

Gangtok to North Sikkim Panorama: Lakes, Valleys & Local Markets

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination

North-East



Duration

6 Nights 7 Days



Starting from

Rs. 24,900 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↙ **Gangtok · 4N**

↙ **Lachen · 1N**

↙ **Lachung · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-6-nights-7-days-package-655>

Overview

A scenic 6 nights / 7 days North-East tour package that blends serene mountain lakes, lush rhododendron valleys, traditional markets and cultural stops across Sikkim. Ideal for travelers seeking the best of the northeast, this North-East Adventure tour package covers Gangtok, Lachen and Lachung and includes visits to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake, Baba Harbhajan Mandir, Gurudongmar Lake, Yumthang Valley, and the vibrant MG Marg market. This itinerary is crafted as a signature 6 and 7 North-East Adventure tour package and works well for both first-time visitors and seasoned trekkers looking for moderate-altitude experiences.

Highlights:

- Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Harbhajan Mandir
- Gurudongmar Lake (high-altitude gem)
- Yumthang Valley & Zero Point / Yumesamdong
- Gangtok local markets: MG Marg, Lal Bazaar
- Traditional monasteries: Rumtek, Enchey, Lachung Monastery

Note: Some high-altitude visits (Gurudongmar, Zero Point) require early starts and are subject to weather and permit availability. Carry warm layers and acclimatize in Gangtok before ascending.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation as per the itinerary (3/4 options available on request)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (full-board on Lachen/Lachung days may be included as specified)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle (as per group size) with local driver
- ✓ Inner-line permits and local permits as required (subject to availability)
- ✓ All tolls, parking and driver allowances
- ✓ Local guide for Gangtok sightseeing and North Sikkim excursions (where applicable)
- ✓ Inclusions may vary slightly by operator; confirm at time of booking.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / train tickets to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, and portage
- ✗ Meals not specified in inclusions (lunch & dinner unless mentioned)
- ✗ Mandatory permits that require individual processing fees (if any)
- ✗ Any additional activities not mentioned in the itinerary (yak rides, etc.)
- ✗ Emergency evacuation, travel insurance, and medical expenses
- ✗ Exclusions are standard – obtain travel insurance and review permit requirements before travel.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Gangtok — Transfer & Evening at MG Marg

Arrival at Bagdogra Airport or NJP Railway Station. Transfer to Gangtok (approx 4–5 hours) with scenic views of the Himalayan foothills. Check into the hotel and relax. In the evening, take a leisurely stroll to MG Marg and nearby Lal Bazaar to experience local flavors and handicrafts.

Tip: Keep your passport/ID handy for hotel check-in and permits. Stay hydrated after travel.

Day

2

Gangtok City & Monastery Highlights

Full-day sightseeing around Gangtok visiting cultural and spiritual sites: Rumtek Monastery (one of Sikkim's most important monasteries), Enchey Monastery, and the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. Stop at the Directorate of Handicrafts to see local crafts. Evening free to explore cafes and local markets.

Important: Rumtek may have restricted photography areas; please respect monastery rules.

Day

3

Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Harbhajan Mandir Excursion

Early morning drive to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake — a high-altitude glacial lake known for its turquoise waters and yak rides (seasonal). Visit the revered Baba Harbhajan Mandir nearby. Return to Gangtok by evening and relax. This day offers iconic Sikkim photography opportunities.

Note: Altitude at Tsomgo is ~12,400 ft; visitors may feel mild breathlessness. Carry sunscreen and warm clothing.

Day

4

Gangtok to Lachen — Scenic Drive via Chungthang

Depart early for Lachen, passing through Chungthang and scenic viewpoints like the Seven Sisters Waterfall and Singhik viewpoint. Arrive in Lachen by late afternoon, check into your guesthouse or hotel and brief orientation about the next day's early excursion to Gurudongmar Lake.

Tip: Roads can be narrow and winding — choose a reliable vehicle and driver experienced with mountain routes.

Day

5

Gurudongmar Lake Excursion & Transfer to Lachung

Very early morning drive to Gurudongmar Lake, one of the highest lakes accessible by road in India. Spend time at the lake (respect local regulations) and return to Lachen for breakfast. Post-brunch, travel to Lachung, enjoy the scenic valley and visit Lachung Monastery. Evening at leisure to explore the village.

Important: Gurudongmar is at extreme altitude – limited facilities, sudden weather changes possible. Prior acclimatization and medical precautions are recommended.

Day

6

Yumthang Valley (Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary) & Zero Point

Visit Yumthang Valley, famed for its fragrant meadows and rhododendron blooms (seasonal). Continue to Zero Point / Yumesamdong (subject to road and permit conditions) for expansive snowfields and panoramic views. Return to Gangtok in the evening for a final overnight stay and relaxation.

Tip: Flower season (Mar–May) is spectacular for photography; winter visits may have snow and limited accessibility beyond Yumthang.

Day

7

Departure – Shopping & Transfer Out

After breakfast, spend any remaining time shopping for souvenirs at MG Marg or visiting a local tea shop. Check out from the hotel and transfer to Bagdogra Airport / NJP Railway Station for your onward journey.

Note: Allow ample time for traffic and mountain road delays when planning 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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