

# Sikkim & Darjeeling Grand Tour: Hill Stations, Toy Train & Lakes

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination

**North-East**



Duration

**6 Nights 7 Days**



Starting from

**Rs. 21,700 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↙ **Darjeeling · 2N**

↙ **Pelling · 1N**

↙ **Gangtok · 3N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-6-nights-7-days-package-658>

## Overview

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Sikkim & Darjeeling Grand Tour: Hill Stations, Toy Train & Lakes – A 6N/7D curated North-East tour package designed for families and nature lovers. This North-East Family tour package blends the colonial charm of Darjeeling, serene hillscapes of Sikkim, sacred lakes and toy train experiences. Ideal as a North-East tour package or a North-East Family package, it covers scenic viewpoints, cultural monasteries, lakes like Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Khecheopalri Lake, and a memorable Darjeeling Toy Train ride. Perfect for families seeking comfortable stays, kid-friendly sightseeing and hassle-free transfers.

### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 6 nights accommodation in family-friendly hotels (twin / triple sharing)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (select 3 dinners can be included on request)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary
- ✓ Pick-up from Bagdogra / NJP and drop-off to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide for selected sightseeing (where applicable)
- ✓ Permits for Tsomgo Lake excursion (land permit; Nathu La permits not included unless pre-arranged)
- ✓ Entry fees to included monuments where applicable
- ✓ 24/7 tour assistance and emergency support
- ✓ This North-East Family Retreat tour package is ideal for families seeking hassle-free travel across Darjeeling and Sikkim.

### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / Train fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Nathu La entry permit (special permit; can be arranged at extra cost)
- ✗ Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, tips, and portorage
- ✗ Meals not specified in inclusions (lunches & some dinners)
- ✗ Travel insurance and medical expenses
- ✗ Any optional activities (yak ride, souvenir shopping) unless specified
- ✗ GST and government taxes (if applicable)

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival & Transfer to Darjeeling — Settle into the Hill Station**

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station. Meet and greet by our representative and drive to Darjeeling (approx. 3–4 hours). Check-in at the hotel and relax. Evening at leisure: stroll along Mall Road and enjoy local eateries. Early arrival recommended to acclimatize.

Day

2

### **Darjeeling Sunrise, Toy Train & Local Sightseeing**

Early morning drive to Tiger Hill to witness the spectacular sunrise over Kanchenjunga. Return via Batasia Loop and Ghoom Monastery. After breakfast, experience a short Darjeeling Toy Train joy ride (subject to availability). Afternoon visits include Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and local markets. Carry warm clothes for sunrise.

Day

3

### **Darjeeling to Pelling — Scenic Drive & Cultural Sights**

Check-out after breakfast and drive to Pelling in West Sikkim (approx. 4–5 hours). En route, enjoy panoramic mountain vistas and stops for photographs. On arrival, visit the Pemayangtse Monastery and watch the sunset over the snow-capped peaks. Roads are hilly; light luggage recommended.

Day

4

### **Pelling: Khecheopalri Lake, Rabdentse Ruins & Local Exploration**

Full-day exploration of Pelling and nearby attractions. Visit the sacred Khecheopalri Lake (Kha-Chot-Palri) — a tranquil spot believed to fulfill wishes. Explore Rabdentse Ruins, Rimbi Waterfalls and local viewpoints offering stunning views of Kanchenjunga. Evening at leisure in Pelling. Ideal for family photos and short nature walks.

Day

5

### **Pelling to Gangtok — Arrival & Evening Stroll**

After breakfast, drive to Gangtok (approx. 4 hours). Check-in at hotel and refresh. Evening free for an easy walk on MG Marg, shopping for local handicrafts, and sampling Sikkimese cuisine. Gangtok offers easy accessibility and family-friendly dining options.

Day

6

### **Tsomgo (Changu) Lake & Baba Harbhajan Sahib Excursion**

Full-day excursion to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake and Baba Harbhajan Sahib (approx. 2 hours one-way). Enjoy the alpine lake surrounded by snow-clad peaks; optional yak rides and local snacks available. If permits are arranged in advance and weather permits, extension to Nathu La Pass can be included at extra cost. Return to Gangtok by evening. Carry ID for permits and altitude precautionary meds if needed.

Day

7

## Departure: Transfer to Bagdogra / NJP

After breakfast, check-out and transfer to Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station for your onward journey. En route photo stops as time permits. Tour ends with warm memories of a family-friendly North-East retreat. Check departure flight/train times and leave with ample buffer for hilly-road transfers.

## 🔗 Frequently Asked Questions

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### 🔗 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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ 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?**

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Personalized guidance from verified travel experts who understand your needs.

### **✂️ Customizable Packages**

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 **Hassle-Free Booking**

Smooth, secure, and simple booking process without any stress or confusion.

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Multiple free quotes and booking at the most competitive rates available.

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