

# Heritage Homestay Circuit: Local Life & Authentic Sikkim Cuisine

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination  
**Sikkim**

Duration  
**5 Nights 6 Days**

Starting from  
**Rs. 12,900 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↗ **Gangtok · 2N**

↗ **Lachen · 1N**

↗ **Lachung · 1N**

↗ **Pelling · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-5-nights-6-days-package-1150>

## 📍 Overview

---

Heritage Homestay Circuit: Local Life & Authentic Sikkim Cuisine is a thoughtfully curated 5 nights / 6 days Sikkim tour package that immerses you in authentic village life, local gastronomy, and the spiritual heart of Sikkim. Ideal for travelers seeking cultural immersion and pilgrimage experiences, this Sikkim Pilgrimage tour package blends monastery visits, sacred lakes, and hands-on homestay cuisine workshops.

### Highlights:

- Homestays in Gangtok, Lachen, Lachung and Pelling – stay with local families and taste traditional Sikkimese meals.
- Rumtek Monastery, Pemayangtse Monastery, and local gompas – spiritual stops for pilgrims.
- Yumthang Valley & Gurudongmar Lake – high-altitude sacred landscapes (permit required).
- Khecheopalri Lake – a revered pilgrimage lake for Hindus and Buddhists.
- Local cooking demonstrations & cultural exchange – learn to cook momos, gundruk, and local tea.

This Sikkim Pilgrimage package (5 and 6 Sikkim Pilgrimage tour package friendly) is designed for a relaxed pace, offering both spiritual visits and authentic cultural encounters. High-altitude excursions such as Gurudongmar Lake require early starts, acclimatization, and special permits; please consult the trip notes below.

### ✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation: 5 nights in carefully selected heritage homestays (2 nights in Gangtok, 1 night in Lachen, 1 night in Lachung, 1 night in Pelling)
- ✓ Meals: Daily breakfast and 4 dinners (homestay specialty dinners and 1 farewell lunch) – special dietary needs catered with prior notice
- ✓ Transport: All surface transfers and sightseeing by private car/MUV with experienced driver (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Local experiences: Cooking demonstration, village interactions, cultural exchanges with homestay families
- ✓ Permits: Assistance with Inner Line Permits / restricted area permits (permit fees excluded unless specified)



### ✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / train fare to Bagdogra / New Jalpaiguri
- ✗ Mandatory permit fees for restricted high-altitude areas (e.g., Gurudongmar) and any additional entry fees
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, additional meals not specified in inclusions
- ✗ Travel insurance (highly recommended, especially for high-altitude visits)
- ✗ Any expenses arising from flight delays, roadblocks, landslides or weather-related changes
- ✗ Camera fees at some monasteries or attractions (if applicable)

Local guide: Services of a local guide for cultural and pilgrimage sites where required

✓ Taxes and service charges

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

---

Day

1

### **Arrival at New Jalpaiguri / Bagdogra – Transfer to Gangtok – Homestay Welcome**

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Railway Station and transfer (approx. 4–5 hours) to Gangtok. Check in to a carefully chosen heritage homestay where the host family will welcome you with traditional tea and snacks.

Evening: A relaxed orientation walk along MG Road and a homestay-style dinner featuring local Sikkimese dishes like momos, gundruk, and chaang (fermented local beverage).

Tip: Keep this day light to acclimatize. Hydrate well and avoid heavy exertion.

Day

2

### **Gangtok Cultural & Pilgrimage Walk with Cooking Demonstration**

Spend the day exploring the spiritual and cultural highlights of Gangtok. Morning visits include Rumtek Monastery (one of Sikkim's most important Kagyu seats) and Enchey Monastery with its panoramic views.

Afternoon: Return to the homestay for a hands-on cooking demonstration — learn to prepare traditional dishes with your host family. Evening visit to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology or a short pilgrimage to nearby local gompas.

Note: Photography inside some monastic areas may be restricted; please follow the monk's guidance.

Day

3

### **Transfer to Lachen – Village Homestay & Community Interaction**

After breakfast, drive north to Lachen (approx. 6–7 hours) through scenic mountain roads, terraced fields and small hamlets. En route stop at viewpoints and small village temples to experience local life.

Evening: Check in to a family-run Lachen homestay. Participate in an intimate cultural exchange — listen to local folk stories, try regional snacks and dinner with the family.

Important: Roads may be narrow; travel is scenic but can be long. Carry a light daypack and warm layers.

Day

4

## **Gurudongmar Lake (Early Morning Excursion) – Transfer to Lachung & Yumthang Valley**

Early pre-dawn departure to visit Gurudongmar Lake – a sacred high-altitude lake visited by pilgrims. The visit is subject to weather, permit availability and acclimatization. Return via scenic routes and continue to Lachung.

Afternoon: Explore Yumthang Valley, famed for its alpine meadows and hot springs. Return to a homestay in Lachung for a traditional dinner and storytelling with your host family.

Warning: Gurudongmar is at very high altitude (over 17,000 ft). This excursion requires good acclimatization and may be substituted by local alternatives if conditions are unsuitable.

Day

5

## **Lachung Village Life – Local Markets & Scenic Drive to Pelling**

Morning at leisure to visit Lachung village, local markets and interact with host families – learn about weaving, farming and yak-rearing traditions.

Late morning departure for Pelling (this is a long day of travel via Lachung 'Gangtok 'Pelling route; expect scenic mountain drives). Evening arrival in Pelling, check into a quaint heritage homestay with views of the Kanchenjunga range.

Tip: Breaks are planned en route; this day is primarily a scenic transit connecting the northern circuit with West Sikkim's heritage sites.

Day

6

## **Pelling Heritage Walk, Pemayangtse Monastery & Departure**

Explore Pelling's heritage and pilgrimage sites: visit Pemayangtse Monastery, Khecheopalri Lake (a sacred wish-fulfilling lake) and the old village trails to meet local artisans.

Lunch at the homestay featuring a farewell meal highlighting family recipes. Transfer to Bagdogra / New Jalpaiguri for onward departure (transfer time approx. 4–5 hours) or extend your stay on request.

Note: Allow extra time for road transfers to the airport/railhead. If you have an evening flight, plan accordingly.

## **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-5-nights-6-days-package-1150>