



*Blissful*  
**BIHAR**





# *Bihar: Unveiling the Hidden Gems in the Heart of India*

Bihar, located in the heart of India, presents a stunning combination of history, culture, and spirituality. This ancient land is often forgotten, but it contains a wealth of treasures waiting to be uncovered. From the ruins of Nalanda's famous history to the spiritual sanctuaries of Bodh Gaya, Bihar transports you through time. Patna, the capital city, flawlessly integrates history and modernity, while the Sonapur Mela and Chhath Puja demonstrate the region's cultural richness. Join us on a virtual journey through Bihar's various landscapes, where every nook echoes with stories of tradition, enticing visitors to discover the secrets of this timeless location.



## *Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya*

Bodh Gaya, nestled by the Falgu River, stands as a spiritual sanctuary where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment. The Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the focal point of this pilgrimage, housing the Bodhi Tree. Pilgrims flock to experience the tranquility and historical resonance. The temple's architecture, adorned with intricate carvings, creates a sacred ambiance, inviting reflection. Bodh Gaya and the Mahabodhi Temple together offer a profound journey into Buddhist spirituality, attracting seekers from around the world to this revered site in Bihar, India.

## *Vishwa Shanti Stupa, Rajgir*

Perched on the Ratnagiri Hills in Rajgir, the Vishwa Shanti Stupa, or World Peace Pagoda, is a beacon of serenity and unity. Inaugurated in 1969, it promotes peace and non-violence. The stupa's Japanese architectural influence and panoramic views make it a tranquil heaven, attracting visitors seeking spiritual solace amidst nature's beauty.





## *Ghora Katora, Rajgir*

Ghora Katora in Rajgir, is a scenic lake with a name derived from the royal cavalry's horses drinking water here. Surrounded by lush hills, it offers a picturesque setting for nature lovers. Ghora Katora is a tranquil spot, inviting visitors to immerse themselves in the serene landscapes of Rajgir.

## *Ashokan Pillar, Vaishali*

The Ashokan Pillar in Vaishali, stands as an ancient edifice with historical significance. Built by Emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BCE, it marks the site where Buddha delivered his last sermon. The pillar's intricate carvings and Ashoka's commitment to Buddhism make it a revered monument in Vaishali, encapsulating the region's cultural heritage.





## *Ancient Nalanda University, Nalanda*

Nalanda, was home to the ancient Nalanda University, a premier center of learning from the 5th to 12th centuries. Renowned scholars studied diverse subjects in its grand halls. Today, the UNESCO World Heritage Site's ruins showcase the intellectual and cultural richness that once flourished, offering a glimpse into India's ancient educational heritage.



## *Jain Mandir, Kundalpur*

The Jain Mandir in Kundalpur, is a revered pilgrimage site, believed to be the birth place of Lord Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara. Pilgrims visit this sacred temple to pay homage to Lord Mahavira and participate in religious ceremonies. The Jain Mandir stands as a cultural and spiritual landmark, reflecting the significance of Jainism in Kundalpur.



## *Jal Mandir, Pawapuri*

Situated in Pawapuri, Jal Mandir is a sacred Jain temple surrounded by a lotus-filled tank. Dedicated to Lord Mahavira, it marks the place where he attained Nirvana. Pilgrims visit to offer prayers and witness the serene setting, making it a significant religious destination in Pawapuri.

## *Maner Sharif, Patna*

Maner Sharif, located near Patna, is a significant Sufi shrine. The complex houses the tomb of the Sufi saint Makhdoom Yahya Maneri. Pilgrims and devotees visit to pay homage to the saint. The historic site reflects the rich Sufi tradition and serves as a place of spiritual reverence and cultural significance.



## *Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji, Patna Sahib, Patna*

Takhat Sri Harimandir Ji, also known as Patna Sahib, is a revered Sikh pilgrimage site in Patna. It marks the birth place of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Sikh Guru. The gurdwara, adorned with golden domes, attracts Sikh devotees from around the world. It houses sacred relics and scriptures, and its serene ambiance reflects the spiritual importance of the site. Patna Sahib stands as a testament to Sikh heritage and remains a center for religious and cultural celebrations.



## *Amwaman Lake, West Champaran*

Amwaman Lake in West Champaran, is a scenic water body embraced by lush greenery. This tranquil lake serves as a natural reservoir, providing a serene escape for both locals and visitors. Amwaman Lake is a popular tourist destination known for offering parasailing and other adventurous water sports.





## *Gol Ghar, Patna*

Gol Ghar, a prominent landmark in Patna, Bihar, is an architectural marvel built by Captain John Garstin in 1786. This granary, resembling a beehive, was constructed to address famines, it stands as a testament to historical engineering and contributes to Patna's cultural heritage.



