

SAMBALPUR

Samaleswari Temple

Dedicated to the mother goddess Samaleswari, the city's presiding deity, this temple is very old. Situated on the banks of the Mahanadi River, it attracts devotees all year round. Do make it a point to watch the 36-minute Sound & Light Show, which is conducted in both Odia and Hindi, and highlights the history of the 16th century shrine and Sambalpur.



Textile Traditions

A visit to Sambalpur gives you a great opportunity to take away a tiny slice of the town's ancestral crafting traditions. Sambalpuri sarees are one of the richest expressions of Odisha's textile prowess. The town is also famous for its ikat (resist tie and dye) textile



traditions. This intricate process involves knotting selections of yarn before dipping them in separate colours one at a time; these are then woven on pit looms to produce some of the



Sambalpur Western Odisha

Thrilling cultural experiences can be enjoyed by visitors in one of Odisha's most exciting regions. Blessed with great natural beauty, a wealth of flora and fauna, religious diversity, adventure activities and culinary delights, Western Odisha is a highly rewarding holiday destination for all age groups

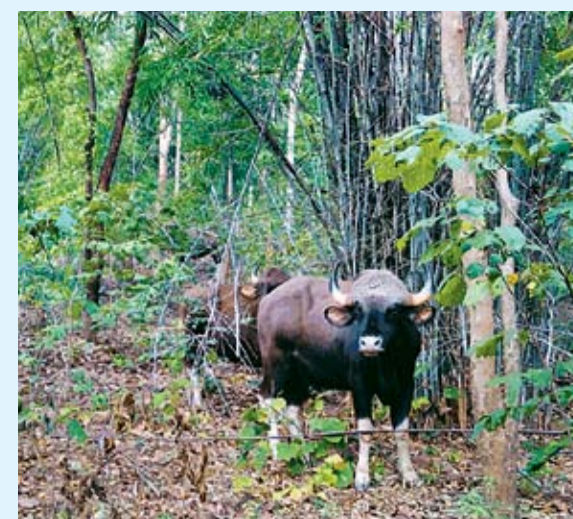
most delightful designs in jewel-like hues, with motifs inspired by nature, in threads of gold or cotton. In Sambalpuri weaves the most common motif is Pasapali, chess-board-like pattern. Take home the iconic double-ikat design saris for friends and family. Gol Bazaar in Sambalpur is one of the oldest markets of Odisha and you can shop here to your heart's content for Sambalpuri saris, Ikat fabric and kurtis from the many shops in the market. You can also shop online for these authentic handlooms on <https://utkalikaodisha.com> the official government website.

Hirakud

The standout attraction here is one of the world's longest earthen dams and stunning views of the Mahanadi. The massive reservoir, amongst the

largest in Asia, is spread over 746 sq. km. You can enjoy a range of thrilling experiences like birding on a boat safari, go island-hopping and

soak in the tranquil beauty of the water body. You can also indulge in several water sports available at the reservoir.



Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Following the shoreline of the Hirakud dam reservoir, Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife buff's dream destination. It offers thrilling aquatic and terrestrial explorations. A must-do is the guided jungle safari and personalised treks. The sanctuary is home to over 40 species of mammals, 234 species of birds, 41 species of 41 species of reptiles, 12 species of amphibians and around 150 varieties of spiders including the Black Wood Spider or Nephila Kuhlil species. If you're lucky, you can get sightings of the elusive leopards; keep your eyes peeled for the chousingha (four-horned antelope), Indian Bison, wild boars, sambhar and peacocks. Your base is the Debrigarh Nature Camp run by locals and serves delicious food. On the cards is the Island Odyssey and Hirakud Cruise service at the camp to go island-hopping.



BALANGIR TOWN

Harishankar Temple

This temple is unique as it features a rare instance where the Hindu deities Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu are together the object of worship in its sanctum. In a rare case, the names of the two deities are joined as one—Hari who is Lord Vishnu, and Shankar who is Lord Shiva. A perennial cascading stream and swathes of greenery in the area attract many nature lovers and adventure activities enthusiasts. You can enjoy a fun filled trek in the wooded hills and spend quality time soaking in the scenic beauty here.

