



Gateway to Wild Odisha  
www.ecotourodisha.com



Wildlife Organisation  
Forest & Environment Department  
Government of Odisha

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Gateway to Wild Odisha



Gateway to Wild Odisha

Witness the sun rise from the balmy coasts and set in the dreamy woods echoing the sounds of nature. Welcome to the lands of stunning lakes, cascading waterfalls, sun bathed greenery and blue waters that soothe the souls that seek solitude.

**Welcome to the gateway to Wild Odisha.**

Bookings:  
[www.ecotourodisha.com](http://www.ecotourodisha.com)

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Cover Photo: Habilikhati Beach,  
Bhitarkanika National Park



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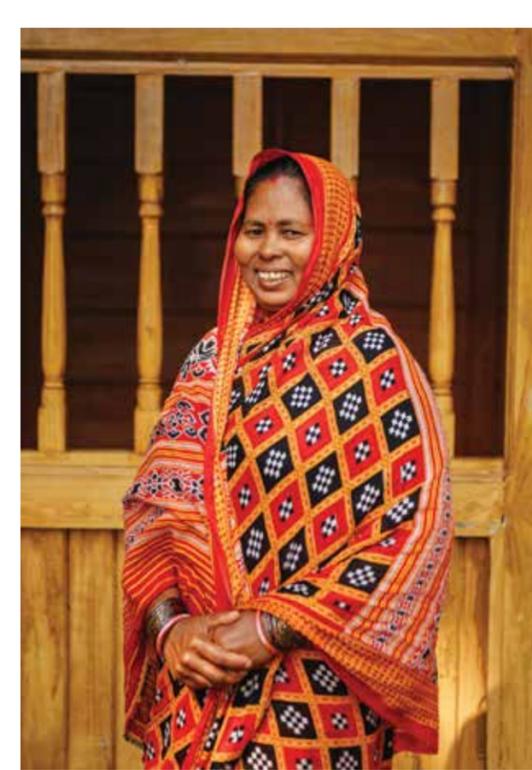


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Gateway to Wild Odisha





### Shri Bikram Keshari Arukha

Hon'ble Minister,  
Forest & Environment,  
Parliamentary Affairs, Odisha



Odisha is gifted with beaches, mountains, wildlife and exquisite culture. Congregation of graceful spotted deer in the large tracts of grasslands on the foothills of undulating hills, Bisons or Blackbucks grazing, giant Muggers basking on sandbars, Dolphins, Flamingos and Skimmers turning and rising - Odisha provides refuge to a variety of animals and birds. Nestled in Eastern India, Odisha is a state of rivers, cliffs, long sandy beaches, wetlands, waterfalls, lakes, lush green forests and mangroves that shelters a wide range of flora and fauna.

In recent years, Odisha has emerged as a model in Forest and Wildlife conservation through Ecotourism. In the year 2016, Forest and Environment Department launched a five year scheme on "Community Managed Nature Tourism" to ensure livelihood support for the forest dependent communities by engaging them in Ecotourism activities. Some of the Ecotourism destinations have been transformed into suitable models of conservation. Besides, a good amount of revenue has also been generated. I am glad to know that this year more than 46,000 visitors from different parts of the country and abroad have stayed in our Nature Camps.

I am happy for the release of this first Coffee Table Book "Ecotour Odisha" on Odisha Ecotourism. I am confident that this book will unfold the mesmerizing beauty of our state.

(Bikram Keshari Arukha)



### Dr. Mona Sharma, IAS

Additional Chief Secretary, Forest & Environment Dept., Govt. of Odisha

Odisha is rich in floral and faunal diversity. From beaches to hills and valleys, Odisha holds some of the most fascinating ecosystems of the World. Some of the beautiful landscapes of Eastern Ghats are also well evident here.

Odisha shares a great tradition of environmental conservation through public participation. With this in mind we have adopted the model of "Community Managed Nature Tourism" wherein forest dependent communities are not just involved in the preservation of natural heritage but are also generating livelihood through it. I am proud to present "Ecotour Odisha", the Coffee Table Book on Odisha Ecotourism which captures the beauty and diversity of different Ecotourism destinations of our State amid beaches, rivers, lakes, lagoons, hill-stations and forests teeming with wildlife.

We welcome all nature lovers to explore "India's Best Kept Secret" i.e Odisha.

(Dr. Mona Sharma)



### Dr. Hari Shankar Upadhyay, IFS

PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Government of Odisha

Odisha is one of the very rich wildlife habitats of the country with a diverse landscape that supports a multitude of ecosystems. We also share a great tradition of environmental conservation and peoples' participation in preserving our natural heritage. Ecotourism has become an effective alternative livelihood option for the forest dependent communities of Odisha. During last 5 years, since the inception of the Community based Ecotourism model, we have turned Forty-Seven different landscapes of Odisha into successful Ecotourism destinations. We have taken concrete steps to involve Forest dependent communities in its management, that is why we call it "Community Managed Nature Tourism". This model of Ecotourism has been found to have beneficial impact on rural economy and has stimulated economic development along with conservation of natural environment.

I must congratulate DCF Ecotourism Ms Anshu Pragyan Das and her team for bringing out the first Coffee Table Book "Ecotour Odisha" on Odisha Ecotourism. This book portrays some exhilarating photographs of Odisha's must- visit destinations, and also informs the reader about its rich and varied wildlife. I hope this whets the hunger of nature lovers and coax them to explore Odisha.

(Dr. H.S. Upadhyay)



Chitragouda, Malkangiri

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# Odisha

Beaches, mountains, wildlife and exquisite culture—Odisha is a world unto itself.

Spanning over 1,55,707 sqkms between the Central India Highlands and the Bay of Bengal, it is home to some of India's richest ecosystems. The state has diverse geography—from densely forested hills and rolling upland plateaus to beautiful valleys and gorges and one of India's cleanest, most biodiverse coastlines spreading over 480 kms.

All these landscapes are rich in wildlife, making the state an excellent destination for nature travellers. Adding to this wilderness experience are Odisha's exquisite cultures, traditions, festivals, food and ancient heritage of excellence in arts and architecture. Colorful festivals, paintings, sculptures, ancient temples, handlooms, terracotta, filigree and more add to the rich experience.

The state is home to some of India's oldest indigenous people who have preserved their traditional ways of life, close to Mother Earth, and teaching the world the true meaning of sustainable living. Odisha is India's second most tribal dominant state and has the highest number of

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal (PVT) Groups in India.

Wilderness destinations are dotted across the state. Wildlife abounds. Odisha has over half of all the elephants of Eastern Central India. It is the only state with all three Indian crocodilians—mugger, gharial and saltwater crocodile. Indeed, Odisha is one of the best places to watch and photograph saltwater crocodiles. Odisha is also one of the best places in the world to watch Irrawaddy dolphins, who inhabit the Chilika Lake.

