

Rumtek Monastery Pilgrimage: Spiritual Gangtok Tour

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sikkim



Duration
4 Nights 5 Days



Starting from
Rs. 10,900 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

 **Gangtok - 4N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-4-nights-5-days-package-1105>

Overview

Rumtek Monastery Pilgrimage: Spiritual Gangtok Tour

A carefully curated 4 nights / 5 days Sikkim tour package designed for spiritual seekers and culture enthusiasts. This Sikkim Pilgrimage tour package focuses on the sacred monasteries and serene highland lakes around Gangtok – ideal as a Sikkim Pilgrimage package or for travelers searching for a 4 and 5 Sikkim Pilgrimage tour package option. The itinerary combines visits to iconic monasteries, spiritual landmarks, scenic viewpoints and light cultural experiences, with comfortable stays in Gangtok.

Highlights:

- Rumtek Monastery – One of Sikkim's most important Tibetan Buddhist centers
- Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Harbhajan Mandir – high-altitude pilgrimage and scenic stop
- Enchey Monastery, Do-Drul Chorten & Namgyal Institute of Tibetology – Gangtok's key spiritual and cultural sites
- Hanuman Tok & Tashi View Point – panoramic Himalayan viewpoints & prayer spots
- MG Marg, Gangtok – leisure, shopping and local culture

Note: Some high-altitude sites (Tsomgo Lake, Nathula Pass) are weather and permit dependent. Nathula Pass visits require special permits and additional time; it's optional and may be included on request.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation: 4 nights in Gangtok (standard / deluxe options available)
- ✓ Meals: Daily breakfast (as per hotel plan)
- ✓ Transfers: Arrival & departure transfers from Bagdogra Airport / NJP, all sightseeing transfers by private vehicle
- ✓ Sightseeing: As per itinerary (entrance to viewpoints and monasteries included where applicable)
- ✓ Local Guide: Services of local driver/guide for sightseeing
- ✓ Taxes: Government taxes
- ✓ Note: Nathula Pass permit and related fees are not included by default; request in advance to arrange permits.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Air / Train fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Lunches and dinners (unless specifically mentioned)
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, portage and insurance
- ✗ Entry fees where specifically charged by monuments or special permits (Nathula Pass permit, if requested)
- ✗ Anything not mentioned under "Inclusions"
- ✗ Tip: Carry valid photo ID (original) for permits and check-bureau requirements. High-altitude medication and warm clothing are recommended for visits to Tsomgo Lake.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival, Transfer to Gangtok & Evening Leisure

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station and drive to Gangtok (approx. 4-5 hrs). Check-in to your hotel and rest. In the evening, enjoy a relaxed walk along MG Marg, explore local shops and sample Sikkimese snacks.

Important: Flight/train timings determine arrival day schedule. Early arrivals may include short local sightseeing after check-in.

Day

2

Rumtek Monastery, Do-Drul Chorten & Namgyal Institute

Full-day spiritual exploration starting with the majestic Rumtek Monastery (Karma Kagyu lineage) – experience prayer halls, stupas and peaceful monastery grounds. Return to Gangtok to visit the Do-Drul Chorten (Stupa) and adjacent Gompa; then proceed to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology to view rare Tibetan artifacts, manuscripts and religious exhibits. End the afternoon with a visit to Enchey Monastery for sunset prayers and chants.

Tip: Dress modestly inside monasteries and maintain silence and respect during prayers. Photography may be restricted in some areas.

Day

3

Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Harbhajan Mandir Pilgrimage

Today's drive takes you to the sacred Tsomgo (Changu) Lake – a high-altitude glacial lake revered locally and set against Himalayan backdrops. Nearby is the Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir (Baba Mandir) – visited by many as a place of devotion. Enjoy the scenic environs and optional yak rides near the lake.

Important: Tsomgo Lake is at high altitude; carry warm clothing. Entry and access depend on weather and permit availability. Nathula Pass is optional and requires special permits (subject to military permission) – please request in advance if you'd like Nathula included.

Day

4

Gangtok Pilgrimage Walk: Temples, Viewpoints & Waterfalls

Explore Gangtok's spiritual and natural highlights: start at Tashi View Point for Himalayan vistas, then visit Hanuman Tok and Ganesh Tok – both important prayer vantage spots for devotees. Stop at Banjhakri Falls & Energy Park for a relaxing stroll amid landscaped gardens. Conclude with free time for local sightseeing, photo stops and shopping on MG Marg.

Note: This is a lighter day to balance altitude exposure and to absorb Gangtok's local spiritual culture.

Day

5

Departure: Shopping & Transfer to Bagdogra / NJP

After breakfast, check-out and enjoy any last-minute shopping or a short visit to local attractions (time permitting). Transfer to Bagdogra Airport / NJP Railway Station for your onward journey.

Important: Plan outbound travel allowing at least 5-6 hours drive to Bagdogra/NJP. Confirm flight/train timings in advance to avoid delays.

🔗 Frequently Asked Questions

🔗 What is the best time to visit Sikkim?

The prime seasons are March–June and October–November. Spring (March–June) offers clear mountain views, blooming rhododendrons, and pleasant weather with temperatures around 15–22°C in Gangtok. This is peak season for trekking and visiting high-altitude lakes. Autumn (October–November) provides crisp, clear skies perfect for photography and mountain views. Winter (December–February) brings snow to high passes like Tsomgo Lake and Nathula, with possible road closures. Monsoon (June–September) sees heavy rainfall and frequent landslides that can disrupt travel on NH-10. For rhododendron blooms, visit Yumthang Valley between late February and mid-June. Each season has its charm, but spring and autumn offer the most reliable weather and accessibility.

🔗 How do I reach Sikkim from major Indian cities?

