

Kolkata to Darjeeling

11 days | Starts/Ends: Kolkata



From bustling Kolkata, India's vibrant capital of culture, to the astounding beauty of Darjeeling and surrounding Sikkim, with its verdant tea plantations, Himalayan vistas and Buddhist monasteries - take the road less travelled on this captivating 11 day journey.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Cultural Kolkata - the famous Victoria Memorial, historic Indian Museum, colourful Howrah flower market and Hooghly River
- Kalimpong - remote and scenic hill station
- Gangtok - home to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology
- Pelling - the Pemayangtse Monastery
- Darjeeling - scenic hill station with Himalayan backdrop, Tiger Hill, Ghoom Monastery and a tea estate

What's Included

- 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
- 9 nights superior hotels (standard and deluxe hotels available on request)
- 1 night - Darjeeling Mail train - air-conditioned 1st class sleeper (no meals)
- Toy train journey - Darjeeling to Ghoom Monastery

- Drive to Tiger Hill - Darjeeling
- Visit to Tea Estate - Darjeeling
- Economy class flight - Kolkata - Bagdogra
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 11
- Touring and excursions as itinerary
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Entrance fees to all included sights
- Chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Kolkata

Once you arrive into Kolkata you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to explore Kolkata or relax at the hotel. **Overnight - Kolkata**

Day 2 : Kolkata

The graft of a European city imposed on an Asian landscape lends Kolkata a bewitching blend of colour, charm and excitement. The city is a compelling medley of ancient and modern with its skyscrapers and Raj-era architecture. It's colourful, effervescent and overflowing with life and tradition.

Enjoy a city sights tour including a visit to the imposing Victoria Memorial. Opened by the Prince of Wales in 1921, this vision in marble is often called the "Taj" of the British Raj. We also visit the New Market – a bazaar on Chowringhee Road, the stately Indian Museum founded in 1814 and the oldest and largest in India, St Paul's Cathedral and the extraordinary Marble Palace which houses paintings by Rubens, Titian and Reynolds. **Overnight - Kolkata (B)**

Day 3 : Kalimpong



Kolkata - Kalimpong. Early this morning enjoy a visit to the famous flower market near Howrah Bridge, followed by a boat ride on the Hooghly River. Later, fly to Bagdogra. From here, a drive to Kalimpong - a remote hill station set among the rolling foothills and deep valleys of the stunning Himalayas.

Kalimpong's attractions include three monasteries including Tharpa Choeling,

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Kolkata to Darjeeling

Tongsa and Zong Dog Palri Fo-Brang, a handful of ancient churches and a colourful bazaar area known as Tenth Mile bulging with Tibetan and Buddhist curios and handicrafts. Kalimpong is also renowned for its horticulture, with some 50 nurseries devoted to orchids and many other flower varieties. **Overnight - Kalimpong** (B, L, D)

Days 4-5 : Gangtok

Kalimpong - Gangtok. We drive north to Gangtok. Owing to its proximity to the Tibetan border, the capital of Sikkim is steeped in Tibetan culture. Characterised by mists, fluttering prayer flags, painted roofs and pagoda-styled houses, a rich cultural heritage, friendly people coupled with excellent views of the entire Kanchenjunga Range from many points in the city, Gangtok is scenically beautiful.

On day 5, enjoy an excursion to the Rumtek Monastery followed by a sightseeing tour of Gangtok, including the Namgyalak Institute of Tibetology. The afternoon is free to relax or explore. **Overnight - Gangtok** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Day 6 : Pelling



Gangtok - Pelling (Pemayangtse). Continuing to Pelling via Tashiding, enjoy an afternoon visit to the lofty heights of the hallowed Pemayangtse Monastery - one of the principal monasteries in the state of Sikkim. Founded in the 17th century, the monastery, which has been reconstructed several times, is the main centre of the Nyingmapa sect, established in the 8th century

AD. The followers of the sect wear red caps rather than the yellow ones worn by monks in other monasteries.

Near the monastery, there are the traditional austere dwellings of the monks. Breath-taking scenery can be witnessed from the vantage point; carpets of alpine vegetation and numerous waterfalls lining the hillsides which are sometimes covered with a blanket of snow. **Overnight - Pelling** (B, L, D)

Days 7-9 : Darjeeling

Pelling - Darjeeling. The journey continues to Darjeeling. Home of Darjeeling tea and with a panoramic backdrop of the awesome Himalayan snow-clad peaks. Early on day 8, enjoy a drive to Tiger Hill to witness sunrise over the snowy peaks of Kanchenjunga; followed by a visit to Ghoom Gumpa (monastery), sightseeing back in town and a visit to a real tea estate.

Day 9 is free for you to explore Darjeeling your way. See some Buddhist monasteries or visit the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, a training school for mountain climbers. Its museum features memorabilia from the first ascent of Everest. It is also worthwhile taking a stroll through town. Owing to Darjeeling's proximity to Tibet, the town also has a Tibetan Refugee Centre comprising care for the young and old and craft workshops that produce carpets, leather work and other Tibetan curios, hunt for a bargain or simply go trekking! **Overnight - Darjeeling** (B:3, L:3, D:3)

Day 10 : Kolkata



Darjeeling - Kolkata (via New Jalpaiguri). Later this morning, the journey continues to New Jalpaiguri, from where you board the Darjeeling Mail train to Kolkata. In air-conditioned first class sleepers, travel in style. **Overnight - Train** (B)

Day 11 : Kolkata

On arrival, enjoy a transfer to our hotel where a day-use room is available for your comfort. The remains of the day is at leisure. Included evening transfer to airport.

PRICES / DATES INFO

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price.

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
19 Feb	CAD 5,645	CAD 8,375

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