

A GLORIOUS PAST





Bus to Singamari - Darjeeling 1940's

She possessed the magical power of healing. Even the doctors started recommending her to treat sick people.

Ever since she gave many a reason to live.

During the British Raj Darjeeling's temperate climate led to its development as a hill station for British residents seeking to escape the summer heat.

Arthur Campbell, a surgeon with the Company, and Lieutenant Robert Napier established a hill station there.

Chowrasta in Winter - Darjeeling 1890's



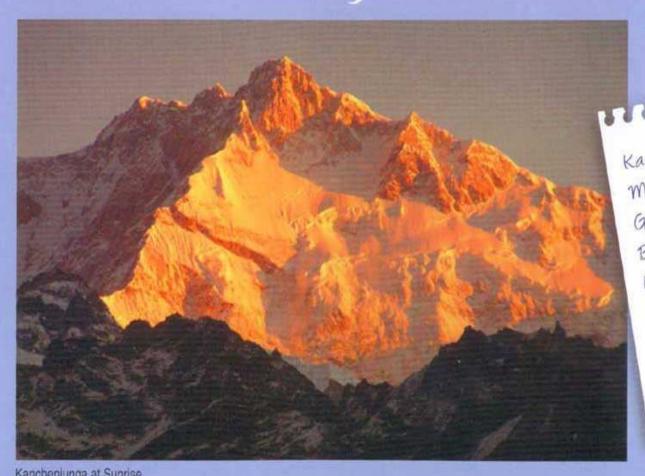
The first road connecting the town
with the plains was constructed
between 1839 and 1842 Darjeeling
became the formal summer
became the Bengal Presidency
capital of the Bengal Presidency
after 1864. The opening of the
after 1864 Himalayan Railway
Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
in 1881 further hastened the
development of the region.



