ancient techniques and admire methods stoically preserved by patience and



perseverance. Join dexterous villagers crack betel nuts and test your metal. Behold the elastic moves of traditional temple dancers on the brink of extinction. Meet the master and students of a traditional *gurukul* system of education. Watch playful children limber up during daily practise. Delight in an extraordinarily colourful and acrobatic traditional dance performance.

### Day 4 Dhavaleswar

Meet the weavers skilled in the famous 'Bandh' design. Learn the complexities of the tie and dye process. Amble their village and absorb how craft is woven seamlessly into daily life. Admire timeless techniques and visit the community weaver's co-operative society. Be enchanted by the majestic evening rituals of Dhavaleswar temple and spend the night on an island in the middle of Orissa's biggest most revered River Mahanadi.



Holy Water Tank

### Day 5 Kantilo

Chasing the flow of the mighty river we pass some of the most picturesque countryside in Orissa. Verdant foliage shelters the road and the river's flow a constant companion. Scramble up a hilltop temple and ring the ancient bell. Take in the spectacular sunset overlooking nearby hamlets and camp on the riverbed.

### Day 6 Bhubaneswar

Wander medieval streets home to silver and goldsmiths. Admire craftsmen braving primitive tools apply ancient

techniques to fashion brass and bell metalware. Watch traditional vessels, utensils, even gods & goddesses take form. Drop into a weaver's co-operative society and stroll through a market dedicated to traditional handicrafts.

### Day 7 Depart Bhubaneswar

You are free to depart anytime today, check out from your hotel is 12 midday. We can book Additional Accommodation and a transfer to the airport for you, please let us know at the time of booking.



## practical information

### passports and visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and obtain your own visa in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. Further country specific information is available at [Indian Missions Abroad](#).

### vaccinations and health

Recommended vaccinations are Typhoid, TB, Polio, Tetanus and a vaccination against Hepatitis A. India is a malarial area and you should appropriate precautions. Consult your Doctor or Vaccination centre for up to date information.

### travel insurance

A comprehensive travel insurance policy is compulsory to join this trip. Travellers are required to show possession of such at the Group Meeting. We recommend you consult your travel agent or check out [World Nomads](#).

### additional accommodation

Additional Accommodation before or after the trip is available on request. We associate with premier properties to suit all budgets. You are requested to notify us your requirements at the time of booking.

### airport transfers

Airport Transfers by private air-conditioned vehicles are available on request. Please provide flight arrival details at the time of booking or at least 2 weeks prior to departure.

### extra expenses

Small expenses encountered along the way (excluding meals mentioned earlier in Fast Facts) include camera fees, tipping and shopping.

## practical information

### joining and finishing point

#### Hotel Royale Mid Town

52 – 52 Janpath

Bhubaneshwar, ORISSA

Tel: +91 674 2536138 - 141

A comfortable modern hotel located in the heart of bustling Bhubaneshwar. Set amidst wide central avenues, the hotel is close to a variety of restaurants, markets and naturally temples. An efficient middle class business hotel with modern facilities.

### domestic connections

Orissa is well connected to the rest of India by train (consult the world's largest rail network [Indian Railways](#)) and plane. Domestic air travel has gathered momentum in recent years and its now easy to cross the country. [MakeMyTrip](#) and [ClearTrip](#) are both useful resources for booking online flights or choose from any of the domestic airlines below:

[Air India](#)   [Deccan\\*](#)   [GoAir \\*](#)   [Indian](#)   [Indigo](#)  
[Jet Airways](#)   [JetLite\\*](#)   [Kingfisher\\*](#)   [Paramount](#)   [Spice Jet](#)

\* Regular scheduled services to and from Bhubaneshwar.

### booking options

Book online by going to our website. Select your journey and click the 'Book This Journey' button. You will be directed to our online Booking Request Form. Specify your preferred date to join a group departure or request a private departure on the dates of your choice. Fill up the particulars and make a note of any special requirements. After completing the Booking Request Form you will receive confirmation and invoice by email. On receipt of your deposit your place on the requested journey is reserved.

### payment options

We use the online payment systems of PayPal to ensure your credit card details are secure and trusted. We can also accept cheque and direct deposit payments.

### credo for grass routes travellers

I am grateful for the opportunity to travel and experience the world and affirm my personal responsibility to:

- Journey with an open mind & gentle heart
- Accept with grace and gratitude the diversity I encounter
- Revere and protect the natural environment that sustains all life
- Appreciate all culture I discover
- Respect and thank my hosts for their welcome
- Offer my hand in friendship to everyone I meet



'Chitra' - Rice flour painting