



Sikkim: The Secret Shangrila

(October 10, 2015 to October 16, 2015: 6 Nights / 7 Days)



Sikkim probably is one of the world's last few utopias. It is arguably amongst the loveliest destinations in India. It is a small state bordering Bhutan, Tibet, and Nepal. The landscape of Sikkim is dramatic. There are high mountains, glaciers, alpine meadows, and thousands of varieties of wild flowers. Geographically diverse due to its location, the climate ranges from subtropical to high alpine. It's a popular destination due to its culture and biodiversity, Buddhists monasteries, rhododendron clad mountain valleys, stunning views of Mt. Kanchenjunga (8589 meters), the third highest peak in the world, is visible from almost any viewpoint in the state. This has made it a haven for visitors. There is a strong presence of Tibetan Buddhism. The pretty landscape, rich vibrant culture and delicious food make it a favorite, among discerning travelers. This autumn, take this opportunity to join The Wander Girls, to discover the ethereal beauty of Sikkim.



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Day 1

Bagdogra to Gangtok 130kms (4 -5 hours)

After arrival at Bagdogra airport we start on one of the most scenic drives to Gangtok. On the way to Gangtok, it will be difficult to take your eyes off the breathtaking scenery. Gangtok is a marvelous destination, perched along the mountain ridge and blessed with beautiful sights. It is a refreshingly clean city in a well-organized state. Lunch will be enroute, (on your own expense). In the evening we can stroll on MG Road and shop for local artefacts, bamboo, and Feng Shui items, or buy the unique cups with Sikkimese design which come with a lid. For dinner too, you can eat (on your own expense), in one of the restaurants on MG Road.

Overnight at Gangtok.

Meals included: none



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Day 2

Gangtok to Tsanghu Lake 43kms (3 hrs one way)

After breakfast we start for Tsanghu or Tsomgo Lake. The fresh mountain air makes us lightheaded with happiness. Tsanghu Lake at 12,400ft is a spectacular high altitude glacier lake. The lake which is surrounded by the snow clad rugged mountains, rise towards the Tibetan Plateau, making the view a spectacular one. The lake changes appearance with the changing season. You can do a quirky thing like ride a yak. These beasts are decorated with colorful woolen items and bells which hang from their neck. We then proceed to Nathu La (optional). This high altitude mountain pass connects Sikkim to Tibet Autonomous Region. This pass at 15000ft was part of the ancient Silk Route. Lunch enroute (at your own expense). The panoramic view of the Himalayas will take your breath away. At Nathu La we can pay tribute to our martyred soldiers. You can also get a certificate of your presence there, by the Indian Govt. For dinner, (on your own expense), we can choose from one of the many eateries offering various cuisines.

Overnight at Gangtok

Meals included: Breakfast



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Day 3

Gangtok to Lachen 8,800ft (6 hrs)

Today be prepared to be dazzled by the most spectacular sights. After breakfast we start for Lachen. Enroute we stop at Tashi Viewpoint, which presents one of the best views of Mt Kanchenjunga and Mt Siniolchu. The looming presence of Kanchenjunga casts a mystical spell. The Gangtok valley too looks breathtakingly beautiful. Kabi Longstock is a small town where a friendship treaty was signed between the Lepcha Chief and the Bhutia chief. The location, where the treaty was signed, is marked by a stone pillar and a monastery. Our next stop is at Singhik, which is a picturesque hamlet. Here too, you get a fantastic view of Mount Kanchenjunga and Mount Siniolchu, surrounded by lush green hills with Teesta River flowing below. We stop at a picturesque place for lunch. The beauty of the Seven Sisters waterfall and the Naga waterfall will send you rushing for your cameras. After a beautiful drive we reach Lachen. Lachen retains its quaintness in the form of old wooden houses, Tibetan style window frames, and fluttering prayer flags. Enjoy exploring the village at leisure.

Dinner and overnight at Lachen.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



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Day 4

Lachen to Gurudongmar Lake to Lachung via Chopta Valley

After breakfast we drive to Gurudongmar Lake which is one of the highest lakes in the world at 17800ft. It is named after Guru Padamsambhav also known as Guru Dongmar. Legend says he touched and sanctified this lake. This beautiful lake will captivate all. The drive to Gurudongmar Lake is via Chopta Valley which is rich with alpine trees, orchids, lakes and rivers. Thangu enroute is a scenic place but with sparse vegetation. Thangu is the gateway to the sacred Gurudongmar Lake. Post lunch we visit Lachen monastery. After that, drive to Lachung (2hrs) which is a pretty hill town (8610ft) with waterfalls, sparkling streams, and orchards. Enroute we stop at Bhim Nala Waterfall. At Lachung, enjoy shopping for local handicrafts and handloom products.

