



Tribal Elder

Tribal Trails

13 Days • Visakhapatnam - Puri

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. Odisha is one of India's remotest regions and one of its most distinctive.

On the west Odisha 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.

A tribute to the original spirit of discovery! An unforgettable journey crammed with quintessential India experiences; from train journeys whistling round hills to prehistoric caves temples and lively local markets. Following in the footsteps

of India's 'original people' tracking indigenous heritage and ancient ways of living. Revel in animated local markets, build surprising friendships and join in dancing the night away! Cruise along tranquil Chilika Lake, Asia's largest salt lake lagoon. Marvel at ancient India's earliest temples and explore the sea swept temple town of Puri. An adventures of a lifetime bursting with new experiences and amazing discoveries.

Profile

Walking through remote hills, cycling unchartered back roads, shuttling by train through spectacular secluded landscapes and camping among nature. Odisha 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.

Inclusions

Support: Passionate Local Leader throughout

Activities: Visakhapatnam City Orientation, 4 Weekly Markets, 7 Village Visits, Traditional Adivasi Dance, Sunset cruise on Chilika Lake, Puri Old City by Cycle Rickshaw, Heritage Painting Village (Raghurajpur) Visit, UNESCO World Heritage Sun Temple @ Konark.

Accommodation: Hotel/Guesthouse (10 nights), Tent Camp (2 nights).

Transport: Private vehicle, train, local ferry, bullock cart, pole boat, cycle rickshaw, bicycle and foot.

Meals: 4 Breakfast, 5 Lunches, 4 Dinners. Please allow approx. €10 per day for additional meals.

Arrival/Departure: Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and Puri (2 hours to/from Bhubaneswar) are well connected to the rest of India by Domestic Airlines and the Indian Railway network.

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Visakhapatnam (Vizag)

The picturesque port city of Visakhapatnam, surrounded inland by shrine-crested hills and on the coast by a natural harbour, comes as a pleasant surprise. Friendly smiles, fiery curries and hilarious filmy placards dot the city.

Group Meeting: Travelers 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.

Day 2 Visakhapatnam (Vizag)

Explore India's 2nd largest ship graveyard, rub shoulders with pilgrims at the 11th century Simachalam temple and sip coconut juice on the beach.

Day 3 Rayagada District

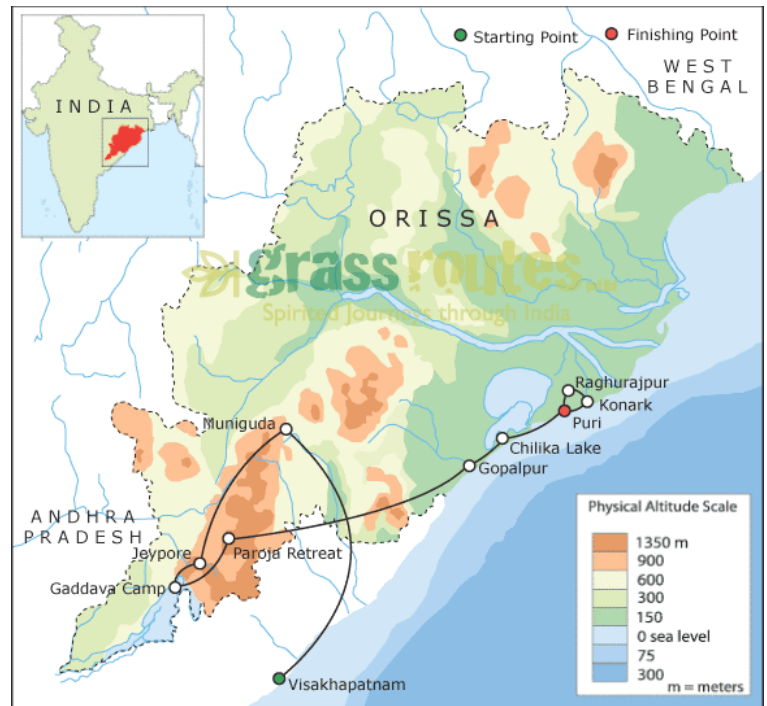
Traversing spectacular scenery our train winds around the hills of the Eastern Ghats traversing from Andhra Pradesh into neighbouring Odisha. Passing through forested hills, into tunnels, across rivers and lush valleys into the tribal territory.

