

Ultimate 7-Night Northeast Explorer: Sikkim, Darjeeling & Kalimpong

Prepared by TourGrids

Destination
North-East

Duration
7 Nights 8 Days

Starting from
Rs. 34,900 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↙ **Gangtok · 3N**

↙ **Kalimpong · 1N**

↙ **Darjeeling · 3N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-7-nights-8-days-package-664>

Overview

A specially curated North–East tour package perfect for families and groups who want a compact yet immersive experience. This North–East Family tour package covers the highlights of Gangtok (Sikkim), Kalimpong, and Darjeeling over 7 nights and 8 days. Enjoy scenic drives, tea gardens, monasteries, high–altitude lakes, and sunrise views over the Himalayas.

Highlights:

- Gangtok: Tsomgo Lake, Rumtek Monastery, MG Marg
- Kalimpong: Deolo Hill, local markets & nurseries
- Darjeeling: Tiger Hill sunrise, Batasia Loop, tea gardens
- Scenic drives, local culture, family–friendly sightseeing

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 7 nights accommodation (standard / heritage hotels as per package)
- ✓ Daily breakfast
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Experienced driver and fuel, tolls, parking
- ✓ Arrival and departure transfer from Bagdogra/NJP
- ✓ Local permits for Tsomgo Lake and routine sightseeing (Nathula permit extra if applicable)
- ✓ Parking, driver allowances, and applicable taxes
- ✓ 24/7 emergency assistance
- ✓ Note: Package can be customized for family–specific needs (child seats, family rooms).

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ Airfare / Train fares to Bagdogra or NJP
- ✗ Meals not mentioned (lunch & dinner)
- ✗ Monument / park entry fees, camera fees, and special permits (Nathula Pass permit if selected)
- ✗ Travel insurance, portorage, and tips
- ✗ Any personal expenses, shopping, or optional activities not mentioned
- ✗ Peak season surcharges (if applicable)
- ✗ Important: Nathula Pass visits require advance permits and may incur additional government/military charges.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Siliguri/Bagdogra & Transfer to Gangtok

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station. Meet your driver and enjoy a scenic 4-5 hour drive to Gangtok. Check in to your hotel and relax. Evening at leisure to explore MG Marg – a pedestrian promenade with shops, cafes, and local snacks.

Tip: Carry warm clothing for evenings; road conditions may lengthen travel time.

Day

2

Gangtok – Local Sightseeing

Explore Gangtok's spiritual and cultural highlights. Visit Rumtek Monastery (one of Sikkim's largest), Enchey Monastery, Do Drul Chorten Stupa, and the nearby Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. Return to town for an evening stroll and optional shopping.

Note: Most sites are family-friendly but involve short walks and steps.

Day

3

Tsomgo Lake & Baba Mandir (Optional Nathula Pass)

Day trip to Tsomgo (Changu) Lake – a serene glacial lake set against snow-clad peaks. Continue to Baba Harbhajan Singh Mandir, a small but revered shrine. Optional: Visit Nathula Pass (Indo-China border) subject to permits and weather conditions.

Important: Nathula Pass requires special permits and may be closed due to weather or military requirements. Carry ID for permit processing.

Day

4

Drive to Kalimpong – Evening at Leisure

After breakfast, drive to Kalimpong (approx. 4 hours). En route enjoy panoramic views and optional stops at viewpoints and tea gardens. On arrival, check in and unwind. Evening free to explore the local market and sample local cuisine.

Tip: Kalimpong is known for its nurseries – a quick stroll to see orchids and alpine plants is recommended.

Day

5

Kalimpong Local Sightseeing & Transfer to Darjeeling

Morning visit to Deolo Hill for sweeping valley views and Durpin Monastery. Explore the flower nurseries and local handicraft markets. After lunch, drive to Darjeeling (approx. 3 hours). Evening at Chowrasta / Mall Road for shopping and tea tasting.

Note: Short walks and modest inclines at viewpoints – suitable for families.

Day

6

Darjeeling – Tiger Hill Sunrise & Heritage Tour

Start very early for the iconic Tiger Hill sunrise to view Mount Kanchenjunga and Mount Everest on clear days. Return to Darjeeling to visit Batasia Loop, Ghoom Monastery, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), and Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. Afternoon visit to a Tea Garden to learn about tea processing and enjoy a tasting session.

Tip: Carry layered clothing for early sunrise departures – temperature drops significantly.

Day

7

Darjeeling – Leisure Day & Optional Toy Train / Excursions

A relaxed day to explore Darjeeling at your pace. Options include a heritage Darjeeling Toy Train (subject to availability), a day trip to Mirik (Sumendu Lake), or visiting lesser-known viewpoints and Himalayan Bazaars for souvenirs.

Important: Toy Train seats are limited; book in advance if this is a priority.

Day

8

Departure – Transfer to Bagdogra / NJP for Onward Journey

After breakfast, check out and drive to Bagdogra Airport or NJP Railway Station for your onward journey. En route photo stops and a brief visit to a tea estate (time permitting).

Farewell note: Keep buffer time for mountain traffic and road conditions when booking onward travel.

🔗 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?

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