

Sikkim Kanchengunja Panorama Trek | 15 Days



Situated at an elevation of 8,586 meters on the boundary of Nepal and the Indian state of Sikkim, Kanchenjunga is world's third highest peak that further embraces four of her sister peaks, the Kangchenjunga West at 8,505 meters, Kangchenjunga Central at 8,482 meters, Kangchenjunga South at 8,494 meters and Kangbachen at 7,903 meters. The horizon simply stands out from the base camp vicinity. Kanchenjunga, was first climbed in the year 1955 by two Britishers, Joe Brown and George Band but the summit still remains virgin as it is considered, one of the holy peaks, worshipped by the locals of Sikkim. The Kanchenjunga range protects the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area in Nepal, Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve, Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Fambong Lho Wildlife Sanctuary, Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary, Maenam Wildlife Sanctuary, Shingba Rhododendron Sanctuary, Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary located in Sikkim and Jore Pokhri Wildlife Sanctuary, Singalila National Park, Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary, Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, and Neora Valley National Park located in Darjeeling.

Kanchenjunga is not only the third highest mountain in the world, but it is also considered the abode of the patron god of Sikkim. The Kanchenjunga trek is one of the most beautiful treks in Sikkim, yet few do it. The trail passes through the vast biosphere of Sikkim that is a home to several rare and endanger species of flora and fauna, including rare medicinal plants, exotic birdlife & rare species of mammals, such as Red panda and Snow Leopard. The trail accent through the forests full of rhododendrons, orchids, pines, oak and magnolias across high valleys and gently rolling pastures where the yaks graze. Further, the rich

culture of Sikkim reflecting from the tribal villages, home to the Lepchas, Nepalese and Bhutias, is worth experiencing once in a lifetime.

Trip Highlights

- Breathtaking panoramic view of the 3rd Highest Mountain in the world, including the neighbouring Peaks – Frey Peak (5830m), Kaktang (6,148m), Kabru Peak (7,412 m), Ratong,
- Chandra Peak and the Kabru Dome (6600m).
- Meet the local people dwelling in the beautiful mountain villages.
- Enjoy Sikkim Himalayan nature over 4000 flowering plants & more than 700 bird species
- Landscapes full of exotic flowers- Over 40 species of Rhododendron & 600 species of orchid
- Tour of tea gardens in Darjeeling will be an additional experience which lets you learn about the various kinds of teas and get the chance to return to the magnificent beauty of nature.
- A Joy train ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, also known as the Toy train and it is the oldest toy trains in India (This is a world heritage).
- Visit some Buddhist monasteries in Darjeeling and of Sikkim and explore the cultural and traditional variations of the places.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Delhi

Welcome to India! Upon arrival in Delhi a *travel-to-nature Asia* guide/representative will be at the airport to greet and take us to our hotel. Please look out for your name-card once you exit out of arrival area.

Rest of the day free for independent activities.

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Accommodation: Jaypee Siddhartha

day for independent activities or at leisure. Overnight stay in Darjeeling.

Day 2: Fly Delhi - Bagdogra (2 hrs) | Drive Bagdogra - Darjeeling (2130 m | 68 km | 3-4 hrs)

Accommodation: The Dekeling Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Transfer to airport in Delhi after breakfast and take any convenient morning flight to Bagdogra. If the weather is clear we will get a superb view of the Himalayas from the plane including the giants of Dhaulagiri, Annapurnas, Makalu, Nanda Devi and of course Kanchenjunga

Arrive Bagdogra Airport and drive to Darjeeling, charming 3-4 hour journey, approx. 70 km. through tea plantations and tiny villages. The Darjeeling is situated on top of a ridge and it faces high Himalaya's and is a popular destination for Tourists. It is a beautiful hill station and known as 'the Queen of the hills' noted for its scenic beauty, lush forests, quaint houses, friendly people, the mountain panorama etc. It was a popular hill station for English when they ruled India. Overnight stay in Darjeeling.

Accommodation: The Dekeling Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3: In Darjeeling for Sightseeing & Excursions

In the morning, drive to Tiger Hill (8,400 feet) to chase down and see the stunning view of the sun rising throwing it pinkish glow on the landscapes. View the high mountain peaks i.e. Mount Everest, Kanchenjunga etc. and after spending some time at the tiger hill, embark on a drive to the hotel via Ghum Monastery, which is famed for its 15-feet high statue of "Maitreya Buddha" and Batasia Loop, famous for its war memorial.

