

# Nagaland Festival Experience: Hornbill Festival & Tribal Tours

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination

**North-East**



Duration

**5 Nights 6 Days**



Starting from

**Rs. 22,400 / person**

**ITINERARY ROUTE**

↙ **Kohima · 4N**

↘ **Khonoma · 1N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/north-east/north-east-5-nights-6-days-package-677>

## Overview

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Nagaland Festival Experience: Hornbill Festival & Tribal Tours - A specially curated 5-night / 6-day North-East tour package ideal for families and culture seekers. Experience the iconic Hornbill Festival at Kisama, immersive tribal village visits, traditional Naga cuisine, and guided cultural interactions across Kohima and surrounding heritage villages. This North-East Family tour package blends vibrant festival performances, handicraft markets, and gentle nature walks for a memorable family-friendly escape. Book early: Hornbill Festival runs on fixed dates in December and seats/facilities sell out fast.

### ✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 5 nights accommodation: 4 nights in Kohima + 1 night Khonoma homestay/eco-lodge
- ✓ Daily breakfast (5) and 2-3 festival-style dinners (as per program)
- ✓ Arrival & departure transfers (Dimapur " Kohima)
- ✓ All local transfers and sightseeing in a private vehicle as per itinerary
- ✓ Hornbill Festival entry and event coordination (basic entry passes)
- ✓ Local English-speaking guide and village hosts
- ✓ Applicable permits & local taxes
- ✓ Family-friendly activities and village interaction fees (as listed)

### ✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International/domestic flights to Dimapur or train fare
- ✗ Travel insurance, personal expenses, tips/gratuities
- ✗ Alcoholic beverages and extra meals not mentioned above
- ✗ Optional activities/workshops not pre-booked (charges may apply)
- ✗ Any early check-in/late check-out fees
- ✗ Items of a personal nature (laundry, phone calls, etc.)
- ✗ Festival VIP passes or special front-row seating (available at extra cost)

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival, Transfer to Kohima & Evening at Hornbill Festival**

Arrive at Dimapur Airport/Railway Station. Meet and greet, then transfer to Kohima (approx. 2 hours). Check in to the hotel and rest. In the evening, head to Kisama Heritage Village for the opening/night performances of the Hornbill Festival: enjoy tribal dances, the Hornbill pageant, and sample local snacks at the festival food stalls.

Activities: light orientation walk, festival evening program.

Travel tip: Carry light warm clothing for evenings (temperatures can drop).

Day

2

### **Full Day: Hornbill Festival Immersion**

Spend a full day at the Hornbill Festival (Kisama Heritage Village). Watch dedicated tribal performance arenas, witness the Hornbill Pageant, attend cultural showcases inside morungs, and browse the expansive Handicraft & Food Bazaar featuring authentic Naga textiles, woodcrafts, and traditional cuisine.

Family focus: Children's cultural workshops and family-friendly performances are scheduled across the day.

Highlights of the day: Tribal dance arenas, morung demonstrations, indigenous musical instruments, and live stage events.

Day

3

### **Kohima Local Sights & Transfer to Khonoma Village**

Morning guided sightseeing of Kohima: visit the Kohima War Cemetery and the Nagaland State Museum to learn about local history and tribal heritage. After lunch, drive to Khonoma, an award-winning Naga eco-village known for community conservation and traditional Ao Naga culture. Check into a village homestay or eco-lodge.

Experience: Evening village interaction — be welcomed by villagers, try local dishes, and hear folk stories.

Note: Homestay comforts are basic but authentic; this is ideal for families seeking cultural immersion.

Day

4

### **Khonoma Cultural Walk & Return to Kohima – Evening Hornbill Events**

Start the day with a guided village walk in Khonoma – explore terraced fields, traditional houses, and conservation projects. Participate in a short hands-on craft demonstration or local cooking session (subject to availability). After lunch, return to Kohima and spend the evening back at the Hornbill Festival attending late-night concerts, fashion shows, and tribal competitions.

Special: Opportunity for family photos in traditional Naga attire (with local hosts).

Tip: Keep light cash for small purchases at village stalls and festival vendors.

Day

5

### **Mopungchuket Heritage Village, Workshops & Free Festival Time**

Day trip to Mopungchuket, one of the best-preserved Naga heritage villages offering scenic viewpoints, traditional crafts, and village museums. Enjoy optional craft workshops (weaving, traditional ornament-making) and lunch with a local family. Return to Kohima for free time at the festival – shop the Handicraft Market, catch any performances you missed, and savor Naga specialties.

Family-friendly options: Short guided nature trails and kids' craft corners (seasonal).

Note: Workshop availability may vary; pre-book recommended activities where possible.

Day

6

### **Departure from Dimapur – Transfer & Farewell**

Check out after breakfast. Transfer from Kohima to Dimapur Airport/Railway Station. If time permits, stop at local markets in Dimapur for last-minute souvenirs. Bid farewell to Nagaland with memories of tribal performances, cultural interactions, and family moments from the Hornbill Festival.

Important: Allow sufficient buffer time for the transfer (journey approx. 2–3 hours depending on traffic).

## **🔍 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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## ❓ **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.

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## 🔗 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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Because your dream vacation deserves the best! From expert advice to personalized trips, easy booking, and unbeatable deals — we make travel stress-free and fun!

### ⚡ Expert-Guided Planning

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