

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Sikkim

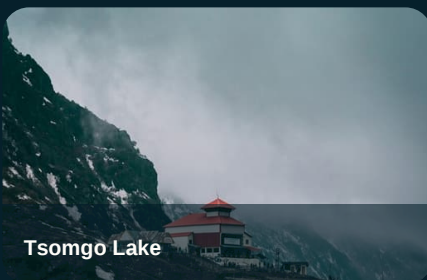
6-8 Days

From INR 13,000 per person

Best: Mar, Apr, May, Oct, Nov

Sikkim offers a compact high-Himalayan circuit reached through Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri, from where the road climbs through the Teesta valley into a small state of terraced hillsides, prayer flags, monasteries and, on a clear morning, Kanchenjunga standing...

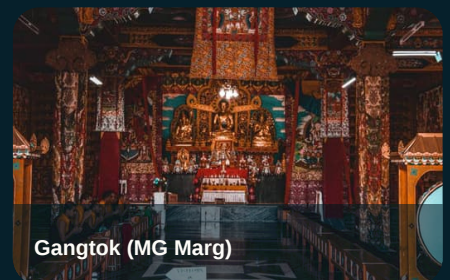
FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



Tsomgo Lake



Nathula Pass



Gangtok (MG Marg)

DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

Sikkim offers a compact high-Himalayan circuit reached through Bagdogra Airport or New Jalpaiguri, from where the road climbs through the Teesta valley into a small state of terraced hillsides, prayer flags, monasteries and, on a clear morning, Kanchenjunga standing over everything. Gangtok is the base for most trips, with MG Marg to walk in the evening and day runs out to Tsomgo Lake and Nathula on the old trade route to Tibet. North Sikkim takes you higher still, to Lachung and the alpine floor of the Yumthang valley, while west of the capital Pelling looks straight at the mountain and sits near some of Sikkim's oldest monasteries. It suits couples, families and unhurried travellers, though the roads wind and the altitude asks for a sensible, gradual itinerary.

PACKAGE DURATION

6-8 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 13,000 per person

BEST TIME

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

TRIP TYPES

hill, honeymoon

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit


Tsomgo Lake
LAKE | 2-3 HOURS

A glacial lake in a bowl of bare mountainside on the road east from Gangtok, frozen for part of the winter and rimmed with prayer flags. Visitors walk the short paved path along the shore, take yak rides and drink tea at the stalls. The lake sits inside a permit zone.


Nathula Pass
VIEWPOINT | 1-2 HOURS

A high pass on the old trade route to Tibet, still an operational border post with an Indian Army presence and a viewing point looking across the frontier. The visit is short and very cold, with steps up from the road, and access is by permit on specified days only.


Gangtok (MG Marg)
MARKET | HALF DAY

Sikkim's capital spreads over a hillside, and MG Marg is its pedestrian spine, a paved traffic-free street of shops, cafes and benches where the town comes out to walk in the evening. Ropeway rides, monasteries, viewpoints and a flower exhibition centre lie within the city.



Yumthang Valley

VALLEY | FULL DAY

A broad, flat-floored valley in North Sikkim ringed by snow peaks, with the river running through it and a hot spring nearby. It is best known for its rhododendron blooms in spring and lies under snow in winter. Reached by a long drive from Lachung, and permits apply.



Pelling and Kanchenjunga viewpoint

HILL STATION | 1-2 DAYS

A hillside town in west Sikkim positioned for direct views of Kanchenjunga at sunrise. Nearby are the old monastery at Pemayangtse, the ruined royal site of Rabdentse, waterfalls and a glass skywalk. It is quieter than Gangtok and works well as a two-night base.



Rumtek Monastery

MONASTERY | 2-3 HOURS

The large Karma Kagyu monastery on a ridge across the valley from Gangtok, with a golden stupa, a prayer hall of murals and thangkas, and a monastic institute alongside. Visitors watch prayers and walk the courtyard and grounds; identity documents are checked at the gate.



