

## Darjeeling – Sikkim Trekking

<b>Trip code</b>	
<b>Package name</b>	Darjeeling – Sikkim Trekking
<b>Duration</b>	15
<b>Max. elevation</b>	5002 m
<b>Level</b>	MODERATE
<b>Transportation</b>	Domestic flight and grounded vehicals depending on group size.
<b>Accomodation</b>	Hotel and Lodge, Camping
<b>Starts at</b>	Kathmandu
<b>Ends at</b>	Kathmandu
<b>Trip route</b>	kathmandu - Bhadrapur - Darjeeling - Pemayangste - Yoksom - Tshokh - Dzongri - Tangsing - Samiti Lake - Gorcha la - Ganthok - Kalipung - Kathmandu .
<b>Cost</b>	USD 3,200 per person

## Highlights

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## Overview

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**Darjeeling – Sikkim trek is the most popular trek commencing the journey where you get a sweeping view of the four out of five highest peaks of the world that includes Mt. Everest, Kanchenjunga, Makalu and Lhotse all in a single stretch.**

Darjeeling is a small hill town which is a densely populated area. The district of Darjeeling spans across more than 3,000 sq. km and offers some of the best trekking routes in the world. Through your trek, the trail passes through the verdant meadows and dense forests that are abundant with

flowers like rhododendrons, magnolia, orchids and varieties of wild flowers. You will walk through forests full of trees like oaks, ferns, chestnuts and magnolias.

Sikkim is a Trekkers and Adventure lover's paradise. It is the land of peace and tranquility is an ideal destination for trekking. It has been blessed with Mighty snow capped mountain peaks, unspoilt nature, geographical condition and varieties of Flora and Fauna that offers a lot for the lovers of Adventure Tourism. Apart from Trekking, Tours and Mountaineering, sikkim offers various other activities like Mountain biking, River Rafting, Paragliding, Birds and Butterfly watching and many more. Trekking in Sikkim is a wonderful experience an antidote to city stress of daily life and its memories will be cherished life long. While trekking one relish the pure air and the silence of the wilderness and feels the awakening of senses dulled by Urban Living. As you trek in sikkim himlayas, identifying peaks, mountains, rivers and places around you becomes a good pastime. And whether you can climb the next hilltop becomes more important than anything else in life. From a distance these mountains may seen formidable and unapproachable but as you near them they seem to welcome you into the forest vibrant with life.

Sikkim Darjeeling trekking tour offer best Himalayan scenery including Mt. Everest 8848m, Mt. Kanchenjunga 8586m, Mt. Lhotse 8516m, Mt. Makalu 8463m , beautiful valley & mixed culture of Sikkim Darjeeling. People living in hustle and bustle of city life, people with financial or mental stress can rejuvenate themselves while trekking. Higher in the mountain, silence prevail but with sound of bird chirp. Night sky is clear with constellation at a full glow. Silent ambience takes away all the grief. 4000 species of flowering plants, 600 species of birds, 560 species of Orchids, 40 species of Rhododendrons and a large number of other animals are sheltered in this tiny state. Numerous snow-clad peaks, alpine lakes and swirling clouds beautify the area for any adventure lover who comes to Sikkim. This is the best Trekking tour; you can do in Sikkim and Darjeeling. On the way you will pass through spectacular forests of silver fir, rhododendrons, chestnuts, oaks, magnolias and hemlock. If you are eying for a short vacation in the serene hills, the deal for you is right here. In less than a fortnight, you will be able to cruise around all the famed tourist hot spots of these magnificent hilly paradises.

The trip begins with an hour's flight from Kathmandu to Bhadrapur, a small town in proximity to Nepal's eastern border with India. You will find our representative waiting for you at the airport. You better get hand and glove with him because he is the one who is going to be your guiding star throughout this tour. From Bhadrapur we take a private car and drive all the way to Kakarviita, another town right at Nepal's eastern border with India. After some custom and immigration formalities here, we then drive ahead entering the Indian premises (state) of West Bengal. Our destination for the day is Darjeeling, also known as "The Queen of hills". Exploring this hill station, our drive continues as we take a day's halt at Yuksum and then at Pemayangtse. From here, we cruise ahead to Gangtok, the beautiful capital of Sikkim. We stay for about 3 days in Gangtok, getting fully indulged in the sightseeing. The drive continues to get meticulous along the narrow and curvy roads as we arrive to Kalimpong, another stunning hill station known for its British styled schools and Gauripur House (home of the great Bengali poet Ravindra Nath Tagore). After the exploration in Kalimpong is over, we drive back to Bhadrapur and eventually take a flight to Kathmandu.