Planters' Clubside Car Park, Darjeeling



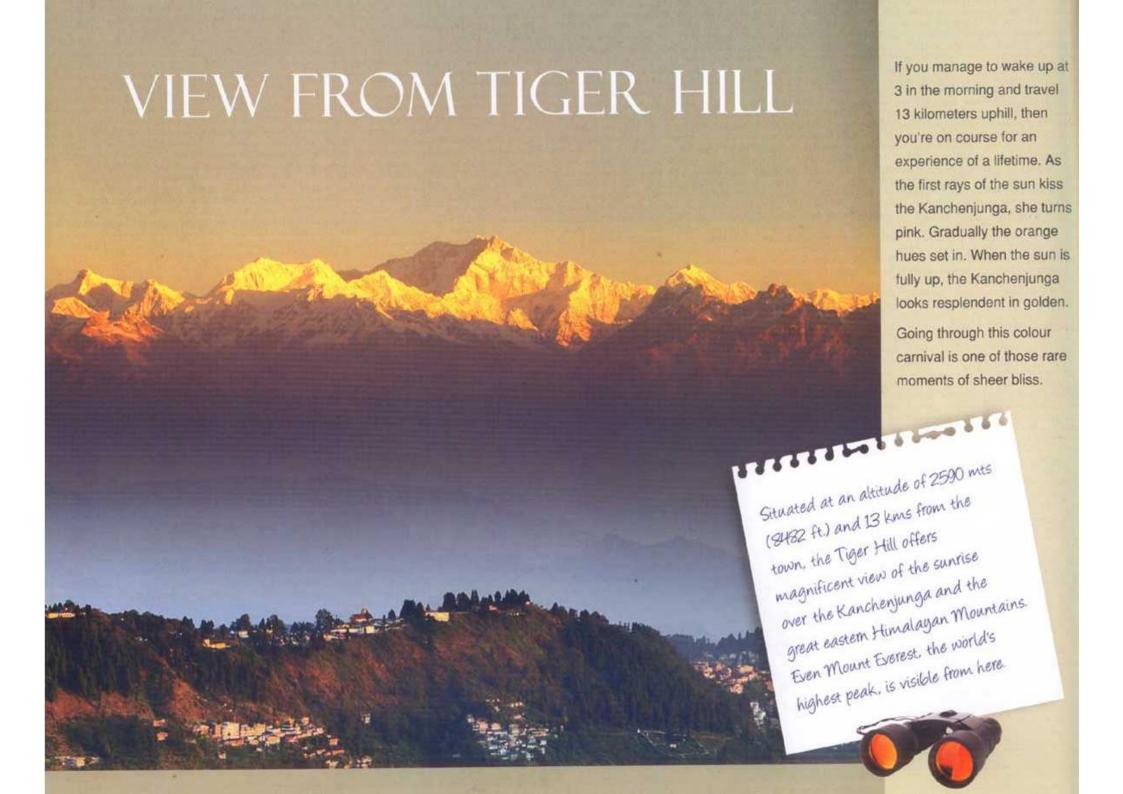
THE FORMIDABLE KANCHENJUNGA



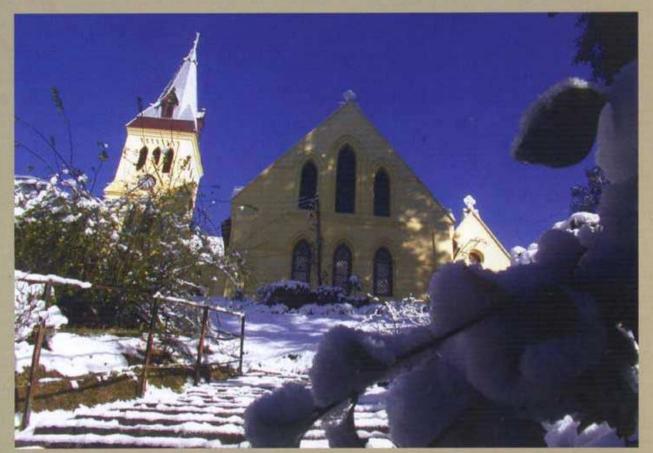
Kanchenjunga at Sunrise

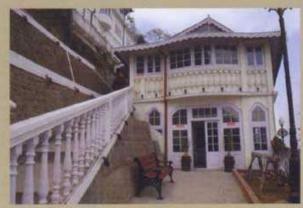
Kanchenjunga humbles you. Towering and awe-inspiring, her presence is perhaps the driving reason why you and many others visit Darjeeling.

Kanchenjunga was first climbed on May 25, 1955 by Joe Browne and George Band, who were part of a British expedition. They honoured the beliefs of the Sikkimese, who regard the summit sacred, by stopping a few feet short of the actual summit. Ever since mountaineers have followed this tradition.



MYRIAD MEMORIES

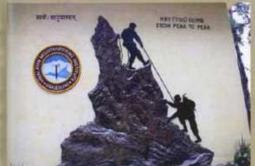




C. R. Das Museum



St. Andrews Church, Darjeeling



Himalayan Mountaineering Institute



Tenzing Rock



Tibetan Self-Help Centre

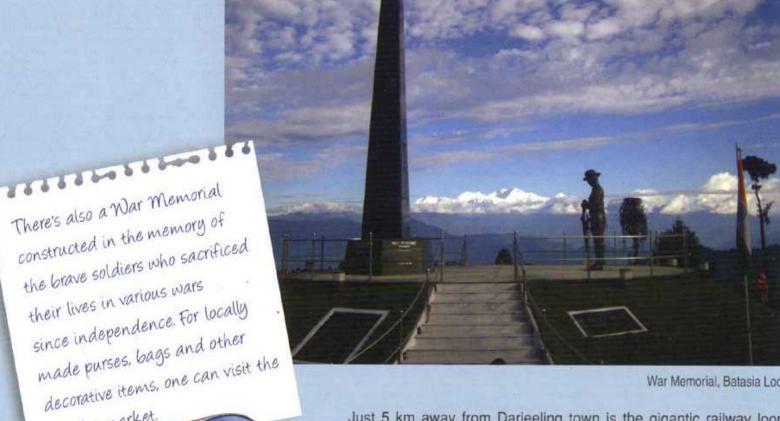


Darjeeling Ropeway



nearby market.

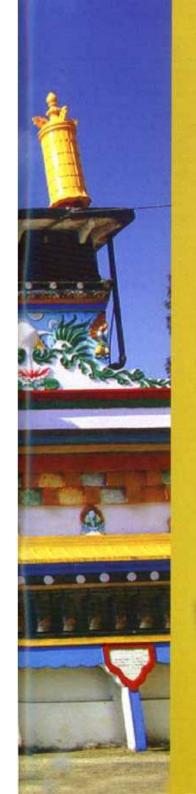
BATASIA LOOP & WAR MEMORIAL



War Memorial, Batasia Loop

Just 5 km away from Darjeeling town is the gigantic railway loop where the Toy Train makes a 360 Degree turn. It was built to enable the Toy Train to cut the steep ascent. The Batasia Loop offers a panoramic view of the Kanchenjunga Range.







Monks praying inside the monastery

Just 8 kms from
Darjeeling, Ghoom
Monastery is located
at an elevation
of 8,000 feet. The
monastery follows the
Gelug school of
Tibetan Buddhism.
There is a 15-feet
high statue of
"Maitreya Buddha"
(Future Buddha)
in the monastery.





Ghoom Station



Little Monks

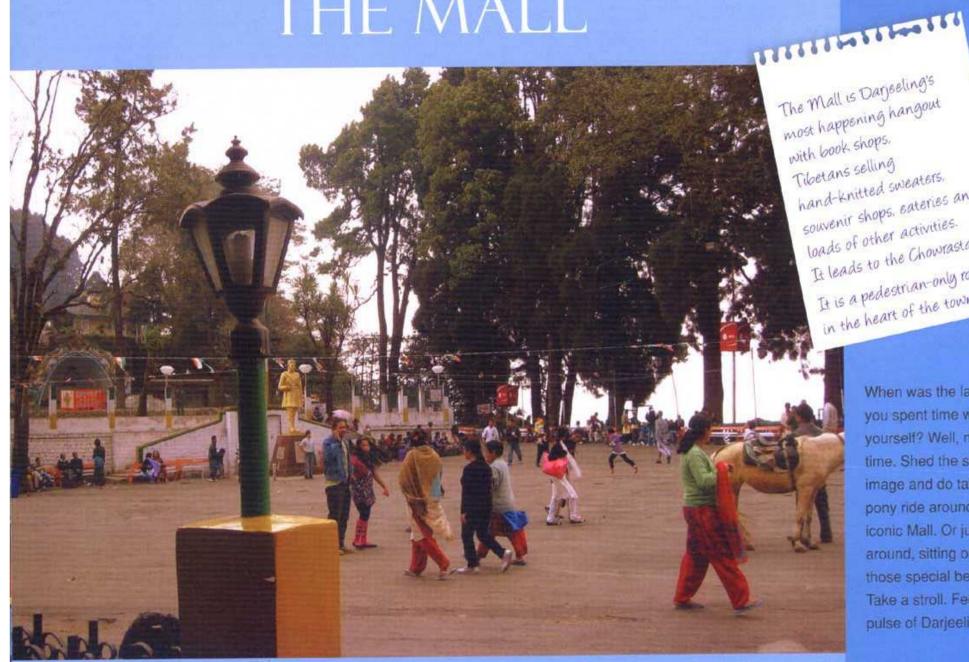


Friendly banter



GHOOM

THE MALL



most happening hangout with book shops. Tibetans selling hand-knitted sweaters. souvenir shops, eateries and loads of other activities It leads to the Chowrasta. It is a pedestrian-only road in the heart of the town

