

# Offbeat Sikkim: Zuluk & Thambi Viewpoint Explorer

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Sikkim**



Duration  
**4 Nights 5 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 15,000 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE



**Gangtok · 2N**



**Zuluk / Nathang Valley area · 2N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-4-nights-5-days-package-1127>

## Overview

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Offbeat Sikkim: Zuluk & Thambi Viewpoint Explorer — A curated 4 nights / 5 days Sikkim tour package designed for travelers seeking high-altitude panoramas, historic mountain passes, and quiet offbeat roads. Ideal as a Sikkim Adventure tour package and a compact Sikkim Adventure package for those wanting the unique eastern loop (Zuluk, Nathang Valley, Thambi Viewpoint) with comfortable stays and local experiences. This itinerary is crafted as a 4 and 5 Sikkim Adventure tour package option that balances acclimatization, scenic driving on the famous Zuluk loops (Old Silk Route), and short exploratory walks to viewpoints and lakes.

### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 4 nights on twin/double sharing (city hotels in Gangtok + guesthouse/homestay or mountain lodge in Zuluk)
- ✓ Meals: Daily breakfast and 3 dinners (as per itinerary)
- ✓ All transfers & sightseeing by comfortable SUV/Innova (as per group size)
- ✓ Local experienced driver and inner-line permit assistance for East Sikkim (Zuluk route)
- ✓ Parking, tolls, and driver allowance
- ✓ One local guide for Zuluk/Nathang Valley on request
- ✓ Applicable taxes

### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / Train tickets to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Monument/park entry fees, camera charges, and personal expenses
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical emergency evacuation
- ✗ Meals not specified in inclusions and alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Additional sightseeing, late check-out/early check-in charges
- ✗ Any permit fees if rules change or special passes required
- ✗ Tips and gratuities

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival, Transfer to Gangtok & Evening at Leisure**

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri (NJP). Meet and transfer to Gangtok (approx. 4-5 hrs). Check in, rest and acclimatize. Evening stroll on MG Road for local cuisine, shopping and views. Important: Keep light luggage – mountain roads have luggage limits.

Day

2

### **Gangtok: Local Sightseeing & Permits**

After breakfast, explore Gangtok's highlights: visit the Enchey Monastery, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Do Drul Chorten, and enjoy panoramic views from Tashi Viewpoint. Afternoon free for shopping or optional cable car ride. Permit formalities for East Sikkim/Zuluk route completed by our team. Tip: Carry ID copies for permit processing.

Day

3

### **Drive to Zuluk via Rangpo – Entering the Old Silk Route**

Early departure towards the historic eastern loop. Drive through Rangpo and mountain roads to reach the iconic Zuluk switchback loops. En route visit Thambi Viewpoint for sunrise/sunset vistas and the hauntingly beautiful Nathang Valley. Experience the dramatic hairpin bends (often called the 'Zuluk loops' or Old Silk Route). Overnight stay at Zuluk / nearby camp/homestay.

Day

4

### **Explore Zuluk, Kupup Lake & Jelep La Viewpoint**

Spend the day exploring higher-altitude sights: short walks to local viewpoints, visit Kupup Lake (Elephant Lake / Kyongnosla) area and the Jelep La viewpoint. Learn about the history of the Silk Route and mountain warfare. Evening photography at the loops as colors change. Note: Weather can be cold and windy – layer up.

Day

5

### **Return to Gangtok & Departure to Bagdogra/NJP**

Return drive to Gangtok with a scenic descent, time permitting short stops for photos. Transfer to Bagdogra Airport / NJP for onward journey. Ensure you confirm flight/train timings; we recommend afternoon/evening departures to avoid rushed transfers.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## 🔗 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!

## **⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?**

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