Best time for trekking in Darjeeling

There are two great seasons for trekking in Darjeeling and surrounding areas.

The first such season is between April to May, which is the spring and beginning of summer time. The temperature is quite comfortable and varies from a minimum of 6°C to a maximum of 12°C. There may be some chances of rain, but usually short showers.

However one great positive side of this season is that you get to see many different types of mountain flowers, especially rhododendrons in full bloom and in different colors. You can also usually trek until first week of June, after which the rain usually comes into play in full swing.

The second season for trekking is from October to November. If the monsoon gets extended, you may experience some showers even in October. But usually both months are dry and visibility is excellent. You will need heavy woolens though during this time as the temperature varies between minimum of 1°C to a maximum of 6°C. There are chances of occasional snowfall as well during this time. You can even continue trekking in Darjeeling area until mid December but the weather becomes really cold around that time.

## **Trip Itinerary**

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### **Day 1 : Drive to airport and fly to Bhadrapur – Kakarvitta – Darjeeling**

Early in the morning wake up and transfer to airport for flight from Kathmandu – Bhadrapur and then drive to Kakarvitta (Nepal Border). Meet our representative and drive towards Darjeeling. Transfer to hotel. Evening sightseeing and acclimatization. Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **Day 2 : Darjeeling Sightseeing**

Early in the morning wake up to see the spectacular view of sunrise and it's amazing effects on the Mt. Kanchenjunga (world 3rd highest) from the Tiger hill. Then onwards we visit Ghoom Monastery and Natasha Loop War Memorial while returning to the hotel. After taking breakfast, we then start our full day sightseeing tour including: Padmajan. Zoological Garden, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Tibetan Refugee Self-help Centre and visit to the Local Market (City Life). Enjoy the Historical Toy joy ride provided the train is running for the Day. Overnight stay in Darjeeling.

### **Day 3 : Darjeeling – Pemayangtse( Pelling) – 65 km, 4 to 5 hours drive**

After breakfast, we drive 5 hours to reach Pemayangtse. This is the nearest motor able point from “Mt. Kanchendzonga”, World's 3rd Highest Peak. One can enjoy the spectacular Eastern Himalayan Range from this place. At evening, we visit to Pemayangtse Monastery, the second oldest Monastery in Sikkim. Overnight stay in Pemayangtse.

### **Day 4 : Pemayangtse – Yuksom (32 km)**

Today we will transfer to Yuksom, en-route visiting Kanchenjunga falls, Kenchodphelri Lake, Rimbi Falls. At Yuksom, one can simply enjoy the scenic beauty of this beautiful Himalayan hill village situated in a valley, by seating in the garden of the hotel or can walk around the KartakLake which is just in front of the hotels. Tashi Gang Chorten is also worth viewing. Overnight stay in Yuksom.

### **Day 5 : Yuksom – Tshokh (3000 m / 9840 ft) – 5 to 6 hours walk**

The trail starts from the local market and follows main road towards the north. The trail then climbs gently out of the valley and hugs the right bank of the Ratong Chu River, which can be heard thundering

through the gorge below. Then the trail crosses over four bridges to climb steeply towards north-west to the small settlement of Bakhim. Continuing for another 3 km through forest of magnolia and rhododendron reaches Tshokh. Set campsite for dinner and overnight stay at Tshokh.

### **Day 6 : Tshokh – Dzongri (4030 m / 13218 ft) – 5 to 6 hours walk**

Today our trail passes through the village of Tshokh and we continue to climb north through the forest of rhododendron to the alp of Phidang (3650 m) taking around 3 hrs to complete the ascent. We then continue further towards Dzongri. On arrival set campsite for dinner and overnight stay at Dzongri.

### **Day 7 : Rest day & Acclimatise at Dzongri**

The day is for rest and acclimatization. On this day we can savour views of the mountain peaks by climbing up to Dzongri Top. From there we get a panoramic view of Kabru (7353 m), Ratong (6678 m), Kanchenjunga (8534 m), Koptang (6147 m), Pandim (6691 m) and Narsing (5825 m). Towards the west, the Singalila Ridge, which separates Sikkim from Nepal, can be seen. Dinner and overnight stay in tents.

