



Northeast-India Journey with Tribal Festivals

22 days / extension Tripura 26 days

27.03.2019 – 17.04.2019

Extension Tripura: - 21.04.2019

**Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya & Arunachal Pradesh
extension: Tripura**

Imphal (Manipur) – Kohima (Nagaland) – Jorhat (Assam) – Mon (Nagaland) – Silapathar (Assam) – Aalo (Arunachal) – Daporijo (Arunachal) – Ziro (Arunachal) – Majuli (Assam) – Kaziranga National Park (Assam) – Shillong (Meghalaya) – Cherrapunjee (Meghalaya) – Guwahati (Silchar – Kailashahar – Agartala)

Extension Tripura: Silchar – Kailashahar – Agartala – Udaipur

ITINERARY

Day 01: 27th March 19: Delhi - Arrive Imphal

Arrive Imphal by morning flight. Meet and assist upon arrival and transfer to Hotel. Post lunch, drive to Andro village (25 kms/ 1½ hrs), explore the village and return by late afternoon. Return to Imphal by dusk. Late afternoon time permitting, visit Kangla fort or Ima market – all women's market. Dinner and overnight.

Day 02: 28th March 19: Imphal – Loktak Lake (60 kms/ 2 hrs)

Early morning post breakfast, visit Govindajee temple. From here we proceed on for a full day excursion to Loktak lake. Loktak is the largest fresh water lake in the North East Region. Explore this beautiful lake. Post lunch return to Imphal. Enroute visit Moirang market. Dinner and overnight.



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Day 03: 29th March 19: Imphal – Maram Khullen – Kohima (160 kms/ 5 hrs)

Morning drive for Kohima. Enroute visit Maram Khullen followed by stop along the route with great view of the terraced rice fields. Check into hotel upon arrival. Evening time permitting, go for a walk into the town. Dinner and Overnight.

Day 04: 30th March 19: Kohima

After breakfast, today we drive to Khonoma village, a place renowned for its valour and courage. The Khonoma gate tells the story of British infiltration into Naga Hills. Return to town by lunch time. Late afternoon, visit the famous war cemetery, a symbolic memorial raised as citation for the supreme sacrifice made by the officers and men of the Allied forces during World War II. Come back to Kohima and to Hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 05: 31st March 19: Kohima – Jorhat (200 kms/ 7 hrs)

Morning after breakfast, continue towards Jorhat, the last capital of the Ahom kingdom. Enroute stop and visit the local market at Dimapur. In Jorhat, check into a heritage tea estate bungalow on arrival. Dinner and Overnight.

Day 06: 1st April 19: Jorhat – Mon (180 kms/ 7 hrs) – [Land of the Aoling Festival](#)

Morning after breakfast, transfer to Mon and into the land of the lower Konyak. Enroute visit tribal villages. On arrival check into a guest house. Dinner and overnight.

The entire Konyak Community of Nagaland, observed Aoleong Monyu in the first week of Aoleong Lee (April) every year since time immemorial. Aoleang is observed after completion of sowing of seeds in the new fields and to marks the end of the old year and to welcome the new year beginning with spring when a riot of flowers in every hue start to bloom. It is time to ask Almighty God for beautiful harvest of crops in that very year. The Aoleang Monyu is spread over six days. Each day has separate names and different significance: (1) Hoi Lai Yah Nyih (2) Yin Mok Pho Nyih, (3) Yin Mok Shek Nyih (4) Lingnyu Nyih (5) Lingha Nyih and (6) Lingshan Nyih. However, with people giving up on their indigenous religion and embracing Christianity, it is now celebrated only for 2-3 days nowadays.

NOTE: Aoling festival is celebrated by Konyak tribe of Nagaland celebrated during 1st week (celebrated for a week) of April. However, the exact date of celebration is subject to change depending on the lunar calendar and VIP movement in the area and can be confirmed only closer to date.

Day 07: 2nd April 19: Mon – day trip to Longwa village (42 kms/ 2 hrs) – [Aoling Festival](#)

After an early breakfast, we will drive to Longwa village. True tradition is seen here where people are still not touched by modern ways. Meet village folk, see their way of life. This is one of the big Konyak villages and on the border ridge between India and Myanmar (Burma). The Angh (king) of Longwa commands about 50 villages from both the side. In addition to this, the village being on the ridge offers great panoramic views of the hills not only in Indian but on the Myanmar side as well. Dinner and overnight.

