

Chhatisgarh

Tattooing an impressionable mark on the tourism industry, the toddler state of Chhattisgarh, once part of Madhya Pradesh, has arrived much sooner than expected. This newborn state is as old as yesterday and as new as tomorrow. Within just three years of its statehood, Chhattisgarh is emerging as a complete destination with the right mix of infrastructure and opportunities. In lieu of its success, the government of Chhattisgarh is firmly committed to capitalise on its 'new state advantage'. To that effect, the state has taken a conscious decision to thrust on eco- and ethno- tourism that are the major USPs of its tourism.



Geographically situated in the heart of India, the state is endowed with a rich cultural heritage and attractive natural diversity. It is adorned with mesmerising waterfalls, enchanting monuments, breathtaking landscape and an assortment of wildlife comprising rare animal species and much more. However, the true USP of the state is yet undiscovered and unexplored. The untapped potential of the state is so vast that it can easily beat Kerala and Rajasthan. The green state of Chhattisgarh has 44 per cent of its area under forests, and is one of the richest bio-diversity areas in the country.

Realising that Chhattisgarh has an edge over the other states as far as its forest cover and ethnic background is concerned, the state tourism authorities have decided to hardsell eco and ethno-tourism, bringing to the fore hitherto unknown facts about the state's virgin forests. The state also boasts some of the country's largest waterfalls and deep caves and is known for its tribal culture and handicrafts.



The Eco-Initiatives

In order to position the state as a unique multi-attraction tourism destination, the state has identified eco-tourism since its potential and 'immediate' area for development as 'sustainable tourism' being its mantra.

According to Ajit Jogi, chief minister of Chhattisgarh, the state, for the uninitiated, is home to abundant natural beauty, which includes unique flora and fauna, rare wildlife, waterfalls, caves and hill plateaus. In fact, the Chitrakote Falls, located on the River

Indravati, are the country's biggest falls. Ancient caves such as the Kutumsar and Kailash Gufa still have the stalactite and stalagmite formations of yesteryears. We will thus be focusing on upgrading our USP and and thrusting on sustainable eco-tourism.

To develop and initiate various measures to employ a 'sustainable' methodology to develop tourism, the state is expecting a synergistic approach to tourism from both public and private sector. The government has already identified itself as a promoter and facilitator as far as tourism is concerned.

The state is abundant with ancient monuments, rare wildlife, exquisitely carved temples, Buddhist sites, palaces, waterfalls, caves and hill plateaus. Most of these sites are untouched and unexplored and offer a unique and alternative experience to tourists as compared to traditional destinations which have become overcrowded.

Veritable green carpet with 44 per cent area under forests. Boasting of three national parks and 11 sanctuaries, one can view a wide range of wildlife, especially the endangered wild buffalo and hill myna. Chitrakote Falls, a thundering cataract plunging down 100 feet, is a must-visit idyllic picnic spot deep in the heart of Bastar forest. Overall, the state is a kaleidoscope of tourist attractions waiting to be discovered and all these features if maintained and highlighted properly could make the state a model for eco-tourism.

According to Jayathilak, MD, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, we will be focussing on eco-tourism and ethno-tourism, and facilitating private sector initiatives, we will also promote a scientific approach to the planning, management and development of sustainable tourism products and activities in the region.

The Eco-Products

With a 12 per cent share of India's forests, Chhattisgarh's three national parks and 11 wildlife sanctuaries are a major attraction. It has several unexplored attractions in protected areas such as Kanger valley national park, Barnawapara, Sitanadi, Udanti and Achanakmar sanctuaries. The endangered wild buffalo (Bubalis Bubalis) and the even more endangered Hill Myna (Graculis Religiosa Peninsularis) are the state animal



and bird respectively. The state has taken several steps for their preservation. Natural attractions are being promoted with increased local participation and encouragement to herbal gardens and natural health resorts.

To promote eco-tourism, the state will actively identify opportunities to promote nature-based tourism with increased local participation. Wildlife areas, camping grounds and trekking facilities would be few of the prime attraction facilities. Sonmoda (Marwahi), Mainpat (Sarguja), Keshkal Valley (Kanker), Chaiturgarh(Bilaspur), Bagicha (Jashpur), Kutumsar caves, Kailash caves, Tiratgarh falls, Chitrakote falls (Bastar) as well as Kanger Valley National Park, Barnawapara sanctuary, Sitanadi sanctuary, Udanti sanctuary, Achanakmar sanctuary will be promoted as destinations for nature and wildlife tourism respectively. Subsequently, as part of its drive to promote eco-tourism, the state will leverage on its wealth of medicinal plants to encourage development of herbal gardens and natural health resorts of Yoga and Ayurveda of tourist attraction.

