

DARJEELING – GANGTOK PACKAGE TOUR 2011

SIKKIM – SILIGURI – GANGTOK – DARJEELING – KOLKATA

Tour Code No.	No. of days	Starting Date	Charge Per Head (Including Food)
36 NI B	8 Days	Every week	Rs.16500/-

- Day 1: Pickup from New Jalpaiguri railway station / Bagdogra Airport and transfer to hotel Siliguri . N/R Siliguri
- Day 2 : Morning road journey to Gangtok
- Day 3: Gangtok local sight seeing places : Tashi view point, NumNum View Point, Sankhu lake and view the valley of Himalaya and N/R in Gangtok
- Day 4 : Journey to Darjeeling by a road and N/R in Darjeeling
- Day 5 : Darjeeling sightseeing places : Tiger Hill, Himalayan mountaineering Institute, Tenzing & Gombu Rock, Happy valley tea garden, Tibetan Refugee Handicraft Centre, Japanese Peace Pagoda. After noon Journey to New Jalpaiguri. Night journey to Kolkata by train
- Day 6 : Arrive at Kolkata; after fresh up Kolkata local sight seeing places : Metro railway, Howrah Hanging bridge, Belur Math, Dakshineshwaram, Kali Ghat, Home of Mother Theresa, Victoria Memorial, Birla Planetarium, Industrial Museum N/R in Kolkata
- Day 7: Kolkata local sight seeing places Science City , Kolkata panorama, and shopping . N/R in Kolkata
- Day 8 : Drop at railway station or airport

*NR – Night Rest

Terms&Conditions

1. 50% Reduction in the charge for Children between the age of 5 and 11yrs
2. Cost of Entry Tickets wherever required for sightseeing do not come under the total charge
3. Cost of Vegetarian delicious food is included in the tour charge except during the Train Journey.
4. Accommodation charge in Good Double Rooms on twin sharing basis at all places of stay is included in the Tour Charge.
5. Road Transportation charge in good condition vehicle (depending up on the number of passengers) is included in the Tour Charge.
6. Guide Services is included in the Tour Charges
7. Company's representative as Tour Manager will accompany the journey from beginning to end .
8. Booking: - Advance of Rs.2,000/- to be remitted 90 days prior to the date of journey and balance amount is to be remitted 15 days before the Tour starting date. Remittances may be made through the company's bank account (details of bank account given below).
9. Refund on Cancellation : 50% of the advance amount will be lost against cancellation not received before 30 days of the tour starting date. Cancellation received thereafter will not be eligible for any refund.
10. If the journey is blocked /diverted/ cancelled for reasons beyond our control such as Road Bandh, Train Delay Strike, Natural Calamities, (Earth Quake, Flood, Cyclone, Tsunami etc) the Company Will not allow any refund.
11. The passengers should carry monkey caps, woolen cloths , sweaters , glouses , shoes etc..
12. Passengers who have heart decease/ Asthma/ high BP etc, will not be able to travel in this tour package

Name of the Bank : Axis Bank Ltd., Calicut

Account No. : 910020036088153

Code : UTIB0000136

13. For any further clarifications or information on the package please do not hesitate to contact the company at the contact details given below.

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Gangtok

Gangtok is the capital and largest town of the state of [Sikkim](#). Gangtok is located in the [Shivalik Hills](#) of the eastern [Himalayan](#) range. The town, with a population of thirty thousand belonging to different ethnicities such as [Nepalis](#), [Lepchas](#) and [Bhutia](#), is administered by various departments of the [Government of Sikkim](#). Nestled within higher peaks of the Himalaya and enjoying a year-round mild [temperate](#) climate, Gangtok is at the centre of Sikkim's tourism industry.

Gangtok rose to prominence as a popular [Buddhist](#) pilgrimage site after the construction of the [Enchey Monastery](#) in 1840. In 1894, the ruling Sikkimese [Chogyal](#), [Thutob Namgyal](#), transferred the capital to Gangtok. In the early 20th century, Gangtok became a major stopover on the trade route between [Lhasa](#) in [Tibet](#) and cities such as [Kolkata](#) (then Calcutta) in [British India](#). After India won its independence from Britain in 1947, Sikkim chose to remain an independent monarchy, with Gangtok as its capital. In 1975, after the integration with the union of India, Gangtok was made India's twenty-second state capital.

The precise meaning of the name *Gangtok* is unclear, though the most popular meaning is "hill top". Today, Gangtok is a centre of Tibetan Buddhist culture and learning, with the presence of several monasteries, religious educational institutions, and centres for [Tibetology](#).

