



SIKKIM

GANGTOK – NATHANG VALLEY – ZULUK MANKHIM – ICHE GAON

6 Nights 7 Days

The Old Silk Route or Silk Road which passes through East Sikkim is a part of the ancient network of trade routes which connected China to India. This route passed through Lhasa and Nathu La and Jelep La Pass and finally reached the port of Tamralipta (present Tamluk in West Bengal) from where it took to the sea and reached far east. This Ancient Silk Route is expected to have been discovered by traders as early as First Century AD.

TOUR SUMMARY

DAY	OVERNIGHT	PARTICULAR
DAY 1	GANGTOK	BAGDOGRA ARRIVAL TRANSFER TO GANGTOK (125KM / 4HRS)
DAY 2	GANGTOK	GANGTOK LOCAL SIGHTSEEING
DAY 3	NATHANG VALLEY	GANGTOK TO NATHANG (70KM / 3HRS) VIA GNATHANG
DAY 4	ZULUK	NATHANG TO ZULUK (22KM / 1HRS)
DAY 5	ARITAR / MANKHIM	ZULUK TO ARITAR/MANKHIM (45KM / 2 HRS)
DAY 6	ICHE GAON	MANKHIM/ARITAR TO ICHE GAON (45KM / 2HRS)
DAY 7	DEPARTURE	ICHE GAON TO BAGDOGRA / NEW JALPAIGURI

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 Jeleppla 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

GANGTOK LOCAL SIGHTSEEING



OVERNIGHT : GANGTOK

Breakfast at the hotel and proceed for a city tour of Gangtok, including Gangtok – Cable Ride, Rumtek Monastery, Tsuk La Khang Monastery, Hanuman Tok

Gangtok – Cable Ride : This is one of the greatest attractions in Gangtok. It's a double-cable zig back ropeway.

Each cable car can carry up to 24 passengers. There are three stations in this 1km long ride (up and down is 2kms).

The lowest station is at Deorali near Institute of Tibetology. There are no seats in the cable car, so you need to stand. The next station is Namnang and the top most station is in Tashiling next to the Secretariat. One way ride takes about 10 minutes.

The whole of Gangtok township and if you look down below where you started, you will see the Deorali bazaar. You can also get amazing views of Kanchenjunga snow peaks and the valleys. Look down and you can see a river flowing some 3500 feet below. Overall an unforgettable experience.

Rumtek Monastery : This is a huge lovely monastery located in the opposite mountain at a distance of about 23kms from the Gangtok town. It has been built in grand Tibetan architecture and almost like a replica of the original monastery in Tibet. Apart from the monastery and its rare collections of Tibetan art work, relics etc, other attractions in the complex includes the Golden Stupa of the 16th Karmapa and Nalanda Institute of Higher Buddhist Studies.

Tsuk La Khang Monastery : The Tsuklakhang Royal Chapel and Monastery is a palatial monastery in Gangtok. The imperial chapel of the palace is located in the palace grounds and is the centre for prayers and also has an impressive collection of Buddhist scriptures and literature.

The walls and altars of the monastery are lavishly decorated with murals and images of Buddha, Bodhisattva and other tantrik deities of Buddhism.

Hanuman Tok : While this is a Hanuman Temple complex with a wonderful and vast sacred ambience, the place is also very popular for its view point offering sweeping views of Mt. Kanchenjunga. It is located about 11kms from Gangtok town and at an altitude of 7,200 ft . In the evening back to Hotel
Overnight at Gangtok

DAY 3

GANGTOK TO NATHANG VALLEY (60 KM / 3HRS)



OVERNIGHT : NATHANG VALLEY

Today after early morning breakfast check out from the hotel and proceed for Nathang Valley. Reach Changu Lake (Tsomgo Lake), Baba Mandir, Nathula Pass, Four Lake Point, Menmecho Lake, Tukla, Kupup Lake, Jelep la, Yak Golf Course, Ice Hockey Field.

Tsongmo Lake : Tsomgo Lake, also known as Changu Lake is a glacial lake in Sikkim and located at an altitude of 12,310 feet. The name Tsomgo 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 Harbhajan Singh 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.



