

Gandhamardan hills and offer medical facilities to about 50,000 tribal people. Two Ayurvedic colleges and hospitals are on both sides of Gandhamardan — one in Bargarh district and the other in Balangir.

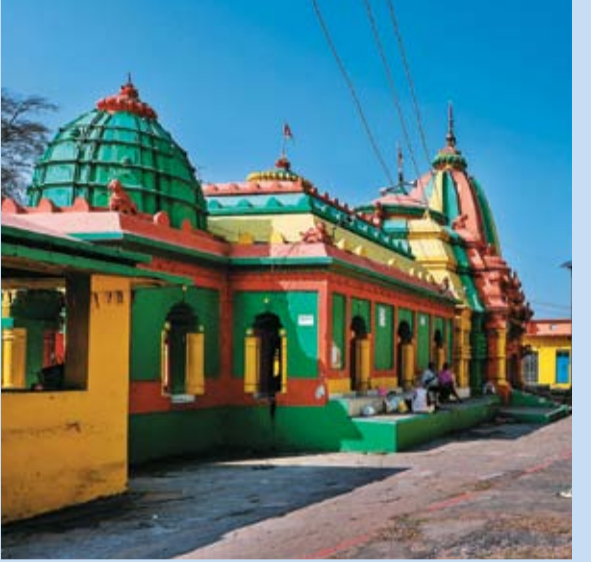
**Ranipur-Jharial**  
When you visit this unusual, secretive temple site, you will discover a new narrative about Odisha's spiritual pursuits. Of the four rare chausath yogini surviving temples in India, two are in Odisha. One of these is at Ranipur Jharial in Balangir District and the other lies in 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.

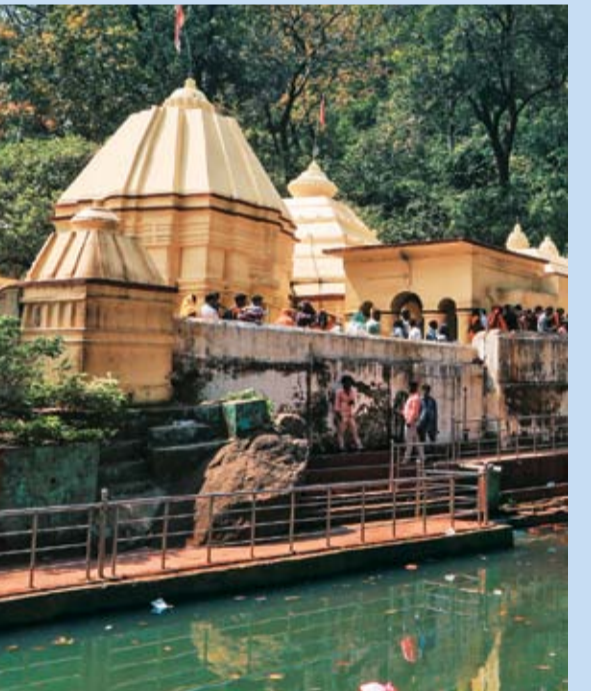
*Stays Arranged*  
Satkosia Sand Resort. SATKOSIA NATURE CAMPS include Baghamunda Nature Camp; Chhotkei Nature Camp; Purunakote Nature Camp; Tarava Nature Camp and Tikarpada Nature Camp (TIPPS). Debrigarh Nature Camp, Hirakud Eco Retreat; Sambalpur PNS, Debrigarh Nature Camp and Luxury/Hotels in Sambalpur/Jharsuguda; Hotel Shanti Residency Pipul Hotel Celebration.

**Kotsamalai**  
Patali Sriketra is of historic significance for the Subarnapur/Sonepur district and Odisha. This religious spot is associated with Shaktism, Buddhism and Vaishnavism. It is located at the foot of Trikut Hill in Kotsamalai village. A commonly held belief, as culled from an inscription from the Madala Panzi, is that the idols of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra were kept in hiding in the caves of the Trikut hill. This happened during the invasion of Muslim General Raktavahu who attacked the



