

CULTURAL TOUR IN THE NORTH EAST

23 Nights/ 24 Days Tour

Guwahati-1, Shillong-1, Cherrapunjee-1, Shillong-2, Nameri-1, Dirang-1, Tawang-2, Bomdilla-1, Kaziranga-2, Kohima-2, Imphal-3, Aizawl-2, Silchar-1, Agartala-3

Day 1

Guwahati



Meet n greet at the Guwahati airport/ station, drive to the hotel & checkin.

Guwahati: Guwahati is Situated on the Southern bank of the mighty River Brahmaputra in Kamrup district of Assam. Previously it was known as Pragjyotishpur (The City of the eastern Light) Guwahati is the fast growing premier city and it is also the gateway to the North Eastern states of India. This city subsequently got the name Guwahati (Guwa-means beetlenut and Hat – means market in Assamese)

Afternoon city tour of Guwahati visiting:

Kamakhya Temple: The origin of Kamakhya Temple is pre Aryan situated atop the Nilachal Hill. The foremost shrine of Assam, The Kamakhya is an ancient seat of Tantric and shakti Cults of Hinduism. The original temple was destroyed by the invading Muslims in their crusade against Hindu temples and idols in the early part of 16th century. Ultimately it was restored from ruins by King Naranarayan of the Koch dynasty and rebuilt in its present form in 1665 AD.

Shankardev Kalakshetra: a place where Assamese history and culture is depicted in a sprawling open enclosure. It has a beautiful museum where they preserved the masks (these masks are made in Majuli island), the traditional dresses and jewellery of the entire North East India. A Namghar (Assamese prayer Hall) and an open air theatre has been constructed to perform the plays and other cultural activities during festivals.

Guwahati War Cemetery: Built and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The cemetery was started during the war when several military hospitals were posted in the area and was originally for burials from these hospitals. There are now 517 casualties buried in this cemetery.

OR

Evening do the boat ride on the Brahmaputra river. Overnight stay

Day 2

Guwahati>>Shillong (3 hrs, 100 kms)



Morning after breakfast depart for Shillong, the Scotland of East.

En route visit

Barapani (Uiam Lake): As per the legends, two heavenly sisters decided to make their way to Meghalaya. However, one of them had reached the destination and the other could not due to some reason. So the former could not trace out her sister and started crying with her broken heart. She cried so much that a lake was formed with her tears. Locally known as Uiam Lake, Barapani means vast waters.

Today it becomes a hub for the water sports activities such as speed boats, sailboats and water scooters. Adjoining to the lake, the Nehru Park offers an aviary and a collection of orchids and butterflies.Arrive Shillong and check in at hotel.

Shillong: The Capital of Meghalaya, Shillong is one of the major tourist destinations in North East India. The British loved this place so much that they had established its Capital for Eastern Bengal and Assam For its climate and unique topographical features the British referred Shillong as the "Scotland Of The East". Overnight at hotel.

Day 3

Shillong>>Mawlennlyong>>Cherrapunji



After breakfast drive to Mawlennlyong- said to be the cleanest village in Asia. Visit the sky view point- a maze of bamboo pathways which takes you above the tree tops to get a clear view of the Bangladesh plains. Then to the living root bridge situated a few minutes walk from the main road, 10mins drive from Mawlennlyong....., onwards to Cherrapunjee

Cherrapunjee is a small hamlet, situated at an altitude of about 4823 feet (1484 m). Locally known as 'SOHRA'. Cherrapunjee is located in the southern most point of Khasi hill sharing the border of Sylhet district of Bangladesh. Cherrapunji offers a panoramic view of the hilly terrains, deep gorges and valleys with its spectacular waterfalls. It was once having the record of being the wettest place on earth, with an average rainfall of about 1150ms. However, this record has been overtaken by a nearby place Mawsynram

In Cherrapunjee visit:

