

Sikkim Extended Explorer: Lachen, Lachung, Yumthang & Zemu Glacier Views

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sikkim



Duration
8 Nights 9 Days



Starting from
Rs. 54,600 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Gangtok · 3N**

↖ **Lachen · 2N**

↖ **Lachung · 2N**

↖ **Gangtok · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-8-nights-9-days-package-1138>

Overview

Sikkim Extended Explorer: Lachen, Lachung, Yumthang & Zemu Glacier Views is an immersive 8 nights / 9 days Sikkim tour package designed for travelers seeking breathtaking mountain scenery, tranquil high-altitude valleys, and glacier vistas. This Sikkim Adventure tour package covers classic East Sikkim highlights—Gangtok, Lachen, Lachung, Yumthang Valley—with opportunities for viewing Gurudongmar Lake, Zero Point, and scenic perspectives of Zemu Glacier. Ideal for nature lovers and moderately active travelers, this Sikkim Adventure package blends comfortable stays, guided excursions, and cultural experiences.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 8 nights on twin-sharing basis as per itinerary
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 6 dinners (as per hotel plan)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle (Toyota Innova / Xylo or similar) with local driver
- ✓ Inner-line permits and guidance for restricted areas (wherever applicable)
- ✓ Experienced local English-speaking guide for high-altitude excursions
- ✓ All applicable hotel taxes and driver allowance
- ✓ Emergency contact and 24/7 support during the tour
- ✓ Highlights include: Gurudongmar Lake, Yumthang Valley, Zero Point, Zemu Glacier views, and cultural Gangtok experiences.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / train fares to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Inner-line permit fees (if payable on-spot) and any personal permit surcharges
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in inclusions and personal expenses (tips, laundry, phone calls)
- ✗ Entrance fees, camera fees, and trekking/guide charges for optional activities
- ✗ Any emergency evacuation or medical expenses
- ✗ Nathu La permit (if requested) and any additional special permits
- ✗ Special Note: Extra costs may apply for last-minute itinerary changes, helicopter/taxi services to remote vantage points for Zemu Glacier, or entrance to restricted places.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival & Transfer to Gangtok

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Railway Station and transfer to Gangtok (approx. 4–5 hours). Evening at leisure to rest and acclimatize. Note: Road conditions may vary; allow buffer time for Delhi/NJP/Bagdogra connections.

Day

2

Gangtok Local Sightseeing & Sightseeing Prep

After breakfast, enjoy a guided half-day sightseeing of Gangtok: visit Enchey Monastery, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, and the scenic MG Road for shopping. Afternoon is reserved for permit formalities and briefing for the high-altitude section of this 8 and 9 Sikkim Adventure tour package. Remember to carry a photocopy of passport / voter ID for permits.

Day

3

Gangtok to Lachen (via Chungthang)

Drive to Lachen (approx. 6–7 hours) with photo stops at Chungthang and scenic riverside points. Evening arrival in Lachen – settle into your hotel/guesthouse. Altitude increases; take it easy and hydrate well.

Day

4

Gurudongmar Lake & Chopta Valley Excursion (Lachen)

Early morning excursion to the sacred Gurudongmar Lake (subject to weather and permits) for spectacular alpine scenery and clear reflections of nearby peaks. On return, visit Chopta Valley / Thangu for sweeping views. Evening free in Lachen. High-altitude clothing recommended; mornings can be extremely cold.

Day

5

Lachen to Lachung (via Chungthang)

Drive from Lachen to Lachung (approx. 3–4 hours). En route, enjoy viewpoints and short stops. Afternoon at leisure to explore the quaint mountain village of Lachung or relax at your stay. Carry cash as ATMs are limited in mountain villages.

Day

6

Yumthang Valley & Zero Point (Lachung)

Full-day excursion to Yumthang Valley – the ‘Valley of Flowers’ – and, time permitting, Zero Point / Yumesamdong for snowy vistas and pristine landscape. Return to Lachung by late afternoon. Zero Point is subject to snow/road conditions and may be closed in peak winter.

Day

7

Lachung to Gangtok (via Mangan)

Scenic return drive to Gangtok (approx. 6–7 hours) via Mangan with stops at viewpoints and waterfalls. Evening arrival and overnight in Gangtok. Relax and enjoy a warm Sikkimese meal to recover from high-altitude excursions.

Day

8

Zemu Glacier Views Excursion & East Sikkim Panorama

Day trip focused on East-Sikkim scenic viewpoints for Zemu Glacier vistas. Depending on the season and road access, enjoy panoramic viewpoints and short walks to vantage points offering views of Zemu Glacier and surrounding peaks. This day can also include a visit to Tashi Viewpoint and other lesser-known panoramic spots. Zemu Glacier viewing is weather-permit dependent and may require an early start; alternatives will be offered if access is restricted.

Day

9

Departure from Gangtok

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Bagdogra Airport / NJP for onward travel. Trip concludes with memories of your Sikkim Extended Explorer. Allow sufficient time for the drive to airports/railheads; traffic and mountain roads can cause 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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