

Kangchenjunga Trek – 12 days/ 8-day trek

Trekking tour

Tour JTT-SIT-02 (trekking): Delhi - Bagdogra – Gangtok – Rumtek – Kewzing - Tashiding – Pelling/Pemayangtse – Bagdogra – Delhi

Activities & sights: Vist Gangtok, trek upto 4940 m high Goecha La, 'Bhutia ('Tibetan') and Nepali village culture, blooming rododendron forests in spring, yak herders and superb Himalayan views.

Best time: Oct – Nov & mid-March – mid-May

On this tour you'll be trekking up to the third highest mountain in the world, Mt. Kangchenjunga (8586 m). After exploring Sikkim's pleasant and clean capital, Gangtok you'll be taken to Yuksom, where the trek starts. In eight days you'll traverse many altitude stages, from temperate forest to montane rododendron forests laden with lichens – and blooming spectacularly in springtime - to the high alpine meadows where the yaks and their herders roam. At Goecha La pass (5000 m) you'll get awesome views of Mt. Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest peak (8586 m/28169 ft).

Day 01: Delhi → Bagdogra – Gangtok (driving 124 km/ 4 – 5 hr)

Early morning you'll board the 2-hour flight from Delhi to Bagdogra (access is also possible form Kolkata). Assistance on arrival at Bagdogra airport and transfer to Gangtok, a distance of 124 kms which normally takes about 4 hrs. We cross the border of Sikkim at Rangpo where the permit formalities are done. On arrival at Gangtok, check in to hotel for overnight.



Day 02: Gangtok

Early morning wake up to once again witness another spectacular sunrise of the Kanchenjunga massif from Tashi view point which is located 16 kms from Gangtok. Return to hotel for breakfast visit of and later local visits.

Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology: The foundation stone of the Institute of Tibetology was laid in 1957 by the 14th Dalai Lama. It houses the huge collection of rare Sanskrit, Lepcha and Tibetan manuscripts, sculptures. There are many treasured artifacts and Buddhist icons. It is also the centre of Buddhist religion and philosophy. The beautiful architecture and construction of this institute is well known.

Do Drul Chorten the biggest stupa in Sikkim, is located on the hill hock, which is adjacent to the Tibetology Institute. Popularly known as Phurba, this stupa was built in 1945. This holy stupa was under the auspices of head of Nyingma sect of Tibetan Buddhism, Trulshik Rinpoche. Built as desired by Dud-Zom Rinpoche in 1944.

Also visit Cottage Industries Centre to see the local handicrafts of Sikkim and Flower Show. Later also visit the Enchey Monastery, a Nyingma Monastery believed to have been built by a Monk with flying powers. In the evening walk around the M.G. Marg the heart of the Gangtok city.

Day 03: Gangtok – Yuksom (146 km/ 5 hr)

After breakfast we drive to Yuksom, a historical town in Geyzing subdivision of West Sikkim district in the Northeast Indian state of Sikkim. It was the first capital of Sikkim established in 1642 AD by Phuntsog Namgyal who was the first Chogyal (temporal and religious king) of Sikkim. The coronation site of the first monarch of Sikkim is known as the "Throne of Norbugang". Yuksom is where there is the Norbugang Chorten near the Norbugang throne, the place Namgyal was crowned and several monasteries and a lake. The dynastic rule of the Chogyals lasted for 333 years.

The Chogyal established the first monastery at Yuksom in Sikkim known as the Dubdi Monastery in 1701.

For the Bhutia tribal community of Sikkim, Yuksom has special religious and cultural significance. It has a number of famous Buddhist monasteries and historical monuments. Being at the head of the Khangchendzonga National Park and as the base camp for trekking to Mt. Khangchendzonga, it has large influx of mountaineers from all parts of the world. The village people, as stake holders in biodiversity preservation of the Rathong Chu valley, where the village is situated, have played a significant role in trendsetting and promotion of eco-tourism in the area. The inhabitants of this village have most successfully adopted promotion of ecotourism not only in the region but also for other similar areas in Sikkim. Yuksom is thus considered a model village for eco-tourism.

Day 04: TREKKING Yuksom – Bakhim (walking 14 km/ 5 – 6 hr)

After breakfast commence trek to Bakhim. A tough day's climb takes us through dense vegetation and across two mountain streams with varieties of flowers such as Magnolia, Rhododendron, Blue poppies and orchids etc. Wild life in this area includes black and brown Himalayan Bear, Barking Bear and Sambar. En route we stop for hot lunch break near a clear water stream. Bakhim is marked by a cluster of three small houses fluttering with Tibetan flags and an old forest rest house. Camp is set in between the woods just above the Rest house (approx. 2720 m)

Meals & Overnight at the camp.

Day 05: TREKKING Bakhim - Dzongri (walking 12 km/ 6 – 7 hr)

After breakfast commence trek to Dzongri. The walk through a heavily forest area bring us to the beautiful village of Tsoka whose inhabitants are mostly Tibetans engaged in producing cheese and a few vegetables during the summers. A few of them own Yaks, which are normally used by trekking groups. The village also houses a small monastery overlooking a small natural pond at the top end of the village. From here on the path climbs very gradually through a beautiful forest of Rhododendrons over a well laid out path. We stop in Phedang (3745m), for a hot lunch, which is high mountain meadow and allows some breathing views of the Himalayas for a hot lunch. After lunch the path climbs very steeply towards Deorali, one of the best view points of the Kanchenjunga. The campsite is situated just a high mountain meadow (approx. 4020 m).