Nohkalikai falls: This waterfall located 4 kms away from Cherrapunjee and is possibly between 1500 and 2000 feet tall. Known to be the fourth longest fall in the world it carries a pathetic legend behind its name. A woman named Ka Likai had a illegitimate child. After marriage the husband became jealous of her love for her daughter. One day Ka Likai was out for work and her husband killed the daughter, cooked her flesh into a meal. When the woman enquired about her daughter, her husband showed the sign of ignorance. Before she went to look for her daughter, she thought of eating something and had the meal that her husband prepared for her. After having the meal she found both the wrist of her daughter in the betel-nut basket. Then she realized what had happened, killed her husband with a dagger and threw herself off this cliff of this falls. This is how the falls got its name which means "Fall of Ka Likai."

Mawsmai Cave: This 250m long cave is the major attraction for the tourists in Cherrapunjee. This cave is located 6 kms away from Cherrapunjee near to Mawsmai village. This natural limestone cave is wide enough for a person to walk comfortably, and one can see the myriads of stalagmites and stalactites all over the caves which are growing gradually. The caves are dark inside and electric torches are installed for the convenient of the tourists.

Thangkharang Park: Thangkharang Park is situated 12 km from Cherrapunjee. The park is the house of various orchids and birds. One can see the 180 degree view of the plains of Bangladesh on a clear day.

Day 4

Cheerapunji>>Shillong

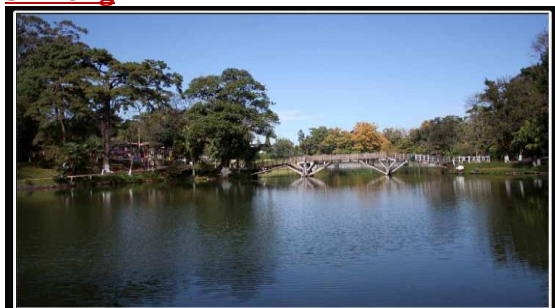


Morning enjoy the splendorous view of the Bangladesh plains, visit the caves

After lunch, transfer to Shillong. **Overnight stay**

Day 5

Shillong



Morning after breakfast full day city tour of Shillong visiting:

Shillong Peak: It is the highest point of Shillong, located in the upper Shillong at an altitude of

1961 meters (6,433 feet). The name Shillong originated from “Leishyllong” meaning god who is believed to live on the Shillong peak, overlooking the city. It is located 5 kilometers away from Shillong and on a clear day one can enjoy the beautiful view of the entire city.

Elephant Falls: Located in the Upper Shillong 10 kms away from the Shillong town it is one of the majestic waterfalls in Meghalaya. The water of this three steps falls comes down in flows from different levels over the fern-covered rocks and falls into the canyon down below. In the morning it forms a wonderful sight when the sun rays fall on the cascades of water creating the rainbow colors. The best time to visit the waterfalls is during the monsoon when it offers a breath-taking scenery. The forests covered with ferns and thick bamboo grooves are also worth visited for the nature lovers to find the presence of various species of butterflies, birds and orchids.

Wards Lake: Wards Lake is located in the heart of the Shillong City adjoining to the Governor’s Residence. Shaped like a horseshoe, it is one of the prominent hang-out spot in Shillong. This century old lake was built by an engineer named Mr. Pollock. Hence it is also known to be as "Polok's Lake". One can opt for boating and pleasant walks on the cobbled sand stone pathways covered with varieties of flowers. The lake also has an arched bridge from where one can feed the fish.

Cathedral of Mary Help of Christian: Situated in At Laitumkhrah, it is the largest Cathedral in Meghalaya attracts thousands of devotees. The colorful glasses of the skylight window along with the paintings of the Jesus spreading the messages of God are influenced by the European art and architecture.

Also a do some shopping at Police Bazaar. Overnight in Shillong.

