

**THE CASCADE TRAIL**  
Odisha by Road (3 Days/ 2 Nights)

**Ghatagaon Terracotta Village**  
From Keonjhar town the 50km ride is really worth your while to this earthy world of ancient tribal traditions.

At Ghatagaon, poetry flows from the earth...from the mesmerising array of terracotta products that come to life from the clay lump shaped by the deft hands of the innumerable potters and artisans who have made the place famous.

Terracotta as an art form has existed from the time of the Indus Valley civilisation with the term, 'terracotta' meaning baked earth. At Ghatagaon, the sheer grace and gentleness with which the potter's wheel is spun and the soft earthen mound begins to come to life in a multitude of shapes and sizes, assuming a soul of its own, mesmerizes you completely. Flower vases of varying shapes and sizes, all with dainty looking flowers painted on them in colours of yellow, red and green; artefacts with swan and elephant heads embellishing their handles; bowls with delicately crafted wavy rims painted in indigo and white. Figurines of resplendently decorated horses, wall hangings, coffee cups, incense stick stands, lamps, jewellery and handicrafts of a hundred hues; they all spring to life as your eyes gaze upon them with delight.

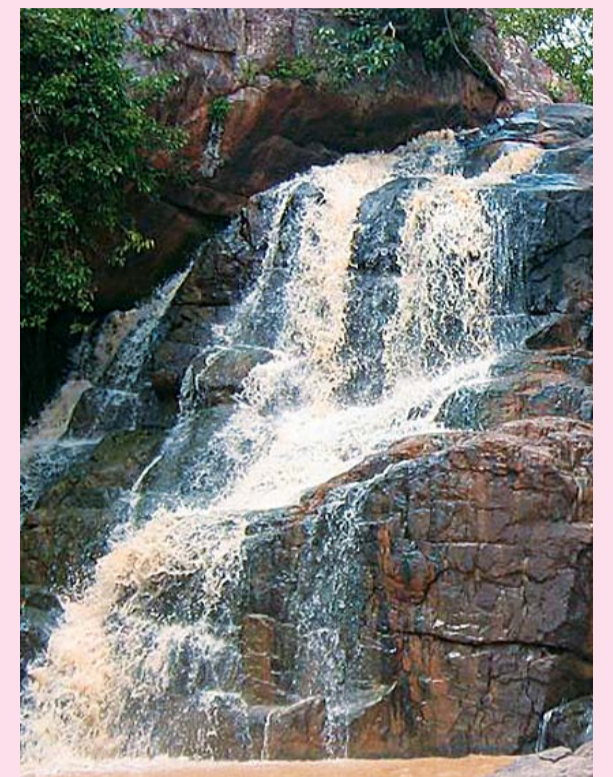
At Haldharpur block in Ghatagaon, there has been a subtle bond between the clay and the artisan for generations. Over a hundred families are involved in this art. Their works of rare artistry have been woven into the cultural heritage of the state of Orissa for long.

When the potter's wheel comes to a halt and the fire in the kiln burns with its orange-red flame, it brings to life inside it the very tapestry of creativity that the potters of Ghatagaon are capable of producing—for the rest of the country to marvel at.

*Stays Arranged*  
Sanaghagara Nature Camp, - OTDC PNS Keonjhar.  
Hotel Shreekhetra International

and January when it becomes quite crowded. A flight of steps descends to an area where the water collects in a turbulent pool which has been cordoned off to avoid mishaps. Caution is advised when using the steps as they can get a bit slippery from the spray! Boating can be enjoyed at the adjoining park which is popular with kids.

Just 10km away from Keonjhar town the Badaghagara Waterfall lies amidst lush environs. Dropping from a height of this hundred feet fall it cre-



ates a scenic spot for picnickers to gather and enjoy its exuberant splendour. It's a lovely gift from the Machhakandana River. The dam above the waterfall offers amazing views of the whole area. The hills around look so mesmerising and there is a calm to the whole area which works as a balm to even the young and restless traveller. An added attraction for adventurous travellers is the trekking trails in the forest and nearby places.

