

Darjeeling & Kalimpong Family Escape: Tea Trails & Toy Train

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
North-East

Duration
4 Nights 5 Days

Starting from
Rs. 13,950 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Darjeeling · 3N**

↖ **Kalimpong · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-4-nights-5-days-package-630>

Overview

a carefully curated 4 nights / 5 days North-East tour package designed for families who want a relaxed hill-station holiday filled with tea-garden walks, heritage toy-train rides, alpine views and cultural experiences. This North-East Family tour package blends iconic sunrise moments, easy nature walks and child-friendly attractions across Darjeeling and Kalimpong, making it an ideal 4 and 5 North-East Family tour package option for multi-generational travel.

Highlights:

- Sunrise at Tiger Hill & panoramic view of Kanchenjunga
- Toy Train (Darjeeling Himalayan Railway) experience
- Visit to Happy Valley Tea Estate & tea factory tour
- Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park & Himalayan Mountaineering Institute
- Deolo Hill, Zang Dhok Palri Monastery & colourful markets of Kalimpong
- Comfortable family-friendly stays with scenic views and easy transfers

Tip: Early mornings are cold and can be foggy during monsoon; carry layered clothing and a compact umbrella.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 4 nights accommodation: 3 nights in Darjeeling, 1 night in Kalimpong (standard family room or twin/double options)
- ✓ Daily breakfast at the hotel
- ✓ All transfers & sightseeing by private car (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Toy Train experience (subject to availability and permit)
- ✓ Tea garden visit & guided tea-tasting at Happy Valley Tea Estate
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide for key sightseeing (as required)
- ✓ Parking, tolls and driver allowance
- ✓ 24/7 local support during the tour

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / train tickets to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Meals other than breakfast, personal expenses, and tips
- ✗ Monument/park entry fees where applicable (unless specified)
- ✗ Any permits or fees required for the Toy Train that are not pre-booked
- ✗ Peak-season supplements, government taxes and service charges
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical expenses
- ✗ Anything not mentioned under 'Inclusions'

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Bagdogra / Transfer to Darjeeling – Leisure & Stroll at Chowrasta

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Railway Station (NJP) and enjoy a scenic drive (approx 3–4 hours) to Darjeeling. Check in to the hotel and unwind. Spend the evening at Chowrasta & Mall Road – an easy walk, light shopping and an introduction to the hill-town vibe. Rest early to prepare for the early-morning sunrise.

Day

2

Tiger Hill Sunrise, Batasia Loop & Himalayan Wildlife

Start before dawn to witness the breathtaking sunrise at Tiger Hill with a sweeping view of Kanchenjunga and the Himalayan range. Visit Batasia Loop & Ghoom Monastery on the return journey. After breakfast, explore Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute – both family-friendly and educational. Afternoon at leisure with optional short walks or a visit to the local Tibetan market. Carry warm clothing for the early morning; wildlife enclosures may have specific visiting hours.

Day

3

Toy Train Ride & Tea Garden Experience

Enjoy a morning Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (Toy Train) experience – a heritage ride that delights both kids and adults (subject to train schedules/availability). Visit Happy Valley Tea Estate for a guided tea plantation walk and factory tour with tastings. Spend the late afternoon exploring the Peace Pagoda / Japanese Temple or leisurely shopping at Ladenla Road / Nehru Road. Toy Train seats are subject to availability; pre-booking is recommended.

Day

4

Scenic Drive to Kalimpong – Deolo Hill & Local Explorer

After breakfast, drive to Kalimpong (approx 1.5–2 hours). On arrival, check in and head out to Deolo Hill for panoramic views and family-friendly picnic spots. Visit Zang Dhok Palri Monastery (Durpin Monastery), Pine View Nursery and stroll the colorful local markets. Evening at leisure sampling local cuisine and handicrafts. Kalimpong's market is ideal for picking Himalayan handicrafts and teas.

Day

5

Return to Bagdogra / Departure

After breakfast, check out and transfer back to Bagdogra Airport / NJP for departure. En route, optional short stops for photographs or local snacks. End of the Darjeeling & Kalimpong Family Escape: Tea Trails & Toy Train package. Allow adequate time for traffic and mountain roads when booking onward flights/trains.

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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