Day 6

Shillong >> Nameri (250 Kms/07 Hours)



After an early breakfast, drive to Nameri National Park. **The Nameri National Park** of 200 sq kms area is located in the Sonitpur district, bordering Arunachal Pradesh and it is also the core area of Nameri Tiger Reserve (344sq kms). It is the home of Mammals like Elephant, Tiger, leopard, Sambar, Barking deer, Hog Deer, Wild Boar, Gaur, slow loris, goplangur, Burmese ferret badger, and over 350 species of birds including White-winged Wood Duck, Ibisbill (uncommon), Ruddy Kingfisher, Palla’s fishing eagle, Lesser Adjutant stork, Greater spotted eagle, Rufous necked hornbill, Great pied Indian hornbill, Wreathed hornbill, Long-billed Ringed Plover, Sultan Tit, and Yellow-bellied and White-throated Fantails. Another important wild life sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh The Pakhui (Pakke) wild life Sanctuary adjoins the Park on its North-Eastern point. The river Jia- Bhoroli and its tributaries namely the Diji, Dinai, Doigurung, Nameri, Dikorai, Kharietc crisscross the park. During rainy season A few jheels (during the rainy seasons) also dot the area. One can enjoy rafting in the Jia Bhoroli river in the south western boundary. Arrive by evening and check in at Eco Camp.

Rest of the time free at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

Day 7

Nameri>>Dirang (185kms, 6hrs)



After breakfast, proceed to **Dirang (5700 ft)** which is a very beautiful town located by the river with hot water springs..... Your upward journey starts at Bhalukpong which is at the border of Arunachal....a sleepy town where you fill your stomach, take some rations & prepare for the ride of your life thru towering mountains. Reach Dirang by noon.

Dirang: Dirang 40 kms from Bomdila is situated at an altitude of 1497 meters. It is an ideal hill resort in West Kameng district with beautiful Apple Nursery, Kiwi Farm, Yak Research Centre, Buddhist Gumpa, Hot Water Spring and ancient Dirang Jong (Fort). It is the base camp for trekking to Gorichen peak and other bird watching trails

Afternoon visit the natural hot spring, Apple gardens and the Yak Breeding farms.
Overnight at hotel.

Day 8

Dirang>>Tawang (150kms, 6hrs)



Morning by 0730hrs, leave for **Tawang (10500 ft)** – the land of the Mongpa Tribes who are all of Tibetan origin. The Monpas belong to Mongoloid stock. They are well built, fair in complexion. Their houses are built with stones and timbers. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry are the fundamental means of the Monpas occupation.

Jaswant Garh: The war memorial is located 14 kms from Sella Pass on the way to Tawang. The memorial pay homage to Jaswant Singh Rawat, Mahavir Chakra Awardee posthumous (the second highest award from the Indian Army). In the famous battle of Nuranang against Chinese in November 1962, Rawat and two other soldiers from 4th Battallion Garhwal Rifles were instrumental in killing 300 Chinese soldiers in 72 hours.

Sella Pass (13700 ft): The entry point into the Tawang Valley is Sella pass at an elevation of 13700 ft above the sea level.. Legend says that a monpa woman supported sepoy Jashwant Singh during his battle with the Chinese. She brought sepoy Jashwant supplies and used to heal his wounds. When Jashwant got martyrdom she killed herself as an act of loyalty. The glimpse of Paradise Lake in the Sella Pass makes your visit worth. Most of the time the lake

is covered with thick blanket of snow. Arrive Tawang and check in at hotel. Evening free at leisure.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 9

Tawang>>Madhuri Lake>>Tawang (80kms, 6hrs)



After breakfast, proceed to Madhuri Lake (13714ft) which is 40kms from Tawang. This lake got its name from Madhuri Dixit who did a film shooting here. Back to Tawang by late noon

OR

Spend time looking around Tawang town, resting your tired limbs. Night halt at Tawang.

Day 10

Tawang>>Bomdilla (241kms, 8hrs)



Early morning at 7am, depart for Bomdilla (8500ft). Enroute near Tawang, visit the **Jung water fall**...Reach Bomdilla by late noon.