## *Sher Shah Suri Tomb, Sasaram*

The Sher Shah Suri Tomb in Sasaram, is a remarkable mausoleum built in the memory of Sher Shah Suri, the founder of the Suri Dynasty. Constructed with sandstone and adorned with an octagonal dome, it stands as a testament to Sher Shah's architectural vision. The tomb is a significant historical and architectural landmark in Bihar.



## *Deo Sun Temple, Aurangabad*

The Deo Sun Temple in Aurangabad, is one of the ancient Sun temples of the country. Built in the 8th century AD by Chandravanshi King Bhairavendra Singh. The 100 ft. high temple resembles the temple at Konark in its architectural form. A unique thing about the Deo Sun temple is that it faces west unlike the traditional Sun temples which face east.

## *Ram Rekha Ghat, Buxar*

Ram Rekha Ghat, situated in Buxar, is a sacred river bank along the Ganges. It holds historical significance, believed to be the spot where Lord Rama crossed the river while going to Janakpur. Pilgrims and devotees visit the ghat for spiritual cleansing and to partake in religious rituals. The serene ambiance and the association with the epic Ramayana make Ram Rekha Ghat a revered destination, inviting those seeking a connection to Hindu mythology and the sanctity of the Ganges.





## *Kesaria Stupa, East Champaran*

The Kesaria Stupa in East Champaran, is a colossal Buddhist stupa dating back to the 3rd century BCE. The current stupa dates to Gupta Dynasty between 200 AD and 750 AD. Believed to be built by Emperor Ashoka, it stands at a height of 104 feet, making it one of the tallest stupas in the world. The stupa, with its intricate carvings and historical significance, attracts pilgrims and history enthusiasts to witness its architectural grandeur and cultural importance.



## *Ancient Vikramshila University, Bhagalpur*

The ancient Vikramshila University, near Bhagalpur, was a renowned center of Buddhist learning during the Pala Empire in the 8th-12th centuries. Founded by King Dharmapala, it housed over a hundred teachers and attracted scholars from across Asia. The university boasted of a vast library and a nine-story pyramidal structure. Its educational influence extended to philosophy, logic, grammar, and Buddhist studies. Unfortunately, it declined with the fall of the Pala Empire. Today, the ruins of Vikramshila stand as a significant archaeological site, offering a glimpse into the intellectual and cultural richness of medieval Bihar.



## *Punaura Dham Janki Mandir, Sitamarhi*

Punaura Dham Janki Mandir in Sitamarhi, is a revered Hindu temple dedicated to Mata Sita. As per Hindu mythology, Sitamarhi is considered the birthplace of Mata Sita. The temple attracts pilgrims and devotees who seek blessings and spiritual solace, making it a significant religious destination in Sitamarhi.



## *Mundeshwari Temple, Kaimur*

The Mundeshwari Temple in Kaimur, is one of the oldest-known functional temples in India, dating back to the 2nd century AD. Dedicated to Lord Shiva and Devi Shakti, it showcases a blend of Nagara and Dravidian architectural styles. This ancient temple holds cultural, historical, and spiritual significance in the region.



## *Vishnupad Temple, Gaya*

The Vishnupad Temple in Gaya, is a sacred Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Situated on the banks of the Falgu River, it is believed to enshrine Lord Vishnu's footprint, marking the spot where he stepped while pushing the demon Gayasura into the earth. Pilgrims flock to this ancient temple, especially during the Pitru Paksha period, to perform rituals for their ancestors. The temple's architecture, adorned with intricate carvings, and its spiritual significance make it a revered destination for devotees.

## Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve, West Champaran

Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve, located in West Champaran, is a haven for biodiversity. Covering an area of approximately 900 square kilometers, it houses diverse ecosystems, including grasslands, woodlands, and riverine habitats. The reserve is known for its population of Bengal tigers and serves as a crucial conservation area for various flora and fauna.



## *Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary, Munger*

Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary in Munger, spans approx. 700 square kilometers and is a biodiversity hotspot. Known for its varied landscapes including hills, forests, and hot springs, the sanctuary is home to diverse flora and fauna. It provides a habitat for species like tigers, leopards, elephants, and numerous bird species.



## *Telhar Kund Water Fall, Kaimur*

Telhar Kund Waterfall in Kaimur, is a natural cascade nestled amidst scenic landscapes. Surrounded by lush greenery, it offers a serene retreat for nature enthusiasts. The waterfall's pristine waters and tranquil surroundings make it a refreshing destination for those seeking to unwind in the natural beauty of the Kaimur region.





