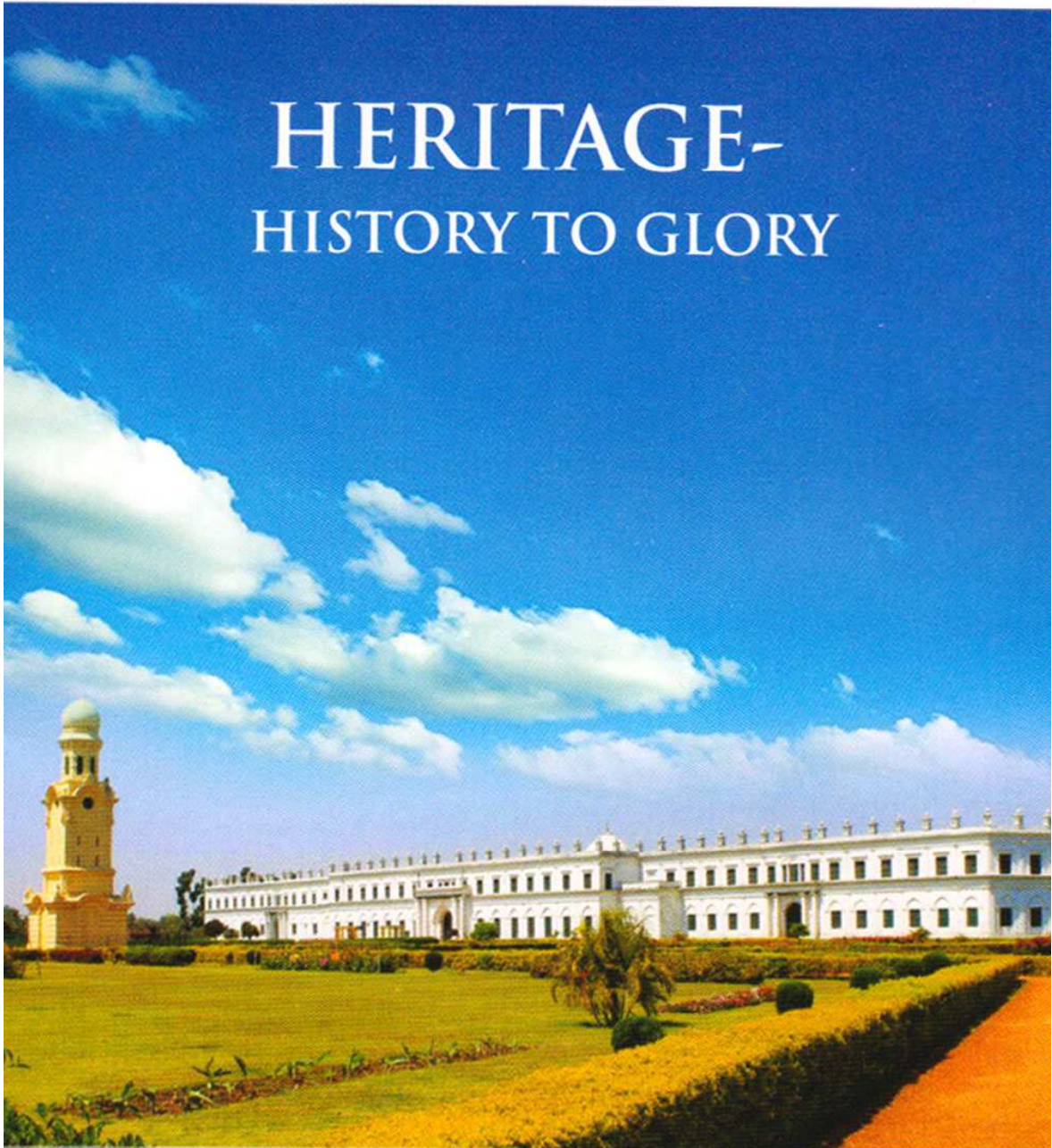


EXPERIENCE
Bengal
THE SWEETEST PART OF INDIA

Department of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal



HERITAGE- HISTORY TO GLORY



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The heritage of Bengal,

mingled with its tradition and culture, has given rise to an enchanting social fabric. Once you explore the gems that Bengal's soil harbours, they will be etched in your memory forever.

