

Manipur Cultural & Loktak Lake Retreat: Islands & Heritage

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination

North-East



Duration

5 Nights 6 Days



Starting from

Rs. 16,600 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↙ **Imphal · 3N**

↙ **Loktak Lake / Moirang Area · 2N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-5-nights-6-days-package-654>

Overview

a specially curated 5 nights / 6 days North-East tour package focused on culture, pilgrimage and the unique wetlands of Manipur. This North-East Pilgrimage tour package combines spiritual visits, living heritage villages and the world-famous Loktak Lake with its floating islands and the Keibul Lamjao National Park (the only floating national park). Ideal as a North-East Pilgrimage package or as a nature-culture retreat, this itinerary works as a classic 5 and 6 North-East Pilgrimage tour package for travelers seeking both devotion and discovery.

Highlights:

- Loktak Lake boat rides & floating islands (Sendra, Thanga)
- Keibul Lamjao National Park – spot the brow-antlered deer (Sangai)
- Imphal city heritage: Kangla Fort, Shree Govindajee Temple, Ima Keithel (women's market)
- Traditional craft village of Andro and pottery demonstrations
- Khongjom War Memorial & INA Historic sites

Special note: Best visited Oct–May for clear weather and easier access to islands and park trails.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation for 5 nights (as per selected category)
- ✓ All sightseeing and transfers as per itinerary by private vehicle
- ✓ Boat excursion on Loktak Lake (shared/private as per package)
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide for selected sights
- ✓ Entrance fees to listed monuments & Keibul Lamjao (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 x dinners (as specified)
- ✓ Cultural program in Imphal (subject to availability)
- ✓ This package is ideal for travelers looking for a North-East Pilgrimage tour package with a cultural-nature focus.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Flights / Train fares to/from Imphal
- ✗ Personal insurance, optional activities and tips
- ✗ Meals not specified in inclusions
- ✗ Permits or fees if applicable for certain villages (if any)
- ✗ Any expenses of personal nature (laundry, phone calls, etc.)
- ✗ Please note seasonal boat or park restrictions may apply; final confirmation will be shared at booking.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival & Imphal Orientation

Arrive at Imphal International Airport. Meet and transfer to your hotel. Rest and refresh. Later enjoy a relaxed orientation walk around Imphal: visit the serene banks of the Imphal River and take in local street life. Evening briefing about the North-East Pilgrimage tour package and logistics.

Tip: Carry light woolens – mornings and evenings can be cool.

Day

2

Imphal Cultural & Pilgrimage Circuit

Full day exploring Imphal's living heritage. Visit Kangla Fort (ancient seat of Manipur royalty), the historic Shree Govindajee Temple – an important pilgrimage site for Vaishnavite devotees – and the Manipur State Museum for an overview of local tribes and traditions. Shop at Ima Keithel (the famous women-run market) for handicrafts and textiles.

Note: Dress respectfully when visiting temples; photography may be restricted in some areas.

Day

3

Khongjom & Local History

Drive to Khongjom to visit the Khongjom War Memorial, commemorating the Anglo-Manipuri War and offering panoramic hill views. On the way back stop at local craft shops and a small village shrine for a glimpse of everyday devotional life. Evening cultural program in Imphal with a classical Manipuri dance performance (subject to availability).

Special tip: Carry a water bottle and sun protection for the light hill trek to the memorial.

Day

4

Transfer to Loktak Lake & Boat Excursion

Check out and transfer to Loktak Lake (approx. 1–1.5 hours). Board a motorboat to explore the shimmering expanse of Loktak Lake – visit the floating phumdi islands including Sendra and Thanga. Experience local fisherfolk life and enjoy a lakeside picnic. Evening at a lakeside eco-lodge with views of floating islands.

Important: Boat rides are weather dependent. Keep footwear easy to remove for boarding.

Day

5

Keibul Lamjao & Heritage Villages

Morning excursion to Keibul Lamjao National Park – the only floating national park and habitat of the endemic Sangai (brow-antlered deer). Guided ranger/wildlife watch (early morning is best for sightings). Afterward visit the traditional craft village of Andro to see pottery and loom weaving demonstrations and learn about local martial arts and folklore.

Note: Wildlife sightings can't be guaranteed; binoculars and quiet observation increase chances.

Day

6

Relaxation, Shopping & Departure

Return to Imphal for last-minute shopping or temple visits – revisit Shree Govindajee Temple or explore small temples and markets near the city center. Transfer to Imphal airport for your onward flight. Conclude the North-East tour package with memories of islands, heritage and pilgrimage.

Tip: Allow extra time for airport transfers; traffic and weather can affect schedules.

? 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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