Like the rest of Sikkim, not much is known about the early history of Gangtok. The earliest records date from the construction of the [hermitic](#) Gangtok monastery in 1716. Gangtok remained a small hamlet until the construction of the [Enchey Monastery](#) in 1840 made it a pilgrimage center. After the [defeat of the Tibetans](#) by the British, Gangtok became a major stopover in the trade between Tibet and British India at the end of the 19th century. Most of the roads and the [telegraph](#) in the area were built during this time.

In 1894, [Thutob Namgyal](#), the Sikkimese monarch under British rule, shifted the capital from [Tumlong](#) to Gangtok, increasing the city's importance. A new grand palace along with other state buildings was built in the new capital. Following [India's independence](#) in 1947, Sikkim became a [nation-state](#) with Gangtok as its capital. Sikkim became a [suzerain](#) of India, with the condition that it would retain its independence, by the treaty signed between the [Chogyal](#) and the then [Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru](#). Trade between India and Tibet continued to flourish through the [Nathula](#) and [Jejepla passes](#), offshoots of the ancient [Silk Road](#) near Gangtok. These border passes were sealed after the [Sino-Indian War](#) in 1962, which deprived Gangtok of its trading business.^[7] The Nathula pass was finally opened for limited trade in 2006.

In 1975, the monarchy was abrogated and Sikkim became India's twenty-second state, with Gangtok as its capital. Gangtok has witnessed annual landslides, resulting in loss of life and damage to property. The largest disaster occurred in June 1997, when 38 were killed and hundreds of buildings were destroyed.

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[Kanchenjunga](#), the world's third-tallest peak, is visible from Gangtok.

In addition to being the state capital, it is the headquarters of the [East Sikkim](#) district. The town lies on one side of a hill, with "The Ridge", a promenade housing the [governor's](#) residence, at one end and the palace, situated at an altitude of about 6,000 ft (1,829 m), at the other. The city is flanked on east and west by two streams, namely [Roro Chu](#) and [Ranikhola](#), respectively. These two rivers divide the natural drainage into two parts, the eastern and western parts. Both the streams meet the Ranipul and flow south as the main Ranikhola before it joins the [Teesta](#) at [Singtam](#). Most of the roads are steep, with the buildings built on compacted ground alongside them.

Most of [Sikkim](#), including Gangtok, is underlain by [Precambrian](#) rock which contains [foliated phyllites](#) and [schists](#); slopes are therefore prone to frequent landslides.^{[dead link][14]} Surface runoff of water by natural streams (*jhora*) and man-made drains has contributed to the risk of landslides.^{[dead link][9]} According to the [Bureau of Indian Standards](#), the town falls under [seismic zone-IV](#) (on a scale of I to V, in order of increasing seismic activity), near the [convergent boundary](#) of

the [Indian](#) and the [Eurasian tectonic plates](#) and is subject to frequent earthquakes. The hills are nestled within higher peaks and the snow-clad Himalayan ranges tower over the town from the distance. Mount [Kanchenjunga](#) (8,598 m or 28,208 ft)—the world's third-highest peak—is visible to the west of the city. The existence of steep slopes, vulnerability to landslides, large forest cover and inadequate access to most areas has been a major impediment to the natural and balanced growth of the city. ^{[[dead link](#)]^[9]}

There are densely forested regions around Gangtok, consisting of temperate, [deciduous](#) forests of [poplar](#), [birch](#), [oak](#), and [elm](#), as well as [evergreen](#), [coniferous](#) trees of the [wet alpine](#) zone. ^{[[dead link](#)]^[14] [Orchids](#) are common, and rare varieties of orchids are featured in flower shows in the city. [Bamboos](#) are also abundant. In the lower reaches of the town, the vegetation gradually changes from alpine to temperate deciduous and [subtropical](#). ^{[[dead link](#)]^[14] Flowers such as [sunflower](#), [marigold](#), [poinsettia](#), and others bloom, especially in November and December.}}

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Sikkim

Sikkim is a [landlocked Indian state](#) nestled in the [Himalayas](#). This thumb-shaped state borders [Nepal](#) in the west, the [Tibet Autonomous Region](#) of the [People's Republic of China](#) to the north and the east and [Bhutan](#) in the southeast. The Indian state Bengal borders Sikkim to its south

With just slightly over 500,000 permanent residents, Sikkim is the least populous state in India and the second-smallest state after [Goa](#). Despite its small area of 7,096 km² (2,740 sq mi), Sikkim is geographically diverse due to its location in the Himalayas. The climate ranges from [subtropical](#) to high [alpine](#). [Kangchenjunga](#), the world's third-highest peak, is located on the border of Sikkim with [Nepal](#). Sikkim is a popular tourist destination owing to its culture, scenic beauty and biodiversity.

