

Kolkata with Sikkim

KARMA SHRI NALANDA INSTITUTE

THE MAIN BUILDING
OF
KARMA SHRI NALANDA INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHER BUDDHIST STUDIES
INAUGURATED BY
THEIR ENLIGHTENED
JANGON KONGTRUL RINPOCHE
AND
GOSHIR GYALTSAB RINPOCHE
SEAT HOLDERS OF
HIS HOLINESS THE GYALWA KARMAPA
ON THE 14th JUNE 1987



Kolkata with Sikkim

Delhi – Kolkata - Darjeeling – Gangtok – Delhi



Sketch Itinerary

DAY 1:	ARRIVE KOLKATA	BY: DOMESTIC FLIGHT
DAY 2:	KOLKATA	
DAY 3:	KOLKATA	
DAY 4:	KOLKATA - BAGDOGRA BAGDOGRA – DARJEELING	BY: DOMESTIC FLIGHT BY: SURFACE
DAY 5:	IN DARJEELING	
DAY 6:	DARJEELING – GANGTOK	BY: SURFACE
DAY 7:	IN GANGTOK	
DAY 8:	GANGTOK – KALIMPONG	BY: SURFACE
DAY 9:	KALIMPONG – BAGDOGRA BAGDOGRA – DELHI DEPART DELHI	BY: SURFACE BY: DOMESTIC FLIGHT BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT



Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive Kolkata

Arrive in Kolkata by an International flight. Assisted check-in at hotel.

A city that thrives on tea and conversation, Kolkata is a place that takes you in from the moment you arrive. A city of many firsts and founded on the model of London, she is both stuck in time and advancing with rapid development. Here heated debates break out over fish, film stars, and football with rivalries to match the Capulets and Montagues. Colonial era buildings in the north and centre, art deco creations in the south, and the steel and glass skyscrapers of today represent the very essence of multiculturalism of the City of Joy.



DAY 2

Kolkata

Start the day with exploration of Dalhousie square, known as European quarter in Kolkata. This is one of the most interesting walks in Kolkata that takes you through eighteenth and nineteenth century history and architecture of the city. It was here that the British first built a mud Fort around 1700 and started their trading ware houses. Later, when the East India Company took over the administration of the region after 1757, their courts of justice and seat of governance and the churches for Sunday service were set up around the area. In the heydays of the British administration, it was called Dalhousie Square, after Lord Dalhousie who was the Governor General in the 1850s.

Stop by the Howrah Bridge, a miracle of engineering skill. This is a huge cantilever bridge supported by two piers 270 ft. high from the road level. The span of the bridge between the piers is 1,500 ft while the total distance between the two sheet anchors is 2,115 ft. Visit the Flower market under the Howrah Bridge by the river Ganga. This is not only one of the oldest but is also one of the most vibrant markets of the city. A walk through this locality brings us face to face with wrestlers, flower sellers, sages and many more that depend on the river for sustenance. A photographer's delight, this market fills with colourful flowers from the northern part of Kolkata.

Visit Pareshnath Jain temple. Jain temples are known for being some of the most highly decorated of any in India, and the Pareshnath Jain Temple in Kolkata (Calcutta) is one of the most resplendent. Built by art enthusiast Ray Badridas Bahadur in 1867, the temple interior is filled with intricately patterned marble, mirrors, stained glass, European chandeliers and gilded surfaces.

As your guide takes you through the history of this magnificent city, proceed to Kumartuli, the potter's colony of Kolkata. You will witness craftsman making hundreds of clay idols without using any modern day machinery. These idols are moulded into Gods and Goddesses and used in the temples for ceremonial rituals. Learn from your guide the traditional significance of these clay items.



Next visit College Street of Kolkata, famed for its books and believed to be Asia's largest book market. The market is also known as Boi Para (Book Market) in the local language and is a testament to the widespread reading culture of the people in Kolkata. Find your favourite books along with leather items, footwear, musical instruments and many more locally made products. As the heat starts to rise, take a break and get a cup of coffee at a beautiful coffee house built during the British Raj.