> When was the last time you spent time with yourself? Well, now is the time. Shed the serious image and do take that pony ride around the iconic Mall. Or just laze around, sitting on one of those special benches. Take a stroll. Feel the pulse of Darjeeling.

Tourists at the Darjeeling Mall

AROUND DARJEELING



St. Paul's School, Darjeeling



St. Joseph's School, Darjeeling



Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park



Darjeeling Rock Garden

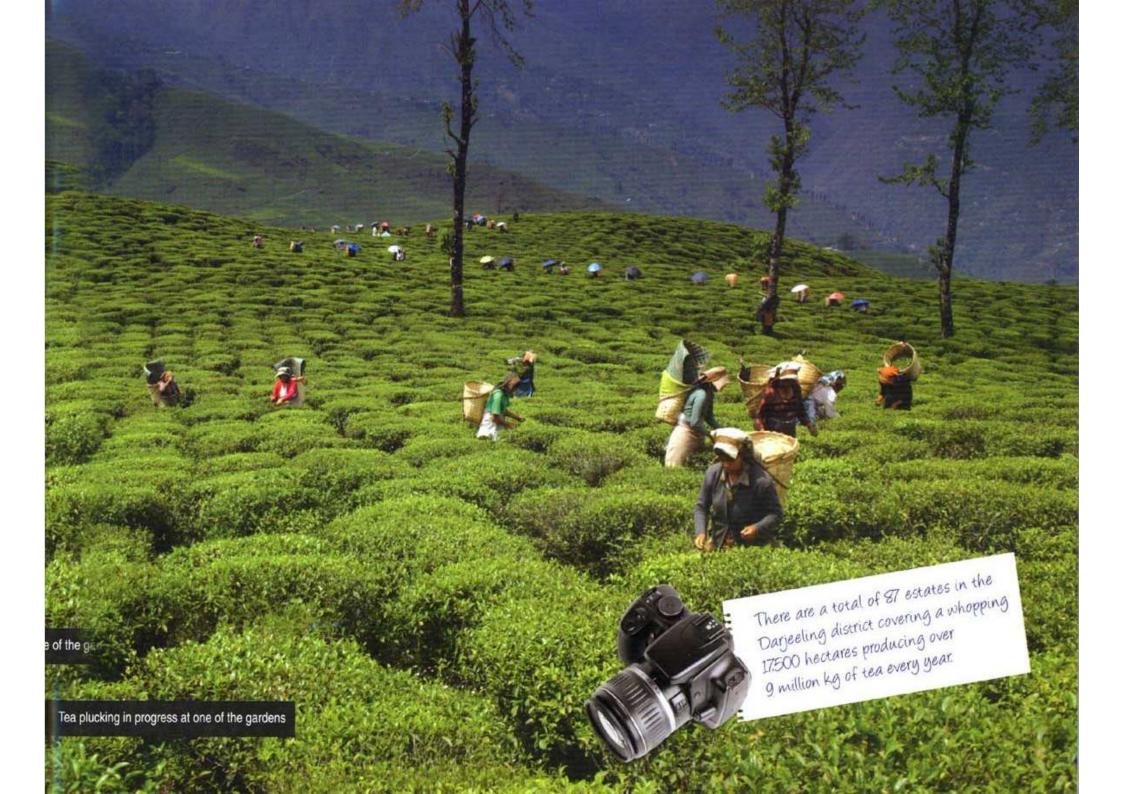
Revered by connoisseurs across the world, Darjeeling Tea is considered to be the finest. It has a unique flavour which cannot be replicated.

Even the tea pluckers, well aware of the status their produce enjoys throughout the world, pick only the finest two leaf and the bud to enhance the unique flavour which has been described as "Muscatel".



Tea processing in progress









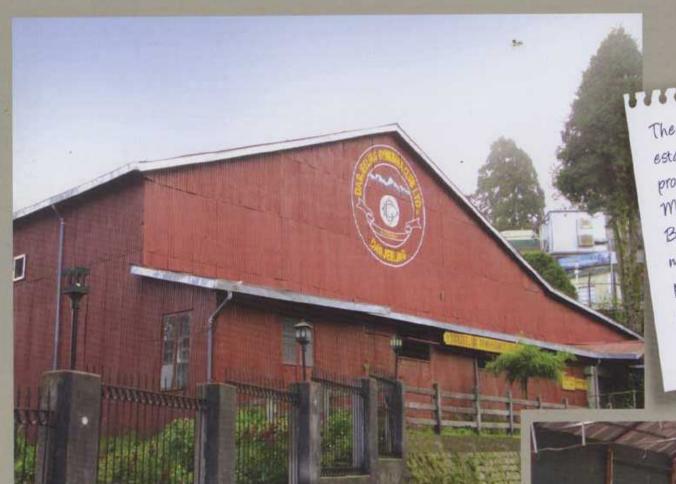




Connoisseurs of the Darjeeling Tea now have another reason to smile as a Tea Museum has been inaugurated right at the Mall.

