

# Wildlife & Wilderness: Khangchendzonga National Park Immersion

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Sikkim**



Duration  
**6 Nights 7 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 33,200 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ **Gangtok · 3N**

↗ **Lachen · 2N**

↗ **Lachung · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-6-nights-7-days-package-1133>

## Overview

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Wildlife & Wilderness: Khangchendzonga National Park Immersion – a 6 nights / 7 days Sikkim tour package designed for nature lovers and adventurers. This Sikkim Adventure tour package focuses on the biodiversity and high-altitude wilderness of Khangchendzonga National Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), with visits to iconic high-altitude lakes, rhododendron forests and alpine meadows. Ideal for travelers seeking a compact but immersive Sikkim Adventure package and fits perfectly among popular 6 and 7 Sikkim Adventure tour package options.

### Highlights:

- Gurudongmar Lake (high-altitude sacred lake)
- Chopta Valley and Tsomgo-style alpine meadows
- Yumthang Valley & Zero Point (snowfields and rhododendrons)
- Guided nature walks inside Khangchendzonga National Park buffer zones for wildlife & birding
- Scenic mountain drives, mountain vistas and local cultural interactions

Note: This itinerary emphasizes acclimatisation and responsible travel inside protected areas; some high-altitude visits depend on weather and permits.

#### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 6 nights (as per chosen category)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Inner-line permits & North Sikkim permits where applicable (subject to government approval)
- ✓ All breakfasts and 4 dinners (local cuisine options)
- ✓ Services of an experienced local guide and naturalist for Khangchendzonga buffer walk
- ✓ Entry fees for listed sightseeing spots and park buffer permits
- ✓ Emergency oxygen cylinder and basic high-altitude first-aid kit
- ✓ Note: Exact inclusions may vary by operator; confirm at booking.

#### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Air/train tickets to Bagdogra/NJP
- ✗ Lunches and personal meals not listed under inclusions
- ✗ Supplemental charges for adverse weather or forced route changes
- ✗ Travel insurance (highly recommended, must include high-altitude coverage)
- ✗ Personal expenses (tips, laundry, phone calls, etc.)
- ✗ Optional activities and any federal/state taxes not mentioned
- ✗ Important: Some high-altitude visits (Gurudongmar/Zero Point) are weather and permit dependent and may incur extra local fees.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival in Gangtok and Orientation**

Arrive at Bagdogra/NJP (Siliguri) and transfer to Gangtok (approx 4–5 hours). Evening orientation with your guide covering permits for North Sikkim and briefing on altitude safety.

Activities:

- Transfer to hotel and check-in
- Short walk along MG Road / MG Marg for local cafes and handicrafts
- Acclimatisation tip: hydrate well and avoid strenuous activity on arrival day.

Day

2

### **Drive from Gangtok to Lachen – Gateway to Khangchendzonga**

Early morning departure to Lachen (approx 6–7 hours). The drive traverses scenic valleys, rivers and viewpoints; expect stops for photographs and short nature breaks.

Highlights:

- Photo stops at Seven Sisters Falls, Singhik Viewpoint and picturesque river valleys
- Evening briefing for next-day high-altitude excursion

Important: Carry warm layers and sun protection; roads are mountain terrain.

Day

3

### **Gurudongmar Lake & Chopta Valley Excursion**

Full-day excursion to Gurudongmar Lake (one of the highest lakes in India) and Chopta Valley (also called Chopta-Chuni). Experience surreal high-altitude landscapes and pristine mountain air.

Highlights:

- Walk along the lake shore and take in panoramic views of snow-capped peaks
- Visit Chopta Valley for alpine meadows and potential sightings of Himalayan fauna

Altitude note: Gurudongmar is at very high altitude — brief stays recommended; consult your guide and carry necessary medication.

Day

4

## **Transfer to Lachung — Entering Yumthang Basin**

After breakfast, drive to Lachung (approx 3–4 hours). En route enjoy changing vegetation zones as you descend from high alpine to sub-alpine forests within the Khangchendzonga ecosystem.

Activities:

- Short nature stops and village views
- Evening walk in Lachung village and interaction with local communities

Conservation note: Respect local wildlife habitats; avoid littering and loud noises.

Day

5

## **Yumthang Valley & Zero Point — Alpine Meadows and Snowfields**

Early departure to Yumthang Valley — the famed 'Valley of Flowers' of Sikkim — and onward to Zero Point (subject to road conditions/permits). Enjoy rhododendron forests, alpine meadows and possible snow depending on season.

Highlights:

- Walk through Yumthang's meadows and riverside trails
- Short excursion to Zero Point for expansive snowfields and panoramic views

Seasonal note: Spring (April–June) is best for rhododendrons and wildflowers; winter months may limit access to Zero Point.

Day

6

## **Return to Gangtok with Khangchendzonga Buffer Walk**

Drive back to Gangtok (approx 6–7 hours) with stops for refreshments and scenic viewpoints. En route or on arrival take a guided Khangchendzonga buffer-zone nature walk (half-day) focused on birding, flora and low-intensity wildlife spotting in protected zones near Chungthang/Gangtok depending on permits and season.

Highlights:

- Guided nature/wildlife walk led by a trained naturalist
- Discussion on conservation, local fauna (Himalayan marmot, pheasants, rutting deer sightings possible) and flora

Fitness note: Walks are gentle to moderate and designed for acclimatised travelers.

Day

7

## Departure from Gangtok

After breakfast, departure transfer to Bagdogra/NJP for onward travel. If time permits, visit local markets for souvenirs and a short visit to one last viewpoint in Gangtok.

Notes & Tips:

- Confirm drop-off time with the operator
- Pack warm layers and any personal medicines for high-altitude travel

This concludes your Wildlife & Wilderness: Khangchendzonga National Park Immersion – a concentrated and authentic Sikkim Adventure tour package tailored for wildlife enthusiasts and responsible travelers.

## 🔗 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.

### 🔗 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.

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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.

## ❓ 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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