

Zuluk to Nathang Valley Explorer: Scenic Loops & Mountain Passes

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Sikkim



Duration
4 Nights 5 Days



Starting from
Rs. 15,650 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Gangtok · 2N**

↖ **Zuluk / Thambi Viewpoint · 1N**

↖ **Nathang Valley · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-4-nights-5-days-package-1151>

Overview

Zuluk to Nathang Valley Explorer: Scenic Loops & Mountain Passes — A focused 4 nights / 5 days Sikkim tour package ideal for travelers seeking dramatic mountain vistas, historic mountain passes and offbeat high-altitude loops. Perfect as a Sikkim Adventure tour package or a compact Sikkim Adventure package, this itinerary covers the iconic Old Silk Route sections including Zuluk, Thambi Viewpoint, Nathang Valley, and returns to Gangtok for cultural and logistical convenience.

Highlights:

- Zuluk: famous for its winding hairpin bends and sunrise vistas
- Nathang Valley: high-altitude meadowland with yak grazing and pristine views
- Thambi Viewpoint & Kupup Lake (Elephant Lake): panoramic Himalayan views
- Gangtok: cultural experiences and acclimatization

This is recommended as a 4-night/5-day option and also works well for travelers looking at 4 and 5 Sikkim Adventure tour package offerings.

Important note: Altitudes on this route reach 12,000+ ft; allow time to acclimatize, carry warm layers, and be prepared for limited mobile connectivity in remote sections.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation for 4 nights on twin/double sharing basis (as per selected category)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle (innova/tempo traveller or similar depending on group size)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 2 dinners (or full-board as per package variant)
- ✓ Inner line permits & necessary local permits for East Sikkim
- ✓ Experienced driver and local assistance
- ✓ Basic first-aid kit and emergency support
- ✓ Government taxes
- ✓ Note: Vehicle and hotel confirmations subject to availability.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / Train fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Any personal expenses (telephone calls, laundry, tips, extra meals)
- ✗ Adventure activity charges (if any) and optional sightseeing entrance fees
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical evacuation
- ✗ Additional permits (if specially required) and forest department fees beyond standard coverage
- ✗ Peak season surcharge (if applicable)
- ✗ Important: The itinerary is subject to change due to weather, road or administrative conditions in high-altitude regions.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival, Transfer & Short Gangtok Orientation

Arrival at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Station and drive to Gangtok (approx. 4–5 hours by road). Check-in and rest to acclimatize. Evening short orientation walk around MG Marg and optional visit to the Enchey Monastery depending on time. Overnight in Gangtok.

Tip: Keep hydration and avoid heavy exertion on arrival day to help acclimatization.

Day

2

Gangtok to Zuluk via Rangpo and Rongli – Entering the Old Silk Route

Early departure for the historic Old Silk Route. Drive from Gangtok -> Rangpo -> Rongli and onwards to Zuluk, crossing serene villages and panoramic viewpoints. En route stop at local viewpoints to admire the winding Zuluk hairpin bends and Himalayan panoramas at sunset. Overnight stay near Thambi Viewpoint / Zuluk.

Note: Road stretches are mountainous and can be narrow. Travel time approx. 7–8 hours depending on road conditions.

Day

3

Zuluk Sunrise, Thambi & Kupup (Elephant Lake) – Drive to Nathang Valley

Witness a spectacular sunrise over the eastern peaks from Zuluk/Thambi Viewpoint (an iconic experience). After breakfast, explore the immediate loop and drive to Kupup (Elephant Lake) and then onward into the lush high meadow of Nathang Valley. Enjoy short walks, yak sightings and the peaceful alpine landscape. Evening at leisure and overnight in Nathang/Kupup area.

Tip: Sunrise is extremely cold – carry insulated layers. Altitude can make walking slightly strenuous for some travelers.

Day

4

Return to Gangtok with Scenic Stops

After breakfast, drive back towards Gangtok. Depending on time and road conditions, optional stops can include local viewpoints and small villages for photography and interaction with locals. Check-in at Gangtok and enjoy an evening exploring local cuisine or visiting the Flower Exhibition Centre or Banjhakri Falls if time permits. Overnight in Gangtok.

Note: Road conditions can be variable; travel time approx. 6–8 hours.

Day

5

Departure from Gangtok — Transfer to Bagdogra / NJP

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Bagdogra Airport / NJP Station for onward journey. If time permits, quick shopping for local souvenirs in Gangtok before departure. End of the Zuluk to Nathang Valley Explorer 4N/5D package.

Tip: Confirm flight/train timings in advance and allow extra cushion 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!

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