Tea Museum, Mall, Darjeeling

GYMKHANA CLUB



The Gymkhana Club was
established in 1909. It is
prominently located above the
mall Road next to Raj
Bhawan. At present, it has a
membership of around 400
permanent and 49 special
permanent and 49 special
members. You can become a
temporary member and enjoy
the club facilities.

If you are a fitness freak then head to the Gymkhana Club and take your pick from games like tennis, squash, badminton, roller-skating, table tennis and billiards.

Or if you think sweating out is not your cup of tea, then go there for a couple of drinks or visit their period library.

Experience the legacy.



THE TEA PLANTERS CLUB



The Tea Planters Club was founded in 1868 and was primarily meant for the Darjeeling elite. The place looks as if it hasn't been touched since Indian Independence. The velvet drapes, billiard room and a snarling stuffed leopard above the fireplace are reminiscent of the pre-independence times. The terrace is a great place to enjoy the weather while watching the hustle and bustle of the town.

Take a seat at this famous eatery. Finish your half-read novel and enjoy a hearty breakfast. If you are in Darjeeling, you should also visit Keventers.



Glenary's Bakery, The Mall, Darjeeling

Don't miss out on the delicious cup of hot chocolate at Keventer's. Get up early and make yourself comfortable at the terrace with a ham or a bacon sandwich followed by flavoured Darjeeling tea





The famous Keventers terrace

MYSTIC MUNGPOO

Tucked away in a quaint corner, 35 kilometers east of Darjeeling. Mungpoo epitomises peace.

Originally named Mong-pong, meaning "A Heap of Millet" in Lepcha, the regional dialect later changed the name to Mungpoo. While travelling from Darjeeling, lush green tea gardens and winding rivers cross your way en route Mungpoo.



Tagore's house in Mungooo

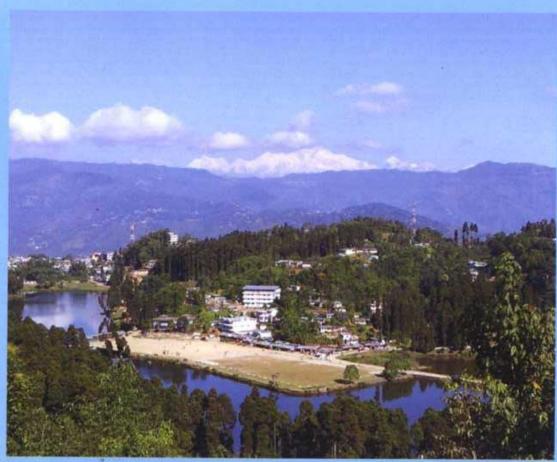
Tagore & Mungpoo

The bard of Bengal. Kabiguru Rabindranath
The bard of Bengal. Kabiguru Rabindranath
Tagore had a long association with Mungpoo.
Tagore had a long association with Mungpoo.
He fell in love with this place the moment he
set his foot here. Tagore first came to
set his foot here. Tagore first came to
mungpoo when Mrs Maytree Devi. wife of
Mungpoo when Mrs Maytree Devi. wife of
the eminent Quintologist Dr MM. Sen
the less creations were composed here. The
timeless creations were composed here. The
Bungalow where the Kabiguru stayed is now
a Museum with his photographs, paintings
and writings.









Panoramic view of the Mirik Lake



Two leaves & a flower

Spare half-a-day for Mirik. Located at an altitude of 1495 m (4905 ft), Mirik's key attraction is the pristine Sumendu Lake. The lake is surrounded by a garden on one side and pine trees on the other, linked together by an arch-shaped bridge popularly known as the Indreni Pull (Rainbow Bridge). A boat ride is recommended.



KALIMPONG



The journey from Darieeling to Kalimpong is a delight. The road drops from Ghoom at 7407 feet, to Teesta Bazar at 700 feet within 12km, passing through lush green forests and tea gardens.

Stop for a while at the 'Lovers' Meet' view point for a breathtaking sight of the confluence of the rivers Teesta and Rangeet.

Enjoy the land of orchids.

The Lovers' Meet View Point



Cactus Nursery, Kalimpong



Beautiful Orchids

Adventure & Leisure Sports -Kalimpong provides opportunity for paragliding River Rafting Is another popular adventure sport It starts from Melli Bridge and culminates at Gelkhola in Kalimpong And for those who just want to relax & laze around. fishing trouts can be a great option.

The erstwhile bungalow of a wealthy English Jute merchant, Morgan House is now a tourist lodge run by the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. Right across is the Kalimpong Golf Course. The surrounding forest is a home to many rare birds and animals.







