

# INCOGNITO SIKKIM

8 NIGHTS 9 DAYS;

April 12-20, 2014



This is a truly off-beat trip that focuses only on little explored, emerging destinations across the western, southern & northern parts of Sikkim. Pristine breathtakingly beautiful scenery, awe inspiring views of snow covered peaks including Kanchenjunga, and interactions with the warm & hospitable indigenous hill tribes during a homestay in North Sikkim; all combine to give you a unique & matchless holiday experience in the Sikkim Himalayas. What's more you not only cover incognito places but also go incognito far away from the maddening crowds that throng elsewhere in this remarkable Himalayan state.

Trip dates:	April 12-20, 2014
Start from:	Bagdogra Airport/NJP Rly. Stn
End at:	Bagdogra Airport/NJP Rly. Stn
Meals:	Dinner in Kaluk on Day 1 to breakfast in Rumtek on Day 8
Total distance covered:	900 kms
Maximum altitude reached:	Pelling (2150M)
Group size:	8-20
Permits required	Yes (Changoo lake). We procure these for you.
Document required:	Photocopies of valid nationality proof Photo-IDs (Passport, Driving License, Voters ID, PAN card
Booking deadline:	March 12, 2014

## ITINERARY

### Day 01: NJP / Bagdogra – Kaluk 110 km / 4 hrs

Arrive at Bagdogra Airport / New Jalpaiguri Rly Stn. Set off on a picturesque drive to reach the village of Kaluk in West Sikkim. Kaluk-Rinchenpong is the forest and buffer zone area of Varshey Rhododendron sanctuary. The area is gifted with abundant natural resources and is a paradise for the nature lovers, conservationists, botanists, zoologists and environmentalists. Spend the rest of the day relaxing in the resorts landscape garden with a book or stroll around the resort's own forest area on a bird watching tour. Overnight in a village resort.

### Day 02: Kaluk - hikes & village exploration

Post breakfast, do a pleasant 3.5 km walk through pristine Lepcha villages and forests to Resum - the meeting of three hill tops. From here you get spectacular views of Mt Kanchenjunga. Post lunch go for another beautiful walk of about 4 kms through verdant forests of chestnut and oaks to a Lepcha heritage house – a stunning example of intricate traditional architecture. Also visit the local market at Rinchenpong and the colonial era Dak Bungalow. Be back in your resort for a relaxing evening around a bonfire.

### Day 03: Kaluk – Kewzing via Dentam & Pelling Valleys 80 km / 4- 5 hrs

Leave after a leisurely breakfast on a beautiful drive through the stunning Dentam valley to reach Pelling, stop here to take a look at the Pemayangtse Gumpa or do a short walk to Rabdentse Ruins - the second capital of the erstwhile King of Sikkim till 1814 A.D, by walk. The scenic view from the top of the ruins scanning across the deep valley, to the mystic heights of the Kanchenjunga range is something that'll be cherished for long & etched in memory. Later carry on via Geyzing towards Legship – a small and busy market on the bank of Rangeet River. Legship is also famous for its hot spring and Shiva Mandir. Reach Kewzing – a typical Bhutia settlement set on a forested slope. On arrival in Kewzing Village you will be greeted traditionally by the villagers with silk scarf locally known as Khada followed by introduction with family members of the farmhouse home stay that you'd be boarding up at for the night. Spend the evening around a bonfire and copious draughts of Chaang (traditional millet beer) enjoying the warm hospitality of the farmhouse folks.

#### **Day 04: Kewzing – hikes & visit Ravangla**

This morning we will go for a short tour around the farm and interact with the villagers. From Kewzing we will take you for a pleasant nature walk to Doling Monastery where you can enjoy the pristine village trail passing through lush green forest lined with Mendang (Buddhist Stupas), streams with log bridges on the path which takes about two to three hours. Packed Lunch will be served at Doling monastery. After lunch if interested one can walk to Ravangla by passing Barfung Village which takes about an hour. Later you could either get back to Kewzing or explore Ravangla. Overnight at the farmhouse.