Enjoy scrumptious breakfast at the hotel and then go for the city sightseeing tour, visiting Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Pandit Nehru Zoological Park (Thursday closed), Tenzing Rock, Tibetan Refugee self-help Centre (Sunday closed), Tea Garden (outer view), Ropeway. Also it is possible to take a short joy ride on toy train (Darjeeling Himalayan Railway- A UNESCO world heritage). Remainder of the



Day 4: Drive Darjeeling - Yuksom (1,770 m | 83 km | 4-5 hrs)

Today, we'll drive north from Darjeeling into western Sikkim, passing rich, green tea fields on the way. It is a downhill drive from Darjeeling until you reach Rangeeth River (a tributary of Testa River). Cross the river and then start uphill/gradual drive towards Yuksom crossing the border between Darjeeling & Sikkim at Jorethang.

As most of the Sikkim lies at a lower altitude than Darjeeling, the countryside here is far more verdant, with dozens of little streams trickling down the valleys between the emerald hills. Cross alpine forests, pass flowery meadows, witness sacred flickering prayer flags and gaze up at snowy Himalayan peaks. Sikkim is a tiny pocket of staggering natural beauty, tucked away in the fertile foothills of the Himalayas. With rich green valleys, bright rhododendron fields, working farms and friendly locals, it's a wonderful place to explore. The drive will take you along the gushing river and continuing uphill, you will be crossing a bridge in Legship to reach Yuksom. Arriving in the small town, check-in into a hotel for overnight stay.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 5: Trek Yuksom - Sachen (2,180 m)

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Today will be the first day of this remarkable trek for 4-6 hours. Waking up in the morning, start ascending uphill and follow the gorges of the Rathong River. Trekking through the lush thickets of magnolia, rhododendron and ferns, proceed towards the Paha Khola Bridge. On the way, relish a packed lunch and keep ourselves energized for the rest of the trek; be prepared to spot exotic orchids, colourful flowers, beautiful birds and monkeys along the hike! Arriving in Sachen, settle down into the campsite and call it a day.

Accommodation: Camping Tent
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6: Trek Sachen - Tshokha (3,050 m)

The trek for the day will take us through the aromatic viburnum plantations, after which we will be crossing the Prek Chu River and hike uphill for around 2-3 hours to reach Bakhim. Hereafter, trekking upwards, we will finally reach Tshoka, the Tibetan refugee settlement. The days trek shall take approx. 4-6 hours.

Overnight stay will be in camping tent.

Accommodation: Camping Tent
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Trek Tshokha - Phedang (3,650 m)

While on today's trek, we will be making your way uphill and through scenic forests of rhododendrons; we can expect well-laid trails on the way. Moving from here, a short trek will finally take us to Phedang

and the days trek shall take approx. 4 hours. Overnight stay in Phedang.

Accommodation: Camping Tent
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Trek Phedang - Dzongri (3,990 m)

After breakfast in the Phedang campsite, we will get ready for another scenic uphill trek, and with this trek, we will be crossing 4,000 m in the Himalayas! With this remarkable feat, enjoy your packed lunch and relax around the scenic vistas to get acclimatised to the higher altitudes. A further climb after relaxation will finally take us to the Dzongri, from where we can have mesmerising views of the Koptang, Rathong, Kabru, Khangchendzonga, Simvo and Pandim peaks. The days trek shall take approx. 4-6 hours. Overnight stay in Dzongri.

Accommodation: Camping Tent
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: Trek Dzongri - Thangshing (3,932 m)

Starting with a gradual ascend, today we will climb around 1 mile and advent towards a low-ridge (4,115 m), from where the chortens and the colorful prayer flags overtakes the views! The astounding views of the Kanchenjunga and Pandim peaks will keep you enchanted all through the way.

Hereafter, the trek starts descending down towards Pandim and will take us through rhododendron forests and the Prek Chu River. Take a lunch break in a trekking lodge within the vicinity and continue trekking for another 1.5 hours to make it to Thangshing and the days trek shall take around 6 hours. Overnight stay in Thangshing.

