

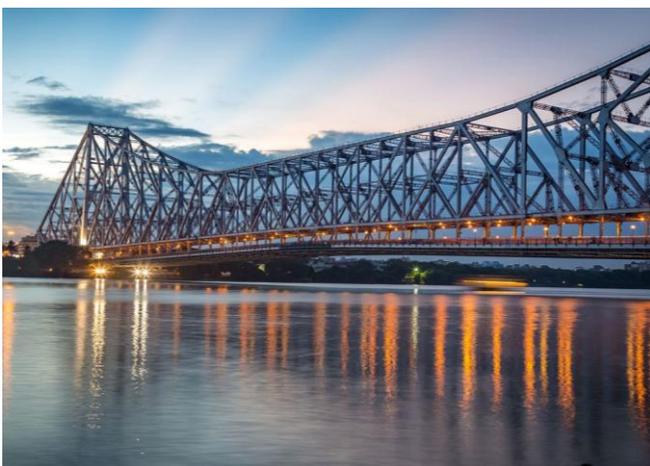
## FROM COLONIAL GRANDEUR TO SACRED SHORES – A CURATED JOURNEY ALONG INDIA’S EASTERN COAST

Where the rising sun first touches India’s shores, the **Bay of Bengal** unfolds a journey through layered civilizations, sacred traditions, and dramatic landscapes. Along its eastern sweep lie the intellectual elegance of West Bengal, the temple-dotted plains of Odisha, and the mist-kissed hills of the Eastern Ghats stretching across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. From the Victorian Gothic grandeur of Kolkata’s colonial avenues to the silent prowl of the Royal Bengal Tiger in the mangrove wilderness, this journey moves between culture and nature with seamless grace. Marvel at the celestial stone chariot of Konark, seek blessings at the sacred shrine of Jagannath in Puri, cruise across the shimmering waters of Chilika Lake where dolphins surface playfully, and wind through the lush coffee-scented valleys of Araku.

This is not just a tour — it is an exploration of devotion, artistry, wilderness, and royal legacy along India’s eastern horizon.

### **Day 1: Arrival in Kolkata – Colonial Grandeur & Cultural Charm**

Arrive in **Kolkata**, once the capital of British India and still regarded as the cultural soul of the country. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and take time to relax after your journey. In the afternoon, visit the magnificent **Victoria Memorial**, a gleaming white marble monument surrounded by lush gardens. Inside, explore galleries showcasing colonial-era paintings, manuscripts, and royal memorabilia. Continue to the historic **Indian Museum**, home to ancient sculptures, Mughal miniatures, fossils, and rare artifacts that trace India’s layered history. In the evening, stroll along Park Street, absorbing the old-world charm, and enjoy dinner at one of its iconic heritage restaurants. Overnight in Kolkata.



### **LES CLÉS DE L'INDE**

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## Day 2: Kolkata – Spiritual Serenity & River Life

Begin your day at the legendary **Howrah Bridge**, an engineering marvel bustling with life as ferries glide below on the Hooghly River. Proceed to the sacred **Dakshineswar Kali Temple**, where devotees gather to worship Goddess Kali in a spiritually charged atmosphere. Cross the river to visit **Belur Math**, headquarters of the Ramakrishna Mission, known for its peaceful gardens and unique architecture blending multiple faith styles. Later, explore the vibrant New Market area for handicrafts, textiles, and local delicacies. Overnight in Kolkata.

## Day 3: Kolkata – Bishnupur – Terracotta Heritage Trail

After an early breakfast, drive to **Bishnupur** (approx. 140 km / 3–4 hours), a hidden cultural jewel of West Bengal once ruled by the Malla dynasty. This historic town is renowned for its exquisite terracotta temples and classical music tradition. Begin your exploration with the magnificent **Rasmancha**, a unique pyramid-shaped structure built in the 16th century to display Krishna idols during festivals. Continue to the intricately carved **Jor Bangla Temple**, known for its distinctive twin-hut style architecture and detailed terracotta panels depicting scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Visit the iconic **Madan Mohan Temple**, dedicated to Lord Krishna and considered the finest example of Bishnupur's temple art. The storytelling through baked clay carvings reflects devotion, mythology, and everyday life from centuries past. In the evening, take a leisurely walk through the quiet lanes of the town, interact with local artisans who create the famous Baluchari silk sarees, and experience the peaceful charm of rural Bengal far from the city rush. Overnight stay in Bishnupur, soaking in the timeless atmosphere of this terracotta temple town.



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## Day 4: Bishnupur – Kolkata – Return to the Cultural Capital

Wake up to the quiet charm of Bishnupur, where temple bells and rural rhythms define the morning atmosphere. After breakfast, you may take a short heritage walk through the old quarters, observing daily life unfold amid centuries-old terracotta temples. Later, drive back to **Kolkata** (approx. 3–4 hours). Upon arrival, check into your hotel and relax. In the afternoon, explore the colonial district around Dalhousie Square (B.B.D. Bagh), home to grand British-era buildings such as the Writers' Building and the General Post Office. You may also visit the iconic **St. Paul's Cathedral**, known for its Gothic Revival architecture. If time permits, enjoy a sunset river cruise on the Hooghly River, offering beautiful views of the skyline and the illuminated **Howrah Bridge**. Overnight stay in Kolkata.

