

# Tiger Trails & Royalty

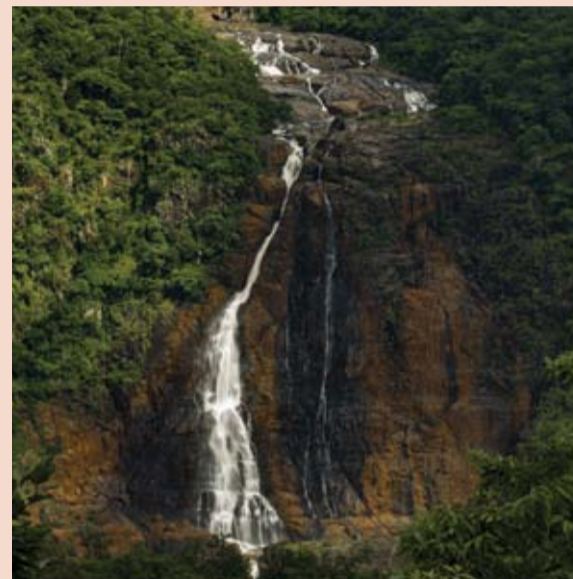


'Tiger Reserve' in 1973 under the 'Project Tiger'. At the heart of the mighty 5569 sq km sprawl of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the park lies the lovely Simlipal Wildlife Sanctuary, which was created in 2008. It is an attractive habitat of tigers, leopards, elephants, chital, sambar and about 300 avifaunal species. The Simlipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve is also called the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve. A trip to Barehipani Waterfall, the second highest waterfall in India, should be on your bucket-list. There are several other waterfalls which attract visitors here, including Joranda and the smaller Uski waterfall where you can even enjoy a bath. The park is notable for its high botanical wealth and many orchid species, some of which are showcased at the on-site orchidarium.

The game park and surrounds can be explored from various nature camps. Enjoy a range of activities at the national park, including jungle safaris, guided treks and birding excursions.

### Barehipani Waterfall

The 1,309 feet waterfall inside the Simlipal Wildlife Sanctuary is the highest in Odisha. The two-tiered waterfall, including a straight drop of 850 feet, rushes



down the verdant Meghasuni hill. Walk down the path leading from the parking area to the forest rest house complex. There is a viewpoint at one end of the complex.

### Joranda Waterfall

Exploding enthusiastically down a verdant hillside in the jungles of Simlipal WLS, Joranda plummets almost 500 feet to form a pool at the bottom before rushing away through the thick forest. To get the best views head for the designated Viewpoint.



### Simlipal Nature Camp

Simlipal Nature Camp offers jungle safaris, birding excursions, trekking, sports, photography, waterfall visit, farm visit, cultural tours, star gazing, bonfire, etc;

### Sitakund Waterfall

Less than a kilometre from Simlipal's Pithabata Gate and lying within the protected area is this scenic corner. The cascades rushing over boulders create small pools. The site is linked to Sita, Lord Rama's wife, who is said to have bathed in the pool here.



### Devkund Waterfall

Also known as Deekund (the lake for the gods), this picturesque picnic point is about 60km from Baripada town. The chief draw here is this exuberant waterfall that thunders down from boulders as several streams. Vehicles go up to the base of the hill from where one has to trek to a temple on top of a hillock beyond which the waterfall rises. The temple is dedicated to the goddess Ambika. The idol in the sanctum has now been moved to a temple in Baripada town. Be here during the monsoons to see the falls in all their glory. Keep in mind, however, that the incessant rain makes the stone steps leading to the falls quite slippery. You can enjoy the falls even post-monsoon and in the winter when picnicking crowds gather for a leisurely time in the lap of nature.

### Mugger Project At Ramatirtha

The Ramatirtha Center in Simlipal, which host a project for the conservation of Mugger crocodiles, initially started with eggs and juveniles of Mugger bought from Tamil Nadu. Since 1984, breeding of Muggers and the release of young ones into the nature in Simlipal have been carried out, and so far over 600 crocodiles have been released in Simlipal. A census was conducted to ascertain the population status of



Mugger crocodiles in the prominent rivers/water bodies inside the Simlipal WLS. The mugger is found in freshwater habitats such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs and coastal saltwater lagoons, according to the IUCN.