Accommodation: Camping
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10: Trek Thansing – Goecha La (4,940 m) – Lamuney- Thansing

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Start the day early in order to avoid the harsh climatic conditions that might hinder our course in the latter part of the day. Climbing uphill through the moraines, we will then be descending to the Samiti Lake and then cross the Zemathang Plateau. From here, we will once again start ascending over a moraine and after trekking for around 1 hour, will reach the Goecha La Pass. Arriving at this magnificent pass, behold the magical views of the Kanchenjunga and other distant peaks before you start moving back towards Thansing for an overnight stay. The days trek shall be approx. 8- 9 hours. Overnight stay in Thansing or at Lamuney.

Accommodation: Camping Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11: Trek Thansing - Tshoka (3,050 m)

Waking up early in the morning, enjoy the enchanting views of the Kanchenjunga Peak from a nearby ridge and start trekking back towards Tshoka. Today, we will be taking a route through the Dzongri Plateau in order to avoid the long climb. The trail passes through Prek Chu and the deciduous forests of Phedang. Arriving in Tshoka, settle down for the overnight stay in camps. The days trek shall be for 5-6 Hours. Overnight in Tshoka.

Accommodation: Camping Tent

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12: Trek Tshokha - Yuksom (1,770 m)

Today, descending through the Prek Chu River, we will be arriving in Yuksom, the last leg of this astounding Trek. The days trek shall roughly take 5-6 Hours.

Arrive in Yuksom in the afternoon and check-in into a local hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure. With this, the amazing Goecha la Trek shall come to an end. Overnight stay in Yuksom.

Accommodation: Guesthouse

Meal: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 13: Drive Yuksom - Kalimpong (1,247 m | 6 hrs)

After a leisurely breakfast, prepare our bags and check-out from the hotel. Leave Yuksom and drive to Kalimpong for overnight.

We can relax here for the rest of the day while enjoying the views of the surrounding Himalayan foothills. Overnight stay in Kalimpong.

Accommodation: Summit Barsana Resort

Meal: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 14: Drive Kalimpong - Bagdogra (136 m | 78 km | 3 hrs) | Fly Bagdogra - Delhi

After breakfast we drive down to Bagdogra airport to get our flight back to Delhi. Transfer from Delhi domestic airport to hotel.

Rest of the day is free for your individual activities or undertake a sightseeing tour of Old Delhi (Optional).

Evening farewell dinner at the hotel or at very good local Restaurant. Overnight stay in Delhi.

Accommodation: The Suryaa New Delhi

Meal: Breakfast

Day 15: Depart Delhi

Transfer to airport for your homeward-bound flight.

Meal: Breakfast

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Includes

- Airport (pick up/drop off) transfers by private A/C vehicle
- Twin-Sharing accommodation in all hotel/resort as mentioned
- Daily breakfast throughout the trip, other meals as mentioned in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and long-distance transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle (cars/SUVs or mini/micro-van etc. depending on group size). This includes toll taxes, parking, allowance for the driver, outstation overnight charges for the driver
- Guided Sightseeing, all activities and day excursions as per itinerary
- Complete trekking arrangements which shall include all meals during trekking {bed Tea, Breakfast, Lunch, afternoon Tea, Dinner}, 2 men Alpine tents with compressed Foam mattress. Kitchen Tent, Dinning tent, accompanying Kitchen staff, Pack Ponies/Porters/Yaks to carry the baggage/Kitchen utensils/ Camping equipment etc. The arrangements for trekking are of good standard which includes good service, good food and good equipment. However, we suggest that guests bring their own sleeping bags for their comfort failing we shall provide same from our end on advance request

Excludes

- International flight tickets
- Visa fee
- Travel insurance
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Tips for trip leader/guide, driver, hotel staff and porters
- Items of personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, and other unforeseen expenses
- Items/services not listed in "included"

- Extra expenses/payment for 'Optional' activities/programs if participated

Accommodation

Jaypee Siddharth, New Delhi

With elegant interiors and modern comforts, Jaypee Siddharth Hotel comes across as a delight for first-time visitors and regular customers. Housing a 24-hours resto cafe, extensive conference and banquet spaces, the hotel enhances every aspect of your visit, taking care of each guest personally. Nestled at a prime location, this deluxe edifice attracts innumerable foreigner visitors and seasonal business travelers every year.



