

File No : TBZ0017



# SIKKIM

## GANGTOK – PELLING – DARJEELING - KALIMPONG

### 7 Nights 8 Days

#### TOUR SUMMARY

DAY	OVERNIGHT	PARTICULAR
DAY 1	GANGTOK	BAGDOGRA ARRIVAL TRANSFER TO GANGTOK (125KM / 4HRS)
DAY 2	GANGTOK	TSONGMO LAKE DAY EXCURSION
DAY 3	PELLING	TRANSFER GANGTOK TO PELLING VIA NAMCHI ( 117KM / 5RS)
DAY 4	PELLING	PELLING LOCAL SIGHTSEEING
DAY 5	DARJEELING	TRANSFER PELLING TO DARJEELING ( 75KM / 3HRS )
DAY 6	DARJEELING	DARJEELING LOCAL SIGHTSEEING
DAY 7	KALIMPONG	TRANSFER DARJEELING TO KALIMPONG (70KM / 2HRS)
DAY 8	DEPARTURE	KALIMPONG TO BAGDOGRA AIRPORT DROP (77KM / 3HRS)

## DETAIL ITINERARY

### DAY 1

#### ARRIVAL AT BAGDOGRA ( IXB ) AIRPORT AND TRANSFER TO GANGTOK ( 125KM / 4HRS )



#### OVERNIGHT : GANGTOK II Elevation: 1,650 m (5,410 ft) II Average Temp Oct :15 to 20 degrees

Breakfast at Hotel. After check out proceed for Kolkata airport to take a flight to Bagdogra. On arrival at **IXB ( Bagdogra Airport )**, our team will meet and greet, transfer to **Gangtok**. Gangtok is a municipality, the capital and the largest town of the Indian state of Sikkim. It also is the headquarters of the East Sikkim district. Gangtok is located in the eastern Himalayan range, at an elevation of 1,650 m (5,410 ft). Gangtok rose to prominence as a popular Buddhist pilgrimage site after the construction of the Enchey Monastery in 1840. In 1894, the ruling Sikkimese Chogyal Total distance of 125 Km from Bagdogra to Gangtok, we will cover in 4 hours. The road routes from Bagdogra Airport (IXB) meet the Sevoke Road which leads to the National Highway NH10. The route passes through the **Teesta** area and then goes all the way to Gangtok. For a long part of the drive, you will see the beautiful River Teesta flowing alongside.

Once you reach Teesta Bazaar area along NH10, you need to cross over the Teesta Bridge and get to the other side of the river and continue on NH10. Shortly thereafter (about 4kms away) you can see the wonderful confluence of the river Teesta with river Rangeet.

20kms further along is **Rangpo**, a small bordering village. At Rangpo you will cross over a small bridge over a stream. The stream is known as Rangpo-Chu (Chu in Nepali means river). Rangpo-chu is one of the main rivers of south-Sikkim and originates near the well known Jelepala Pass, and demarcates the boundary between south Sikkim and West Bengal over a long stretch.

Gangtok is further 39kms from Rangpo... along the way and with river Teesta alongside you will pass through **Singtam** settlement (11kms), further up and along a stream known as Ranikhola you will come across another settlement called Ranipool (16kms), and then a steep uphill journey would take you to Gangtok (12kms). Note that up to Ranipool the altitude remains within 3,000ft, but in the next 12kms to Gangtok the altitude changes to nearly 6,000ft.

On arrival check in to hotel and take rest. In the evening you can take small walk to see nearby market or enjoy your resorts.

Overnight at Gangtok

### DAY 2

#### TSONGMO LAKE DAY EXCURSION / NATHULA PASS & BABA MANDIR



#### OVERNIGHT : GANGTOK

Today after early morning breakfast proceed for Tsongmo Lake. Trip started early morning at 8am

and reached there within 3 hours. The place is a very beautiful place to be with snowfall and the chilling weather

**Tsongmo Lake :** Tsongmo Lake, also known as Changu Lake is a glacial lake in Sikkim and located at an altitude of 12,310 feet. The name Tsongmo means 'Source of water'. It's located 40kms from Gangtok town. This is one of the few and awesome high altitude lakes in India. The lake becomes doubly attractive with the reflections of the surrounding hills on the water. From Gangtok which is at 5410 ft, the altitude rises to about 10,000 ft in just 15kms.