End at Indian Coffee House - This is perhaps the best place to observe Kolkata's tradition of adda (casual meeting of friends to discuss every possible issue at hand and while away the time). That Bengalis love chatting more than any other social activity is evident from the scene that greets you when you enter the Hall. Coffee House is often crowded with so many people that you have to practically talk at the top of your voice to make yourself heard by your neighbour.



DAY 3

Kolkata

Start your day with a visit to St. John's Church to look at the historic chair of Lord Warren Hastings, the first Governor General of British India. In the church itself, see the grand painting, 'The Last Supper' by Johann Zoffany, a founder member of London's Royal Academy of Arts, who had come to India in 1783.

Later embark on a guided walk through British Kolkata starting from Victoria Memorial (closed on Monday), a huge white-marble structure and an enduring monument of the British Raj in India housing some interesting memorabilia. Next see the temple of Kali - the demonic attribute of Parvathi at Kalighat and drive past by Fort William, the Eden Gardens and the Writers Building, all interesting relics of Colonial India.

After breakfast visit The Missionaries of Charity's Mother House that is a holy place of pilgrimage and reverence for those who are searching for a more meaningful existence. It was established by the Blessed Mother Teresa in 1950 with the purpose of selfless service to mankind and to uplift the plagued humanity towards the path of salvation. After Mother Teresa left her mortal body in 1997, she was laid to rest in a tomb inside the house where she lived and served. The site of the tomb is very simple yet it exudes enormous amount of benign and pure vibration that fills the heart with gratitude and peace.



DAY 4

Kolkata – Bagdogra - Darjeeling

Take a morning flight to Bagdogra- the gateway airport to Darjeeling & Sikkim.

On arrival, drive to Darjeeling (3.5 hours).

Established by the British as a cool getaway from the heat and humidity of the Calcutta summers, Darjeeling still retains its old-world colonial ambiance with its smattering of heritage buildings, schools, and churches. It offers sweeping views of the Himalayan peaks, famous for its teas, and the UNESCO World Heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway



DAY 5

In Darjeeling

Early morning, we proceed for an excursion to Tiger Hill. It is 13 kms from Darjeeling and one can see beautiful sunrise and Himalayan Range like Kanchandzonga , Mount Everest etc. One can see the horizon changing colors just before sunrise.

After breakfast enjoy a Toy Train ride from Darjeeling to Ghoom and visit Ghoom Monastery (Subject to operation of this train & availability of seats)

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.

Ghoom Monastery is oldest Monastery in the area which was built in 1875 and one can see the image of Mythey Buddha 15ft. height.

Afternoon sightseeing in Darjeeling visiting HMI, Zoo(Both Closed on Thursday) and Tibetan Refugee Centre(Closed on Sunday) Himalayan Mountaineering Institute/Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park:- The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute was started in Darjeeling when Tenzing Norgay climbed Everest to give training to learn Mountaineering and other adventure sports related to mountaineering and in that Institute one can see equipment etc.used by Mr. Tenzing Norgay and Everest Museum having complete details on Everest attached to institute one can visit Himalayan Zoological Park where one can see Himalayan animals like Snow Leopard, Tibetan Wolf, Tibetan Yak, Himalayan Black Bear and several varieties of birds.

Tibetan Self- Help Centre Or Refugee Centre:- This institute is run by Tibetan Refugees to preserve their handicrafts and one can see making of Tibetan Carpets, Leather work, Paintings and Wooden work etc.



DAY 6

Darjeeling - Gangtok

After an early breakfast at the hotel, we drive to Gangtok. Upon arrival check in to your hotel.

Rest of the day free to explore on own.

Gangtok is a beautiful hill town and the capital of north-eastern state of Sikkim. It is known for its scenic beauty and striking views of Mount Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world. Rich in thick green forests, Sikkim abounds in birds and butterflies, varieties of orchids, rhododendrons and wild flowers and magnificent views of the Himalayas



DAY 7

In Gangtok

The Rumtek Monastery is one of the richest of Sikkim. The treasure of the XVI Gyalwa Karmapa we will explain the theory of reincarnation of great masters of Buddhism.

We visit in a grandiose landscape, the monastery Phodong belonging to the Nyingma sect-pa. Back in Gangtok, Sikkim's capital, we discover the Institute of Tibetology, the Chorten which is north of the city, and make a short visit to Enchey Monastery, founded by the saint during Drupthup Karpa d a mystical flight.

