



Truly India

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Jewels of the East

Duration: 14N/15D

**Key Sights: Kolkata - Darjeeling - Pemayangtse - Gangtok - Kalimpong - Baghdogra -
Kolkata - Bhubaneswar - Puri - Kolkata**

Day	Program	Mode
Day 1	Arrived Kolkata	By Flight
Day 2	Kolkata	
Day 3	Kolkata – Baghdogra Baghdogra - Darjeeling	By Flight By Surface
Day 4	Darjeeling	
Day 5	Darjeeling	
Day 6	Darjeeling – Pemayangtse	By Surface
Day 7	Pemayangtse	
Day 8	Pemayangtse – Gangtok	By Surface
Day 9	Gangtok	
Day 10	Gangtok – Kalimpong	By Surface
Day 11	Kalimpong – Baghdogra Baghdogra – Kolkata - Bhubaneswar	By Surface By Flight
Day 12	Bhubaneswar	
Day 13	Bhubaneswar – Puri	By Surface
Day 14	Puri	
Day 15	Puri – Bhubaneswar Bhubaneswar – Kolkata	By Surface By Flight
Day 16	Departure Kolkata	By Flight



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Day 1

Arrived Kolkata

By Flight

Arrival at Kolkata International Airport, meeting assistance by our representative who will welcome you and will provide transfer to the hotel. Upon reaching your hotel, you will be handed over the travel documents with a complete briefing of tour by the representative. Check-in and proceed to your room. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 2

Kolkata

After breakfast proceed for a full day city tour visiting Dalhousie Square (Covering Raj Bhavan, St. John's Church, High Court, GPO, Town Hall, Writer's Building and other important colonial buildings), Flower Market, Howrah Bridge, Kumhartoli (The Potter's Village), Marble Palace, Indian Museum, St. Paul's Cathedral Church & Victoria Memorial. The Heritage tour will give insight in to the historical aspect of old Calcutta. This square has many old historic buildings, to name a few - Silver Mint (1824-31) built in Greek style is presently in a dilapidated condition, The Writers Building - designed by Thomas Lyon as a trading house for East India Company in 1780 has 57 sets of identical windows on 3 storeys built like a barrack inside. The Old Mission Church, built by Swedish missionary Johann Kiernander was consecrated in 1770, General Post Office designed by Walter Granville in 1868 has a white dome and Corinthian pillars, The Raj Bhawan, once a residence of British Governors-General and Viceroys, it is now the home of Governor of West Bengal, next to it is the most important Gothic building of Kolkata - the Calcutta High Court, built in 1872. The Pareshnath Jain Temple is an ornate Digambar Jain temple built in central Indian Style in 1867 by a jeweller. The interior is richly decorated in European baroque and Italianate styles with mirrors and Venetian glass mosaics. The gardens have formal geometric flower beds. Belur Math was founded in 1899 by Swami Vivekanand, a disciple of Saint Ramakrishna. It is presently the international headquarters of Ramakrishna Mission and preaches the unity of all religions. Symbolizing the belief of "Math" (monastery) it has Hindu, Christian and Islamic style of architecture.

Visit to the Ninth oldest regular Museum of the world, Indian Museum, Kolkata. It was established in the year 1814 at the Asiatic Society and was transferred to the present site in 1878. It has over sixty galleries of Art, Archaeology, Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and Botany sections, spreading over 10000 sq. feet area. Many rare specimens both Indian and Trans - Indian origin relating to Humanities and Natural Science are preserved and displayed in the galleries of these sections. It has a collection of more than 50,000 coins of Gold, Silver and other metals. It also has a mummy in its Egyptian section.

In the afternoon visit the Victoria Memorial - a gift by Lord Curzon to Queen Victoria in honor of her commemoration and as a symbol of her Indian Empire. It has been designed in Italian Renaissance-Mughal style and built in White Marble in 1921 and has many galleries with over 3000 exhibits. At the entrance it has an impressive 'weather vane' in form of a 5mt tall bronze figure of Victory, weighing over 3 tons. Overnight stay at hotel.



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Day 3

**Kolkata – Bagdogra
Bagdogra - Darjeeling**

**By Flight
By Surface**

Breakfast at Hotel. Morning transfer to airport to board flight to Bagdogra. Arrive Bagdogra and drive to Darjeeling. Darjeeling is one of the most magnificent hill resorts in the world. This heavenly retreat is bathed in hues of every shade. The flaming red rhododendrons, the sparkling white magnolias, the miles of undulating hillsides covered with Emerald Green tea bushes, the exotic forests of Silver fir - all under the blanket of a brilliant azure sky dappled with specks of clouds, compellingly confounds Darjeeling as the QUEEN OF HILL STATIONS. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 4

Darjeeling

Breakfast at Hotel. Early morning excursion to Tiger Hill. Situated at an altitude of 2590 metres (8482 ft.) and 13 kms from the town, this spot has earned international fame for the magnificent view of the Sunrise over "Kanchenjunga" and the great Eastern Himalayan Mountains. On your way back visit Ghoom Monastery More correctly known as Yogacholing Gumpa, this is probably the most famous monastery in Darjeeling, just below Hill Cart road and the train station near Ghoom. It enshrines an image of the Maitreya Buddha. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5

Darjeeling

Breakfast at Hotel, visit Tea Plantations / Gardens nearby. Overnight at hotel.