Deolo View Point



Durpin Monastery

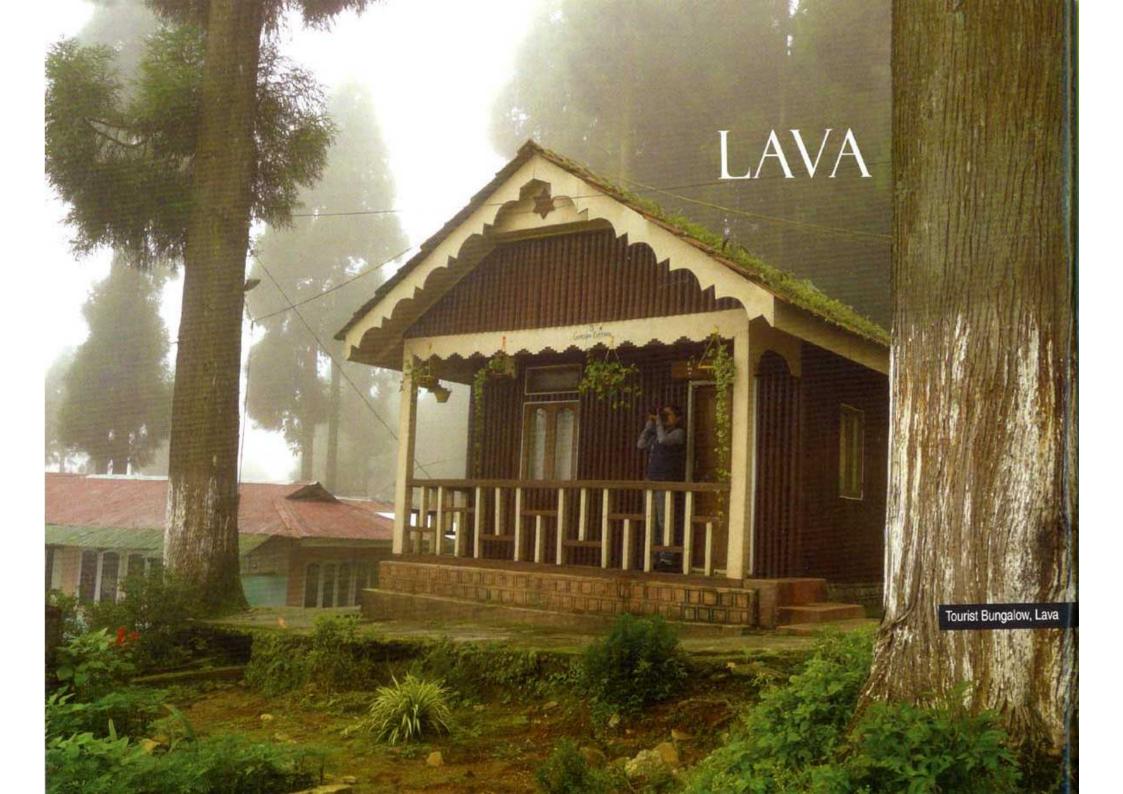


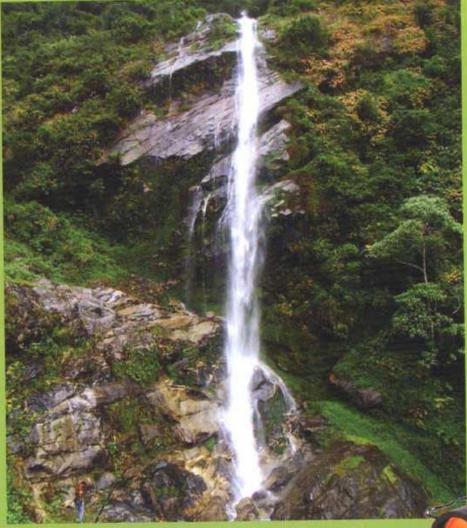
Dr Graham's Homes

Kalimpong has a lot to offer in terms of sightseeing. Some of the must-see places include the Morgan House, the Deolo view point, Dr. Graham's Homes, Durpin Dara, Golf Course and the orchid house.

Kalimpong stands on a ridge connecting the Deolo and Durpin hills. While Deolo offers a splendid view of the town, the Teesta river, and the Kanchenjunga; Durpin's charm lies in the Zang Dhok Palri Monastery alongside a panoramic view of the Himalayan range.

Dr Graham's Homes was built in the year 1900 by Dr John A. Graham, a Scottish missionary to educate the children of tea-estate workers, which now has more than 1500 students. The school is nestled in a 500-acre estate next to the Deolo hill at an elevation of 4,600 feet. There's also a small museum that commemorates the founder and his wife Katherine.





Just 2.5 hours from Kalimpong, get closer to nature at Lava.

Situated at an elevation of 7200 feet, it seems mother nature has generously poured all her bounty. Covered with thick mist and floating clouds, Lava is more like a dream. The Lava Monastery is a place you must visit. Colourful from outside, it has a charming mystic feeling once you are inside the big door.