## *Tutala Bhawani Waterfall, Rohtas*

Tutala Bhawani Waterfall in Rohtas, is a picturesque cascade set amidst captivating landscapes. Surrounded by verdant greenery, it provides a peaceful escape for nature lovers. The waterfall's tranquil ambiance and natural beauty make it a delightful spot for those seeking to immerse themselves in the serene environment of Rohtas.



## *Karakatgarh Waterfall, Kaimur*

Karakatgarh Waterfall in Kaimur, is a scenic natural marvel nestled amid lush landscapes. Known for its pristine beauty and tranquil surroundings, the waterfall is a serene destination for nature enthusiasts, offering a refreshing escape into the captivating wilderness of the Kaimur region.



## *Mithila Haat, Madhubani*

Mithila Haat in Jhanjharpur block of Madhubani, is a vibrant marketplace showcasing the intricate Mithila paintings. This cultural hub allows visitors to explore and purchase traditional art pieces and cuisine, providing a platform for local artists to exhibit their talent and contribute to the preservation of this rich art form.



## *Lachhwar Jain temple, Jamui*

Lachhwar Jain Temple in Jamui is a significant pilgrimage site for Jains. This ancient temple dedicated to Lord Mahavira features remarkable architectural elements. Surrounded by natural beauty, it attracts devotees seeking spiritual solace and offers a serene space for reflection and religious practices in the tranquil landscapes of Jamui.

