Bannabagram
Baul Ashram

Situated on 1.13 acre of land, Bannabagram Baul Ashram is located near Ausgram, Bardhaman next to the forest range and offers a peaceful stay. Bannabagram Ashram offers simple stay arrangements with cottages with attached toilet. Tourists can visit Bannabagram starting October 2021.

What to expect

- Baul music
- Isolation and peace
- Organic farming
- Morning walk trail in forest
- Visit to nearby Kantha village

There are 4 cottages (twin occupancy, attached toilet) for guest(s) to stay.

Cottage : Rs. 2000 / person / day including stay, breakfast, lunch and dinner.

tourEast

Booking Contact: toureast@banglanatak.com, 8420106396, 033 40047483 x 130

Tepantar
Theatre Village

Tepantar is a sprawling four acres, lush green campus, far from the bustling metropolis. It is the abode of a group of theatre practitioners, Ebong Amra. Tepantar is about 175 km from Kolkata, at Satkahania village of Paschim Bardhaman, near Panagarh. It is a self sustained campus where the theatre artists themselves practice farming, dairy and pisciculture other than running the campus. Tourists can visit Tepantar starting October 2021.

What to expect

- Theatre performance
- Walking tour in the village, upto Ajay river
- Joydev Kenduli, the cradle of Baul music is 30 minutes away
- Santiniketan is 23 Km away.

There are 7 cottages (Double Occupancy) and 5 dormitories (8 -10 persons) (all with attached bathroom/ toilet).

Cottage : Rs. 1500 / person / day including stay, breakfast and dinner.

Dormitory : Rs. 1000 / person / day including breakfast and dinner.

tourEast

Booking Contact: toureast@banglanatak.com, 8420106396, 9832837228

Nimdih
Gandhi Ashram

Situated on 20 acres of land, Nimdih Gandhi Ashram is located at the foothills of Dalma in between Purulia and Jamshedpur. It offers a picturesque and enchanting view of the region and a peacefull stay. Nimdih offers simple stay arrangements with cottages. Tourists can visit Nimdih between mid-Dec and mid April. Nimdih has big land dedicated for organic farming and guests can experience doing it. Tourists can visit Nimdih starting October 2021.

What to expect

- Organic farming, fishing
- Isolation and peace
- Walking tour to Dalma foothills
- Chau and Jhumur dance

There are 9 cottages (twin occupancy) & 3 rooms (4 occupancy) (all with attached bathroom/ toilet), and 6 dormitories (8-10 occupancy) (common bathroom/ toilet), for guest(s) to stay.

Cottage : Rs. 1500 / person / day including stay, breakfast and dinner.

Dormitory : Rs. 1000 / person / day including breakfast and dinner.

tour east

Booking Contact: toureast@banglanatak.com, 8420106396, 033 40047483 x 130

Experience Rural Cutural Bengal

Pingla Patachitra

Visit Pingla, the abode of over 250 Patachitra artists or 'Patuas'. Patuas paint stories in a series of frames on long scrolls of cloth using natural colours and sing the stories as they unfurl the scrolls. Nowadays they also make a range of diverse products like apparels, stationery items and home décor using Patachitra motifs. Patachitra has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Discover their lifestyle, see them paint, and interact to know more about the traditional art form. Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) has developed a Rural Craft Hub here in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Patachitra resource centre including a community museum.

Rahim Chitrakar - 9932851321

Sabang, Madur

Sabang in Paschim Medinipur is known for its Madur tradition in Paschim Medinipur. There are around 10 madur units at Sabang developing exquisite Madur products. Madur has received GI status in 2018. The Folk Art Centre and production centres were developed at Sabang for quality production and environment.

Nishikanta Das - 9800314193

Bikna Dokra

Bikna village is close to Bankura town. It is home to approximately 200 artists practising the primitive Dokra art. Dokra is the art of melting figurines through the metal casting technique. Dokra is characterised by primitive simplicity, rustic beauty, imaginative designs and patterns making it a coveted collector's item. The Dokra has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Dept. of MSME&T has developed a Rural Craft Hub here in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Dokra resource centre including a community museum.

Somnath Karmakar - 9932546842

Panchmura Terracotta

Terracotta of Bankura is one of the first attempts of man at clay modelling that has been perfected with time. Baked in sun and burnt in mud kilns with dry eucalyptus leaves, the earthly ensembles in dull ochre or red are beauteous caricatures. Terracotta has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Bhutnath Kumbhakar – 9732187161

Dariyapur Dokra

Dariyapur village is located close to Guskara in Bardhaman. The village is known for its Dokra artisans. The families had migrated to this place about 120 years back from Odisha. At present, 133 artisans from Dariyapur practise Dokra craft as an occupation. Dept. of MSME&T has developed a Rural Craft Hub here in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Dokra resource centre including a community museum.

Subho Karmakar - 9123003933

Charida Chau Mask

Chau is a colorful, martial mask dance of eastern India. Nearly 180 families of Chau mask makers live in Charida village. This has evolved as a major Tourism destination for art lovers, both for workshop/ demonstration and also to procure souvenirs/ gifts directly from the source. They hold the annual mela in winter also. Charida also holds the Geographical Indication (GI) for the Chau Mask art form. Dept. of MSME&T has developed a Rural Craft Hub here in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a community museum.