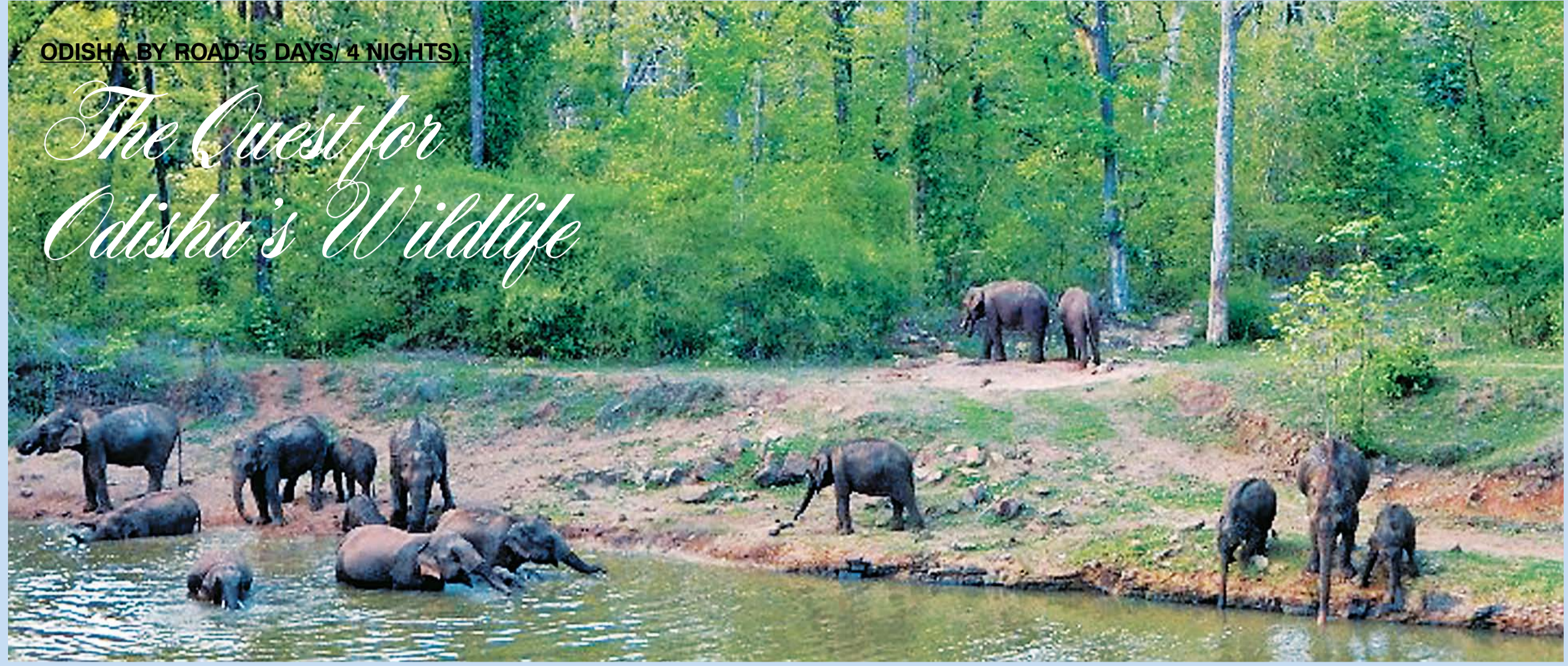
Jagannath Temple at Puri at the time Raja Saban Deva was ruling. The idols had been spirited away under his directions. They were kept in hiding for 144 years. Hindu ruler Jagat Keshari is said to have after investigations about the missing idols, had the cave reopened. But the idols, traditionally made from sanctified wood had withered away. Under the king's directions, the remnants that were found of the idols were then gathered up and new idols created by adding these remains. The new idols were then re-installed in the temple at Puri.

**Balangir**  
The Harishankar Temple in Balangir is unique as it features a rare instance where the Hindu deities Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu are together the object of wor-



ship 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 activity enthusiasts. You can enjoy a fun filled trek in the wooded hills and spend quality time soaking in the scenic beauty here.

**Gandhamardhan Hill Range**  
Scattered across the range are several ruins of ancient Buddhist sites. Rich in bio-diversity Gandhamardhan mountain ranges are a delight for adventure buffs. The walking trails reveal why the area is renowned for its great wealth of medicinal plants. According to a Botanical Survey of India report 220 plant species of medicinal value have been identified here. Locals claim that there are over 500 species of medicinal plants in this area. The flora of the buffer zone is most vulnerable. Over 100 traditional healthcare practitioners live in and around the



and the Eastern Ghats. This bio-diverse hotspot is home to the Satkosia Tiger Reserve and you will love the fact that the luxurious Satkosia Eco-Retreat nestles on the banks of the Mahanadi River next to the tiger sanctuary. It is an idyllic spot for leisure and adventure activities. From these gorgeous environs surrounding the Mahanadi River, you can thrill to highly rewarding river safari experiences. Soak up those vignettes of sunbathing muggers, gharials and turtles by the river—and even animals roaming along the forest shoreline of the Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary is a virtual paradise of delights for the wildlife enthusiasts as its home to chiefly tigers, leopards chital, nilgai, gaur, sloth bear, wild dog, chousingha and wild boar. It's also rich in avifaunal species, both resident and migratory species. This is one of India's rare riverine sanctuaries. On a water safari in the gorge, look for sunbathing gharials, crocodiles and water fowl.

