

Windows of NORTH BENGAL

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First published February 2015

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

Data collection for Darjeeling & Kurseong
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Data collection for Kalimpong
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Data collection for Siliguri
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Data collection for Alipurduar & Coochbehar
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MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the Regional Tourist Office, Siliguri under the Tourism Department is going to bring out a book related to tourist matter in collaboration with seven districts for the benefit of tourists. This book will contain the details about tourist spots, hotels, tour operators and also home stays.

I appreciate this initiative and I expect that it will be helpful to the tourists.

I wish a grand success of this book and I convey my best wishes to all concerned.

Bratya Basu
(BRATYA BASU)

Dated: 30th October, 2014

To
Shri Sunil Agarwala,
Joint Director of Tourism,
Siliguri.

Goutam Deb

Minister-in-Charge

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উত্তৰবঙ্গ উন্নয়ন দপ্তৰ

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আবাস : (০৩৫৩) ২৪৩৫৫৯৯

October 29, 2014

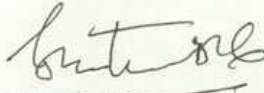
MESSAGE

I am glad to learn that the Tourism Department, Government of West Bengal is going to publish a Tourist Information Book containing details of tourist spots, hotels, resorts, restaurants, voluntary registered tour operators, home stays etc. of the 7(seven) districts of North Bengal.

North Bengal has immense potential to cater to the needs of immense travellers/tourists. It is just the place one needs to go for luxurious leisure tours, high and low altitude adventure treks, exciting jungle safari, elephant safari, water rafting, remote village tourism, ethnic tourism, cultural tourism, heritage tour and much more.

I sincerely appreciate the endeavour put in by the Regional Tourist Office, Siliguri under Tourism Department, Govt. of West Bengal for bringing out such a comprehensive tourist information book. The effort is really commendable and praiseworthy. I am sure this book will come in handy to one and all visiting North Bengal.

I wish the publication of this book a great success. I also would like to convey my best wishes to all the staff and officers of Regional Tourist Office, Siliguri for such a great publication.


(Goutam Deb)

The Joint Director of Tourism
Tourism Department
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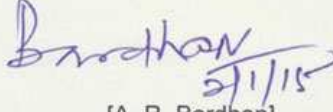
02.01.2015

FOREWORD

This is a matter of great pleasure to know that Regional Tourist Office, Siliguri is bringing out a booklet containing details of tourist spots, hotels, tour operators, home stay facilities etc. in the 7(seven) districts of North Bengal for the first time.

North Bengal, as everybody knows is a treasure trove for tourists having places like the 'Queens of Hills' Darjeeling, enchanting Duars with thick forests and lots of Wild Life and heritage sites of Malda and Dinajpurs. This Guide Book will be available not only as a booklet but also in the internet so that any aspiring tourist thinking of visiting North Bengal can get appropriate information and take decision about their visit accordingly. I take this opportunity to thank members of EHTTOA, Siliguri who have helped us a lot in collating data and providing us with various inputs.

I wish this effort by Regional Tourist Office, Siliguri, will be very helpful to all the tourist visiting Bengal, North Bengal in particular, and hope they will go on improving upon the quality of information provided after getting feedback from the visitors in a routine manner.


[A. R. Bardhan]

Districts of North Bengal



West Bengal

STAY WITH NATURE AND PEOPLE: THE WORLD OF COMMUNITY-RUN HOMESTAYS IN NORTH BENGAL

The mountainous and forested tract of sub-Himalayan West Bengal is full of old and new 'tourist spots'—places like Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong in the hills and Jaldapara in Dooars have been attracting sizable tourist crowds, both domestic and foreign, for a long time. Of late, the many forests and tea gardens of the area have morphed into tourism zones, in a somewhat half hazard manner. The lack of a clear policy at the governmental level and largely unregulated and chaotic mushrooming of resorts and lodges have both contributed to a disordered growth in the tourism sector: on the one hand, traditional spots like Darjeeling are choked with ill-planned and often unsustainable growth, and on the other, ecologically sensitive wild life corridors are being subject to excessive and ill-conceived 'eco-tourism'. So far as one could ascertain, this growth has not included the local ethnic communities significantly. Though a section of the area's population now depends on tourism for livelihood, tourism in North Bengal continues to remain mainstream—it has little room for community initiatives.