Birdlife is rich in Odisha. The state offers the best forest birding in Central India and amazing wetland birding on its coasts, primarily the Chilika and Bhitarkanika regions.

The largest nesting site of Olive Ridley sea turtles in the world is the Odisha coast and of the two active nesting beaches, the beaches of Rushikulya river mouth are easily accessible to those who might want to witness one of the world's greatest wildlife spectacles—the arribada. The forests of the state offer excellent opportunities for safari tourism.

There is a little bit to offer for every kind of nature tourist here!



# Landscapes

Nestled partly in Eastern India and partly in an extension of Central India, Odisha is one of the few Indian states that falls in multiple biogeographic provinces.

The northern part of the state is part of the Chhotanagpur Plateau, the central and southern parts are part of the Eastern Ghats, the highlands of eastern and western Odisha are a part of the Eastern Highlands (Odisha-Chhattisgarh Plateau) and the northeastern corner of the state is an extension of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Well drained by rivers, the state has several deltas and estuaries along its long, unspoilt coastline of 480 kms.

This biogeographic richness allows for amazing diversity of landscapes and natural habitats, which in turn provide high diversity of wildlife, offering visitors a multitude of wilderness destinations.



Bhitarkanika

## A serene blend of tan and blue

Odisha's balmy coasts, with clean beaches and blue waters soothe souls that seek solitude



Chandipur



Udaipur



Rushikulya



# High on the hills

Bathed in shades of green, the dreamy woods endlessly echo sounds of nature



Kandhamal



Joranda



Similipal



Kuldiha



Joranda fall, Simlipal



*Gudguda, Sambalpur*



*Similipal*



*Debrigarh*

## Rhythms of the cascade

Waterfalls offer endless fascination—the healing music of water crashing down a mountainside send thrills down the spine while mesmerising us with its beauty



Chilika

## Soaked in beauty

Dotted with stunning lakes, lagoons and mangroves that are home to a plethora of aquatic lifeforms, Odisha's 'natural treasury' is incomplete without its wetlands



Bichitrapur



Bhitarkanika

# Wildlife

Odisha is uniquely located in peninsular India and benefits from being home to multiple biogeographic provinces. This, along with its unindented coastline of 480kms, several large perennial rivers, altitudinal variation from sea level to 5000 ft above MSL together with its tropical location bless it with a very high diversity of flora and fauna. Odisha is believed to be a biological bridge between India's Northeastern, Himalayan and Western Ghats biogeographic regions, causing plant and animal diversity here to show similarities to those biodiversity hotspots.

The state has recorded 86 species of mammals, 473 species of birds, 131 species of reptiles and 27 species of amphibians. The State is a mosaic of Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Park and Tiger Reserves. The protected areas of the state comprise 5.11 per cent of its total area and include 19 wildlife sanctuaries, one national park, two tiger reserves and one biosphere reserve.

Among its prominent fauna, Odisha is home to about 60 per cent of Asiatic elephants in Eastern-Central India; it is a prominent state for tiger conservation and has some of the largest tiger habitats in eastern India, besides having the only population of genetically unique melanistic tigers in the wild at Similipal Tiger Reserve. Other large carnivores of the state include leopard, Asiatic wild dog and grey wolf. Odisha is the only Indian state to have all three species of Indian crocodiles—the gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodile. It has a significant population of Irrawaddy dolphins which is highest recorded inland population in the world. Chilika Lake, where the Irrawaddy dolphins are best seen is the largest wintering grounds for palearctic migrant birds in Asia.

Odisha offers a rich mix of wetland and forest birdwatching and is home to such rarities as the pale-capped pigeon. The beaches of the state are renowned for being the largest nesting ground for Olive Ridley sea turtles.





# Community Managed Nature Tourism

Odisha's novel attempt at community empowerment

The very essence of ecotourism is that it is tourism that directly benefits not just the conservation of ecosystems but also communities that live in and around those ecosystems. Their involvement is key to ecotourism.

About 39 per cent of Odisha lies under forests. The preservation of these forests and the wildlife they sustain is of prime importance. However, it is an impossible goal to achieve without the involvement of people whose lives are intertwined with these forests- the forest dwelling communities.

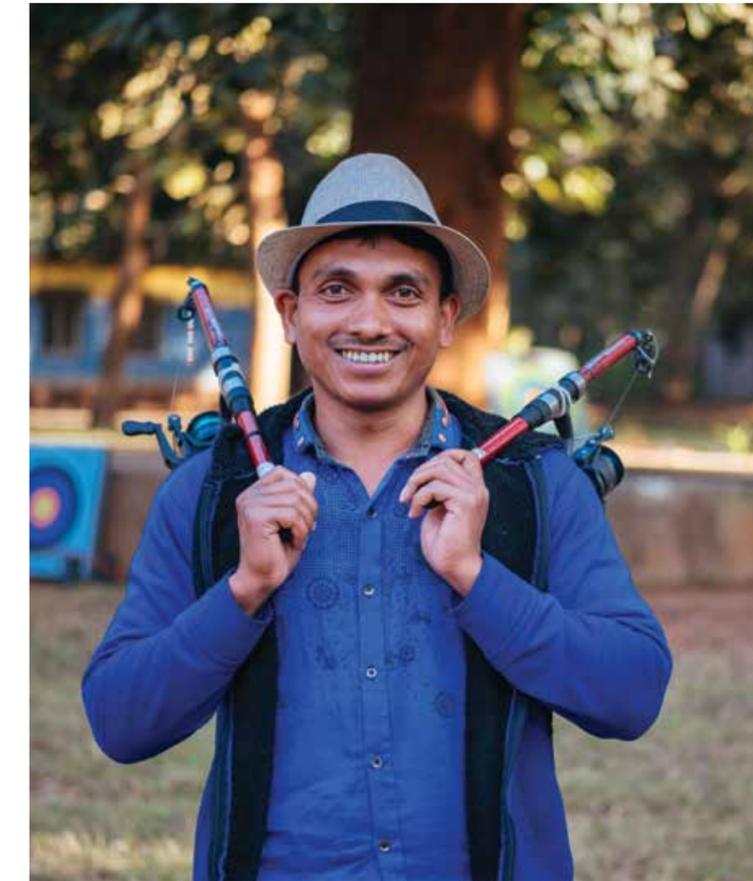
The Forest Department-whose mandate it is to ensure this preservation-is actively engaged in realizing this task. About 80 per cent of Odisha lives in rural areas and most of the state's population depends on forests for

livelihood needs. Keeping this in mind, the Department of Environment & Forests, Govt. of Odisha in 2016 decided to prioritize these communities in ecotourism projects. This led to the novel model of Community Managed Nature Tourism that this book highlights. Odisha takes pride in being the only state with this unique model of community-based ecotourism in India.

