

## DESTINATION ITINERARY

# North Bengal

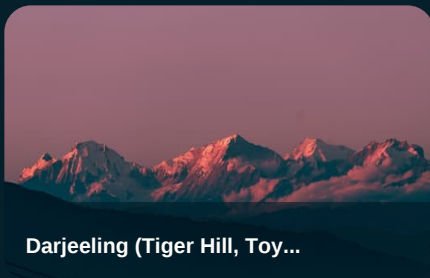
5-7 Days

From INR 11,000 per person

Best: Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Oct, Nov, Dec

North Bengal combines Himalayan hill towns, tea country and the wildlife landscapes of the Dooars. Bagdogra and New Jalpaiguri are the principal gateways, and within a morning's drive the plains give way to tea gardens, pine ridges and the old hill towns strung along the ridge lines.

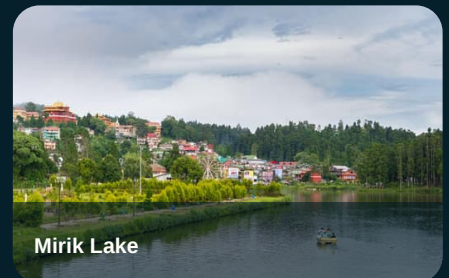
## FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



Darjeeling (Tiger Hill, Toy...



Kalimpong



Mirik Lake

## DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

## Destination overview

North Bengal combines Himalayan hill towns, tea country and the wildlife landscapes of the Dooars. Bagdogra and New Jalpaiguri are the principal gateways, and within a morning's drive the plains give way to tea gardens, pine ridges and the old hill towns strung along the ridge lines. Darjeeling still runs its narrow-gauge train and its sunrise crowd at Tiger Hill, while Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik and the quieter woods around Lava and Lolegaon offer the same mountain air with far fewer people. Down on the flat, the Dooars belt of Gorumara and Jaldapara is elephant, rhino and bison country, with rivers running down out of Bhutan. It suits families, first-time hill travellers and anyone with a week who wants mountains and forest without a long journey to reach them.

**PACKAGE DURATION**

5-7 Days

**STARTING PRICE**

From INR 11,000 per person

**BEST TIME**

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

**TRIP TYPES**

hill, wildlife

## 8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

## Places you'll visit


**Darjeeling (Tiger Hill, Toy Train, Batasia Loop)**
**HILL STATION | 2 DAYS**

The best-known Himalayan hill town in Bengal, built along a ridge among tea estates. Visitors climb to Tiger Hill before dawn for sunrise on Kanchenjunga, ride the narrow-gauge train around the spiral at Batasia Loop, and walk Chowrasta and the Mall between the zoo and the mountaineering institute.


**Kalimpong**
**HILL STATION | 1-2 DAYS**

A quieter hill town on a ridge above the Teesta, known for its nurseries and orchid growers, its Buddhist monasteries and its old mission schools and churches. Visitors browse the flower markets, take in the viewpoints over the river valley and use it as a calmer alternative to Darjeeling.


**Mirik Lake**
**LAKE | 2-3 HOURS**

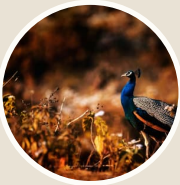
A small hill town built around an artificial lake ringed by a walking path and pine trees, with boating and pony rides at the water's edge. It is usually taken in as a stop on the drive between the plains and Darjeeling rather than as a place to stay long.



### Lava and Lolegaon

**HILL STATION | 1-2 DAYS**

Two small settlements in the forested hills beyond Kalimpong. Lava has a Kagyu monastery and cold pine air at the edge of Neora Valley National Park, while Lolegaon is known for its canopy walk and mountain views. Both are low-key bases for walking and birdwatching.



### Gorumara National Park

**NATIONAL PARK | HALF DAY**

A compact Dooars park of riverine forest and grassland, home to the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, elephant, gaur and deer. Viewing is from raised watchtowers reached by forest department vehicle, usually at dawn or late afternoon, with sightings depending on animals coming to the salt licks.



