

File No : TBZ0016



SIKKIM

GANGTOK – LACHEN – LACHUNG – PELLING - DARJEELING

9 Nights 10 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	LACHEN	TRANSFER GANGTOK TO LACHEN (110KM / 6HRS)
DAY 4	LACHUNG	THANGU & CHOPTA VALLEY EXCURSION AND TRANSFER TO LACHEN
DAY 5	LACHUNG	YUMTHANG VALLEY – ZERO POINT EXCURSION
DAY 6	GANGTOK	TRANSFER LACHUNG TO GANGTOK (110KM / 5HRS)
DAY 7	PELLING	TRANSFER GANGTOK TO PELLING VIA NAMCHI (117KM / 5RS)
DAY 8	DARJEELING	TRANSFER PELLING TO DARJEELING (75KM / 3HRS)
DAY 9	DARJEELING	DARJEELING LOCAL SIGHTSEEING
DAY 10	DEPARTURE	DARJEELING TO BAGDOGRA AIRPORT DROP

OVERNIGHT

3 NIGHTS IN GANGTOK
1 NIGHT IN LACHEN
2 NIGHTS IN LACHUNG
1 NIGHTS IN PELLING
2 NIGHTS IN DAJEELING

DETAIL ITINERARY

DAY 1

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



OVERNIGHT : GANGTOK || Elevation: 1,650 m (5,410 ft) || 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 LACHEN (121KM / 6 HRS)



OVERNIGHT : LACHEN II Elevation: 2,700 m (8,860 ft) II Average Temp Oct :6 to 20 degrees

Have your breakfast and checkout from the hotel. Will start journey for one of the most stunning Himalayan Village Lachen.

Lachen means 'Big Pass'. This small village at an altitude of 9,000ft is a valley with grassy land and scattered forests of Rhodendrons and conifer. The mountain stream Lachen Chu flows through it in deep gorges and on the other side of the river are large mountains with pine forest and snow peaks.

From Gangtok, after 66kms drive you will reach the small township of Mangan, and then Chungthang which is only 22kms before Lachung and is the nearest town. Along the way the river Teesta will be by your side and you can see a number of waterfalls and mountain springs.

We will take a halt at **Chungthang** and watch the lovely confluence of the rivers **Lachung Chhu and Lachen Chhu** which then join the river Teesta. Nearby there is a sacred stone (Naydo) having footprints of guru Padmasambhava. Visit the **Chungthang Monastery** surrounded by stone houses and large edifices. The monastery has rich collection of rare Buddhist paintings. Other things to see here are the many waterfalls coming down the rock faces, lush forested landscapes and scenic views all around. About 11kms ahead of Chungthang and towards Lachung (30 minutes drive) you will come across a wonderful waterfall along the way known as **Bhim Nala** (also known as Amitabh Bachchan Waterfalls because a scene of the film 'Ankhen' was shot here with Amitabh in it). Take a break here for 10 minutes and enjoy the lovely view of the fall roaring down from high above and splashing into the ground near you. The sound of the gushing water can be heard from far and the water is really cold.

Arrival at Lachen in the evening . Check in to hotel and take rest

DAY 4

THANGU & CHOPTA VALLEY EXCURSION AND TRANSFER TO LACHUNG



OVERNIGHT : LACHUNG II Elevation: 2,700 m (8,860 ft) II Average Temp Oct :6 to 20 degrees

After early morning breakfast checkout from the hotel and proceed for 1 for **Thangu & Chopta Valley**. Thangu valley occupies a very broad valley at the junction of the Thangu Chu, Chopta chu & Lassur Chu. It is situated at an altitude of 14000ft. Both the valley erupts riots of colours.

The distance from Lachen to Thangu is just 81 kilometers will be covered in 4hrs. Within this short distance, you will gain an altitude of about 4500 feet. The green vegetation of lower altitude will soon give way to Alpine terrain with canonical trees. As you go further up, the trees give way to small bushes and beyond Thangu the vegetation is relatively less as you get into Tibetan plateau. The Chopta Valley is the last green vegetation on this route.

In the evening check in to Lachen Hotel

Lachung : The stainless beauty of Lachen is all set to charm you. Lachen is located in the North Sikkim district at an elevation of about 2750 m and is known for its beautiful valleys and charming environment. From snow-capped mountains to lush green forests, winding roads to beautiful streams, the surroundings of Lachen are blessed with numerous wonders. On one hand, you can witness the splendid beauty of sky-touching mountain ranges and on the other hand, you can take a stroll through its peaceful valleys and forests.

DAY 5

YUMTHANG VALLEY – ZERO POINT EXCURSION



OVERNIGHT : LACHUNG

Today after breakfast we proceed for **Yamthang Valley & Zero Point** excursion (around 6:00hrs). Yumthang valley is about 25kms from Lachung located at an altitude of 11,800ft and takes about 1.5 hours of drive. The name Yumthang Valley means 'Valley of Flowers'. Valley is vast stretch of flowering valley exposes a dense bed of rhododendron flowers for miles and in many different colors like purple, blue, red, pink etc. Visit the **Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary** which spans across 34 square kilometers area here near Lachung and has over 38 different varieties of rhododendrons. The sanctuary beats out its competitors like Dzongro, Barsey, Zema in Lachen because of its sheer variety and spread of colors. You can see some great species such as arboretum, grande, nivale, the state flower etc. Other than rhododendrons, there are flowers such as iris, primulas, cobra lilies, louseworts, poppies etc.

