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The finest tea in the world, Darjeeling

SIKKIM

The tiny Indian state of Sikkim is bordered by Bhutan, Nepal and Tibet and is still relatively unspoiled by tourism. Although the majority of the people are now Hindu, Buddhist prayer flags and white-washed chortens are everywhere. Sikkim is famous for its Buddhist monasteries, such as Rumtek and Pemayangtse and for the world's third highest mountain, the Himalayan peak of Kanchenjunga which dominates the skyline.

HIDDEN KINGDOM

8 days/7 nights

Hotels

Departs daily ex Bagdogra

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Price per person twin* | Cat A | Cat B | Cat C |
| 01 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2011^ | \$1563 | \$1467 | \$1376 |

*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.

^Surcharge for Xmas/New Year period applies and will not be known until hotel is booked. Details on request.

Price per person includes: Transfers, city tours and excursions in standard air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation inclusive of taxes, meals as per the itinerary, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

Price excludes: Camera fees.

- A Mayfair Resort, Royal Plaza, Silver Oaks
- B Cedar Inn, Orange County, Silver Oaks
- C The Elgin, Norkhill, Himalayan

Nestled in the north of India are the terraced tea gardens of east Darjeeling and the remote kingdom of Sikkim. This region is home to spectacular scenery, remarkable religious monuments and vibrant cultures.

Day 1 Darjeeling

On arrival in Bagdogra transfer to Darjeeling by road (4 hrs). Afternoon at leisure. LD

Day 2 Darjeeling

Depart for Tiger Hill before dawn to see the sun rise over the Himalayas. On a clear day you may get a glimpse of Mt. Kanchenjunga. Visit the Ghoom Monastery and the famous 4.5 metre-tall image of the Maitreya Buddha. BLD

Day 3 Darjeeling

Visit Darjeeling Zoo, the Botanical Gardens, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and the Gumbu Rock Site and Tea Estate. BLD

Day 4 Gangtok

Depart for Gangtok (4 hrs), capital of Sikkim, famous for its monasteries and picturesque views of the Himalayan ranges. Afternoon city tour. BLD

Day 5 Gangtok

This morning we drive to Rumtek and Enchey Monasteries, which were rebuilt in the 1900's following their original Tibetan designs. BLD



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Working the loom in Gangtok

Day 6 Kalimpong

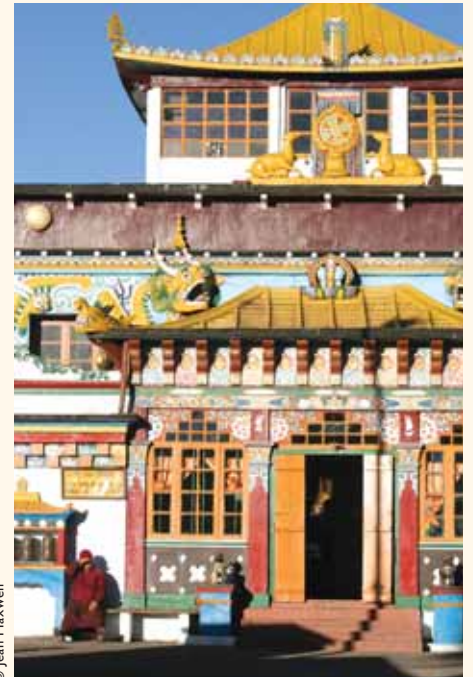
Drive to Kalimpong (3 hrs) with the swift-flowing Teesta River running alongside adding to the beauty of the journey. Afternoon at leisure. BLD

Day 7 Kalimpong

This morning visit Zong Dog Palri, the Fo Brong Monastery containing 108 volumes of the holy scriptures brought here by the Dalai Lama when he fled Tibet. Afternoon at leisure. BLD

Day 8 Tour ends Bagdogra

Drive back to Bagdogra Airport/Railway Station (3 hrs). Tour ends. B



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Ghoom Yiga Cholang Monastery, Darjeeling



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Traditional ceremonial welcome, Kalimpong