However, within the last few years, a new kind of tourism has started to become more visible, where local communities have greater and more direct stake. In some cases, community members have started their own operations. This comes mainly in form of small and medium homestays, with modest accommodation and low ecological footprint, in the hills (clusters in and around Darjeeling, Mirik and Kalimpong, but also in several other areas) Dooars forests (Buxa Tiger Reserve Area, mainly, and also Jaldapara National Park). The discerning tourist prefers the calm and serenity many of these homestays offer, besides, there is also the chance to know the lives and customs of local communities more closely.

West Bengal government has started to promote this alternative, community-based tourism (Lamahatta near Darjeeling is a good recent example), but the community-centric small tourism in North Bengal is still predominantly independent and unplanned. New homestays are opening every year: tucked inside valleys, forests, tea gardens and away from the towns and bazaars, these places are not easily discoverable or reached, especially in absence of a centralized information portal.

This guide/directory should be seen as a first--and modest—attempt to fill up this void. Nonetheless, it serves a useful and important purpose by bringing together information on homestays of sub-Himalayan West Bengal: the locality, tourist attractions, accommodation and how to reach, besides other pertinent information about the district/area where the homestays are located. One only hopes this will be of help to those tourists who prefer nature--and a cosy home environment—over the crowded 'sight-seeing' in the more well-known and conveniently reached spots. More tourists showing interest in the community-run variety of tourism will also encourage and promote a healthy interest in such activities, thus creating a conducive atmosphere for meaningful policy intervention by government, and more planned and focussed activities in future.



Windows of North Bengal

North Bengal is where the Mother Nature offers the bliss of solitude through its beauty. The snow-clad mountains, the picturesque riverbed, the silence of the forests, the orchids – it is a bouquet of thousand aspects of nature packed into a zone. While the Hills and its plains have a different aspect of beauty, further south, the Dinajpurs and Maldah, even Cooch Behar bear the signs of heritage and history. At places like Goud or Buxa Fort, each stone structure have a different story to tell. While the nature lovers would be overjoyed for a trip, North Bengal is an equally important place for pilgrimage especially for Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists, among other religious communities. The varieties of food on offer forms a good reason for a 'Tour Gastronomique'. For bird watchers to orchid-lovers, even for those who would like to enjoy the nature, being completely cut off from the civilization, the seven districts of North Bengal have much to offer.

The Greats Outdoors

Darjeeling, Terai and Dooars, the Hills and its plains-The three areas can boast of spots that showcase scenic beauty which will be remembered forever. While Tiger Hill, Lava, Lolegaon or Rishop offer the Golden Kanchenjunga during sunrise, places like Murti, Tinchuley, Mirik, Kalimpong and several other spots enthrall the spectators with pieces of scenic beauties that can be stored in memories forever. The Terai and Dooars offer beauty and silence of the forests, the serenity of the river valley and the tranquility of villages that offer home-stays. Those who loves it rough, there are enough scope to take up the challenges of nature through treks and river rafting as well.

Expect the Unexpected

Spot the tigers and the one-horned rhinos in Dooars on an elephant safari. If you are lucky, you might just spot the rare clouded leopard while trekking from Manebhanjan to

Sandakphu. If you are a bird watcher, your fingers should be on the shutter, ready to click away, because you have reached one of the biggest aviaries of nature. While trekking, discover new routes, camp at farout locations, take a bath in the waterfalls, there is all in there, whatever you may have wished for.

