

Cultural Festivals of Sikkim: Plan Around Local Festivities

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sikkim



Duration
5 Nights 6 Days



Starting from
Rs. 18,200 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

📍 **Gangtok · 3N**

📍 **Lachung · 1N**

📍 **Pelling · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-5-nights-6-days-package-1139>

Overview

Cultural Festivals of Sikkim: Plan Around Local Festivities – A 5 nights / 6 days Sikkim tour package crafted to immerse you in the vibrant festivals, monastery ceremonies and local cultural rhythms of the Himalayan state. This Sikkim Pilgrimage tour package and Sikkim Pilgrimage package is ideal for travellers who want to time their visit to coincide with local Lhosar, Losar, Chaam (mask dance), monastery tsechus and village harvest celebrations. Perfectly positioned as a 5 and 6 Sikkim Pilgrimage tour package, this itinerary blends spiritual stops, scenic valleys and authentic cultural interactions.

Highlights:

- Gangtok: Capital city culture, markets and evening monastery visits
- Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Mandir: Sacred high-altitude lake and pilgrimage site
- Lachung & Yumthang Valley: Traditional mountain village life and spring festivals
- Pelling & Pemayangtse Monastery: Old monastery festivals, panoramic views of Kanchenjunga
- Local festival attendance & cultural programs: Meet monks, watch mask dances, and visit village festival grounds

Note: Festival dates vary by lunar calendar and local decisions – this package is designed to be flexible. Please confirm festival schedules at booking.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ 5 nights accommodation (3 nights in Gangtok, 1 night in Lachung, 1 night in Pelling) on twin-sharing basis.
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 dinners.
- ✓ All ground transfers & sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per itinerary.
- ✓ Inner line permits and restricted area permits where required.
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide for festival days and monastery visits.
- ✓ Festival coordination support: priority access, local introductions and recommended viewing areas. (Subject to availability and festival permissions.)
- ✓ All applicable hotel taxes.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / train fare to Bagdogra / NJP.
- ✗ Personal expenses, laundry, beers/soft drinks and additional meals.
- ✗ Monument entrance fees not specified in inclusions.
- ✗ Camera fees, travel insurance, rescue/evacuation charges.
- ✗ Tips, portorage and items of personal nature.
- ✗ Any extra sightseeing or services not mentioned in the itinerary.
- ✗ Note: Festival events are organized by local monasteries and communities; while we coordinate attendance, final schedules and permissions are outside the control of the operator.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

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

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri (NJP) and travel to Gangtok (approx. 4-5 hours). Check in and relax. In the evening enjoy a gentle orientation walk through MG Marg and the local markets where you can sample traditional Sikkimese snacks. If timing permits, attend an evening prayer session at a nearby monastery and meet local cultural coordinators to learn about upcoming festival schedules.

Tip: Keep warm layers handy; Gangtok evenings can be chilly.

Day

2

Tsomgo Lake, Baba Harbhajan Mandir & Festival Market Visit

Full-day excursion to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Baba Harbhajan Mandir. Enjoy the serene high-altitude landscape, take part in local offerings, and photograph the turquoise lake. On the return to Gangtok, stop at villages that may host festival markets or cultural fairs — ideal for experiencing local crafts, masks and ritual music.

Important: Tsomgo access is subject to permit and weather; acclimatize well.

Day

3

Drive to Lachung — Village Walk & Local Monastery Festival

Early morning drive to Lachung via Mangan with dramatic mountain vistas. Check in to your mountain lodge. Afternoon village walk to interact with local families and, if aligned with dates, attend a Lachung monastery festival or village tsechu, witnessing masked dances, prayer rituals and community feasts.

Note: Mountain roads can be narrow; expect scenic but winding drives.

Day

4

Yumthang Valley & Hot Springs — Festival Photography & Nature Walk

Visit the Yumthang Valley (Valley of Flowers) early to capture sunrise and any floral festivals or seasonal celebrations. Later, visit the natural hot springs used by locals for ritual bathing during certain festivals. Spend time photographing cultural performances if a local celebration is underway.

Tip: Bring comfortable trekking shoes and waterproof layers during spring and monsoon seasons.

Day

5

Transfer to Pelling – Pemayangtse Monastery & Cultural Program

Return towards West Sikkim and transfer to Pelling. En route enjoy vistas of Kanchenjunga. In Pelling, visit the historic Pemayangtse Monastery – often the site of traditional rituals and dance performances. Evening cultural program arranged at the hotel or local community hall featuring folk songs, mask dances and a short talk on Sikkimese pilgrimage traditions.

Note: Driving time is long; start early to maximize sightseeing.

Day

6

Pelling Sightseeing & Departure via NJP / Bagdogra

Morning visit to Sanga Choeling Monastery or local monasteries depending on opening hours and festival events. Stroll Pelling markets for handicrafts and traditional items. Transfer to NJP / Bagdogra for onward journey home. Final cultural farewell with a short briefing on how to make the most of future pilgrimage visits.

Important: Allow sufficient transit time to reach your onward train/flight.

🔍 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 gompa 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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