

Northeastern Hills

**Delhi * Bagdogra * Darjeeling * Gangtok *
Kalimpong * Bagdogra * Delhi**

DAY 01

ARRIVE DELHI

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

You will arrive at New Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building after which you would be transferred to your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, proceed for check-in at the hotel.

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds - the ancient with the modern. Amidst the fast spiraling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 02

DELHI

After buffet breakfast, you will proceed for a city tour of **Old & New Delhi**.



You will first visit **Old Delhi**. The tour will begin with a visit to **Raj Ghat**, a simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi; drive past the Red Fort continuing to the **Jama Masjid by bicycle rickshaws**, one of Asia's largest mosques and which is viewed from the outside. People stream in and out of the mosque continuously and the presence of a nearby bazaar

means that the area is rarely quiet.

After Old Delhi tour, you will be driven to **New Delhi**, which reflects the legacy the British left behind. The division between New and Old Delhi is the division between the capitals of the British and the Mughals respectively. The division in the walled city and New Delhi also marks the division in the life-styles. The walled city is all tradition

where one will be able to glean a past life-style in all its facets, colours and spells. New Delhi in contrast, is a city trying to live up to the best of 21st century standards.

The tour to Imperial Delhi will include a visit to the **Qutub Minar**, the tallest stone tower in India. Qutub-ud-din Aibak started it in 1199. Pulling down 27 Hindu and Jain temples and using their columns erected the attached Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque also built by him. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing **India Gate**, the **Parliament building** and the **Rastrapathi Bhawan**, the President's residence.



Return to your hotel after the sightseeing tour.

In the evening loose yourself in Connaught Place area also known as shoppers paradise.

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 03	DELHI – BAGDOGRA	BY FLIGHT
	BAGDOGRA – DARJEELING	

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will be met by a representative who will transfer you to the airport to board flight 9W 602 for Bagdogra.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Delhi at: 1010 Hours By: 9W 602

Arrival: Bagdogra at: 1215 Hours

You will be met upon arrival by a representative who will transfer you to your hotel in Darjeeling (80 Kms / 3 hours).

Upon arrival, proceed for check-in at your hotel.

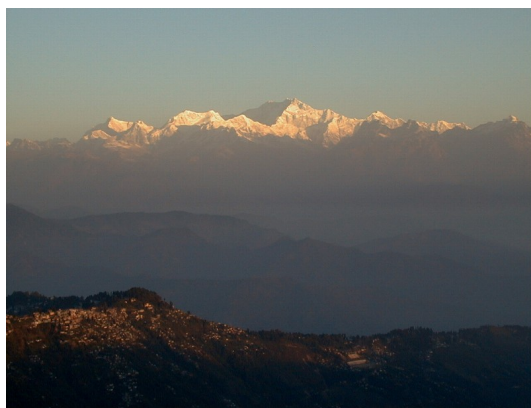
Often called the Queen of the Himalayas, Darjeeling affords unparalleled view of these majestic mountains. The snow-clad Kanchenjunga ranges, which turn orange-gold in the early morning sun, provide an unforgettable sight.

Reminder of the day will be at leisure.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

DAY 04	DARJEELING
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Early morning, you will visit **Tiger Hill** before the break of dawn, to see the sun rise over Mount Everest, the highest mountain peak in the world (subject to clear wether).



Darjeeling owes' its grandeur to its natural beauty, its clean fresh mountain air and above all, the smiling resilient people for whom it is a home. Known for its natural splendour, Darjeeling's best gift to its' visitors is the dawn of a new day. The mountains awaken first with a tentative peeking of the sun. A steep ride, five kilometers from Ghoom, or an invigorating walk up a steep incline, leads sun

worshippers to Tiger Hill. The air is chilly with darkness and damp. To the east, a dull orange sun emerged painting the sky with brilliant strokes of magenta, gold, orange and fuchsia. The snow capped Everest, Kabru, Kanchenjunga, Jannu and other peaks slowly emerge from slumber to start a new day. The sun worshippers gasp at the magnificent sight. As the fog lifts in the slowly penetrating sun, the town gradually comes alive. Amidst brewing of tea, the sing-song Gorkhali which is the local dialect, rises and falls like music.

On your way back stop at the Ghoom Monastery, the holiest monastery in Darjeeling. After your visit, return to hotel for buffet breakfast.