Lachung

HILL STATION | OVERNIGHT

A mountain village in North Sikkim set where two rivers meet, used as the overnight base for Yumthang. Houses stack up the valley sides, an old monastery stands above the village, and the day is built around an early start for the valley. Facilities are basic.



Zuluk

VIEWPOINT | OVERNIGHT

A hamlet on the Old Silk Route in east Sikkim, known for the hairpin road that loops up the mountainside below it and for sunrise views towards Kanchenjunga from the ridge above. Stays are homestays, the route runs through a permit zone and the roads can be rough.

6 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Tsomgo Lake and Lachung

Visit Tsomgo Lake, Lachung.

02

DAY 2

Nathula Pass and Zuluk

Visit Nathula Pass, Zuluk.

03

DAY 3

Gangtok (MG Marg)

Visit Gangtok (MG Marg).

04

DAY 4

Yumthang Valley

Visit Yumthang Valley.

05

DAY 5

Pelling and Kanchenjunga viewpoint

Visit Pelling and Kanchenjunga viewpoint.

06

DAY 6

Rumtek Monastery

Visit Rumtek Monastery.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee. Gangtok has ATMs and takes cards, but carry cash for North Sikkim, Lachung, Lachen and village homestays where machines are scarce.

LANGUAGE

Nepali is the common language, with Bhutia, Lepcha and Bengali also heard. Hindi and English are widely spoken and cause no difficulty.

TIME DIFFERENCE

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

WEATHER

Clear cold winters with snow at altitude, a rhododendron spring, a heavy monsoon from June to September carrying landslide risk, and a bright stable autumn.

CONNECTIVITY

Reliable in Gangtok and the larger towns. North Sikkim, Zuluk and the high passes have patchy or no signal, so download maps and bookings beforehand.

PERMITS AND ID

Indian citizens can visit general tourist areas with valid photo ID, but protected high-altitude routes such as Tsomgo, Nathula and parts of North Sikkim require permits arranged through authorised channels. Route access remains subject to weather and local controls.

Food and culture

Sikkimese comfort food includes momos, thukpa, phagshapa, fermented gundruk and sinki, bamboo shoot, churpi and millet-based tongba. Nepali, Bhutia and Lepcha communities share the state. Buddhist monasteries, prayer flags and Cham dances are central cultural markers, and local vegetables are seasonal and organically farmed.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Bagdogra Airport is the principal major gateway. Limited regional services may be available closer to Gangtok, subject to schedule and weather.

RAIL

New Jalpaiguri is the main railhead, followed by a road transfer through the Teesta valley.

ROAD

Road is essential within Sikkim. Mountain conditions, permits and controlled routes can affect North Sikkim, Tsomgo and Nathula plans.

Official guidance: Sikkim Tourism protected-area permit guidance - <https://www.sikkimtourism.gov.in/pap> (checked 2026-08-30)

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- Tsomgo Lake, Nathula and Zuluk all lie in permit zones; permits are arranged through a Sikkim-registered operator, and you must carry photo ID copies and passport photographs.
- Nathula opens only on certain days of the week and can shut at short notice on weather or army orders, so treat it as a bonus rather than a fixed item.
- Foreign nationals are not permitted at Nathula at all and need a Protected Area Permit for North Sikkim and the other restricted sectors.
- Tsomgo, Nathula and Yumthang are all high enough to leave you breathless, so gain height gradually, skip alcohol the night before and do not linger at the top if you feel unwell.
- The North Sikkim roads to Lachung and Yumthang are regularly blocked by landslides or snow, and the valley is only open for part of the year, so plans can change on the day.
- Carry cash for the higher sectors along with warm layers, gloves and sunglasses, because the lake and the pass are cold and glaringly bright even in summer.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Explore
Experience
Remember

This itinerary is a planning guide based on the approved destination information held by Orbitz Holidays. Final services and inclusions depend on the confirmed booking.