Surrounded by the jungles of Satkosia Tiger Reserve, the **Satkosia Sands Resort** at Badmul is located on the foothills of majestic mountains facing the Satkosia Gorge where the magnificent Mahanadi meanders through the golden sand bars. The eco-resort has luxurious AC Cottages/AC Tented Cottages on mountain slope facing the Satkosia Gorge and the eco-camp has luxurious Swiss Tents pitched on the sandbar of the River Mahanadi. Activities on offer include boating, boating on the Mahanadi, river cruise, folk dances, sand sports, eco-cycling, swimming, jungle trek and birding.

There are several other stay options under the Satkosia Nature Camps umbrella: the **Northern Side** has the **Chhotkei Nature Camp** a community-run nature camps, located 8 kms away from Purunakote. It speaks of conservation awareness, education and provides immense nature camping experiences to visitors. It is managed by the Eco-tourism group of Chhotkei. Besides catering facilities, optional activities, like boating along the Mahanadi river, nature trekking, bird watching are the part of the programme. **Tikarpada Nature Camp** gives an intense nature camping experience, offers double bedded tents with toilets with running water supported with security and catering arrangements. It is run by a community managed eco-tourism group (TIPPS). Package includes boating (in permissible area) on the river Mahanadi and viewing the majestic gorge and towering mountains on the both sides, one can sight plenty of crocodiles basking on the sandbanks. Nature lovers and bird watchers can walk around and discover the unspoiled wilderness on the nature trail. **Purunakote Nature Camp** has cottages and tents with thatched roofs. Wild animals can be seen around this camp. Optional activities include boating (in the permitted area along the Mahanadi River), treks, camp fire. It is managed by the Purunakote Eco-tourism group.

**Sambalpur**  
Dedicated to the mother goddess Samaleswari, the city's presiding deity, this Samaleswari temple is very old. Located 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.

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 most delightful designs in jewel-like hues, with motifs inspired by nature, in threads of gold or cotton. 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 numerous shops in the market. You can also shop online for these authentic handlooms on <https://utkalikaodisha.com> the official government website.



**Hirakud**  
Steep yourself in the stunning views of Asia's longest earthen dam from the luxurious setting of the Hirakud Eco-Retreat, 15km away from Sambalpur town. Explore the cultural delights of Western Odisha from the eco-retreat's location between the beautiful Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Hirakud Reservoir. Indulge in a range of thrilling watersports such as parasailing, jet skiing and banana boat rides. Unleash the wildlife enthusiast in you on a guided trek through the Debrigarh WLS. Shop for handicrafts and handlooms, and visit the Maa Samaleswari Temple, which also mounts an excellent Sound & Light Show. Unwind later in the confines of your luxurious Swiss cottage at the **Hirakud Eco-Retreat** before the evening programme of cultural performances and an excellent dinner. Hirakud Eco-Retreat also offers visits to Hirakud Dam, local sightseeing tour, on-site activities such as film screening.



**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. You get to enjoy rewarding birding experiences, sighting both native and migratory bird species, guided jungle safaris and treks. On the cards is the Island Odyssey and Hirakud Cruise service at the camp to go island-hopping.

**Huma**  
There are a few things that absolutely take your breath away. One such architectural marvel is India's very own leaning tower. The inclined Huma Temple on the banks of River Mahanadi, close to Hirakud and Sambalpur, is a one-of-a-kind structure. Built in the 17th century during the reign of Baliar Singh, the fifth Raja of Sambalpur, Huma Temple tilts in one direction. There are various theories explaining this anomaly, including an earthquake. It is said long ago a gauda (milkman) crossed the Mahanadi daily to a spot on the bank where he offered milk on a rocky outcrop, which seemed, magically, to consume it. This led to the construction of the temple. Next to the temple, in the River Mahanadi, a sacred fish called Kudo is also fed grains by devotees. The best time to visit the temple is during Shivratri, when an annual fair held here draws visitors from far and wide.