Try a yak-ride along the shores of the alpine lake or take a walk past the food-stalls and souvenir shops to the natural shore of the lake.



**Nathula Pass:** Located at an altitude of 14,140 feet and 56kms from Gangtok, Nathula Pass was the place through which the famous Silk Route used to operate until 1962. This used to be the silk trade route between India and Tibet. Lines of mules used to carry silk, gold and many other items from Tibet to India and take daily essentials back to Tibet. The route in Tibet goes down the Chumbi Valley to Yathung, a place about 30kms away which once used to be a major trading township (no longer so). In fact on a clear day you can see this route winding down the valley. If you look at the eastern horizon, you can see the magnificent peak of Chomolhari of Bhutan

**Baba Mandir:** There is a touching story associated with this temple. Harbhajan Singh was a Sentry of Punjab Regiment and was posted here as part of border patrol force. The border with China is nearby. In October 1968 he disappeared. It is said that while escorting mules carrying provisions, he fell into a stream and drowned. After a few days he reappeared in the dreams of one of his sentry colleagues and asked him to make a memorial here on his name..

The sentries then made a samadhi and later this temple was built. Although Harbhajan Sing is no more, the sentries and guards here believe that his spirit is still alive and he is therefore treated as a living being. They all believe that Harbhajan will guard and protect them in this very difficult terrain. While Harbhajan Singh is dead since long, his live memories have resulted in several actions from the army which is rarely seen. Out of sheer belief that he his spirit is still around, he has been promoted to the rank of honorary Captain.

Over the years the temple has become a place of pilgrimage. Inside the temple you will find large photo of turbaned Harbhanaj Sing which is worshipped. Many who come here leave a bottle of drinking water which they arrange to collect a few days later. It is believed that one can fulfill one's wishes by drinking that water. You will often find that army trucks passing by stop here and soldiers come and offer quick prayers before proceeding.

**Note :** Only visitors from India have the option of visiting the border check-point of Nathula-Pass and Baba Mandir. Take a glance at the Tibetan Plateau and the Chinese & Indian guards.

Evening back to hotel, Overnight in Gangtok

## DAY 3

### TRANSFER GANGTOK TO PELLING VIA NAMCHI



## **OVERNIGHT : PELLING II Elevation: 1,800 m (7,200 ft) II Average Temp Oct : 10 to 20 degrees**

Have your early morning breakfast, check out from the hotel and proceed for Namchi. Gangtok to Namchi distance of 80km we will cover in 3hrs

**Namchi** : Namchi, a fast developing place in South Sikkim is often known as the Culture Capital of the state. The place has been developed as a hub of religious and cultural tourism in Sikkim.. Namchi (meaning 'Sky High') is located at an altitude of 5,500ft and is the capital of South District of Sikkim.

While coming from Gangtok we will pass through the 21km stretch of famous **Tem Tea Garden** which is the only tea garden in Sikkim producing finest quality of tea. You can halt halfway at **Singchuthang** which is a lovely picnic area at the bank of river Rangeet. Another picturesque place along the way from Gangtok is **Manglay** which has three rivers passing through it - Teesta, Sipsu and Rangpo Chhu. The scenic beauty of Manglay has been featured in the Nepali film 'Saino' and since then the place is also known as Sainotaar.

Namchi Mahotsav which is a very popular culture & food festival is held in October when the entire area bustles with people from all over the state and country. Flower shows are also held in October. In Namchi we will first visit **Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir & Pilgrimage Centre** located at Asangthang, Next is the **Pilgrim Center Char Dham** which is undoubtedly the most popular and the best tourist attraction in Namchi. It is located on a hill top and about 5kms from the town center. This large complex has been conceived to take Sikkim to new heights of pilgrimage & religious tourism. The complex comprises of the main temple of Shiva on which the imposing statue of Shiva has been set up.