Bhim Sutradhar – 9635304740

Maldi Chau Village

Maldi, a beautiful village in the Balarampur block of Purulia located next to the Kumari Dam is a hub of Chau dancers. Chau is an acrobatic martial art based dance form inscribed in UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Regural chau training for children take place here.

Jagannath Chowdhury – 9933409339

Pingla

Experiencing visual story telling

Visit Pingla, the abode of over 250 Patachitra artists. Discover their lifestyle, see them paint, and interact to know more about the traditional art form. Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) has developed a Rural Craft Hub here in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Patachitra resource centre. Visit their community museum to learn about different scrolls, know its' stories and explore the array of diversified products. In 2018, Patachitra received the Geographical Indication (GI) accreditation. Learn about this age-old oral and visual art. Situated in Naya Paschim Medinipur, Pingla makes a beautiful destination for a weekend visit.

When in Pingla, one can also visit the Mat weaver's hub in Sabang, the Sabai artists' village and the heritage places in Jhargram.

- Experience natural colour making
- Listen to traditional songs
- Meet the artists and know about folklores

Artist Contact:

Swarna Chitrakar - 6294548408

Mantu Chitrakar - 9733521335

Rahim Chitrakar - 9932851321

Bikna

Home to a Primal Craft

Bikna village, 5 km from Bankura, is the hub of Dokra, where 290+ practicing artists live. Dokra is the art of crafting rustic figurines through the ancient metal casting technique. The main hallmark of the 'Dokra' craft is primitive simplicity, charming folk motifs, rustic beauty and imaginative designs.
Department of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises & Textiles (MSME&T), Govt. of West Bengal has developed a Rural Craft Hub in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Dokra resource centre at Bikna. Bikna has received Geographical Indication (GI) accreditation for its Dokra.

- Visit Dokra rural craft hub at Bikna
- Visit to the Terracotta hub in Panchmura which is about an hour drive
- Explore handloom and handicrafts of the nearby Kenjakura village.

Artist Contact:

Somnath Karmakar - 9932546842

Harendranath Rana - 9932601095

toureast www.toureast.in toureast@banglanatak.com 8420106396

Panchmura

The Terracotta Way

Tucked away at a distance of 22 km from Bishnupur, Panchmura village, in Bankura district, is famed for its attractive terracotta products. Home to around 270 families of terracotta artists, the village offers visitors a plethora of artifacts ranging from animal and human figurines to home decor and jewellery. Terracotta of Bankura is one of the first attempts of man at clay modeling ever since the 7th century AD, when the region was under the rule of the Malla kings of Bishnupur that has been perfected with time. Baked in sun and burnt in mud kilns with dry eucalyptus leaves, the earthly ensembles in dull ochre or red are beauteous caricatures. Being one of the earliest manifestations of human creativity and today the archetypal terracotta horse has been ratified across the worldand is a sign of devotion and bravery. Department of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises & Textiles (MSME&T), Govt. of West Bengal has developed a Rural Craft Hub in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Terracotta centre at Panchmura. Panchmura Terracotta has received Geographical Indication (GI) accreditation.

- Experience Terracotta making process
- Visit Bishnupur to wonder at its 16 terracotta temples
- Visit Bikna Dokra Hub, an hour away, located near Bankura town

Artist Contact:

Bhutnath Kumbhakar - 9732187161

Braja Nath Kumbhakar - 9732035729

Charida

Mask it off

Charida, a village in Purulia located at the foothills of the Ayodhya Hills in Bagmundi, is home of 300+ skilled Chau masks makers. Chau is an acrobatic martial art based dance form inscribed in UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Department of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises & Textiles (MSME&T), Govt. of West Bengal has developed a Rural Craft Hub in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Chau mask resource centre at Charida, where an interesting range of Chau masks are displayed along with the process of mask-making & the story of the community. One can also visit legend of Chau dance Late Padmashri Gambhir Singh Mura's residence. One can experience the making the elaborate masks from scratch directly from the artists. Charida Chau mask village also holds Geographical Indication (GI) status.

- Experience the mask-making process at Charida
- Visit nearby places like Ajodhya Hills, Pakhi Pahar, Murguma, Jhalda, Begunkodar, Deulghata etc.

Artist Contact:

Falguni Sutradhar - 9735129308

Bhim Sutradhar - 9635304740

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Maldi

When nature meets culture

Maldi, a beautiful village in the Balarampur block of Purulia located next to the Kumari Dam is a hub of Chau dancers. Chau is an acrobatic martial art based dance form inscribed in UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) has included these artists as part of Rural Craft & Cultural Hub initiative undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a Chau resource centre in Maldi. The artists now run a Chau training classes here on a regular basis. There is a beautiful Sonajhuri forest in the backyard of the centre where visitors may sip tea at leisure and soak in the nature around.

