

Tour Of India
With A Driver Guide In Your Own Exclusive Air-Conditioned Vehicle.

DARJEELING AND EASTERN HIMALAYAS

| Day | Date | Location | First Class Hotels | Standard Hotels | Schedule |
|-----|------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 01 | | Depart UK | | | |
| 02 | | Arrive Kolkata | Oberoi Grand | Hotel Senator | >Pick Up From Kolkata Airport >Afternoon Sightseeing Including The Victoria Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral And The Indian Museum, With The World's Best Collections Of Indian Art |
| 03 | | Kolkata | Oberoi Grand | Hotel Senator | >Early Morning Visit To The Flower Market On The Howrah Riverbank |
| 04 | | Darjeeling | The Mayfair Darjeeling | Dekeling Resort | >Drop Off At Kolkata Airport INTERNAL FLIGHT FROM KOLKATA TO BAGDOGRA >Pick Up From Bagdogra Airport >Ascent Up The Himalayan Foothills To Darjeeling Bagdogra-Darjeeling: 62 Miles Approx 3 Hours |
| 05 | | Darjeeling | The Mayfair Darjeeling | Dekeling Resort | >Early Morning Drive Up To Tiger Hill (9,000 Feet) To See The Spectacular Sunrise Casting Its Light Over Mount Everest And Kanchenjunga >Visit To The Ghoom Monastery |
| 06 | | Darjeeling | The Mayfair Darjeeling | Dekeling Resort | >Ride On The Toy Train To Ghoom Including The Famous Batasia Loop |
| 07 | | Pelling | Norbu Gang Resort Super Deluxe Room | Tashi Gang Resort | >A Scenic Drive To The Remote Hamlet Of Pelling >The Pemayangtse Monastery Darjeeling-Pelling: 78 Miles Approx 3 Hours |
| 08 | | Gangtok | Nor Khill | Sterling Denzong Shangrila | >Drive To Gangtok The Capital Of Sikkim Pelling-Gangtok: 80 Miles Approx 3 Hours |
| 09 | | Gangtok | Nor Khill | Sterling Denzong Shangrila | >Visit The Rumtek Monastery, Noted For Its Carved And Painted Woodwork >The Enchey Monastery And The Namgyal Institute Of Tibetology |
| 10 | | Kalimpong | Hotel Silver Oaks | The Himalayan | >Visit Orchid Nurseries, Churches, And Monasteries In Beautiful Surroundings Gangtok-Kalimpong: 45 Miles Approx 2 Hours |
| 11 | | Kolkata | Oberoi Grand | Hotel Senator | >Drop Off At Bagdogra Airport Kalimpong-Bagdogra: 48 Miles Approx 2 Hours INTERNAL FLIGHT FROM BAGDOGRA TO KOLKATA >Pick Up From Kolkata Airport |
| 12 | | Depart Kolkata Arrive UK | | | >Drop Off At Kolkata Airport |

Standard Rooms Unless Otherwise Specified



Day 02 – Kolkata



Kolkata The Cultural Capital Of India

Kolkata (Calcutta)

Kolkata, formerly known as **Calcutta** sprawls along the eastern bank of the **Hooghly River**, a tributary of the **Ganges**. With an extended metropolitan population of over fourteen million people, it is **India's** third-largest city..

Kolkata was the birthplace of modern **Indian** literary and artistic thought. The city has inspired many with its soul and vibrancy. **Kolkata** is noted for its revolutionary history, ranging from the **Indian** struggle for independence to the leftist and trade union movements. As a "city of furious creative energy", **Kolkata** continues to spawn generations of poets, writers, film producers and **Nobel Peace Prize** winners.



The Victoria Memorial At Kolkata



New Bridge Over The Hooghly

Day 03 – Kolkata



Calcutta Flower Market Scene

Kolkata (Calcutta)

The famous **Howrah Bridge** (1943) is one of three bridges that span the **Hooghly River**. You can explore the curious flower markets by the riverside with a gentle walk.

As the former capital of **British India**, **Kolkata** is dotted with colonial buildings, including many crumbling **British Raj**-era gems. **Kolkata's** most famous landmark, **The Victoria Memorial**, is a splendid white marble monument. Established in 1814, the **Indian Museum** is the oldest museum in **Asia** and houses a vast collection of **Indian** natural history and **Indian Art**. The **National Library Of India** is the country's leading public library.