Additionally there are replicas of twelve jyotirlingas to offer one platform to all devotees of Shiva, as well as replicas of the four dhams (Badrinath, Jagannath, Dwarka dedicated to lord Vishnu and Rameshwar dedicated to lord Shiva). Next is **Samdruptse Monastery** which is about 7kms from Namchi town and up on Samdruptse hill. Before Char Dham, this used to be the main attraction of Namchi, it is still very popular among tourists though. Samdruptse means 'Wish fulfilling Hill'. The locals believe that the hill is actually a dormant volcano. The Buddhists lamas have been regularly offering prayers so that the volcano does not erupt. It has stayed calm so far. you will be awestruck with the mammoth 45-meter statue of Sikkim's patron saint Guru Padmasambhava set up on an elevated platform. The face is coated with gold that glitters in the sun. Walk around the platform (start from the left and make a full circle) and you can get magnificent view of the mountains and forests. The entry to the monastery is from the backside.

On your way back towards Namchi town you can visit **Namchi Rock Garden** (about 10 minutes from and below Samdruptse) From Rock Garden your final destination will be **Ngadak Monastery** which is about 2kms from Namchi town. This is one of the oldest monasteries of South Sikkim built in 17th century by Tensung Namgyal during the reign of Chogyal Gyurmed Namgyal. However the old building has been destroyed by earthquake and a new structure has come up in its place. Wonderful ambience, both outside and inside.

In the evening we proceed for Pelling.

Namchi to Pelling distance of 75km we will cover in 3 hours Check in to hotel and rest.

## **DAY 4**

### **PELLING LOCAL SIGHTSEEING**



## OVERNIGHT : PELLING

After breakfast proceed for Pelling local sightseeing .

**Pelling** The pleasant little town of Pelling is famous for magnificent views of the snow-capped Kanchenjunga range, the third highest peak in the world. The Placid town pulls most of the visitors for its representative status in history, nature, and culture of the state of Sikkim. Situated at an altitude of 6,800 ft, Pelling offers a good view of the entire Kanchenjunga mountain range including Koktang, Kumbhakaran (Jannu), Rathong, Kabru, Kabru Dome, Kanchenjunga, Pandim, Siniolchu, and others. Start day with

**Pemayangtse Monastery** This is the most renowned monastery located in a place called Pemayangtse (2kms from Pelling). You can see images of Guru Padmasambhava and his various manifestations on the first and second floors. The top floor is known as Padmasambhava's palace and made with wooden structures, and is considered a masterpiece.

**Ruins of Rabdentse Palace** This used to be the second palace in the second capital of Sikkim after the one in Yuksam. It's located about 3kms from Pelling and further down from Pemayangtse Monastery. It requires few minutes walk from the road. The palace was built by the second chogyal (i.e. king) of Sikkim - Tensung Namgyal. There are three stupas here on a stone platform which were built for the royal family to worship. The ruins is now part of a sanctuary (Sidkeong Tulku Park) and is a great place for bird watchers.

**Rimbi River, Waterfall, Rock Garden** Further 5kms towards Yuksum (and about 12kms from Pelling) is the Rimbi river which is quite popular with the locals for fishing. The Rimbi waterfall is also very popular with the tourists. The state government has developed the Sewaro Rock Garden here which is complete with rocks, pathways, pools, nice manicured gardens, view points etc.

**Kanchenjunga Waterfalls** Further 18kms from Rimbi River and about 28kms from Pelling, you will reach this spectacular waterfall coming down from great heights. It's accessible from the road but a bit hidden.

**Khecheopalri Lake** A lovely lake also known as the wish fulfilling lake located near Kanchenjunga Waterfalls and on the way to Yuksam. The lake is surrounded by forests. The water in the lake remains clean all through the year. It is said that a pair of swans pick up all the twigs that fall in the water and keep it clean. A leaf lamp floating festival is held on the lake every year on the 15th and 16th day of the first Buddhist month (February/March). This is when large number of locals come here for worshipping the lake and offer prayers.

About an hour uphill trek from the lake (1.5kms) there is a monastery known as Khecheopalri Monastery from where the lake looks like that of a left footprint. There is enough car park outside the lake and you will find several stalls selling kick knacks, souvenirs etc.