#### **Day 05: Kewzing – Temi Tea Garden – Rumtek (1750 M) 90 km / 4 ½ hrs**

Leave after breakfast via Ravangla to the exotic Temi Tea Garden, spend some time here enjoying this stunning locale and later drive through typical Sikkimese mountainside dotted alluringly with terraced land & orchards to finally reach Rumtek by late afternoon. Later visit Rumtek Monastery – Sikkim's largest and 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in Asia after Lhasa. Overnight in an Eco-resort.

#### **Day 06: Rumtek – Dzongu 84 km / 3 ½ hrs**

Leave after breakfast to Dzongu - an official reserve for the Lepcha community in North Sikkim. Kilometers of stunning beautiful wilderness greet you when you enter Dzongu. Numerous waterfalls cascade down every hill, visible here and there amongst the lush green trees. Mighty rivers flow in steep and narrow valleys nurturing all the life here and ultimately adding to the Teesta. Snowy mountain ranges form the backdrop and bird calls add to the pretty painting that the landscape here is. Everything here exudes a deep sense of solitude and calm. This pristine natural beauty is aptly complimented by the warm hospitality during your homestay in a Lepcha household.

#### **Day 07: Dzongu**

A full day to enjoy the beauty of this region on short hikes & drives to monasteries, waterfalls and other villages. You could also try crossing the river on cane bridges that the tribals have made at various points – this is very thrilling and certainly not for the faint hearted. Angling in the crystal clear waters of the Ryong Chu or Teesta and later having it cooked Lepcha style is yet another option.

#### **Day 08: Dzongu – Gangtok - Changoo Lake – Rumtek 152 km / 7 hrs**

We leave after an early breakfast, to reach Gangtok; here we take a detour of about an hour each way to see the beautiful Tsomgo / Changoo Lake. We later drive back past Gangtok to reach the resort in Rumtek by late afternoon/early evening.

#### **Day 09: Rumtek – Bagdogra airport / NJP Rly. Stn. 125 km / 5 hrs**

Post breakfast drop to the airport in Bagdogra or NJP Rly Stn for your return flight/train.

**Cost per person on twin share:                    INR 44000/-**

#### **Cost Includes:**

1. 2 nights' accommodation in a room at a village resort in Kaluk.
2. 2 nights' accommodation in a room at a farmhouse homestay in Kewzing.
3. 2 nights' accommodation in a room at an eco resort in Rumtek.
4. 2 nights' accommodation in a room at a homestay in Dzongu.
5. All meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner).
6. Sightseeing and transportation as per the itinerary in an exclusive & dedicated Innova/Xylo.
7. English speaking guide-cum-escort for the duration of the tour.
8. Permits and sanctuary entries.
9. All applicable taxes.

#### **Cost Excludes:**

1. Any air/rail fares.
2. No refreshments (doesn't include bed tea or evening tea).
3. No personal expenses.
4. Tips for the guides, driver or at the hotels.
5. Any beverages other than those served on the buffet table with meals.
6. Expenses due to factors beyond our control like landslides, flight cancellations.
7. Any insurance.

*The above itinerary, maybe tailor- made for you and your family/ friends. Contact us if you wish to do so.*

## **TOUR NOTE**

#### **Accommodation:**

Kaluk                    : Ghondey Village Resort/similar  
Kewzing                : Bon Farm House/similar  
Rumtek                 : Teen Taley Resort/similar  
Dzongu                 : Homestay/similar

#### **Food & Hygiene:**

Food is a mix range from vegetarian/ non- vegetarian meals to good food with a choice of Indian, Continental & Chinese food. All meals are buffet meals. There is no room service.

#### **Fitness:**

You should be in decent health if you wish to hike. We advise jogging and breathing exercise.

#### **Tipping & Porterage:**

Tipping amount is strictly at your discretion and experience.

