

# Sikkim Grand Circuit: Scenic Drives, Lakes & Cultural Stops

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Sikkim**



Duration  
**6 Nights 7 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 32,100 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE



**Gangtok · 4N**



**Lachen · 1N**



**Lachung · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/sikkim/sikkim-6-nights-7-days-package-1155>

## Overview

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Sikkim Grand Circuit: Scenic Drives, Lakes & Cultural Stops — A carefully designed 6 nights / 7 days Sikkim tour package ideal for families and travelers seeking majestic mountain vistas, high-altitude lakes and living Himalayan culture. This Sikkim Family tour package covers the best of East and North Sikkim with comfortable transfers, experienced drivers and curated sightseeing. Perfect as a Sikkim Family Retreat package option, this itinerary is also marketed as a 6 and 7 Sikkim Family tour package for families wanting a mix of relaxation and adventure.

Highlights:

- Gurudongmar Lake (high-altitude, pristine)
- Yumthang Valley & Zero Point (valley of flowers in spring)
- Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Baba Harbhajan Mandir
- Cultural stops: Rumtek Monastery, Enchey Monastery, MG Road, Gangtok
- Scenic drives across mountain passes with views of Kanchenjunga

Note: High-altitude excursions (Gurudongmar, Zero Point) require acclimatization and are weather/permit dependent.

### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation as per category (Gangtok - 4 nights, Lachen - 1 night, Lachung - 1 night)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (hotel buffet or set menu)
- ✓ All transfers, sightseeing & road transport by private vehicle (As per itinerary)
- ✓ Experienced driver and fuel, tolls, parking charges
- ✓ All permits for Tsomgo and North Sikkim excursions (as required; subject to documentation)
- ✓ Local taxes and service charges
- ✓ This package is offered as an SEO-friendly Sikkim tour package and Sikkim Family Retreat tour package option.

### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / Train tickets to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Nathula Pass permit fees (if chosen), any special permits not included in the inclusions
- ✗ Entry fees, camera fees, guide charges at monuments unless specified
- ✗ Lunches & dinners (unless specifically included)
- ✗ Personal expenses (tips, laundry, phone calls, etc.)
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical expenses
- ✗ Anything not mentioned in 'Inclusions'
- ✗ Note: High-altitude medical care, oxygen supply or evacuation costs are not included and will be borne by the traveler.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival in Bagdogra / NJP — Transfer to Gangtok**

Arrival at Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station. Meet and assist; scenic drive to Gangtok (approx. 4-5 hours) with stops for photos and tea. Check-in at the hotel. Evening stroll on MG Road and time for light shopping.

Important tip: Keep warm clothing handy; roads can be chilly even in daytime.

Day

2

### **Gangtok Local Sightseeing**

Explore the cultural and spiritual heart of Sikkim: visit Rumtek Monastery (Karma Kagyu lineage), Enchey Monastery, Do Drul Chorten & Mani Wall, and Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. Afternoon free for shopping at MG Road or optional evening cultural program.

Tip: Carry your photo ID for some sites; photography may be restricted inside monasteries.

Day

3

### **Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Mandir Excursion**

Full-day excursion to the glacial Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir (approx. 2 hours each way from Gangtok). Optional extension to Nathula Pass (India-China border) subject to permit availability and weather. Return to Gangtok for an overnight stay.

Note: Permits required for Nathula; permits are time-sensitive and subject to government rules.

Day

4

### **Drive Gangtok to Lachen — En route scenic stops**

Early morning departure for Lachen (approx. 6-7 hours). Scenic drive through mountain villages with stops at viewpoints and local markets. Check-in at Lachen and relax; short village walk in the evening.

Important: Road conditions can be narrow and may include hairpin bends; a comfortable drive with breaks is planned.

Day

5

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

Pre-dawn drive to Gurudongmar Lake (altitude ~17,800 ft) – one of Sikkim's most spectacular high-altitude lakes. Spend time for photos and reverence; return and proceed to Lachung in the afternoon. Overnight at Lachung.

Health Advisory: High-altitude sickness can affect some travelers. Carry prescribed medications and inform the team of any medical condition.

Day

6

## **Yumthang Valley (Valley of Flowers) & Return to Gangtok**

Visit Yumthang Valley, known as the Valley of Flowers (seasonal blooms) and optional Zero Point (subject to weather/road). Enjoy hot local meals, panoramic views and short walks. Later drive back to Gangtok for the final overnight stay.

Tip: Spring (late Feb to May) is best for wildflowers; winter months may be snowbound.

Day

7

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

After breakfast, transfer to Bagdogra Airport or NJP Railway Station for onward journey. En route photo stops and final shopping in local markets if time permits. End of the Sikkim Grand Circuit package.

Reminder: Confirm flight/train timings in advance to account for mountain traffic conditions.

## **🔍 Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **🔍 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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ★ **Traveller Reviews**

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**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?**

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