

Educational Tours at Orissa

Name of the Department - History

Year- 2022

The purpose of a field Study :

Now a-days there has been a paradigm shift in the conventional lecture method and field trip or educational tour is one such alternative method. Moreover, recent curriculum of UG has also emphasized on understanding heritage of one's own country, for which field trip is a must. A field trip is a visit to



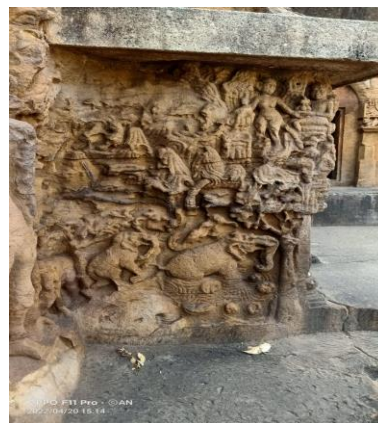
a place away from the students' normal institution. If the classroom teaching is followed up by a trip, it helps in clearing concepts and results in more effective learning. It helps the students to grow a perspective of things which can only be experienced. Travelling and visiting a different country can trigger ideas and solutions that may not stem from familiar comforts and habits. It also helps in application of ideas, theories and knowledge, which ensure competence. The student can expand their own individual knowledge crucial to higher level learning and problem solving skills. Going to important historical places offers them the opportunities to visualize, experience and discuss the topic they study in classroom in order to gain better understanding. Not only they recall the experience long after the trip they may start to develop historical empathy and understanding of people and be on their own which makes them more independent to think critically.

Venue/Location : Puri, Raghurajpur, Dhauli, Konark in Orissa.

Date / time : A three day trip between 19th and 21st of April, 2022.

Brief Summary of the work done :

Visiting Orissa and Jagannath temple had been a favorite passion of the Bengalis since distance past for which they undertook much trouble and hardship. Ian J. Kerr, the famous historian of Indian Railways informs that about three million people undertook the journey by railways in the first year of direct service between Howrah and Puri. We also travelled in day time so that the students could follow the route. Having reached Puri we first visited the Jagannath Temple, one of the most imposing examples of temple architecture of 11th century. Orissa can boast of Kalinga architectural style which impressed the visitors



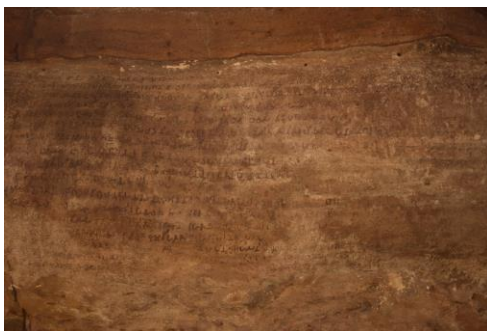
with distinctive curvilinear shapes and decorative class delicate stone carvings. The next day, we visited Raghurajpur, which is home to over 100 craftsman who



has been preserving 900 year old craft for Patachitra that embody Jagannath, Lord Krishna and Bishnu on scroll painting on cloth. The chitrakaars make their own colour and brushes from natural sources and also make palm leave engraving , masks, wood curvings and paper mache toys. UNESCO has announced this small village as a heritage village. Next we visited Dhauli beside the Daya River which is



famous for Kalinga War and Asoka's initiations to Buddhism. The Saddharma Vihar Monastery and The Santi Stupa along with the rock carvings and inscriptions made history life like and visible to us. The Hatigumpha inscription of King



Kharbela engraved in Udaygiri was something of which students had learnt so much in books. However, the Sun Temple of Konark with its impressive size and amazing stonemasons' work and relief made us spellbound. Shaped as a huge



chariot and mounted on 12 gigantic wheels, the temple is similar to Khajuraho in its erotic carvings. We also attended the light and sound show which depicted the history of a temple. The students also enjoyed the long coast line of Orissa which is dotted with scenic beaches, white sands and serene lakes.



Outcomes :

The hands-on experience of Kaligan architecture clarified many of the doubts and confusions students had regarding the architecture of the past. The saying “I see and I remember” proved fruitful for those who are not ‘made for classroom.’ Moreover, they acted in a team spirit and showed considerable independence of mind. Although a short trip, interaction with people outside helped improve communication skills and made them more accommodating to fellow students and other people.