While the government will be responsible for the development of attractive tourist circuits, the private sector's responsibility will be operations of the circuits. The circuits will be developed in consultation and coordination with private tour operators, travel agents and hospitality industry. The circuit - New Delhi, Jabalpur, Kanha, Borhande, Raipur, Rajim, Baskar, and Araku Valley has been proposed to the government of India for approval.



To harness this potential of tourism, according to senior tourism officials, it is necessary to undertake large-scale development and improvement of infrastructure and create a conducive investment climate. Accordingly, the state will take up integrated development of Special Tourism Areas and have constructive collaboration with the private sector. Tourism development will be primarily driven by the private sector with the role of government being that of a facilitator and catalyst. Towards this end, the state has set up a State Tourism Promotion Board (STPB) as the nodal agency for translation of the policy into action for the sustained development of the sector.

Adventure Tourism: The state will promote adventure sports such as trekking, rock climbing, canoeing, water rafting, bungee jumping and a lot more. The state government shall make efforts to provide training to youth so that they are able to take up these activities on commercial basis and ensure the enforcement of safety standards. Mahanadi River, Gangrel dam, Madamsilli dam, Kodar dam will be developed to cater to the needs of adventure tourists.

Adventure Sports: The state is in the process of finalising an appropriate site for bungee jumping and other adventure activities. The equipment needed would include glider and hand gliding, support to NCC Airwing, scouts and guides, purchase of mountain bicycles, hi-speed gear bicycle and cycle safari, purchase of wind surfer, small sail boat, water skis, surf board, other water support equipment, life jackets, life buoys, snorkels, para ceiling equipment. This will be done professionally through the best operating agencies available in the country and the National Adventure Foundation.

Future Plans

As per the planning to develop circuits, presently, Bastar has been identified. In view of this "Elwin Museum" at Jagdalpur in Bastar will be established. The government has also identified Kawardha-Raipur-Rajim-Gangrel- Kanker-Keskal-Kondagaon-Jagdalpur (Bastar) circuits. Currently, the developmental plans are being worked upon. The state intends to put up necessary tourist facilities such as clean hygienic toilets and washrooms of global standards along the circuit. A musical-cum-dancing fountain at Gangrel dam premises will be set up. In Bastar, a special museum displaying all the tribal handloom and handicrafts will be set up in association with the national crafts museum in New Delhi. However, the prime focus of the tourism board will be building awareness about the location and existence of Chhattisgarh,. This would be followed up by investment promotion campaigns and subsequently by projection of tourist attraction to the travel trade and to the end consumer.



Source : <http://www.expresstravelworld.com/200311/destination09.shtml>

Chhattisgarh, a 21st century State, came into being on November 1, 2000. Larger than Tamil Nadu, the state is identified as one of the richest bio-diversity habitats, the Green State of Chhattisgarh has the densest forests in India, rich wildlife, and above all, over 200 non-timber forest products, with tremendous potential for value addition. 12% of India's forests are in Chhattisgarh, and 44% of the State's land is under forests. The central plains of Chhattisgarh are known as the "Rice Bowl" of Central India. One third of Chhattisgarh's population is of tribes, mostly in the thickly forested areas in the North and South.

Tourism

Chhattisgarh is full of ancient monuments, rare wildlife, exquisitely carved temples, Buddhist sites, palaces, water falls, caves, rock paintings and hill plateaus. Chhattisgarh's 3 National Parks and 11 Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks are a major attraction for eco-tourists. Also, the places like Borhande, Rajim, Sirpur, Tala, Malhar and Sheorinarayan in the state are prime sites for heritage tourism. Pilgrimage tourist spots like Rajim, Champaranya, Dongargarh, Sheorinarayan, Girodhपुर, Dantewada, Ratanpur, Sirpur and others are prime destinations. There is, also, great scope for the promotion of modern adventure sports such as water sports, trekking, rock climbing, parasailing and bungee jumping

Weather

Summers during April to June, can be uncomfortably hot, with the mercury hitting the high 40's. Monsoon starts from the mid June and the rainy season lasts till October. Winters during November to January are cold but also a good time to visit the state.

