



North East India Tour (Kolkata * Bagdogra* Darjeeling* Pelling *Bagdogra * Kolkata*)

By: Flight Day 01 Arrive Kolkata

Arrive at Kolkata's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a ACR Representative will meet as you exit the arrivals terminal building and transfer you to your hotel.

Kolkata, on the Hooghly, retains the aura of days long gone, weaving the past and the present, the intense and the fun loving into a charming fabric. Home to four Nobel laureates - Ronald Ross, Rabindranath Tagore, Mother Teresa and Amartya Sen, Kolkata is the nerve centre of intellect and human values, where many modern movements began in art, cinema and theatre, science and industry. India's quest for freedom began here.

Overnight - Hotel

Meal - None

Day 02 Kolkata

After breakfast, proceed for a half-day sightseeing tour of Kolkata. You are visiting the Jain temple richly decorated with mirrors and Venetian glass mosaics, the Kali temple, and the white marble Victoria Memorial designed in Italian Renaissance-Mughal style. Planned by Viceroy Curzon and referred to both as Curzon's Folly and the British Taj Mahal it is a museum housing Imperial memorabilia. Also drive past the Howrah Bridge, one of the largest cantilever bridges in the world, the Dalhousie Square, Fort Williams, the secretariat building and the Old Court House Street.

Overnight - Hotel

Meal - Breakfast

Kolkata - Bagdogra Day 03 Bagdogra – Darjeeling

By: Flight By: Surface

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Kolkata airport to connect with your flight to Bagdogra.

9W 2480 Flight number Departs Kolkata 1220 Hrs Arrives Bagdogara 1320 Hrs

On arrival at Bagdogra, you will be driven to Darjeeling (90 Kms / 03 Hrs)

Darjeeling - Located on a ridge at 2134 m and surrounded by forested hills and tea plantations, Darjeeling has been a popular hill station since the British established it in the mid-1800s. With its idyllic setting, exhilarating climate and stunning views of the Kanchenjunga peaks it also attracts trekkers. It is a fascinating town where one can see Buddhist monasteries, visit tea plantations, bargain-hunt or go trekking.

Overnight - Hotel

Meal - Breakfast

Day 02 Darjeeling

Take an early morning excursion to Tiger Hill (2590 m) to view the sunrise and its reflection on Kanchenjunga and Mt. Everest in their majestic glory. Later drive to Ghoom (8 km away, altitude 2550 m) to see the important Yiga-Choling gompa, a Yellow Hat sect Buddhist monastery. The 19th century gompa, one of the oldest in the area, enshrines an enormous gilded statue of the Maitreya Buddha and also houses valuable Tibetan manuscripts.

Return to your hotel for breakfast.

Later take a half day tour of Eastern India's most beautiful hill station see the Lebong Race Course, once the highest in the world. Visit the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and Everest Museum and the house of Tenzing Norgay, who shared the first climb of Mt. Everest in 1953.

We will also arrange Toy train Ride from Darjeeling to Ghoom and back on World Heritage Toy Train.

Toy Train: The spectacular landscape unfolds as the 2-foot gauge Darjeeling Himalayan railway, opened in 1881, labours at about 10 mph criss-crossing the road. It has tiny 4-wheel locomotives (some over 100 years old) like living legends. One can experience the sound, smell and romance of a bygone era. DHR is a work of genius and technological achievement of 1881. It has social and cultural importance. It is beautiful and has outstanding universal appeal. Based on its unique features, it is considered to be of lasting significance to mankind.

Overnight - Hotel

Meal - Breakfast

Day 05

Darjeeling - Gangtok By: Surface

After breakfast, you will be driven to Gangtok (98 Kms / 03 Hrs)

On arrival, check in to you hotel

GANGTOK: At an altitude of 1750m, Gangtok became the state capital in the mid 19th century and has undergone rapid development since then. The downtown area is dominated by huge government buildings decorated with traditional Buddhist symbols. Gangtok is also a resting ground for people traveling to North Sikkim. Surrounded by Monasteries and Orchids, Gangtok is truly a travellers delight.

Overnight - Hotel

Meal - Breakfast

Day 06 Gangtok

Early morning visit Tashi View Point

Tashi View Point: -Tashi viewpoint is about 8 Kms from Gangtok acclaimed to be amongst the most popular photography points in the Sikkim Himalayas. From here, one can also see monasteries at Phudong and Labrang. Above the viewpoint is a park that is popular picnic spot. Tourists can avail of the facilities provided by a small but well stocked cafeteria located here.

