

Tour code: E4N –SIKBHUTAN-GD

## 15D14N RHODODENDRON IN SIKKIM AND BHUTAN

Darjeeling – Gangtok – Lachung – Namchi - Kalimpong

### Trip Highlights:

#### Darjeeling

Tiger Hill  
Darjeeling Tea Garden  
Steam Engine Train  
Ghoom Monastery  
Tibetan Refugee Centre

#### Gangtok

Rumtek Monastery  
Tsomgo Lake

#### Lachung

Yumthang Valley  
Lachung Monastery  
View of Kanchenjunga

#### Namchi

130 ft Lord Buddha & 118 Feet  
Guru Padmasambhava Statues

#### Kalimpong

Toy Train Steam engine &  
Darjeeling Tea

**Odyssey Manager™:** Incredible Odyssey tours are managed by our in-house Indian Odyssey Managers from Bagdogra Airport to Bagdogra Airport. They are trained to serve the foreign guests based on the guests' preference, to provide customized general information and legends, assisted by the monument guides at certain monument if needed. From receiving the guests from airport till their departure, Odyssey Manager™ accompanies our guests around 8-12 hours daily, to make sure all the services are provided as per itinerary and to solve the contingencies that might arise along the journey. Odyssey Manager can assist changes in itinerary or add-on visits along the way if feasible.

### ITINERARY

#### D1-10 April: SINGAPORE – KOLKATA Meal on Board

Arrive Kolkata airport. On arrival, met with your Odyssey Manager and transfer to Hotel.

#### D2-11 April: KOLKATA – BAGDOGRA-DARJEELING B L D

Early morning transfer to the airport to board your scheduled domestic flight to Bagdogra. On arrival at Bagdogra Airport meet and greet by your Odyssey Manager and drive through picturesque tea gardens to the world renowned hill station Darjeeling at an altitude of 2134 m. Darjeeling is set amidst a majestic backdrop of the great Himalayan peak of Kanchenjunga (3rd highest peak in the world at 8586 m) and is regarded as the Queen of East India. After dinner, enjoy your free and easy time browsing at the local bazaar.

#### D3-12 April: DARJEELING SIGHTSEEING B L D

Set off early morning before sunrise between 4-6 am, drive to Tiger Hill (2685 m) to experience the panoramic view of the spectacular snow-clad mountain peaks of the High Himalayan Range where sun rises from this highest point in town. On our way back we visit the Ghoom Monastery, built in 1850 by Lama Sharb, which enshrines a 15ft. Statue of Maitreya Buddha. After visiting the monastery we drive back to the Hotel for breakfast and spend some time relaxing before



we take a walk through vegetable and meat market and then to the train station to board the Joy Ride Train to Ghoom. Visit the Ghoom Museum on arrival. After our lunch in Darjeeling, continue our visiting tour to the Tibetan Refugee Centre and the Tea Gardens, before returning to town around 1700 hour. On arrival, spend your free time exploring or shopping around the market for shopping till 1900 h before returning to our Hotel.



#### D4-13 April: DARJEELING - GANGTOK 100 km 4-5-HRS Drive B L D

After breakfast drive to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. The journey is an exhilarating experience along the Tista River and through green forest and picturesque landscape. Gangtok – the capital of Sikkim, tucked away in the clouds. Gangtok is spread out on a ridge 1520m above sea level, and looks something out of a fairy tale with houses precariously balanced on the slopes of steep hills apart from the gorgeous view of deep valleys, waterfalls and snow-capped mountain ranges that separate from neighbouring Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal. On arrival, check in to hotel and relax for the rest of the evening.

#### D5-14 April: GANGTOK - TSOMGO LAKE (3 HRS) - GANGTOK B L D

After breakfast, drive to Tsomgo Lake, also known as The Source of the Lake (3,780 m). Warm clothing is needed for this place. The lake derives its water from melting snow from the surrounding mountains, which is one of the famous sacred lakes in Sikkim, situated near the borders of Tibet. Observe the array of scenery on the spectacular drive back to the hills. Take your time to explore around the lake before driving back to Gantok. Spend the rest of your afternoon relaxing or shopping in the market.

**D6-15 April: GANGTOK - LACHUNG****6~7-HRS Drive****B L D**

Today, we leave for North district of Sikkim to a small village, Lachung (2,400 m). This spectacular drive will take about 6-7 hrs (lunch en-route). If weather is clear, you will be able to see the magnificent range of the third highest mountain in the world, Kanchenjunga. Arrive Lachung in the late afternoon and check in at a lodge. (Please note that the facilities here are very basic as this place is one of the remotest in Sikkim).

