

it to you for a brief spell again. Adventurous tourists love this intriguing phenomenon and make the most of the time they have the beach at low tide to enjoy walking on the seabed, before the tidal waters rush back and cover it again. Look for endangered horse shoe crabs, starfish, sea urchins and other small marine creatures which lure hosts of egrets and seagulls for a rich banquet. Bathing is no fun as the beach is quite muddy because of the tidal conditions. Mingle with picnicking locals at the scenic spot where the Buddhbalanga River meets the sea. On the Talasari-Udaypur Beach, indulge in fun-filled sea-sand leisure activities.

Bichitrapur
 Located about 100km from Balasore, this is a scenic destination which combines the beauty of mangrove forests and the sea. Locally, the place is known as Khadabil. There is a forest office complex here. Odisha Forest Development Corporation operates eco cottages in the shade of casuarina trees close to the forest office complex here in Khadabil. The Subarnarekha River, which rises near Ranchi in



neighbouring Jharkhand state, also flows through West Bengal and Odisha to drain into the Bay of Bengal near the Bichitrapur mangrove forest. The regeneration, conservation and protection of mangrove forests along the vast mudflat near the river mouth—undertaken by the Odisha Forest Sector Development Programme—has transformed the place into a sheltering ground for birds, Olive Ridley turtles and crabs. A tidal creek leads through the mangrove forest to an island, on the other side of which lies the sea.

Tickets for boat rides for a round trip (about an hour, including a brief halt) to the island are available from the forest office. However, the boat operation depends on the tide. Expect to stand in long queues during peak tourist season. The boat will deposit you at one end of the island from where a short walk across marshy land dotted with pneumatophores (breathing roots of mangrove trees) will take you to the other end where you will find the lusty waves breaking on the beach.

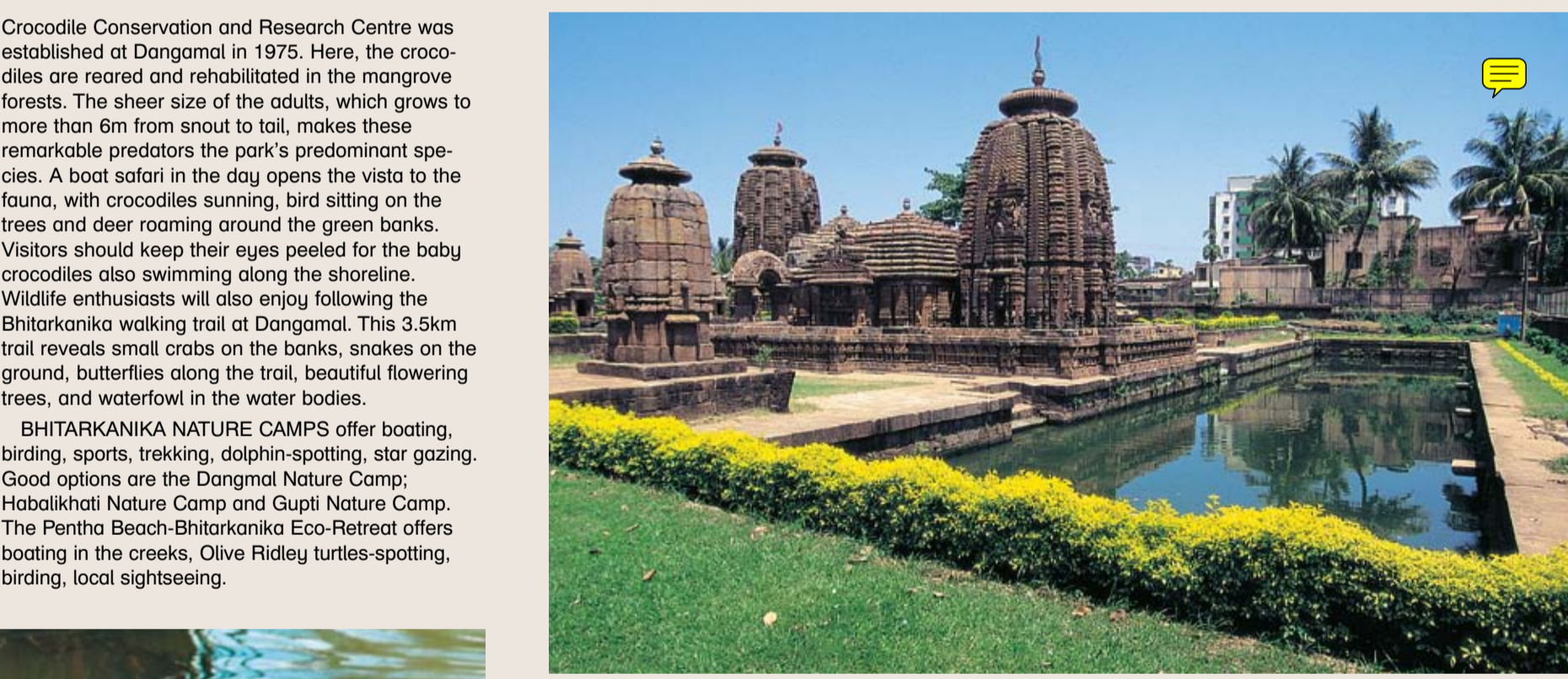
safaris and boat rides. Usually, the jungle safaris take place from 5am to 7am and from 4pm to 6.30pm. Boat rides are available between 8am and noon and again from 3pm to 5.30pm. You should also visit the Jodachua Forest, popular for birding and animal sightings. The Rissia Nature Camp offers double-bedded Non AC tents and arranges trekking and local sight-