Legend has it that the Buddhist saint [Guru Rinpoche](#) visited Sikkim in the 9th century, introduced [Buddhism](#) and foretold the era of the monarchy. Indeed, the Namgyal dynasty was established in 1642. Over the next 150 years, the kingdom witnessed frequent raids and territorial losses to Nepalese invaders. It allied itself with the [British](#) rulers of India but was soon annexed by them. Later, Sikkim became a British [protectorate](#) and merged with India following a referendum in 1975.

Sikkim has 11 [official languages](#): The predominant religions are [Hinduism](#) and [Vajrayana Buddhism](#). [Gangtok](#) is the [capital](#) and the largest town. Sikkim has a booming economy dependent on agriculture and tourism, and has the only [open border](#) between [India](#) and [China](#).

In Hindu religious texts, Sikkim is known as *Indrakil*, the garden of [Indra](#).^[9]

Historical (1876) Map of the Princely state of Sikkim depicting Chomto Dong Lake ^[10] in

The earliest recorded event related to Sikkim is the passage of the Buddhist saint [Guru Rinpoche](#) through the land in the 8th century. The Guru is reported to have blessed the land, introduced [Buddhism](#) in Sikkim, and foretold the era of monarchy in the state that would arrive centuries later. Following the arrival of the [British Raj](#) in neighboring India, Sikkim allied with them against their common enemy, Nepal. The Nepalese attacked Sikkim, overrunning most of the region including the [Terai](#). This prompted the [British East India Company](#) to attack Nepal, resulting in the [Gurkha War](#) of 1814. In 1890, Sikkim became a British protectorate and was granted more sovereignty over the next three decades.

In 1947, a popular vote rejected Sikkim's joining the Indian Union, and [Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru](#) agreed to a special [protectorate](#) status for Sikkim. Sikkim came under the [suzerainty](#) of India, which controlled its external affairs, defence, diplomacy and communications, but Sikkim otherwise retained autonomy. A state council was established in 1955 to allow for constitutional government under the Chogyal. Meanwhile, the Sikkim National Congress demanded fresh elections and greater representation for the Nepalese. In 1973, riots in front of the palace led to a formal request for protection from India. The Chogyal was proving to be extremely unpopular with the people. In 1975, the [Kazi](#) (Prime Minister) appealed to the [Indian Parliament](#) for a change in Sikkim's status so that it could become a state of India. In April, the Indian Army took over the city of Gangtok and disarmed the Palace Guards. A referendum was held in which 97.5% of the voting people (59% of the people entitled to vote) voted to join the Indian Union. A few weeks later, on 16 May 1975, Sikkim officially became the 22nd state of the Indian Union and the monarchy was abolished.

Siliguri

Siliguri is a city in the [Indian state](#) of [West Bengal](#). It is located in the [Siliguri Corridor](#) or Chicken's Neck - a very narrow strip of land linking mainland India to its [north-eastern states](#). It is also the transit point for air, road and rail traffic to the neighbouring countries of [Nepal](#), [Bhutan](#) and [Bangladesh](#). The town hosts over 200,000 domestic and 15,000 foreign visitors annually. It is the commercial nerve center of [North Bengal](#).

Siliguri is situated in [Darjeeling district](#) and is the district's largest city. Siliguri is a unique city as 15 out of 47 wards of Siliguri Municipal Corporation falls in neighbouring [Jalpaiguri district](#). The [Indian army](#), [Border Security Force](#) (BSF), [Central Reserve Police Force](#) (CRPF), [Sashastra Seema Bal](#) (SSB) and the

[Assam Rifles](#) have bases around the city. The [Bagdogra Airport](#) is located within the Indian Air Force (IAF) [cantonment](#) area. Siliguri has an Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) oil depot near the southern edge of the town. Siliguri is the fifth largest city of West Bengal after [Kolkata](#), [Howrah](#), [Durgapur](#) and [Asansol](#).^[1].

