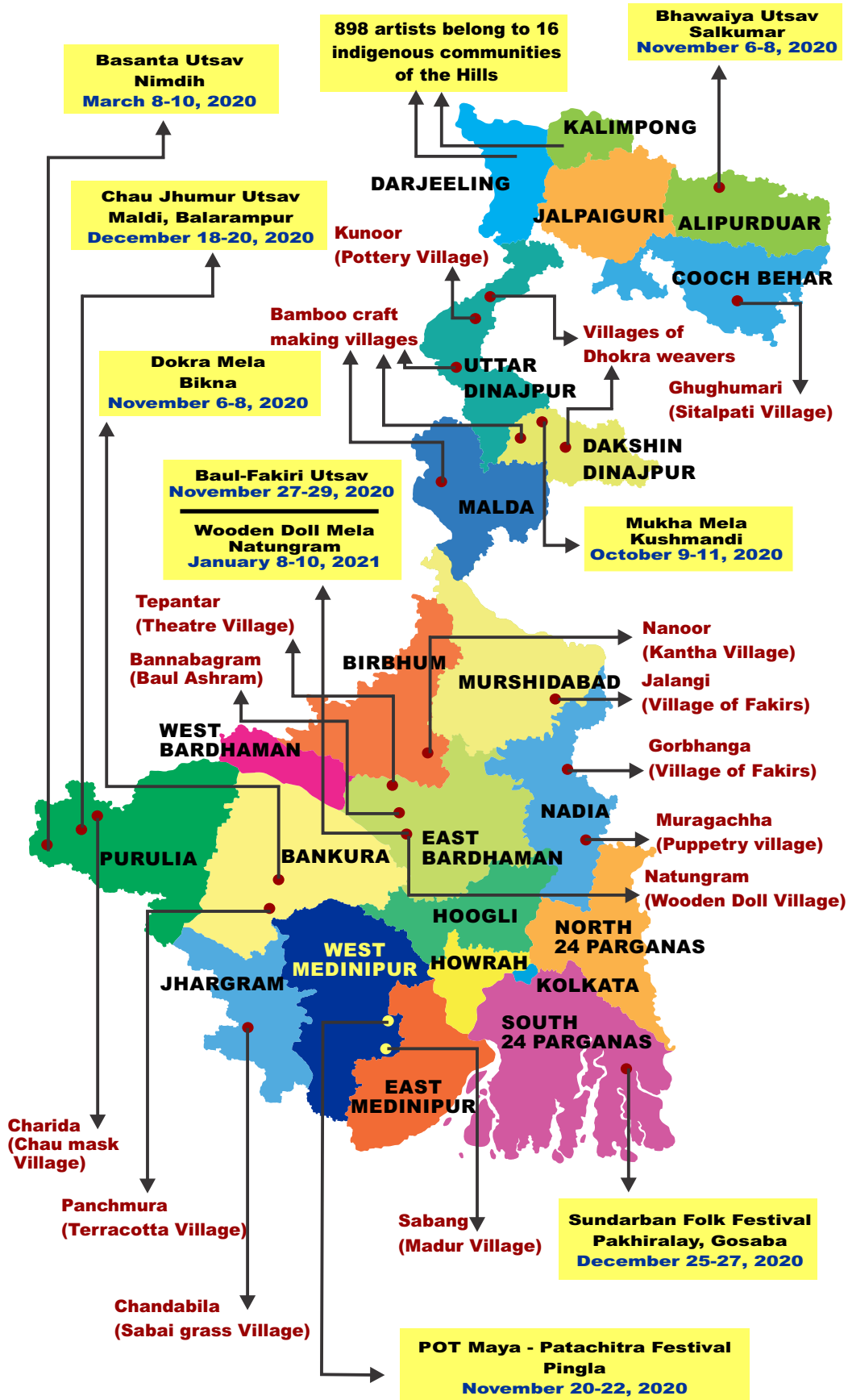


Cultural Tourism in Rural West Bengal



Folk Holi

In the midst of nature

Nimdih

Mar 8 - 10, 2020



Dancing to the beats of dhamsa and madal (drums) and smearing colours on each other's face are what Folk Holi is all about. Folk Holi is celebrated every year at Nimdih with much fervour and with local and foreign tourists taking part in the celebration.