seeing in the nearby forest and dam areas to watch the sunrise. Nights can be enjoyed stargazing and listening to the sounds of the forest. In the daytime, visitors can hang around the watering hole, watch tower and salt pits for wildlife spotting.

Stay Arrangements
 *Pentha-Bhitarkanika Eco-Retreat, Dangamal Nature Camp, Panthanivas Chandipur, Bichitrapur NC PNS Talasari; Aul Palace, OTDC Arganavivas Chandabali, Rissia Nature Camp, PNS Balasore.

ODISHA BY ROAD (5 DAYS/ 4 NIGHTS)



Crocodile Conservation and Research Centre was established at Dangamal in 1975. Here, the crocodiles are reared and rehabilitated in the mangrove forests. The sheer size of the adults, which grows to more than 6m from snout to tail, makes these remarkable predators the park's predominant species. A boat safari in the day opens the vista to the fauna, with crocodiles sunning, bird sitting on the trees and deer roaming around the green banks. Visitors should keep their eyes peeled for the baby crocodiles also swimming along the shoreline. Wildlife enthusiasts will also enjoy following the Bhitarkanika walking trail at Dangamal. This 3.5km trail reveals small crabs on the banks, snakes on the ground, butterflies along the trail, beautiful flowering trees, and waterfowl in the water bodies.

BHITARKANIKA NATURE CAMPS offer boating, birding, sports, trekking, dolphin-spotting, star gazing. Good options are the Dangamal Nature Camp; Habalikhathi Nature Camp and Gupti Nature Camp. The Pentha Beach-Bhitarkanika Eco-Retreat offers boating in the creeks, Olive Ridley turtles-spotting, birding, local sightseeing.

Balasore
 The pretty town of Balasore, or Baleswar, in north Odisha is the headquarters of the eponymous district. The town is about 195km from the state capital Bhubaneswar and was noted for its maritime history. It served as the base of the first settlement of British (as early as 1634), followed by the Dutch and the Danes. The district lies along the Bay of Bengal coast and is a huge draw for its natural and religious attractions. Some of the old temples of this region are Gopinatha Temple, Lagula Narasimha Dev and Biranchinarayan Temple. These three temples make a trio and are in 3 different directions in the city, serving as guardians from these positions. Baneswara Temple is one of the oldest in the city. Dip into Balasore culinary offerings of delicious seafood and other traditional local staples at the eateries around town. Set up in 2015 by the Emami Paper Mill, the Emami Jagannath Temple, 7km from town, attracts throngs of devotees all year round. Built with red sandstone, it is an architectural prime point in the city. The shrine mirrors architectural features from both the Jagannath Temple in Puri and the Sun Temple at Konark. This temple is also famed for its rich carvings and elaborate rituals,

which are in line with those carried out by the Jagannath Temple in Puri.

Chandipur
 While travelling around Balasore an unmissable spot to explore is Chandipur Sea Beach, about 15 km away from Balasore town. You will love the serene beauty of Chandipur Beach, where the tidal pull of the sea in the morning and evening gives you the beach for a little while and then takes it away, only to return



Kolkata to Bhitarkanika via Bichitrapur & Chandipur
Attractions – Bhitarkanika Nature Camp, Chandipur, Bichitrapur, Rissia Dam, Balasore Jagannath Temple
 Savour thrilling moments on a boat safari along the mangroves to the mouth of the Subarnarekha River. Pedal down from Bichitrapur to Talasari Beach, via Chandaneswar Temple. At Chandipur Beach, walk on the seabed and spot crustaceans and crabs, a unique gift from the tides here. Marvel at the sunsets and sunrises at Bhitarkanika. Follow the Dangamal Birding Trail; visit Bagagahana Heronry (Aug–Sept). Cruise from Dangamal to Habalikhathi Beach through mangrove creeks. Enjoy views of Rissia Dam and boating; visit the modern day Balasore Jagannath Temple.