Changey Falls, Lava

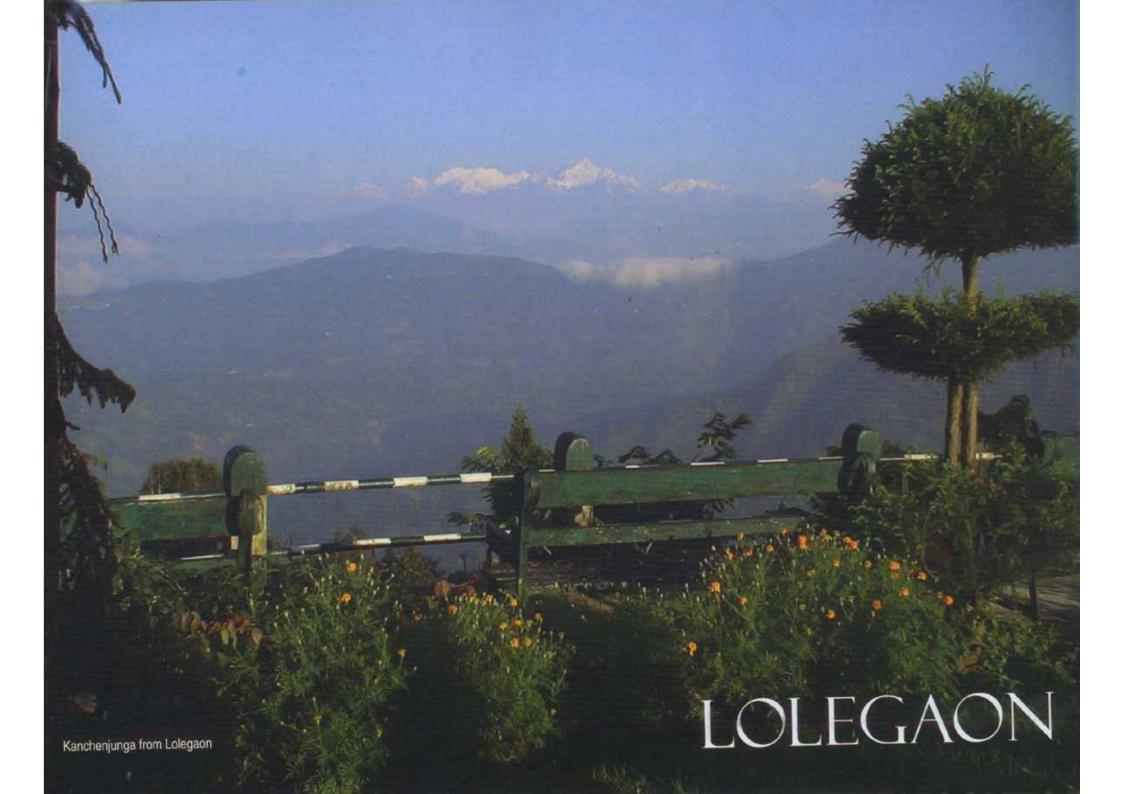


Butterfly at Neora Valley



Clouded Leopard





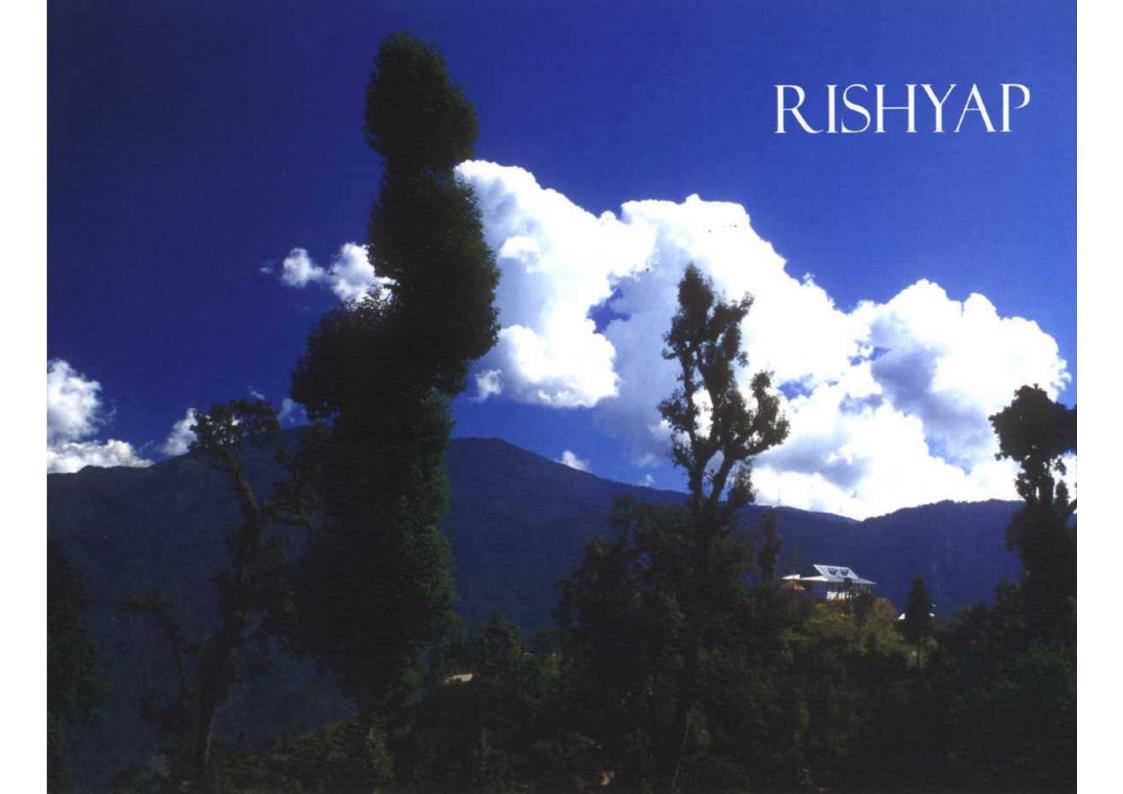


Once you enter the Lolegaon Forest, a silence will engulf you, that will take you far from the humdrum of city life.





Clouds, Mist & Lolegaon







Red Panda at Neora Valley National Park



A quaint tourist lodge, Rishyap

Take your pick between a 9 km jeep ride and a 3 km pleasant trek from Lava to reach Rishyap. At an altitude of 8500 feet above the sea level, Rishyap offers a panoramic view of the Kanchenjunga range. Some say the sunrise from here is even better than that from the Tiger Hill.