Mango to Momo

North Bengal offers ethnic delights for foodlovers. (For vegans, fruits and dairy products are at galore). The Mangoes of Maldah, the milk products from the Dinajpurs, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar can satisfy even the most delicate taste buds. Fresh Tal Gur, Aamswatta and other such products will rarely be in metropolitan cities. North Bengal, especially the Hills and the river valleys are a delight to the non-vegetarians. Fish, like the rare Boroli from the waters of Teesta or the Hilsa in the Maldah-Ganges are pure gastronomical delights. The Hills offer Tibetan dishes like Momos and Thupkas.

History & Culture

Maldah, the Dinajpurs and Cooch Behar are historically important places. Cooch Behar had been a historically important kingdom and post-independence, the history has been well-restored. Further south, the Dinajpurs and Maldah were important places during the Pal and the Sen dynasties, back in the 11th centuries, after the Buddhist Viharas ceased to exist. Later, the Islamic dynasties gave equal importance to these places and later the British conquerors took over. Culturally, folk music, literature and folk dances flourished almost in every district of the North Bengal, each having their own signature and diversity. Rich and skilled handicraft items are spread in the seven districts and some are famous internationally.



Need to Know

Currency: INR

Language: Bengali (primary), Hindi, Nepali, Rajbangshi, English and tribal dialects like Mech, Rava, Sadri etc.

Time: IST (GMT/UTC +5 ½ hrs)

VISAs: Foreign Nationals will need special permissions in order to visit Sikkim from Darjeeling. Need to contact local administrative authorities

Money: ATM in almost every places, except villages. Credit cards widely accepted in big towns. Smaller places prefer cash. Traveler Cheques may be encashed in all banks, branches of all banks are widely spread across North Bengal, even in the interiors.

Mobile phones and data connectivity

3G and 4G Roaming connection is excellent in urban areas and even in distant mountainous spots, dense forests. Local pre-paid SIM available against proper identification papers.

Business Hours

Banks: 10 am-5 pm (Mon-

Fri), 10 am-2 pm (Saturday), Sunday closed

Bar & Clubs: Noon - 11 pm

Shops: 9 am to 9 pm, Thursday closed in general.

Markets: 10 am to 9 pm in general, usually with one closed day in a week. Rural markets are open one day a week, from early morning till lunch.

When to go

Low Season: April to June are scorching in the plains, while it is pleasant in Darjeeling.

Shoulder: Dooars is ideal to visit in the Monsoon (June-September). Hills may have landslides during heavy rain.

High Season: October to March is ideal to visit the seven districts.

Important Websites

West Bengal Tourism
wbtourism.gov.in

Dakshin Dinajpur District
ddinajpur.nic.in

Uttar Dinajpur District
uttardinajpur.nic.in

Cooch Behar District
coochbehar.nic.in

Jalpaiguri District
jalpaiguri.gov.in

Darjeeling District
darjeeling.gov.in

Malda District
malda.nic.in

West Bengal Police
policewb.gov.in

North Bengal State Transport Corporation
nbstc.in

India Rail Info: Indian Railways Trains & Stations
indiarailinfo.com

Government of West Bengal
westbengal.gov.in

North Bengal Development Department
wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in

Bagdogra Airport
aai.aero

Foreigners' Regional Registration Office
s2immigration.co.in
boi.gov.in

Important numbers

Country Code +91

District Code

Maldah 03512

Dakshin Dinajpur 03522

Uttar Dinajpur 03523

Cooch behar 03582

Alipurduar 03564

Jalpaiguri 03561

Darjeeling 0354

(Siliguri) 0353

Ambulance 102

Fire 101

Police 100

Transport

Darjeeling Hills (Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong sub-divisions).

By Road: Darjeeling is connected with road services mainly, number of small vehicles both luxury and standard are connected mainly with Siliguri the sub-division of Darjeeling. From Tenzing Norgay Bust Terminus NBSTC buses are connected with three subdivisions of Darjeeling, fare in between Rs. 75 - Rs. 150.