Bastar : Bastar was once one of the largest districts in India, bigger even than the state of Kerala and countries like Israel and Belgium. Its early history is obscure - it is believed to have been established in the 11th century by the Nagavanshi dynasty who had their capital at Barsu. There is plenty to see and do in Bastar including the 70 year old palace, waterfalls, lakes and ancient caves. The hilly terrain and forests of the Kanger Valley National Park, which is situated in the centre of the tribal Bastar district, house a number of ancient caves. The Kailash Gufa, Kutumsar Cave and Dandak Caves are few caves which can be explored.

Raipur : state capital was originally established by the Kalchuri King, Ram Chandra, in the last quarter of the 14th century AD. It is the biggest city in the region, fast developing into an important industrial center for large and middle scale industries. The region has its distinctive culture. Raut Nacha, Dewar Nacha, Panthi and Soowa, Padki and Pandwani are some of musical styles and dance dramas. There is a typical style of singing the epic Mahabharata, called Pandwani. Women wear the sari in a style called kachhora. Men wear a koundhi (necklace of beads) and kadhah (bangle) for ceremonial occasions, like dances. If in Raipur, one must visit Champaran, Turturiya, Laxman Temple and Gandheswar Temple, Sirpur and Rajim.

Raigarh : Raigarh is known Dhokra, the craft metalware created by hot wax casting and Silk which is of two types, tassar and mulberry, and is of high (export) quality. The main attraction of Raigarh are Ram Jharna, Gomarda Reserve Forest and Chakradhar Samaroh.

Durg : Situated in the south west part of Chhattisgarh, in the plains, about 35 km from Raipur and is rich in forests and mineral resources. The major attraction of Durg includes Bhilai Steel Plant, Maitry Baugh, Uwasaggaharam Parshwa Teerth and Ganga Maiya Temple.

Ancient caves, fairs and festivals, hill stations, wonderful waterfalls, picturesque palaces, temples, tribal culture and wildlife of the state makes plenty of reasons to visit Chhattisgarh.

Festivals & Events

Chhattisgarh is known for its traditional fair and festivals. Most of these have exuberance of age-old tribal traditions. Some of the major celebrations of the state are:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Bastar Dassera | - Narayanpur Mela | - Hareli Festival |
| - Bastar Lokotsav | - Fagun Wadai | - Pola Festival |
| - Madai Festival | - Koriya Mela | - Teeja Festival |
| - Bhoramdeo Festival | - The Earth Festival | - Other Tribal Festivals |
| - Goncha Festival | - The First Fruits Festival | |
| - Champaran Mela | - Chakradhar Samaroh | |

Source: http://www.joy-travels.com/india_guide/chhattisgarh.asp

I don't when the thought of visiting Chhattisgarh came in to my mind but when me and my husband decided to take a break from our daily schedules and go on for a holiday the first place came in to my mind was Chhattisgarh. So i went in to the R&D work in to the internet with the world's best search engine Google(I think i need to write a review on Google...).Not bad u can find many information thru Google. So let me start the real journey...

As a newly formed state the Government is taking measures to improve the tourism. So we started off with the Azad Hind express which starts from Pune and departs to Howrah and goes via Raipur which is the capital of Chhattisgarh. Its a 20 hrs journey by train to reach Raipur.

Raipur - The state Capital, and the only city in the state which seems to be developed. But we had only one day to spend in Raipur and i think there is a temple , Palace in Raipur if u r really interested u may visit them.

Jagdalpur - It is the district capital of Bastar and all the tourist attractions are clustered in this place only. So u will need atleast 2 days if u want to unveil the nature. Its around 300 KM from Raipur.

Chitrakot Waterfalls - Around 35 KM from Jagdalpur a very best waterfall. Its very mesmerising and u will never feel like leaving that place once u r there. There is not much of hotels around in this place so if needed pack ur foods from Jagdalpur itself. One can have access to above the falls which flows like river and take a fall. And also there are steps to reach the river which flows after falling as a waterfalls. In the night its illuminated with lights and the whole area is beautiful. So plan ur visit there by late Afternoon or early evening so that u can stay back to see the falls in the lights.