### Athara Deula Temple

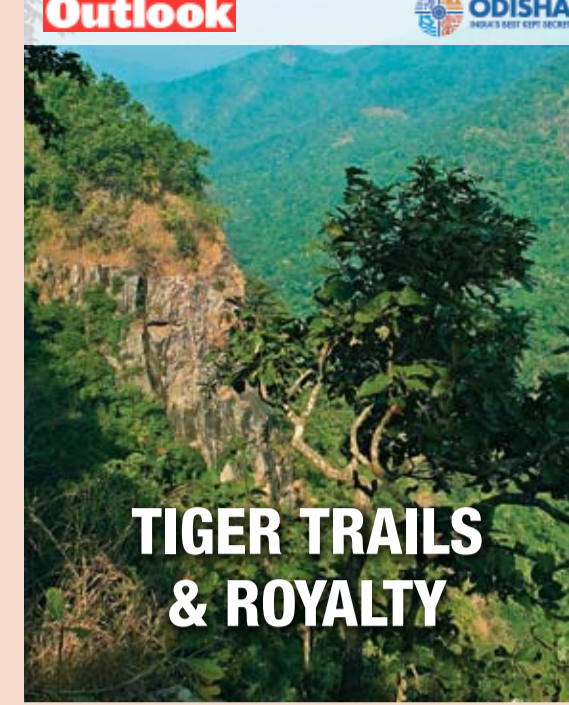
The Athara Deula Temple trail comprises 18 temples scattered in and around Simlipal. Manab Deula is the core area of Bakua range of the Simlipal Wildlife sanctuary in Mayurbhanj District. The Athara (18) deula (temples) puja was launched in the months of Chaitra for 10 days; this worship program was conceived by Dehuri King Sj. Brundaban Mohapatra Maharaj of Sanamamulia Ashram, Khunta. It took place both at Baripada and Jashipur sites at the Simlipal.

### Khiching

The first capital of the Bhanj rulers of Khijjinga Mandala, Khiching lies about 150km away from Baripada and 48km from Jashipur, the entry point for the Simlipal Wildlife Sanctuary. Dedicated to the goddess Kichakeswari (an incarnation of goddess Chandi), the tutelary deity of the royal house of Mayurbhanj, the temple is known for its architectural style. Located in a beautifully landscaped spot the structure, which is constructed with chlorite slabs, follows the 'Rekha Deul' style of Kalinga architecture but without the porch that you will have seen in other



temples. The 100 feet tall temple stands on a plinth of 1,764 square feet. The original temple, built in the 9th/10th century, was restored in 1934, under the patronage of Maharaj Pratap Chandra Bhanj Deo, and later under the aegis of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Also located here is the Chandrashekhar Shiva temple. The temple complex



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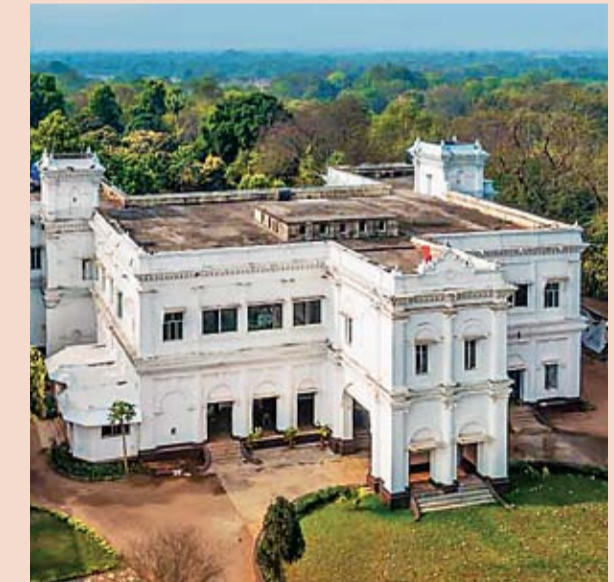
opens daily at 7.30am/8 am and remains open till noon; then again from 3pm to 8pm. Do make it a point to also visit the small museum at the site. Set up in 1922 it houses some sculptures excavated or saved during the restoration, including Buddhist statues. The biggest festival celebrated here is Durga Puja—both the autumn and spring editions. During Shivratri, a huge fair is held for a fortnight. There are shops near the main entrance from where you may buy hand carved images as souvenirs.