Pvt. vehicles both share and exclusive are ply from number of pvt. stand from NJP Railway Station, Hill Cart Road, Darjeeling More and from Airport at Bagdogra. Fare for Luxury vehicles from Rs. 3000-4500, for standard vehicles SUV Rs. 2500 - 3000 and MUV will charge from Rs. 2000-2500. But all the rates vary during peak seasons. For share vehicles under SUV from Rs. 130 -200.

Other 6 districts and Siliguri under Darjeeling district.

By Road: All the districts are connected with Govt. and Pvt. Bus services. Fare between Rs. 50 – 300 per head.

Pvt. vehicles are available from luxury vehicle to standard vehicles. Luxury vehicles charge Rs. 3000-4000 per day and SUV will charge between Rs. 2000 -3000 and MUV will charge Rs.1500-2000. Most available local transport within city / town both share / hire is 4-6 seater Auto Rickshaw and Paddle Rickshaw for local transport in town.

By Rail: In North Bengal all the major cities/towns are connected with local trains / mail services. In fact it is advisable to visit Dooars, specially Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri districts by local trains which runs through Forest, Tea Gardens, and over rivers.

Daily Cost

Budget

Less than Rs 2000

Dormitory Bed

Rs 150-250

Double Occupancy

Rs 400-700

Home Stay

Rs 500-1000

All you can eat thalis

Rs 120-300

Bus and train tickets

Rs 300-500

Mid range

Rs 2000-7000

Double Occupancy:

Rs 800-4000

Home/village stays in

Dooars and Hills:

Rs 1000-2000

(food included-Plan AP)

Meals in Midrange

Restaurants

Rs 400-1500

Top End

Rs 7000 and above

Deluxe Hotel Rooms:

Rs 4000-20000

Meals at superior

Restaurants

Rs 1000- 4000

First Class Train Travel

Rs 1000-2500

Renting car and driver

Rs 2000 + per day

Admission to Safari Parks with cameras

Rs 100-1000



Top 12

Darjeeling

The dazzling snow peaks of Kanchenjunga that overlook the hill town, or the beautiful tea gardens on the jade green hills, the waterfalls, orchids, pines & rhododendrons – that is Darjeeling. The hill town was originally set up as a sanitarium or health resort by the British in mid 1800s. But over the years, it earned its name for its world famous aromatic tea and then with opening up of roads and Darjeeling Himalayan Railways, now a world heritage site. The average altitude of Darjeeling Town is 6,710 ft (i.e. about 2,045

meters). However while approaching Darjeeling by road or toy train, you will need to cross the highest point of the route at Ghoom (7407 ft or 2226 meters).

Chatakpur

Chatakpur is located at a

distance of around 16 km from Jorebungalow that lies on Siliguri-Darjeeling Road and 7 km from Sonada under Senchal Wild Life Sanctuary. You need to go through the Hill Cart Road and enter the jungle trail, in order to reach Chatakpur. At an



altitude of 7887 feet this small Himalayan village accommodates 17 houses and around 90 villagers. It is a place of silence.

Forest Department has built two cottages with four double bedded rooms and all modern facilities with warm hospitality from the villagers will impress you along with



Kunchandzonga (The third highest peak in world). Besides the four cottages, Chatakpur, has homestay facilities in a few houses. The forest department has also introduced organic farming and tourists can handpick vegetables from the field for cooking.

Sandakphu

At an altitude of 3,636 m, Sandakphu is located at



a distance of 58 km. from Darjeeling. Trek to Sandakphu starts from Maneybhanjan, a small town near Darjeeling. Maneybhanjan can be reached from Siliguri via Ghoom / Darjeeling. After necessary entries in the Immigration check post and the last minute shopping and meal, the trek begins. You may also opt for overnight stay at Maneybhanjan to start the trek early next day. The place is resplendent with the ethereal beauty of magnolias, rhododendrons, primulas and other sub-alpine

flowers. It also contains more than 600 varieties of orchids, the largest to be found in a single geographical area in the world. Maneybhanjan, at an altitude of 2134 mtr, is the gateway to the Sandakphu region.