In the projects of Ecotour Odisha, community members are direct stakeholders and beneficiaries of a major share of revenues earned. Ecotourism is now emerging as an alternate source of income for the forest dependent communities of Odisha. Not only is wildlife conservation now being seen as a source of livelihood, it has started fueling social change and is bringing lucrative economic returns to



Khandadhar Nature Camp



the communities engaged. As a result, community attitudes are changing positively towards conservation policies and their dependence on forests produce for livelihood is decreasing, reducing biotic pressure.

As key stakeholders in the functioning of the project, the communities partake in its activities responsibly and—thanks to sincere efforts to build capacity and skills—render top-notch service. From camp hospitality to guided nature experiences, the local community at every destination has been highly appreciated for their passionate engagement.

As keen promoters of the native cultures, local cuisine is cooked as part of the menu, hand-made art and craft products are marketed by the women, folk dance and music form part of cultural performances, and oral narratives of myths and legends have become conversation enablers.

Odisha is proud of this unique Community based Ecotourism model in the country.



Debrigarh Nature Camp

# Nature Camps

In a short span of few years since its inception, Ecotour Odisha has managed to create an enviable network of nature camps across different wilderness areas of the state.

These camps offer an interesting choice of destinations for travelers—be it a weekend sojourn or longer expeditions. From beaches to safari, hiking and camping, Ecotour

Odisha nature camps offer a wide variety of choices across different kinds of landscapes for an intimate engagement with beauty of pristine landscapes.

Following is a brief introduction to some prominent Ecotour Odisha destinations:

# Bhitarkanika

The world's second largest mangrove ecosystem, Bhitarkanika, a network of creeks, rivers, small islands, estuaries, mudflats and sandy beaches, is home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Located in the delta of the Brahmani-Baitarani rivers, it was notified as a wildlife sanctuary in 1975 and a national park in 1998. The ocean side of Bhitarkanika is Odisha's only marine wildlife sanctuary, Gahirmatha. Bhitarkanika is best known for its Guinness record setting giant crocodiles—the saltwater or estuarine crocodiles, the largest living reptiles on the planet! Avian life in the mangrove jungles is very rich and it is home to seven different species of kingfishers and such rarities as the mangrove pitta, which breeds here.

A boat safari through the many creeks and channels give excellent opportunities of seeing fishing cats and leopard cats, which are present in good numbers here, as well as otters. Spotted deer and rhesus macaques are seen commonly. Bhitarkanika is the only mangrove habitat known to have sambar deer. Herons, egrets, storks, pelicans, cormorants and other resident waterfowl nest in massive congregations at heronries (Bagagahana). On the coastal side of the park, large pods of bottle-nosed dolphins can often be seen in the ocean. About 94 species of mangroves are found here.

Night stay in the undisturbed and serene beach of Habilikhati comes with several once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Blindingly white sands and impossibly blue waters are designed for travelers to treat themselves.



Bhitarkanika



Habilikhati Nature Camp





# Similipal

The pride of Odisha and one of the nine sites where Project Tiger began in 1973, Similipal, is a tiger reserve, an elephant reserve as well as a biosphere reserve that covers almost the entire district of Mayurbhanj.

It is home to 1500 species of plants, 57 species of mammals, 387 species of birds, 60 species of reptiles, 21 species of amphibians, 44 species of fish, 235 species of butterflies and a myriad other lifeform. Similipal is one of the largest tracts of sal forest in India and has stunning landscapes with towering mountains, vast grasslands, a variety of forest types including dry deciduous, moist deciduous and semi evergreen forests.

It is well known for being home to the only population of genetically distinct melanistic tigers in the world.



It has one of the highest populations of Asiatic elephants in the state and is a good place to observe the major large mammals of Peninsular India. It has a high diversity of orchids including the endemic *Eria meghasinensis*, which exists in just a single population of 150 plants. Similipal is also home to several indigenous tribes who preserve a rich heritage of cultures, practices and life-styles.



Similipal



Barehipani Nature Camp



Chahala



Gurguria Nature Camp



Pine Forest



Ramatirtha Nature Camp

Jamuani Nature Camp



Kumari Nature Camp



## Sarafgarh

Sarafgarh is a picturesque hamlet in Sundargarh district, surrounded by pristine dry deciduous and mixed sal forests. It has a large reservoir of clear turquoise water ringed by green hillocks. Contemporary eco-cottages nestled in this panoramic view are ideal escape for some quiet time.

# Kandhamal

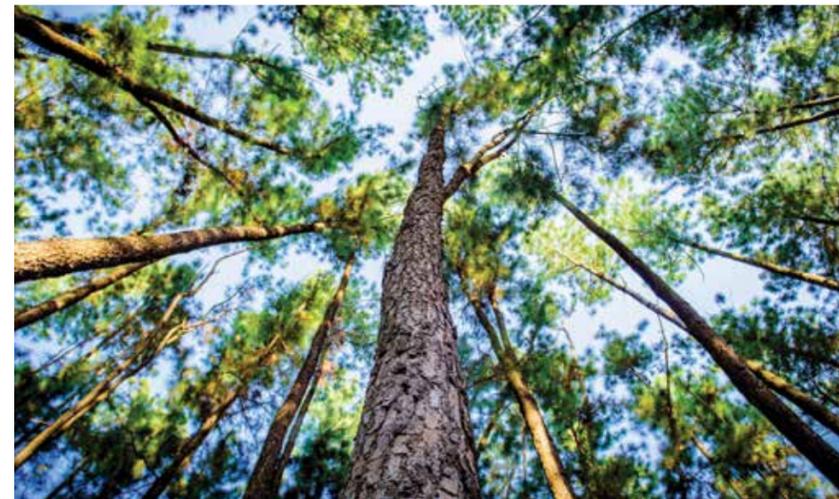
Odisha's famed, wild hinterland, where towering mountains of the Eastern Ghats are clothed by thick forests and indigenous people continue their timeless ways of life, Kandhamal, has traditionally been a hill retreat for people to escape the hot and humid summers of Odisha's coastal cities. The plateaus are dotted with coffee and pepper plantations.

Kandhamal is home to one of the most vulnerable and ancient tribal communities of India, the 'KutiaKondha'. Daringbadi is considered a popular hill station. The mountainous landscape is dotted with waterfalls such as Dasingbadi, Putudi, Dadubaba, Ludu, etc. Feel the refreshing cool breeze to the bone by trekking in the hilly trails of the surreal landscape of Daringbadi- Belghar through sprawling jungle. A bonfire in the camp site with local Odia delicacies will thaw your heart magically.

An hour's drive from Daringbadi through winding ghat roads brings one to Mandasaru, an ecologically rich valley comprised of a forested gorge and perennial streams. This is the first biodiversity reserve of the state. One can camp here at Ecotour Odisha's cozy cabins overlooking the gorge. Kandhamal, "The Green Paradise" is ideal place to savour a perfect blend of Cultural tourism, Tribal tourism and Nature tourism.