Bhitarkanika
 If you are a nature lover and wildlife buff, a visit to Bhitarkanika National Park is a must. Notable for salt-water crocodiles, nesting Olive Ridley turtles, avifaunal wealth and massive mangrove forests.



Sanctuary and Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary. Did you know Bhitarkanika is India's second largest mangrove ecosystem after the Sunderbans? You can witness this amazing phenomenon during a water safari while exploring this stunning ecosystem of this Ramsar Wetlands landscape. Essential to the site is the network of creeks and canals which are inundated with waters from the Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra and Patasala rivers. At the crocodile breeding centre, discover how Bhitarkanika is home to the largest congregation of the endangered salt water crocodile in India. Birding expeditions are truly rewarding, as Bhitarkanika is a magnet for both resident and migratory species. Make time to explore the Bagagahana, or the heronry, near Surajpore creek. Thousands of nesting birds colonise the creek; marvel here at the aerial acrobatics performed prior to the mating makes for an impressive sight. Bhitarkanika is also home to eight varieties of kingfishers, which is quite a rarity.

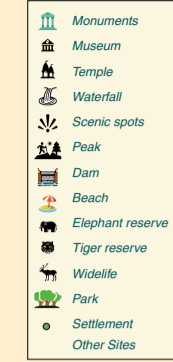
The Gahirmatha Marine Wildlife Sanctuary is the only marine sanctuary in Odisha and amongst the world's top nesting sites for the Olive Ridley turtle. The epic journey of the female turtles from the South Pacific Ocean to lay their eggs in the sand at Gahirmatha and Rushikulya rookery is truly an exceptional phenomenon. This is known as *Arribada* or mass nesting in Spanish. It's a breath-taking sight as about half a million of these species visit the beach annually. The eggs hatch after 45-60 days and the baby turtles start their perilous journey back into the sea. A special permission from the Forest Department is required to witness this amazing phenomenon. The Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is out of bounds for visitors during the nesting period of Olive Ridley Turtles.

Crocodiles, as master predators of the Bhitarkanika mangrove ecosystem, are at the apex of a pyramid linked to a food web that starts with algae and detritus sustaining shrimps and prawns. The latter constitutes a food source for species such as Bhikti. The



ODISHA TOURISM
 www.odishatourism.gov.in
 Odisha Tourism Development Corpn (OTDC)
 www.odishatourism.gov.in, panthanivas.com

Odisha



DEEP INTO THE MANGROVES

- Bhitarkanika
- Balasore
- Chandipur
- Bichitrapur
- Rissa Dam

PANTHANIVAS HOTELS

<p>BALASORE</p> <p>Panthanivas Chandipur Location Chandipur, Balasore Cell 0907888519, 08339093073 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>Location Near Circuit House, Paradeep Tel 06722-222275 Cell 0907888529, 09861180573 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p>KEONJHAR</p> <p>Panthasala Chandaneswar Location At/Post Talsari, PO Chandaneswar, Balasore Cell 0907888518, 09438044650 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>Panthanivas Keonjhar Location Judia, Keonjhar Tel 06766-253603 Cell 09437833115 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p>BHADRAK</p> <p>Aganyanivas Bhitarkanika Location Dangomola Cell 09438001544, 08249464613 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>BARKUL</p> <p>Panthanivas Barkul BOATING Location A/P Balugaon, Khurda Cell 0907888514 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p>IN CHANDABALI</p> <p>Aranya Nivas Chandabali (53 kms from Bhadrak, 35 kms from Bhitarkanika by boat) Location At/Post Chandabali, Bhadrak Tel 06786-220397 Cell 0907888517 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>PURI</p> <p>Panthanivas Puri Location Chakratirtha Road, Puri Tel 06752-222562 Cell 0907888530, 08763995298 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p>BHUBANESWAR</p> <p>Panthanivas Bhubaneswar Location Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar Tel 0674-2432515 Cell 0907888516 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>IN KONARK</p> <p>Yatrinivas Konark Location At/Post Konark, Puri Tel 06758-236820 Cell 09078885526, 09583700877, 07978481331 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p>CUTTACK</p> <p>Panthanivas Cuttack Location At/Post Buxi Bazaar, Cuttack Tel 06712-306916 Cell 09078885521 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>IN SATPADA</p> <p>Yatrinivas Satpada Location Via Bramhagiri, Puri Tel 06752-262077 Cell 09438210562, 09078885549 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
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<p>IN GOPALPUR</p> <p>Panthanivas Gopalpur Location At/Post Gopalpur, Ganjam Cell 0907888524, 07008152752 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>ROURKELA</p> <p>Panthanivas Rourkela Location Sector-5, Rourkela Tel 0661-2646568 Cell 09078885547 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p>JAGATSINGPUR</p> <p>IN PARADEEP</p> <p>Panthanivas Paradeep</p>	