Revel in the beauty. Enjoy the splendours. Discover the many wonders that will make your experience of Bengal an enigmatic one.



MURSHIDABAD



Murshidabad, 238 km from Kolkata, is a place where history comes alive with each step. The Hazarduari Palace, now the grand museum of Nawabi memorabilia, open up the doors of history. The Wasef Manzil - a magnificent palace built by Nawab Wasef Ali Mirza; Nizammat Imambara - the largest Imambara in Eastern India; Katra Masjid - the oldest mosque of Murshidabad and Kathgola Bag - a beautiful palace with architectural marvels, are only a few of the many splendours that leave an impression on your mind.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah, Sealdah or Kolkata station to Baharampur

WHERE TO STAY: Baharampur Tourist Centre of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations



MALDA



Visit Malda, 327 km from Kolkata, for a taste of its glorious past and delicious bounty from nature. On one hand, Malda is famous for its mangoes, winning the hearts of millions; while on the other, one can witness invaluable architectural specimens. The towns of Gaur and Pandua in Malda are dotted with majestic relics that take you back as far as the 13th century. Ruins of Gaur Fort, Dakhil Darwaza, Bara Sona Mosque, Chhota Sona Mosque – all transport you to a bygone era with their heritage charm.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah, Sealdah or Kolkata station to Malda Jn

WHERE TO STAY: Malda Tourist Centre of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations

BURDWAN



102 km from Kolkata, an arched gateway marking the entrance to the vibrant town of Burdwan, showcases the essence of Burdwan's grandeur at the first glance. A witness to both Mughal and Hindu reigns, Burdwan proudly bears imprints of the

amalgamation of both cultures and plays host to some of the most exquisite architectures of Hindu and Mughal dynasty. Witness the Curzon Gate, built in the honour of Lord Curzon; Panchkula, a small village where Gajan Festival is celebrated passionately in May-June; the Konkaleswari Kali Mandir and Sivalingam temples, to get a feel of the town's heritage, rich with history, culture and religious diversities.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah, Sealdah or Kolkata station to Burdwan Jn

WHERE TO STAY: Pathik Motel of WBTDCL in Durgapur besides local accommodations in Burdwan

WEST MEDINIPORE



West Medinipore, 130 km from Kolkata and a true travellers' delight, charms with its architectures. Visit the once-illustrious Chandrakona famous for its Ramgarh and Lalgargh forts made by the Chauhan kings and Baroduari - the palace of King Chandraketu. Kurumbera Fort, surrounded by beautiful temples including the famous Shiva Temple is another popular attraction. Other must-see places of interest are the Jhargram Raj Palace; Umapati Shiv Mandir, dating back to 10th - 11th century; Rameshwar Nath Temples and the Sahasralinga, built by King Chandraketu. If you are in love with the romance of history, then West Medinipore is a must in your travel list.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah to Midnapore

WHERE TO STAY: Local accommodations in West Medinipore

BANKURA



Bankura, 212 km from Kolkata and nestled in the Eastern Chhota Nagpur Plateau, is a place of unforgettable scenic beauty. The hills, rivers, ancient terracotta temples and dense forests make Bankura a place for magical memories. Enjoy the panoramic sunset at Mukutmonipur or trek the picturesque hills of Biharinath and Susunia; visit Jairambati - the birth place of Ma Sarada and the fascinating Jorbangla Temple that bears testimony of Bankura's heritage of culture, tradition and craftsmanship. The handicrafts of Bankura like the iconic terracotta horses exhibit the finest artistry.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah, Sealdah or Kolkata station to Bankura Jn