RANIPUR-JHARIAL

Chausath Yogini

When you visit this unusual, secretive temple site, you will discover a new narrative about Odisha's spiritual pursuits. Of the four rare chausath yogini surviving temples in India, two are located in Odisha. One of these is at Ra-

nipur Jharial in Balangir District and the other lies in Hirapur near Bhubaneswar. The unique hypaethral (open-to-sky) shrine houses idols



of 64 yoginis or demigoddess carved in black stone. Goddess Kali is the presiding deity. The practitioners of the yogini cult, which flourished between the 8th century and 13th century CE, seek to attain direct supernatural powers with the benediction of the Yogini goddesses. The yogini cult, which believed in the worship of the five elements, also practiced yoga along with



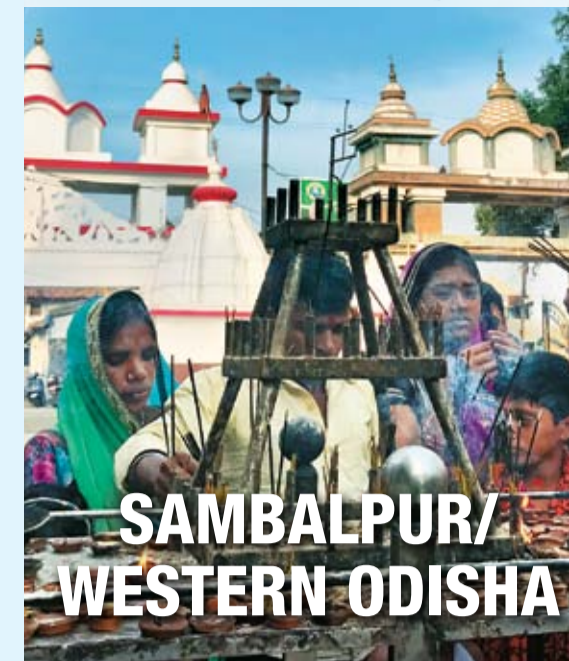
Tantric rites.

Nrusinghanath Temple, Muggal Village

Don't miss the opportunity to stop by at this popular shrine at the base of Gandhamardan Hills in Bargarh District. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu the Nrusinghanath Temple attracts devotees all year round, but the crowds are bigger on the occasion of Nrusingha Chaturdash. Surrounded by lush environs, the site also in-



Outlook



vites you to enjoy nature tours in the area.

Hockey Stadium—Rourkela

The Birs Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela will be India's largest hockey stadium. The FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 will be held here. The stadium complex is spread



over 15 acres on the campus of the Biju Patnaik University of Technology in Rourkela and features state-of-the-art facilities, a tunnel connecting the changing room and practice pitch along with an advanced fitness centre and a hydro-therapy pool around the pitch. It will be floodlit for the night time matches and accommodate up to 20,000 spectators.



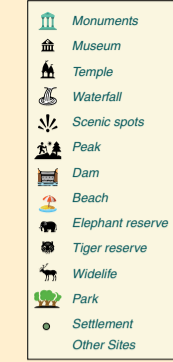
Khandadhar Waterfall

Plunging from a height of 244 m in height, it is said to be the 12th highest waterfall in India. The massive sheet of water falls in a sword-like shape, inspiring its name—which means sword (khanda) waterfall (dhar). You will love this awesome site as you join other picnickers in its lush wooded setting. You can enjoy this back-to-nature experience even further at the lovely Khandadhar Nature Camp here with 10 luxuriously furnished AC rooms. It's a great base for soft adventure activities like trekking, birding and cycling in the lush area.



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

Odisha



PANTHANIVAS HOTELS

<p>BALASORE</p> <p>Panthanivas Chandipur Location Chandipur, Balasore Cell 0907888519, 08339093073 bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p>Tel 06722-222275 Cell 09078885529, 09861180573 bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
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<p>JAGATSIINGPUR</p> <p>IN PARADEEP Panthanivas Paradeep Location Near Circuit House, Paradeep</p>	
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<p>ROURKELA</p> <p>Panthanivas Rourkela Location Sector-5, Rourkela Tel 0661-2646568 Cell 09078885547 bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	

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- RANIPUR-JHARIAL**
- Chausath Yogini
 - Nrusinghanath Temple, Mugal Village
 - Hockey Stadium – Rourkela
 - Khandadhar Falls