**D7-16 April: LACHUNG - YUMTHANG (1-HRS) - GANGTOK 7~8-HRS drive****B L D**

After breakfast, we leave for Yumthang (3,500 m) excursion. This panoramic drive will bring you to the Valley of Flowers which consists of about 36 species of rhododendrons, primulas and other spectacular alpine wild flowers. Yaks and dzos (a hybrid between cow and yak) can be seen grazing on the meadows. On the way back, walk across the Lachung Chu and enjoy an optional dip in a hot spring.

**D8-17 April: GANGTOK – RUMTEK – RAWVANGLA – NAMCHI 140 km, 3-4 hrs drive****B L D**

After breakfast drive to visit Rumtek monastery. Rumtek served as the main seat of the Karma Kagyu lineage in Sikkim for some time. But when Rangjung Rigpe Dorje, 16th Karmapa, arrived in Sikkim in 1959 after fleeing Tibet, the monastery was in ruins. Despite being offered other sites, the Karmapa decided to rebuild Rumtek. On completion drive to Singtam for Lunch. After lunch drive Rawangla to visit Tathagata Tsal also known and Buddha Park. It was constructed between 2006 and 2013 and features a 130-foot high statue of the Buddha as its centerpiece. The site was chosen within the larger religious complex of the Rabong Gompa (Monastery), itself a centuries-old place of pilgrimage. After visiting Tathagata, drive to Namchi and transfer to Hotel. Namchi commands panoramic view of the snow-capped mountains and vast stretches of valley. It is also headquarters of South Sikkim district.

**D9-18 April: NAMCHI - KALIMPOING****50 KM 2.5hr****B L D**

After breakfast drive to Samdruptse - the world's largest statue (at 118 feet) of the Buddhist Padmasambhava, also known as Guru Rinpoche, the patron saint of Sikkim, is on the Samdruptse hill (The Wish Fulfilling well) opposite Namchi. It was completed in February 2004. It is also said that the Samdruptse hill is actually a Dormant Volcano. Myths say that the buddhist monks have been going on top of the hill and offering prayers to the volcano to keep it calm. On completion drive to visit recently inaugurated (November 2011) Siddhesvara Dhaam where you can view 87 ft statue of Lord Shiva and replicas of four Dhaams of the country at one place at Solophok hilltop in Namchi. The four most revered Dhams of the Hindus Jagannath, Dwarika, Rameshawaram, Badrinath. After visiting we drive to visit Sai Temple. Return to Hotel for Lunch. After lunch drive through picturesque tea gardens to the world renowned hill station Kalimpong. After dinner, enjoy your free and easy time browsing at the local bazaar.

**D10 – 19 April : KALIMPONG – PHUENTSHOLING (BHUTAN) 175, km, 6 hours****B L D**

After breakfast drive to Phuentsholing and met by our Bhutan representative, after clearing immigration formalities, check in at the Hotel. Visit Zangtho Pelri: Situated in city centre, this small temple represents the heaven of Guru Rinpoche. On ground floor there are statues of eight manifestations of Guru Rinpoche and paintings on Buddha's life while the next floor contains eight Bodhisattavas and statues of Avalokiteshvara and Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. On top floor, there is a main statue of Amitabha. Later in the evening explore the local market.

**D11 – 20 April : PHUENTSHOLING – THIMPHU (180km, 6 hours****B L D**

After breakfast drive to Thimphu. 4 km ahead of Phuentsholing, visit Kharbandi Gompa, the beautiful monastery situated in garden of tropical plants and flowers. The monastery contains paintings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha and statues of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and Guru Rinpoche. From the monastery garden there is a splendid view of Phuentsholing and plains of West Bengal and their tea gardens beyond.

Proceed further to Thimphu. This entire drive is very pleasant with numerous scenic spots en route. Lunch would be served at Bunakha cafeteria, Fives miles, before Thimphu, visit Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress of the Kingdom which now houses the School for religious and cultural studies. After checking into hotel proceed on to visit Trashichhodzong, the beautiful medieval fortress/monastery which houses most of the Government's office and King's Throne room It is also the summer residence of Je Khenpo, the Chief Abbot. Later visit National Memorial Chorten. The building of this landmark was originally envisaged by Bhutan's third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuk ("the father of modern Bhutan") who has wished to erect monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it serves both as a memorial to the Late King and as a monument to peace.

