

North Sikkim

This **easy** combined cultural, sightseeing and trek itinerary explores India's picturesque Sikkim state. There is an easy two day trek along the ridge north of Darjeeling with stunning views of Kanchenjunga, village-scapes and tea plantations. Monasteries, tea plantations, vintage steam trains, and plenty of day and part day walks are included in this comfortable exploration of Sikkim's charming hill country.

Visit Kolkata, Darjeeling, Goom, Tumling, Sombaria, Rinchenpong, Pelling, Gantok, Tsomogo Lake.



Length of trip **15 days**
5 walking days.
1 overnight trek

Accommodation **Hotels,**

Meals included **Yes**

Travel Style **Porter supported overnight trek.**

Escort **Local English speaking guide**

Maximum group **12**

Sightseeing and entry fees **Included**

Commences **Kolkata**
6th April 2012

Concludes **Kolkata**
20th April 2012

COST **NZ\$4,900**
based on twin share.
Single Rm Sup NZ\$675
(prices subject to change)



Itinerary at a Glance :

Day 1 Arrive Kolkata

Met at the airport by our representative and transfer to the hotel.

Day 2 Train to New Jalpaiguri

Today we have time for sightseeing in Kolkata until transfer to the station for the Darjeeling Mail overnight train to New Jalpaiguri.

Day 3 To Darjeeling (2134m)

AM arrival at New Jalpaiguri and transfer for the drive up to Darjeeling. Check into the hotel and enjoy a leisurely stroll in the town.

Day 4 Darjeeling

This morning sightseeing in Darjeeling to the Everest Museum, Observatory Hill and Tibetan Refugee Centre. This afternoon take the 'toy' train to Goom and return late afternoon.

Day 5 Trek to Tumling (3000m)

Today we head off for the two day trek. Transfer 2.5hrs to Dhodray and commence the easy forest trek along the ridge/border with Nepal to Tumling village.

Day 6 Trek to Garibas/Darjeeling

Today there is an opportunity to rise for the sunrise and a short trek to the ridge for stunning views of Kanchenjunga, Makalu, Baruntse, Chamlang and Everest. Breakfast back at the lodge then set off on the easy trail for the trek to Garibas. Transfer back to Darjeeling.

Day 7 To Sombaria (1128m)

We have a transfer of about 5hrs today to reach Sombaria. Along the way we'll stop at a tea plantation and expect to arrive at the guest house late PM.

Day 8 To Rinchenpong (2000m)

Today drive up the valley to Hilley for the 5 hr easy trek through forest and Rhododendron glades to Soreng. Transfer by road to Rinchenpong.

Day 9 To Pelling (2008m)

This morning we will visit the Rinchenpong Monastery and learn a little of the indigenous Lepcha culture. Afternoon drive about 4hrs to Pelling.

Day 10 Pelling

We can walk up to the path to Pemayangste Monastery above the town this morning. After lunch a short drive down to take the short trail to Rabdantse, historical capital of Sikkim. Overnight at Pelling.

Day 11 To Gangtok (1547m)

This morning we are off on the hill road to the bustling hilltop capital Gangtok. The distance isn't great as 'the crow flies' but the drive will take about 5 hrs.

Day 12 Gangtok

Sightseeing in and around Gangtok today where we will visit the Research Institute of Tibetology and Phurba Chorten as well as the Institute of Handcraft Industries.

Day 13 To Tsomogo Lake

Today we are off towards the Indo-China border for an excursion to Tsomogo Lake., about 35km from Gangtok. If possible drive further up the switchbacks to the border at Nathu La (4100m)

Day 14 To Rumtek

We have a full day of excursions. First to Rumtek Monastery and then on a village trek to learn something of the local way of life. Return to Gangtok late afternoon.

Day 15 To Kolkata

Morning drive approx 200km down to Bagdora to connect with the flight to Kolkata where our arrangements conclude.