*Mandasaru Nature Camp*



*Pine Forest*



*Coffee Garden, Daringbadi*



*Daringbadi Nature Camp*



*Phulbani Nature Camp*



Mandasaru Gorge  
The Silent Valley of Odisha

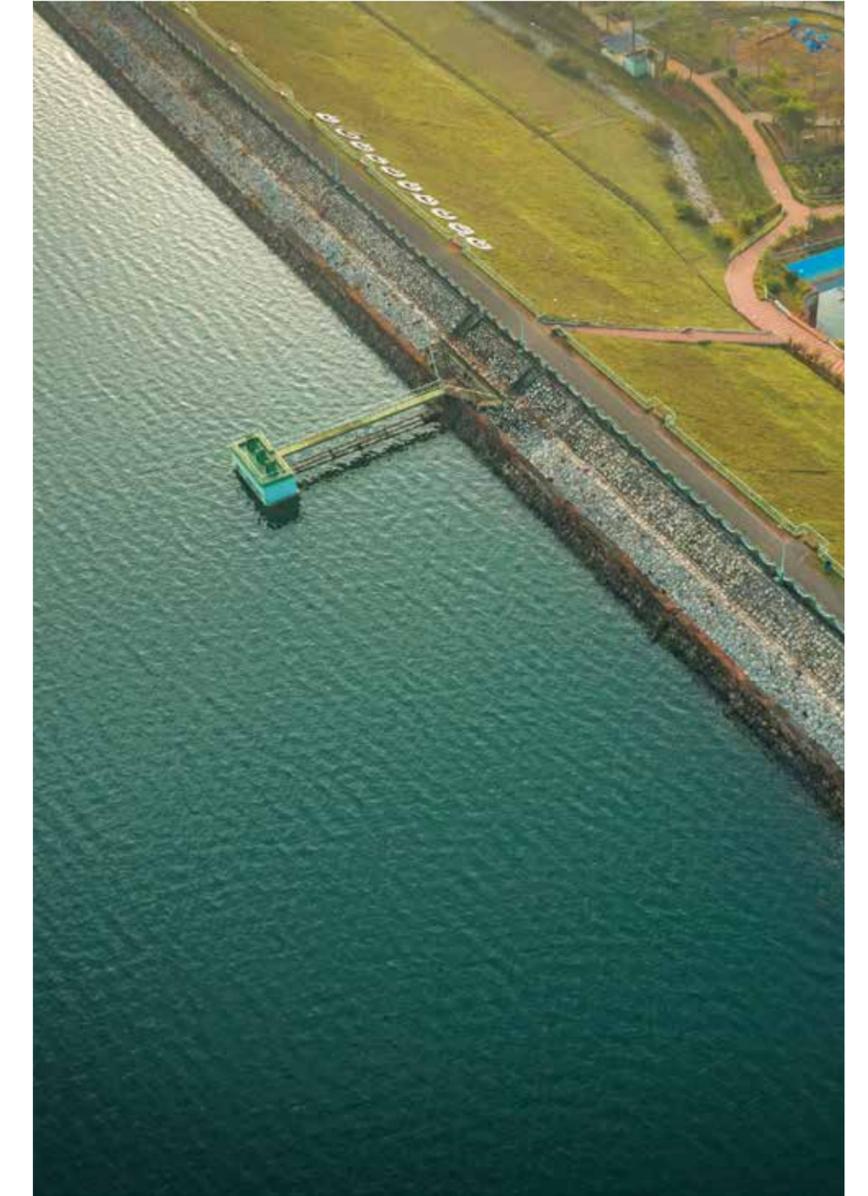


Bhanjanagar Nature Camp

## Blackbuck Nature Camp

Imagine large tracts of Grasslands on the foothills of undulating hills with herds of graceful Blackbucks fleeing in a jumping gallop with short dashes making clucking noises! Bhanjanagar Nature Camp, Chermeria and Saluapalli are the three destinations which offer its visitors an escape from the confines of the city life into the magnificent landscape of nearly 2500 blackbucks. The people of Ganjam, especially the Balipadar-Buguda-Bhetnoi villages are famed for their love for other lifeforms, especially the blackbuck.

The blackbuck is an antelope endemic to the Indian subcontinent and is the second fastest land animal after the cheetah. People in Odisha revere it and consider it sacred. This protection and the fact that local farmers have never resisted sparing a little of their rich leguminous crops to the antelopes has meant that a large population of 2500 blackbuck thrives here today. A luxurious treehouse at the Giant Squirrel Nature Camp provides a unique wildlife experience.



Bhanjanagar Dam



Tree House, Kaliamba Nature Camp

▲ Kaliamba Nature Camp



Blackbuck



Deras Nature Camp



Jungle Safari



Spot the Elephant?

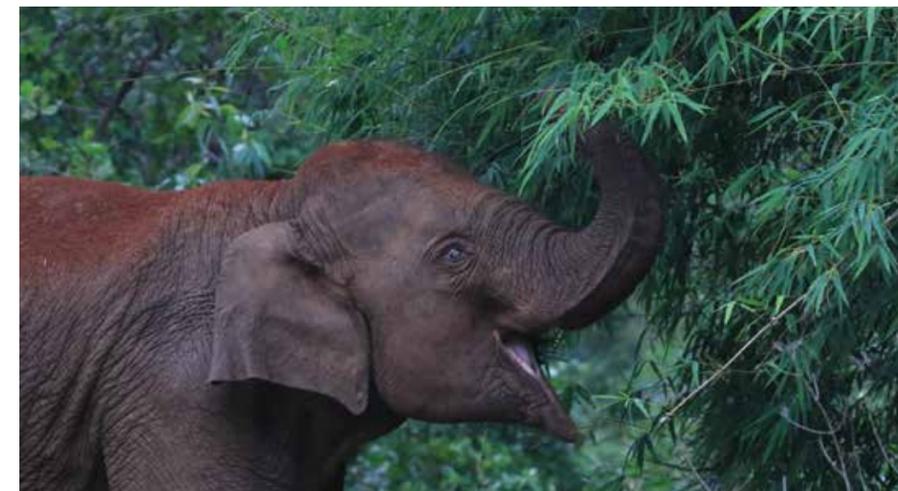
# Chandaka

Adjoining Odisha's capital city, the Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary serves as the lungs of the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack metropolitan area. Providing an easy and quick escape to city dwellers, Chandaka gives one the privilege of going on safari while staying at home!

One could easily have lunch at home, go on an afternoon game drive, watch a variety of wild animals such as deer and elephants in the wild and be back home well before dinnertime! Or, one could forego a morning walk and go instead

on a modified safari vehicle and enjoy the quiet of morning birding in the jungle. One could also choose to stay overnight in Ecotour Odisha camps inside the sanctuary at Deras, overlooking Deras reservoir and Godibari. The sanctuary was notified to save the last remnants of the natural habitat that existed before the city of Bhubaneswar was built.