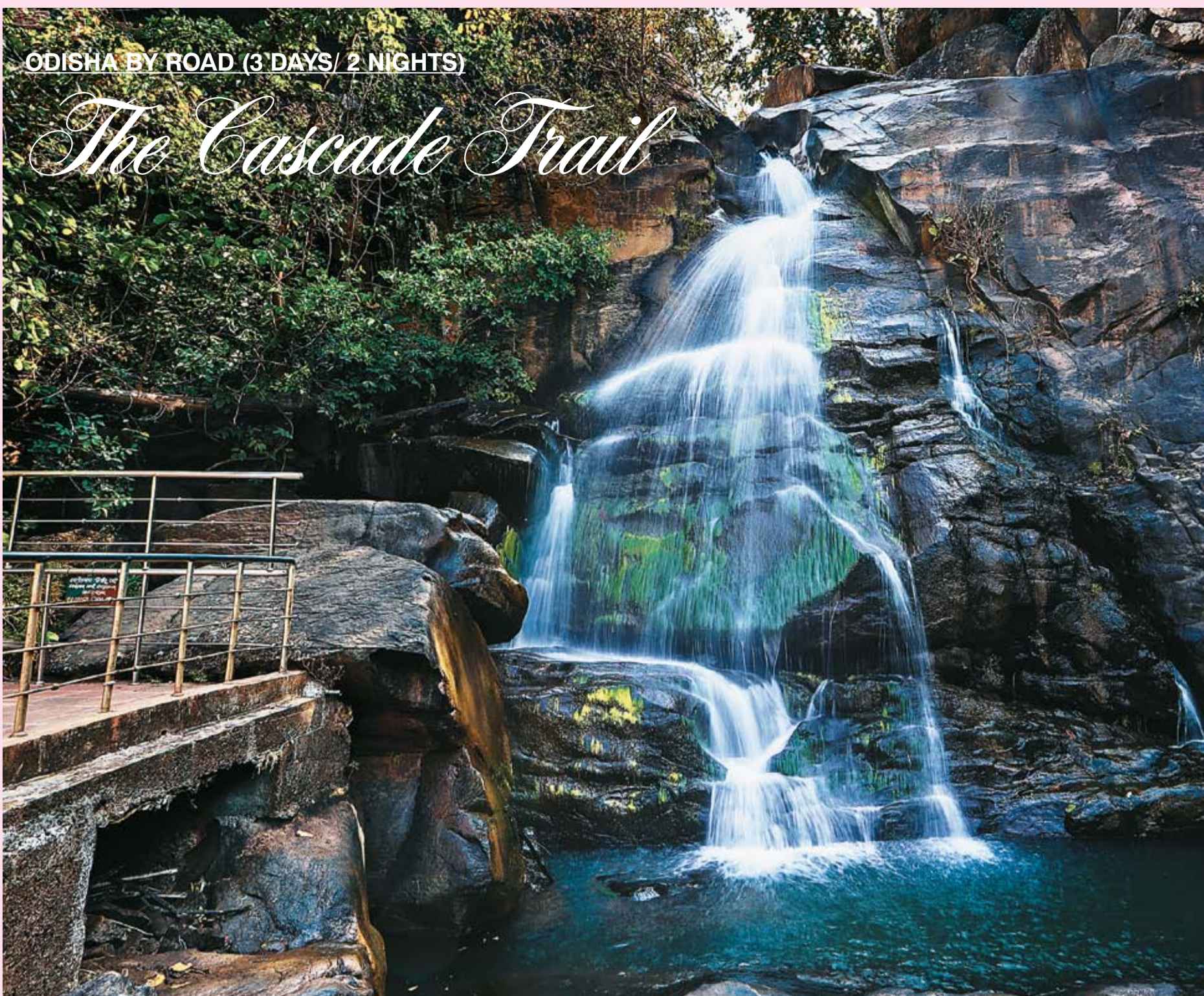
**Gundichaghai Waterfalls**  
The waters of the Musala River flow through a vast landscape of rocky terrain near Banachakulia village in Keonjhar district. The waterfall plunges 50ft down to the forest floor, tumbling down like boys let out of the school room, with a mighty display of crystalline splendour in three pearly white streams. Perhaps a poet's fertile imagination made it look like the three stripes on a squirrel's back! Hence the name, Gundichaghai; derived from the word, Gunduchi, which means squirrel in the Odia language. A bridge and a watch tower erected here are great for enjoying some really superb views of the falls.