Namgyal Institute Of Tibetology (Closed on Saturday & Sunday) 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.

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.

We also visit the Directorate Of Handloom And Handicrafts (Closed on Saturday & Sunday) 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.



DAY 8

Gangtok - Kalimpong

This morning we drive to Kalimpong. Upon arrival check in at the hotel.

Bruissant activity, especially Kalimpong (160 km) offers the look of a city market which combines population to the most diverse origins. We visit the Flower Nurseries, the climate of Kalimpong is ideal for the cultivation of flowers and plants. Kalimpong is famous for its nurseries which export exotic flowers like Amaryllis lilies, Anthuriums, Roses gerberas, Dahlias, Gladiolias as well as Orchids and Cacti.

Also visit Zang Dhok Palri Phodang monastery recently established by the Dalai Lama and the Gompa Thongsa.



DAY 9

Kalimpong – Bagdogra

Bagdogra – Kolkata

Depart Kolkata

By Surface

By Domestic Flight

By International Flight

After breakfast we drive back to Bagdogra to take a flight to Kolkata.

On arrival in Kolkata, connect onward flight back home.

****End of the Tour****



Kolkata & Sikkim 09 day tour |

COST PROPOSAL

CITY	HOTEL	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHTS
Kolkata	The Pearless Inn	Superior room	03
Darjeeling	The Elgin	Deluxe room	02
Gangtok	The Elgin Nor-Khill	Deluxe room	02
Kalimpong	The Elgin Silver Oaks	Deluxe room	01

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

TOUR COSTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

Accommodation

- 8 night accommodation on twin sharing at the hotels mentioned above or similar.
- Breakfast on all days + Dinner at hotel in Darjeeling, Gangtok, Kalimpong.
- All other meals on direct payment basis.
- Note: please note above meals do not include any alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages.

Transportation

- All transportation services using Air-conditioned Toyota Innova Car.

Others

- Monument Entrance Fees (one time entry only) as per the detailed the itinerary.
- Services of English speaking Local Guide in Kolkata + an accompanying guide for Sikkim region

Trek Nirvana Specials :-

- Toy Train Tickets Darjeeling-Ghoom-Darjeeling (Joy Ride)
- Assistance by our Representatives during Airport / Railway Station transfers.
- 02 bottles of packaged drinking water (500 ml) per person per day basis during travel in vehicle/s
- All currently applicable taxes

TOUR COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Tips
- All beverages including water consumed at hotels/restaurants
- Expense of personal nature like meals other than mentioned above, tips, laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages, still & video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airfare, airport departure tax, any insurance.
- Any airfare on Domestic or International sectors.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.



SPECIAL NOTES

- **Tour Costs are valid from 10 January 2022 to 20 Dec 2022 except peak dates, festival period including Pushkar cattle fair, sold-out or blackout dates.**
- For entering Sikkim a normal Inner Line permit/Restricted Area Permit is required. This permit can be obtained on any one of the following procedures:
- At the time of applying for the Indian Visa itself, the clients need to mention that they will visit Sikkim and accordingly a 15 days inner line permit/restricted area permit is stamped on the visa.
- On arrival in Darjeeling we need to produce the original passport with valid Indian Visa at the District Magistrates office and a 15 days inner line permit/restricted area permit can be granted. It takes half day.
- While entering Sikkim the permits can be issued on the spot at Rangpoo Check Post (while going to Gangtok) or Melli Check Post (while going to Pelling). It takes 20 minutes to 1 hour depending on group size. A serial numbered form at the check post needs to be filled and submitted along with photocopies of passport and Indian visa and 02 passport size snaps.
- Please note that some of the sights / itinerary may change due to season, weather, national holidays and special events. Please refer to insider tips printed in brochure.
- At hotels in India standard Check-In time is 1400 Hrs and Check-Out time is 1200 hrs noon.
- Rates include only those items which are specifically mentioned in the detailed itinerary.
- Please note, the names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels. It is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey the confirmations to you on receipt of your acceptance. However in the event of any of the above mentioned hotels not becoming available at the time of initiating the reservations. We shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement / reduction whatever applicable) to you.
- In case on any currency fluctuations or amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. The due increase or decrease will be communicated accordingly.