

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Purulia and Jhargram

3-4 Days

From INR 10,000 per person

Best: Jan, Feb, Mar, Oct, Nov, Dec

Purulia and Jhargram make a compact road-based break through forest, low hills and rural landscapes in western West Bengal. Both lie in the state's western belt where the Chhotanagpur plateau begins, a dry, rocky, red-soil country of sal forest, low hills, tribal villages...

FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

Purulia and Jhargram make a compact road-based break through forest, low hills and rural landscapes in western West Bengal. Both lie in the state's western belt where the Chhotanagpur plateau begins, a dry, rocky, red-soil country of sal forest, low hills, tribal villages and reservoirs held between ridges. Ayodhya Hills is the heart of the Purulia side, with waterfalls, a hilltop plateau and dams; Baranti and Garpanchkot pair still water with hill silhouettes; and Jhargram adds sal woodland, a deer park and Santhal village life. The region is at its most striking in late winter and early spring, when palash and simul come into flower and the bare landscape turns red and orange.

PACKAGE DURATION

3-4 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 10,000 per person

BEST TIME

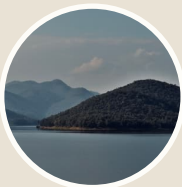
Peak: Jan, Feb, Mar, Oct, Nov, Dec | Shoulder: Jul, Aug, Sep | Avoid: Apr, May, Jun

TRIP TYPES

hill, wildlife

7 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit


Ayodhya Hills
HILL STATION | FULL DAY

A plateau in the Purulia highlands of rock, scrub and sal forest, with waterfalls, reservoirs and hilltop viewpoints reached by winding roads. Visitors drive the circuit of dams and falls, walk the short trails, and come especially in spring when palash flowers colour the slopes.


Baranti
LAKE | HALF DAY

A small village set between low hills and an irrigation reservoir, with a quiet waterfront and the hills reflected in the water. There is little to do beyond walking, boating when it is running and watching the light change, which is exactly why people stay a night or two.


Jhargram Deer Park
NATIONAL PARK | 1-2 HOURS

A fenced woodland park on the edge of Jhargram town where spotted deer are kept in a large enclosure among sal trees, along with a small collection of other animals and birds. A short, shaded walking circuit makes it an easy stop with children.



Garpanchkot

HERITAGE SITE | 2-3 HOURS

The overgrown remains of a fort and temple complex at the foot of Panchet hill, atmospheric and little visited, with terracotta detail still readable on the brick temples. Visitors wander the ruins, climb part of the hill for the view and combine it with the nearby dam.



Turga Waterfall

WATERFALL | 1-2 HOURS

A stream dropping over rock ledges in the Ayodhya Hills, reached by a flight of steps down from the road to the pools at the base. The volume is heavily seasonal, full after the rains and much reduced by late winter, and the rocks stay slippery throughout.



Jhilimili forests

VIEWPOINT | 2-3 HOURS

A stretch of sal forest on the plateau edge, visited mainly for the drive through the trees, the quiet and the birdlife. There are no formal sights here; people come for forest picnics, short walks and the surrounding villages and small water bodies.



Kankrajhor forest

VIEWPOINT | HALF DAY

A forested tract in the Belpahari area of Jhargram district, close to the Jharkhand border, with sal woodland, low hills and streams. Visitors drive out for the forest scenery and viewpoints, walk short stretches, and see something of the Santhal villages set among the trees.

4 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Ayodhya Hills

Visit Ayodhya Hills.

02

DAY 2

Baranti and Turga Waterfall

Visit Baranti, Turga Waterfall.

03

DAY 3

Jhargram Deer Park and Jhilimili forests

Visit Jhargram Deer Park, Jhilimili forests.

04

DAY 4

Garpanchkot and Kankrajhor forest

Visit Garpanchkot, Kankrajhor forest.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee. Purulia and Jhargram towns have ATMs, but forest lodges, tribal village markets and roadside stops are best handled in cash.

LANGUAGE

Bengali is the everyday language, with Santhali and Kurmali spoken in tribal villages. Hindi is understood and English works fine at lodges.

TIME DIFFERENCE

India uses one national time zone, so no clock change is required. Daylight hours vary by season and longitude.

WEATHER

Best in the cool dry winter. Plateau summers are punishingly hot and dry, while the monsoon from June turns the sal forest and hills green.

CONNECTIVITY

Mobile coverage is generally fine along the highways and in both towns. Forest interiors, the Ayodhya Hills ridges and remote villages have weak or dropping signal.

Food and culture

Meals are homely: rice, dal, seasonal vegetables, freshwater fish and occasional mutton, with winter pithe and patishapta. The region's strongest cultural identity comes from masked Purulia Chhau dance and the music, painted homes and festival traditions of Santhal, Munda and Kurmi communities.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

The nearest major airports are in Kolkata and Ranchi, depending on the circuit. Both districts are normally reached by onward road or rail.

RAIL

Purulia, Jhargram and nearby junctions receive trains from several eastern and central Indian cities. Check the most convenient station for the first stay.

ROAD

National and state highways connect the region with neighbouring states. A private vehicle is useful for the spread-out hills, forests, reservoirs and villages.

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- The palash and simul bloom lasts only a few weeks around late February and March, so time the trip for then if the red-forest landscape is the point of it.
- April and May are punishingly hot and dry on the plateau, which makes this a winter and early-spring destination rather than a year-round one.
- This is a car trip: the sights are scattered along forest roads with little public transport, so hire a vehicle for the whole circuit rather than point to point.
- Turga and the other falls around Ayodhya Hills are strongest after the rains and slow to a trickle by late winter, so set expectations by season.

- Stays are guest houses, forest lodges and homestays rather than hotels, and meals are usually pre-ordered, so tell your host what you want and when.
- Mobile signal is patchy and there is no lighting on the forest stretches near Jhilimili and Kankrajhor, so finish drives before dusk and carry a torch, cash and your own medicines.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Experience
Remember

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