



BALI JATRA 2009



Bali Jatra is a very well known fair that takes place on the banks of river Mahanadi in Cuttack city of Orissa. It is usually celebrated on the full moon day in the Hindu month of Kartika (October-November).

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Historical Background of Bali Jatra...

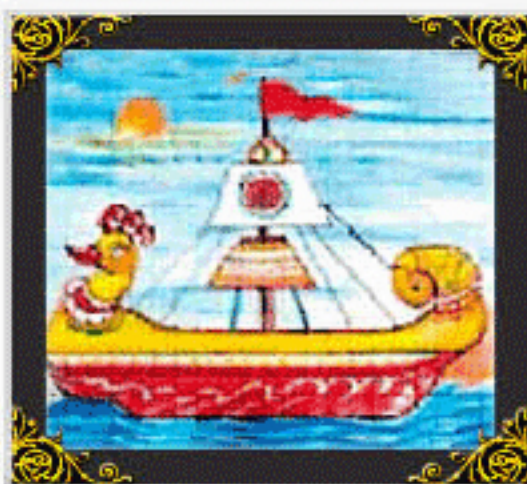
The festival is celebrated to commemorate the glorious past of commercial sea journeys that were organized to the islands of Bali, Sumatra and Java. Bali Jatra literally means, "Journey to Bali" and it also suggests a festival connected with Bali. This festival is celebrated to mark the day when ancient Sadhabas of Orissa (Oriya Traders) sail to distant lands of Bali, Java, Sumatra, Borneo (Indonesia) and Sri Lanka for the purpose of trade and cultural expansion.

Bali Jatra festival is also associated with legend 'Taapoi' and rituals like 'Bhalukuni Osha' or 'Khudurukuni Osha' and 'Bada Osha'. 'Taapoi' is deeply associated with Bali Jatra festival, which reminds the traditional memories of a young maiden's waiting for the return of her sailor brothers. To commemorate this glorious past of commercial Journey, this festival is celebrated every year from the day of Kartika Purnima according to Oriya Calender.



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Cuttack Bali Jatra...



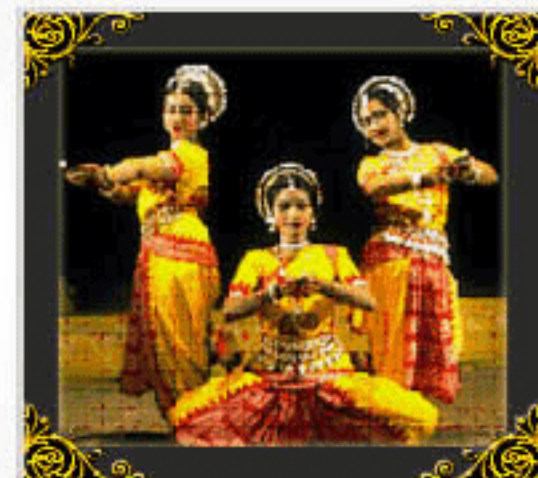
Bali Jatra is usually celebrated in Cuttack and other coastal parts of Orissa annually. It is a large and open air event on the bank of River Mahanadi at Cuttack adjacent to the Barabati Fort and stadium. There are several attractions for children in the fair. Food stalls in Bali Jatra sale Oriya delicacies from different parts of the State. The famous delicacies like Rasagola of Salepur, Rasabali of Kendrapada, Mouthwatering Thunka Puri and Dahibara Aloodum of Cuttack, Chhenajhilli of Nimapada, Chenapoda of Nayahgarh, Palua Ladoo of Bhadrak etc. attract the visitors to the Bali Jatra Ground. In this fair vendors from different parts of India sell toys, and varieties of handicraft products. Children float toy boats made of colored paper, dried banana tree barks, and cork in the Mahanadi River during Bali Jatra.

People also enjoy boating with friends and family in the moonlight night. The Cuttack Bali Jatra is attended by thousands of enthusiasts and is marked with fun. Depicting the symbol of ancient maritime glory of the erstwhile Kalinga, the festival would try to showcase the traditional art and craft of the State with full scale entertainment too. The soil of Orissa boasts of producing beautiful hand woven and handloom sarees like Sambalpuri, Bomkai, Berhampuri, Khandua, Pasapali pata, Sonpuri Pata, Mania Bandha etc. which are available in Bali Jatra. There is also a famous tradition of lighting small lamps in the hollow of the boat called Boita Bandana. Apart from the tradition it also gives an amazing spectacle to the visitors as the scene of numerous boats lit with lamps floating in the river. Every Day lakhs of people visit Bali Jatra which establishes its uniqueness from other fairs.

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Night Cultural Programmes at Bali Jatra ...

People wait for this fair with a lot of merry making in their minds. Because Bali Jatra provides a lot of cultural programmes in a single spot i.e. Bali Jatra ground. The famous Oriya Jatra Parties come to this fair to play their shows. The ethnic Oddissi Dance becomes the attraction for the visitors in every evening. Melody parties and Orchestras attract young mass to the Bali Jatra venue.



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Launch of New Product and Projects ...



The reputed companies wait for Bali Jatra to launch their new products. This event helps Corporate houses to promote their brands in a big way. Various public welfare projects are being inaugurated on this Occasion.

Orissa Tourism offers tours to visitors during the Bali Jatra, so that tourists can get a glimpse of Orissa's rich cultural history and colorfully vibrant presentation of the fair.

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How to reach Cuttack ...

By Rail ...

Cuttack is well connected through Railway network to the different cities of India. Tourists can reach Cuttack very easily because almost all daily trains and weekly trains run through Cuttack and the spot of Bali Jatra is only 4 k.m. from the Cuttack Railway Station.

For more Railway query click on to www.trainenquiry.com



By Air ...

Bhubaneswar is the nearest Airport of Cuttack which is only 25 k.m. on road. Both Cuttack and Bhubaneswar are connected with N.H., so travelers will find it comfortable to visit Cuttack directly from Bhubaneswar Airport. Indian Airlines and other Private Airlines regularly operate through Bhubaneswar Airport.



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