After breakfast, you will be driven to the Darjeeling Railway station to board train - **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** that is the first, and still the most spectacular instance of a hill passenger railway. Opened in 1881, it adopted device full engineering solutions to the problem of establishing an effective rail link across a mountainous terrain. It is still fully operational and retains most of its

original features. UNESCO World Heritage Committee has inscribed the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway on the list of World Heritage sites. Only two railways have this status, the Semmering Railway in Austria being the other.

Passing through the Darjeeling roads and market area, you will reach the Ghoom railway station in about 45 minutes. Ghoom situated at 7410 Feet above sea level is the second highest railway station to be reached by a steam engine. Your vehicle will pick you up from the Ghoom railway station to take you to the **Himalayan**

Mountaineering Institute and the **Himalayan Zoo** with Red panda as the main attraction of the visit.

Later visit the **Tibetan refugee help centre** where you would see how this refugee camp supports the homeless understand that no help can substitute self-help.

Later return to your hotel or walk around the streets of the colonial city Darjeeling.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

DAY 05 DARJEELING – GANGTOK

After breakfast, you will be driven from Darjeeling to Gangtok (98 KMS / 3.5 Hours) known as “High Hill” spectacularly located along a ridge overlooking the Kangchenjunga Mountains. Upon arrival, proceed for check-in at your hotel.

Gangtok is Sikkim's largest city. It served as the royal administrative seat of the Kingdom of Sikkim from 1894 to 1975. Now as the state capital it retains a royal character. The Chogyal's durbar (king's palace) crowns the ridge, naturally facing Kanchenjunga, and the yellow roof of the Tsuklakhang or Royal Chapel gleams from far across the valley.



High into temperate forests, oaks give way to laurels, chestnuts, maples, birch, magnolias and rhododendrons. Some 200 species of ferns, mosses, vines and lichens form thick undergrowth. Sikkim is world renowned for its orchids with almost 1000 species in and around Sikkim, Darjeeling and Kalimpong. The best time to see orchids is from the second week of April, extending into late May and June at the higher elevations. Rhododendrons are another of the most celebrated of this amazing *pot pourri* of flora. During April-May, yellow and lavender shaded hillsides stretch as far as the eye can see, and canopies of rose, crimson and ivory crown the misty forests.

Later proceed to visit the **Enchey Monastery** – an important seat of the Nyingmapa order, the Enchey Monastery is built on the site blessed by Lama Druptok Karpo, a tantrik master known for his power of flying. Your visits of the day ends with the **Namgyal Institute of Tibetology** (closed on Sundays).

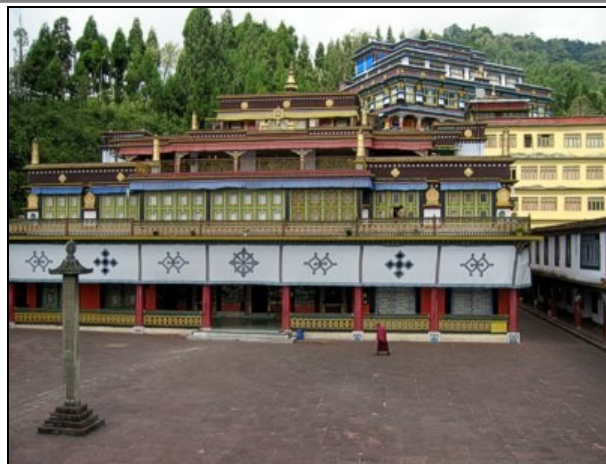


The most prestigious of its kind in India, this Buddhist institute is a treasure of vast collection of rare Lepcha, Tibetan & Sanskrit manuscripts, statues and rare thanks (tapestries used in Buddhist liturgy). It is over 200 Buddhist icons and other prized objects of art. Today it is a renowned worldwide centre for Buddhist philosophy and religion.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

DAY 06 GANGTOK – KALIMPONG

After buffet breakfast, you will be driven to **Rumtek Monastery**, the seat of the Karmapa Rinpoche, head of the Karmapa sub-sect of the Kargyudpa order of Tibetan Buddhism. The new four-level gompa was designed as a replica of the Kargyudpa's head monastery of Tolung in Tibet. Rumtek's monks come from all over Sikkim, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet. Thangkas and frescoes decorate the walls of this ancient monastery, renovated in 1960's. It has a school to teach the Tibetan language and the various aspects of Buddhism. Every year on the 10th day of the 5th month of the Tibetan calendar a religious dance festival is held in this monastery. A perfect symbol of the confluence of the past and present is Gangtok - the capital of Sikkim. Built on the flank of a ridge, Gangtok is at 5500 feet above



Later, you will be driven to Kalimpong (80 KMS / 3.30 Hours). Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel.

