

Earthbound Expeditions

Darjeeling And Gangtok, A Day Hike

6 days, from US$0 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
6 days	**No limit**	**India**

Darjeeling And Gangtok, A Day Hike Overview

A tour of Darjeeling and Gangtok, two of the best-known hill towns of north-east India, including a day hike near Darjeeling.

This Darjeeling Gangtok Tour visits two of the best-known hill towns of north-east India, Darjeeling and Gangtok, and includes a day hike near Darjeeling.

Darjeeling, in West Bengal, is known as the 'Queen of the Hills'. It combines green hills, peaceful monasteries, tea plantations and views of the Himalayan ranges, including 'Kanchenjunga', the world's third-highest mountain. Gangtok is a hill town known for its natural scenery of lakes and mountains, and for its views of Kanchenjunga.

The 6-day tour covers the main attractions of both towns. In Gangtok you visit the historic Enchey Monastery, Ranka Monastery, Rumtek Monastery and the Do Drul Chorten, a large stupa surrounded by 108 prayer wheels. In Darjeeling you see green vegetation, tea gardens, hill stations, villages and distant high peaks. The itinerary includes a day hike near Darjeeling for views of the Kanchenjunga range.

The combination of the two towns and a day hike offers a quiet break from city life in a natural setting.

Earthbound Expeditions is recommended by Lonely Planet, Trip Advisor, The New York Times, The Guardian and many other national and international newspapers and magazines. We offer the Darjeeling and Gangtok Tour at a competitive price. Which season is best for a tour to Darjeeling and Gangtok? We recommend visiting in summer, although you can also travel in spring and winter. For more information on the Darjeeling and Gangtok Tour, please get in touch with us.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Bagdogra and drive to Gangtok

On arrival, you are met by our representative at the airport and drive to Gangtok. The road follows the Teesta River to the checkpoint at Rangpo, then climbs the hill to Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. On arrival, you check in to the hotel and, if time permits, take a walk along MG Marg, the pedestrian boulevard.

Altitude: 1,650 m On foot: None, 4–5 hr drive Night: Hotel, Gangtok Meals: None

Day 2

Gangtok sightseeing

After breakfast, you drive up to the ridge to visit Enchey Monastery, which belongs to the Nyingma order of Himalayan Buddhism. After the visit you drive down towards Ranka Monastery, stopping on the way at Banjhakri Falls. Ranka Monastery is one of the finest monasteries in Sikkim and has good views. You then continue to Rumtek Monastery, the seat of the 16th Gyalwa Karmapa, head of the Karma Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism. It is the largest monastery in Sikkim and a replica of the Karmapa's monastery at Tsurphu in Tibet. On the way back you can visit the Do Drul Chorten, a large stupa surrounded by 108 prayer wheels.

Altitude: 1,650 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Gangtok Meals: Breakfast

Day 3

Drive to Darjeeling

After breakfast, you drive down the hill and cross the state border to Darjeeling. The drive is scenic, with green vegetation, tea gardens and roadside villages. On arrival in Darjeeling, you check in to the hotel and wait for the other members of the group to arrive, or take a walk around the Chowrasta.

Altitude: 2,050 m On foot: None, 4–5 hr drive Night: Hotel, Darjeeling Meals: Breakfast

Day 4

Darjeeling sightseeing

After breakfast, we begin sightseeing, mostly on foot. We visit the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (closed on Thursdays), one of the leading mountaineering institutes in the world, whose first field director was Tenzing Norgay Sherpa. At the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (closed on Thursdays) you can see the rare and shy red panda, among other animals. The Snow Leopard Breeding Centre houses this elusive cat of the Himalayan highlands. Within walking distance is the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre (closed on Sundays), whose shop sells high-quality Tibetan handicrafts. Darjeeling is known worldwide for its tea, so on the way back we visit a tea estate. In the afternoon you can take a ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, which stops at the Batasia Loop. We also visit Dali Gompa (a monastery) and the Japanese Temple.

Altitude: 2,050 m On foot: Easy walking, 3–4 hrs Night: Hotel, Darjeeling Meals: Breakfast

Day 5

Day hike from Dhotrey to Tonglu, Tumling and Chitrey

Early in the morning (6 am) you drive to Dhotrey via Manebhanjyang, which takes about 2 to 3 hours. After a packed breakfast at Dhotrey, you begin the trek to Tonglu on an uphill trail through dense rhododendron forest. It takes about 3 hours to cover the 6 kilometres to Tonglu. Tonglu, at an altitude of 3,087 m, has views of the Kanchenjunga range (weather permitting) and even Mount Everest in the far distance. From Tonglu you continue 2 km to Tumling, where you stop for lunch. Tumling also has a good view of the Kanchenjunga range. After lunch you walk the last section of the trek to Chitrey. It is a downhill walk through small villages such as Meghma and Lamaydhura. At Chitrey you board the waiting vehicle and return to Darjeeling for the night.

Altitude: 3,087 m at Tonglu On foot: 6–7 hrs Night: Hotel, Darjeeling Meals: Breakfast

Day 6

Departure

After breakfast, you drive down the hill to Bagdogra Airport for your departure flight.

Altitude: 2,050 m On foot: None, 3 hr drive Night: No overnight Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- Meals as per the meal plan above.
- All private transfers and sightseeing in a Toyota Innova or Xylo SUV (2 people per vehicle).
- Entrance fees for monuments and sights.
- English-speaking local tour guide.
- Bottled mineral water during drives.
- All hotel taxes and service charges.

Not included

- International and domestic flights.
- Personal expenses such as bar bills, drinks, laundry, telephone calls and shopping.
- Travel medical insurance.
- Anything not listed as included.

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/darjeeling-and-gangtok-a-day-hike