Siliguri is situated in the plains at the base of the [Himalaya](#) mountains. It is the largest city in the area ([North Bengal](#)) and fifth largest city in West Bengal and connects the [hill station](#) towns of [Gangtok](#), [Darjeeling](#), [Kalimpong](#), [Kurseong](#) and [Mirik](#) with the rest of India. This city is also called as the "second Kolkata of West Bengal". The [Mahananda River](#) flows past Siliguri. Siliguri has three seasons: summer, winter and [monsoon](#). Dense fog, a characteristic of Siliguri till a decade ago, is a rare occurrence today. During the monsoons (between June and September), the town is lashed by moderate to heavy rains often cutting access to the hill stations and [Sikkim](#). The climate is suitable for growing [tea](#) and the surrounding region has many tea gardens. The ancient [Baikunthapur Forest](#) is nearby. Siliguri is one of the fastest-growing cities of India.

Darjeeling

Darjeeling is located in West Bengal State of the Indian Union. It is internationally renowned for its tea industry and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a well known hill station and serves as the headquarters of Darjeeling District.

Development of the town dates back to the mid-19th century, when the British set up a Sanatorium and a military depot. Subsequently, extensive tea plantations were established in the region, and tea growers developed distinctive hybrids of black tea and created new fermenting techniques. The resultant distinctive Darjeeling tea is internationally recognised and ranks among the most popular of the black teas. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway connects the town with the plains and has one of the few steam locomotives still in service in India. Darjeeling also has several British-style [public schools](#), which attract students from throughout India and neighbouring countries. The town, with its neighbour [Kalimpong](#), was a center for the demand of the [Gorkhaland movement](#) in the 1980s.

[History of Darjeeling](#)

The history of Darjeeling is intertwined with that of Bengal, Bhutan, Sikkim and Nepal. Until the early 19th century, the hilly area around Darjeeling was

historically controlled by the kingdoms of Bhutan and Sikkim, while the plains around Siliguri were intermittently occupied by the kingdom of Nepal, with settlement consisting of a few households of [Lepcha people](#). The British rulers annexed the area east of the [Teesta River](#) in 1865. By 1866, Darjeeling District had assumed its current shape and size, covering an area of 1,234 square miles. During the [British Raj](#), Darjeeling's temperate climate led to its development as a [hill station](#) for British residents seeking to escape the summer heat of the plains,

Commercial cultivation of tea in the district began in 1856, and induced a number of British planters to settle there. Scottish [missionaries](#) undertook the construction of schools and welfare centres for the British residents, laying the foundation for Darjeeling's notability as a centre of education. The opening of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in 1881 further hastened the development of the region.

The creation of a new state of Sikkim in 1975 brought the issue of a separate state of [Gorkhaland](#) to the forefront. Agitation for a separate state continued through the 1980s, included violent protests during the 1986–88 period. The agitation ceased only after an agreement between the government and the [Gorkha National Liberation Front](#) (GNLF), resulting in the establishment of an elected body in 1988 called the [Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council](#) (DGHC), which received autonomy to govern the district. Though Darjeeling is now peaceful, the issue of a separate state still lingers, fueled in part by the lack of comprehensive economic development in the region even after the formation of the DGHC. New protests erupted in 2008–09, but both the Union and State governments rejected [Gorkha Janmukti Morcha](#)'s demand for a separate state.

The hills are nestled within higher peaks and the snow-clad Himalayan ranges tower over the town in the distance. [Nepal's Kanchenjunga](#), the world's third-highest peak, 8,598 m (28,209 ft) high, is the most prominent mountain visible. In days clear of clouds, [Nepal's Mount Everest](#), 29,035 ft (8,850 m) high, can be seen.

Dense evergreen forests of sal and oak lie around the town, where a wide variety of rare [orchids](#) are found. The [Lloyd's Botanical Garden](#) preserves common and rare species of plants, while the [Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park](#) specialises in conserving and breeding endangered Himalayan species.^[29] The town of Darjeeling and surrounding region face [deforestation](#)

due to increasing demand for wood fuel and timber, as well as air pollution from increasing vehicular traffic.

Wildlife in the district is protected by the wildlife wing of the West Bengal Forest Department. The fauna found in Darjeeling includes several species of [ducks](#), [teals](#), [plovers](#) and [gulls](#) that pass Darjeeling while migrating to and from [Tibet](#). Small mammals found in the region include [civets](#), [mongooses](#) and [badgers](#). The nearby [Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary](#) consists of semi-evergreen and sal forests. Animals found here include the [one-horned rhinoceros](#), [elephant](#), [tiger](#), [leopard](#) and [hog deer](#), while the main bird species include the [Bengal florican](#) and [herons](#). As of 2009, work was in progress for setting up a conservation centre for [red pandas](#) in Darjeeling.