



Odisha

Includes ➔

Bhubaneswar	595
Puri	604
Konark	608
Chilika Lake	609
Gopalpur-on-Sea	611
Koraput	612
Around Koraput	613
Rayagada	615
Pusphagiri Ruins	617
Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary	618

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Wildgrass Restaurant (p607)
- ➔ Kila Dalijoda (p616)
- ➔ Kanika (p600)
- ➔ Odisha Hotel (p600)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Kila Dalijoda (p616)
- ➔ Chandoori Sai (p614)
- ➔ Desia (p615)
- ➔ Gajlaxmi Palace (p616)
- ➔ Nature Camp Bhitarkanika (p619)
- ➔ Garh Dhenkanal Palace (p616)

Why Go?

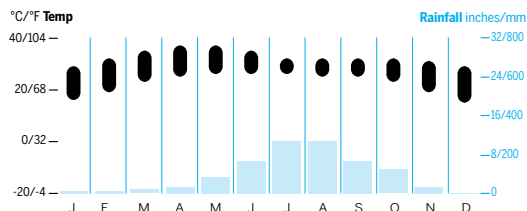
An off-the-beaten-track favourite for more adventurous types, Odisha (Orissa) rewards those who make the effort with an intricate patchwork of history, fascinating tribal culture and natural beauty, along with an old-fashioned sprinkling of sun and sand.

The forested hills of the southwest keep Adivasi (tribal) groups largely hidden from mainstream tourism, but it is still possible to visit their fascinating weekly markets and interact with villagers leading traditional lives. Forests elsewhere – both inland and along the coast – are home to some of Odisha's wonderful nature reserves, where you can spy on 6m-long crocs, rare dolphins, endangered sea turtles and thousands of nesting birds.

Foodies will relish a whole new set of regional flavours cooked up in Odishan kitchens, while history buffs will be left salivating over long-lost Buddhist universities, ancient Jain rock carvings and centuries-old Hindu relics, including Konark's unparalleled Sun Temple.

When to Go

Bhubaneswar



Nov–Mar Warm and dry; best for wildlife-spotting in the nature reserves.

Jun & Jul It's baking, but Puri's Rath Yatra festival is Odisha's biggest celebration.

Dec The Unesco-protected Sun Temple is the magnificent backdrop for the seductive Konark Festival.



Odisha Highlights

- 1 Sun Temple (p608)**
Marvelling at the magnificence of Konark's 800-year-old Unesco-protected edifice.
- 2 Koraput (p612)**
Venturing deep into the hills of Odisha's tribal country to visit tribal markets and villages.
- 3 Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary (p618)** Cruising

- past estuarine crocodiles in the mangrove swamps.
- 4 Bhubaneswar (p595)**
Touring some of the 50-odd ancient temples that still remain in Odisha's capital city.
 - 5 Kila Dalijoda (p616)**
Cycling through pristine villages while staying at this heritage home.

- 6 Chilika Lake (p609)**
Spotting rare Irrawaddy dolphins and a wealth of birdlife.
- 7 Puri (p604)** Tapping into the traveller vibe in Odisha's most appealing town.
- 8 Saktosia Tiger Sanctuary (p603)** Gazing across the sands of the Mahanadi River from your tent.