WHERE TO STAY: Bishnupur Tourist Centre of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations in Bankura and Bishnupur



BIRBHUM



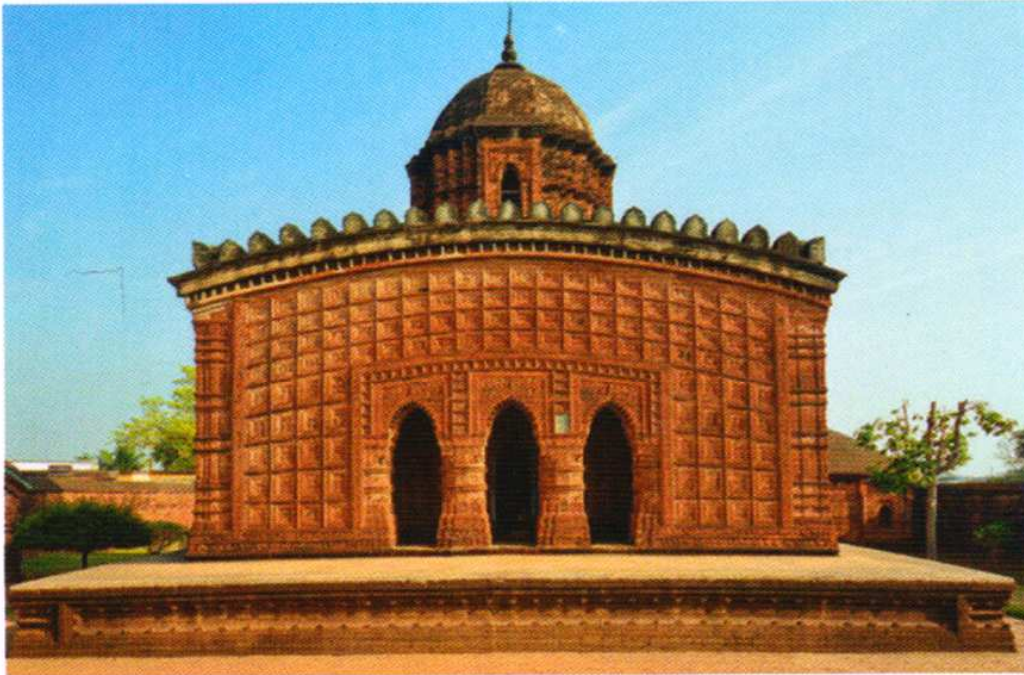
Birbhum, 188 km from Kolkata, literally means “the land of the brave” and is thus named as this land had witnessed the reigns of several mighty warrior kings in its past. Birbhum, a land of red soil, will enthral you with its mystic charm. Get in touch with your inner Divine at the Joydev-Kenduli Fair - where you can experience the mystic music of the ‘Bauls’ or wandering minstrels. The serenity of Bolpur-Shantiniketan and Visva Bharati - one of the finest creations of Rabindranath Tagore and centre for human excellence, will touch a chord in your heart. Birbhum also offers seasonal festivities like Poush Mela and Basanta Utsav, and captivating places of interest like the river Kopai, Tarapith and Bakreswar.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah, Sealdah and Kolkata station to Bolpur Shantiniketan

WHERE TO STAY: Shantiniketan Tourist Centre of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations



