



DESTINATION ITINERARY

Arunachal Pradesh

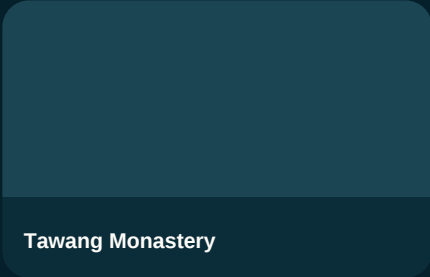
7-9 Days

From INR 15,000 per person

Best: Mar, Apr, Oct, Nov

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FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

Arunachal Pradesh is among India's least-travelled north-eastern states, with most journeys beginning at an Assam gateway before a long road climb into the mountains. The reward is a landscape that changes hour by hour - subtropical forest and river valleys in the foothills, then rhododendron, high grazing land and finally snowbound passes on the Tibetan frontier. Tawang, in the far west, holds one of the largest Buddhist monasteries in India and a Monpa culture with its own language, dress and cooking. Further east the state turns wilder, with the Apatani rice-and-fish valley of Ziro and the near-untouched forests of Namdapha. It suits travellers who accept long, slow road days, cold nights and simple accommodation in exchange for mountain scenery and a culture that has stayed genuinely its own.

PACKAGE DURATION

7-9 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 15,000 per person

BEST TIME

Peak: Mar, Apr, Oct, Nov | Shoulder: Jan, Feb, May, Sep, Dec | Avoid: Jun, Jul, Aug

TRIP TYPES

hill, wildlife

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit

01

Tawang Monastery

MONASTERY | 2-3 HOURS

The largest Buddhist monastery in India and a seat of Gelugpa practice in the western Himalaya, set on a spur above the Tawang valley. Visitors see the main prayer hall with its tall gilded Buddha, the museum of manuscripts and ritual objects, and the monks' quarters spreading down the slope.



Sela Pass

VIEWPOINT | 1-2 HOURS

A high pass on the road between Dirang and Tawang, under snow for much of the year and marked by a gateway and a small lake that freezes in winter. A tunnel now carries traffic through in bad weather, but most travellers still stop at the top briefly for the view and tea.



Bumla Pass

VIEWPOINT | HALF DAY

A pass on the India-China border reached on a rough half-day drive from Tawang and held under army control. Visitors see the boundary marker and the meeting point used for border personnel talks, and are briefly hosted by the post. Access needs a permit issued locally and is limited to Indian nationals.



Dirang

VALLEY | HALF DAY

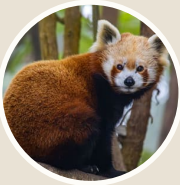
A mild valley town between Bomdila and Sela, used as an overnight halt to break the climb towards Tawang. Around it are apple and kiwi orchards, hot springs, a yak research centre and the old stone-built Dirang Dzong village standing above the river on its bluff.



Ziro Valley

VALLEY | FULL DAY

A wide, flat valley that is the Apatani homeland, farmed in a distinctive system where rice and fish are raised together in the same terraced paddies. Visitors walk between the traditional villages, see the bamboo groves and pine hills ringing the valley, and meet a culture that keeps its own beliefs and crafts.



Namdapha National Park

NATIONAL PARK | FULL DAY

A very large, remote park in the far east of the state, running from lowland tropical forest up to snow and holding one of the widest ranges of habitat in India. It is known for rare cats, hoolock gibbons and birdlife. Visits mean basic forest accommodation, guided walks and no guarantee of sightings.



Bomdila

HILL STATION | 2-3 HOURS

A ridge-top town in West Kameng district with views towards the Himalayan snow line on clear mornings. It has Gelugpa monasteries, a craft centre and apple orchards, and is commonly used as the first night's halt on the long road up from the Assam plains towards Tawang.



Madhuri Lake

LAKE | 2-3 HOURS

Properly Sangetsar Tso, a high lake above Tawang formed after an earthquake, with dead tree trunks still standing in the shallows. Its nickname comes from a film shot here. The drive is rough and the altitude considerable; visitors walk the shore, drink tea at the army-run stall and turn back.

7 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Tawang Monastery and Madhuri Lake

Visit Tawang Monastery, Madhuri Lake.

02

DAY 2

Sela Pass

Visit Sela Pass.

03

DAY 3

Bumla Pass

Visit Bumla Pass.

04

DAY 4

Dirang

Visit Dirang.

05

DAY 5

Ziro Valley

Visit Ziro Valley.

06

DAY 6

Namdapha National Park

Visit Namdapha National Park.

07

DAY 7

Bomdila

Visit Bomdila.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee is standard. Carry plenty of cash, as ATMs are confined to district towns and card machines rarely work in the higher valleys.

LANGUAGE

Dozens of tribal languages are spoken, with Hindi acting as the common link and Assamese widely understood. English is fine in hotels and at permit offices.

TIME DIFFERENCE

India uses one national time zone, so no clock change is required. Daylight hours vary by season and longitude.

WEATHER

Pleasant spring and autumn, a heavy monsoon from June to September with frequent landslides, and cold winters with snow on the high passes around Tawang and Sela.

CONNECTIVITY

Signal is dependable only in towns such as Itanagar, Bomdila and Tawang. Long road stretches and remote valleys have no coverage at all, where BSNL usually reaches furthest.

PERMITS AND ID

Indian citizens require an Inner Line Permit for travel in Arunachal Pradesh. Apply through the official eILP system and carry the approved permit with the identity document used for the application.

Food and culture

Arunachal's many tribal communities have distinct food traditions. Around Tawang, expect Monpa dishes such as thukpa, momos, buckwheat pancakes, churpi and butter tea; farther east, rice, bamboo shoot and smoked meat are common. Respect the state's Buddhist and indigenous faiths and its agricultural festival calendar.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Guwahati is the most useful major airport for western circuits, while Dibrugarh supports eastern routes. Regional airports may shorten some journeys when schedules align.

RAIL

Guwahati, Rangapara North, Harmuti, Naharlagun and Dibrugarh are useful railheads depending on the circuit. The mountain sectors continue by road.

ROAD

Approach through Assam and allow generous time for winding mountain roads. Western Tawang, central Ziro and eastern Namdapha routes use different gateways and should not be combined casually.

Official guidance: Arunachal Pradesh eILP portal - <https://eilp.arunachal.gov.in/preTulistElpKYC> (checked 2026-08-30)

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- Indian citizens need an Inner Line Permit for Arunachal Pradesh; it is applied for online or through the state's offices and is checked as you enter the state.
- Bumla Pass needs a separate permit arranged in Tawang itself and is open only to Indian nationals - allow a working day in town to organise it.
- Sela sits high enough that snow can shut the road at short notice between roughly December and March, so keep slack in the schedule around Tawang.
- Road days are far longer than the map suggests: the run up from Guwahati is normally broken over two days with a night at Bomdila or Dirang.
- Carry cash. ATMs are few outside Itanagar, Bomdila and Tawang, and card acceptance is unreliable once you are in the mountains.
- Nights are cold at Tawang and Ziro even outside winter - pack proper layers and expect room heating to be limited or absent.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Experience
Remember

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