### Keonjhar

The fabulous natural heritage of Odisha Keonjhar district is a nature lover's dream... a virtual Eden of earthly delights. Dancing waterfalls... placid ponds unexpectedly embedded in groves where birds dive and shy deer come to drink... silvery streams that mirror the rich canopy of the forest... Yes! Keonjhar has all this and more to gladden even the heart of a true-blue city slicker. Unmissable fun experiences await picnicking visitors at the famous waterfalls such as Bhimkund, Sanaghagara and Badagahra Gundichaghai in the lush jungles here.

### Belgadia Palace

This magnificent gleaming white double-storied palace, the home of the present generation of the Bhanj Deo family, was initially built for Sucharu Devi, the daughter of Keshub Chandra Sen, a noted 19th-century philosopher and social reformer of Bengal. Sriram Chandra Bhanj Deo had fallen in love with young Sucharu while he was in Calcutta. However, then he could not marry her owing to family obligations.



Although the king married into a royal family as was the want, Sucharu Devi refused to get married. After the death of his first wife, the king married Sucharu Devi. Recently the family, who lives in a part of the palace, has opened the remaining section as a boutique hotel. The young members of the family are also promoting local handicrafts by supporting the crafts people.

### Stays Arranged

Simlipal Nature Camp, Aranya Nivas Resort, Lulung; Belgadia Palace/ PNS Baripada.

**Ranchi to Simlipal TR & Baripada(Mayurbhanj)**  
Attractions Khiching, Simlipal Nature Camp, Sitakund Waterfall, Devkund Waterfall, Joranda Waterfall, Athara Deula Temple, Keonjhar, Duduma Waterfall

Wildlife and Nature buffs will love this journey on which one can visit the 399m Barehipani Waterfall (highest falls in Odisha), enjoy peacock and sambar-spotting at Chahala, a morning jungle safari in the stunning Simlipal Biosphere Reserve, visiting waterfalls like Sitakund, Devkund, Joranda, Uski Waterfall, the Mugger Crocodile Rearing Park, the Krushna Mohan Hanumana, ancient Athara Deula Temple and heritage spots like Khiching.

### Similipal Biosphere Reserve

This picturesque forest, to which the Mayurbhanj rulers extended their protection in the mid-19th century, now wears many hats—a sanctuary, it is a tiger reserve and is also a part of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Reserve. It is said that the park was named after the 'simul' (silk cotton) tree found here. The park is surrounded by hills and plateaus, and in plain sight of the twin peaks Khairiburu and

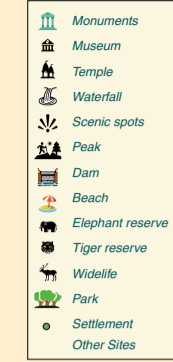
Meghashini. Several rivers wend their way through the forest, including the Burhabalanga. There are several waterfalls inside the park of which the Barehipani and the Joranda are most popular. The forest is rich and flora and fauna.

This is one of the most popular game parks in Odisha and is reputed for being the only reserve in the world for the melanistic tiger. An expanse of over 2750 sq km of the area was declared as a



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# Odisha



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- Devkund Waterfall
- Mugger Project At Ramatirtha
- Athara Deula Temple
- Khiching
- Keonjhar
- Duduma Waterfall

## 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></p> <p><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, 09078885549 W bookodisha.com Mobile app: bookodisha</p>
<p><b>GANJAM</b></p> <p><b>IN RAMBHA</b> Panthanivas Rambha 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>JAGATSINGPUR</b></p> <p><b>IN GOPALPUR</b> Panthanivas Gopalpur 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>
<p><b>IN PARADEEP</b></p> <p>Panthanivas Paradeep</p>	