

ODISHA

Odisha is the Eastern shore of India. It has many friendly neighbours. Jharkhand, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Chhattisgarh are all its neighbours.

Odisha has different kinds of landforms and it's lucky to have a bit of coastline as well.

The land of Odisha is very old. Some of the oldest rocks on Earth are found here.



INTRODUCTION

Odisha's cities are both historical and modern. Many of these cities have a long and rich history. But they have modernized today.

Odisha has a colourful lot of people. The tribes of Odisha have lovely names. Santhal, Savara, Juang, Khond, Gond, Oraon & Bhuiyan are some. It is said that Odisha has among the greatest number and types of tribes in India. Some of these tribes live in rather isolated areas, & their lifestyle is still very simple.

Oriya is an interesting oldest language, it has many dialects and versions too. A lot of people in Odisha can also speak in Bengali.

HISTORY

Odisha has had many names throughout history. It was called Utkala, Kalinga, Oddaka, and Odra Desha in some of the oldest literature found.

The Kalinga war is famous because it was after this war that Emperor Asoka changed his ways and adopted Buddhism.

Cuttack in Odisha is the birthplace of our great leader Netaji. The Netaji Birth Place is the ancestral home of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, known as Janakinath Bhawan, located at Oriya Bazar in Cuttack.



GEOGRAPHICAL SETTINGS

- **Rivers:** There are some big and generous rivers in Odisha that keep the farms well irrigated. The Mahanadi, the Subarnarekha, the Budhabalanga, the Baitarani, the Brahmani are some of them.
- **Season:** The climate in Odisha is not too hot and too cold. It's perfect tropical climate. It rains from June to September with the Eastern Ghats getting the most rain.
- Odisha has loads of forests with many types of trees. There are many lovely birds and animals live in these forests.
- Odisha has one of India's largest saltwater lagoons, Chilka Lake. It is home to a whole lot of migratory birds, some wonderful underwater life and rare plants too. Around this lake, there are more than 150 species of birds that appear during the peak season between November and February. Some migratory birds at Chilka Lake fly all the way from Iran, Siberia and Central Asia. The government has built many wildlife sanctuaries and parks, where animals are protected.

CAPITAL: BHUBANESWAR

The capital city of Odisha is an important cultural and historical city, full of ancient monuments. Its history can be traced all the way back to the third century BCE. It has also been chosen to become one of India's Smart Cities due to its great infrastructures.



BERHAMPUR

Berhampur is one of Odisha's largest cities. It is famous for its silk saris (Berhampur Patta Silk). It has many temples and unique culture.

Berhampur along with regions of Southern Odisha, have been a core part of ancient Kalinga empire.

Berhampur is famous for its foods, markets, and also known as the food Capital of Odisha.

Gopalpur port is a deep-sea port of Gopalpur near Berhampur city in Ganjam district, Odisha. The port has been developed on the Bay of Bengal.



CUTTACK

Cuttack used to be the capital of Odisha at one time. The word Kataka means fort or military camp. People also called Cuttack, the Millenium City, because it said to be really old. Some call it the Silver city, because of its famous silver-filigree work.

Cuttack is an important city and District headquarters. Cuttack is known as the business capital of Odisha

At the heart of Cuttack , stands an esteemed institution that pays homage to one of India's greatest freedom fighters: Subhas Chandra Bose.



SAMBALPUR

This city is a commercial and educational hub. It is well-known for the famous Sambalpuri saree. It also has Hirakund Dam, one of the world's longest Earthen dam.



ROURKELLA

A super busy city, it is surrounded by hills and rivers. It is also known as Ispat Nagar (Ispat means 'steel' in Hindi), because it has one of India's largest steel plants.



DRESS UP

There is a large variety. Colourful tribal clothes, traditional costumes and of course, modern outfits.

There are as many traditions as there are tribes. Some tribes wear different clothes for different occasions. And some have different styles for different people. Women wear short saris and men wear dhotis. Tribal women wear elaborate headgear and jewellery too.

In some tribes, both men and women have elaborate tattoos all over their bodies.

In the towns and cities, women often wear the handloom saris that Odisha is so famous for. Men wear dhoti-kurtas with a cloth called a *gamucha* thrown over their shoulders.