Four Lake Point: The Four Lake Point located at an altitude of 13600 feet, gives a panoramic view of the endless stretches of the barren Tibetan plateau with four emerald lakes dotted within the horizon. The nearest two lakes are called Jorpokahri (twin lakes), the middle one is called Green Lake (not the one in North Sikkim) and the farthest one is Kupup Lake (also known as Elephant Lake or Bitang Cho) at 13066 feet above sea level. From the viewpoint of the Four Lake Point, Kupup Lake is almost 16 kms away in the horizon. This is an amazing viewpoint which introduces the travellers for the first time with the "nothingness" of the Tibetan Plateau.

Menmecho Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes of Sikkim at an altitude of 12,500 feet. Surrounded by untouched pine forests and deep slopes, Menmecho Lake is said to change colours every minute

Kupup Lake. Locally called Bitan Cho, it is one of the most sacred lakes of Sikkim, with high mountains and valleys bordering it. Owing to its resemblance to elephant, Kupup Lake is also known as Elephant Lake.

Jelep La is a high altitude mountain pass at 13,999 feet linking Lhasa to India. It nestles between

India and Tibet in the eastern part of the Sikkim in India. The word Jelep La is of Tibetan origin and it means "the lovely level pass". It is truly the most level among all the passes between Sikkim and Tibet.



Yak Golf Course has been listed as the World's highest Golf Course by the Guinness Book of World Records. Initiated in 1972, the Yak Golf Course received its first makeover in 1979 by Brigadier J M Singh. However, it was completed as a complete 18-hole Golf Course under Brigadier Ranbir Singh and Col. T K Murali. Affiliated to the Indian Golf Union (IGU) since 1985, the Yak Golf Course measuring 6025 yards in length features fairways across natural mountain streams and ponds as hazards.

Reach Nathang by evening. Overnight stay at Nathang Valley.

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.

DAY 4

NATHANG TO ZULUK (22KM / 1HRS)

OVERNIGHT : ZULUK

Wake up early and enjoy sunrise from Eagle's Nest Bunker Point and back for breakfast to hotel. Have your breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Zuluk via Lungthun &, Thambi View Point..

Lungthung : The village of Lungthung-Dhupidara located at almost 11,500 feet is perched on a hilltop with panoramic views of Mt. Kanchenjunga on one side and the winding roads of Zuluk on the other. **Thambi View Point** which offers a great bird's eye view of Mt. Kanchenjunga and the whole of Eastern Himalayas is within a kilometre of Lungthung-Dhupidara village. From January to April the whole of Lungthung-Dhupidara is virtually buried in snow



and the only colour you can see is white. The mountain slopes and valleys are drenched in a riot of colours around Lungthung-Dhupidara from July to September when the wild flowers bloom.

Arrive Zuluk by evening. **Zuluk** It is a small village with a large military settlement, given that the Indo-Tibet border is nearby. Here, one can experience the high altitude mountains of Sikkim without traveling to North Sikkim, which requires significantly more time to travel. During the summer months, the area and its surrounding hills are covered with thousands of blooming rhododendron. Zuluk during these months is a riot of colors due to the variety of rhododendron that can be seen here.



Zuluk derives its tourism importance due to the excellent view of the eastern Himalayan mountain range including the Kanchenjunga from here. A trip to the area requires special permits. The permits though would be arranged by us, and as a guest, you would only need to provide your id proof and photograph.

DAY 5

ZULUK TO MANKHIM (45KM / 2 HRS)

OVERNIGHT : MANKHIM



Today wake up early and enjoy sunrise from Thambi View Point. At 11200 feet, Thambi View Point offers a panoramic view of Mt. Kanchenjunga. Located at a distance of 14 kms from Zuluk on the famous zig-zag road (locally called Bhulbhulaiya for its 30 hairpin turns) Thambi is a roadside viewpoint that opens up suddenly to Mt. Kanchenjunga..

Back hotel for breakfast.