Bomdila: On the way to Tawang, situated at height of 8500 ft. Bomdila is a picturesque town in the foothills of Himalayas and the headquarter of West Kameng District the land of the Monpa, Sherdukpen, Aka (Hrusso), Miji and Bogun (Khawas) tribes. One can see the brilliant landscape and snow-clad Gorichen ranges of the Himalaya on a clear day. With its apple orchards, Buddhist gomphas and a magnificent view of the Kameng Valley Bomdila can be named as a mini paradise. Bomdila is also an ideal place for nature lovers with several trekking and hiking trails now opened for the adventure seeker.

Places of interest:

Bomdila Monastery: The monastery has been built under the guidance of Dalai Lama. It is a residence of more than 200 Buddhist monks. From the monastery one can have the breathtaking view of the entire Bomdila. The time of pray is in dawn and dusk, attending which, one can have the absolute peace of mind.

Also visit craft center, where very fine wooden carpets of colourful designs and Masks are produced.

Bomdila also offers a Bird's eye view of Kangto and Gorichen peaks (highest peaks in the state) amidst the Himalayan landscape and snow clad ranges.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 11

Bomdilla>>Kaziranga (241kms, 8hrs)



Early morning at 7.30am, depart for Kaziranga- the land of the one horned Rhino. Reach by late noon. Overnight stay

Day 12

Kaziranga



Early morning at 06.30 am take a Elephant ride for 1 hour. Return to lodge by 8 am.

After breakfast proceed to the Western Range of the Park. It takes 25 minutes by jeep to reach the entrance of this Range. Back to lodge by noon.

After lunch do a jeep safari on the Central Range-

The route traverses the southwest portion of the park. This range has maximum short grass areas and is the optimum habitat for Rhino and Water Buffalo. Representative perennial ox-bow lakes surrounded by marshy *Haemarthia compressa* stands can be seen. Part of the drive is also through Low Alluvial Savannah Woodland. Colonization of grassland by *Lagerstroemia parviflora* can be seen. A round of the entire circuit is around 20 km. High herbivore densities around these wetlands are characteristic of the habitat. Around 2 pm to Kaziranga Range. This drive covers central region of the park. Is an ideal introduction to the park and its ecology as the route passes through the entire spectrum of habitat types prevalent in the area. There is a possibility of sighting elephants as well as the other mega herbivores. Yarding place of Swamp Deer. The process of plant succession can be observed at various seral stages. Birding in a wide range of habitats. Good sunset pictures. Takes 15 minutes to reach the entry point. Entire circuit approximately 35 km.....Back to the hotel by 4-5 pm. Over night stay.

Day 13

Kaziranga>>Kohima (210kms, 6hrs)



Morning after breakfast depart for Kohima. Enroute visit the hot spring in Garampani.

Kohima: Kohima is derived from the word "Kew Hi Ma" which means the men of the land where the flower Kew Hi grows. Situated at an altitude of 1444 m above sea level, Kohima is the Capital of Nagaland. Like other Naga settlements Kohima shares the same feature standing on top of the surrounding mountains. In true sense, fusion of different cultures with a blend of modernisms turns Kohima to a fast growing city. Arrive Kohima and check in at hotel. Overnight stay.

Day 14

Kohima



Morning after breakfast visit

The Kohima War Cemetery:

**“When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,
For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today”**

Constructed in the memory of the officers and soldiers who made supreme sacrifices during World War II, the war cemetery attracts hundreds of visitors every year including the relatives of those martyrs. Maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the cemetery witnessed more than 2000 graves, on each grave there are beautiful epitaphs carved in bronze.

Kohima village: Popularly known as Bara Basti (Big Village) the Kohima village is one of the largest village in Asia. Inhabited mainly by the Angami tribes it is divided into 'khels' or localities. A large traditional wooden gate welcomes you to the village which is elaborately carved with warriors and weapons and the skull of the mithun, a symbol of prosperity.

