

# SIKKIM



THE LAND OF HIDDEN PARADISE

**12 NIGHTS/ 13 DAYS**





## **NJP/BAGDOGRA-PELLING**

(128 kms/6 hrs/6050 fts)

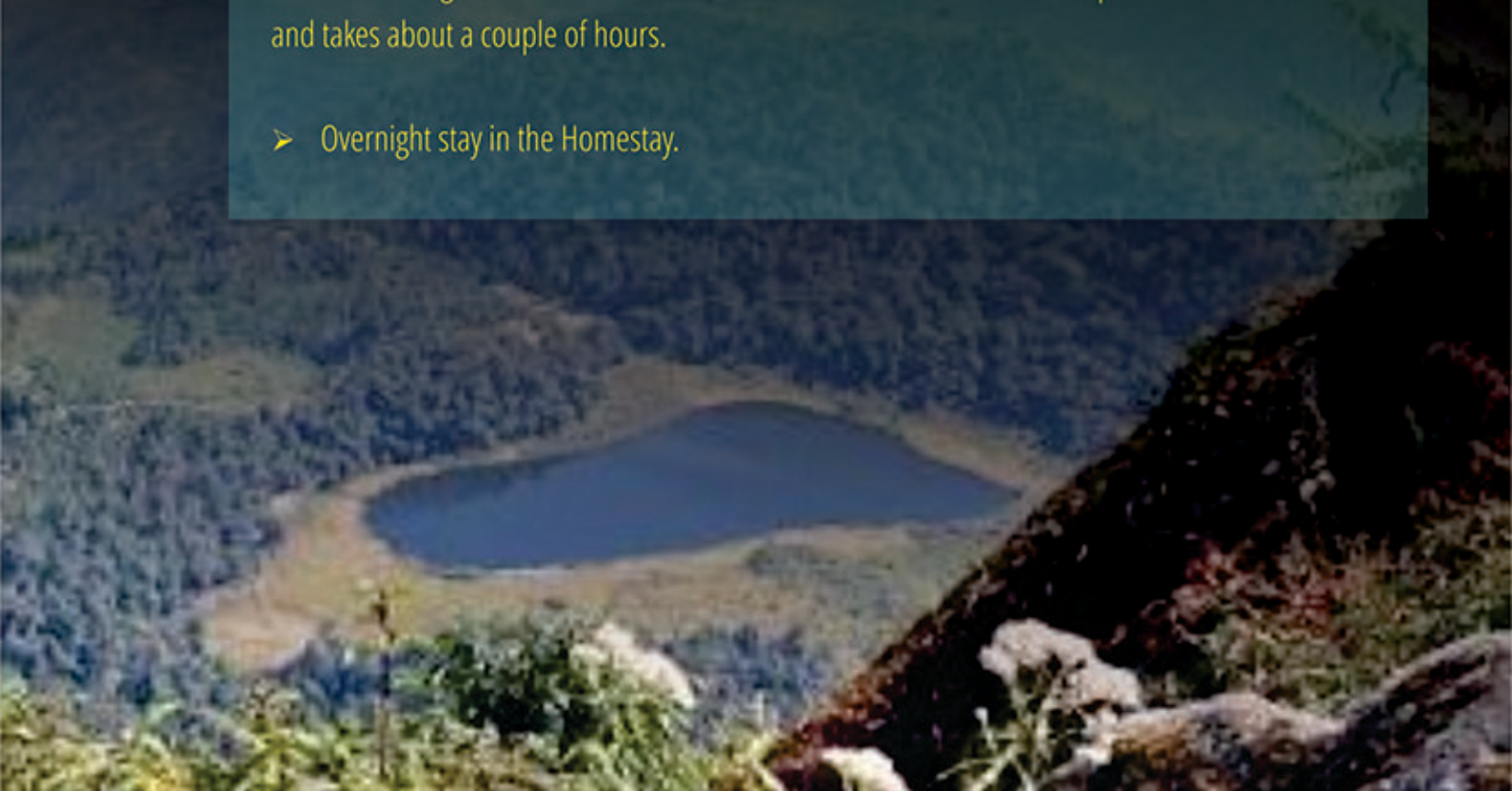
- Upon arrival, meet our representative and drive to Pelling which is 120 kms and takes around 6 hrs drive via Melli (Border town) and Jorethang. Check into the Hotel, refresh and relax.
- Overnight stay in the Hotel.



