



When people celebrate their heritage and ways of life, the spirit of revelry crosses languages, continents and cultures. The *Kalinga Mahotsav* is one of such famous festivals of Orissa, organized by Orissa Tourism, celebrated with Great Spirit. It is an annual festive occasion celebrated for two days long, usually takes place in the first half of January-February. This festival takes place at *Dhuli* hill at the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, capital of Orissa. *Kalinga* Festival is otherwise called as the National Festival of Martial Dance. This year, the amazing event of Kalinga Mahotsav is going to be celebrated for two days i.e. from 10th January to 11th January.



The Legend



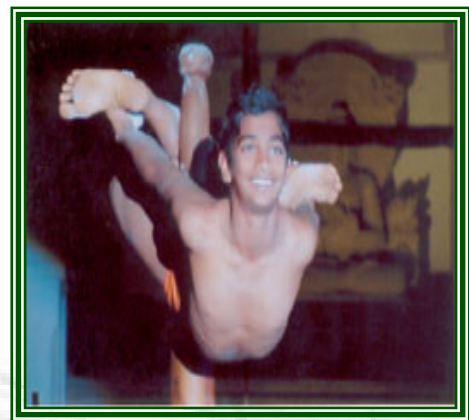
Kalinga Mahotsav or the National Festival of Martial Dance is celebrated to mark the victory of peace over war. But an interesting legend story is associated to this *Mahotsav*. Today the venue for *Kalinga Mahotsav*, *Dhuli* in *Kalinga* had

once witnessed the bloodiest battles in the history of India. It is a war that

left Emperor *Ashok* from *Chandashok* to *Dharmashok*. He realized the hollowness of his victory. A Buddhist monk named *Upagupta* rescued Emperor *Ashok* from this oblivion. He renounced the power came with the sword for the peace, and undertook a journey to enlighten the masses about the lessons and teachings of Buddhism. In real meaning, the *Kalinga Mahotsav* pays tribute to the Buddhist philosophy of winning people's heart through *Dharma* than conquering land by force.

Major Attractions

The major attraction of *Kalinga Mahotsav* is the *Vishwa Shanti Stupa* (Peace Pagoda), built in 1972 that serves as the backdrop of the *Kalinga* Festival. It also underlines the sanctity of *Dhauri*, the prominent Buddhist center in Orissa. Martial art dancers come from all over India come to Orissa to participate in this amazing festival. The raw energy of the dance performances, the gracefulness of the precise movements and powerful body language is for all to enjoy this incredible Mahotsav. This is the festival of conglomeration of diverse folk cultures of India. Some of the



prominent martial dance performances of *Kalinga Mahotsav* include *Chhow*, *Malkhumb* and *Paika* from Orissa, *Thang Ta* from Manipur and *Kalaripayattu* from Kerala. Another focus point of this Mahotsav is the

calm and solemn statue of Buddha overlooking the entire stage from the

top of the *stupa* provides the peaceful background to the outburst of movements and sounds which accompany the performance of the martial artists.

Visitors coming to Orissa in the first half in the month of January can avail the facility to visit *Kalinga Mahotsav* in a tour package offered by Orissa Tourism.

How to Reach

By Air:



Nearest airport for Dhauli Hill is Biju Pattnaik Airport located in 12 Kms. distances. The major domestic carriers are like Indian, Jet, Sahara, and Deccan operate regular flights from New Delhi, Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Mumbai.

By Rail:



The nearest railway station is Bhubaneswar Railway Station and the distance from Railway Station to Dhauli is 10 Kms.

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

By Road:



By road it is located at a distance of 3 Km from Bhubaneswar – Puri Jagannath Road on NH 203.

For more information contact:

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