It used to be an extension of the Satkosia landscape and was a sal forest until the 1950s. Today it is a bamboo and scrub forest that sustains a significant population of elephants and other wildlife.





## Chilika

The largest brackish water lake in Asia, Chilika spans nearly 1100 sqkms across the districts of Khurda, Puri and Ganjam. The lake is connected to the Bay of Bengal by a narrow channel on its east and is fed by distributaries of River Mahanadi—rivers Luna, Bhargavi and Daya—on its north.

Some freshwater streams draining out of the Eastern Ghats also feed the lake and help maintain its delicate balance of fresh and salt water. The lake is mostly shallow and is famed for hosting the largest congregation of wintering palearctic waterfowl in the subcontinent. It is also one of the best places in the world to watch and photograph Irrawaddy dolphins in their natural habitat.

Fishing cats and otters inhabit the marshes in the northeastern and western areas. The lake has 18 species of mammals, 250 species of birds, 30 species of reptiles, 7 species of amphibians and 321 species of fish.

The community conserved Mangalajodi marshes host more than 200 species of birds and are an ideal birding destination.

Lakhs of Ruffs, Godwits, Terns, Plovers, Sandpipers, rare Grey-headed Lapwings, Gulls, Pin-tails, Ruddy Shelducks, Skulkers like Ruddy-breasted Crakes, Baillon's Crakes, Slaty-breasted Rails and the Greater Painted Snipes, Black-tailed Godwits, Oriental Pratincoles and the Pacific Golden Plovers etc can be seen along variety of Raptors.

Rajhans Island, flanked by Sea on one side and Chilika Lagoon on the other, with pristine white sand beaches is a perfect destination for beach lovers and forest travelers. A walk from lagoon to sea through the Casuarina forests, picture- perfect sun set, the view of glittering stars and milky way on a clear sky would remain etched as a memory poem with you.