Day 6

Darjeeling – Pemayangtse

By Surface

Breakfast at Hotel. Morning drive to Pemyangtse. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 7

Pemayangtse

Breakfast at hotel. Morning city tour visiting Pemyangtse monastery etc. Rest of the day free to explore the area. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 8

Pemayangtse – Gangtok

By Surface

Breakfast at Hotel. Morning drive to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim is situated at a height of 5,500ft. The present capital was shifted from Tumlong in 1894 by Chogyal Thutob Namgyal and is today the centre for political, commercial, religious and cultural activities of the Sikkimese people. Gangtok offers the tourists all modern amenities for pleasure and comfort. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay at Hotel.



Day 9

Gangtok

Breakfast at hotel. This morning visit some of the fascinating sights in Gangtok. Visit Phodong Monastery, it was built in the early 18th century but an older monastery had pre-existed the current one. The 9th Karmapa was invited by the king of Sikkim, where he founded three monasteries: Rumtek, the most important monastery of the Kagyu sect of Tibetan Buddhism, Phodong and Ralang Monastery. This beautiful monastery makes the abode of not less than 250 monks and it is adorned by the old mural paintings. Phodong Monastery is the major monastery of Karmapa sub-sect of Kagyupa sect. Afternoon visit the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology - It is a premiere institute and research center located atop a small hill. The main attraction here is the museum which houses around 200 Buddhist icons, antique Paintings, Thangkas, Statues, Shrines, Tapestries, Masks and other religious works of Tibetan Art. Establishment in 1958, it has sponsored and promoted research on the religion, history, language, art and culture of the people of the Tibetan cultural area which includes Sikkim. Its library holds one of the largest collections of Tibetan works in the world outside Tibet. Later visit Do Drul Chorten - an imposing white stupa. This holy stupa was built under the direction of Late Truslshi Rimpoche in 1945. It is part of the Nyingma sect of Tibetan Buddhism. There are 108 prayer wheels and the wheels have a special meaning. Turning of these wheels goes along with the chanting of the mantras engraved on them. The sound of a collective chant emanates from the prayer and meditation rooms in the monastery can also be heard in the background. The famous Do Drul Chorten has a gold plated spire. The Chorten is encircled by Chorten Lhakhang and Guru Lhakhang that boast of the two colossal statues of Guru Rimpoche (as Guru Padmasambhava is popularly referred as in these parts). Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 10

Gangtok – Kalimpong

By Surface

Breakfast at Hotel. Morning drive to Kalimpong. Situated at an altitude of 1250 metres, it enjoys temperate climate throughout the year. Somewhat secluded and tucked away in the corner under big Darjeeling umbrella, Kalimpong offers a quiet and relaxed holiday, against the backdrop of the Kanchenjunga. Arrive and check-in at hotel. Rest of the day at leisure for independent activities. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 11

**Kalimpong – Bagdogra
Bagdogra – Kolkata - Bhubaneswar**

**By Surface
By Flight**

After breakfast, check-out from Hotel. Morning drive to Bagdogra airport (76 Kms /02 hrs) to board flight for Kolkata. Arrive in Kolkata, your connecting flight for Bhubaneswar Transfer assistance upon arrival from airport to the hotel. Check-in at hotel for overnight stay.

Day 12

Bhubaneswar



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Breakfast at Hotel. In the morning proceed for the sightseeing, visit following places of interest:-

The Rajarani Temple (AD 1100), set amongst picturesque paddy fields, derives its name from the stone known as the Rajarani. It was built earlier in comparison to the impressive Lingaraja, but what sets apart this relatively small temple is its celebration of the feminine form. Here women are portrayed in a stunning variety of amorous poses and moods reminding one of the temples of Khajuraho.

The 55-mt-high Lingaraja Temple is a rare masterpiece depicting the high point of Orissan architecture of the 10th-11th century. Described as 'the truest fusion of dream and reality' every inch of its surface is covered with elaborate carvings of Gods, Goddesses, Dryads, Nymphs and Fairies. The temple can be seen from miles away and the sculpture and architecture here fuse elegantly to create a perfect harmony. It is believed that all pilgrims, who wish to go to the Jagannath temple at Puri, must first offer worship at the Lingaraja temple. The temple has two added structures—the Natya Mandir (dance hall) and the Bhoga Mandap (offering platform). Note - Non-Hindus are not allowed inside the Lingaraja Temple.

Most ornate Temple in Bhubaneswar, the Mukteshwar Temple (7th-8th century) has intricate carvings of deities that show the amalgamation of Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain styles of architecture. The carvings on the roof, especially the Bho motifs of the grinning Lion and Monkey, are quite striking. There is a well to the south of the temple in which childless women toss a coin to wish for a child.

The Brahmeshwara Temple, stands in a courtyard flanked by four smaller temples and a Shivaling. Besides, there are other minor shrines in every corner of the courtyard. Two interesting images are found inside this temple: a well-oiled image of Lakshmi, covered in cloth, and a miniature image of Nataraja sitting on a bull and playing a Veena.

Outside the city limits are the Udayagiri and Khandgiri caves, harking back to the time of Jain and Buddhist occupation of this region in the 2nd century BC. The Jain caves are among the earliest in India and all the caves were built or excavated during the 150 years before Christ. In contrast to the stark decor of the Jain caves, the Buddhist caves are decorated with excellent friezes and sculptures. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 13

Bhubaneswar – Puri

By Surface

Breakfast at Hotel. Morning visit Jagannath Temple. Remaining day at leisure for independent activities. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 14

Puri

Breakfast at Hotel. Day at leisure for independent activities. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 15

**Puri – Bhubaneswar
Bhubaneswar – Kolkata**

**By Surface
By Flight**

Breakfast at Hotel. This morning drive to Bhubaneswar airport in-time to board flight for Kolkata. Transfer to International airport to board flight to back home.



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Day 16

Departure Kolkata

By Flight

Departure by an early morning international flight.