Kalimpong

Kalimpong is a subdivision of Darjeeling district. Kalimpong town itself is small, located about 2.5 hours drive from both Darjeeling and Siliguri. But the town and its surrounding areas offer immense opportunities for tourism.

Kalimpong is located at an altitude of 4,100ft.



Because of its relatively lower altitude compared to Darjeeling or Gangtok, the weather is milder and pleasant for most part of the year. And therefore it suits all tourists who are looking for such pleasant weather combined with magnificent views of

Kanchenjunga and other Himalayan snow peaks, sweeping landscapes and lush greenery.

Sittong

This is the Orange Village of the area, situated beside the river Riyang.



This village boasts a 100 year old Lepcha church, once made out of bamboo, the first of this region. Homestay is

available and the best time to visit would be from October to December, during Orange harvesting time. Nearest Airport Bagdogra is 83 Km and NJP Station is 73 Km via Mangpoo. On NH-31 on the way to Sikkim leaving

left from Rambhi bazar you can reach this Lepcha village.

Lataguri

Lataguri is a small village located in the Jalpaiguri

(B.T.R.) and is situated in Alipurduar District. The Tiger Reserve comprises of the entire erstwhile Buxa Forest Division (702.44 km²), and a part of Cooch- Behar Forest

of direct trains from Kolkata and Delhi to Alipurduar and New Cooch Behar.

Jayanti

Jayanti is a small forest village within Buxa Tiger Reserve in Alipurduar district. It is located along the Jayanti River, forming a natural border with the Bhutan Hills. It is popular with hikers for its beautiful views of the surrounding landscape and wild fountains. The 13 km trek from Buxaduar to Jayanti is especially popular,



district. The village is located outside the Gorumara National Park on NH-31. Permits for entering Gorumara and Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary are given from Lataguri. The village also contains a 'Nature Interpretation Center', which gives information about the flora and fauna of the area. It is situated 15 km. from N.J.P Railway station and 95 km. from Bagdogra Airport.

Buxa

Buxa in Dooars is famous for the Tiger Reserve

Division (58.43 km²). Besides the Tiger Reserve, the Buxa Fort is an important point. The Fort at an altitude of 867m is in the Sinchula Range guarding the most important of the eleven routes into Bhutan, the Buxa Duar. Only 60 Km from Madarihath, the fort was used as a detention camp for freedom fighters during British rule. The nearest railway station (New Alipurduar) is located at the outskirts of the town. The Reserve can be approached by road (30 Km.) from Cooch Behar. The nearest airport is at Bagdogra 175 Km. From Siliguri, Alipurduar can be approached by train (broad-gauge) or by road. Alipurduar is 720 Km away from Kolkata by train. There are a number

passing through the dense forest of the Buxa Tiger Reserve. Jayanti also features a stalactite cave known as the Mahakal cave. The nearest railway station is Rajabhatkhawa on the New Jalpaiguri-Alipurduar-Samuktala Road Line.

Jaldapara

Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary is situated at the foothills of Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar





Sub-Division of Jalpaiguri District. The river Torsha flows through this rain forest sanctuary and have an area of 141 Sq.km and altitude of 61 m.

Jaldapara, the vast grassland with patches of riverine forests was declared a sanctuary in 1941 for protection of the great variety flora and fauna, particularly the one-horned rhinoceros, an animal threatened with extinction. The Jaldapara Sanctuary covers 216 sq km. Bagdogra 145kms from Jaldapara is the nearest airport from where tourist can reach Jaldapara by road-route via Siliguri. Bagdogra to Siliguri is 13 km. All the mail and express trains stop at Birpara/Hasimara railway stations, both are 20 km. away from the sanctuary. Madarihat is the entry point for the sanctuary. It is located on the NH 31 (Siliguri-

Hasimara). North Bengal State Transport Corporation buses, Bhutan Government buses, minibuses are available from Siliguri to Alipurduar via Madarihat. Cars can also be hired at Siliguri.