Lots of spaces to picnic and lots of reasons too! Snack shops have mushroomed close to the falls. Visitors also pay their respects at the Maa Tarini Temple nearby. The falls are located 15 km from Ghatagaon.



**ODISHA BY ROAD (3 DAYS/ 2 NIGHTS)**

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opened umbrella. On its ceiling is illustrated with tempera paintings, quite similar to the Ajanta-style of art. Dating back to the fourth and fifth century, these paintings point out to Disabhanja being the earliest Bhanja king of the region. Half buried boulders in the vicinity with inscriptions on them and a Chaturmukha Linga, all also point to a thriving Shaiva cult in this place. Also discovered here have been fragmented bricks, soapstone figurines and other earthen remnants widely regarded as dating back to the Gupta period that flourished from the early fourth century to the sixth century.

accessed from both districts. Legend associates the falls to the epic Mahabharata, which mark Bhimkund as one of the places the Pandavas stayed at during their exile. The crystal clear falls are named after Bhima, the Pandava who is said to have hit the rocks here and the waterfall gushed out to quench the thirst of Draupadi. In the month of January during Makar Sankranti Festival, thousands of people gather here to take their holy dip in the sacred pool created by the falls. A Shiva temple nearby is a draw for the devout.

**Sitabinji Caves**  
Reaching Sitabinji, located about 35km from Keonjhar, you'll notice weirdly shaped gargantuan rocks, weather beaten and stark, that reach into the sky. And amidst these ancient rocks lie incredible stories that can hold you spellbound. There is to the place a remote distantness; the landscape, a mélange of dark rock and wild shrubbery which makes it all so intriguing. As you take in the solitude that pervades the place, your mind begins to imagine life as it existed hundreds, or even thousands of years ago. The site features the age old fresco paintings and associated with the legend of Ramayana. Two mammoth rocks stand at an angle from each other, creating an opening between them; as revealed by local myths, Sita, Lord Rama's wife, is said to have given birth to her twin sons, Luv and Kush, in this hidden spot while in exile.

The hermitage of Sage Valmiki is believed to have been situated along the banks of a river here which the local tribal communities revere as Sita's river. A noteworthy attraction here also is the an amazing rock known as Ravana Chaya, that looks like a half



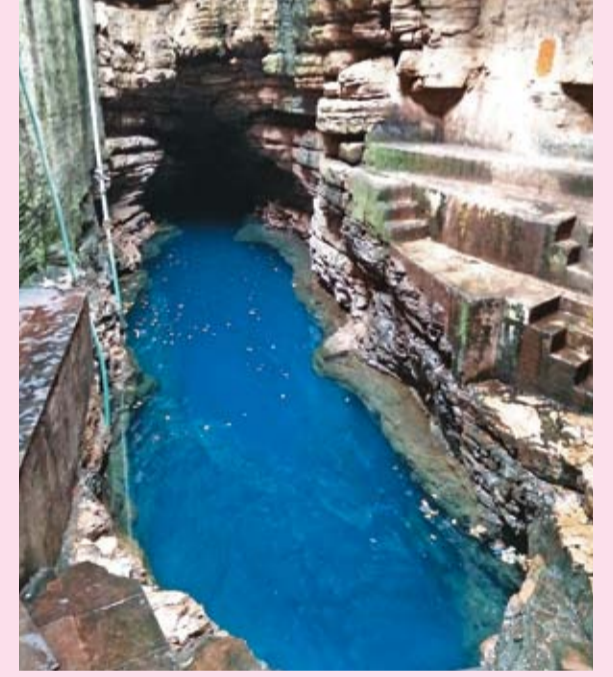
**Kanjipani Ghati**  
Just 30 km away from Keonjhar town and situated at a height of 610m Kanjipani Ghati, offers some of the most picturesque vignettes of the hill ranges. The uncommon splendour of this spot makes it perfect for taking lots of selfies. This insta-friendly scenic drive is a 20km stretch along NH-49 which offers a unique experience to nature lovers. The environs here are bountiful in flora and fauna. Trails of mist drop down the hillsides during the monsoons when it becomes even more lush and beautiful. In winter temperatures can drop down to 0°C at these cooling heights.

