

Gangtok Short Escape: Rumtek Monastery & MG Road Weekend

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination

North-East



Duration

3 Nights 4 Days



Starting from

Rs. 9,750 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

← **Gangtok · 3N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-3-nights-4-days-package-622>

Overview

Gangtok Short Escape: Rumtek Monastery & MG Road Weekend is a compact 3 nights / 4 days North-East tour package designed for travelers seeking a peaceful spiritual and cultural getaway. This North-East Pilgrimage tour package focuses on iconic religious and scenic highlights around Gangtok – combining visits to the revered Rumtek Monastery, the bustling MG Road (Mall), and scenic high-altitude spots like Tsomgo Lake. Ideal as a 3 and 4 North-East Pilgrimage tour package, it suits weekend travelers and pilgrims who want a short but soulful escape into Sikkim's spiritual heartland. Comfortable accommodation, local transfers, and guided sightseeing are included to make your pilgrimage hassle-free.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 3 nights accommodation in Gangtok (standard hotel / deluxe on request)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (as per hotel plan)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle as per itinerary
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide for sightseeing
- ✓ Inner Line Permits for Sikkim sightseeing (as required)
- ✓ Parking, driver allowance, and toll taxes
- ✓ Applicable hotel taxes
- ✓ Ideal for a North-East Pilgrimage package and short weekend escapes

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Package Exclusions:
- ✗ Airfare / train fare to Bagdogra / NJP and return
- ✗ Meals other than breakfast (lunch/dinner)
- ✗ Personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, and minibar
- ✗ Entrance fees where applicable (unless specified)
- ✗ Any additional sightseeing or activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical expenses
- ✗ Tips and gratuities for guide/driver
- ✗ Any extra costs due to weather, roadblocks, or political restrictions
- ✗ Optional upgrades (Tsomgo Lake jeep charges, yak rides, etc.) will incur extra fees

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Gangtok and Evening at MG Road

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station and transfer to Gangtok (approx. 4-5 hours by road). Check into your hotel and relax. In the evening, enjoy a leisurely stroll down MG Road – Gangtok's pedestrian mall lined with local shops, cafes, and handicraft stores. Experience local cuisine, shop for souvenirs, and take in the vibrant town atmosphere. Allow time to acclimatize to the altitude.

Day

2

Rumtek Monastery, Do Drul Chorten & Namgyal Institute

After breakfast, visit the majestic Rumtek Monastery – the seat of the Karmapa and one of Sikkim's most important Buddhist monasteries. Explore the ornate prayer halls, colorful murals, and serene surroundings. Continue to Do Drul Chorten (Stupa) and the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology to learn about Tibetan Buddhist art, rare manuscripts, and religious artifacts. Return to Gangtok for evening leisure on MG Road or at the hotel. Dress modestly inside monasteries; photography rules may apply.

Day

3

Tsomgo Lake & Baba Harbhajan Mandir (Optional Upgrades)

Full-day excursion to Tsomgo Lake (Changu Lake) – a sacred glacial lake set against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks. Depending on the season, you may see yak rides and local vendors. On the return, visit Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir, a unique shrine dedicated to an Indian army soldier with a legendary story. This day offers spectacular photography opportunities and high-altitude vistas. This excursion requires an Inner Line Permit; extra vehicle charges and permit fees may apply.

Day

4

Local Sightseeing & Departure

After breakfast, check out and visit nearby viewpoints and attractions such as Hanuman Tok and Tashi Viewpoint (time permitting) for panoramic views of the Himalayan range. Proceed to Bagdogra Airport / NJP Railway Station for your onward journey. Check flight/train timings and allow sufficient road travel time (4-5 hours to Bagdogra/NJP).

Frequently Asked Questions

❓ **What is the best time to visit Northeast India?**

The ideal time to visit Northeast India is October to April when the weather is pleasant and dry. October–November offers post-monsoon freshness with clear skies, perfect for sightseeing and outdoor activities. December–February brings cool, crisp weather ideal for exploring hill stations like Gangtok, Shillong, and Tawang. March–April features blooming rhododendrons and comfortable temperatures. Avoid June–September monsoon season as heavy rainfall can disrupt travel plans, cause landslides, and make roads inaccessible. However, if you're interested in experiencing lush green landscapes and don't mind occasional showers, post-monsoon September can be beautiful. For specific festivals like Hornbill Festival in Nagaland (December) or cherry blossoms in Shillong (November), plan accordingly. Winter temperatures range from 5–20°C in hills and 10–25°C in plains.

❓ **How can I reach Northeast India from major Indian cities?**

Air travel is the most convenient option with Guwahati (Assam) serving as the main gateway, connected to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bangalore. Other airports include Bagdogra (for Sikkim), Imphal, Agartala, Dibrugarh, and Dimapur. From Guwahati, you can reach other states by road or connecting flights. Train connectivity exists to Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri (for Sikkim), and Agartala via broad gauge lines. The Rajdhani Express connects Guwahati to Delhi. Road access is possible via NH27 through West Bengal and NH37. For Sikkim, fly to Bagdogra then drive 4 hours to Gangtok. Many tourists prefer flying to Guwahati and then taking domestic flights or hiring vehicles for interstate travel. Book flights in advance as options are limited and prices can be higher than other destinations.

