



Puri, famous for the temple of Lord Jagannath, is one of the four 'Dhams' (Abode) of the Hindus along with *Badrinath*, *Dwarka* and *Rameshwaram*. The temple of Lord Jagannath here is a colossal one and is famous for its *Rath Jatra* (Car Festival). Besides, many other fairs and festivals are celebrated in Puri which attracts visitors all over the world to enjoy them with much exuberance. Puri Beach Festival is one among them.



Puri Beach Festival is held on a beautiful Sea Beach of Puri i.e. the citadel of all religious culture. This festival is celebrated with all beautiful and splendid Oriya spirit. This year it is going to be celebrated from 23rd to 27th of November and it is all set to bedazzle the art lover across the world. This Beach Festival has gained enough popularity as tourists from all over the World gather here during the Festival. This is a perfect opportunity for the visitors to interact with people from varied race and creed to understand their culture. A large number of attractive and entertaining events by the great artists of different parts of the country are performed here for the visitors. Fashion shows, exhibitions, cultural programs and delicious cuisine form a part of this colourful festival.

Celebration

This is the best platform to showcase talent for the local people and for magnificent spectacles from the other parts of the Country. While on a visit to Orissa, the Beach Festival is the most enchanting experience of all. Right from cultural performances to beach fun, the whole holiday package offers a lot for every age group. The festival is not only popular among the domestic tourists but also



famous among the International tourists who come to feel the true essence of Orissa. The Puri Beach Festival unveils the rich cultural History of Orissa to the tourists. It is a secular festival and does not bear any religious colour. People from various background and culture together can enjoy the festive mood of this grand occasion. Different

cultural shows take place including traditional dance, music, performing arts etc. The local stalls display intricate handicrafts and hand woven items like Saris, Shawls, Fabrics, Bamboo Baskets and Filigree Works etc. A variety of sports such as Beach *kabadi* by girls, Country Boat Race among the *Nolias* (Local Fisherman Folk of Puri), Kick-Boxing, Karate, Indian style of Wrestling, Beach Volley Ball by both boys and girls, Fire *Banati* and *Malkhamb* are some of the attractions which would keep both the domestic and the foreign tourists busy and enchanted all through the 5 days of the festival.

Cultural Programmes

Besides the sports events the other major attraction is the culture based programmes. Since Orissa is a place with varied culture, the different traditional functions highlighting their culture are displayed in wide forms. Representatives from different parts of the Country participate and perform their own cultural theme which includes Regional Dance,



Song, and Orchestra in a lively way. The Great *Oddissi* dance projecting the saga of widely accepted *Ramayana*, *Mahabharat*, *Dasavatara*, *Kanchi Avijana*, *Glani Sanghara* etc. are performed by the well trained established group in dance form. The Marital Art of Mayurbhanj is displayed as *Chau Nurtya*. Gotipua Dance by the Artist of Raghurajpur (a village in Puri famous for *Pattachitra*) is the other attraction of this festival. The *Paikas* of Khurda who are known in the pages of History for their bravery, also perform the famous dance *Paika Nrutya*. In addition to this, participants from other part of the country & overseas as well take part to show their cultural ability.

Major Attraction - Sand Art



The major attraction which is exclusive is the 'Sand Art'. Sand art is a new concept which is carved out from heap of sand. Varieties of ancient monumental structures of the whole World and the theme based Arts are projected in sand in an artistic manner.

The Organizer of Puri Beach Festival

Every year Puri Beach Festival is organized by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Orissa (HRAO) in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Government of Orissa, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, the Development Commissioner of Handicrafts and the Eastern Zonal Cultural Center, Kolkata. All the organizers together take steps for presenting this festival to attract not only foreigners, but also a huge domestic tourist traffic that would be eager to come to this State on one platform. They would be able to enjoy our rich Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, Handloom and Cottage Industries. Every single moment that would be ever lasting in the minds of the tourists who visit Orissa during the festival.



How to Reach

By Air:



Nearest airport for Puri is Biju Pattnaik Airport located 60 kms from Puri in Bhubaneshwar. The major domestic carriers like Indian, Jet, Sahara, and Deccan operate regular flights from New Delhi, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Mumbai.

By Rail:



Puri is well connected through Railway network to the different cities of India. Tourists can reach Puri very easily because almost all daily trains and weekly trains run through Puri.

For more railway query click on to <http://www.trainenquiry.com>

By Road:



From Bhubaneswar it is a 60 kms drive on State National Highway 203. The main bus stand is located nearby Gundicha Mandir on Grand Road and regular bus services to the nearby destinations such as Konark and Bhubaneswar are available. The roads are well-maintained and one can reach Puri very conveniently.

Accommodation

Panthanivas Puri
Chakratirtha Road,
Puri - 752001

Hans Coco Palms
Swargdwar, Puri,
152 001

**New Victoria
Club Hotel**
Near Sea Beach
Puri - 752001

**Mayfair Beach
Resort**
Chakratirtha Road
Puri-752002

Puri Hotel
Sea Beach
Puri-752001

Hotel Beach View
Chakratirtha Road
Puri - 752002

**New Victoria
Club Hotel**
Near Sea Beach
Puri - 752001

Hotel Padma Puri
Station Road, -2
Puri - 752001
Orissa

Hotel Sea Point
Harihara Chhak ,
V.I.P Road
Puri - 752001

For more details please log on to <http://puri.nic.in/hotels.htm>