



UNESCO World Heritage Site  
Sun Temple at Konark

## orissa highlights

**6 Days • Bhubaneshwar - Puri • €420**

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

On the west Orissa is bounded by 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 cultures flourish.

**Orissa Highlights** is classic, timeless Orissa; thriving traditional cultures topped with tranquil natural beauty. Stand in awe at India's earliest and most majestic temples.

### profile

Some walking around rural villages, cycling through unchartered back roads, bouncing along curvaceous country roads and camping at Chilika Lake. 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.

Delight in medieval towns where the past is very much part of today. Traverse palm fringed paddies and tap into the simple pleasures of rural India. Cruise along Asia's largest salt lake lagoon and camp under a sparkling starlit sky. Meet extraordinary everyday people and learn the secret behind their enduring smiles!

### fast facts

**Support:** Passionate Local Leader throughout

**Activities:** Bhubaneshwar Heritage Walk, Puri Old City by Cycle Rickshaw, Heritage Painting Village (Raghurajpur) Visit, UNESCO World Heritage Sun Temple @ Konark, Temple Dancing (Gotipua) Village Visit, Chilika Lake Boats & Camping.

**Accommodation:** Hotel/Guesthouse (4 nights), Tent Camp (1 night).

**Transport:** Private vehicle, cycle rickshaws, cycling, local ferry, bullock cart, pole boat and foot.

**Meals:** 1 Breakfast, 2 Lunches, 1 Dinner. 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. Puri is only a 2 hour drive to the Airport at Bhubaneshwar.

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

## itinerary

### Day 1 Arrive Bhubaneshwar

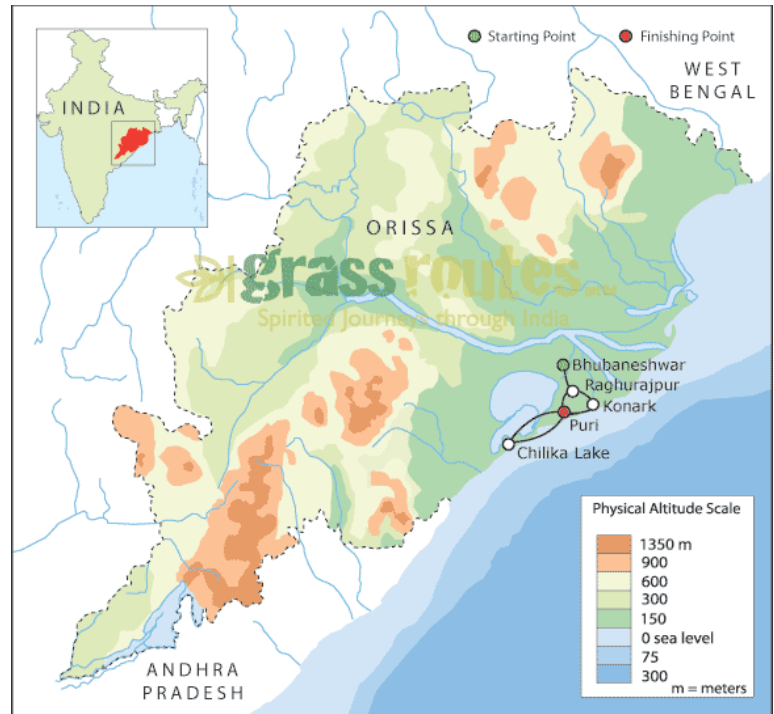
The lively capital of Orissa since the ancient 'Kalinga' empire boasts settlement stretching back 2000 years. Explore animated medieval temples and broad tree lined avenues to unearth the spirit behind the city.

**Group Meeting:** Travellers are requested to arrive on Day 1 before 18:00 so we can give you an exciting overview of all the exciting things in store and some practical advice on how to make the most out 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 journey.

### Day 2 Puri

Marvel at India's most ambitiously conceived and intricately carved ancient temples. Visit Bhubaneshwar's most spectacular temples of Mukteshwar, Parsurameswar and Vaital Deul. Each Distinctive in form and flavour representing progressive periods, architectural breakthroughs and excellence in craftsmanship. Traverse rural villages to reach the coastal temple town of Puri. Soak up the unique traditional culture, wander through the old city, stroll along the beach and pick up local souvenirs at the lively night market.



### Day 3 Puri

Bicycle through unchartered back roads and weave through a patchwork of sublime palm fringed paddies. Pass idyllic rural villages, be greeted by enthusiastic 'hellos' from carefree children and sample sweet brewed tea. Meet village craftsmen skilled in the hereditary craft of traditional painting. Learn the secret behind ancient techniques. Admire time-honored methods stoically preserved by patience and perseverance. Behold the famous **UNESCO World Heritage** Sun Temple at Konark. Conceived as a giant chariot, this is one of India's most sublime monuments. Examine the intricate carving, blush at the erotic imagery and wonder at the flawless execution.



#### Day 4 Chilika Lake

Unwind on the tranquil waters of Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance**. Spot rare migratory birds & playful Irrawady dolphins. Bask in the tropical sun, swim in the Bay of Bengal and enjoy the serene peacefulness. Camp among Casuarina pines on a narrow strip of sand separating the sea from the lake. Feast on fresh seafood caught before your very eyes and settle your eyes on the starlit sky.

#### Day 5 Puri

Glide through serene sun-kissed waters and journey back to Puri via a charming detour to classic rural village.

Savour home cooked cuisine and meet the master and students of a traditional *gurukul* system of education. Watch playful children limber up during their daily practise sessions of a folk dance preceding the classical dance form Odissi. Delight in an extraordinary colourful and acrobatic traditional dance performance.

**Day 6 Depart Puri** You are free to depart or stay on and enjoy the relaxed ambience. We can book Additional Accommodation and a Transfer by private air-conditioned vehicle to the airport for you, please let us know at the time of booking.



Lifeguard on Puri beach

## 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 Hepatitis A. India is a malarial area and you should take 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 [World Nomads](#).

### additional accommodation

Additional Accommodation before or after your Grass Routes journey is available on request. We associate with premier properties to suit all budgets. Notify us your requirements at the time of booking and we'll get back to you with a quote.

### airport transfers

Airport transfers by private airconditioned vehicles are available on request. Please provide flight 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 point

#### Hotel Royale Mid Town

52 Janpath

Bhubaneshwar, ORISSA

Tel: +91 6742 536138 – 141

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

### finishing point

#### Hotel Gandhara

Chakra Tirtha Rd

Puri, ORISSA

Tel: +91 6752 224117, 224623

Simple, spotless and popular hotel in close proximity to tourist amenities. Set in a beautiful garden atmosphere, a friendly home away from home.

### domestic connections

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

[Air India](#)

[Indigo](#)

[JetLite](#)

[Kingfisher](#)

### 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 secure 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 encounter
- Revere and protect the natural environment that sustains all life
- Appreciate all cultures I discover
- Respect and thank my hosts for their welcome
- Offer my hand in friendship to everyone I meet



Group adventures at Chilika Lake