

# North-South Sikkim Panorama: From Namchi to Gurudongmar

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Sikkim**



Duration  
**7 Nights 8 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 46,800 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ **Namchi · 1N**

↗ **Gangtok · 4N**

↗ **Lachen · 1N**

↗ **Lachung · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-7-nights-8-days-package-1141>

## Overview

---

North-South Sikkim Panorama: From Namchi to Gurudongmar — A specially curated 7 Nights / 8 Days Sikkim tour package ideal for families and small groups. Explore the serene southern charms of Namchi and the vibrant hill capital Gangtok, then journey north to the high-altitude wonders of Lachen, Lachung, and the iconic Gurudongmar Lake. This Sikkim Family tour package blends cultural sights, tea gardens, monasteries, alpine valleys, and breathtaking high-altitude lakes for a memorable family holiday.

### Highlights:

- Panoramic high-altitude visit to Gurudongmar Lake (one of the highest lakes in the world)
- Yumthang Valley: the Valley of Flowers
- Tsomgo Lake & Baba Mandir day trip
- Rumtek Monastery, MG Marg and local markets in Gangtok
- Temi Tea Garden and Samdruptse Statue in Namchi
- Comfortable family-friendly stays and experienced driver-guides

Perfect for: families looking for a balanced mix of culture, light adventure and scenic relaxation. This 7 and 8 Sikkim Family tour package is built to be family-friendly with moderate driving days and acclimatization time for high-altitude excursions.

Important tips: High-altitude days (Gurudongmar) require early starts and warm clothing; medical fitness and necessary permits are required. Carry original ID proofs for permits.

### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 7 nights in comfortable family-friendly hotels (as per category selected)\n- Daily breakfast & 4 standard dinners (hotel/package)\n- All transfers & sightseeing by a private, well-maintained vehicle (as per group size)\n- Experienced driver and local assistance for permits & routing\n- Inner-line/permit assistance for North Sikkim excursions (permit fees not always included; see exclusions)\n- All applicable hotel taxes & parking charges\n- 24x7 emergency assistance contact during the tour

### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / Train tickets to Bagdogra / New Jalpaiguri\n- GST, monument/park entry fees & mandatory permits (Gurudongmar, Nathu La when applicable) – these are payable locally\n- Meals not mentioned in inclusions and any special or a la carte orders\n- Personal expenses (tips, phone calls, laundry, etc.)\n- Travel insurance & medical expenses\n- Any expenses due to flight/train delays, roadblocks, landslides, or other natural disruptions\n- Additional sightseeing or services not mentioned in the itinerary\n
- ✗ Important: Permit rules for North Sikkim are strict and subject to change; please carry original ID (all members) and check seasonal closures.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

---

Day

1

### **Arrival at Siliguri (Bagdogra/NJP) & Transfer to Namchi**

Arrival at Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri Railway Station. Meet your driver and proceed to Namchi (approx. 4–5 hours). En route enjoy scenic tea gardens and hill vistas. On arrival check into your hotel and relax.

Evening: Short walk around the town, visit the local market and enjoy a family dinner.

Distance/time & note: Road conditions can vary; travel may take longer during monsoon.

Day

2

### **Namchi Sightseeing & Drive to Gangtok**

After breakfast, explore Namchi: visit the iconic Samdruptse Statue, Char Dham complex (replica of the four Dhams), and the lush Temi Tea Garden — perfect for photos and a relaxed stroll.

Post lunch drive to Gangtok (approx. 4 hours). Evening at MG Marg for shopping, local snacks and family time.

Tip: Carry a light jacket for the evening in Gangtok.

Day

3

### **Gangtok Local Sightseeing: Monasteries & Culture**

Full-day Gangtok sightseeing to cover the spiritual and cultural highlights: Rumtek Monastery, Enchey Monastery, Do Drul Chorten, and a visit to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. Afternoon free for leisure or optional local activities.

Evening: Explore Gangtok's cafés and handicraft shops.

Family note: Easy walking routes suitable for children and elders; driving distances are short.

Day

4

### **Drive to Lachen — Scenic Mountain Route**

Early breakfast and drive to Lachen (approx. 6–7 hours) through picturesque valleys, terraced fields and rivers. Enjoy scenic stops and photos along the way. Arrive Lachen, check into the hotel and rest to acclimatize for the high-altitude excursion next day.

Health tip: Stay hydrated and avoid strenuous activity after arrival.

Day

5

### **Gurudongmar Lake Excursion & Transfer to Lachung**

Very early start to visit Gurudongmar Lake (altitude ~17,800 ft). Spend time at the lake admiring the pristine turquoise waters and surrounding snow-capped peaks – a truly unforgettable family moment. Return via scenic mountain roads and proceed to Lachung for overnight stay.

Important: Gurudongmar visit requires permits and is weather dependent; warm clothing and sun protection are essential.

Day

6

### **Yumthang Valley & Return to Gangtok**

After breakfast, explore Yumthang Valley (the Valley of Flowers). Walk among alpine meadows and view the hot springs at Jhinu (season/weather permitting). After sightseeing, drive back to Gangtok and check into the hotel.

Evening at leisure – optional cultural program or family board games at the hotel.

Day

7

### **Tsomgo Lake & Baba Mandir (Optional Nathu La subject to permit)**

Day trip to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir. Experience the serene glacial lake and take family photos. Optional: If permits are available and the group prefers, a visit to Nathu La can be arranged (subject to strict permit rules and additional charges).

Evening: Return to Gangtok for a farewell dinner.

Note: Nathu La is highly permit-restricted and may not be available for all groups.

Day

8

### **Departure: Transfer to Bagdogra/NJP**

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri Railway Station for your onward journey. En route refreshments stop; arrive with pleasant memories of your North–South Sikkim Panorama.

Reminder: Check flight/train timings and allow buffer time for mountain travel.

## **🔍 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!

## **⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?**

---

Because your dream vacation deserves the best! From expert advice to personalized trips, easy booking, and unbeatable deals — we make travel stress-free and fun!

### **⚡ Expert-Guided Planning**

Personalized guidance from verified travel experts who understand your needs.

### **⚙️ Customizable Packages**

Tailor your trip your way — destinations, experiences, budget. All up to you!

### **🛡️ Hassle-Free Booking**

Smooth, secure, and simple booking process without any stress or confusion.

### **🏷️ Best Price Guarantee**

Multiple free quotes and booking at the most competitive rates available.

---

For the latest pricing, availability, and customization options, visit:

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-7-nights-8-days-package-1141>