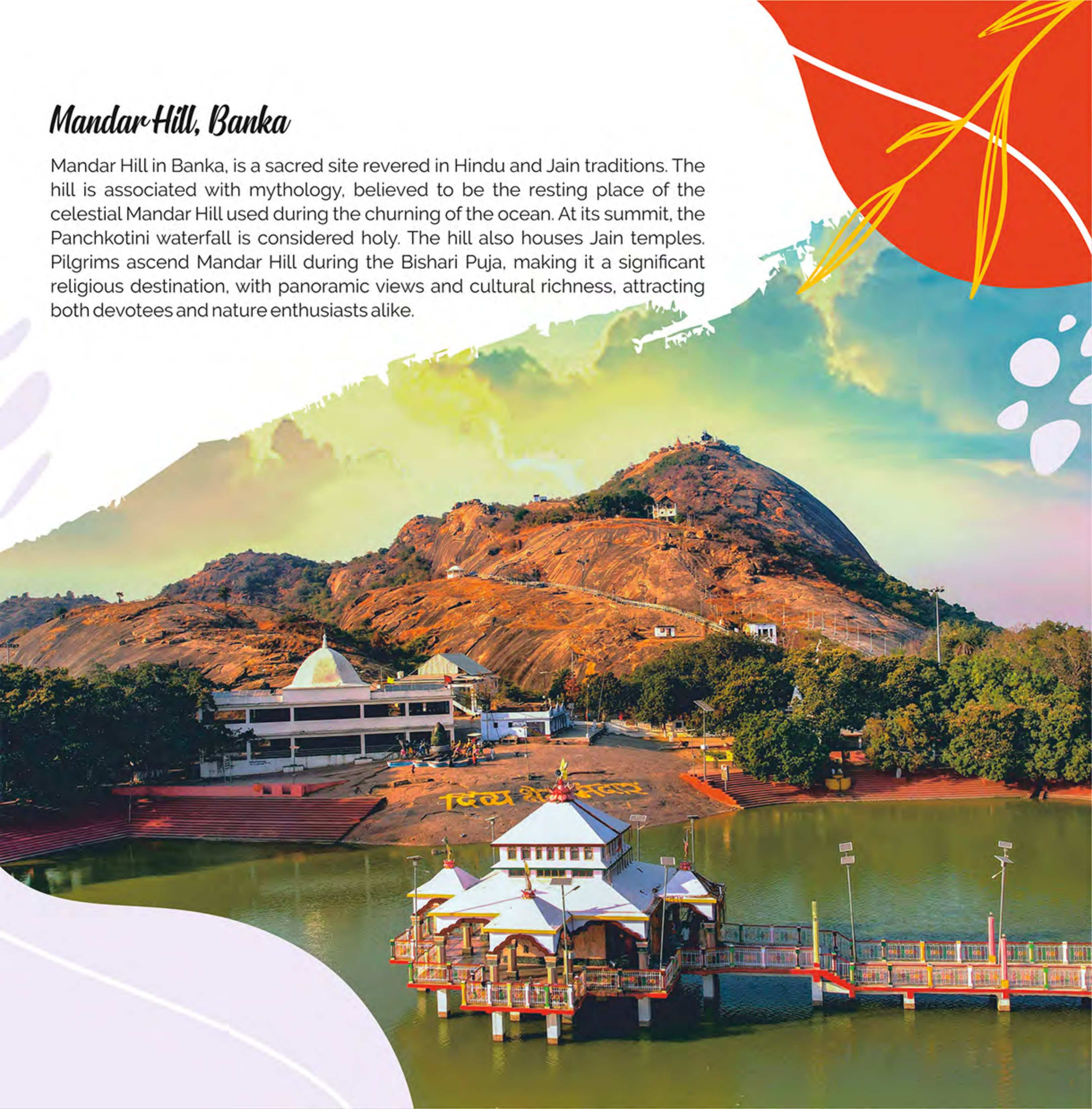
## *Dashrath Manjhi Road, Gaya*

Dashrath Manjhi Road in Gaya, is named after Dashrath Manjhi, the "Mountain Man" who carved a path through a hill using only a hammer and chisel. This remarkable feat took 22 years to complete and transform his village's accessibility. The road serves as a testament to Manjhi's extraordinary determination and resilience in the face of adversity.



## *Mandar Hill, Banka*

Mandar Hill in Banka, is a sacred site revered in Hindu and Jain traditions. The hill is associated with mythology, believed to be the resting place of the celestial Mandar Hill used during the churning of the ocean. At its summit, the Panchkotini waterfall is considered holy. The hill also houses Jain temples. Pilgrims ascend Mandar Hill during the Bishari Puja, making it a significant religious destination, with panoramic views and cultural richness, attracting both devotees and nature enthusiasts alike.



## *Grupa Hill, Gaya*

Grupa Hill in Gaya, is a revered pilgrimage site known for its association with Lord Buddha disciple Mahakasyapa.. Devotees and tourists visit this tranquil hill to explore its spiritual significance, meditate, and experience the serene ambiance overlooking the picturesque landscapes of Gaya.



## *Barabar Caves, Jehanabad*

Barabar Caves are ancient rock-cut caves dating back to the Mauryan period. Known for their architectural precision, these caves were used by Buddhist and Jain monks for meditation. The Barabar Caves hold historical and religious significance, providing a glimpse into ancient cave architecture and spiritual practices in Bihar.



## *Nature and Zoo Safari, Rajgir*

Nature and Zoo Safari in Rajgir, offer a unique wildlife experience. Visitors can explore the lush landscapes and observe various animal species in their natural habitat. The safari, set against the backdrop of Rajgir's scenic beauty, provides an opportunity for wildlife enthusiasts to appreciate and connect with the region's bio diversity.





## *Rajgir Ropeway, Rajgir*

The Rajgir Rope way provides a scenic journey offering panoramic views of Rajgir's landscapes. Connecting the foothills to the Vishwa Shanti Stupa and the Ratnagiri Hills, this cable car experience is a popular attraction. Tourists enjoy the breath taking vistas and a convenient mode of transport to these significant landmarks in Rajgir.



## *Glass Bridge, Rajgir*

The Glass Bridge in Rajgir, is a modern architectural marvel that adds a thrilling dimension to the city's attractions. Suspended over the lush landscapes, this transparent walkway provides panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Adventure enthusiasts and tourists can experience the sensation of walking on air while appreciating the natural beauty that Rajgir has to offer.



## *Mandar Ropeway, Banka*

The Mandar Ropeway in Banka, enhances the accessibility of the sacred Mandar Hill. This aerial transport system provides a convenient and scenic journey for pilgrims and tourists, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes. The Mandar Ropeway has become an integral part of the pilgrimage experience to this revered site in Banka.

## *Odhni Dam, Banka*

Odhni Dam in Banka, is a significant water reservoir providing irrigation to the region. Embraced by scenic land scapes, the dam contributes to agricultural development and water management. Tourists can enjoy motorboat, speed boat and jet skiing and other adventurous water sports while picnicking in the serene surroundings of the dam.



## *Sonepur Fair, Sonepur*

Sonepur Fair is Asia's largest cattle fair and a vibrant cultural extravaganza. Taking place around the confluence of the Ganges and Gandak rivers, it attracts pilgrims, traders, and tourists. Besides trading livestock, the fair features cultural performances, religious rituals, and a diverse array of handicrafts, making it a captivating and unique event in the cultural calendar of Bihar.



## *Pitrapaksha Mela, Gaya*

Gaya is also famous for a yearly occasion called 'Pitra Paksha Mela' when individuals from all over the world come here to pay homage to their ancestors (Pitras) through food offerings. During this period rituals like Shraddh, Tarpan, and Pind Daan are performed to please the departed soul from the cycle of birth, life, and death.





