

Gurudongmar Sunrise Odyssey: High-Altitude Lake Experience

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Sikkim

Duration
5 Nights 6 Days

Starting from
Rs. 29,900 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ **Gangtok · 3N**

↗ **Lachen · 1N**

↗ **Lachung · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-5-nights-6-days-package-1112>

Overview

Gurudongmar Sunrise Odyssey: High-Altitude Lake Experience — A premium 5 nights / 6 days Sikkim tour package crafted for travelers seeking a breathtaking high-altitude adventure. This Sikkim Adventure tour package focuses on the iconic Gurudongmar Lake sunrise experience, combined with classic North Sikkim highlights like Yumthang Valley and serene stays in Lachen and Lachung, with comfortable time in Gangtok. Ideal for adventure seekers and nature photographers, this Sikkim Adventure package (5 and 6 Sikkim Adventure tour package friendly) balances acclimatization, scenic drives, cultural visits, and early-morning high-altitude lake exploration.

Highlights:

- Gurudongmar Lake sunrise — a once-in-a-lifetime high-altitude view
- Yumthang Valley & Zero Point — alpine meadows and snow vistas
- Comfortable stays in Gangtok, Lachen, and Lachung
- Scenic mountain drives across the Teesta River valley and high passes
- All necessary permits and escorted transfers for restricted North Sikkim areas

Please note: High-altitude travel requires acclimatization and appropriate medical clearance. Carry warm clothing, essential medications, and original ID for permits.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation for 5 nights (3 nights in Gangtok, 1 night in Lachen, 1 night in Lachung) on twin/double sharing basis
- ✓ Daily breakfast (as specified)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private, comfortable vehicle (as per group size)
- ✓ Inner line permits and protected area permits for North Sikkim
- ✓ All local taxes, parking, driver allowances, and tolls
- ✓ Experienced local driver and guide for North Sikkim excursions
- ✓ Emergency oxygen cylinder and basic first-aid kit during high-altitude days
- ✓ Pickup from Bagdogra Airport / NJP and drop to Bagdogra / NJP

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / train fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Meals other than breakfast and personal meals/snacks
- ✗ Monument / park entry fees, camera charges where applicable
- ✗ Personal travel insurance (highly recommended for high-altitude travel)
- ✗ Any additional sightseeing or services not mentioned in inclusions
- ✗ Tips, portorage, and personal expenses
- ✗ Expenses due to flight cancellation, roadblocks, landslides, or any circumstances beyond control
- ✗ Medical or evacuation costs beyond basic first-aid (recommended to have comprehensive travel insurance)

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Gangtok & Easy Orientation

Arrival at Bagdogra Airport / NJP Railway Station; transfer to Gangtok (approx. 4-5 hours drive). Check-in and rest to acclimatize. Evening stroll along MG Road for light shopping and local cuisine. Keep hydrated and avoid strenuous activity on arrival to help acclimatization.

Day

2

Gangtok: Monasteries & Scenic Views (Acclimatization Day)

A relaxed day of sightseeing in and around Gangtok to aid acclimatization. Visit the Rumtek Monastery, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, and Tashi Viewpoint. Optionally, if time and permits allow, visit Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir (subject to road conditions and additional permit). Carry ID for permits; road conditions may affect Tsomgo visit.

Day

3

Road Journey to Lachen via Scenic Mountain Routes

Early departure to Lachen (approx. 6-7 hours). Enjoy dramatic river valleys, terraced fields, and mountain vistas en route. Brief photo stops at scenic points; check in at Lachen guesthouse/hotel. Evening at leisure and early sleep to prepare for the high-altitude morning.

Day

4

Gurudongmar Sunrise & Transfer to Lachung

Extremely early start (around 3:00-4:00 AM) for the Gurudongmar Lake sunrise – one of the highest lakes accessible by road. Witness the sunrise over pristine icy waters and stark Himalayan peaks. Return to Lachen for lunch and then drive to Lachung (approx. 3-4 hours). This day involves very high altitudes (~17,800 ft). Travelers must be fit and follow guide instructions strictly.

Day

5

Yumthang Valley & Zero Point Excursion then Return to Gangtok

After breakfast, visit Yumthang Valley (the 'Valley of Flowers') and Zero Point / Yumesamdong (seasonal snow fields). Spend time exploring the meadows, river-side hot springs, and dramatic landscapes. Return to Gangtok by evening (long drive approx. 6-7 hours). Roads beyond Yumthang may be closed in heavy snow; itinerary may be adjusted accordingly.

Day

6

Departure from Gangtok

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Bagdogra Airport / NJP Railway Station for onward travel. End of Gurudongmar Sunrise Odyssey: High-Altitude Lake Experience. Carry copies of all travel documents and allow extra time for mountain travel contingencies.

🔍 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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