The huge, lush, green, open parkland known as the **Maidan** leads to **Eden Gardens**, one of the most famous cricket stadiums in the world.



Calcutta High Court



Day 04 – Day 05 Darjeeling



Darjeeling With Kanchenjunga In The Background

Darjeeling

Darjeeling is one of the most beautiful **Hill Stations** in **India**. It grew in prominence during the mid 19th century when **The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway** was opened in 1881 and the town became the de-facto summer capital of **India** during the days when the **Raj** was governed from **Calcutta**.

The beautiful views of **Kanchenjunga**, the world's third tallest mountain peak (28 169ft) are a major attraction of **Darjeeling**. **Kanchenjunga** is best seen at dawn from **Tiger Hill**. It is best to visit early morning when the first rays of sun kiss the mountain and give it a golden color.

There is also much of interest in the cultural diversity of **Darjeeling**, with **Tibetans** (many **Tibetan** refugees moved here after **Tibet** was annexed by **China**), as well as **Nepali** and **Bihari** laborers brought to work in the tea plantations. One cannot also, miss to visit the House of **Tenzing Sherpa**, the first to conquer **Mount Everest**.



View From Tiger Hill



Day 06 – Darjeeling



Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway – Excursions From Darjeeling Station

The steam 'Joy' train operates daily from **Darjeeling** to **Ghoom** round the famous **Batasia Loop**. A steam train also operates from **Siliguri** to '**Agony Point**' on weekends. There is also a daily '**School Train**' that leaves **Kurseong** at 06:15 arriving **Darjeeling** at 08:45. It leaves **Darjeeling** at 16:00 arriving **Kurseong** at 18:30. This is still hauled by a steam engine and is one of the last 'day to day'/ ordinary steam trains running anywhere in the world!



Tea Plantations On The Way To Darjeeling



Panoramic View From The Famous Batasia Loop

Day 07 – Pelling



Awe Inspiring View From Pelling

Pelling

Pelling is a laid back, scenic, but rapidly swelling hamlet is situated at an altitude of 6,800 ft, above sea level. **Pelling** is famous for the magnificent view of the snow-capped mountains of the **Kanchenjunga** range. High above the forest covered hills, in an amphitheatre of cloud, snow and rock, the entire route from **Yuksam** over **Dzongri La** to the **Rathong Glacier** can be seen.



Pemayangtse Temple



Masks Inside A Sikkim Monastery

Day 08 – Day 09 Gangtok**Rumtek Monastery****Gangtok**

Gangtok is a bustling hill station, and the capital of the **Himalayan** state of **Sikkim** reflected in its picturesque setting in the **Himalayan** foothills.

There are beautiful views of the surrounding hills from **Enchey Monastery** and **Ganesh Tok**, both high above the town. **Enchey Monastery** is a two hundred year old monastery in the **Nyingma** tradition of **Tibetan Buddhism**. **Rumtek Monastery**, located 22 km from the town is one of the most important **Tibetan Buddhist** monasteries, and head seat of the **Karma Kagyu** school in **Sikkim**.

**Prayer Wheels At Gangtok**

Day 10 – Kalimpong



Chillies At Kalimpong Market

Kalimpong

Kalimpong is a **Hill Station** nestled in the **Shiwalik Hills (Lower Himalaya)** with a temperate climate and famous flower markets, especially the wide array of orchids. There are flower nurseries involved in exporting the **Himalayan** grown flower bulbs, tubers and rhizomes. It also houses several **Buddhist** monasteries which hold a number of rare **Tibetan Buddhist** scriptures.

Deolo Hill is a must see for all nature lovers. There is a lovely view from a park on the top, surrounded on all sides by tea gardens going thousands of feet deep, and the entire picturesque landscape guarded well on all sides by high rise mountains.



Himalayan Flowers Near Kalimpong



Day 11 – Kolkata

Dhakshinewar Temple, Kolkata

Kolkata (Calcutta)

You can relax at **Kolkata** or catch up on your sightseeing in the city prior to your departure from **Calcutta Airport**.



The Hoogly River At Kolkata

**Day 12 – Depart Kolkata**