**Raipur to Debrigarh via Hirakund**  
**Attractions** - Satkosia Nature Camps, Debrigarh Nature Camp (Hirakud), Huma, Samaleswari Temple, Sambalpur, Kotsamalai, Balangir, Gandhamardhan Hills, Ranipur Jharial, Chausathi Yogini Temple

Follow this exciting trail to discover wonders like the World's Longest Earthen Dam at Hirakud. Indulge in a range of boating adventures on the Hirakud Reservoir. Tuck into delicious western Odisha cuisine in Sohela in Bargarh District. Head out for jungle safari in the beautiful Debrigarh WLS known animals like Indian bison, chousingha and migratory birds. Stop by at the famous Samaleswari Temple and Leaning Temple of Huma. Enjoy boat rides on the Satkosia Gorge. Do a leisurely jungle trek, go birding. Enjoy Outdoor Games, Star Gazing etc on the bank of River Mahanadi. Stay in Cottages / Luxury Tents at the Nature Camp. Spend time at Harishankar - Nrusinghath Temples and the Gandhamardhan Hills. Drop by Sonepur for beautiful textiles on the way back to Raipur. Explore the Chausath Yogini Temple at Ranipur Jharial, an ancient hub for Saivism, Buddhism, Vaisnavism and Tantrism.

**Satkosia**  
Rising from its headwater in Chhattisgarh, the Mahanadi river flows into Odisha through its western border. Passing in a series of rapids, it forces its way through the Eastern Ghat hills, giving rise to one of



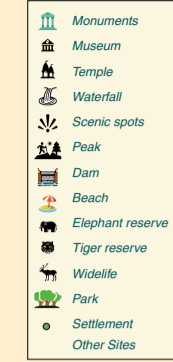
the most picturesque gorges in India, the Satkosia gorge. The mixed deciduous forests along the 22-km long deep gorge have been declared a sanctuary. The name of the gorge originates from the old local measurement of its length, 'saat kos' or 14 miles (22 km). The river is home to crocodiles and gharial (fish eating crocodiles found in the northern part of India). A gharial research and conservation unit was opened in Tikarpada in 1975. In 2007, the Satkosia Gorge Wildlife Sanctuary and its adjoining Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary, covering a little over 900 sq km were earmarked as the Satkosia Tiger Reserve in 2007.

The Satkosia Gorge is the meeting point of two biogeographic regions of India—the Deccan Peninsula



**ODISHA TOURISM**  
[odishatourism.gov.in](http://odishatourism.gov.in)  
Odisha Tourism Development Corpn (OTDC)  
[odishatourism.gov.in](http://odishatourism.gov.in), [panthanivas.com](http://panthanivas.com)

# Odisha



## 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>
<p><b>KEONJHAR</b></p> <p><b>Panthasala Chandaneswar</b> Location At/Post Talsari, PO Chandaneswar, Balasore Cell 0907888518, 09438044650 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p><b>Panthanivas Keonjhar</b> Location Judia, Keonjhar Tel 06766-253603 Cell 09437833115 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p><b>BHADRAK</b></p> <p><b>Aganyanivas Bhitarkanika</b> Location Dangomola Cell 09438001544, 08249464613 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p><b>BARKUL</b> <b>Panthanivas Barkul</b> <b>BOATING</b> Location A/P Balugaon, Khurda Cell 0907888514 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<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 Chandibali, 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>
<p><b>BHUBANESWAR</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Bhubaneswar</b> Location Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar Tel 0674-2432515 Cell 0907888516 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p><b>KONARK</b></p> <p><b>Yatrinivas Konark</b> Location At/Post Konark, Puri Tel 06758-236820 Cell 09078885526, 09583700877, 07978481331 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p><b>CUTTACK</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Cuttack</b> Location At/Post Buxi Bazaar, Cuttack Tel 06712-306916 Cell 09078885521 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>	<p><b>SATPADA</b></p> <p><b>Yatrinivas Satpada</b> Location Via Bramhagiri, Puri Tel 06752-262077 Cell 09438210562, 0907888549 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p><b>GANJAM</b></p> <p><b>IN RAMBHA</b> <b>Panthanivas Rambha</b> Next to Chilika <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 0907888524, 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>
<p><b>IN PARADEEP</b></p> <p><b>Panthanivas Paradeep</b></p>	<p><b>JAGATSINGPUR</b></p>

## THE QUEST FOR ODISHA'S WILDLIFE

- Satkosia
- Sambalpur
- Hirakud
- Huma
- Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kotsamalai
- Balangir
- Gandhamardhan Hill Range
- Ranipur-Jharial