Khonoma Green Village: Located 21 kms away from Kohima town the Khonoma village is the first "green village" of Nagaland. The village is well known for the legendary leader Angami Zapu Phizo who was the founder of the Naga movement. It is **in this place where the Naga warriors made their last endeavor against the British aggression in 1879.** Khonoma

Nature Conservation and Tragopan Sanctuary' (KNCTS) was initiated to create the environmental awareness among the inhabitants and reserved about 70 sq km of its village forest. The village is **also famous for the fallow management of its alder trees which balances nature in the surrounding areas.**

Overnight at hotel.

Day 15

Kohima>>Imphal (260kms, 7hrs)



Morning after breakfast depart by car for Imphal. Arrive by evening and check in at hotel.

Day 16

Imphal



Morning after breakfast visit:

Loktak Lake and Sendra Island: Located 48 kms from Imphal this beautiful lake is resemble like a miniature inland sea, **Subhash Chandra Bose Museum, Kangla Fort-** Situated right near the bank of the Imphal River and at the heart of Imphal city is 'Kangla', the ancient capital of Manipur till Imphal took over from 1891. During ancient times, 'Kangla' was the royal palace (King Pakhangba 33 A.D.), **Sambal Lei Sekpin-** the tallest tree in the world which also has its name in the Guinness book of world records.

Evening, visit

Khwairamband Bazaar: One of the main attractions of Imphal is the Khwairamband Bazaar. What makes this market different is that it is run by women. Split into two sections on either side of the road, it has tribal women clad in colorful, traditional attire, selling everything from hand-woven shawls, skirts, vessels, mugs and mats to fish, lotus, oranges and orange-flavored honey. And if you wander in the quaint by lanes around the market, you will get a glimpse of Manipur's customs and traditions.

Overnight at hotel.

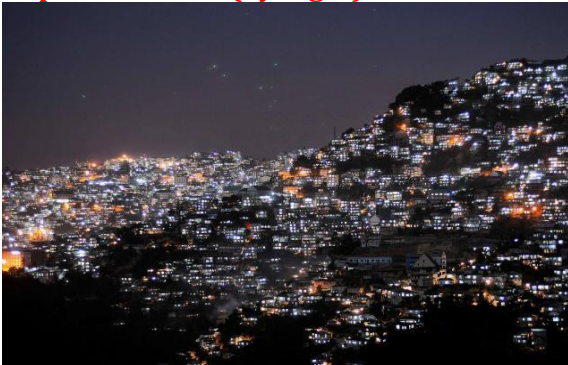
Day 17
Imphal



Morning after breakfast full day excursion to **More (Burma Border)** which is a 110kms drive (3hrs), cross the bridge & do your shopping of various goods.

Back by evening.

Day 18
Imphal>>Aizawl (by flight)



Morning after an early breakfast transfer to airport for the flight towards Aizawl and transfer to hotel.

Aizawl: Aizawl, the state Capital of Mizoram is located at an altitude of 4000 feet above sea level. Surrounded on the east by the deep green valley of river Tlawng and protected by beautiful high hills of Durtlang on the north, it is an ideal hill station for those looking for some fresh air and solitude.

Evening free to explore the city by your own.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 19
Aizawl



Morning after breakfast full day city tour visiting:

ATC- Aizawl Theological Coll-...its a view point

Bara Bazar: It is the most important shopping hub with stalls selling garments, and other commodities. Here the people can be seen in their traditional costumes selling products from farms and homesteads including river crabs with little wicker baskets.

Luangmual Handicrafts Centre: 7 Kms away from Aizawl it takes half an hour to reach by car. The 'Khumbau' ceremonial bamboo hat is made here using waterproof 'hnahtial' leaves.

Mizoram State Museum: This museum is situated at Mc Donald Hill in the town center. it is having an interesting collection of historical relics, ancient costumes and traditional implements.