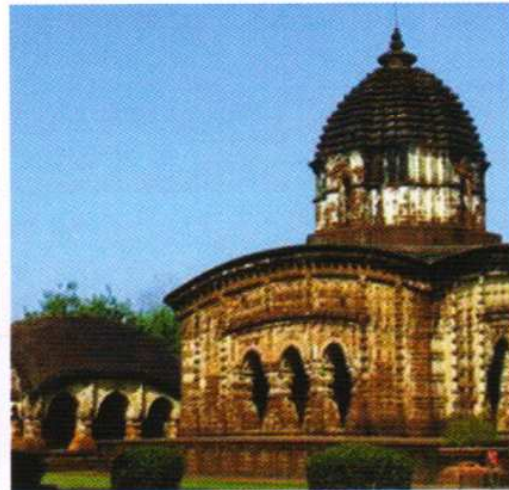
BISHNUPUR



Bishnupur, 140 km from Kolkata was once ruled by Malla dynasty. It is famous for its terracotta temples and Baluchari sarees. Bishnupur's past is reflected in its brilliantly crafted terracotta work. It is also famous for its school of Hindustani Music which flourished under royal patronage, the Bishnupur School of Painting and exquisite weaving techniques. Temples with intricate designs such as Jorebangla Temple, Madan Mohan Temple, Radha Shyam Temple and the historical Dal Madol Cannon make Bishnupur an unforgettable experience.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah or Sealdah to Bishnupur

WHERE TO STAY: Bishnupur Tourist Centre of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations



HOOGHLY



Hooghly, 47 km from Kolkata, is steeped in history and heritage. It has been witness to the rule of several foreign settlers - the British and the Portuguese at Hooghly, the Dutch at Chinsurah, the French at Chandannagar and the Germans and Austrians at Bhadreswar. This fusion has given Hooghly a unique cultural fabric that reflects in its architecture such as Bandel Church, Hangseswari Temple, Hooghly Imambara, Bari Mosque of Pandua, Furfura Sharif and Chandannagar museum. Besides these architectural marvels, the rustic natural beauty of Triveni Sangam and Sabuj Dwip will satisfy the wanderer in you.

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah or Sealdah station to Hooghly

WHERE TO STAY: Udayachal, Kalighat and Tarakeswar Tourist Centres of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations in Hooghly and Kolkata



COOCH BEHAR



684 km from Kolkata, lush forests beckon you with exciting wildlife safaris; captivating scenic beauty of mountain rivers flanked by green hills and foliage; relics of an opulent history of the ancient kingdom of Kamrup - this is Cooch Behar for you - shining like a multi-faceted jewel waiting to be discovered.

Witness a variety of migratory birds in large water bodies like Rasik Bil; experience the wildlife safaris of Chilapata Forest - one of the most exotic rain forests in India and home to Royal Bengal Tiger and variety of other wildlife. Visit the various temples and enjoy the festivals here. Cooch Behar is a destination that you never want to give a miss

HOW TO REACH: From Kolkata by car or bus or by train from Howrah, Sealdah or Kolkata station to New Jalpaiguri Jn or Cooch Behar

WHERE TO STAY: Jaldapara Tourist Centre of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations



KOLKATA



Kolkata, once the capital of India and now the cultural capital of India, is one of the most vibrant cities in the world. Kolkata is unique because of its cultural scenario, rich heritage, bustling city life and most importantly, the people.

Exploring Kolkata is never complete if you miss out on these finest architectural gems:

Shobhabazar Rajbari: The residing palace of Raja Naba Krishna Deb is one of the most wonderful places to witness the Bengali culture and tradition, especially during Durga Puja.

Jorasanko Thakurbari: The ancestral home of Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, now a museum, is where one of the most charismatic branches of Bengali intelligentsia bloomed and still fills the heart with its mesmerising essence.

Marble Palace: Another of Kolkata's colonial architectural splendour, it is known for its exquisite marble statues, walls and floors.

Kumartuli: The unique creative hub where artisans construct Devi Durga's awe-inspiring idol with master craftsmanship. This area is a must-visit to experience the brilliance of Bengal.

Besides, there are Tagore's Castle in Pathuriaghata, Prasanna Kumar Tagore's House in Naptehata and Jadulal Mallick's house to satiate your desire to explore Kolkata's magical heritage.

HOW TO REACH: From any major city by air to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport or by train to Howrah or Sealdah or by car and luxury buses to Kolkata

WHERE TO STAY: Udayachal and Kalighat Tourist Centres of WBTDCL besides other local accommodations

GUIDE MAP



For reservation & more information please contact:

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