Tiratgarh Waterfalls - not so attractive as the Chitrakot falls, but a good to see and we could see people taking bath in this falls. There are steps provided to reach the falls. And this falls is also around 30 KM from Jagdalpur but in the opposite direction of the above falls.

Kutumsar Caves - Around 15 KM from the Tiratgarh Falls. These caves are the best attractions as you get to see the unseen world of stalagmites and stalactites (I think I am wrong) hanging from the ceiling and it takes years to grow. One can have access to the underground caves through the steps and there are guides available in the caves to discover them fully. And these caves will surely give one a different experience. There are also other caves mentioned in the sites but the reality is there is no access to them.

Tribal Products - If you are a kind of person who is really interested to know about the Tribal Products and is interested in spending money on their products to decorate your house then go ahead...

Bell Metal/Brass metal items - A very good art work by the Tribal & local people. And if you are really interested to see how they make them then do visit the Shilp gram around 10 KM from Jagdalpur. There is a government organized showroom and behind it people make the products and we were lucky enough to go through all of these. And there is a place called Kondagaon where a lot of people live their living by doing these products.

Terracota - Around 20 KM from Jagdalpur is Nagarnar where you can get to see the place where they make the Terracota items. And surely you can buy them there also.

Kosa Sarees - Are also famous here.

Stay - There are not much of hotels in the Jagdalpur area other than 1 good hotel named Rainbow, so prior to your visit make sure that you get a room booked in this hotel.

Food - If you are a person who vouch for proper & tasty food all 3 times a day then you are in to problem. Since there are not much of good hotels, you doesn't have option.

Travel/Transport - Since the local transport is not that good, I would suggest you to take a car as long as you stay in Chhattisgarh as it will be easy to move around.

Season/Best time to visit - The best season to visit Chhattisgarh would be just after the monsoons. From October to February. As the summer will be intolerable out there and all the tourist attractions are closed out during monsoons.

Other places of interest would be the Barnawapara sanctuary, Kanker Valley National Park...

Source: <http://www.mouthshut.com/review/Bastar-117034-1.html>

Bastar is held in high esteem for its beautiful rivers, exotic mountains and valleys, lush green forests, diverse wildlife, natural caves and enchanting waterfalls. Apart from the picturesque beauty of this place, the captivating culture and ancient architectural monuments of Bastar are also major attraction for tourists. With so much to offer, it is quite natural to find the various Tourist Attractions in Bastar drawing heavy footfalls round the year.

You can enjoy countless things on your Tour to Bastar. The Monuments in Bastar would enthral you for sure. The Kutumsar Caves, Bastar Palace and Kailash Gufa are some of the places worth a visit. You may choose Jagdalpur, Bastar's district headquarters to be your base to travel around this region. Some other places worth a visit on your Tour to Bastar consist of Danteshwari Temple and Anthropological Museum.

Several lakes and waterfalls also feature prominently amongst the Bastar Tourist Attractions. Ganga Munda Lake, Mandawa Waterfalls, Dalpat Sagar Lake, Tiratgarh Waterfalls, Thamada Ghumar Waterfalls and Chitrakot Waterfalls are some of the significant Lakes and Waterfalls in Bastar.

Bastar is also well-known for its tribal population that's the biggest in the state of Chhattisgarh. The major tribes of this region are the Bhatra, Gond, Halbaa, Abhuj Maria, Muria, Bison Horn Maria and Dhurva. The distinct culture and tradition of each of these tribes offers an interesting insight into their way of living. So, while visiting the Tourist Attractions in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, India, don't forget to know a thing or two about the Tribal Culture in Bastar.

Bastar is the biggest tribal district of the state of Chhattisgarh. **Tribals of Bastar** constitute about 70% of the total population of Bastar. This is approximately 26.76% of the total tribal population of the state of Chhattisgarh. The major Bastar Tribes are the Bhatra, Gond, Abhuj Maria, Halbaa, Muria, Bison Horn Maria and Dhurva. The Gonds of Bastar are one of the most renowned tribes in the country, known for their unique Ghotul system of wedding. In terms of population of central India, these Gonds are the largest tribal group.

Tribals of Bastar, Chhattisgarh, India are known for their unique and distinctive tribal heritage and culture all over the world. Each tribal group of this region has its own distinct culture and enjoys a unique traditional living style. The dialect of each of these tribes differs from the others as do their eating habits, costumes, traditions and customs. Even each of these Bastar Tribes worship different forms of gods and goddesses.