Situated on 60 acres of land, Nimdih Gandhi Ashram is revamped with new looks. It is located at the foothills of the Dolma range and offers a picturesque and enchanting view of the region. A museum on Gandhi connecting to the untold stories of the Ashram is developed. Nimdih offers both tent and cottage accommodation.

Tourists can visit Nimdih between September and March. Visitors interested in Purulia tours may opt for staying at Nimdih Gandhi Ashram.



Itinerary

- Mar 8 – Mela inauguration at 5 pm, Folk programme till 9 pm.
- Mar 9 – Dol celebration in the morning. Folk programme in the evening.
- Mar 10 – Workshop on Chau dance and organic farming, post lunch departure.



Package

We provide tent/ dormitory/ room/ cottage accommodation during the mela time. 2 nights 3 days package including stay, hot cooked Indian food (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and festival costs Rs. 2800 to Rs. 6000 per person, depending on preference of stay.

- Cottage/ Room for 2-3 persons with attached toilet - Rs. 6000 pp
- Room with 6-7 persons with attached toilet - Rs. 4500 pp
- Room with 2-18 persons with common toilet - Rs. 3500 pp
- Tent with 1-8 person(s) with common toilet - Rs. 2800 pp



We also provide Kolkata to Kolkata tour during Nimdih Folk Holi Celebration, interested ones may please ask for details.

Mukha Mela

Kushmandi, Dakshin Dinajpur
Nov 9 - 11, 2020



Wooden Mask makers village - Kushmandi, Dhokra weaving artists; villages around - Mahisbathan, Kulator, Dehat, Pottery village - Kunoor, Basketry village - Daspara, Bamboo Mask - Baishyapara will give you a unique cultural tourism experience. They also hold the Geographical Indication (GI) for Wooden Mask. Explore the Community Museum at Kushmandi and enjoy evening folk festival on all 3 days of the festival. This will be the 7th edition of this village mela. Mela is free entry and open to all.



How to reach

Nearest railway station is Kaliyagunj. Kushmandi, Mahisbathan is 17 km from Kaliyagunj. Other option is to reach Kushmandi by road via Malda, takes 2 hours.

Tour Package

We provide 1 night 2 days / 2 nights 3 days tour package including stay, hot cooked Indian food (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and it costs Rs. 10,000 per couple.

Tourists can also visit Kushmandi any time of the year.

- Nov 9 – Reach Kushmandi by overnight train, visit village, community museum, local haat. Mela inauguration at 5 pm, Folk programme till 9 pm.
- Nov 10 – Visit Dhokra weavers village in the morning, wooden mask making workshop in the afternoon. Folk programme in the evening.
- Nov 11 – Pottery/ Basketry workshop, evening departure.



POT Maya

Pingla, Paschim Medinipur

Nov 20 - 22, 2020



11th edition of Patachitra mela will be held at Naya village in Pingla, Paschim Medinipur. They hold the Geographical Indication (GI) for Patachitra. Learn about Patachitra tradition, join the workshop to learn about the process of making natural colours or listen to the Patachitra songs 'Pater Gaan' to know the stories of the paintings. Enjoy the Community Museum of the village and the evening folk festival on all 3 Festival days. Mela is free entry and open to all.



How to reach

Naya is 130 km from Kolkata by road. Reach Debra along NH6, turn left for Balichak. From Balichak, head towards Mundomari crossing, take left to reach Naya, Pingla. Nearest railway station is Balichak. From Balichak, take a bus or car to Naya, Pingla.

Visit Pingla Mela

Pingla is ideal for a day tour.

At TourEast, we organize Kolkata to Kolkata day tour by car, which costs Rs. 3000 per person (including lunch, transport and festival participation).

Anyone interested to stay overnight may please contact us for details. Limited accommodations available.

- Day Tour : Start from Kolkata in the morning, reach Pingla around 11 am, visit village, participate at mela, interact with artists community, see community museum. participate natural colour making workshop, return to Kolkata by 8 pm.
- Quality Folk music/ dance programme everyday in the evening.
- If you stay overnight, plan a visit to Madur hub at Sabang, which is 45 minutes away.