### **Day 8 : Dzongri – Tangsing (3800 mts/ 12464 ft) – 4 to 5 hours walk**

Our trail continues along the right bank of the river towards east. After cresting the hill the path drops into the valley and then crosses the bridge over the Prek Chu river. It's an hour climb from the bridge to Tangsiing (3800 m) located on the slopes of Mt Pandim. Dinner and overnight stay in tents.

### **Day 9 : Tangsing – Samiti Lake (4500 mts/ 14760 ft) – 3 to 4 hours walk**

The trail from Tangsiing climbs gently north and follows a stream and alpine meadows. About an hour above Tangsiing we reach Onglathang from where the superb view of the south face of Kanchenjunga can be seen. In order to capture clear views one has to reach Onglathang early. The trail then skirts through a series of glacial moraines before crossing over meadows again, and arrives at the emerald lake at Samiti. Overnight stay in tents.

### **Day 10 : Samiti Lake – Goecha La (5002 mts/ 16406 ft) – 6 to 7 hours walk**

Today, we have both ascent and descent trail. The climb to Goecha La begins with a gentle gradient eastwards for about half an hour and then later the steep ascent starts. The trail follows the glacial moraine north-east and then drops to a dry lake at Zemathang. A tough scramble over rocks and boulders with a rise of 400 meters will bring us on the top of the pass. The pass is formed due to the depression between Pandim and the Kabru spurs. It over looks the Talung Valley and commands a very impressive view of the south face of Kanchejunga. Afternoon return to the Samitilake. Dinner and overnight stay in tents.

### **Day 11 : Samiti Lake – Tshokh (14 km) – 6 to 7 hour walk**

Our trail starts retracing steps towards Tangsiing will take about couple of hours or so. From Tangsiing, follow the trail to Kokchorung(3800 m) which is a good camping site. Continue descending towards Tsokha by going through a bypass route directly to Tsokha. Dinner and overnight stay in tents.

### **Day 12 : Tshokh – Yuksom –Gangtok (125 km) – 6 to 7 hours drive**

After breakfast, transfer to Gangtok, en route visit Ravangla, Arrive & transfer to hotel. Overnight stay in Gangtok.

### **Day 13 : Gangtok Sightseeing**

After breakfast, proceed for the full day sightseeing tour in and around the capital city of Sikkim, covering Chorten, Stupa, Institute of Tibetology Institute of Handicraft and handlooms & Roomtek Monastery. Overnight stay in Gangtok.

### **Day 14 : Gangtok – Kalimpong (78 km) – 2 hours drive**

After breakfast, drive to Kalimpong which takes about 2 hours. Arrive & transfer to hotel. Proceed for half day sightseeing around Kalimpong including: DurpinDhara, Zong Dog PalriFo- Brong Monastery, Flower & Orchid Nurseries & Kalimpong Market

### **Day 15 : Kalimpong – Bhadrapur – Kathmandu**

Early in the morning, drive to border and further drive to Bhadrapur, and fly back to Kathmandu. On arrival, transfer to hotel. Overnight at hotel.

## **Inclusions**

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### **What is included?**

- Accommodation in Kathmandu twin sharing basis with breakfast
- Sightseeing tour in Kathmandu with tour guide
- Kathmandu –Bhadrapur –Kathmandu by flight
- All Transportation AC / Qulise, Innova / Xylo / Mini Tourist Bus
- Guide/ leader (Experienced Tour Guide will lead the tour).
- All monument fees, Permit arrangement, All taxes and VAT in Darjling ,Skkim
- All accommodation as Darjeeling, Gangtok, Pelling, Yuksom and Kalimpong in twin sharing With Breakfast.
- All meals (lunch, Dinner and Breakfast) during the trek.

### **What isn't included?**

Lunch and dinner in Nepal.

Entry Visa fees - at present \$25 for 15 day, US\$ 40 for 30 day, and US\$ 100 for three month visa on entry into Nepal.

Travel and medical insurance.

Personal expenses (laundry, bar bills, snacks, phone calls, internet.)

Tips for guide and driver (tipping is expected)

Loss, theft or damage to baggage and personal effects. (We strongly advise you to get personal travel insurance.)

## **Complimentary**