Day 08: 3rd April 19: Mon – Day trip to Hongphui village (20 kms/ 1 hr) – [Aoling Festival](#)

Post breakfast visit nearby Hongphui, Wangla and Mon villages for more tribal experience. Meet village folk, see their way of life. Return to Mon by evening. Dinner and overnight.

Day 09: 4th April 19: Mon – Dibrugarh – Silapathar (220 kms/ 7 hrs + 1 hr ferry ride)

Morning after breakfast, drive back to Assam, we will be taking a ferry across the mighty river Brahmaputra. Once on the other side, depending on the road, we can stay overnight in Silapathar. Enroute visit villages of the Mishing tribe. Dinner and overnight.



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Day 10: 5th April 19: Silapathar – Aalo (160 kms/ 6 hrs) – Mopin Festival

Morning after breakfast, we will be driving straight to Aalo, land of the Adi Gallo tribe. On arrival check into a hotel. Dinner and overnight.

The Mopin festival of the Gallong Adi tribe is celebrated chiefly at Along in Arunachal Pradesh. This festival is celebrated to receive universal happiness as well as to drive away evil spirits bearing bad luck and hardship. Tribal dances such as the 'popir' dance performed by tribal women, and folk songs lend this festival vibrancy like no other.

Day 11: 6th April 19: Aalo– Mopin Festival

Full day in Aalo visiting villages in and around while participating as well as observing the celebration of the Mopin festival. Dinner and overnight.

Day 12: 7th April 19: Aalo – Daporijo (165 kms/ 6 hrs)

After breakfast drive to Daporijo, home of the Tagin tribes. Tagin are generally adherents of [Donyi Polo](#) although two groups of Tagin—the [Nga](#) and [Mara](#) have come under the influence of Tibetan Buddhism. Tibetan Buddhist influence among these sections of the Tagin was a result of migration of Tibetans from the north in the 18th century as well as visits by Buddhist missionaries of the [Nyingma](#) sect who paid tribute to the chiefs as a result of Tibetan settlement in their land. On arrival check into a hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 13: 8th April 19: Daporijo – Ziro (175 kms/ 7 hrs)

Morning after breakfast, drive to Ziro. Enroute visit Hill Miri villages on the way. On arrival check into hotel. Evening visit to market. Dinner and overnight.

Day 14: 9th April 19: Ziro

After breakfast, we will be visiting Apatani villages. Ziro is one of the most traditional areas in Arunachal Pradesh. Dinner and overnight.

Ziro is home to the Apatani tribes and it is located in an extremely picturesque valley called Apatani Plateau surrounded by pine-covered mountains. The Apatani tribes themselves are Ziro's greatest attraction. The older men-folk tie the hair in top-knots and tattoo the faces. Apatani women wear wooden nose plugs and tattooed their faces. However, new generation of Apatani men and women have stopped this practice of tying hair knot, nose plugs and face tattooing since early 1970s. The Apatani are good cultivators and practice both wet and terrace cultivation. Paddy cum fish culture is very popular among them.

Day 15: 10th April 19: Ziro – Majuli (160 kms / 5 hrs) – via ferry on the Brahmaputra

Today after breakfast we will drive down to the plains and then proceed to Dhunaguri Ghat where we will take a ferry to one of the biggest river islands in the world and also the heart of the Assamese culture – Majuli. Here in Majuli, we will be exploring this cultural place and the seat of Vaishnava culture in Assam. The great 15th century Assamese reformer and saint, Shankardeva had come down here and set up 'satras' or Vaishnavite monasteries to make the people motivated towards culture and religion. The ferry crossing is in itself one of the experience with life and activities on the river bank. Fishermen and fishing nets coupled with the beautiful Assam sunset normally remains one of the most memorable picture for any visitor to this region. Check into a hotel/lodge on arrival. Dinner and overnight.