Meals & Overnight at the camp.

Day 06: TREKKING Rest day in Dzongri

Early morning get up to the Dzongri view point to witness the dawn over the Kanchenjunga range, one the highlight of the trek. The climb to the highest view point is very cold in the morning but worthwhile offering the most beautiful sight when the first rays of the sun hit these Himalayan peaks that change colors as the sun gets brighter. Return to camp for a hot cup of Tea & coffee. After breakfast explore this beautiful area. A walk to the Himalayan mountaineering institute base camp is well worth a visit.

Meals & Overnight at the camp.

Day 07: TREKKING Dzongri – Thangsing (walking 8 km/ 4- 5 hr)

After breakfast commence trek to Thangsing. A gradual walk with occasional descents is followed by a steep descent to the Rangit River. After crossing the River over over a wooden bridge we start the climb through a very thick forest of Rhododendrons bringing us to the beautiful meadow of Thangsing with Mt. Pandim and other peaks always in view. On arrival set up camp (approx. 3930 m). This is followed by hot lunch prepared by staff. The rest of the afternoon is spending by walking and exploring this beautiful area.

Meals Overnight at the camp.

Day 08: TREKKING Thangsing - Lake Samiti - Lamume (walking 6 km/ 3 hr)

After breakfast we start trekking to Lamumi with the mighty Kanchenjunga always in view and step the camp. After the having lunch and trek to Lake Samiti, The last bit is a steep climb which finally ends up with a short descent to Samiti Lake over a boulder-ridden path. Situated at the base camp of Mt. Pandim the lake offers very impressive view of the Glaciers above. Samiti is a holy lake and is often visited by local population. Continue trek to Lamumi where the afternoon is spent exploring the surroundings (approx. 4200 m)

Meals & Overnight at the camp.

Day 09: TREKKING Lamume - Goecha La - Thangsing (walking 14 km/ 6 - 7 hr)

Early morning walk up to the Gocha la (4940 m/ 16207 ft) which is the highest point of this trek, situated at the foot of the Kanchenjunga. The entire walk presents spectacular view of the Kanchenjunga all the way to the pass with the lake below enhancing the beauty of this place. Which is marked with numerous prayer flags which flutter with the heavily winds. Walk back to Thangsing (approx. 5020 m).

Meals Overnight at the camp.

Day 10: TREKKING Thangsing - Tsoka (walking 12 km/ 6 - 7 hr)

After breakfast trek back to Tsoka, through the Rangit River and trek along the ridge of Dzongri to reach Phedang. The walk is very beautiful, through a very thick forest with numerous stretches of short ascents and descent. Stop in Phedang for hot lunch prepared by staff. From Phendang descent down to Tsoka, where camp is set in the compound of the trekker huts (approx. 3050 m). Evening visit a local Tibetan houses to enjoy some local wine and Tibetan tea.

Overnight at the camp.

Day 11: TREKKING Tsoka – Yuksom (walking 10 km/ 5 hr)

Get up early in the morning and take breakfast to start trekking to reach Yuksom (1780 m). En route stop by a stream for a hot lunch. The going is easier as the path is mainly downhill.

Day 12: Yuksom – Bagdogra ➔ Delhi (driving 169 km/ 5 hr?)

Today you'll be driven back to Bagdogra Airport, where you'll board the afternoon flight to Delhi.

Entry formalities

Please note that all foreign nationals need Restricted Area Permit (RAP) to visit Sikkim. Validity is normally for 2 weeks, but can be extended upto 45 days in Gangtok. This permit will be issued at the interstate border at Rangpo when entering Sikkim. Two passport size photographs and a copy of the passport and visum for India are required. The visa is offered free of cost.

Tour Price

For 2 persons: INR 86.900 per person, using 1 Toyota Innova (or similar)
For 3, 4 persons: INR 77.000 per person, using 1 Toyota Innova (or similar)
For 5 - 7 persons: INR 71.800 per person, using 2 Toyota Innova (or similar)
For 8 – 10 persons: INR 64.900 per person, using 3 Toyota Innova (or similar)

Single supplement: INR 3850

Above tour price is on current rates only, valid throughout 2014. Tour price may rise, however, in case of increase of flight prices or price of car fuel.

Price includes: Flights Delhi – Bagdogra and Bagdogra - Delhi, English speaking escort throughout, all transfers by private vehicle (Toyota Innova or similar), all accommodation on twin-sharing basis, trekking services including guide, cook, helpers, porters or mules for portorage, all meals, A- shaped mountain tents with sleeping mats, dining tent with table and chairs, toilet tent, toilet paper, trek permit and other sightseeing entrance fees, MAP on none-trekking days (starting with dinner on day 01, ending with breakfast on day 12) fuel and driver allowance, all entrance fees at sight seeing

Price excludes: International airfare, overnight stay at Delhi if required, tips, laundry, alcoholic beverages, insurance and any other expenses of personal nature.