



## Architecture of West Bengal, Orissa and Dhaka 11 Days/10 Nights

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	Fly U.S. to Kolkata	Kolkata
Day 2	Full day tour of old Kolkata. Our first stop is the Pareshnath Jain Temple, a mosaic garden built in 1867 featuring extensive stone and mirror inlay work, stained glass, and European-style sculptures and fountains. We will next visit BBD Bagh, the heart of old Kolkata. This area contains a number of British colonial buildings dating from the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries, including St. John's Church (Lt. James Agg), the General Post Office and the High Court (Walter Granville), the Government House (Capt. Charles Wyatt) and the Writer's Building (Thomas Lyon). Afternoon visit to the Marble Palace, an elaborate mansion built in 1835 by a wealthy Kolkata landowner. The façade of the palace is Neo-Classical in style, while the courtyards borrow from traditional Bengali architecture.	Kolkata
Day 3	Morning visit to the Victoria Memorial (Sir William Emerson). This domed Classical structure was completed in 1921 and features beautiful gardens, elegant sculptures of British notables and a rare collection of lithographs by Thomas and William Daniell. Next we will visit some of the well-known Art Deco and Modernist buildings in the city, such as Esplanade Mansions (Martin and Co.), All India Radio (Ballardie, Thompson and Matthews), the New Secretariat (Habib Rahman), Tower House (Sudlow, Ballardie and Thompson), the Hindustan Building, Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital (BT&M) and the Asiatic Society (Capt. Thomas Preston/Jean Jacques Pichon). Afternoon visit to the Indian Museum (Granville), the oldest and largest museum in India which houses an array of ancient artifacts, sculptures, coins and paintings. This will be followed by a walking tour through New Market, with its myriad of tiny shops selling everything from vegetables and meat to china, DVDs, perfume, jewelry and flowers. Dinner at O'Calcutta.	Kolkata
Day 4	Morning driving tour of contemporary Kolkata, including the neighborhoods of Salt Lake and New Town. These districts are home to a growing number of multinational engineering and information technology companies, as well as high-end hotels, condominiums and retail and entertainment complexes. Afternoon boat ride along the Hoogly river, followed by a walking tour through Kumartuli, Area of the Potters, where intricate figures of Hindu gods and goddesses are made. Early evening visit to Belur Math, headquarters of the Ramakrishna Mission. The site was built in 1938 and	Kolkata

embodies Ramakrishna's philosophy of the unity of all faiths. The ground plan is in the shape of a cross, and the architectural elements borrow from Mughal, Buddhist and Hindu aesthetics.

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| <b>Day 5</b> | <p>Early morning flight from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa. Upon arrival, begin drive to Puri. En route we will visit several villages that utilize rice, the main crop in this region, for constructing and decorating their simple mud huts. Rice straw is utilized for roof thatching, while rice paste is used to decorate houses with intricate geometric and floral designs. Afternoon walking tour of Puri. Highlights include a stroll along Puri's lively beach promenade and a rooftop viewing of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Jagannath Temple, which is home to 6,000 resident priests.</p>  | Puri        |
| <b>Day 6</b> | <p>Morning tour of the Sun Temple at Konark. This complex, on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by the Ganga dynasty, and originally served as a navigational aid for sailors heading to Kolkata. While the site's tallest towers have collapsed due to sea and air corrosion, the remaining structures still feature thousands of striking carvings and sculptures. The main temple is shaped like a gigantic chariot, complete with 12 pairs of wheels. Three life-sized images of the Sun God, made of colored chlorite stone, are positioned at different points around the temple so that the sun illuminates their faces at dawn, noon and sunset. Drive Konark to Bhubaneswar, stopping en route in the village of Pipli, known for its brightly colored appliquéd fabrics and decorative items.</p> | Bhubaneswar |
| <b>Day 7</b> | <p>Full day tour of Bhubaneswar, which is home to over 400 Hindu temples dating from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Highlights include the temples of Lingaraj, Vaital Deul, Parasurameshwar, Mukteshwar and Rajarani. Afternoon tour of modern Bhubaneswar, which was planned by German architect Otto Königsberger in 1946 and blends colonial and traditional forms with modern influences from Le Corbusier's Chandigarh. Many of its notable buildings, including the Secretariat, the Rabindra Mandap, the Orissa State Museum and the Unit 2 Market, were designed by government architect Julius Vaz. If time permits, we will visit an ambitious housing complex in nearby Chandrashekharpur designed by S. K. Das that combines dwellings for low, middle and high income families.</p>                             | Bhubaneswar |
| <b>Day 8</b> | <p>Fly Bhubaneswar to Dhaka via Kolkata. Arrive in Dhaka late afternoon. Bangladesh enjoys a strong Muslim tradition that dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and Dhaka, its capital, is known as the City of Mosques. It was in Dhaka that the ideology leading to the formation of a separate Muslim state (Pakistan) within the Indian sub-continent was born. At the same time, it was home to a ferocious Bengali nationalism that led to its eventual independence from Pakistan. Dhaka is a delta city, filled with waterways and wetlands, and is one of the most populous cities in the world. We will spend two full days exploring this fascinating city.</p>   | Dhaka       |
| <b>Day 9</b> | <p>Full day tour of old Dhaka. Sites to be visited include the Hindu Dhakeshwari Temple, the Mughal Lalbagh Fort, the Armenian Church, the Indo-Saracenic Ahsan Manzil, the Old High Court and Chummary House. We will also visit the Tara Masjid, or Star Mosque, which is one of the few remaining buildings in the world that feature Chinitikri tile mosaic work.</p>   | Dhaka       |

Afternoon walking tour through Shakhari Bazaar, one of the oldest mohallas (traditional neighborhoods) in old Dhaka. We will also visit several 20th century buildings at Dhaka University, including Curzon Hall, Fazlul Haq Muslim Hall and Salimullah Hall.

**Day 10** Full day tour of new Dhaka. Our first stop will be the National Martyrs Memorial (Moinul Hossain) in nearby Savar. Other sites to be visited include the Shaheed Minar (Hamidur Rahman), Kalindi Apartments (Bashirul Haq), the Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University Library, Jahangirnagar University and the National Library and Archives (Muzharul Islam), Kamalapur Railway Station (Robert Boughey) and the National Assembly Building (Louis Kahn). If time permits, we will also visit a few contemporary hospitals being constructed in Dhaka, including Continental Hospital (C.P. Kukreja and Associates) and Apollo Hospital (SmithGroup). Evening dinner cruise on the Shitalakhya River, with a stop in Noapara to watch local artisans weave the traditional Jamdani cotton muslin for which Bangladesh is famous. Dhaka

**Day 11** Fly Dhaka to Kolkata for overnight or your return flight to the U.S. Kolkata/  
Flight to U.S.

*Suggested Extensions:* Villages of West Bengal (pre-trip); Around Bangladesh (post-trip)

*Trip Timing* - For the best weather conditions, this trip should ideally be taken between October and March. In all of our tours, we concentrate our sightseeing in the morning and afternoon hours, avoiding the hot mid-day sun as much as possible.

*Note:* Not all of the sites mentioned in these itineraries can be viewed from the inside, as certain of them are in protected government compounds, while others are private businesses or residences or heritage sites that only permit visitor access within certain areas. If there are certain buildings in particular that you would like to view from the inside, please let us know and we will make best efforts to secure the required access if we have not already done so.