**Sanaghagara and Badaghagra**  
The twin waterfalls of Sanaghagara Badaghagara are located deep inside the forested hills of Keonjhar district. Visitors love their awesome beauty after a good monsoon.  
The Sanaghagara Waterfall, a gift from the Machha Kandana River is known as the smaller waterfall and drops in two cascades. Located just 8km from Keonjhar town, this is a perennial waterfall that makes its way through undulating Dolerite rocky escarpments. It's a favourite picnic spot for the local gentry from the city, especially between November

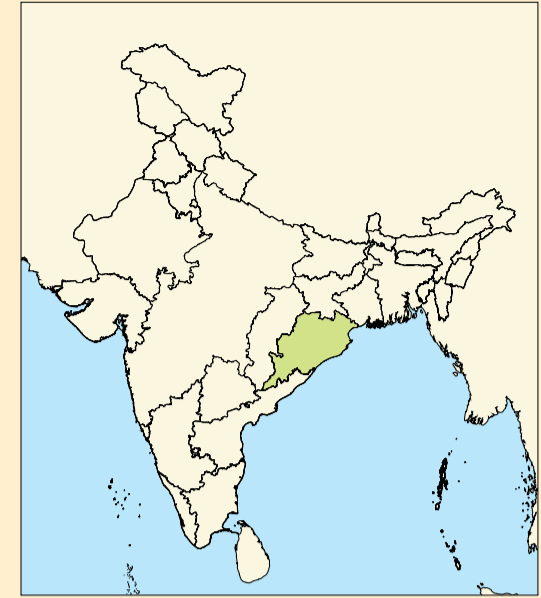


**Ranchi to Keonjhar**  
**Attractions** Bhimkund, Sanaghagra Nature Camp, Keonjhar, Sitabinji Caves, Kanjipani Ghati, Gundichaghai Waterfalls, Ghatagaon Terracotta, Handicraft Block  
This exciting programme introduces you to major attractions such as – Bhimkund, Keonjhar, Sitabinji Caves (famous for the fresco paintings and rock inscription), the panoramic Kanjipani Ghati, the lovely twin waterfalls of Sanaghagara and Badaghagra, the Gundichaghai Waterfalls, Ghatagaon Terracotta village, Handicraft Block

**Bhimkund**  
Set upon the border of Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj districts Bhimkund Waterfalls, comprising twin streams created by the River Baitrani, can be



# Odisha



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- Bhimkund
- Sitabinji Caves
- Kanjipani Ghati
- Sanaghagara and Badaghagra
- Gundichghai Waterfalls

## PANTHANIVAS HOTELS

<p><b>BALASORE</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Chandipur</b> 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>
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<p><b>IN CHANDABALI</b></p> <p><b>Aranya Nivas</b> 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><b>PURI</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Puri</b> Location Chakratirtha Road, Puri Tel 06752-222562 Cell 0907888530, 08763995298 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
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<p><b>GANJAM</b></p> <p><b>IN RAMBHA</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Rambha Next to Chilika</b> <b>BOATING</b> Location At/Post Rambha, Ganjam Tel 06810-278346 Cell 09437514896 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p><b>SAMBALPUR</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Sambalpur</b> Location Brook Hills, Sambalpur Tel 06632-411282 Cell 09078885548, 09438576069 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p><b>IN GOPALPUR</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Gopalpur</b> Location At/Post Gopalpur, Ganjam Cell 09078885524, 07008152752 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p><b>ROURKELA</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Rourkela</b> Location Sector-5, Rourkela Tel 0661-2646568 Cell 09078885547 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
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