



"Tripura : Where Culture Meets Nature"



CORPORATE OFFICE

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(A Govt. of Tripura Undertaking)
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2. SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE, SADAR, 0381-232 5937.

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UJJAYANTA PALACE

Tripura Tourism Development corporation ltd.

(A Govt of Tripura Undertaking)

Swetmahal, Palace Compound, Agartala-799001, Tripura (W)
www.tripuratourism.gov.in

HISTORY

The **State Museum Ujjayanta Palace**, the former royal palace of the Kingdom of Tripura, is located in the very heart of Agartala, the State capital of Tripura. The construction work of Ujjayanta Palace, begun in 1899, was completed in 1901. It stands on the banks of two lakes named Radha Sagar and Krishna Sagar surrounded by gardens inspired by the Mughal Style. The project cost at that time was Rs. 1 million and was overseen by Martin & Burn Company during the reign of Maharaja Radha Kishore Manikya. Tripura was a separate kingdom then. When it subsequently merged with the Indian Government in 1949, most of the royal properties were nationalised.

In 1972-73 the main building was bought by the Tripura government from the royal family. It housed the State Legislative Assembly till July, 2011. Ujjayanta Palace is now a State Museum and it primarily showcases the lifestyle, arts, culture, tradition and utility crafts of communities residing in North East India along with a lot of stone sculptures, coinage of the Manikya dynasty and some other artefacts.

The architecture and design of the building, though, from another era, is still kept in a good condition. The Ujjayanta Palace served as a home to many past rulers of Tripura since it was built in 1901. The two-storied building has three domes, each measuring 86 feet high. The interior of the house has beautifully tiled floors, carved wooden ceilings and doors. The Palace includes significant halls like the Public Halls, Throne Room, Durbar hall, Library, the Chinese Room and the Reception Hall. The Palace and its surroundings cover an area of 1sq. km and house many temples. The Royal family still inhabits a small portion of palace on the right wing.

THE STATE MUSEUM UJJAYANTA PALACE :

The Tripura Govt. Museum was established in the year 1970 in a small building in Agartala. The State Government decided to shift the Museum to Ujjayanta Palace where the State Museum is now set up with a new approach and a better perspective based on a national outlook with a focus on the Northeast. The State Museum is aimed to serve as the core of a larger action research and cultural activity centre. The vision of the State Museum is to understand and appreciate the various communities residing in Tripura, recognize their cultural diversity and showcase their lifestyle, art, culture, tradition and utility crafts as well as those of North-east India.

Tripura State Museum is a multipurpose Museum with great emphasis on art and crafts of Tripura. It has a variety of exhibits that bring to the fore the rich cultural heritage of this region. The collections include sculptures, terracotta, coins, copper and stone inscriptions, bronze images, textiles, oil paintings, sketches and drawings, tribal ornaments and musical instruments, arts and craft objects, folk articles etc. Most of the sculptures acquired and displayed here are from Udaipur, Pilak, Radhanagar and other sites. Out of them, sculptures from Pilak represent a mixed culture – both of Hindu and Buddhist pantheons. They are famous for their class, style and historical background. The sculptures mostly date back to the period of 9th c. CE to 13th c. CE Low relief Dasavatara panel (stone) collected from Radhanagar belonging to 18th c. CE is an exquisite piece of local craftsmanship. The bronze images of Tripura are no less significant in moulding technique, theme, variety and unique craftsmanship. Some of the important pieces are miniature Vishnu, Avalokitesvara, Sarvamangala, Hariti, Tara, Laxmi, Ratnasambhava etc.

The coins of Tripura are generally dye-struck, made of silver, round in shape and often carry dates. Coins were issued on three occasions – Coronation, Pilgrimage and Conquest. The scripts of the coins are Bengali, Assamese and Sanskrit. Most of the coins are in silver and gold, there were no copper coins. Most of them have name of the ruler and the name of the queen. The coins bear Saka Era, and Tripura Era is inscribed from the reign of Maharaja Bir Chandra Manikya. Oil-Paintings are mostly acquired from the royal house of Tripura as permanent donations and they are mainly life-size portraits of the rulers of the state. Some paintings are of non-Indian artists. Some sketches and drawings of famous artists like Nandalal Bose, Gaganendranath Thakur and Dharendra Krishna Debbarma are also housed in the State Museum.