Many **Tribals of Bastar** are still living in deep forests. These people avoid mixing with outsiders so that they can protect their own unique culture. These Bastar Tribes are also known for their colorful festivals and magnificent arts and crafts. Bastar Dussehra is the most famous event of this area.

These **Tribals of Bastar** were also amongst the earliest to develop their expertise in working with metals. These people craft beautiful statuettes of votive animals and tribal gods. You will also feel enthralled to see the deft craftsmanship of these tribals reflected in the oil lamps, figurines of carts and animals.

Source : <http://www.indianholiday.com/tourist-attractions/chhattisgarh/bastar/>

Must have Travel Experiences: Tribal Country Bastar

Noise is unheard of here. Only sound of chirping birds, gushing streams, the bountiful waterfalls & drumming sound soothes the ear in Bastar. A visit to this tribal district of Chhattisgarh is surely once in a lifetime experience!

The tribal villages have winding mud roads running through the typical tribal houses made entirely of mud with thatched or red tiled roofs. Each village tends to specialise in a particular kind of handicraft - pottery, bell-metal work or iron-work. The district capital, Jagdalpur is a tiny spot, which most of the urban tourists might be oblivious of. Within a radius of 200 Km from Jagdalpur are forests of Keshkal, princely states of Kawardha and Kanker, Nagarnar and Narayanpur towns.

The tribals are a bit shy, but friendly - they are as curious to see visitors as visitors themselves! Shy they may be but they will extend a warm welcome only if they feel that they are not treated as objects of exhibition.

Gond, Abujmaria, Bisonhorn, Maria, Muria, Halba, Bhatra, Parja and Dhurvaa are the main tribes of Bastar. Each tribe has its own history, social & religious customs and distinct culture of music, food and dress. Dance is an important part of tribal culture in Bastar. There are various forms of tribal dances in Bastar, which include Saila, Suwa and Karma dance. All the forms of these folk dances involve complex footwork and are characterised by their robustness & earthiness.

Besides the tribal experience, this green paradise has many other facets to it.

Spending a few days in the tribal country losing oneself in the tribal songs and beating of drums is sure shot way to get away from it all. Bastar simply spells magic.

While the lush green valleys & mountains, bountiful streams & waterfalls make it a traveller's paradise; the mythological significance adds to the aura of Bastar. In the iconic Indian epic 'Ramayana' Sage Valmiki had described this forest region as 'Dandakaranya', where Lord Rama is said to have spent about 13 years in exile. The royal tribes, the age-old art forms, the Arcadian lifestyle, the caves, waterfalls and the mythological significance make it a must-have travel experience.

› Places to see in Bastar

Bastar in Chhattisgarh has a plethora of options, from National Parks, to caves, waterfalls, palaces, museums & religious/mythological places; there is no dearth of unique travelling experience. The astounding wilderness and abundant fauna make it the ideal place for nature lovers and wild life enthusiasts. A number of cascading waterfalls further add to the enchanting appeal of Bastar.

› Wildlife spots in Bastar

All the forests in the region abound in rare species of birds & reptiles.

Kanger Valley National Park: Declared a National Park in 1982, the park is located 27 Kms from Jagdalpur on the banks of Kholaba river. Wildlife here includes Panther, Tiger, Bear, Snake and many species of Deer.

Indravati National Park: This Park derives its name from the Indravati River, the largest & most important river of Bastar. Animals found here include Tiger, Wild Buffalo, Nilgai, Flying Squirrel and Barking Deer among others.

Bairamgarh Wildlife Sanctuary: This sanctuary abounds in Chital, considered the most beautiful of the Deer species. They are found roaming in open grasslands as well as dense forests.

Bhainsa Darha: 63 Kms from Jagdalpur, this lake (where River Kanger flows into) is spread over nearly four hectares in the thick bamboo forests. Crocodiles and Tortoises add to its glory.

› Cascading Waterfalls in Bastar

The region has abundant waterfalls which range from zig-zag trickles to roaring falls that are comparable to the best in the world. Bastar is known for its famous Chitrakoot falls, one of the most beautiful of all the waterfalls. Smaller waterfalls include Kanger Dhara near Kutumsar, Mandra, Chitradhara, Tamada and Dhoomar. Although smaller, each one surrounded with greenery is a treat to the eye.