**Yuksam** is located 33kms from Pelling at an altitude of 5,800ft and at the southern fringes of Kanchenjunga National Park. It means 'Meeting point of three lamas'. This is the first capital of Sikkim where three Tibetan monks met and enthroned the first King (Chogyal) of Sikkim in 1641. This was the beginning of Namgyal dynasty in Sikkim which lasted for 332 years. You can visit and see the coronation stone at Norbugang where the first King Phuntsog Namgyal was consecrated.

**Tashiding Monastery** Located on top of a hill that looks like a heart with the backdrop of majestic Kanchenjunga, this monastery is considered the most sacred in the whole of Sikkim. It was built in 1717 by Ngadak Sempa Chempo, one of the three lamas who consecrated the first king of Sikkim

**Singshore Bridge** This suspension bridge is the second highest bridge in Asia and was opened in 1993. Walk down to the middle of the bridge and look out to the gorge below, your head will surely spin for once. You can also see the gorge through the many holes along the middle part of the

bridge.

*A mountain river Singshore Khola flows below. The bridge spans across 198 meters connecting two hills and the depth here is 220 meters. The place has been earmarked for Bungee jumping, however bungee jumping has not taken off here due to its remoteness.*

*Evening back to hotel*

## **DAY 5**

### **TRANSFER PELLING TO DARJEELING ( 75 KM 3HRS 30MNT)**



**OVERNIGHT : DARJEELING** || Elevation: 2,042 m (8,000 ft) || Average Temp Oct : 15 to 20 degrees

*Here comes another goodbye to Sikkim that all of us have mixed feelings about, as it leads to a visit to the well-known Darjeeling*

**Darjeeling** hill town is located at an altitude of 6,710ft in north east India and is part of the state of West Bengal. Darjeeling hill town was originally set up as a sanitarium or health resort by the British in mid 1800s. But over the years, it earned its name for its world famous aromatic tea and then with opening up of roads and Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, for tourism.

*You will see numerous sprawling tea estates in Darjeeling that produce world's best tea, as well as the amazing narrow gauge Toy Train - an engineering marvel of 1880s which could overcome the steep gradients and curves of the mountains and provided a scenic railway transportation in the hills. Once you reach there, after a welcome by the rising clouds and a nutritious breakfast, check-in to your hotel.*

*The town center of Darjeeling is known as Mall or Chowrasta, which is a flat open public square, a pedestrian only zone free of vehicular traffic and surrounded by colorful stores with backdrop of mountains and valleys. Mall or Chowrasta is the main town center.*

*Once you reach there, after a welcome by the rising clouds and a nutritious breakfast, check-in to your hotel*

*and spend the day in the best possible way. In the evening, you can always explore the Mall (actually a small meeting place, as we all know by the account written by RK Narayan) and spend the night in this film hub.*

## **DAY 6**

### **DARJEELING LOCAL SIGHTSEEING**



## OVERNIGHT : DARJEELING

The day starts early at 4am. The spectacular sunrise over Mt. Khangchendzonga (28,208 ft., World's 3rd highest peak) at **Tiger Hill** is a mesmerizing sight. The drive is a sense of adventure leading to an unforgettable destination surrounded by the Himalayas. On a clear day you can even see the mount Everest from here. Tiger Hill is located 11kms from the Darjeeling Town and takes about 40 minutes to reach by car.

If time permit, will come back to hotel have breakfast and proceed for **Toy Train Joy Ride**. If not we will directly proceed for Joy Ride from Tiger Hill. Riding the Toy Train of Darjeeling Himalayan Railways has always remained a coveted experience. Operating on narrow gauge tracks since 1880s and providing an important transport link to various parts of Darjeeling hills and lower plains, the toy train is an icon of our heritage since the colonial days and an engineering marvel that was achieved in that era. It also offers a wonderful way of absorbing the Himalayan beauty as you traverse along the slopes of the hills. Where else can you find a small steam engine pulling mini coaches up the steep mountains through breathtaking landscapes and overcoming almost impossible curves and gradients using sheer engineering ingenuity and creative skills. The snail pace at which the train moves through the hilly terrain is at times so slow that you can often see the local school children hopping on and off the train on the move.