Tripura being a land of various ethnic groups, an attempt has been made to depict the culture of the major tribes of Tripura. Some of the unique collections of tribal artifacts include ornaments, musical instruments, household objects, bamboo and wooden crafts, basketry, textiles etc.

THE CURRENTLY FUNCTIONAL GALLERIES ARE :

GROUND FLOOR :

Reception, Introductory Gallery, Geology and Forest Gallery, Archaeological Gallery-I, Archaeological Gallery-II, Archaeological Gallery-III, Community Gallery-I, Community Gallery-II, Art and Crafts of Tripura Gallery, Tagore and Tripura, Landscapes of Northeast India Gallery, Rajmala paintings Gallery, Exhibition Gallery-I and II (currently holding exhibition on Rabindranath Tagore with the collection of IGNCA, New Delhi).

FIRST FLOOR :

‘Role of Tripura in the 1971 Liberation war of Bangladesh,’ Introduction to Northeast’ Gallery, Royal Gallery, Community Gallery-III, ‘History of Northeast’ Gallery, ‘Art and Crafts of Northeast’ Gallery, ‘Sericulture of Tripura,’ ‘Digital Gallery’ and ‘Anthropology of Northeast’ Gallery.

ENTRY FORMALITIES :

There is no need of entry formalities like Restricted Area Permit (RAP) or Inner Line Permit (ILP) to visit Tripura.

HOW TO REACH :

AIR - Agartala is well connected by air with Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati and Chennai. The Ujjayanta Palace is 12 km away from Agartala Airport. A flight from Guwahati or Kolkata takes less than 45 minutes to reach Agartala.

RAIL - Agartala railway Station is located 5.5 km from Agartala city and is well connected with the rest of the country. There are regular train services between Agartala and Kolkata via Guwahati. Regular train services connect Agartala with Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata.

ROAD - Agartala is connected by road with Guwahati via Shillong by NH-8. It takes about 22 hours by road from Guwahati to reach Agartala. Luxury coaches both of private travel agencies and Public Sector Transport Corporation including tourist cabs and small cars ply on this road. Agartala is connected by regular bus services with Silchar, Guwahati, Karimganj, Shillong, Mizoram and with Kolkata via Dhaka. The foreigners coming to Dhaka or other cities of Bangladesh may come to Agartala via Akhaura and Sonamura boarder check post. Similarly, foreigners coming to Tripura by other routes may enter Bangladesh via this route. The journey time by road between Dhaka and Agartala is about 4 hours.

LOCAL TRANSPORT:

Tourist cabs, prepaid auto rickshaws and city bus services are available to and from Agartala Airport and also for local sightseeing. Tourist cabs are also arranged by Tourism Department on hire for local transportation.

Nearby Attraction:

Akhaura Integrated Check Post (1.5 km), Heritage Park (2 km), Jagannath Temple, Laxminarayan Temple, 14 Gods Temple (6km), Purbasha, Benuban Bihar, Nehru Park (2 km), Tribal Research Centre (1 km), Lake Chowmohani etc.

WHERE TO STAY :

Name of Hotel/ Guest House	Address	Contact details
Geetanjali Tourism Guest House (Tourism Department)	Bhologiri, Agartala Airport Road, Agartala	0381- 2410009/ 2410016
Bhagat Singh Youth Hostel (Youth Affairs and Sports)	Khejurbagan, Airport Road, Agartala	0982619598
Hotel Ginger	Khejurbagan, Airport Road, Agartala	Ph-0381- 241-1333
Hotel Sonartari	Near Fire Brigade Chowmohani, Ronaldsay Road	Ph-0381 2322201 8787566321
Hotel Rajdhani	B K Road, Agartala	Ph-0381 232-3387/6312

WHERE TO EAT:

Dum Pukht, Orient Chowmohani (North Indian), Dayahari Mithai, Shib Bari Road (Indian, Chinese, Sweets), Momos N More, Krishnanagar (Chinese, Asian, Korean, Beverages), Sherowali Sweets and Fast Food, Near Laxminarayan Temple (North Indian), Hotel Sankar, Netaji Chowmohani (Non Veg), Hotel Taj and Restaurant, Near Rabindra Bhawan and many more.

SHOPPING:

Purbasha (Govt. Emporium), Tantumita, Tripura Cottage Industry Pvt Ltd., Big Bazar, Metro Bazar, Bazar Kolkata, City Centre, Battala Foreign Market.



TRIPURA