

Darjeeling Tea & Trek: Kanchenjunga Views & Hill Homestays

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination

North-East



Duration

5 Nights 6 Days



Starting from

Rs. 19,300 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Darjeeling · 3N**

↖ **Lamahatta / Takdah · 1N**

↖ **Mirik · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-5-nights-6-days-package-671>

Overview

a curated 5-night / 6-day North-East tour package that blends iconic tea-country experiences, gentle treks with panoramic Kanchenjunga views, and authentic hill homestays. Perfect for travelers seeking a relaxed yet adventurous North-East Adventure tour package that showcases Darjeeling's colonial charm, tea estates, sunrise mountain vistas, and community-based stays. This itinerary is tailored as a 5 and 6 North-East Adventure tour package ideal for couples, small groups, and solo travelers who want immersive cultural and nature experiences.

Highlights:

- Sunrise at Tiger Hill with panoramic views of Mount Kanchenjunga
- Happy Valley Tea Estate guided tasting and tea-walk
- Batasia Loop & Ghoom Monastery scenic stops
- Authentic hill homestays in Lamahatta/Takdah with local meals
- Gentle guided day-trekkings through tea trails and forested ridgelines

Tip: This package is best between October and May for clear mountain views; monsoon months may have limited visibility.

✓ What's Included

- ✓ Comfortable accommodation for 5 nights (3 nights in Darjeeling, 1 night in Lamahatta/Takdah homestay, 1 night in Mirik)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 3 set dinners (homestay dinner experiences included)
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle as per itinerary (Bagdogra/NJP pickup and drop-off)
- ✓ Guided tea estate visit and tasting at Happy Valley Tea Estate
- ✓ Guided day trek with experienced local guide and basic trekking permits
- ✓ Homestay experiences, cultural interactions, and cooking demo
- ✓ Entrance fees to listed monuments and attractions
- ✓ Government taxes and service charges
- ✓ Note: We provide a local SIM / emergency contact and a short pre-trip briefing.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ Airfare / train fare to Bagdogra / NJP
- ✗ Any personal expenses (hotels calls, laundry, phone calls)
- ✗ Travel insurance (mandatory)
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages and meals not specified in inclusions
- ✗ Tips and gratuities for drivers, guides, and homestay hosts
- ✗ Peak season surcharge (if applicable) and permit fees not listed
- ✗ Tip: Pack warm layers, a lightweight rain jacket, sturdy walking shoes, and holiday medicines. Monsoon season may affect visibility and some trails.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival & Introduction to Darjeeling

Arrival at Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri (NJP) Railway Station. Drive (approx. 3-4 hours) to Darjeeling via scenic hill roads. Check in at your hotel and unwind. Afternoon stroll on Mall Road and a relaxed orientation walk. Short visit to Happy Valley Tea Estate for an introductory tea-tasting session and a gentle tea-garden walk to learn about orthodox tea processing.

Important: Allow time for acclimatization to the altitude. Light activity recommended on arrival day.

Day

2

Sunrise at Tiger Hill & Darjeeling Sightseeing

Early pre-dawn drive to Tiger Hill to witness sunrise over the Himalayas – spectacular views of Mount Kanchenjunga and, on clear days, Mount Everest. Return to Darjeeling for breakfast. Visit Batasia Loop, Ghoom Monastery, and the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre.

Afternoon tea plantation walk and optional short photography walk through colonial lanes. Evening free for shopping at the Tibetan Market or a cozy cafe with panoramic hill views.

Day

3

Guided Hill Trek & Cultural Immersion

After breakfast, set out on a guided day trek along a scenic ridge/tea-trail near Darjeeling (gentle/moderate grade, 3-5 hours depending on pace). Walk through forest patches, rhododendron groves, and tea terraces with panoramic glimpses of Kanchenjunga. Picnic lunch en route.

Return in late afternoon for a cultural session with a local family (tea-plucking demonstration and traditional snacks) or visit local handicraft shops to learn about traditional weaving and paper products.

Note: Trek difficulty can be customized – inform us ahead if you prefer a lighter or more challenging route.

Day

4

Transfer to Hill Homestay – Lamahatta / Takdah Experience

Drive to the quieter hill hamlet of Lamahatta or Takdah for an authentic homestay experience amid tea gardens and pine forests. Check in to a community-run homestay. Afternoon village walk with your host – tea-plucking demonstrations in season, local kitchen tour and a hands-on cooking demo of a traditional hill meal.

Evening: sit outdoors for star-gazing and listen to folk stories. Dinner with locally sourced produce.

Highlights: Personalized hospitality, home-cooked meals, small-group interactions.

Day

5

Birdwatching, Short Trek & Mirik Lake

Early morning birdwatching or a short sunrise walk to a nearby viewpoint to catch another angle of Kanchenjunga. After breakfast, drive to Mirik (approx. 2–3 hours). On arrival, enjoy boating on Sumendu Lake, explore the lakeside gardens, and stroll through the local market.

Evening: relaxed stay at a lakeside homestay or boutique hotel, with a final group dinner featuring regional delicacies.

Day

6

Return & Departure

After breakfast, drive back to Bagdogra Airport / NJP for onward travel. En route, optional stop at Batasia Loop or a roadside viewpoint for final photo ops and purchase of any last-minute tea packs or souvenirs.

Important: Departure timing depends on your flight/train schedule. We recommend allowing 5–6 hours for the transfer to Bagdogra/NJP on the day of departure.

🔍 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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