Toy train joy rides operate from Darjeeling Railway Station. It's a 2-hour round trip from Darjeeling up to **Ghum** and back covering a total distance of 14kms. At **Batasia** the train makes a loop around a wonderful manicured garden. The view of Darjeeling town and the snow peaks of Kanchenjunga from here are unparalleled. The War Memorial built in honor of the Gorkha soldiers who sacrificed their lives is located at the center of the Garden. Ghum is the highest altitude station on the Darjeeling Himalayan Rail track. Altitude of Ghum is 2225.7 meters (7407 ft). Here the toy train stops for 30 minutes for a visit to Darjeeling Himalayan Railway museum. The DHR Museum is located at the station premises. The highlight here is the oldest toy train engine- The Baby Sivok After Joy Ride head towards **Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, P.N. Zoological Park (Thursday Closed), Tenzing Rock, Tibetan Refugee self-help Centre (Sunday closed) Tea Garden, Japanese Temple, Peace Pagoda and Ropeway**. Darjeeling Ropeway is one way you can be part of special diverse offerings from the nature and all in one place. From the ropeway of Darjeeling which is also known as the Rangeet Valley Passenger Cable Car, you can have mind blowing view of the valley below, see the spread of lush tea gardens, dense forests, mountain streams in their full flow, waterfalls, and the awesome snow peaks at the background. Get off at a lower station and enjoy the tea estates, walk through the tea gardens, or just relax and enjoy the view around. It's hard to find all these together in one place.

Evening back to Hotel

## DAY 7

**TRANSFER DARJEELING TO KALIMPONG ( 70KM / 2HRS)**



## OVERNIGHT : KALIMPONG

Today after breakfast we proceed for Kalimpong. It takes about 2 hours 70km one way.

**Kalimpong:** Kalimpong was earlier a subdivision of Darjeeling district, but now a separate district of West Bengal effective 14th Feb 2017 with an area of 1,056 square kilometers. Kalim in local dialect means King's Minister and Pong means Stronghold. So the name Kalimpong actually means Stronghold of King's Minister and has originated from the time of king's dynasty in the region. Kalimpong is located at an altitude of 4,100ft. Because of its relatively lower altitude compared to Darjeeling or Gangtok, the weather is milder and pleasant for most part of the year.

As you drive around the hills, you will find numerous flowering plantations, ferns and mosses. Just to give you an idea, there are over 4,000 species of flowering plants in Kalimpong district including over 400 types of orchids.

Some of the flowering plants grown in the nurseries include Cacti & Succulents, Orchids of different types, house plant & bulbs etc. You will see year-round flower shows in some nurseries here.

On arrival Kalimpong, we visit

**Pine View Nursery:** It has great collections of cactus and ornamental plants. You get great view of Kalimpong town from the backside lawn.

**Durpin Monastery :** This Tibetan monastery is located on the Durpin hill and hence such name. The actual name is Zang Dog Palri monastery. It was built in 1972 and has some rare Buddhist scripts that were brought here by Dalai Lama from Tibet. From the upper terrace of the monastery, you get magnificent views of Kalimpong town with Kanchenjunga in the background, the valley and the plains, Teesta & Reang rivers flowing down, and lovely tea estates of Peshoke area.

**Mangal Dham:** An excellent temple complex built in the memory of late Gurujii Mangal Dasji and dedicated to Lord Krishna. Devotees come from far away places

**Deolo Hill:** This is the major attraction in East Kalimpong. The tourism department has created an 8-acre lush parkland with manicured flower gardens and several view points with breathtaking views of Kanchenjunga, Durpin hill, Kalimpong Township and the valley with rivers flowing through them. Deolo hill is the highest point of Kalimpong with an altitude of about 5,500ft.

**Lord Buddha Statue :** Close to Deolo there is a small rock garden in which you will find this nice statue of Lord Buddha sitting in a lotus position. This is only a quick stop over point and a good place to click a picture

Evening check in to your hotel. Overnight at Kalimpong

## DAY 8

### TRANSFER KALIMPONG TO BAGDOGRA/ NEW JALPAIGURI

#### DEPARTURE

Have your breakfast and then leave for New Jalpaiguri Station / Bagdogra Airport for your next destination



## ABOUT US



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