

Sri Hari :

A NOTE TO THE YATRIKAS TAKING PART IN PURI YATRA

(as dictated and instructed by
Sri Sri Swamiji)

Sri Jagannath Puri is one of the saptha mokshapuris (kshetras) that bestow moksha). Thus far, we have undertaken yatras to Kashi, Badrinath, Pandharpur, Vrindavan and several other places. After 2001, until 2022, we did not embark on any yatra with satsang families. In 2022, we did the Vrindavan yatra, followed by Chitrakoot yatra, a year later. This year, by Guru Krupa, a yatra to Jagannath Puri dhaam is planned from 22-25 November '24.

Your co-operation was quintessential for the successful completion of the past two yatrae, and we request the same from you, as we embark on the Jagannath Puri yatra too.

- * When it comes to the yatra, safety of the yatrikas is foremost. We need to bear in mind that one bad experience for a single yatrika, will dampen the spirit of the entire yatra, and act diligently.
- * Unlike Vrindavan dhaam, Puri kshetra does not have an extensive list of temples or leela sthals to visit.
- * The darshan of Sri Jagannath Panivar at Puri is of utmost importance, and is the main purpose of our visit. The daily hoisting and lowering of the temple flag is another important ritual to be witnessed and enjoyed.

* Other than the Jagannath temple, most other leela sthals are closely connected to the divine life of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

- Siddha Bakul is the revered place where Sant Haridas, a disciple of Mahaprabhu, chanted the Mahamantra 3 lakh times every day. The samadhi of Sant Haridas is in another place closer to the shore. These places are situated in very narrow lanes. Hence, devotees are requested to exercise caution and patience while having darshan here.

- Another important leela sthal is Gambhira Guha, where Sri Mahaprabhu had stayed during the final phase of his avatar.

- Close to the Gambhira guha, you will find the residence of Sri Vasudeva Sarvabhousha, the great scholar who later became Mahaprabhu's disciple.

- Alarnath is another must-visit leela sthal which is about 15-20 kms from Jagannath Puri. On the days when there was no darshan of Sri Jagannatha, Mahaprabhu would stay in Alarnath and have darshan of the Lord there. He would then be in extreme viraha bhaava (pangs of separation). Even today, one can have darshan of a black rock that melted away by the heat of Sri Mahaprabhu's viraha bhavam.

- As one travels from Jagannath Puri to Bhubaneswar, one can have darshan of Bhagawan Sri Krishna at the Sakshi Gopal Temple.

- There is a small pond called Shweta Ganga near the Jagannath Puri Temple, where Sri Bhagavannama Bodhendra Saraswati Swamikal established Nama Siddhantha.

- The hallowed place where Sri Jeyadeva sang 'Geetha Govindham' is also located near the temple. It is a small house called Dashawatara Mandir.

* Volunteers will offer necessary information and guidance regarding these leela sthals, if approached.

* As all these places are congested and situated in narrow lanes, it will not be possible for the entire group of bhaktas to assemble there at once. Therefore, Sri Swamiji will not be visiting leela sthals with yatrikas.

* We only include satgung members in our yatras. Strangers have not been part of our yatra groups, and we request you to abide by this stand too.

* Our yatra group is nearly 1500 strong, this time around. We request you to diligently follow guidelines to ensure a smooth, safe and fruitful yatra

i) Please be mindful that the yatra is during monsoon season, and make sure to pack your necessary medications. Kindly carry winter clothing as required, and try not to get wet in the rain

ii) Do NOT skip any of your regular medications.

iii) You alone are responsible for the safekeep of your phone, credit card, debit card, and other valuables.

iv) It is advisable not consume unhygienic street food.

v) Kindly avoid money transaction, or sharing personal information with fellow yatrikas.

vi) Health issues must be immediately escalated to the notice of volunteers and physicians who are part of the yatra group.

vii) Those who are accompanying elderly people are requested to take utmost care of them.

viii) Parents are requested to never leave their children unaccompanied.

ix) Unless they are family, yatrikas are requested not to engage personally or closely with other yatrikas from the opposite gender.

x) Rather than being disciplined by another, we humbly appeal to you to live up to our satsang's reputation of being a 100% compliant and self-disciplined group.

xi) Singing of ashtapadi bhajan, Radha kalyanam, diya nama sankirtanam and nagara kirtan have been planned in this yatra.

xii) Throughout the yatra, please refrain from approaching Sri Swamiji personally. If you wish to do namaskar, please do it from where you are. Kindly avoid bringing offerings, gifts of love, contributions, fruits, flowers, garlands to Sri Swamiji. This is not the place to approach Sri Swamiji with personal prayers or requests. Do not attempt requesting a personal audience with Sri Swamiji.

xiii) In short, please be focused on the sole purpose of the yatra, which is to participate in satsang and have darshan of temples and leela shals.

xiv) Volunteers are requested to be kind and polite to the yatrikas.

xv) Yatrikas are requested to move with each other in a kind and polite manner, avoiding any disputes or quarrels. Only then will we be bestowed with the grace of Sri Jagannatha Swami, which is the very purpose of this yatra.

xvi) As soon as you reach Puri Kshetra, kindly receive your ID cards from the volunteers.

xvii) This is not a holiday, but a pilgrimage. All yatrikas are requested to fully co-operate, keeping this in mind.

xix) Kindly do not trust strangers with money in order to have temple darshan arranged. You have already been provided with the contact details of Sri Lokanath Panda in our previous communications. Kindly avail his services for temple darshan for a sambhavana (fee). This can be directly discussed with Sri Lokanath Panda, and not with the yatra organisers.

As instructed by Sri Swamiji,



Dr. A. Bhagyanathan

(Personal Secretary to His Holiness

Maharanyam Sri Sri Muralidhara Swamiji)

9/Nov/2024