**D12 – 21 April : THIMPHU – PUNAKA (77km, 2.5 hours)****B L D**

Drive to **Dochula** ('la' means mountain pass), a historical significance pass was the ancient route connecting western and central Bhutan. The leisure drive from Thimpu to Dochula is fascinating, take about 45 minutes uphill to the first mountain pass, Dochula, in the western part of Bhutan. As you reach the pass, you find the **108 Druk Wangyal Chortens** on the top of the pass where the ridges, draped in colorful prayer flags greet you. You could walk three rounds and offer prayers, take some best photo shots. If the weather is clear, you will be able to see the highest peaks towards the north, Gangar Punsum (24,836 ft), is one of the highest unclimbed peaks in the world. Arrive Punakha drive to **Metshina Village** and visit **Chimi Lhakhang**, a monastery especially for pilgrimage, particularly women seeking blessings to beget children. Continue to visit **Punakha Dzong** which was built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the

religious and administrative seat of the region. It is built strategically at the intersection of the Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu rivers. O/n at Punakha.

**D13 – 22 April : PUNAKHA – PARO (133km, 4 hours)**

**B L D**

After breakfast drive back to Paro, on the way enjoy breathe taking view of the Himalayan ranges on **Dochula** once again, arrive Paro visit **Paro Dzong** a fortress-monastery overlooking the Paro valley has a long history began in 1644 and **Ta Dzong** the National Museum housed in a round fortress considered to be one of the best natural history museums in Asia where it has a fine collection of natural and historic artifacts.. Free time for shopping. O/n at Paro.

**D14 – 23 April : PARO – Tiger Nest Monastery Excursion**

**B L D**

Morning - if you are adventurous and physically fit, you can hike to the world famous “**Tigers Nest**” or popularly known as “**Taktsang**” one of the popular spiritual heritage sites. It was here that the great tantric master Guru Padma Sambhava flew in from Tibet on a tiger to bring Buddhist teachings to Bhutan. The round trip hike takes 4 – 5 hrs. O/n at Paro.

**D15 – 24 April : PARO – KOLKATA - Singapore**

**B L D**

Morning transfer to Paro Airport to board on your flight back home with lasting memories. (Check in 2 hrs prior to departure)

\*Sightseeing & visiting time is not included in drive time

**Hotels Envisaged in Darjeeling and Sikkim**

	Kolkata	Darjeeling	Gangtok	Lachung	Namchi	Kalimpong
<b>Standard</b>	Hotel Hindusthan International	Hotel Dekling	Hidden Forest	Hotel Yarlam	Summit Sobralia Resort	Summit Resort

**Hotels Subject to availability**

**Hotels Envisaged in Bhutan**

Hotels	Thimphu	Punakha	Paro
<b>Economy (3 Star Hotels)</b>	Peaceful Resorts	Meri Puensum Resorts	Mandala Hotel

**Airfare Inclusive cost Per Person in Singapore Dollars**

**10 – 24 April' 2020 - GV10 Group Cost**

Adult Cost	CWB	CNB	SRS
<b>S\$ 4295/-</b>	<b>S\$ 3895/-</b>	<b>S\$3595/-</b>	<b>830</b>

**SRS: Single Room Supplement, CWB: Child With Bed, CNB: Child No Bed**

**Airfare & Airport Taxes Inclusive Tour Cost Includes**

1. International airfare including 30 kg check in baggage including airport taxes.
2. Domestic airfare including 15 kg check in baggage & 7 kg hand carry including airport taxes.
3. Airport transfers and all transport costs in chartered transport as per the itinerary in Darjeeling, Sikkim and Bhutan.
4. Hotels as indicated in the itinerary with all meals provided in hotels and restaurants.
5. TCB Royalty charges of USD 65/- Per Night and all relevant taxes by Bhutan Govt.
6. 1000 ml of bottled water per person per day.
7. Sikkim entry permit and entry permit to Tsomgo Lake and North Sikkim.
8. Entrance charges to the places of interest as mentioned in the itineraries.
9. One local phone and local SIM with Rs.100/- value in India and Bhutanese 100 Ngultrum (local currency) with all important numbers store in phone for emergency use.
10. **Odyssey Manager\*** or Licensed Guide serve along the tour journey.

**Cost Excludes**

1. All expenses of personal nature like drinks, tipping, telephone calls etc.
2. Indian and Bhutan visa, travel, medical & evacuation insurance, medical and evacuation expenses if any.
3. And any other expenses paid due to any change in dates and itinerary.
4. Services not mentioned in the inclusion.