KURSEONG



Dow Hill School



View from Kurseong



Tea Garden



Children on their way to school

Spend a day or two in Kurseong before heading to Darjeeling. Experience the serenity, the peace. You might just wake up the secret poet in you.

The land of white orchids awaits you.



MANEBHANJAN



Buddhist Gompa, Manebhanjan



Trekker approaching Sandakphu

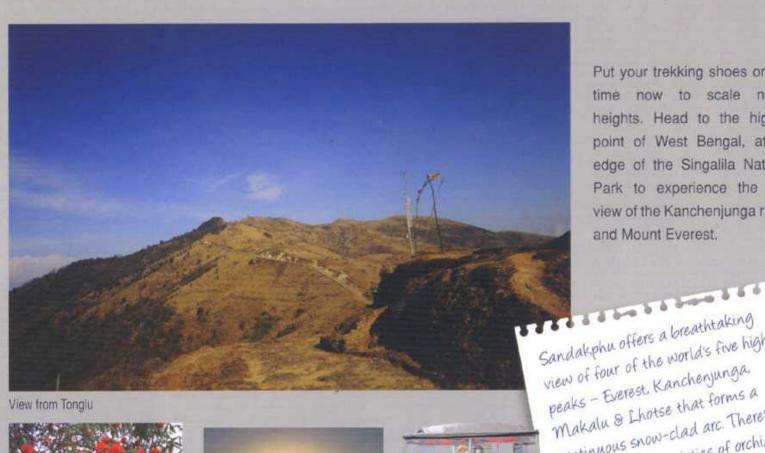


Misty morning at Manebhanjan

This small village located at the India-Nepal border, is the starting point for the trek to Sandakphu. The two countries are separated here by just a small drain covered with a culvert. Manebhanjan has a large ground, where a football tournament is organised every year during Independence Day.







Put your trekking shoes on. It's time now to scale newer heights. Head to the highest point of West Bengal, at the edge of the Singalila National Park to experience the best view of the Kanchenjunga range and Mount Everest.





Sunset from Sandakphu

Sandakphu offers a breathtaking view of four of the world's five highest peaks - Everest Kanchenjunga Makalu & Lhotse that forms a continuous snow-clad arc. There's also more than 600 varieties of orchids. the most to be found in a single geographical area

One of the fast disappearing Land Rovers

My moments with the Queen



I literally had goosebumps when I finally came face to face with the timeless toy train. For the next seven hours I sat awestruck as the 88 km journey took me to another world. For the next four days Darjeeling was all mine.

After a 13 km drive uphill and jostling past a thousand people. I managed to find a strategic place by the railing. Then with bated breath I waited for the carnival of colours to begin. As the first rays of the sun kissed the Kanchenjunga, she turned pink. Gradually the orange hues started to set in. When the sun was fully up, she looked resplendent in golden.





On my way back the cab took me to Batasia Loop & the Ghoom monastery. I got off at the Mall & headed straight to Keventer's. Felt proud, that I still remembered the way. Basking in the morning sun. I ordered a ham sandwich along with the most delicious cup of hot chocolate in the world. Sheer bliss!

That evening I walked from my lodge to the Mall It was more of a climb that left me panting. But I found a quiet comer bench to rest. Long time, since I spent time by myself. Rest of the evening, I finished a half-read novel at Glenary's.





The next morning I left for Kalimpong. The journey from Darjeeling to Kalimpong is a delight. The road drops from Ghoom at 7407feet to Teesta Bazar at 700 feet within 12km and passes through lush green forests and tea gardens. I stopped for a while at the 'Lover's Meet' view point to witness the confluence of the Teesta & Rangeet rivers. It was raining.

The trip to Lava was a dream. On the way, I stopped at Lolegaon for an hour. The humdrum of the city life seemed light-years away inside the Lolegaon forest. The trek from Lava to the Neora Valley National Park was an unforgettable experience. Neora Valley is home to many endangered species, like the Red Panda. Luck was not on my side as I couldn't find any, but I did manage to catch a glimpse of a barking dear.



As I headed back to the concrete jungle, I promised myself to come back. It'll be Sandakphu next time round.

Things to know

DARJEELING

Altitude - 7042 feet

Climate - 8.5 - 15 degree Celsius in summer & 1.5 - 6 degree Celsius

in winter

To get there

By Road: 3 hours (80 km) from Siliguri; Buses & shared taxis ply to

Darjeeling from the Tenzing Norgay Bus Terminal in Siliguri

By Rail: 7-8 hours from New Jalpaiguri (102 km). The Toy Train

(Darjeeling Himalayan Railway) plies twice, daily between New

Jalpaiguri & Darjeeling.

Nearest Airport: Bagdogra (90 km)

Convenient trains from Kolkata

Darjeeling Mail (Sealdah); Kanchanjangha Express (Sealdah);

Uttar Banga Express (Sealdah); Kanchankanya Express (Sealdah);

Padatik Express (Sealdah); Saraighat Express (Howrah);

Kamroop Express (Howrah)

Where to stay

Darjeeling Tourist Lodge (Main) - Bhanu Sarani, Darjeeling;

Ph (0354) 2254412; Mob 09733008775.