Breakfast at the hotel and proceed for sightseeing in Gangtok

Rumtek Monastery: -24 Kms. from Gangtok is the awe -inspiring Rumtek Monastery, the world Dharma chakra Centre and the seat of His Holiness, the Gyalwa Karmapa, who is the head of the Kagyupa order of Tibetan Buddhism. Behind the main monastery is the lavishly decorated Karmae Nalanda Institute of Buddhist Studies, which attracts students from the world over. Opposite the entrance to the Institute is a small hall featuring a beautiful jewel studded Chorten the Golden Stupa, which contains the ashes and remains of His Holiness the xvi Gyalwa Karmapa. According to legend, it is believed that after years of meditation, the first Karmapa was said to have been visited by ten thousand fairies who came to congratulate him each of whom offered a strand of her hair as a gift. These were said to have been woven into a black hat, which was passed down and is still at the Rumtek Monastery today. It is said that unless held on to by the wearer (who of course, cannot be anyone else but the Karmapa) or kept in a box, the hat would fly away.

The Enchey Monastery: -Perched on a ridge above Gangtok, the Enchey Monastery is nestled within lush woods with a spectacular view of Gangtok town. Built in 1910 on the site of the hermitage of the great tantric saint, Lama Drutob Karpo, who was renowned for his powers of levitation, this monastery houses the monks of the Nyingmapa Order of Tibetan Buddhism.

Namgyal Institute of Tibetology: -Amidst a serene surrounding of oak, birch and ash lies the unique organization established in 1958. Built in traditional style, the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology promotes research in Mahayana Buddhism and the language and tradition of Tibet. It has one of the world's largest collections of rare books and manuscripts on Mahayana Buddhism. The Institute also has retail outlets where related books and commercially produced religious art and craft of Tibet can be bought.

Adjacent to the institute are two exquisite stupas, the Do Drul Chorten, built to commemorate the victory of good over evil and the Jhang Chub Chorten, built in the memory of Thrukshik Rinpoche, an ardent devotee, a great spiritualist and interpreter of Buddhism. Near the Chorten are housed two giant statues of Lord Buddha and Guru Padmasambhava, also known as Guru Rimpoche, the patron saint of Sikkim.

<u>Directorate Of Handloom And Handicrafts</u>: -This Directorate was set up to promote traditional Sikkimese art and handicrafts. Exquisitely carved wooden friezes, intricate bamboo work, along with beautiful hand woven carpets and handlooms are on exhibit here. Visitors can not only purchase these items here but also see the artisans at work. Among others, a favourite item here is the choktse a wooden table with carved panels that can be folded into a portable pack.

Overnight - Hotel

Meal - Breakfast

Day 07 Gangtok - Pelling

Breakfast at the hotel and drive to Pelling (127 Kms / 06 Hrs)

PELLING

Located at a distance of 127 kms from Gangtok Pelling is another serene, mountain village which lies in the western districts of Sikkim. This village is situated at an altitude of 2000 mts(approx) and commands a spectacular view of Mt.Kanchenjunga.

Afternoon visit to Pemayangste Monastery and Rabtense Ruins PEMAYANGSTE: -

2.5 Kms. from Pelling and standing at 2085m. The Perfect Sublime Lotus, perched on a wooded hilltop, commands the most sublime view of the Kanchandzonga.

Built during the late 17th century, it is one of the oldest and most important monasteries of the Nyingmapa order of Buddhism in Sikkim. To the present day, it is only the monks of this monastery who enjoy the title of 'Tasang' or pure monks. The importance of this monastery grew with time and reached its peak when only monks from this monastery could anoint the reigning sovereign of the land with holy water. Pemayangste monastery follows the Mindroling tradition besides holding the lineage of Lhatsun Chenpo. Mindroling monastery was founded by Minling Terchen Gyurme Dorje whose famous daughter Jetsun Migyur Paldon lived near Pemayangtse and taught there during her exile. Her stone throne is still to be seen in this monastery, which has 108 monks. The main attraction of the monastery is the wooden replica of Zangdog Palri; the celestial abode of Guru Padmasambhava built by Serdup Lhundrup Dorje Rinpoche in 1971. The annual chaam (monk dance) is held here on the 28th and 29th day of the 12th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar.

Rabdentse- Sikkim's second capital. The ruins of Rabdantse are worth exploring. The winding track through the forest brings you to a small set of ruins of the early town and eventually on the ruins of the palace with Chorten (stupa) nearby. Farther afield are the Changay Falls.

Overnight – Hotel

Meal - Breakfast

Day 08 Pelling - Bagdogra Bagdogra – Kolkata

Depart Kolkata

By Surface By Flight By Flight

After breakfast, you will be driven to Bagdogra airport (137 Kms / 04 Hrs) to connect with your flight to Kolkata.

Flight number 9W 2481 Departs Bagdogara 1355 Hrs Arrives Kolkata 1450 Hrs

On arrival, transfer to the International Airport for your homebound flight.

*** End of tour ***