## *Chhath Puja*

Chhath Puja, a significant Hindu festival, is celebrated in Bihar and across India to honor the Sun God. This four-day festival involves rigorous rituals, including fasting, bathing in rivers, and offering prayers to the rising and setting sun. The festival fosters a sense of community and reverence for nature, embodying the cultural richness and spiritual significance deeply embedded in Bihar's traditions. Chhath Puja is a time of reflection, gratitude, and devotion.

# Art Forms of Bihar: Canvas of Tradition



## Madhubani Art

Madhubani Art is a traditional style of painting known for vibrant colors and intricate detailing. Often depicting mythological themes, nature, and daily life, this ancient art form uses natural pigments and reflects the cultural heritage of Bihar, showcasing the region's rich artistic traditions.



## Tikuli Painting

The intricate and delicate artwork is done on hand made paper or cloth. It often features vibrant colors and intricate designs, showcasing themes of nature, folklore, and daily life. Tikuli Painting is a fine example of the state's rich artistic heritage and craftsmanship.



## Manjusha Painting

Manjusha Painting, a traditional folk art, is known for its vibrant and intricate designs. Typically, done on cylindrical containers, it often depicts mythological stories or local folklore. Using bright colors and unique patterns, Manjusha Painting is a cultural expression, preserving the artistic heritage of Bihar through its captivating visual narratives.

# Art Forms of Bihar: Canvas of Tradition



## *Sujani Art*

Sujani Art is a traditional quilting craft, primarily used to create decorative and functional textiles. Craftsmen skillfully sew layers of fabric together, often forming intricate geometric patterns. This art form, with its vibrant colors and meticulous stitching, has cultural significance, embodying the artistic traditions of Bihar.



## *Sikki Art*

Sikki Art, involves weaving items using Sikki grass. This traditional craft produces baskets, mats, and decorative items. Sikki grass is intricately woven to create patterns, showcasing the skilled craftsmanship of Bihar's artisans.



## *Applique Art*

Applique Art is a traditional craft where fabrics are intricately cut and sewn onto a base fabric to create decorative patterns. This art form often features vibrant colors and intricate detailing, producing beautiful textiles and adding a touch of cultural elegance to the region's artistic heritage.

# *Bihar Bites: Exploring the State's Culinary Delights*



## *Litchi, Muzaffarpur*

Muzaffarpur is renowned for its succulent Litchis, celebrated for their sweetness and aroma. Muzaffarpur hosts an annual Litchi Festival, showcasing the region's premium produce and offering a delightful experience for fruit enthusiasts and visitors alike. The Shahi litchi of Muzaffarpur has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



## *Litti Chokha*

Litti Chokha, a beloved dish in Bihar, consists of round wheat flour balls (litti) baked and served with a side of mashed vegetables (chokha). This rustic and wholesome dish represents the essence of Bihar's culinary heritage, offering a perfect blend of textures and tastes.



## *Khaja, Silao*

Khaja is a sweet delicacy renowned for its flaky layers and delectable taste. Khaja is a popular dessert during festivals and celebrations. Its unique texture and sweet flavour make it a cherished treat, showcasing Bihar's culinary craftsmanship. The Khaja of Silao has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

# *Bihar Bites: Exploring the State's Culinary Delights*



## *Thekua, Tilkut & Anarsa*

Thekua is a sweet snack made with wheat flour, jaggery, and ghee, often flavored with fennel seeds.

Tilkut is a sweet prepared with sesame seeds and jaggery, while Anarsa is made with rice flour, sugar, and sesame seeds. The delectable sweets are a vital part of Bihar's culinary culture, enjoyed during festivals and special occasions, reflecting the state's rich tradition of crafting sweet delights.



## *Makhana*

Makhana, also known as fox nuts, is a popular snack originating from Bihar. Harvested from the lotus plant, these puffed seeds are often roasted or fried to enhance their crunchy texture. Makhana is not only a tasty snack but also a nutritious and gluten-free option, highlighting Bihar's culinary diversity. The Makhana of Mithila has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.



## *Champanan Meat*

Champanan Meat is a delectable non-vegetarian dish. It typically features tender goat meat, slow-cooked with a blend of aromatic spices. The dish is known for its rich flavors and succulent texture, reflecting the culinary expertise of the region. Champanan Meat stands as a savory delight, showcasing Bihar's diverse and flavorful gastronomic offerings.



## DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, GOVT. OF BIHAR

1st Floor, B. Block, Extension Building,  
Old Secretariat, Patna - 800015



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