Tribes of Odisha

Adivasis literally **"original inhabitants"** are the **indigenous population of India**. Nestled in the remote hills of the Eastern Ghats they constitute **25% of Odisha's** population; the most populous Adivasi region of all India. They comprise **62 diverse ethnicities** and although co-dependent, fiercely guard their own distinct traditions. We will meet the Dongria Kondh, Gaddava, Paroja, Bonda, Didayi & Mali tribes and witness a way of life relatively unchanged through the centuries.

Day 4 Jeypore

Visit the vibrant Chatikona market; join the Dongria Kondh fawn over fancy items and admire their countless hairpins, earrings and nose rings. Sample local snacks, share a laugh and revel in the animated atmosphere. Stroll through nearby villages and surrounding forest, learn the secret of their survival and future challenges they face.



Day 5 Gaddava Tribal Village Camp

Join India's most primitive indigenous peoples shop for daily provisions. Be dazzled by the kaleidoscope of beads worn by traditional Bonda tribeswomen. Select fresh vegetables for our shopping basket and enjoy a picnic lunch under a waterfall. Follow the footsteps of the Gaddava and Paroja tribes. Camp near their village, make new friends and cook under the stars. Join the evening revelry and dance the Dhensa long into the night!

Haats: Local Weekly Markets

A melting pot of **indigenous cultures** where independent tribes gather and **trade local produce** once a week. A healthy balance maintained between **co-dependency** and **individual identity** is most apparent during these occasions.

Day 6 Paroja Tribal Village Retreat

Barter with the best at Kunduli, the largest market for the Mali and Paroja community. Among the fresh produce you'll find homemade liquor and livestock tethered under the shade of ancient trees. Walk the surrounding jungle before transferring to your tribal retreat.



Walking in the highlands

Meet your humble hosts for the next two days and relax. Soak up the views of rolling hills, check out the organic garden or simply put your feet up.

Day 7 Paroja Tribal Village Retreat

Walk through the village with your indigenous hosts & meet the skilled potters; masters of moulding magic from mud! Tour their workshop & try your hand at the spinning wheel. Trek through the surrounding hills following ancient tracks. Encounter small hamlets and warm smiles along the way.

Day 8 Gopalpur-on-Sea

Drive from the hilly interior to the vast coast of Odisha. Stroll along the beach, check out the local fish market and watch the sun set over the Bay of Bengal.

Day 9 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. Feast on fresh seafood and settle your eyes on the starlit sky.

Day 10 Puri

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 11 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-honoured 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 12 Puri

Traverse lush countryside and experience life in a charming 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 13 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.



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

Extra Expenses

Tipping is an essential way of life in India. Your driver and local guides always appreciate a gesture in gratitude of their services.



Traditional Tribal Jewelle

Practical Information

Joining Point

Hotel Daspalla

Suryabagh

Visakhapatnam, ANDHRA PRADESH

Tel: +91 891 2564825, 2563141

A comfortable modern hotel located in the heart of bustling Visakhapatnam. An efficient middle class business hotel within close proximity to modern facilities.

Finishing Point

BNR

Chakra Tirtha Rd

Puri, ODISHA

Tel: +91 6752 222006

Puri first hotel initially built to complete the railways and later the haunt of the British Raj. BNR retains its old world charm with balconies overlooking the sea and manicured lawns.

Internal Connections

Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and Puri are 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](#)

Bookings

Email us! (info@grassroutesjourneys.com) Please specify whether you'd like a group or private departure indicating your preferred date of choice.

Payment

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 Travelers

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