Chitrakoot Waterfalls: 50 Kms from Jagdalpur is the crescent moon shaped Chitrakoot waterfalls, one of the finest in India. It is often compared with the Niagra falls of the US for its shape & sheer beauty, even though it is smaller. River Indravati plummets down from the Vindhya mountain ranges to form the spectacular waterfall.

Tirathgarh Waterfalls: 32 Km from Jagdalpur, Tirathgarh is famous for this waterfall that drops into Mugabaha river. On descending down the steps, a grand view of the falling sheets of water that falls from a height of 50 metres awaits you. A panoramic view of the waterfalls and surrounding forests from the watch tower would entice you to visit again.

Mandra Falls: Located 12 Kms away from Jagdalpur, this smaller yet enchanting Mandra Waterfalls leaves the visitor stunned.

Chitradhara: 19 Kms away from Jagdalpur in Potanar village of Lohandiguda, lies this small but captivating waterfall.

Dhoomar: Bask in the richness and beauty of this perennial waterfall which is truly dramatic especially towards the end of monsoons when the river is at its rampageous best.

› Other places to see in Bastar

Besides the wildlife, the water cascades & caves, the princely states of Kawardha and Kanker, Nagarnar and Narayanpur are also worth visiting. Also it is a great experience to enjoy the tribal dance & music and check out the handicrafts of the region. Other sight-seeing attractions in Bastar are:

- Deep in the forests of North Bastar, not far from Narayanpur, a tranquil Buddha sits on the site of an ancient monastery.
- At Garh Gobrahin near Keshkal stands granite Shivling which is the witness to variety and influence of worship over the years.
- Kawardha has a palace and some nearby cultural sites which includes the famous Boramdeo temple.
- Nagarnar is famous for its terracotta crafts and Narayanpur is known for its bell metal, woodcraft, wrought iron and bamboo artifacts.
- The Ramakrishna Mission centre which takes up the responsibility for the welfare activities for the tribals.

Things to do

- Watch tribal dance
- Go shopping (handicrafts)
- Catch a cock-fight
- Visit weekly haat (market)

- The anthropological museum on the route to Chitrakoot waterfalls, also gives valuable insight into tribal history and culture. There also exists a Jagdalpur palace & museum which showcases the long history of Bastar.
- Also to check out are the Danteshwari & Venkateshwara temple and an interpretation centre at Kutumsar, imparts knowledge to visitors about the wild life and forests.

Best time to visit Bastar

The best time to visit is between the months of November & June. During the monsoons the caves are closed for visitors as water fills in them.

By Road: Jagdalpur is connected to Vishakapatnam, on a route that passes through virgin forests with breath-taking valley-views and Raipur which is on the main Howrah-Mumbai line.

The roads in Chhattisgarh are generally very good - wide, clean, smooth and virtually free of traffic. Even the smallest villages are linked. All places of tourist interest are connected by good, motorable roads.

› Important Fairs & Festivals of Bastar

Dusshera: The most famous festival of Chhattisgarh, is celebrated with great fanfare in Bastar region. Dusshera in Bastar is different, as it has nothing to do with the triumphant return of Lord Rama in Ayodhya or defeat of evil Ravana. Bastar Dusshera is devoted entirely to Goddess Danteshwari and celebrated in high spirits by all major tribes of Bastar.

Bastar fact file

State: Chhattisgarh

Area: 8755.79 Sq. Km

Headquarters: Jagdalpur

Temperature

Summer Max: 41.0°C Min: 31.0°C.

Winter Max: 17.5°C Min: 12.0°C STD Code : 07782



Madai Festival: Another famous festival of this region is held in the different villages extending from Mandla to Bastar. Thousands of devotees gather under the shade of a sacred tree to sacrifice a goat to the Mother Goddess and the whole night is spent in dancing, eating and merry making.


Bhagoriya Festival: A popular festival among Bhil tribes of the region is dedicated to the god of dance. Bhagoradev, the god of dance is worshipped with young girls and boys dance with each other and express their love.

› Safety Guide

An experienced guide is essential to tour the forests & the caves. It is also dangerous to roam freely in the forest away from your parked vehicle. Feeding animals is prohibited, as it will disturb the ecosystem. The National Park and adjoining areas are polythene free zones, so we are required to be a responsible traveler and do not leave a trail of packets, wrappers and other wastes behind us.