Mangalajodi Nature Camp



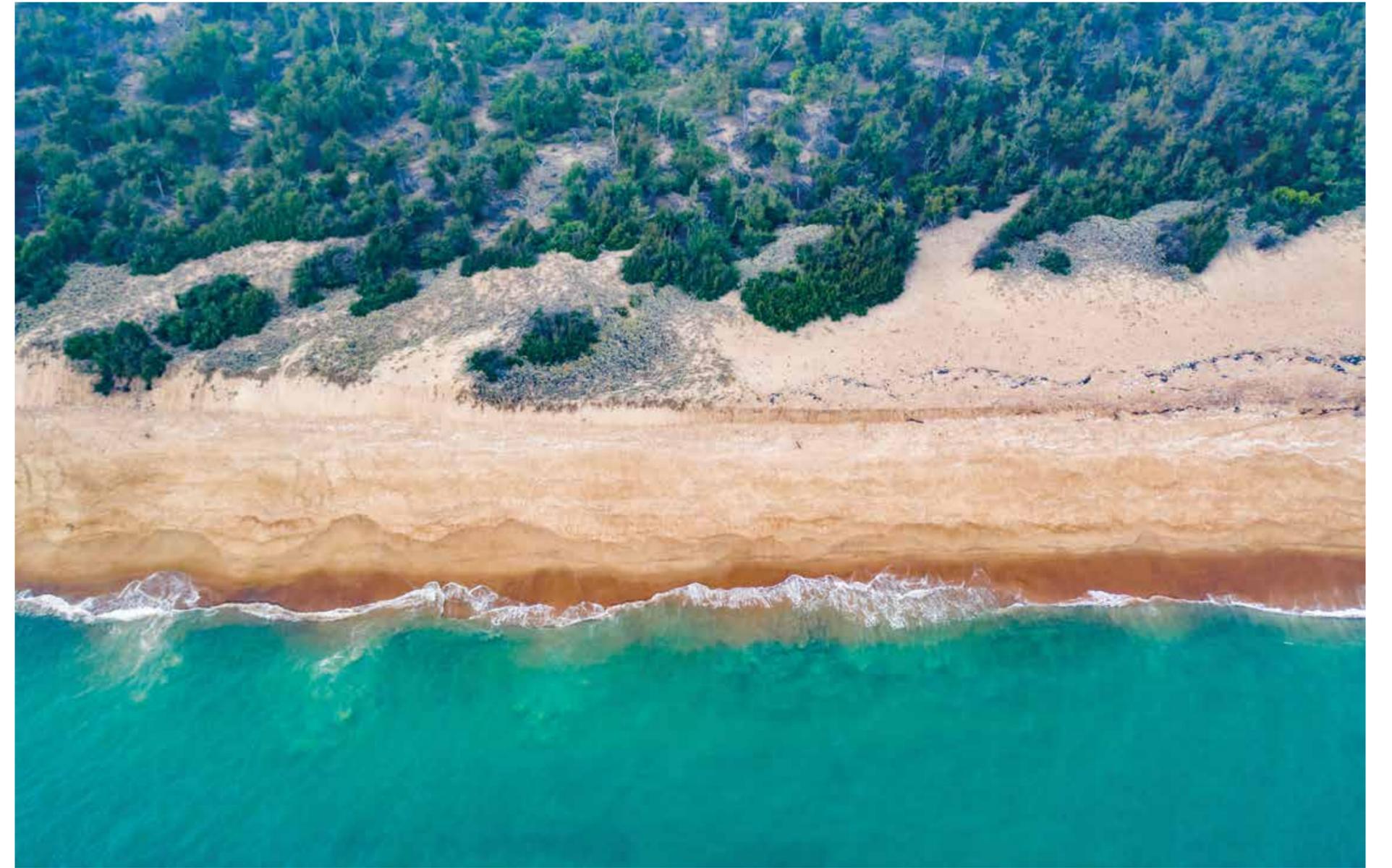
Flamingoes



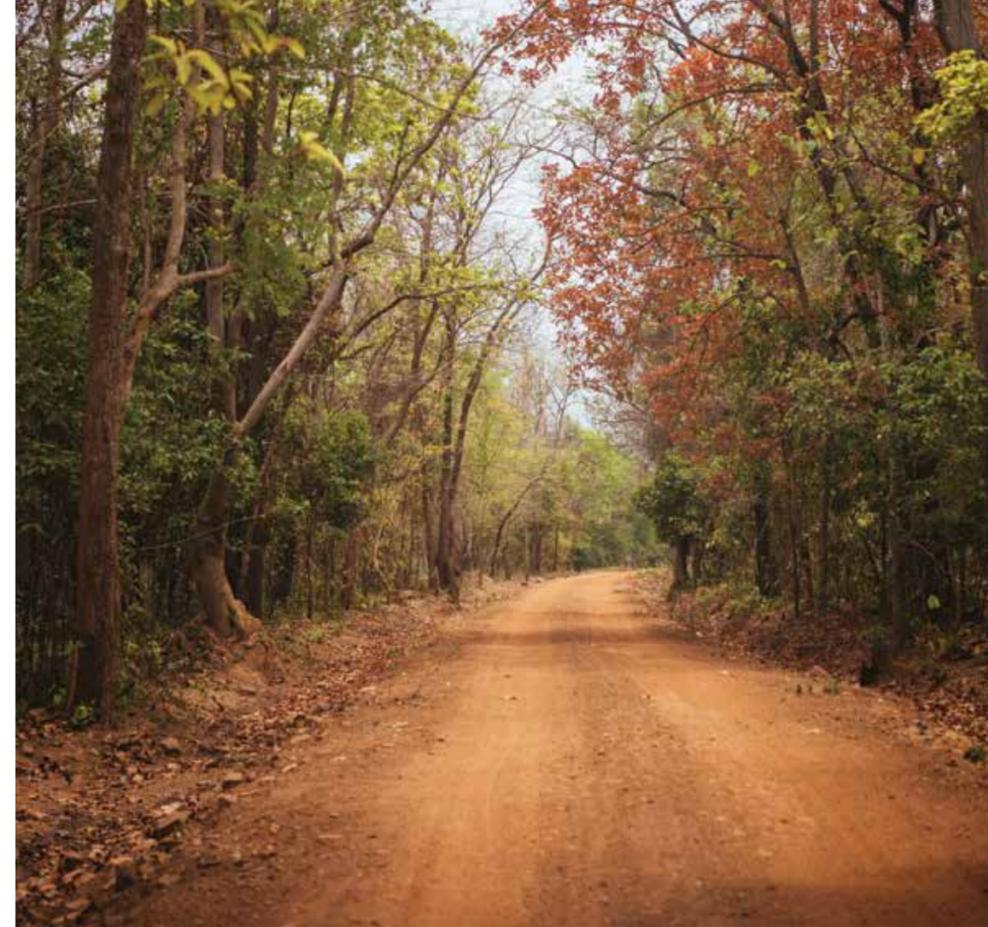
Rajhans Nature Camp



Irrawaddy Dolphins



Rajhans Island

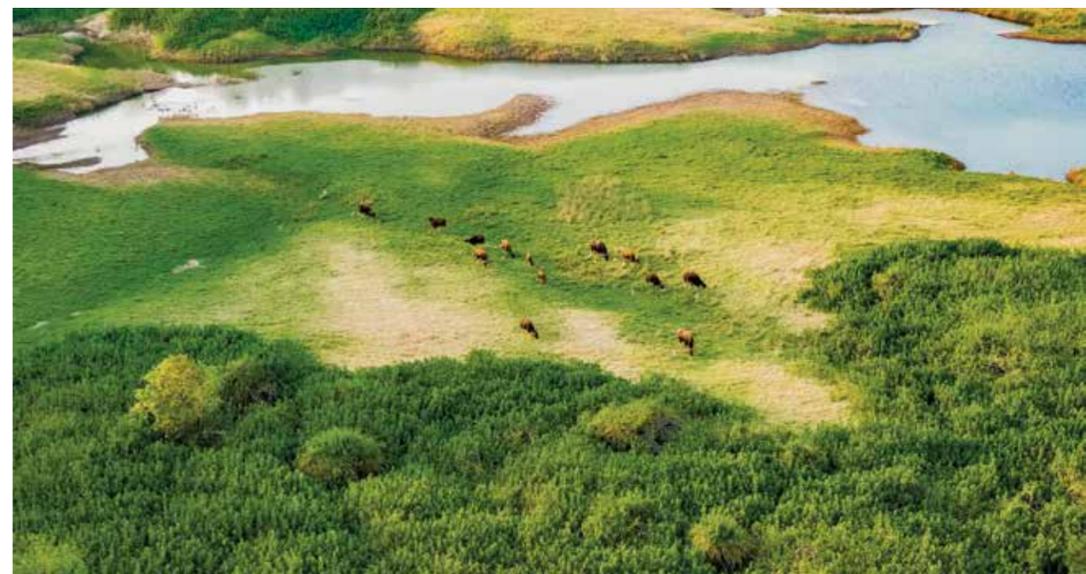


## Debrigarh

Only 40kms from the Western Odisha city of Sambalpur, dry deciduous forests of the Central India landscape meet the backwaters of the Hirakud Dam's reservoir (the longest man-made earthen dam in the world) and create a stunning natural habitat rich in large mammals.

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary provides rewarding game drives where one has excellent chances of seeing leopards, sloth bears, gaur, sambar deer, chousinga, spotted deer, wild dogs, wolves and sometimes elephants. Tigers have started occasionally dispersing into the landscape due to its strict protection, rich prey base and connectivity with the Central India Tiger Landscape, prompting the Govt. of Odisha to propose the area as a tiger reserve.

While the forest provides excellent opportunities for game drives, the backwaters of the dam are a paradise for waterfowl and anglers alike. One can go for bird watching, boating or Jungle safari. The Ecotour Odisha camps overlook the reservoir and have beautiful view of Hirakud lake from the rooms making the Nature Camp an ideal holiday gateway.



# Balasore

Two beautiful coastal destinations and one amazing forest destination welcome one in the vicinity of Balasore town. At Bichitrapur there are mangrove and casuarina forests with mudskippers among the mangroves and red ghost crabs carpeting the beaches.

Chandipur Beach, the hide and seek beach, is also known as the Mysterious beach of India as the Sea recedes twice a day up to almost 5 Km exposing all the sea-animals on the sea bed. The endangered horseshoe crabs are found here in a healthy population. Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary is part of the Similipal landscape and provides excellent opportunities to go on a safari and watch gaur, elephants and leopards.

*The Receding Sea Beach of Chandipur*



*Rissia Nature Camp*



*Bichitrapur Nature Camp*



*Bichitrapur*



*Chandipur*



# Satkosia

As the magnificent River Mahanadi flows through the Garhjat Hills, it creates a stunning 22km long gorge that divides the Eastern Ghats on the right bank from the Chhotanagpur Plateau on the left.

Towering mixed sal forests sprawl across the landscape and form the Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Mahanadi Elephant Reserve. Magnanimous Mahanadi River bisects Satkosia Tiger Reserve into two halves and forms one of the deepest gorges of Asia known as Satkosia Gorge.

This protected area is also the southernmost extent of the gharial crocodile, which is critically endangered. The forests are rich in birdlife and home to mammals such as tiger, leopard, elephant, gaur, spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, chousinga, mouse deer and giant squirrels.

Every year hundreds of Indian Skimmers and many migratory birds use the sand bars of Satkosia as their wintering ground flocking near the basking Muggers and endangered Gharials. There are multiple Ecotour Odisha camps in the reserve. Late night, moving out of the Camps, one can see the night in solitude with high peaks touching the stars and wild calls echoing the silence. A river cruise in the Satkosia Gorge is a thrill to be remembered for lifetime.