## **HALFDAY S/S AND KHECHUPALRI**

(28 KMS/2 HRS/5500 FTS)

- After breakfast, we drive to the Pemayangtse monastery. This ancient monastery belongs to the Nyingma Order of Tibetan Buddhism, build in the year 1705 A.D is located in the hill top over looking the magnificent view of Mt.Khangchendzonga and its adjacent peaks. At an altitude of 6250, this monastery showcase the masterly work of Lt.Rimpoche "Santhok-palri" a Celestial palace of Guru Padmashambhav at the top floor.After visiting this monastery, we hitch-hike to the Rabdentse Palace Ruins(02nd capital of Sikkim). The ruins is about 30 minutes walk from the main road through the rich forest, a home to many beautiful species of birds though the area is named after the Late King of Sikkim Chogyal Sidkyeong Tulku. The place was the second capital of Sikkim dating back to 1700 A.D.and 1800 A.D.Later we drive to Khechupalri which is 28 kms and takes about a couple of hours.
- Overnight stay in the Homestay.





## EXCURSION TO DHUFUK (7200 FTS)

- The hike through the forest overlooking the beautiful and sacred lake and finally climbing for a couple of hours reaches us to the elevation of 7200 fts – The Dhufuk meditation cave on the hill top which is believed to be the holy site where Guru Padmashambhav during his visit in the 08th century had come for meditation and retreat. The top gives us a beautiful view of Khechupalri lake which is seen exactly like a foot print about 1700 feet below the valley. The view from Dhufuk is beautiful and much mesmerizing as it offers a magnificent view till far-sight.
- Overnight stay in the Homestay



## DHUFUK VILLAGE EXCURSION

- After breakfast, we walk down to the lake side, the very lake which we have enjoyed seeing from Dhufuk is a crystal clear even in the middle of the jungle. The lake believed to be the Holy and sacred lake both by Hindu's and the Buddhist is one of the pilgrimage site. After visiting a lake, a nearby Nunnery could be included in the itinerary for the day and visit before we head for a village walk to Tsho-zo (a typical village) to see and experience a local life style, culture and traditions.
- Overnight stay in the Homestay.



## YUKSUM

(28 KMS/2 HRS/5500 FTS)

- A drive through a beautiful valleys on sight reaches us to the famous Khangchendzonga waterfalls in no time where we can spend a while enjoying this scenic waterfalls and yet again driving for another 40 minutes which will reach us to the small but beautiful village of Yuksum. Yuksum which is also the 01st capital of erstwhile kingdom of Sikkim in the ancient time has turn on to become the base camp for world wide famous Dzungri-Goechala Trekking. We check in to the hotel and after a lunch, we walk around and visit the NorbuGhang coronation throne, the place where the 01st king of Sikkim, Chogyal Phuntsog Namgyal was crowned as the first king of Sikkim in the year 1641-42 A.D. We also visit a small and yet again a holy lake named Karthok lake which is in the middle of the village itself.
- Overnight stay in the Hotel.





## GANGTOK

(140 KMS/5-6 HRS/5500 FTS)

- Its about 06 hrs drive to the modern day capital of Sikkim- Gangtok. A much more urbanized than any other town in the state is a happening hub for many institutions, corporate offices and many more to name.
- Enroute, we visit a newly constructed Tathagatha Tsal or also named Buddha park at Ravangla. HH IVth Dalai Lama consecrated the big statue of Lord Buddha in the year 2013. The paintings and the collections of relics inside the statue of Buddha is something to experience within the Buddhism. Another 3 hours drive will reach us to Gangtok where we check into the hotel, refresh and relax for the venture next day.
- Overnight stay in the Hotel.



## EXCURSION IN AND AROUND GANGTOK

- After breakfast, we leave for Rumtek Monastery/Dharma chakra centre (24 kms/1 hr) belonging to the Kagyu sect of Buddhism. The monastery is said to be the replica of Tshurpu monastery in Tibet and was founded as the official seat in exile to His Holiness The Karmapa, head of the Kagyu lineage by the Late 16th Karmapa Rangjung Rigpe Dorje. Later we drive back to Gangtok and visit the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology (only museum of its kind in whole of India) The museum housed in a traditional Tibetan-style mansion boasts a jaw-dropping collection of artefacts related to Vajrayana Buddhism and Tibetan culture. Established in 1958 to promote scholastic and cultural research, its ground-floor hall displays Buddhist manuscripts, icons, thangkas (Tibetan cloth paintings) and Tantric ritual objects, such as a thöpa (bowl made from a human skull) and kangling (human thighbone trumpet). The library on the 1st floor houses precious Buddhist tomes, some dating back several hundred years.
- Lunch will be served at Hotel and after lunch and after a brief rest, we set to cover the second session of the day which includes the Handloom & Handicraft centre & Enchey Monastery (one of the oldest in Sikkim) and later We stroll at the MG Marg for a while before calling it a day.
- Overnight at the Hotel.