Day 16: 11th April 19: Majuli

Early morning visit the river bank to catch the fisher men collecting the catch from the previous day's trap. We will spend most of the morning on the river side. If we are lucky, the morning mist adds dramatic dimension to photographs taken with nets and mist in the river. Post breakfast, explore the island, we will visit one of the



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prominent Satra which is famous for the monastic dance. Post dance we can interact with the monks in the monastery and in their monk's quarter which will allow you to take more portraits. Afternoon visit a Mishing tribal village then head on to catch the afternoon light with fishermen, country boats – a typical everyday scene yet a photographer's delight in this world's largest inhabited river island. Dinner and overnight.

Day 17: 12th April 19: Majuli – Kaziranga National Park (1 ½ hrs ferry + 120 kms/ 2 hr)

Early morning spend more time on the river bank. After breakfast check out and proceed towards the ferry point to take ferry (1½ - 2 hrs) to the other side, onward to Neemati ghat. From here drive towards Kaziranga National Park. On arrival check into hotel/Lodge. Afternoon, go for a jeep safari in the park. Return to hotel/lodge by dusk. Dinner and overnight.

Day 18: 13th April 19: Kaziranga National Park

Early morning go for an **elephant safari**. Return to the Lodge for breakfast. Morning and Post lunch go for a **Jeep safari** another range of the park. Return to hotel/lodge by dusk. Dinner and overnight.

Day 19: 14th April 19: Kaziranga National Park – Shillong (320 kms/ 5 hrs)

Morning after breakfast, drive to the capital - Shillong. Enroute stop to view the Umiam Lake, one of the prominent attractions of Meghalaya. Resume your drive to Shillong again. Check into hotel/ resort on arrival. Evening at leisure. Dinner and overnight.

The city of Shillong derives its name from "Leishyllong" - the Superpower or God who is believed to be residing on the Shillong Peak overlooking the Shillong City. The general area of the state of Meghalaya is often referred to as the "Scotland of the East" in the olden days due to its striking similarity with the Scottish.

Day 20: 15th April 19: Shillong – full day city sightseeing

We will spend the whole day here in Shillong with sightseeing of this beautiful hill station. After breakfast visit a private family owned museum – the Wankhar Entomology Museum with a fine collection of specimens that has been preserved and handed down from one generation to another. Our next stop will be Don Bosco Center of Indigenous culture (closed on Sunday and Govt. Holidays) - This is a seven storey museum which showcases the heritage of the entire North-Eastern States. Then visit Barra Bazaar – the local market in the heart of the city. Evening visit Police Bazaar - Shillong's prime location where the wares on sale range from electronics to traditional handicraft, modern clothing to handloom items, vegetables and traditional spices etc. walk around local market. Dinner and Overnight.

Day 21: 16th April 19: Shillong – Cherrapunjee (56 kms/ 2 hrs)

After breakfast go for a whole day sightseeing of Cherrapunjee starting with visits to some of the major attractions namely Shillong peak (elevation -1496 meter above sea level) and Elephant falls – a beautiful three steps waterfall. Continue on to Cherrapunjee, one of the highest rainfall area in the world, we will stop and enjoy the beautiful view from Duwan Singh Syiem Bridge opening to the grand Mawdok Dympep Valley. From here proceed towards Sorah, visit the market before heading to visit the Nohkalikai falls – one of the highest waterfall in India. Later drive to the Mawmai cave with its innumerable forms, shapes and sizes of stalactites and stalagmites, a handiwork of years of natural abrasion and underground water. return to Shillong by evening. **Dinner and overnight.**

Note: Visit to Shillong peak is subject to permission from the Indian Air Force Officials

Day 22: 17th April 19: Shillong – Guwahati (120 kms/ 3 hrs) - Delhi

Morning after breakfast, transfer to Guwahati airport for onwards journey.

End of Tour



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Extension: Tripura

Day 22: 17th April 19: Shillong – Silchar (260 kms/ 7hrs)

Today we will head towards another region of Assam, we will be driving to Silchar – the gateway to Tripura. Enroute stop and visit the monolith of Nartiang. On arrival check into hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 23: 18th April 19: Silchar – Kailashahar (160 kms/ 6 hrs)

Morning, post breakfast proceed towards another state – Tripura. Our destination today will be Kailashahar which was once the capital of Tripuran kingdom and as such evidence of its royal history can be still seen here. It is a town which gets a major part of its identity from a royal and significant past, the tints of which can still be seen around the town. Kailashahar is not only famous for its temples such as the Fourteen Goddesses temple, popular trekking destination, the tea estates, etc.