About Bastar: Bastar Information and Fact File

	Altitude	850 meters	
	Temp	Summer	33 (Max) & 20(Min) Degrees Celsius
		Winter	24 (Max) & 16 (Min) Degrees Celsius

	Best time to Go	October – March
	Monsoon	June to September
	Summer	April to June
	Winter	Dec-January
	Clothes	Light woollens in peak-winter months of December and January. Cottons rest of the year.
	Nearest Airport	Hyderabad – 550 km
	Nearest Railway Station	Jagdalpur (District Headquarters of Bastar district)
	Bus Station	Jagdalpur (District Headquarters of Bastar district)
	Hospital & Doctor	The district has ample health facility with 64 Primary Health Centers and 4 Allopathic Hospitals with Emergency facilities.
	Places to see	Chitrakoot waterfalls, Tiratgarh waterfalls, Kotamsar caves, Kailash caves, Kanger Valley National Park, Indravati National Park

Source: <http://www.oktatabyebye.com/Travel-Ideas/Vacation-Ideas/TravelExp-Bastar.aspx>

Go wild in Chhattisgarh

This forested state will yield its hidden treasures to the intrepid traveller.

Not many people would actually pick a place like Chhattisgarh for a holiday or even a getaway. After all, it is hardly publicised and lacks the ingredients of a typical tourist attraction. But if you do manage to think beyond the usual places, then you'll be in for a pleasant surprise in Chhattisgarh.

Jagdalpur is the best place to visit in the state. Full of dense forests, the tribals and their art forms lend the place a unique charm. Of course, there are many areas in the region, also called Bastar, which are declared Naxalite and it's better to avoid them completely.

Bastar has something or other for tourists of every taste. It has national parks, caves, waterfalls, palaces and museums, and the best part is that it is quite secluded and you will not be crowded out by other tourists.

One has to go to Raipur, the state capital, first and then head to Jagdalpur, which is about 300 km from there. Once you are in Jagdalpur most of the places to visit are within an 80 km radius.

There are four national parks surrounding Jagdalpur, with Kanger Valley National Park being the largest and full of spectacular landscapes as well abundant wildlife.

The best and the most well-known site in the region are the Chitrakoot waterfalls. These breathtaking falls are 50 km from Jagdalpur. Though they are often compared with the Niagara Falls of the US because of the shape, they are nothing like it. The river flows from the Vindhya mountain range and makes for a beautiful sight. Apart from Chitrakoot, there are also the Tirathgarh waterfalls.

Being a tribal-dominated area, there are quite a lot of caves as well in this belt. Kutumsar Cave is 330 metres in length and is known to be the second-longest natural cave in the world. Near the Kanger Valley National Park, there is another cave called the Kailash Cave which attracts quite a few tourists.

The region still hasn't caught the fancy of many people, but if you are looking for a secluded as well as an adventurous holiday, then Bastar is the ideal place. Just one safety tip: have a local guide with you all the time, as the place is surrounded by dense forest in which it is easy to get lost, and some areas are Naxalite-infested as well.

Source: <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/go-wild-in-chhattisgarh/331585/>

Suggested Itinerary

Day 01: Jagdalpur-Chitrakote Evening arrival at resort after relaxing for a hour drive to visit enchanting Chitrakote waterfall. Dinner and Over night stay at Resort.

Day 02: Kanger Valley National park Morning head out towards the jungles of Bastar, visit the Kanger Valley National Park to enjoy one of the finest virgin forests tracts on earth. Here we'll explore one of the natural limestone caves, Kutumsar Caves known for beautiful stalagmites and stalactite formations (It takes about 6000 years to form 1 inches). And cascading Seven- tier Tirathgarh waterfall. Walk through the greens and verdant landscape of the tribal countryside and savor the typical flora and fauna of the region at Natures Trail near Tirathgarh.

Day 03: Local Market after early breakfast; we'll drive to Anthropological Museum to have insight about different tribal cultures of Bastar. Next we will drive to local market of Jagdalpur so that you can buy some of the most beautiful handicrafts of Bastar like Bellmetal, Terracote, Tussar silk, Wrought iron, Wooden craft, Jute items, etc. Back to resort after having lunch departure to Raipur/Visakhapatnam with sweet memories of Bastar.

Source: <http://www.nivalink.com/namanbastar/tariff.html>