STATE TREE AND STATE FLOWER

Fig Tree



Asoka



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STATE ANIMAL & STATE BIRD

Sambar Deer



Indian Roller



PURI: THIS CITY IS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS TEMPLES-THE SHRI JAGANNATH DHAM BEING ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS & IMPORTANT FOR HINDU PILGRIMS.

Jagannath Temple



Sea Beach



KONARAK SUN TEMPLE: IN THE PAST EUROPEAN SAILORS USED THIS TEMPLE AS A GUIDING POINT WHEN THEY NAVIGATED THEIR SHIPS TO SHORE. THEY CALL IT THE BLACK PAGODA.



UDAYAGIRI & KHANDAGIRI

Udaygiri caves: archaeologists were thrilled to discover a huge complex of Buddhist monasteries in a place called Udayagiri.



Khamdagiri caves: King Kharavela, who did a lot to expand the Kalinga kingdom, was a wise man & a visionary. He began the process of Khandagiri carving the Khandagiri caves for the convenience of Jain monks.



PLACE OF INTERESTS

Satkoshia: Located in Odisha is a breathtaking ecotourism destination renowned for its 22-kilometer gorge carved by Mahanadi river. It is famous for its Tiger reserve, lush deciduous forests and the conservation of gharials and mugger crocodiles.



Darinbari is a hill station in Kandhmal district of Odisha state.



CRAFTS : ODISHA WAS ONCE CALLED UTKALA (LIKE IN INDIA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM), WHICH MEANS 'THE LAND OF WONDERFUL ART.'

Raghurajpur is a renowned village for patachitra artists. Patachitra means 'painting on cloth.' The artists are very talented & paint the most amazing scenes on silk.



Pipli village: The various tribes of Ofdisha have developed this art form that the state is now famous for. It is a kind of applique called pipli.



CLASSICAL DANCE: ODISSI

Odissi is a classical dance. The name of the dance comes from the state Odisha.

Once upon a time, women would perform this dance for the entertainment of gods- so they believed. The women were called *devdasies*.

The performance of this dance forms involves the telling of a story, often about Hindu Gods.



FOLK DANCES: THE FOLK DANCES OF ODISSA ARE LOVELY WITH SO MANY TRIBES AND SO MANY RURAL PEOPLE.

Goomra Dance: The ghoomra is a drum that is shaped like a huge pitcher. It is to this beat that the ghoomra dancers perform.



Ranapa Dance: Ranapa means 'stilts', and this dance is performed on stilts. The dancers perform skillfully to the beat of dhol (a kind of drum) and a *mahuri* (a kind of instrument).



DALKHAI DANCE

This dance gets its name from the fact that at the start and end of every verse, performers use the word dalkai, which is a way of addressing one's girlfriend. It depicts the love story of Radha & Krishna.



FESTIVALS

Konarak Dance Festival: This is a colourful event where people celebrate the different dance forms of India. It is held against the backdrop of the stunning Sun Temple in Konarak.



Rath Yatra: Rath Yatra is the festival where devotees decorated the idols of Lord Jagannath along with his brother and sister and placed on massive chariots and taken around in a procession.



FOODS

Pokhalo Bhato is essentially a rice dish-with variations. Basi pokhalo is a version in which the rice is fermented overnight. Sahja pokhalo is similar but eaten when it's just made. It's a healthy dish that people have it with green chilies, onions & yoghurt.



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Mach Besara is a delicious fish curry that is made with plenty of mustard paste, similar to that of Bengali dish.



FOODS

Bel Panna: This cool drink is a mix of fruit, coconut milk, curd, spices. Even yummy rasagullas are also crushed and added to this drink.



Khir Gainta is a type of pudding that is made of rice, milk, coconut and sugar.



SWEET SNACKS

Puri Khoja is a deep fried dumpling a little sweet and a little salty.



Khira Poda Pitha is a little pudding squares made of rice, milk and sugar.



SANJUKTA PANIGRAHI

Sanjukta Panigrahi was a great Odissi dancer, who was one of the first Oriya women to perform this dance on an international platform. She has won many awards for her brilliant work.