### Jaldapara National Park

**NATIONAL PARK | HALF DAY**

Grassland and forest along the Torsha river, best known for its rhino population and for the elephant-back and jeep safaris run by the forest department. Early morning slots are the productive ones. Elephant, bison, deer and a long list of birds are also present.



### Kurseong

**HILL STATION | HALF DAY**

A tea-growing town on the road up to Darjeeling, lower and warmer, where the toy train runs down the middle of the main street. Visitors tour tea estates, walk out to viewpoints over the plains and visit sites connected with the Indian independence movement.



### Tiger Hill sunrise viewpoint

**VIEWPOINT | EARLY MORNING**

The ridge above Darjeeling is visited for early-morning views towards Kanchenjunga when skies are clear. Depart before dawn, carry warm layers and treat visibility as weather-dependent rather than guaranteed.

5 DAYS

## Suggested day-by-day plan

01

**DAY 1**

### Darjeeling (Tiger Hill, Toy Train, Batasia Loop) and Jaldapara National Park

Visit Darjeeling (Tiger Hill, Toy Train, Batasia Loop), Jaldapara National Park.

02

**DAY 2**

### Kalimpong and Kurseong

Visit Kalimpong, Kurseong.

03

**DAY 3**

### Mirik Lake

Visit Mirik Lake.

04

DAY 4

**Lava and Lolegaon**

Visit Lava and Lolegaon.

05

DAY 5

**Gorumara National Park**

Visit Gorumara National Park.

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Travel essentials

**CURRENCY**

The Indian rupee. ATMs are plentiful in Siliguri and Darjeeling, but carry cash for homestays, forest villages and the smaller Dooars settlements.

**LANGUAGE**

Bengali and Nepali are both widely spoken, with Hindi common in Siliguri. English is understood across hotels, schools and the tea estates.

**TIME DIFFERENCE**

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

**WEATHER**

Crisp clear winters with mountain views, a warm spring, an intense monsoon from June to September carrying landslide risk, and a bright settled autumn.

**CONNECTIVITY**

Good coverage in Siliguri, Darjeeling and Kalimpong. Signal weakens through Dooars forest belts, on the Sandakphu ridge and at remote homestays, so expect intermittent data.

**Food and culture**

Food shifts from Bengali cooking on the plains to Nepali, Tibetan and Lepcha dishes in the hills, including momos, thukpa, gundruk and churpi. Gorkha, Lepcha, Bhutia, Tibetan and tea-garden communities live closely together, with monasteries, temples, bakeries and tea culture sharing the landscape.

## AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

## Getting there from India

**AIR**

Bagdogra Airport is the main gateway for Darjeeling, Kalimpong and the Dooars, with direct and connecting flights from several Indian cities.

**RAIL**

New Jalpaiguri is the principal long-distance railhead, with New Mal Junction and Alipurduar useful for selected Dooars routes.

**ROAD**

Road transfers from Bagdogra or New Jalpaiguri climb into the hills or continue across the Dooars. Monsoon disruption can affect mountain roads.

## FROM OUR PLANNERS

## Practical notes

- Dooars forest safaris at Gorumara and Jaldapara are suspended through the monsoon, roughly mid-June to mid-September, and entry is by pre-booked vehicle and watchtower slot.
- Tiger Hill for sunrise means leaving Darjeeling in the dark and joining a long convoy of cars, so go only if the previous evening's sky was clear.
- Toy train joyrides between Darjeeling and Ghum fill up quickly, and the full New Jalpaiguri service is subject to weather and landslide cancellation.
- Hill roads via Rohini and Pankhabari are prone to landslides in the rains, so anyone travelling between July and September should keep a buffer day.
- Nights are cold from November to February across Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Lava, so carry proper woollens even when the plains are still warm.
- Shared jeeps run to fixed points and stop early in the evening, so if you are basing yourself at Lava, Lolegaon or a homestay, hire the car for the whole circuit.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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**Experience**  
**Remember**

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