#### **Photography:**

Please ask your guide before taking photographs inside any temple and if you plan to photograph any locals, please take their permission before doing so. You could charge your camera at the hotel.

#### **Medicine:**

There is a doctor in the town. We also keep a first aid kit. It would be anyway a good idea to bring your own basic first aid kit with medicines for motion sickness, nausea, some painkillers etc. Please carry sun block and chapstick. Keep your face, feet and hands well protected. Request your doctor to prescribe effective medicines to cover the following: Fever, Body and joint pains, Cold, Cough, Sore throat, Headache, Acidity, Stomach cramps, Vomiting, Dysentery, Loose motion, Constipation, Diarrhea, Swelling, Muscle Pulls & Sore eyes. We do carry a first aid box though. In case you have any illness of any sort, please do inform us in advance so that we can take necessary precaution. You could also carry vaseline, Band Aid, Cotton, Badge roll, Dettol, Mouth freshener, Nose inhaler, Cough drops, Lip balm, Vicks, Elastoplasts, Adhesive tape, 4" crepe bandage.

#### **List of things to bring:**

1. Duffel bag (avoid suitcases if you can)
2. A small day backpack to carry water, food, jacket and camera
3. Hiking shoes. Your shoes should be well broken-in and not new. Otherwise, your regular sports shoes will also do.
4. 2 pairs of lowers.
5. 4-5 full sleeves T-shirts
6. A fleece jacket
7. A full sleeve thick jacket
8. Underclothing
9. 1 pairs of thermal inners
10. 2-3 pairs of sports socks. 2 pairs of woolen socks
11. Woolen cap/ balaclava that covers the ears
12. Gloves
13. Sun glasses
14. Lip balm
15. Cold cream and sun screen lotion (SPF 40+).
16. Water bottle.
17. Flash light
18. Personal toilet kit.
19. Personal medicine
20. Small repair kit consisting of safety pins, needle, thread and string.
21. Camera, memory-cards, batteries etc (carry enough spare batteries. Electricity is not available on the slopes.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO USE A LOT OF WOOLENS LISTED ABOVE BUT, WEATHER IN THE HIMALAYAS CAN BE RATHER UNPREDICTABLE HENCE, BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.**

## **BOOKING, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY**

#### **CONFIRMATION:**

100% advance to confirm booking.

#### **CANCELLATION CHARGE:**

Minimum : 20% of full amount.  
Less than two weeks of arrival date (or tour start date) : 50% of full amount.  
Less than one week of arrival date (or tour start date) : Full amount.

#### **PAYMENT MODES & METHODS:**

1. **ONLINE TRANSFER** into our **current** accounts in Axis Bank **or** Standard Chartered Bank
2. **DIRECT CHEQUE DEPOSIT** into our **current** accounts in Axis Bank **or** Standard Chartered Bank at any branch/ ATM in India
3. **DIRECT CASH DEPOSIT**, into our **current** account at any branch in India
4. By **CASH** or **CHEQUE** handed over **personally** (or by your rep) **AT OUR DELHI OFFICE**
5. **OUTSTATION CHEQUE** payments are acceptable **only if** they are delivered (or we get a scan of the bank deposit slip) at least 4 working days before the payment due date.
6. **OUTSTATION PAYMENTS** by a **Payable at Delhi** DD sent to our Delhi Office by courier/post.

**IMP: CHEQUE / DD to be made in favour of "Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd."**

#### **AXIS BANK:**

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : 015010200017806
- Branch address : K-12; Green Park Main; New Delhi – 110016
- Branch Code : UTIB0000015 (for direct cheque deposit)

- IFSC Code : UTIB0000015 (for online transfer)

**STANDARD CHARTERED BANK:**

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : 525-0-509-319-3
- Branch address : 10 Sansad Marg; New Delhi – 110 001
- Branch Code : SCBL0036027 ( for direct cash/ cheque deposit)
- IFSC Code: : SCBL0036027 (for online transfer)







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