Baul Fakiri Mela

Purba Bardhaman
Nov 27 - 29, 2020



11th edition of Baul Fakiri mela will be held at Purba Bardhaman. Around 250 Bauls & Fakirs from Bardhaman, Birbhum, Bankura, Murshidabad and Nadia will be at the festival. Visitors can enjoy Baul philosophy, discourse and music at the multiple small gatherings and also enjoy the evening programme.

Tour Package

- Nov 27 - Mela starts at 3 pm, music till 10 pm.
- Nov 28 - Prabhati in the morning, then 10 am to 1 pm, and 3 pm to 10 pm is music time.
- Nov 29 - Prabhati in the morning, then 10 am to 1 pm, and 3 pm to 4 pm is music times, followed by departure.

We provide room/ dormitory/ cottage accommodation during the mela time. 2 nights 3 days package including stay, food (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and festival costs Rs. 3000 to Rs. 6000 per person, depending on preference of stay.



188/89, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata 700045
Phone: 8420106396
www.tourest.in, tourest@banglanatak.com

Chau Jhumur Utsav

Balarampur, Purulia

Dec 18 - 20, 2020



Purulia is a pied panorama of nature, people, culture and heritage. It is the land of the spectacular Chau dance inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2010.

Chau is a colorful, martial mask dance of eastern India. Nearly 3,000 artists pursue this vibrant performing folk art tradition in Purulia.

10th edition of Chau Jhumur Utsav will be held at Maldi village in Balarampur, Purulia on 18-20 December. Purulia Chau teams, Jhumur song and dance teams and Mayurbhanj Chau teams will perform. Handicraft stalls including Majramura Patachitra and Chau masks will be there.

Festival is free entry and open to all.



Tour Package

We offer a 3 days-2 nights tour package (Kolkata to Kolkata) during this time including stay, hot cooked Indian food (breakfast, lunch, dinner), Purulia tour and festival. Package costs Rs. 15,000 per couple.

- Dec 18 – Morning train to Purulia. Participate at Chau workshop in the daytime. Mela inauguration at 3 pm, Folk programme till 8 pm.
- Dec 19 – Daytime tours cover Ayodhya hills, Chau mask makers' village at Charida and 8th century temple at Deulghata at the bank of Knasai river. Enjoy festival in the evening.
- Dec 20 – Visit Nimdih Gandhi Ashram, evening return train.

Sundarbans

The land of mystic rivers and boatmen

Dec 25 – 27, 2020



Sundarban is a UNESCO World Heritage site and is renowned for its bio-diversity, unique landscape and the iconic Royal Bengal Tiger. This landscape of the Sundarban inspires the folk traditions of this land, such as Bonbibir Pala, a mythological play that revolves around the age-old conflict of man and animal. Mystic rivers of the Sundarban inspire soul-stirring Bhatiyali songs. Likewise, another local tradition, Jhumur dance and songs, resonates through time. The land offers visitors an experience of a lifetime. 4th edition of Sundarban Folk Festival will be held on 25-27 Dec, 2020. Festival is free entry and open to all.

Tourists can visit Sundarban anytime during the year. We customize the package for guests, depending on their duration of stay and interest area.

Tour Package during the weekend Folk Festival

- Dec 25 - Boat at Gadkhali at 10:30 am, takes 1.5 hours to reach Pakhiralay. Stay is arranged at Hotel Mainak. Festival starts at 4 pm, till 8 pm.
- Dec 26 - Boat trip to Mangrove forest of Sajnekhali, Sudhanyakhali (8 am to 4 pm, Breakfast and lunch on boat). Enjoy festival in evening.
- Dec 27 - Post lunch return boat to Gadkhali.

We provide Kolkata/ Gadkhali to Kolkata/ Gadkhali service for 2 nights and 3 days visit to Sundarbans. Mineral water, decent clean stay (with attached bath, western toilet), hot Indian food, guide, AC SUV/ Traveller (depending on the size of the group) are offered along with the feel of local folk culture (Jhumur dance, Bonbibir Pala, Bhatiyali) and a curated folk festival with showcasing of various art forms of Bengal.

Cost: Rs. 12,000 per couple.

