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DARJEELING AND THE EAST

11 days/10 nights

Darjeeling is one of the most beautiful hill stations in the East of India, and one that allows you glimpses of the majestic peaks of Mount Everest and Mount Kanchanjanga on a clear day. It is hemmed in by Sikkim in the north, Nepal in the west and Bhutan in the east. Darjeeling town, Kalimpong and Kurseong are the major urban centres. Heavily influenced by British India, Darjeeling still carries imprints reminiscent of its colonial past. The toy train is one of the most striking examples of Darjeeling's British Raj influence. Darjeeling conjures visions of serenity, of vibrant green hills steeped in splendour, a land of breathtaking beauty crowned by the majestic Himalayas.



ITINERARY

Day 1

Kolkata

Reception and welcome at Kolkata airport followed by transfer to your hotel.

Day 2

Kolkata

This afternoon visit the sights including the Victoria Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral and the Indian Museum.

Day 3

Kolkata-Bagdogra-Darjeeling

Fly to Bagdogra in the morning and drive on to the beautiful hill station of Darjeeling, 'Queen of the Himalayas' at an altitude of 7,000 feet. The bazaar is worth a visit in the evening.

Day 4

Darjeeling

Early morning excursion to Tiger Hill followed by a toy train ride from Darjeeling station to Ghoom Monastery. Visit the mountaineering institute in the evening.

Day 5

Darjeeling

This day is at Leisure. If you would like to you could visit the tea gardens where the famous Darjeeling tea is grown.

Day 6

Darjeeling-Pelling

Drive to the remote hamlet of Pelling. This afternoon visit the Pemayangtse Monastery.

Day 7

Pelling-Gangtok

Drive through pretty valleys to the mountainside capital of the tiny state of Sikkim

Day 8**Gangtok**

Visit Rumtek Monastery in the morning, later visit the research institute of Tibetology which houses nearly 30,000 volumes on astrology, magic, philosophy, etc; then the orchid sanctuary; the Buddhist monastery at the Palace; the residency, from where you can have an excellent view of the mountains.

Day 9**Gangtok-Kalimpong**

Leave by road for Kalimpong in the morning – a remote hill station on the trade route to Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal. Visit two well-known 17th century monasteries in the afternoon.

Day 10**Kalimpong-Bagdogra-Kolkata**

Transfer to Bagdogra airport this morning to connect your flight to Kolkata. On arrival in Kolkata transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free. You may visit the missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa later in the day.

Day 11**Kolkata**

Transfer to the airport in time for your flight out.