## EXCURSION TO TSHOM- GO LAKE (12400 FTS/40 KMS)

- The lake is at the altitude of 12400 feet, the alpine zone and the considered sacred lake among the many in Sikkim has its own ambiances to offer. A oval shaped lake enroute the NH 10 to Indo-Chinese border is something to cherish in the days to come. The lake surface reflects different colours with change of seasons and is held in great reverence by the local Sikkimese people. Buddhist monks prognosticated after studying the changing colours of the lake. A couple of hours return journey will give us a ample of chances to view quite a charming views of the hills and valleys in the far-sight enroute Gangtok.
- Overnight at the Hotel.





## GANGTOK TO LACHEN

(9000 fts/127 kms/5-6 hrs)

- The day is to journey towards the northern part of the state, the place where one define, a land of "Hidden Paradise" has much more to offer when visited in reality. Though the roads in some part is yet rough & rugged, the journey to the North is a worth every penny as it offers quite a adventure till we reach our destination for the day, the Himalayan village-Lachen at 9000 feet . The village is inhabited by the Lachen-pa's, a Bhutia community believed to have come from Paro region of Bhutan a long time ago and settled here in the lap of Himalaya.
- Overnight at the Hotel.





Thangu-Chopta Valley-Lachung



## THANGU-CHOPTA VALLEY-LACHUNG (8850 FTS)

- The journey for the day starts very early (around 05:00 hrs) through the rough and dusty roads and the mighty River Teesta on our side running downwards towards the plains of India and the views of some of the unnamed peaks is just mesmerizing till we reach the farthest settlement of the region Thangu. We stop for a entry at the check post and a hot tea to cherish for a while, its already a morning time with sun up in the sky. Chopta valley is just about 15 minutes drive where the true hikers find out the word "Hidden Paradise" is just absolute and the hiking trails is just awesome where we can spend a easy 2-3 hours hiking around the valley. After a while, we drive back to Lachen through the same trails and get back to the Hotel for a Lunch as after Lunch we have about 02 ½ hours drive to the other side of the mountain ,the next destination called Lachung which is at around 9000 fts, a small and picturesque village quite close to the Tibetan frontier.
- Overnight stay at Hotel in Lachung.



Shingba Rhododendron sanctuary-Yumthang Valley



## SHINGBA RHODODENDRON SANCTUARY YUMTHANG VALLEY

- The journey could be started after the breakfast. We drive to Yumthang valley which is just 24 kms and an hour away from Lachung. The place is also called the valley of flowers as the valley itself offers a much varieties of seasonal flowering plants to the many species of rhododendron bushes and the tall pine trees. The valley is a open meadow with a small chilled river flowing making a kind of mesmerizing sound, the sound which could just move you in a musical note kind of thing. We have a beautiful trail through the Rhododendron bushes and the tall pine trees alongside the river until we come across the bridge to cross over the river to go to the nearby Hot-spring. While we drive back, we can stop by the newly formed lake (formed due to the huge rock slide) and walk for a while as it gives us much more time to spend with a beautiful nature. We come back for a late lunch at the Hotel and the afternoon time is free to stroll around the village of Lachung to see and experience the local life-style and the traditions.
- Overnight stay at the Hotel.



## LACHUNG-GANGTOK

(5500 fts/124 kms/5-6 hrs)

- The journey is via same route after we cross the place called Chungthang through the same valleys and rivers and many more with different ambiances. The view of Mt.Khanchendzonga (03rd highest peak in the world) from Singhik adds another joy to the trip and to our heart.
- Overnight at the Hotel in Gangtok.



## DEPARTURE

- Departure to Bagdogra which is about 120 kms and is 5 hours drive from Gangtok. Reach the Airport, Farewell and board a flight for onward destination of choice.