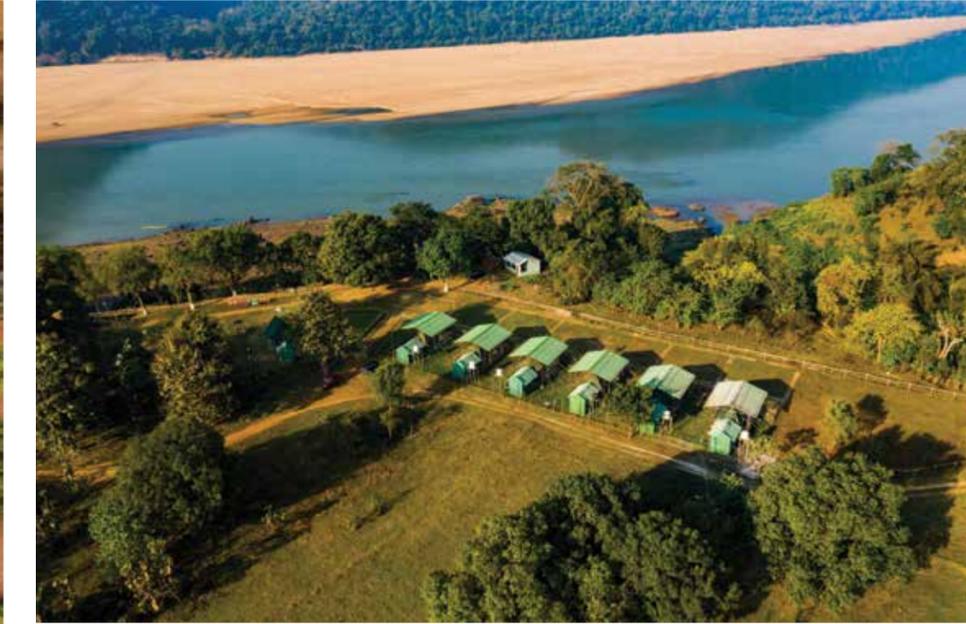


Satkosia Sands Resort, Badmul

Chotkei Nature Camp



Tikarpada Nature Camp



Baghamunda Nature Camp



Tarava Nature Camp



Satkosia Gorge

# Khandadhar

The famed Khandadhar waterfalls crash down the forest covered hills of Chhotanagpur Plateau in Sundargarh district.

Ecotour Odisha camp located overlooking the Khandadhar waterfalls, is situated amidst lush green surroundings. The coloured rocks that give Khandadhar its beauty are red jasper and black hematite. The panoramic view of the mountain range and water cascading down the gorgeous red cliff makes this a stunning getaway.





Chitrakonda Nature Camp

Satiguda Nature Camp



## Malkangiri

The southernmost tip of Odisha, in the famed thick forests of the mythical 'Dandakarnya', is Malkangiri.

It is a land of high mountains, grassland plateaus, limestone caves and indigenous people and dotted with temples, dams and reservoirs. Beautiful water front cottages with gardens and parks have been created at Chitrakonda and Satiguda for visitors by Ecotour Odisha.



## Balukhand - Konark Sanctuary

Located along the Marine Drive from Puri to Konark, this sanctuary of casuarina forests hosts the Nuanai Nature Camp of Ecotour Odisha.

Easily accessible from Bhubaneswar and a welcome change from the crowds of Puri, this camp allows one to find some peace and solitude while out on a beach walk, spotting deer and white bellied sea eagles among lots of other wildlife. The place is surrounded with green coastal forest on the bank of river Nuanai, close to its confluence with Bay of Bengal.

## Sanaghagra

Adjacent to the Sanaghagra waterfalls in Keonjhar district, this destination flanks the verdant hill on one side with a perennial river and forests on the other. With adivasi villages, sal forest covered mighty mountains and numerous waterfalls, Keonjhar in northern Odisha is a striking landscape.



# Experience

Engaging with a community teaches us a lot and ignites the desire to know more. Ecotour Odisha destinations offer a variety of activities and experiences to campers.

From guided nature walks, game drives, boat safaris and canopy walks to simple nights by campfires sharing stories, sampling local cuisine, going on a bicycle ride, farm visit or to a cultural programme.

Indulge in guided nature walks and trails to explore the wilderness or hike up the hills for a refreshing experience.

Every landscape unfolds a different experience. All nature tourism destinations in the State are run by trained experts from local communities who earn their livelihood offering each visitor the right experience. This takes away their dependence on extractive use of forests and helps them reap economic rewards from the preservation of forests and wildlife. This new livelihood is also bringing out a social change among the locals.

Community as partners in Nature conservation and management of Eco tourism is our core strength and speciality.

Learn, explore, discover Odisha!





**Naveen Patnaik** 7 March ·

Odisha is home to many untouched beaches along the panoramic Bay of Bengal, including this idyllic #Ecotourism gateway nestled between the lush greenery and turquoise water. Can you name the beach?

Hint: It is not Gopalpur, Puri or Konark.

Guess the beach by 6 PM.  
#KnowYourOdisha



218 comments 168 shares

**THE TIMES OF INDIA** CITY

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Civic Issues, Crime, Politics, Schools & Colleges, Odisha Elections, Weather, Events

NEWS / CITY NEWS / BHUBANESWAR NEWS / GOVERNMENT SETS ASIDE RS 7.7 CRORE TO STRENGTHEN ECOTOURISM

**Government sets aside Rs 7.7 crore to strengthen ecotourism**

Rohan Ramanath V | TNN | Jul 1, 2019, 11:58 IST



BHUBANESWAR: The government is planning to strengthen infrastructure at ecotourism sites and has set aside Rs 7.7 crore for this in the 2019-20 budget.

Encouraged by the success of community-managed nature tourism, which has transformed the lives of forest-dependent villagers, the government has upped the allocation to such sites by Rs 2 crore. In 2018-19, more than 600 forest-dependent community

**OrissaPOST**

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**WHEN COMMUNITIES COME TOGETHER MIRACLES HAPPEN**

Published: 04 Feb 2019, 00:07 · Local News, Travel

The project, **Sabkosia Sands Resort and Nature Camp**, with nine tents on a sandbar of Mahanadi and seven cottages on the mountain slope is situated overlooking the mighty Sabkosia gorge.

- The revenue in Bahadur rose from Rs 27 lakhs in 2016-17 to Rs 68 lakhs in 2017-18 and touched Rs 1 crore 30 thousand in 2018-19 with 3,000 odd visitors.
- The nature camp is managed by 28 villagers of Bahadur and about five to six villages are earning their livelihood from this project.
- Each family managing the project has earned around Rs 1.5-2 lakh this year against the 20,000 yearly income prior to this project.

