

Sikkim Scenic Drive: Old Silk Route & Mountain Pass Photo Tour

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sikkim



Duration
4 Nights 5 Days



Starting from
Rs. 14,100 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE



Gangtok · 2N



Lachen · 1N



Lachung · 1N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-4-nights-5-days-package-1140>

Overview

Sikkim Scenic Drive: Old Silk Route & Mountain Pass Photo Tour — a 4 nights / 5 days Sikkim tour package designed for photographers and adventure travelers. This Sikkim Adventure tour package combines high-altitude lakes, historic mountain passes along the Old Silk Route, and panoramic Himalayan vistas. You will explore Gangtok, the Old Silk Route viewpoints, Lachen (for Gurudongmar Lake) and Lachung (for Yumthang Valley & Zero Point) with comfortable transfers and guided photo stops.

Highlights:

- Scenic drives along the Old Silk Route
- Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Harbhajan Singh Temple
- Gurudongmar Lake (high-altitude photographic location)
- Yumthang Valley & Zero Point snow and alpine meadows
- MG Marg, Hanuman Tok, Tashi Viewpoint in Gangtok

This 4 and 5 Sikkim Adventure tour package is optimized for photography windows and acclimatization. Early starts and weather-dependent access to high passes are expected.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 4 nights in twin/double rooms (category as selected)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle as per itinerary
- ✓ Experienced local driver and guide
- ✓ Permits for restricted areas (subject to government rules)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 dinners (as per hotel plan)
- ✓ Inner-line permits and vehicle permits for Lachen/Lachung excursions
- ✓ Emergency assistance and basic first-aid kit
- ✓ This Sikkim Adventure package price is subject to seasonal changes and permit fees.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare or train fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Monument / park entry fees, optional activities and charges at high-altitude sites
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, insurance, and alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Any additional stays, transfers or services not specified in inclusions
- ✗ Medical costs for altitude-related illnesses
- ✗ Note: Some high-altitude locations like Gurudongmar and Zero Point require early starts and may be inaccessible in bad weather; any extra nights or changes caused by weather are not included.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival, Transfer to Gangtok & Evening at Leisure

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / NJP Railway Station. Meet and assist on arrival and drive to Gangtok (approx. 4–5 hours) with scenic mountain and river views. Check-in at your hotel.

Afternoon/evening: Short orientation walk at MG Marg and a gentle stroll to nearby viewpoints. Capture dusk shots of Gangtok town and surrounding ridgelines.

Important: Travel time depends on road and weather conditions. Keep warm layers handy for evenings.

Day

2

Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Mandir Excursion

Full-day excursion to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake (approx. 40 km, 1.5–2 hours each way) with a stop at Baba Harbhajan Singh Temple. Photograph the pristine alpine lake, yak herds, and surrounding snow-capped peaks. Optionally visit Gurudongmar/Gangtok photo stops en route back.

Return to Gangtok in the evening. Time permitting explore local markets for handicrafts and local Sikkim tea.

Tip: Altitude here is moderate; carry sunscreen and water. Permits may be required for certain excursions.

Day

3

Gangtok to Lachen – Old Silk Route Scenic Drive

Early morning departure from Gangtok to Lachen, following stretches of the historic Old Silk Route and high mountain passes. En route enjoy multiple photo stops: cascading rivers, long mountain vistas, alpine villages, and waterfalls.

Check-in at Lachen. Short village walk and sunset photo shoot of surrounding peaks.

Note: Road conditions can be rugged on some stretches. Expect a long drive (6–8 hours) with several scenic halts.

Day

4

Gurudongmar Lake Excursion (Lachen)

Pre-dawn transfer to Gurudongmar Lake – one of India's highest motorable lakes and a spectacular photographic location. Capture sunrise on icy-blue waters with dramatic mountain backdrops. Return to Lachen for brunch, then drive to Lachung in the afternoon.

Evening at leisure in Lachung; short walk to explore the alpine village.

Important: Very high-altitude excursion – ensure proper acclimatization, carry warm clothing and consult on any medical conditions. Vehicle and permit restrictions apply.

Day

5

Yumthang Valley, Zero Point & Return to Gangtok

Morning visit to Yumthang Valley (the 'Valley of Flowers') – photographic meadows, rhododendron forests (seasonal), and streams. Continue to Zero Point (weather and permit dependent) for snow views and expansive panoramas.

Drive back to Gangtok in the afternoon/evening for drop-off at Bagdogra Airport / NJP or overnight stay in Gangtok depending on departure timing.

Tip: Carry packed snacks and warm layers; mountain weather can change rapidly.

? 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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