Have breakfast and leave for Mankhim. On the way sightseeing at Kuikhola Waterfalls, Lingtam, Lampokhari (Aritar Lake)

Kuikhola Waterfalls: The Kali Khola Falls also named as 'Kuikhola falls' by the locals is situated on the Old Silk Route, on the way from Rorathang to Rongli, East Sikkim. This 100 m gushing waterfall is blessed with immense natural beauty, which makes it one of the most attractive and visited waterfalls in Sikkim. The mesmerizing view of its crystal clear water, crackling from the lush green hills and falling over the rugged pieces of mountains, allures the tourists on the way to halt and capture some incredible pictures with nature in their cameras. The Kali Khola Falls is popularly known as the Lonely Falls, being tucked amidst profound nature.



Lingtam: Lingtam or Lingtum is the first village with a check post after Rongli on this route. It is a very peaceful small village with a sparkling weather guarded by a small river called Bakhuter Khola. Located at an altitude of around 5000 feet above sea level, Lingtam has two monasteries and is surrounded by hills on all sides. Lingtam has two monasteries – the old monastery has some nice murals on this walls whereas the new monastery is more spacious and has a glamorous meditation hall.

Lampokhari (Aritar Lake): This 1120 feet long and 240 feet wide boot-shaped lake is one of the oldest natural lakes in Sikkim. A pathway has been recently constructed all around the lake for the tourists. You can also do boating in the Lampokhari lake. Located at an altitude of 4600 feet, Lampokhari lake also known as Aritar Lake is surrounded by verdant green pine forests.

A narrow jungle path connects the lake from the nearby mountain top called Mankhim.

Reach Mankhim by late afternoon. Overnight at Mankhim



DAY 6

MANKHIM/ARITAR TO ICHE GAON (45KM / 2HRS)

OVERNIGHT : ICHE GAON



After viewing sunrise over Mt. Kanchenjunga from Mankhim. Proceed for Icchey Gaon. Icchey Gaon is a pristine Himalayan hamlet tucked within the pine forests of Kalimpong with a panoramic view of Mt. Kanchenjunga. Nestled at an altitude of 5800 feet, it is the perfect place for those nursing the soul of a nature lover. With numerous nature trails and short treks starting off from Icchey Gaon to viewpoints like Ramitey Dara, Tinchuley and Jalsa, it is one of the best-kept secrets of this region. The evenings at Icchey Gaon become very exciting when lights of Darjeeling, Ravangla and Namchi twinkle all along the slopes of the mighty Himalayas. On the way sightseeing at Pedong, Sillery Gaon, Reshikhola..

Pedong in Bhutia means 'place full of fir trees'. Pedong's cultural heritage started when Kalimpong subdivision, now a district (in which Pedong belongs) was integrated with British Sikkim in the 2nd half of 1800s. Large number of Nepalese immigrated to Pedong, while Lepchas and Bhuitas were already existing. As a result a fusion of culture started taking place here



Enveloped with tranquility, **Sillery Gaon** is a picture-perfect Himalayan hamlet, which nestles at a height of around 6000 feet. Sillery is located 96 kms from New Jalpaiguri via Kalimpong. The scenic beauty of the place is undoubtedly eye appealing. Gorgeous view of the mighty Mt. Kanchenjunga can be savored from Sillery Gaon. The music of wilderness, the chirping of the birds and the fragrance of nature of this pristine hamlet will soothe your senses and refresh your mind. This intimate village adorned with pine trees is nowadays lovingly called New Darjeeling. This charming village is the haven of varieties of exotic bird species, which makes it an ideal place for passionate bird watchers. Enjoy a nature trail, while enjoying the beauty of the picturesque landscape of the destination.

The little village of **Reshikhola** received its name from the Reshi River running along this small place. In Nepali language 'Khola' means 'small stream'. The place falls in between West Bengal and Sikkim creating a division between the two states. Like all other rivulets crisscrossing the sub-Himalayan range, the Reshi river coast is strewn with rocks and boulders with stream waters gushing around them. The river valley is surrounded by forests which are home to numerous birds and occasional bigger visitors like bears.



Overnight at Icchey Gaon

DAY 7

ICCHE GAON TO BAGDOGRA / NEW JALPAIGURI (92KM / 3HRS)

DEPARTURE

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

ABOUT US



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