Other than the wonderful views of vast valley of flowers, Yumthang also offers lovely views of the mountain peaks such as

Pahunri and Shundu Tsenpa forming the backdrop of the river Teesta.

Before entering the Yumthang Valley, a pedestrian pathway goes over a small bridge and reaches **Yumthang Hot Spring**. You will need to walk for few thousand yards to reach the hot spring. In such a cold climate, this surprisingly natural warm water comes as a pleasant surprise. The water is rich with sulfur and said to have good healing and medicinal value. The spring water here is directed to a hut and couple of pools inside so that one can take a healing bath here.

Nearby there are couple of rivers - Yumthang chu and Puniya chu where you can do fishing if you have time. But for that you need to plan a longer stay at Lachung. About 7kms further north of the hot spring, there is a Shiva Temple.

Further up and about 23kms from Yumthang at an altitude of over 15,000 ft is the place **Zero Point** (also known as Yumesamdong). It takes another 1.5 hours from Yumthang. This is where the civilian road ends and you can't drive any further and hence the name Zero Point. A short distance away

from here is the border with China and tourists are not allowed to go any further shortly after Zero Point.

Zero Point or Yume Samdong is the place where three rivers meet with surrounding snow-clad mountains and offering marvelous scenic views. You can often see yaks grazing in the snow. There is hardly any vegetation in Zero point other than some stretches of grassy land which becomes visible when the snow melts.

Zero Point is the place which remains snow covered for most part of the year.

Note : Due to the high altitude of Zero Point, oxygen in the air is low and there can be breathing problems for few. So you should avoid visiting the place with an asthmatic or an infant.

Evening back to Lachung hotel.

DAY 6

TRANSFER LACHUNG TO GANGTOK (110 KM / 4HRS 30MNT)

OVERNIGHT : GANGTOK

Today bit relaxing day. Have your breakfast and checkout from the Hotel. Start your journey to Gangtok around 10am. Distance of Lachen to Gangtok we will cover in 5hrs. By afternoon reach Gangtok. Check in to hotel and take rest.

In the evening you can take a walk to local market to buy some souvenir for your family and friends. Gangtok market is known for traditional handlooms. You can have a look to Prayer Flags, Thangka Paintings, Singing Bowl, Prayer wheels, Sikkim Traditional Dress and jewelry, handmade masks, Tea powder and many more

DAY 7

TRANSFER GANGTOK TO PELLING VIA NAMCHI



OVERNIGHT : PELLING || Elevation: 1,800 m (7,200 ft) || 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 **Temi 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 glitter 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 Samudruptse) 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 8

PELLING SIGHTSEEING & 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

Morning start with half day Pelling 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 Kaktang, 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.

Late afternoon proceed for 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 9

DARJEELING LOCAL SIGHTSEEING



OVERNIGHT : DARJEELING

The day starts early at 4am. The spectacular sunrise over Mt. Khangchendzongha (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 10

BAGDOGRA AIRPORT DROP

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



ABOUT US



We are a bunch of skilled tour operators with backgrounds in tourism, advertising and events.. With a zeal to do something different we plunged into the idea of "Private Travel Designers"

What we do & How we do it?

We offer customized private and experiential holidays constructed around your plan, comforts and we like to keep it sustainable. The expeditions are henceforth memorable, unforgettable and often life changing. Our customized vacations can be designed for various audiences ranging from an individual, corporates, only females, single parents, students etc. Our Indology tours—led by art curators, archaeologists and mythologists cater to a niche audience of culture vultures.

Unlike a voice or virtual page, we exist in flesh and blood. Our tailored services include a personalized expert dedicated to understanding your requirements and provide a counseling methodology in your zest to exploration.

We then get to design your "Private Journey" including expert guides, private transfers, cohesive sightseeing and distinctive accommodation to rest your head at the end of the day.

All this comes to you at a great value. We do not claim to be the cheapest, but you will not pay over the odds. Our quality of service, attention to detail, commitment and expertise makes our propositions of great value for your money, which is hard to beat.

What we offer?

Our holidays come in all shapes and sizes, all tailor-made offering both emerging and established destinations and also a varied collection of travel inspirations to suit a wide spectrum of interests amongst travelers. We are not like an average holiday company selling packages or standardized per-designed products, we have the ability and connections to design and execute almost anything you can imagine in the World of Bespoke, Exclusive & Experiential Travel and Private Journeys.

Our plethora of Experiential Traveling services include

- Real Time Ticketing and Hotel Booking
- Domestic and International customised holiday package for FIT (Flexible Independent Travel) & GIT (Group Inclusive Tour)
- Destination Wedding & Honeymoon
- School & Educational Tours
- Corporate Outbound and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferencing, Exhibitions)
 - Meetings: Well-planned meetings. Organized in great locations.
 - Incentives: Immerse yourself in an experience that is wholly rewarding.
 - Group Travel: Renew the team spirit through refreshing group experiences.
 - Conferences: Extensively planned conferences, for optimal outcomes.
 - Exhibitions: Memorable exhibitions, organized down to the last detail.

CONTACT

WWW.TRAVELBUZZAAR.COM

DELHI OFFICE : B -361, CHITTARANJAN PARTK, NEW DELHI, INDIA 110019

KOLKATA OFFICE : 156/84 B.T.ROAD, NORTHERN PARK, KOLKATA, INDIA 700108

TBZINDIA@AMOROUS.CO.IN , INFO@TRAVELBUZZAAR.COM

OFFICE : +911 41678399

DIRECT : +91 9871524488 || +91 8810658890