(Open Monday - Friday from 9:00 A.M to 5 PM. Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM)

Durtlang Hills: These beautiful, craggy hills offer the breathtaking view of Aizawl.

Mini Zoo: Home to species of animals and birds found only in the hills of Mizoram

Berawtlang Tourist Complex: This is a recreational center situated 7 kms away from Aizawl City. It offers the facilities of Restaurant as well as Tourist Cottages. Overnight at hotel.

Day 20

Aizawl>>Silchar (180kms, 5hrs)



Morning after breakfast depart for Silchar for stop over. Arrive and check in at hotel. Next day we will prepare for our final destination – Tripura. Overnight at hotel.

Day 21

Silchar>>Agartala (280kms, 7hrs)



Morning after an early breakfast depart for Agartala.

Agartala: Agartala is the Capital of Tripura and shares its boundary with Bangladesh. Once a good hunting ground, it became the Capital of the state during the time of Maharaja Krishna Kishor Manikya (1830-50). It remains since then the seat of the state headquarter.

Arrive and check in at hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 22
Agartala



Morning after breakfast visit:

Ujjayanta Palace: Situated in the heart of the town and covering an area of about half a square mile this place is a two storied mansion having a mixed architecture with three domes, the central one being 86 feet high. The construction of this beautiful, well-balanced royal palace was undertaken in 1899 and completed in 1901 at a cost of a little over Rs 10 Lakh or 1 million. The two large tanks on two sides with the approach road in between them and well-laid out gardens around the palace with water courses and fountains patterned on Mughal gardens have added beauty to it. The palace has been acquired by the state Govt. and now house of the Legislative Assembly, besides few Govt. offices.

Kunjaban Palace: Within a mile of the Ujjayanta Palace and to the north stands a picturesque hillock known as Kunjaban. The Palace was built by Maharaja Birendra Kishore Manikya (1909-23) who was a good artist and he said to have prepared himself the plan of the Palace and the adjoining gardens. The palace was considered as an ideal spot for relaxation and pleasure strolls in those days. The palace has been taken over by the state Govt. and now used as the official residence of the Governor of the State.

Jagannath Temple: Situated near Kunjaban Palace, the temple not only attracts Hindus, but many others because of its peculiar structure which is octagonal at the basement, and has an excellent 'Pradakshinapatha' (the sacred pathway that goes in the clock wise direction) round the sanctum.

Sipahijola: Half an hour from Agartala, through an attractive forest, Sipahijola is a beautiful nature and Zoological Park covering an area of 18.532 km. It is the house of more than 150 species of residential birds, migratory birds and lots of wild animals including spectacled monkey, tiger and leopards. With an attractive flowerage greenery and rubber plantation, the area now serves as a beautiful picnic spot.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 23
Agartala



Morning after breakfast full day excursion around Agartala visiting:

Tripura Sundari Temple (Udaipur): Considered to be one of the oldest pilgrimage place in North East India, it was built by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya in 1501 AD. The temple was subsequently repaired by Maharaja Rama Manikya in 1681 AD when it was damaged by lightning, and again by Radah Kishor manikya in the beginning of the 20th century. The Goddess Tripuri Sundari is the tutelary deity of the royal family. Temple is also called 'Matabari'.

Nirmahal: One of the finest beauty spots of the state, Nirmahal is situated 53 Kms from Agartala. The palace is so called as it is surrounded on all sides by a big lake called Rudra Sagar. The scenic beauty of the lake attracted Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishor manikya (1927-47) so much that he built a spectacular palace at the center of the lake itself named it as Nirmahal (or palace in water).

Kamalasagar Lake: It is an artificial lake at the border of Bangladesh excavated by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya in 15th century. On the bank of the lake, there is a famous temple of Goddess Kali dating back to 16th century. One can go upto the border fencing from the Indian side and have a look on the Bangladesh territory.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 24

Agartala >>Depart for onward destination



Morning after breakfast in time transfer to airport for the onward destination.