The Dekeling Hotel, Darjeeling

Our Panoramic lounge at the Hotel offers an unparalleled view of the Kanchenjunga and the town area. On a clear morning, you can enjoy breakfast with a view of the mountains and in the winters enjoy a hot cup of Darjeeling tea in the warmth of the traditional Bukari (fireplace). The lounge area with its comfy couches is loved by our guests.

Summit Barsana Resort, Kalimpong

Summit Barsana Resort is a cocoon of serenity located in the quiet part of Kalimpong. 10 minutes from the heart of the town, this resort in Kalimpong envelops you with a blanket of fresh air, manicured gardens, lush landscape, and peaceful ambiance. It is the perfect place to unwind and relax in tranquility and peace.

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Camping-Tent

Our classic A-frame or ridge tents are sturdy and have plenty of room for two people. We use water and windproof flysheet which help make the tent nice and cozy inside. To complete the setup we provide a high-quality form mattress together with an insulation pad so that you get a good sleep after a long tiring day.

Group/Individual

On this trip you will be traveling privately with your family & friends. Our representative/tour partner will look after your transfers to and from the airport and will be around to answer other questions you may have about your trip.

Accommodation - Hotel, Resort

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a fine heritage hotel in another or a family-run guesthouse or lodges in a smaller town. Accommodation in remote areas tend to be basic and may not have western amenities. While camping you will be staying in a two-person camping tent.

Single Accommodation

Single (room) supplement is provided on request (single supplement charge applies) and are subject to availability.

Food & Transport

All breakfast, 7 lunches and 13 dinners are included.

Generally, you can eat out very cheaply in India. Where food is not included, you should allow at least 1,800 rupees (approximately Euro 20 & US\$22) per day for lunch and dinner. However, if you choose to dine in fine/expensive restaurants please allocate more than our suggested amount.

Please note, service in restaurants can be quite slow.

For airport, sightseeing transfers, and for long drives we use a private air-con car, jeep, van depending

upon group size. Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Weather

Generally, the best time to visit India is from December to February, when it is warm during daytime and cool at night in most areas of India. December marks the beginning of the peak travel season with higher-priced accommodation and flights.

It starts to get hot from March and the temperature reaches its average high point of 45°C (113°F) in May. If you can bear the heat, traveling India from April to May, you can expect the benefits of smaller crowds as well as big promotions from hotels and airlines (usually 50% off).

India's rainy season starts from June and lasts until September. North India is less affected by downpours than central and southern parts. You could still enjoy a good experience if you visit north Indian destinations like Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and other Rajasthan areas. Many national parks are closed because of floods and landslides. Goa becomes a "ghost city", with few travelers and many beach resorts closed. Ladakh, located in the far north is cool, and little affected by the rainy season, and it starts to welcome its high travel time from June to August.

Rain starts to ease from the middle of September. In October, most areas of India have dry weather. Though it is still hot, it feels much more comfortable than in May. Traveling in October and November, you'll not be drenched, while enjoying better deals than in December-February.

Baggage Allowance

At time of writing the standard weight limit is one checked baggage on Qatar Airways is 25kg (55lb) and hand baggage 7kg (15lbs). We recommend packing only one piece of checked baggage. Luggage allowances for both hand and checked luggage are subject to change, we suggest you check the airline's

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website for the latest information prior to your departure.

ESSENTIAL/PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Passport & Visas

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information below is primarily for EU passport holders, and other nationalities should check with the relevant embassies. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visas are required if you are German and for most other nationalities. Visa information changes regularly for India; for the latest information on applying for a visa please follow these links for more information.

<https://indianembassyberlin.gov.in/pages?id=Mg,,&su bid=MTQ>,

Please note: Visa regulations can change without notice, therefore please check the current regulations or contact us.

Vaccination & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements for this trip. Recommended vaccinations for this trip are: Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Hepatitis A. The risk of malaria on this trip is slight, but you may wish to consult your GP/Family Doctor or travel health clinic for further advice. Dengue fever and/or Chikungunya are known risks in places visited on this trip. Both are tropical viral diseases spread by daytime biting

mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available for either, and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites. The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic prior to departure for up-to date information.

Local Time

GMT + 5 hours and 30 minutes

Electricity

230/240 volts AC, 50 Hz. There are recharging facilities at most of the hotels, the electricity supply is not 100% reliable but it is usually only off for short periods of time.