The most reliable route is flying to Bagdogra Airport (IXB) in Siliguri, West Bengal, then driving 4–5 hours to Gangtok via NH-10. Major airlines connect Bagdogra to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and other cities. By train, New Jalpaiguri (NJP) is the nearest major railhead, about 120km from Gangtok. From NJP/Siliguri, take shared jeeps or hire taxis for the scenic mountain drive through Sevoke, Teesta Bazar, Melli, and Rangpo. Pakyong Airport in Sikkim exists but currently has no scheduled commercial flights as of 2025—always verify before planning. The under-construction Sivok–Rangpo railway may bring rail connectivity to Sikkim by 2027. Road travel during monsoon may face landslide delays.

❓ **Do I need special permits to visit Sikkim?**

Indian citizens need permits for certain areas: Nathula Pass, Tsomgo Lake, North Sikkim (Lachen/Lachung), and the Old Silk Route. These can be arranged through registered tour operators 24–48 hours in advance. Bring 2 passport photos and valid ID (Voter ID, Passport, or Driving License—Aadhaar often not accepted). Foreign nationals require a Protected Area Permit to enter Sikkim and can only visit designated areas like Tsomgo Lake, Gangtok, Pelling, and Yuksom. Foreigners cannot visit Gurudongmar Lake, Zuluk, or Nathula Pass. Children under 18 need birth certificates. Permits may be suspended during bad weather or security concerns. Always carry multiple ID copies and extra photos.

❓ **What are the local transportation options within Sikkim?**

Shared jeeps are the backbone of Sikkim transport, connecting all major towns and tourist spots. They're affordable and frequent on popular routes. Local taxis are available for sightseeing and can be hired for full days. Sikkim Nationalised Transport (SNT) runs intercity buses on main routes, though services are limited compared to jeeps. The Gangtok Ropeway offers scenic city views connecting Deorali to Tashiling. Self-driving is possible but challenging due to mountain roads, weather conditions, and permit requirements—hired vehicles with local drivers are more practical. Most hotels can arrange transportation. For North Sikkim trips, tour operators provide vehicles as individual permits and local knowledge are essential. Book transport in advance during peak seasons.

❓ **Where should I stay in Sikkim and what accommodation options are available?**

Gangtok is the main base with options from budget guesthouses to luxury resorts like MAYFAIR Spa Resort & Casino and heritage properties like The Elgin Nor-Khill. MG Marg area offers convenient access to restaurants and shopping. For West Sikkim, stay in Pelling near Pemayangtse Monastery—The Elgin Mount Pandim offers heritage charm with mountain views. North Sikkim requires overnight stays in Lachen (for Gurudongmar Lake) or Lachung (for Yumthang Valley)—try Apple Orchard Resort or Yarlam Resort. Yuksom offers trekking base camps and eco-lodges. Ravangla and Namchi have emerging hotel scenes. Book well in advance for peak season (March–June). Many properties offer package deals including meals and local sightseeing. Homestays in villages like Dzongu provide authentic cultural experiences.

❓ What are the must-visit attractions in Sikkim?

Tsomgo Lake, a sacred glacial lake at 3,753m that freezes in winter, is accessible from Gangtok. Nathula Pass on the Indo-China border offers historical significance (Indians only). Yumthang Valley, the 'Valley of Flowers,' showcases alpine meadows and rhododendrons. Pelling features the Chenrezig Skywalk (India's first glass skywalk) and Pemayangtse Monastery. Rumtek Monastery is Sikkim's largest gumpa with stunning architecture. Khecheopalri Lake is considered wish-fulfilling by locals. Buddha Park in Ravangla houses a 130-ft Buddha statue. Gurudongmar Lake at 5,183m is among the world's highest lakes (Indians only). Khangchendzonga National Park, a UNESCO site, offers incredible biodiversity and trekking. Temi Tea Garden provides organic tea experiences. Each destination offers unique cultural and natural experiences.

❓ What local food and cuisine should I try in Sikkim?

Sikkim's cuisine blends Nepali, Tibetan (Bhutia), and Lepcha influences. Must-try dishes include momos (steamed dumplings), thukpa (noodle soup), and sha phaley (Tibetan meat pasties). Try phagshapa (pork with radish and dried chilies), gundruk soup (fermented leafy greens), and kinema curry (fermented soybeans). Ningro with churpi (fiddlehead ferns with local cheese) represents indigenous flavors. Sel roti is a traditional ring-shaped bread. Tongba, a warm millet-based alcoholic beverage, is perfect for cold evenings. Don't miss Temi tea, grown in Sikkim's only tea estate. Visit Taste of Tibet on MG Marg for authentic momos, 9INE Native Cuisine for traditional Sikkimese plates, and local markets for fresh churpi cheese and organic produce.

★ Traveller Reviews



Vivek Tiwari

★★★★★ 5/5

One of the Best Trips Ever

I can say this was one of the best trips ever. The diverse landscape of Sikkim was incredible!



Meenal Joshi

★★★★☆ 4/5

A Colorful Cultural Tour

Sikkim offers a colorful cultural experience. Glad we opted for this tour, our lives are richer for it!



Prakash Oza

★★★★★ 5/5

Discovering Nature's Bounty

This tour was a wonderful discovery of nature's bounty in Sikkim. Unforgettable trips to lakes and mountains!



Kiran Gill

★★★★★ 5/5

A Suitable Escape for Everyone

Whether you seek adventure or relaxation, Sikkim has it all. Our tour was filled with both!



Deepak Agarwal

★★★★☆ 4/5

Amazing Weather & Scenery

The weather was perfect during our visit to Sikkim, enhancing the beautiful scenery. The whole tour was very enjoyable!

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