En route stop and visit Unakoti where there is a profusion of rock-cut images, belonging to 11-12th century A.D., intricately and finely executed. Truly, over the backdrop of widespread hill ranges, surrounded by lush green and bush, we will see a large number of colossal figures of Hindu gods & goddesses engraved in a 45 meters hillock. Unakoti is termed as “Shaiva-Tirtha” which is visited by thousands of Pious people from all over the region particularly during Ashokastami Mela in March-April to take a holy dip. Check into Unakoti tourist lodge on arrival. Dinner and Overnight.

Day 24: 19th April 19: Kailashahar – Agartala (160 kms/ 6 hrs)

Morning drive from Kailashahar towards the capital of Tripura – Agartala. On arrival check into hotel. Afternoon go for a visit to Ujjayanta palace, Purbasha handicrafts, Haveli museum, wall panel decorated with tribal handicrafts, gedu mias mosque, etc. return to hotel by evening. Dinner and overnight.

Day 25: 20th April 19: Agartala – Udaipur

Morning after breakfast, drive to Neermahal, which is located at Udaipur, about 52 km away from Agartala. In Udaipur there is a lovely lake palace on lake Rudrasagar called the Neermahal which is Eastern India's only lake palace. After visiting the Neermahal we will visit Matabari which is one of the most important and much venerated attractions of Tripura. Here is the ancient temple of Matabari or Tripurasundari.

Day 26: 21st April 19: Agartala – Delhi

Morning after breakfast, transfer to Agartala airport for onwards journey.



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Entry formalities for Arunachal Pradesh:

Please note that all foreign nationals need **Protected Area Permit (PAP)** to visit Arunachal Pradesh. The Government stipulates the number of tourists to minimum 2 in a group to apply for RAP. The Govt. charges **USD 50** (not included) per person for a 30 days permit. The following documents are required for the permit and we need at least 10 – 15 working days to process the same after we receive these documents:

- 1) Photocopy of passport & Visa (scanned copies)
- 2) Scanned passport size photographs (preferably in .jpg format)
- 3) Duly filled RAP application form (provided by us)

Entry formalities (Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura): Travel restriction has been relaxed for Nagaland, Manipur Mizoram and Tripura initially for a year (w.e.f. 1st Jan 2013). And it is difficult to say, at the moment, whether or not it will continue till 2015 – 16 season but it is most likely to continue so. However, we will confirm this once we have concrete news from the respective local authorities. We will keep you posted in case anything changes in the entry formalities.

INFORMATION

- Most places of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Tripura are some of the least visited areas of India. And as such, accommodation will be basic. Water Hot or cold will be provided in buckets if hotels/ guest houses do not have running hot water facility. Meals served will be mostly of Indian cuisine like rice, chapattis, curries, etc. Your breakfast and dinner will be arranged at the hotels of overnight stay.
- Please note that sightseeing / itinerary may change due to time limit, weather, national holidays, and special or unforeseen events. We maintain the rights to alter the itinerary since tours are made in advance and unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Itinerary changes are made to improve your overall travel experience.
- In Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland you will drive through hilly areas. Some portion of the road along these stretches of the road will be broken and bumpy and prone to the vagaries of nature which means often driving long hours. Also, there will be short distances of dirt road between villages
- Road conditions are unpredictable in this region and could be under repair and not having an asphalt surface. Re-routing or itinerary changes can be made by the guide depending on the circumstances on ground.
- The duration mentioned in the itinerary may not be precise; it is the time that can be expected when strictly driving, depending on the present road conditions. Otherwise, the journey is conducted in such a way that we always stop midway for visiting villages, markets, photography, major landmarks of importance or interest depending on the client's interest.
- All foreigners travelling to India are hereby informed that international mobile phone number does not work in the Northeast region and it is illegal to use satellite phones, drones or similar types of devices in India. Custom authorities in India may seize such devices and legal action may be taken against the passenger concerned.
- Clients must be fully insured to cover the costs of medical emergencies / evacuation / treatment / medicine, expenses incurred by any amendment of tour itinerary (addition or reduction of number of days) necessitated by weather conditions, prevailing road conditions, political or bureaucratic situations, natural calamities, change in flight schedule, mechanical malfunction, or any such unanticipated events or any Acts of God.