

Sikkim Wildlife & Birding Special: Seasonal Migrants & Endemics

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sikkim



Duration
4 Nights 5 Days



Starting from
Rs. 13,450 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE



Gangtok · 3N



Lachung / Yumthang Region · 1N

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-4-nights-5-days-package-1146>

Overview

Sikkim Wildlife & Birding Special: Seasonal Migrants & Endemics – a focused 4-night, 5-day Sikkim tour package crafted for families, birders and wildlife enthusiasts. This Sikkim Family tour package highlights the best habitats for seasonal migrants and highaltitude endemics across East and North Sikkim. Ideal as a Sikkim Family Retreat package or a specialised 4 and 5 Sikkim Family tour package, it balances comfortable travel with high-value birding and wildlife experiences.

Highlights:

- Yumthang Valley (The Valley of Flowers) – prime spot for high-altitude migrants and rhododendron forests
- Zero Point / Chumathang approach – seasonal migrants and snow-adapted endemics
- Fambong Lho & Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary – accessible birding near Gangtok
- Lachen & Lachung region – mixed forests, alpine meadows and riverine habitats
- Local culture & easy family-friendly logistics (comfortable drives, guided walks)

Note: High-altitude areas (Yumthang/Zero Point) are seasonal and may be affected by snow; please pack warm layers and check local accessibility before travel.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 4 nights on twin/ family sharing basis (Gangtok and Lachung/Lachen)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and selected lunches and dinners as specified in itinerary
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private, comfortable vehicle (as per group size)
- ✓ Experienced local naturalist/ birding guide for the duration
- ✓ All local permits and entry fees to protected areas (where applicable)
- ✓ Pick-up from Bagdogra Airport / NJP and drop-off on Day 5
- ✓ Basic first-aid kit and bottled drinking water during transfers
- ✓ Wildlife/bird checklist and pre-departure briefing
- ✓ This package is promoted as a specialised Sikkim tour package and Sikkim Family Retreat tour package focusing on wildlife & birding.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / train fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Personal insurance, portorage, phone calls, laundry and personal expenses
- ✗ Meals not specified in itinerary and beverages beyond provided bottled water
- ✗ Entrance fees/permits to restricted areas that require special passes (e.g., Nathula) unless specifically arranged
- ✗ Tips/gratuities for drivers, guides and hotel staff
- ✗ Any additional activities or excursions not listed in the itinerary
- ✗ High-altitude excursions (Yumthang/Zero Point/Tsomgo) may require seasonal permits or be restricted due to weather; related extra costs are not included.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival, Orientation & Easy Birding Around Gangtok

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Railway Station and transfer to Gangtok (approx 4–5 hours by road). Settle into your hotel and enjoy an evening orientation with your birding guide. Short, relaxed birding sessions in the late afternoon at Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary or Ganesh Tok to spot low-altitude forest species and migrants.

Activities include: hotel check-in, briefing with the naturalist, easy nature walk to observe species such as warblers, sunbirds and resident bellbirds. Acclimatize gently on Day 1 – avoid strenuous activity.

Day

2

Road Transfer to Lachen — En-route Birding & Scenic Stops

Early breakfast and depart for Lachen (northbound, approx 6–7 hours). En route, you will pass through mixed montane forests, river valleys and terraced farmland – excellent for stop-and-search birding for species like Himalayan bulbul, Rufousvented tit, and resident raptors. Short stops at viewpoints and waterfalls for photography.

Arrive Lachen by late afternoon, check into the guesthouse/hotel and take a short walk in the village for evening birding focusing on woodland species and wintering migrants (seasonal). Roads are winding; travel times are approximate and depend on conditions.

Day

3

Yumthang Valley & Zero Point — High Altitude Birding

Full-day excursion to Yumthang Valley (Valley of Flowers) and Zero Point (subject to seasonal access). Enjoy intensive birding in alpine meadows, rhododendron slopes and riverine habitats. Target species include Himalayan Monal, Blood Pheasant, Tibetan Snowfinch, Alpine Accentor, Lammergeier and several migrant warblers and finches during season.

Picnic lunch in the valley; optional short walks for close-up views of high-altitude flora and incidental mammals. Return to Lachen/Lachung region by late afternoon. Zero Point access can be restricted during heavy snow; the guide will choose the best alternate birding sites if closed.

Day

4

Return to Gangtok with En-route Stops & Forest Birding

After breakfast depart for Gangtok. En-route birding in montane forests and river valleys — good chances for spotting Hoary-throated Barwing, Rufous-vented Tit, Blue-winged Minla, and various woodpeckers and thrushes.

Arrive Gangtok by late afternoon. Evening at leisure or optional visit to MG Marg for local shopping and a cultural walk. Allow time to rest after high-altitude travel.

Day

5

Local Birding & Departure — Optional Tsomgo Lake Visit

Half-day of gentle birding at Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary or nearby forested areas for woodland and alpine edge species. Optionally, visit Tsomgo Lake (Changu Lake) and Baba Harbhajan Mandir for more high-altitude birding if time and permits allow (additional permit and time needed).

Transfer to Bagdogra / NJP for onward journey. Wrap-up with guide debrief and checklist of species observed. Departure times will be arranged to fit flight/train schedules.

🔍 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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