Money

The national currency of India is the Indian Rupee (INR), with an exchange rate at the time of publication of approximately 89 to the Euro and 82 to the US\$. It is illegal to import or export rupees. Do not accept torn or (very) dirty Indian banknotes from banks or in change as they will almost certainly not be accepted as legal tender in India. Please ask for low denomination notes of 100, 200 or 500 Rupees as 2000 Rupee notes can sometimes be difficult to use out of Delhi. You can change money back from Rupees into Euro or Dollars at Delhi airport (before going through security), but you must produce an exchange receipt showing that you changed money in India. You are advised to bring most of your money in cash as you may have difficulty changing travellers cheques outside Delhi. It makes no difference whether you bring Euro or US Dollars. You should change your money on arrival at Delhi either at the hotel or airport (please note that the hotel often gives a better rate than the airport). It is possible to change cash in Ladakh. You will need approximately €200-€250 for extra meals and tipping for the whole trip.

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ATM | Credit Cards

There are ATMs in Delhi and other major cities. We recommend you change most of the money you need for the trip before leaving Delhi. Please do not rely wholly on ATM machines as often they are broken or run out of cash. Credit cards are accepted in larger shops in Delhi and other major cities.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

You will need to bring some extra money to cover drinks, laundry, souvenirs and any other personal expense, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Though it totally depends on individual but generally an approximate amount of US\$250 per person, per week should be sufficient (more if you enjoy a few beers); however, for those that can't resist a bargain or may wish to participate in all of the optional excursions, consider allocating a higher amount. Or if you are the one frugal with money probably allocating less would also suffice. India has very good opportunities for shopping, especially for locally made goods, and in Delhi local guides may well offer to take you to emporiums as well as workshops where these goods are made. Many people find this a great opportunity to buy local handicrafts, silk, jewelry, carpets etc. Guides will often assume that visitors will want to go shopping, it is very much part of the culture, however if you do not wish to go, please make this clear to your local guide at the time.

Optional Tours may be offered in some city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available. Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each optional tour/activity will be arranged locally by our local partner/guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

Tipping

Tipping is of course entirely at your discretion, but it is customary in India. Tipping can be an awkward affair

especially when you are not familiar with the country. Your leader will help with tipping and will provide a list of suggested tips. This will include tips for drivers, hotel porters and other hotel staff, local sightseeing guides, and if trekking will include camp staff such as guide, assistants, cooks and pony men. Sometimes your leader will collect a kitty during the trip and sometimes they will collect the tips towards the end of the trip (occasionally for very small groups the leader may need to collect a little more than the suggested amount). We suggest you allow Rs 6,000 (approx. €60 -70 / \$65-75) for this trip. Please try to tip in local currency.

Tipping of the local leader is not included in the above and is at your discretion. However, we suggest around Rs1000-2000 (approx.€11-25 /US \$12-25) per person for the leader depend upon the group size.

Itinerary Change

In case of some unusual events/incidents the order of programs (sightseeing, excursions etc.) might have to change in order to accommodate the local situations. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements while maintaining the overall integrity of your trip.

The domestic airlines may change their schedule frequently and, in such cases, our local partner/guide will inform you about the changes.

Travel Insurance

We highly recommend to choose/get an insurance plan/policy that covers your needs. And please make sure to keep/carry a hard-copy of your travel insurance documents on your person while on tour. It's prudent to check thoroughly the inclusions and procedure to file claims prior to purchasing insurance coverage. *travel-to-nature Asia* will not be responsible for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to purchase appropriate travel insurance from the date of booking.

Public Holidays

During major Indian public holidays such as India's Republic Day 26th Jan, the Holi (Colors) Festival

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(generally falls around March), Diwali (sometime in Oct-Nov) etc. some business will be closed and air and ground transportation may be affected. Tourist attractions sites may get overly crowded. But it's a good trade off as you will get to experience India more intimately.

Dress Code

Though modern-day Indian have become more liberal to dresses they wear, however, as a tourist we advise you to follow dress codes specially while visiting temples or mosques. Just dressing modestly and wearing non-revealing cloths should be fine. Women might also consider carrying a shawl in their daypack (this could be a sarong or light scarf) which you can wear over your shoulders and heads as a courtesy or just show respects. Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter.

Important Information

On all guided trips although our leaders/guides are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.
