

Photographer's Sikkim: Sunrise Kanchenjunga & Mountain Vistas

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
Sikkim

Duration
5 Nights 6 Days

Starting from
Rs. 21,750 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Gangtok · 2N**

↖ **Lachen · 1N**

↖ **Lachung · 1N**

↖ **Pelling · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-5-nights-6-days-package-1115>

Overview

Photographer's Sikkim: Sunrise Kanchenjunga & Mountain Vistas — A focused 6-day, 5-night Sikkim adventure tailored for photographers and nature lovers. Capture dawn over the Kangchenjunga range, alpine lakes, and high-altitude valleys while traveling through classic Sikkim landscapes. This Sikkim tour package blends comfortable stays with early-morning shoots at iconic viewpoints and off-the-beaten-track vistas.

Highlights:

- Sunrise at Gurudongmar Lake and panoramic shots of Kangchenjunga
- Yumthang Valley (Valley of Flowers) and Zero Point snow vistas
- Scenic drives through Chungthang and Tsomgo Lake
- Cultural and architectural frames at Pemayangtse Monastery and Rabdentse Ruins
- Photographic townscapes of Gangtok and sunset views at Pelling

This 5 and 6 Sikkim Adventure tour package is ideal for photographers seeking early starts, dramatic mountain light, and varied alpine scenery. High-altitude visits require physical fitness and flexibility in schedule due to weather.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 5 nights accommodation in standard / boutique hotels (twin/double basis)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (5) and 2 dinners (local cuisine option)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Inner Line Permits / North Sikkim permits (arranged by operator)
- ✓ Experienced local guide and driver
- ✓ Dedicated photography briefing and local location assistance
- ✓ All tolls, parking and driver allowances

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Train/flight fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Nathu La special permit fees (if applicable) and Gurudongmar lake entrance fee where levied
- ✗ Meals other than specified, alcoholic drinks and personal expenses
- ✗ Camera drone permits (drones restricted in many areas) and fines
- ✗ Travel insurance, emergency evacuation costs
- ✗ Entry fees, portage, tips and gratuities
- ✗ Any services not mentioned in inclusions

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival at Bagdogra/NJP — Transfer to Gangtok & Evening Orientation

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri (NJP) railway station and transfer (approx. 4–5 hours) to Gangtok. Settle into your hotel and enjoy a relaxed orientation with the guide. Evening walk along MG Marg for street photography, local life, and panoramic hill views. Rest early — the schedule includes several pre-dawn starts.

Day

2

Tsomgo Lake & Baba Mandir — High-Altitude Photo Ops

Full-day excursion to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir. Capture reflective alpine-lake compositions, dramatic skies and high-altitude flora. Optionally (subject to permits and road-opening), visit Nathu La Pass for higher-altitude mountain vistas. Return to Gangtok in the evening. Carry warm layers, sunscreen and high-altitude medication if needed.

Day

3

Drive to Lachen — Scenic Valley Transit & Village Frames

Early drive north to Lachen (approx. 6–7 hours) through terraced landscapes and the confluence town of Chungthang. The road offers multiple roadside stops for landscape and cultural photography — bridges, mountain streams, pine forests and traditional Sikkimese villages. Arrive in Lachen and prepare for next-day high-altitude shoot. Limited connectivity; carry spare batteries and memory cards.

Day

4

Gurudongmar Sunrise — Transfer to Lachung

Very early morning drive (pre-dawn) to Gurudongmar Lake for a spectacular sunrise shoot with the Kangchenjunga massif and mirror-like lake surfaces (weather permitting). Return to Lachen for breakfast and then drive to Lachung via scenic gorges and waterfalls. Evening at leisure in Lachung — practice night/astrophotography if skies are clear. Gurudongmar is at very high altitude — acclimatization and permit documentation are mandatory.

Day

5

Yumthang Valley & Zero Point — Flower Valleys and Snow Fields

Sunrise photography at Yumthang Valley (the Valley of Flowers) — meadows, streams and seasonal blooms with ridgelines as backdrop. Continue to Zero Point (subject to road status and permits) for expansive snowfields and crisp mountain panoramas. Afternoon transfer to Pelling with an evening photo stop at a viewpoint en route to capture sunset over the Kanchenjunga range. Yumthang bloom season (spring) is prime for floral photography; winter offers stark monochrome landscapes.

Day

6

Pelling Exploration — Pemayangtse & Rabdentse, Departure

Early visit to Pemayangtse Monastery and Rabdentse Ruins for sunrise compositions of prayer flags, monastery rooftops and mountain backdrops. Explore Khecheopalri Lake (sacred wishing lake) and Pelling Skywalk / viewpoint for final wide-angle shots of the Kangchenjunga panorama. Transfer to Bagdogra/NJP for onward journey. Departure times depend on your onward flight/train schedule; allow 6–7 hours for transfer to Bagdogra/NJP.

🔗 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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