



NORTH EAST INDIA

An Uncommon Journey
with Khandro Thrinlay Chodon

24 January - 6 February 2020

14 days ex Bagdogra (Siliguri)

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Day 1 Friday 24 January Siliguri

Upon arrival at Bagdogra airport you are met by our Druk Expeditions representative and transferred to your hotel. Freshen up and proceed to meet Khandro Rinpoche and receive the blessings of the recent empowerments by Rabjam Rinpoche.

Day 2 Saturday 25 January Kalimpong

After breakfast depart for the few hours drive to Kalimpong. After lunch in the formerly known Himalayan Hotel, we visit the local market and then proceed towards Zhang Dhok Palri Phodong monastery, located at Durpin Hill. On our return we visit the Cactus Nursery.



Day 3 Sunday 26 January Kalimpong

Morning-time we take a small hike in the coniferous forest with views of Kanchenjunga, second highest Himalayan peak. Later we visit Delo Hill (2000 m) for a panoramic view of Kalimpong and further spectacular views of Kanchenjunga and the Sikkim Himalayas. Lunch is a Republic Day barbeque followed by an afternoon at leisure.

In the evening we proceed to Pedong for overnight stay.

Day 4/5

27/28 January

Pedong

Pedong is a small village close to Kalimpong that was the headquarters of His Holiness the 9th Shabdrung of Bhutan (late husband of Khandro Rinpoche). In India, yet close to Bhutan, his devotees built this important Shabdrung monastery (on the site of an ancient temple) where he lived till his passing in 2003. Over the next days we will visit this Sanchen Dorjee Monastery, receive the blessings of the Kudung of H.H. 9th Shabdrung, spend time with local village devotees, practice and walk. Our first evening we will enjoy a bonfire with local entertainment. On 28th we will drive to Kagay top and picnic at the Mudung River.



Day 6 Wednesday 29 January Gangtok

Mid-morning we will begin our journey via Munsong, to Gangtok the state capital of Sikkim. Picnic lunch in a beautiful setting. On arrival we settle into our hotel before enjoying the evening stroll along the main promenade, the heart of Gangtok. It is also a great place for shopping.

Day 7/8

30/31 January

Gangtok

First day we spend sightseeing to Tashi View point, Ganesh Tok, the Himalayan Zoological Park, Tsuk La Khang Monastery and the Flower Exhibition centre. After lunch at our hotel we take a ropeway ride and visit Do Drul Chorten Monastery, Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and Banjhakri Falls.

The last day of January is spent visiting H.H.Dodrupchen Rinpoche at his Do Drul Chorten monastery and Lama Samdup at Enchey Monastery. A visit to Looks Beauty Parlour and Spa can also be arranged.



Day 9

Saturday 1 February

Pelling

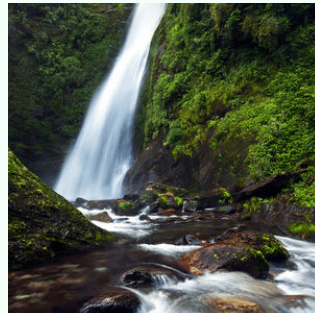
After breakfast we depart for a beautiful day drive to Pelling. (Approx 4 – 5 hours). En route stop at Ravangla to visit Buddha Park also known as Tathagata Tsal. It features a 130 foot high statue of Lord Buddha. Along the way we share a picnic lunch with hot tea.

Day 10

Sunday 2 February

Pelling

Morning visits today to Pemayangtse monastery, Rabdentse Ruins and Kanchenjunga falls - all before we return to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon we shall drive to the famous Khechoepalri Lake. This lake was originally known as Kha - Cho - Palri (meaning the heaven of Padmasambhava) and is known as a sacred place of Guru Rinpoche. Guru Rinpoche is the patron saint of Sikkim and he came to Khechoepalri in the 8th century to bless the waters. The lake is sacred for both Buddhist and Hindu. It is believed to fulfill wishes. Leaves do not float on the lake as the local birds pick them up as soon as they drop onto the lake surface.



Day 11

Monday 3 February

Darjeeling

Depart today for Darjeeling (approx. 4 hrs). On the way we visit the Chenrezig statue, the fourth tallest statue in Sikkim. Walk beside this statue along a glass skywalk! Once settled into our hotel, in the afternoon, we ride the famous toy train to Ghoom station, which is the highest railway station in India. This train is a UNESCO world heritage site. We conclude the day with a visit to the Yoga Choeling or Old Ghoom Monastery.

Day 12/13

4/5 February

Darjeeling

So many things to see and do in this amazing and historical hill station. Set amongst tea plantations that are slowly being discontinued it is an important place for Tibetans in India. Over the next days we will take our time to practice and leisurely visit the Darjeeling Peace Pagoda, Batasi Loop and Dali Monastery. Dali Gumpa was established by Thuksey Tulku, uncle to Khandro Rinpoche, and this gumpa is a main headquarters for the Drukpas in India. Also there is Happy Valley Tea Estate, the town mall, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoo, (home to the snow leopard and red panda).



Day 14 Thursday 6 February Homeward

Begin your journey homeward - taking many happy and meaningful memories with you. Transfer to Bagdogra (Siliguri) airport so you can meet your connecting flight home from Calcutta or Delhi. Note - There is the option to continue overland to Bhutan should you wish to explore such an extension. Phuentsholing is your overland point of entry to Bhutan and your exit can be flight from Paro to Calcutta/Bangkok/Delhi.