- Participate in the Chau workshop
- Visit Charida – the hub of mask makers
- Visit Panradda village where all Chau dance instruments like Dhamsa, Madal are made
- Visit nearby places like Pakhipahar, Ayodhya Hills, Telkupi, Baranti, Garhpanchakot, etc

Artist Contact:

Jagannath Chowdhury - 9933409339

Mousumi Chowdhury - 8945977092

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Gorbhanga

Baul music at Akhra: Search for the Soul

Gorbhanga village of Nadia district is the home of the Baul-Fakirs - the makers of soulful, mellifluous music. The village symbolizes a quiet celebration of peace and free-flowing Baul Fakiri music. Gorbhanga is the home of well-known artists like Arman Fakir, Khaibar Fakir, Golam Fakir, Babu Fakir, Nur Alam, Amirul Fakir and a bunch of other young & extremely talented young ones like Shah Alam, who are making ripples across the music world. Baul music is inscribed in UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) has included these artists as part of Rural Craft & Cultural Hub initiative undertaken in collaboration with UNESCO. At Gorbhanga you can stay at artists' houses, avail home-cooked food, and enjoy music at Akhra. If time permits, post lunch, one may also plan a short trip to Chhote Golam's ashram at Jalangi (located 45 minutes away). Visit to have a joyful weekend with music. Get in touch with the flavours of the soil.

- Enjoy the Baul Fakiri music
- Experience the lifestyle and philosophy of the Fakirs

Artist Contact:

Babu Fakir - 9733948841

Arman Fakir - 9733956858

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Natungram

Wooden Wonders

Natungram is the hub of wooden doll makers also known as 'Sutradhars' (narrator or storyteller). Carved out of a single piece of wood, these dolls from ancient folklore and mythology are marked by their vibrant colours and ethnic style. The owl, considered auspicious and the escort of the goddess of prosperity, Lakshmi, made in Natungram, enjoys an iconic status among Bengal's handicrafts. There are about 60 families pursuing this traditional art form, where the men do the carving and chiseling while the women do the painting. While the village is known for its unique Owls, their Radha-Krishna and King-Queen dolls are also highly sought after. Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSME&T) has developed a Rural Craft Hub here in collaboration with UNESCO and also developed a wooden doll resource centre.

- Learn wooden doll making
- Visit heritage sites around Kalna, Katwa, Nabadwip, Nanoor and Shantiniketan

Artist Contact:

Gouranga Sutradhar - 7679099205

Bijoy Sutradhar - 7872214736

Bauls in Birbhum

Rarh Reverie

Have a breakthrough from the mundane life; rejuvenate yourself with the musical experience entrenched with Baul music. Knowing oneself is the essence of Baul music, which reflects the joy & love. Living the life of an esoteric, denouncing the material world, they urge people to rise above the divides created by caste, creed and religion. Baul music is inscribed in UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. To spend time in tranquility, meet the Baul artists at their own place in Illambazar, Bolpur and Joydev Kenduli.

- Enjoy music
- Feel the surrounding silence
- Meet the Baul artists and enjoy their music

Artist Contact:

Rina Das Baul - 9800120227

Sadhu Das Baul - 9732892009

Lakshman Das Baul - 8900441430

Birbhum

Magical Rarh

Apart from the natural topography, Birbhum is culturally rich with the presence of varied art forms. Stroll in and around Birbhum to experience Baul music, Shola hub at Surul, villages of the Kantha artists in Nanoor and meet the experienced Raibenshe performers at Charkol village. Explore the unknown within the known and have a trip of a lifetime.

- Know about traditional embroideries
- Learn the intricacies of Shola craft from the maestro
- Lose yourselves amidst peaceful Baul music
- Experience the martial art of Raibenshe

Artist Contact:

Rina Das Baul - 9800120227

Tajkira Begum (Kantha stitch) - 6296761698

Kanchan Malakar (Shola) - 9563200730

Rakhakar Pramanik (Raibenshe) - 8016474415

Folk Holi

In the midst of nature

Nimdih Gandhi Ashram

Mar 17 - 19, 2022

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 fervor and with visitors taking part in the celebration.

Situated on 20 acres of land, Nimdih Gandhi Ashram is revamped with new looks. It is located at the foothills of the Dalma range and offers a picturesque and enchanting view of the region. Nimdih offers tent, room and cottage accommodation.

Itinerary

Mar 17 – Mela inauguration at 5 pm, folk programme till 9 pm.

Mar 18 – Dol celebration in the morning, folk programme in evening.

Mar 19 – Workshop on Chau dance and organic farming, post lunch departure.

Package

We provide tent/ room/ cottage accommodation during the mela time. 2 nights 3 days festival including stay and hot cooked Indian food (breakfast, lunch, dinner) costs Rs. 3000 to Rs. 7500 per person, depending on preference of stay.

1) Rs. 3000 pp for entire festival with option of staying at Tent (common toilet)
2) Rs. 4200 pp for entire festival with option of staying at Room (room capacity 6 - 15 pax) (common toilet)
3) Rs. 5200 pp for entire festival with option of staying at Room (room capacity 5 - 6 pax) (attached toilet)
4) Rs. 7500 pp for entire festival with option of staying at Cottage (room capacity 2 - 3 pax) (attached toilet)

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