Online booking: www.wbtdc.gov.in

email: tourismcentrekolkata@gmail.com

Darjeeling Gymkhana Resort - The Mall, Chowrasta; Ph (0354)

2257320; Mob 09832061545; Website: www.sunflower.hotels.com

Chancellor - 5 Dr SM Das Road; Ph (0354) 2252935

Dekeling Resort - 2 A J C Bose Road; Ph (0354) 2253092,

Website: www.dekeling.com

Fortune Resort Central - Robertson Road; Ph (0354) 2258721;

Website: www.fortunehotels.in

Mayfair Hill Resort & Hotel - The Mall; Ph (0354) 2256376;

Website: www.mayfairhotels.com

Miramar Resort - Bidhan Nagar, NH 31; Mob 09434048608;

Website: www.miramar-resort.com

Planters Club - 7 Nehru Road; Ph (0354) 2254348/49;

Website: www.plantersclub.org

The Elgin Hotel (Heritage) - 18 HD Lama Road; Ph (0354) 2254114

Windamere Hotel - Observatory Hill; Ph (0354) 2254041;

Website: www.windamerehotel.com

KALIMPONG

Altitude - 4115 feet

Climate - 17.2 - 27 degree Celsius in summer & 7.2 - 15 degree

Celsius in winter

To get there

By Road - 3 hours (51 km) from Darjeeling & 2-hour-and-30-minutes

(70 km) from Siliguri.

Nearest Railway Station - Siliguri Junction & New Jalpaiguri

Nearest Airport - Bagdogra (80 km)

Where to stay

Kalimpong Tourist Lodge - Morgan House, Kalimpong; Ph (03552)

255384/283292; Mob - 09733008776

Hill Top Tourist Lodge - Rinkingpong Road, Kalimpong;

Ph (03552) 255654; Mob - 09836621300

Website: www.kalimpong.org

Online booking: www.wbtdc.gov.in

email: tourismcentrekolkata@gmail.com

Deolo Tourist Complex; Ph +91 354 2256395

Gurudongma House - Hill Top; Ph (03552) 255204;

Website: www.gurudongma.com

Kalimpong Park Hotel - Rinkingpong Road;

Ph (03552) 255304/256656

Garden Reach - Upper Cart Road; Ph (03552) 255091;

The Himalayan Hotel (Heritage) - Upper Cart Road;

Ph (03552) 255248; Website: www.himalayanhotel.co.in

Orchid Retreat - Ganesh Villa; Ph (03552) 274517;

Website: www.theorchidretreat.com

Silver Oaks - Rinkingpong Road; Ph (03552) 255296/255767;

Website: www.elginhotels.com

Soods Garden Retreat - Mob - 09733123113;

Website: www.soodsgardenretreat.com

KURSEONG

Altitude - 4811 feet

To get there

By Road - Kurseong is one-and-a-half-hours (30 km) from Darjeeling

and 2 hours (50 km) from Siliguri

Nearest Railway Station - Siliguri (50 km) & New Jalpaiguri (57 km)

Nearest Airport - Bagdogra (60 km)

Where to stay

Kurseong Tourist Lodge - Ph (0354) 2345608; Mob - 09733008779

Online booking: www.wbtdc.gov.in

email: tourismcentrekolkata@gmail.com

LAVA

Altitude - 7016 feet

To get there

By Road – 34 km from Kalimpong. 119 km away via Garubathan from Siliguri.

Nearest Railway Station - Siliguri & New Jalpaiguri

Nearest Airport - Bagdogra

Where to stay

Lava Wilderness Resort – Neora Valley National Park; Ph (03552) 232338 Loleygaon Wilderness Resort – Loleygaon, Kalimpong; Ph (03552) 272336 For reservations contact:

West Bengal Forest Development Corporation, 6A, Raja Subodh Mullick Square, 7th floor, Kolkata, Ph (033) 22370060, Website: www.wbfdc.com

SANDAKPHU

Altitude - 11998 feet

Climate – 6 - 12 degree Celsius in summer & -20 to 6 degree Celsius in winter

Best time to trek - March - May & September - November

Trek Route

Manebhanjan to Tonglu - 11 km

Tonglu to Kaliphokahari - 12 km

Kaliphokahari to Sandakphu - 8 km

Where to stay

The Trekkers Hut under the management of DGHC Tourism, are available at Sandakphu. Advance booking can be made through DDT, DGHC Tourism, Silver Fir, Bhanu Sarani, Darjeeling.

For reservation and other details visit www.wbtourism.gov.in/www.wbtdc.gov.in www.darjeeling.gov.in email: tourismcentrekolkata@gmail.com









Department of Tourism, Government of West Bengal

New Secretariat Buildings, 3rd Floor, Block A, 1, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, Kolkata - 700 001

Directorate of Tourism, Government of West Bengal
New Secretariat Buildings, 3rd Floor, Block A, 1, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, Kolkata - 700 001

West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Ltd

Udayachal Tourist Lodge, Block DG Sector- II, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 091 email : visitwestbengal@yahoo.co.in

For Reservation & detailed information:

KOLKATA- Tourism Centre, 3/2 BBD Bag (East), Kolkata-700001, Ph. (033) 22436440, 22488271, Tele-Fax: 22485168 email: tourismcentrekolkata@gmail.com

SILIGURI- M-4 Building, Hillcart Road, Ph-913532511974/79, 09733008785, Fax: 0353-2517561

NEW DELHI- Muktadhara, 18, 19 Bhai Veer Singh Marg, New Delhi -1, Phone No. 011 2334 2334 Log on to www.wbtourism.gov.in, www.wbtdc.gov.in



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