

Lingaraja Temple: A Majestic Hindu Temple in Bhubaneswar

Category: Travel

written by News Mall | February 20, 2024



[The Lingaraja Temple](#), located in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha, India, is a magnificent Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. As one of the oldest temples in the city, it stands as a prominent landmark and a major tourist attraction in the state.

The temple's address is Lingaraj Temple, Lingaraj Temple Rd, Lingaraj Nagar, Old Town, Bhubaneswar, Odisha 751002. It stands tall with a height of 55 meters and showcases the beautiful Kalinga architecture, a style unique to the region.

Being the largest temple in Bhubaneswar, the Lingaraja Temple boasts a central tower that reaches an impressive 180 feet (55 meters) in height. It is a true representation of the quintessence of Kalinga architecture, reflecting the medieval stages of the architectural tradition in Bhubaneswar.

Historically, the temple is believed to have been built by the kings from the Somavamsi dynasty, with later additions from

the Ganga rulers. The temple follows the Deula style, consisting of four components: vimana (structure containing the sanctum), jagamohana (assembly hall), natamandira (festival hall), and bhoga-mandapa (hall of offerings). Each component increases in height compared to its predecessor, creating a visually striking structure.



Lingaraja Temple Orissa

The temple complex is enclosed by a large compound wall and features 108 other shrines. Bhubaneswar itself is known as Ekamra Kshetra, as the deity of Lingaraja was originally found under a mango tree (Ekamra), as mentioned in the Ekamra Purana, a 13th-century Sanskrit treatise.

Unlike many other temples in Bhubaneswar, the Lingaraja Temple is an active place of worship. It houses images of Vishnu, possibly due to the rising prominence of the Jagannath sect, which originated from the Ganga rulers who built the Jagannath Temple in Puri during the 12th century. The central deity of the temple, Lingaraja, is worshipped as Lord Shiva.

The maintenance of the Lingaraja Temple is carried out by the Temple Trust Board and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). On an average day, the temple welcomes around 6,000 visitors, but during festivals, it receives lakhs of visitors. One of the major festivals celebrated at the temple is Shivaratri, which attracts a significant number of devotees. In fact, during the 2012 Shivaratri festival, the temple

witnessed an astounding 200,000 visitors.

While the temple compound is not open to non-Hindus, there is a viewing platform beside the wall that offers a good view of the main exteriors. This platform was originally erected for a visit by Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India.

Visiting the Lingaraja Temple is a truly awe-inspiring experience. The grandeur of the architecture, the spiritual atmosphere, and the rich history make it a must-visit destination for anyone exploring the vibrant city of Bhubaneswar.