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### **Day 5: Kolkata – Sundarbans – Into the Mangrove Wilderness**

After breakfast, drive to the UNESCO-listed **Sundarbans National Park**, the largest mangrove forest in the world. The journey itself offers glimpses of rural Bengal life. On arrival, board a boat to navigate through winding waterways and dense mangroves. Visit the **Sajnekhali Watch Tower**, an excellent vantage point for spotting deer, crocodiles, and exotic birds. As evening descends, experience the serenity of the forest surroundings. Overnight at an eco-lodge in Sundarbans.



### **Day 6: Sundarbans – Tiger Reserve Safari**

Embark on an early morning boat safari through narrow creeks of the tiger reserve. Keep your camera ready for possible sightings of spotted deer, wild boars, monitor lizards, and perhaps the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger. The shifting tides, thick mangrove canopy, and distant bird calls create an unforgettable wilderness experience. Spend the evening relaxing amid nature. Overnight in Sundarbans.

### **Day 7: Sundarban – Kolkata – Bhubaneswar**

Proceed to Kolkata and catch a train to Bhubaneswar – the capital of Odisha and the city of Temples. Check in to the hotel and Overnight at Bhubaneswar.

### **Day 8: Bhubaneswar – Temple Architecture & Ancient Caves**

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Visit the towering **Lingaraj Temple**, an outstanding example of Kalinga temple architecture dedicated to Lord Shiva. Continue to the ancient **Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves**, carved in the 2nd century BCE and associated with Jain monks. The caves offer fascinating carvings and inscriptions. End the day with a peaceful walk around Bindu Sagar Lake, watching local rituals and temple reflections in the water. Overnight in Bhubaneswar.



### Day 9: Bhubaneswar – Konark – Bhubaneswar

Today proceed to Konark to see the UNESCO World Heritage site of Sun Temple – a magnificent temple dedicated to Sun God. An architectural masterpiece with intricate carvings, the Sun Temple of Konark is a must watch. Visit the Konark Museum to see some artefacts and sculptures related to the temple and enjoy the Light and Sound Show at the Sun Temple to know more about the temple. Return back to Bhubaneswar and Overnight at Bhubaneswar.



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### Day 10: Bhubaneswar – Puri

Today proceed to Puri(60kms/1 Hour) – one of the Chardhams as per the Hindu Religion. Visit the famous Jagannath Puri Temple dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of Lord Krishna which is also famous for the Annual grand Jagannath Yatra. Visit the Golden beach in Jagannath Puri and explore the local market. Overnight at Puri.



### Day 11: Puri – Chilika – Puri

Today, take a day trip to Chilika lake – Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and enjoy a boat ride to spot various migratory birds and dolphins. Return to Puri and relax by the beach. Overnight at Puri.

### Day 12: Puri – Vishakhapatnam

Today Proceed towards Bhubaneswar to catch a train to Vishakhapatnam. Reach Vishakhapatnam and check in to the hotel and relax at the Ramakrishna Beach in the evening. Overnight at Vishakhapatnam.

### Day 13: Vishakhapatnam

The day starts with a 2 hour ride to Borra Caves – the karsitic limestones structures considered to be one of the deepest and the largest in the country and thereby proceed for Araku Valley known for its scenic beauty and coffee plantations. Visit the tribal museum in Araku to know more about the indigenous tribes of the region. Return back to Vishakhapatnam and overnight at Vishakhapatnam.

### Day 14: Vishakhapatnam – Hyderabad

Today morning, catch a train to Hyderabad – the city of Nizams. Reach Hyderabad and check in the hotel. Evening visit to the iconic Charminar, a 16<sup>th</sup> century monument known as the symbol of Hyderabad. Walk through the nearby Laad Bazaar known for its traditional bangles, pearls and other local handicrafts. Overnight at Hyderabad.



### Day 15: Hyderabad

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Today morning, explore the Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad hosting one of the largest collections of artefacts around the world. Post that visit the Qutub Shahi Tombs constructed by the Kings of Qutub Shahi Dynasty in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Thereby visit the Historic and imposing Golconda Fort originally constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> century but fortified with the change of Guards. Watch the Light and Sound Show at the Golconda Fort to know more about the Fort and Overnight at Hyderabad.

### **Day 16: Warangal – Hyderabad**

The day has an excursion trip to Warangal about 3 hours from Hyderabad to visit the famous Thousand Pillar Temple and the Ramappa Temple inscribed as the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Both the temples are a great example of the Kakatiya architecture with intricate and exquisite carving. Return back to Hyderabad and Overnight at Hyderabad.



### **Day 17: Drop**

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Airport and drop as per schedule.

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