



## 09 DAYS & 08 NIGHTS DARJEELING & SIKKIM TOUR

### DAY 01: ARRIVE KOLKATA.

(No Meals)

Met upon arrival at Kolkata airport and transfer to your Hotel. **KOLKATA:** is a city of glaring contrasts: a curious blend of the old and the new, partly feudal, partly born out of growing urbanisation, partly un-definable. It is a medley of the east and the west, a graft of a European city imposed on the Asian scape that gives Calcutta its bewildering charm, confusion and excitement. Being just about 300 years old, Calcutta hardly has many great historical monuments. Perhaps, the oldest remembered is the site where the Kalighat Temple now stands. Today Calcutta is the largest city in India with a population over 10 million and boasts of India's first ever Metro rail system. It is a city that shocks on first impression but eventually the visitor falls in love with it. **Overnight at hotel.**

### DAY 02: IN KOLKATA

(BLD)

After breakfast proceed for full day city tour of Kolkata. Calcutta, is a city of glaring contrasts: a curious blend of the old and the new, partly feudal, partly born out of growing urbanisation, partly un-definable. It is a medley of the east and the west, a graft of an European city imposed on the Asian scape that gives Calcutta its bewildering charm, confusion and excitement. Being just about 300 years old, Calcutta hardly has many great historical monuments. Perhaps, the oldest remembered is the site where the Kalighat Temple now stands. Today Calcutta is the largest city in India with a population over 10 million and boasts of India's first ever Metro rail system. It is a city that shocks on first impression but eventually the visitor falls in love with it. The sightseeing of the city includes a visit to the Victoria Memorial, Calcutta's most imposing and monumental dream in marble opened by the Prince of Wales in 1921 and often called the "Taj" of the British Raj, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Indian Museum, the largest in India, with one of the best collections of Indian art. **Dinner & Overnight.**

### DAY 03: KOLKATA - BAGDOGRA - DARJEELING

(BLD)

After breakfast at hotel, in time transfer to airport to board flight for Bagdogra. Arrive in Bagdogra Airport and transfer to Darjeeling by surface, 93 Kms/over 3 Hours drive. Upon arrival in Darjeeling, check-in at your hotel. Rest of Afternoon at leisure. **DARJEELING:** Set at 7,000 ft/2,135 m, Darjeeling (pop. 73,000) is pretty resort built among tea plantations is one of the cool hill stations, where the rulers of the British Raj could escape the heat of the summer. The place now attracts tourists (primarily upper-class Indians) bent on the same advantages of natural air-conditioning. Darjeeling is built among hills, and visitors can expect to do a lot of climbing up and down stairs. There's not a lot to do except relax, listen to the Buddhist monks call the faithful to worship on their long, red horns and look at the pretty views. One sight worth mentioning is the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, a training school for mountain climbers. Its museum features memorabilia from the first ascent of Everest, and documentary films are often shown (Sir Edmund Hillary's climbing partner, the Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, taught at the institute until his death in 1986). You can tour a tea plantation, there's also Zoo (its main attractions are Siberian tigers and yaks), botanical gardens, two Buddhist monasteries, a racetrack and a cable car that connects Darjeeling to the village of **Singla Bazar**. From mid April until the end of June, it's usually possible to see Mt. Kanchenjunga, the third-highest mountain in the world, from town. The best view is at dawn atop Tiger Hill, 7 mi/11 km away. We're also told that Everest, 140 mi/225 km distant, can be seen. **Mirik**, about halfway between Darjeeling and Siliguri, is another hill resort. Mirik offers mountain views, a lake, and tea estates and is a good alternative if Darjeeling is fully booked. **Dinner and overnight at Hotel.**

### DAY 04: DARJELING.

(BLD)

Early morning proceed with visit of **Tiger Hill**, to view sunrise over the Himalayan peaks. Visit the **Ghoom Monastery**. Return to your hotel by cars/jeeps. After lunch at hotel, proceed for sightseeing of Darjeeling, visiting the **Mountaineering Institute**, house of **Tenzing Norgay** - the first Everest hero. **Dinner & overnight at Hotel.**

**DAY 05: DARJEELING - PEMAYANGTSE**

After breakfast depart by surface for Pemayangtse. On arrival check-in at hotel. Afternoon proceed for city tour Standing at a height of 2805m and enclosed on two sides by snow-capped mountains, Pemayangtse is one of Sikkim's oldest and most important monasteries. Founded in 1705, it belongs to the Tantric Nyingmapa sect, which was established in the 8th century. The monastery is a three-storey structure filled with wall paintings and sculpture, and includes a magnificent seven-tiered painted wooden model of paradise and hell, complete with rainbows, angels and the whole panoply of Buddhas and bodhisattvas. The model was built by the late Dungzin Rinpoche over a period of five years. **Dinner & overnight at hotel.**

**DAY 06: PEMAYANGTSE - GANGTOK**

**(BLD)**

After breakfast at hotel, depart surface for Gangtok. . Upon arrival in Gangtok, check-in at your Hotel. **SIKKIM:** Sikkim (pop. 406,000) was an independent kingdom in the Himalaya until 1975, when it was annexed following a referendum. The capital and only town in Sikkim, **Gangtok**, is really also known for its beautiful mountain scenery. Be sure to visit the Tibetan-style Rumtek Monastery (beautiful mountain setting and views). Rest of day at leisure. **Dinner & overnight at Hotel.**

**DAY 07: GANGTOK**

**(BLD)**

Morning proceed with the sightseeing tour of Gangtok, visiting the **Namgyal Institute of Tibetology** and the **Chorten (memorial for the dead)** . Also visit the **Enchey Monastery** believed to be 200 years old. Drive past the **Tashiling (the Secretariat)** and the **Tsuk-La-Khang (Royal Chapel)** within the Palace grounds and then visit the **Palden Tondup- Cottage Industries Institute**. Later visit **Rumtek Monastery**. **Dinner and overnight at Hotel.**

**DAY 08: GANGTOK -KALIMPONG**

**(B L D)**

After breakfast depart by surface for Kalimpong . On arrival check-in at hotel. Afternoon city tour of Kalimpong. Sightseeing tour of Kalimpong includes visits to Zang Dog Palri, Fo-Brang monastery, Thongsa Gompa, Nurseries, market and the Tibetan colony. **Dinner & overnight at hotel.**

**DAY 09: KALIMPONG - BAGDOGRA - KOLKATA**

**(B & D)**

After breakfast in time transfer to the Bagdogra airport, to board flight for Kolkata. Met upon arrival at Kolkata airport **After Dinner** transfer to airport to connect flight for onward destination.