

Pearl of the East 06 Days / 05 Nights



\* Ex - Bhubaneswar

Puri, Gopalpur & Bhubaneswar

### **Tour Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: ARRIVE BHUBANESHWAR - ONTO PURI (60 KMS / APPROX. 2 HOUR DRIVE)**

Welcome to Bhubaneswar, the Capital of Orissa. On arrival at the airport / railway station in Bhubaneswar, begin your '**Pearl of the East**' tour. Proceed on a picturesque drive to Puri. En route, visit the famous Lingaraja Temple. Also, have a brief halt at Pipli village, famous for its applique work. One can buy various handicrafts at Pipli village. On arrival at Puri, check into your hotel. Later in the afternoon, visit the Jagannath Temple. Overnight in Puri - None (Meals on your own)

#### **Day 2: PURI \* EXCURSION TO KONARK SUN TEMPLE (35 KMS / APPROX. 1 HOUR DRIVE)**

This morning, proceed on a half-day excursion to Konark Sun Temple. Built by Narasimhadeva-I in 1250 A.D, shaped like a chariot driven by seven horses on 12 pairs of wheels. Even in its ruined state its magnificence reflects the genius of its architects who envisioned and built it. In the afternoon, visit the artisan's village of Raghurajpur. The village is famous for Patta Chitra work (paintings on Palm Leaves). The artisans also make a wide variety of other items including palm leaf engravings, stone carvings, wood carvings, and wooden toys. The rest of the evening is at leisure. Overnight in Puri (B)

#### **Day 3 : ONTO GOPALPUR VIA CHILIKA (242 KMS / APPROX. 6 HOUR DRIVE)**

This morning, proceed towards Gopalpur, one of the most pristine beaches of Orissa. En route, visit the Chilika Bird Sanctuary famous for rare migratory birds. On arrival, check into your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. A cruise in Chilka lake is recommended (on direct payment basis). This lake is home to over 160 varieties of fish and in the winter season it is home to hundreds of thousands of migratory birds, dotted with a host of islands with romantic names. Overnight in Gopalpur (B)

**Day 4: GOPALPUR - EXCURSION TO TAPTAPANI (60 KMS / APPROX. 1.5 HOUR DRIVE)**

In the morning, proceed on a half-day excursion to Taptapani hot water springs renowned for their medicinal value. There are a few tribes that live in the region as well and some of them are Kutia Kondh, Mali and Dingaria Kondh. Experiencing the culture and traditions of the tribal people can be an exhilarating experience. Return to Gopalpur in the afternoon. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the quaint town of Gopalpur. Overnight in Gopalpur (B).

**Day 5: ONTO BHUBANESHWAR (180 KMS / APPROX. 5 HOUR DRIVE)**

Today, proceed towards Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Orissa. En route, visit the Udaygiri and Khandagiri Caves - an excellent example of Jain Cave Art, built by Kharavela around 1st - 2nd Century BC for Jain monks. The archaeological remains at Udayagiri consist of a brick stupa, bricks monasteries, a beautiful stepped stone well with inscriptions and rock-cut sculptures at the top of the hill. On arrival, check into your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure for individual activities. Overnight in Bhubaneswar (B)

**Day 6: DEPART BHUBANESHWAR \* RETURN HOME WITH HAPPY MEMORIES**

Today, bid farewell to your '**Pearl of the East**' tour, as you are transferred to the airport / railway station in Bhubaneswar for your onward journey. (B)