

# Sikkim Scenic Loop: Gangtok, Tsomgo Lake & Local Markets

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination

**North-East**



Duration

**4 Nights 5 Days**



Starting from

**Rs. 15,600 / person**

**ITINERARY ROUTE**

↩ **Gangtok · 4N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-4-nights-5-days-package-631>

## Overview

---

Sikkim Scenic Loop: Gangtok, Tsomgo Lake & Local Markets – A 4 nights / 5 days curated North-East tour package ideal for families and couples. Explore the vibrant hill capital Gangtok, visit the pristine Tsomgo Lake and Baba Mandir, enjoy scenic viewpoints, and shop at bustling local markets. This itinerary is optimized for a comfortable family retreat and appears in searches as a top North-East tour package, North-East Family tour package, and North-East Family package. Also suitable when searching for 4 and 5 North-East Family tour package options.

### Highlights:

- Gangtok city sightseeing: MG Road, Flower Exhibition Centre, Rumtek Monastery
- Tsomgo Lake & Baba Mandir day excursion with yak rides and photo stops
- Panoramic viewpoints: Tashi Viewpoint, Hanuman Tok
- Local markets & handicrafts shopping on MG Road and Lal Bazaar
- Comfortable stay with easy day trips – ideal for families

Note: Nathula Pass is optional and requires a special permit (closed on Mondays and often subject to military restrictions). Tsomgo Lake is at high altitude; acclimatize on arrival and follow the guide's advice.

### ✓ What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights accommodation in Gangtok (standard / deluxe options available)
- ✓ Daily breakfast at the hotel
- ✓ Private transfers and sightseeing by comfortable SUV/Etios/Cruiser as per group size
- ✓ All sightseeing and road permits for the standard itinerary (Tsomgo Lake)
- ✓ Experienced local driver guide for sightseeing days
- ✓ Parking charges and tolls
- ✓ 24/7 emergency support

### ✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / Train tickets to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, and portage
- ✗ Nathula Pass permit and entry (optional and subject to military clearance)
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in inclusions
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical expenses
- ✗ Any activity labeled optional (yak rides, cable car, etc.)
- ✗ GST or local taxes if applicable

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

---

Day

1

### **Arrival & Leisurely Evening in Gangtok**

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Railway Station and transfer to Gangtok (approx. 4-5 hours by road). Check into your hotel and rest. In the evening, stroll along MG Road for a relaxed introduction to the city — shop for souvenirs, try local snacks, and enjoy the peaceful pedestrian promenade.

Tip: Keep hydrated and take it easy on the first day to acclimatize to the altitude.

Day

2

### **Tsomgo Lake & Baba Mandir Excursion**

Full-day excursion to Tsomgo Lake (Changu Lake) and Baba Harbhajan Mandir. Enjoy the scenic drive through mountain passes, photo stops, and optional yak rides at the lake. Visit the holy Baba Mandir nearby. Return to Gangtok by evening.

Important: Tsomgo Lake sits at high altitude (~12,400 ft). Carry warm clothing and a valid photo ID for permit formalities. Nathula Pass can be added on request with advance permits (subject to availability and restrictions).

Day

3

### **Gangtok Local Sightseeing: Monasteries & Viewpoints**

Explore cultural and spiritual highlights around Gangtok: visit Rumtek Monastery, Do Drul Chorten & Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, and the Flower Exhibition Centre. Stop at Tashi Viewpoint and Hanuman Tok for panoramic mountain vistas. Learn about local Sikkimese-Buddhist culture and enjoy tea/coffee at a hilltop café.

Tip: Morning visits often provide the clearest views of the mountains.

Day

4

### **Markets, Handicrafts & Optional Activities**

Spend the morning exploring Lal Bazaar, government emporiums, and local handicraft shops for authentic Sikkimese shawls, masks, and handicrafts. Afternoon at leisure: choose an optional cable car/ropeway ride, a visit to the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, or a gentle nature walk.

Note: Shopping is ideal for family souvenirs; look for certified emporiums for authentic products.

Day

5

## Departure from Gangtok

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and transfer back to Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Railway Station for your onward journey. If time permits, stop en route for photos or a short riverside tea break.

Tip: Depending on your departure time, confirm road timings with your hotel to avoid peak-hour delays.

## 🔗 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!

## **⚡ 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/north-east/north-east-4-nights-5-days-package-631>