The project named as Sabkosia Sands Resort and Nature Camp with nine tents on sandbar of Mahanadi and seven cottages on the mountain slope is situated overlooking the mighty Sabkosia gorge. From revenue of Rs 27 lakhs in 2016-17, Rs 68 lakhs in 2017-18 & touched soaring heights of Rs 1 crore 30 thousand in 2018-19 with 3,000 odd visitors, 20% of them from Germany, France and Britain. Even ecotourists by wildlife conservation here are model villages of Odisha that have become shining examples of what community can do for a better future. For the first time in history any village could have earned such an amount from any kind of community project. The success story also speaks about the vast resources of state and the potential Odisha carries for sustainable tourism with landscapes like Sabkosia, Similipal, Chitika, Mahadul and Khandul. Presently 40 community managed nature camps are functioning spreading all across the state occupying different areas with different biological importance.

Taking about the success of Bahadur ecotourism, the divisional forest officer (DFO) said, "This historical year, Odisha ecotourism projects have started a total revenue of Rs 5 crore 10 lakh by giving employment to more than 1,000 forest dependent villagers. Sabkosia Sand not only served as a livelihood option for the forest dependent communities of southern part of Sabkosia but it has also been able to build a whole of confidence among the forest protectors and ward women."

The nature camp is managed by 28 villagers of Bahadur (Bhadrakali) and about five to six villages are earning their livelihood from this single project. Further, many of the men from Bahadur village used to migrate outside or depend on the forest produce for their livelihood support including coaching and tending of small of wild animals. Poverty driven coaching in wildlife area has also been the leading reason for low prey base ultimately leading to decline in community population too.

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**2nd National Chilika Bird Festival Begins**

Published: 04 October 2019, 07:11 AM | Last Updated: 04 October 2019, 07:11 AM

**BHUBANESWAR:** The 2nd National Chilika Bird Festival kick started at Sundaipada with the aim to promote Ecotourism and preservation of birds in the state.

The five-day event includes photo exhibitions, seminars and visit to Nalanda Island.

Odisha Tourism and Culture Minister inaugurated the photo exhibition in the presence of Prasantha Kumar Pattnaik, MP, Bhubaneswar; Rajendra Kumar Sahoo, MLA, Khunda; Nirmal Chandra Mishra, Collector and District Magistrate, Khunda and P.P. Singh, Director, Odisha Tourism.

The event began with the commencement speech by Minister K. Chitra, Commissioner cum Secretary, Odisha Tourism.

Devi said, "We are glad to have everyone here at the festival. We want to promote and raise awareness about Chilika being the largest repository of migratory birds in Asia. Our focus is to make Odisha as one of the hotspots for Ecotourism. We plan to make this event bigger and better in future."

Ramesh Mahapatra, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Environment said, "We are extremely happy to have participants from all over the country. This year we have around 1 million migratory birds present in Chilika. We are recognising the effects by the locals in preserving Chilika Lake and want to empower them by helping them with livelihood in form of sustainable tourism."

**COVER/STORY**

**Similipal tops as nature camps yield golden returns in Odisha**

Published: 18th February 2019, 11:06 AM | Last Updated: 10th February 2019, 11:06 AM

**BHADRANATH NATURE CAMP**

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Taking about the success of Bahadur ecotourism, the divisional forest officer (DFO) said, "This historical year, Odisha ecotourism projects have started a total revenue of Rs 5 crore 10 lakh by giving employment to more than 1,000 forest dependent villagers. Sabkosia Sand not only served as a livelihood option for the forest dependent communities of southern part of Sabkosia but it has also been able to build a whole of confidence among the forest protectors and ward women."

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**THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS**

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**Govt to duplicate Satkosia success to woo tourists**

Published: 08th October 2019, 07:11 AM | Last Updated: 08th October 2019, 07:11 AM

**BHUBANESWAR:** Riding high on the success of eco-tourism projects at Satkosia, Bhitarkanika and other parts in Odisha, the State Government has decided to set up new nature camps at Barehipani, Chandipur and Nrusinghpur and develop eco-tourism infrastructure in pine forest of Korpaga and Patana dam in Nuapada district this year.

The Forest and Environment department in its Ecotour Odisha Annual Report 2018-19, which was released on Friday, has stated that as part of the action plan for 2019-20 fiscal, several measures to upscale eco-tourism activities will be taken with a focus on ST model of governance. The department will engage professionals to oversee the community-managed nature tourism projects for attracting more eco-tourists to Odisha. The Bharatpur-Chandaka landscape will be revived through a

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Jan 2 at 5:43 PM ·

**Odisha Tourism 2019**

Community Managed Ecotourism model bags Best Ecotourism Initiative in India Award

Target set to increase accommodation count from 294 to 500 in upcoming years

Best Tourism Related Website in India at FICCI Travel & Tourism Excellence Awards

Development of Shree Jagannath Heritage Corridor in Puri

Marine Drive Eco Retreat set up in less than 1.5 months & has recorded over 60% occupancy

Shamuka Beach Project received all statutory clearances including environmental clearance from MoEFCC

Odisha emerging as a Water Sports and Recreation Hub with identification of eight waterbodies

Wonderla to set up 4th Amusement Park with investment of ₹ 350 Cr in Khordha

**Similipal earns Rs 1 crore from nature tourism projects**

From Ramanath V | TNN | Mar 2, 2019, 11:09 IST

**Govt to duplicate Satkosia success to woo tourists**

The Bharatpur-Chandaka landscape will be revived through a habitat enrichment programme.

**TOURISM ECONOMY**

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**Odisha Local**

**State's eco-tourism going places**

Published: 03rd February 2020, 09:52 AM | Last Updated: 03rd February 2020, 09:52 AM

**NATURE BECKONS**

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**NATURAL HAVEN**

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The programme has been launched by the Forest and Environment department at different

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**COVER/STORY**

**GO GREEN IN ODISHA**

The eastern state is emerging as one of the best ecotourism destinations in India, thanks to the Odisha government's various initiatives in this regard.

By City Unit

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NEWS / CITY NEWS / BHUBANESWAR NEWS / GOVERNMENT SETS ASIDE RS 7.7 CRORE TO STRENGTHEN ECOTOURISM

**Trained villagers to be eco-guides in Debrigarh**

Rohan Ramanath V | TNN | Sep 4, 2019, 12:31 IST

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**BHUBANESWAR:** As many as 15 villagers have been roped in by the Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary authorities to train them to work as eco-guides. The villagers are from the fringe villages abutting the sanctuary.

The move is aimed at boosting eco-tourism in the sanctuary, which is known for its vast expanse of plain land, meadows and better sighting of animals, said an official source. The sanctuary has an eco-tourism facility at Barakhanda. Recently, the authorities introduced jungle safari to make tourists explore the wildlife habitat.