Dinner and overnight at Lachung.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



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Day 5

Lachung to Yumthang 24 kms (2 hours)

Yumthang Valley enthralls visitors with dramatic pristine mountains. The drive to Yumthang is as beautiful as the destination. Surrounded by snow capped mountains, it's difficult to take your eyes off the stunning view. Yumthang Valley is a grazing pasture at 3564 meters. These pastures are used by yaks and nomads. Enjoy the snow which you are likely to find. On the way to Yumthang, we stop at the hot water sulphur springs. This water has medicinal properties which cures skin problems. Lunch can be enjoyed in this beautiful locale.

Yumesamdong or Zero Point (optional) is a two hour drive from Yumthang. It is at an astounding altitude of 15,300 ft. This is the last outpost of civilization. It's the land of perennial snow. The Tibetan Plateau is visible from here. It's worth visiting, for its rejuvenating drive through snow, iced lakes and icicles of various shapes.

Dinner and overnight at Lachung.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



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Day 6

Lachung to Gangtok

Today we make an early start for Gangtok. Post lunch we visit the Rumtek monastery. This beautiful monastery depicts the typical Buddhist architectural style. The monastery is also known as the Dharam Chakra Centre and is one of the largest monasteries in Sikkim. The most impressive element of the shrine is the Golden Stupa that contains the relic of the 16th Karmapa. This monastery is a repository of countless invaluable artefacts. Witness the monks chanting prayers. Soak in the beautiful atmosphere of this picturesque monastery. For lunch and dinner, we can try the delicious local food or international cuisine readily available in the numerous restaurants of Gangtok (both meals on your own expense).

Overnight at Gangtok.

Meals included: Breakfast



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Day 7

Gangtok to Bagdogra

Today after a hearty breakfast we drive back to Bagdogra. The lush green valley and the misty mountains make us yearn to go back to what we left behind. Departure from Bagdogra Airport.

Meals included: Breakfast



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Cost Inclusions:

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis
- Meals mentioned as included in the itinerary
- Transfer from Bagdogra to Gangtok and back in Innovas, or Xylos
- All transfers within Sikkim
- Sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary in above mentioned vehicles
- Permits for North Sikkim
- Services of a TWG Manager

Cost exclusions:

- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Flights to Bagdogra and back
- Personal expenses such as Mineral Water, All Drinks, Laundry Charges, Phone Calls, Tips etc.
- Expenses incurred by reasons beyond our control such as road blocks, accidents, natural disasters
- Any services not mentioned above in the included section
- All optional tours or camera fees
- Entrance fees
- Tip to hotel staff, guides, drivers etc.
- Any kind of insurance, medical or/and emergency charges
- Anything else not included in the 'inclusions' section of itinerary

The Wander Girls Trip Offer:

Early bird offer: Book a trip before August 9, 2015 and pay Rs. 32450/- per person on twin sharing basis.

Twin Sharing: Rs. 34999/- per person on twin sharing basis for payments received after August 10, 2015



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Rewards Points:

Reward points applicable for this trip. Please read more about our reward points system [here](#).

Note:

Before booking our trip please read our [cancellation & refund](#) policy and [terms and conditions](#).

Payment options:

TWG provides you with various options to pay for your chosen trip or service.

- At Par cheque in the name of "Tripcooker Travels LLP" at the given address below.
- NEFT or RTGS transfer (please send us a screenshot of the transfer or provide transaction reference)
- SWIFT transfer (for payments in foreign currency by overseas client)
- Cash deposit in ICICI Bank branch in your area. Please remember to send us a clear copy (scanned image will do) of the deposit slip with your name on it.
- Cash collection facility in Mumbai.

Bank details:

Bank: ICICI Bank Ltd.

Address: JUHU SCHEME BRANCH, MUMBAI

Account name: Tripcooker Travels LLP (holding entity for The Wander Girls)

Current Account number: 036605001143

MICR Code: 400229046

IFSC Code: ICIC0000366

SWIFT Code: ICICINBBCTS (for payments in foreign currency from overseas clients)



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Address for sending at par cheque:

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