❓ **Do I need special permits to visit Northeast states?**

Permit requirements vary by state and visitor nationality. Indian citizens need Inner Line Permits (ILP) for Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Nagaland, obtainable online or at checkpoints. Manipur requires ILP for certain areas. No permits needed for Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Sikkim for Indians. Foreign nationals need Protected Area Permits (PAP) for Arunachal Pradesh, obtained through registered tour operators with 30-day advance application. Sikkim requires permits for certain areas like Nathula Pass and North Sikkim. For group travel, tour operators usually handle permit procedures. Apply online through official state websites or at designated counters in Delhi, Kolkata, and Guwahati. Carry multiple passport-size photos and ID proofs. Permits are usually processed within 2–7 days. Some border areas may have additional restrictions, so check current regulations before travel.

❓ **What are the local transportation options within Northeast states?**

Shared taxis and sumos are the most common intercity transport, especially in hilly regions like Sikkim and Meghalaya. State transport buses connect major towns but can be crowded and slow. Private buses offer better comfort for longer routes. In cities, auto-rickshaws, cycle-rickshaws, and local taxis are available. App-based cabs operate in Guwahati, Shillong, and Gangtok. For sightseeing, hiring a private car with driver is recommended, costing ₹2,500–4,000 per day depending on the vehicle and distance. Motorcycle rentals are popular in Sikkim and Meghalaya among adventure travelers. River transport exists in Assam via ferries across Brahmaputra. Helicopter services operate in Sikkim for scenic tours. Book vehicles in advance during peak season. Mountain roads can be challenging, so experienced local drivers are advisable. Fuel stations may be sparse in remote areas.

❓ **What types of accommodation are available and where should I stay?**

Northeast India offers diverse accommodation from luxury resorts to budget homestays. Government tourism properties provide good value with basic amenities. Luxury options include Taj Tashi (Thimphu), Mayfair Hotels (Gangtok, Shillong), and heritage properties. Mid-range hotels are abundant in major towns. Homestays are popular, especially in Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh, offering authentic cultural experiences at ₹1,000–3,000 per night. Stay in Gangtok for Sikkim exploration, Shillong for Meghalaya, Guwahati for Assam, Itanagar for Arunachal Pradesh. In remote areas, government guest houses and forest rest houses are available but require advance booking. Eco-lodges near national parks offer nature experiences. During festivals, book well in advance as accommodation fills quickly. Many properties offer package deals including meals and local sightseeing. Check for hot water availability in hill stations during winter months.

❓ **What are the must-visit attractions in Northeast India?**

Top attractions include Kaziranga National Park (Assam) for one-horned rhinos, Tawang Monastery (Arunachal Pradesh) – India's largest monastery, and Nathula Pass (Sikkim) on the Indo-China border. Shillong, the 'Scotland of East,' offers colonial charm and living root bridges in Cherrapunji. Majuli Island (Assam) is the world's largest river island with unique culture. Hornbill Festival (Nagaland) showcases tribal heritage. Loktak Lake (Manipur) features floating islands. Unakoti (Tripura) has ancient rock carvings. Adventure seekers enjoy river rafting in Arunachal Pradesh, trekking in Sikkim's Goecha La, and caving in Meghalaya's Mawsmai Caves. Tea gardens in Assam and Sikkim offer scenic beauty. Sikkim's Rumtek Monastery and Gangtok's MG Marg are cultural highlights. Each state offers unique experiences – from wildlife safaris to monastery visits and tribal village interactions.

🔗 What local foods and cuisines should I try in Northeast India?

Northeast cuisine is unique, featuring rice as staple with minimal spices and extensive use of herbs, bamboo shoots, and fermented ingredients. Must-try dishes include Assam's fish curry with khar (alkaline preparation), Sikkim's momos and thukpa, Nagaland's smoked pork with black sesame, and Manipur's Eromba (vegetable curry). Meghalaya's Jadoh (rice with meat) and Mizoram's Bai (vegetable stew) are local favorites. Fermented fish, bamboo shoot pickles, and bhut jolokia (ghost pepper) add distinctive flavors. Sikkimese cuisine shows Tibetan influence with gundruk (fermented leafy greens) and chhurpi (yak cheese). Try local rice beer, particularly Sikkim's chang and Assam's rice wine. Street food includes Assam's pitha (rice cakes) and various tribal preparations. Many dishes might be unfamiliar to outsiders, so start with milder options. Vegetarian options are available but limited in tribal areas. Local restaurants and homestays offer authentic experiences.

★ Traveller Reviews



Gunjan Tiwari

★★★★☆ 4/5

North-East Travels - An Enriching Experience

Traveling to the North-East was an enriching experience for me. The diverse ecosystems and cultures made the trip memorable. Highly recommend exploring this region!



Ranbir Choudhury

★★★★★ 5/5

Journey of a Lifetime

This North-East tour was indeed a journey of a lifetime! Beautiful landscapes, thrilling adventures, and rich culture made it all worth it. Will cherish these memories forever!



Nandita Roy

★★★★★ 5/5

Well-Organized North-East Package

The North-East tour package was well-organized with friendly staff and seamless arrangements. Every detail was taken care of and it made our travel experience delightful!



Sourabh Yadav

★★★★★ 5/5

Beautiful North-East Awaits You

The beautiful North-East awaits everyone! This tour package was filled with exciting activities and places that offered picturesque views. I can't recommend it enough!



Akanksha Mehta

★★★★☆ 4/5

Adventure Awaits in North-East

Adventure awaits in the North-East! This tour gave us thrilling experiences while also allowing us to soak in the serene beauty around us. Great trip overall!

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