Chilapata

Chilapata Forest is a dense natural forest near

experience. The forest forms an elephant corridor between Jaldapara and the Buxa Tiger Reserve and is rich in wildlife. New species continue to be found. Chilapata reportedly harbours 23 species of carnivores and herbivores, approximately 180 species of birds, 22 species of reptiles, several species of amphibians and a host of lesser fauna.

One of the main attractions is the ruined 'Nalraja Garh', or fort of the Nal kings, built in the Gupta period in the 5th century, the Golden Age of India. The site has considerable archaeological interest. Other activities include Tonga rides through



Jaldapara WLS in Dooars area of West Bengal. It is about 20 kms from Alipurduar town and is within the Alipurduar District. A drive through the forests is an enthralling

Mathura tea garden, boating on the Bania river and angling on the confluence of the Kalchini, Bania and Buri Basra.

The Rabha tribal community who inhabits

the villages in Chilapata is well known for their bamboo crafts and weaving.

There are amenities like Jungle camps and Government guest houses in Chilapata.

Cooch Behar

The main tourist attractions in Cooch Behar include the Rajbari or the palace of the Kings and the adjoining royal buildings as well as the endless royal facts & stories. In fact, being the place of the Raj, the



who has visited Cooch Behar city cannot keep sound in not appreciating this beautiful planned city with infrastructure quite similar to any modern planned city. Moreover,

for the bird sanctuary by the side of the Kulik river, which is known as the Raiganj Bird Sanctuary. With an area of 35 acre and a buffer area of 286.23 acre this place is a bird-watchers delight. The forest, water bodies and the river attract the migratory birds like the Open Bill Stork, Night Heron, Cormorant, Little Cormorant and Egrets from South Asian countries.

Bangarh

44 km from Balurghat, 2 km from Gangarampur old bus stop. Found in the mythical literature, this is an archaeological site.

Historically the most important of all places in the entire district, Bangarh boasts of the largest share of archaeological ruins and icons to be found in Dakshin Dinajpur. It is situated 45 Km away from Balurghat town and 65 Km from Malda town. Bangarh was the capital



district captures the bygone glorious past in the moods of local people even today. The peace loving people of Cooch Behar even boast of this beautiful city where the Maharajas (kings) used to stay and never tires, if not laments in excitement, narrating the Raj stories. It is obvious that anyone

the place is so quiet and calm, void of the hasslen-bustle of busy cities. And above that the climate here like the rest of North-Bengal is just fine to let you feel the freshness and beauty of nature all around.

Raiganj

Raiganj is more famous



of 'Koti Barsha district'. Its old name was Debkot/ Debikot. After excavation (1938 - 1941), many historical objects and archeological ruins have been found beginning from Mauryan era to Muslim period. Some of the notable objects found on excavations are: Manuscript of king Naipala of 11th century, Statue of century (Darpal), four big pillars of Granite

stones etc. The myth has it that by this road the grand son of Lord Krishna namely Anirudhya kidnapped Usha, the daughter of King Bana.

Gour & Pandua

12 km down in south Malda, right on the Indo-Bangladesh border is one of most important historical places of 14th and 15th century Bengal. It has immense value from

archaeological point of view. The relics that are particularly worth seeing are the Bara Sona Mosque, Dakhil Darwaza (built in 1425), Qadam Rasul Masque, Lattan Masque and the ruins of the extensive fortifications. There are colourful enamelled designs on Gomti Gate and Firoz Minar.

18km north of Malda, Pandua is another important site of archaeological importance that has some impressive Muslim architecture, including vast Adina Mosque built by Sikandar Shah in 1369. It is one of its largest mosques in India. The Eklakhi mausoleum and several small mosque are the other places of attraction of Padua.



If you Like

Forts and Palaces, Ruins

Ruins of Buxa, Cooch Behar Raajbari, Ruins of Gour, Panduah and Bangarh. Walk back to the 4th century BC for revisiting Buddhist Viharas, 11th century AD for the legacy of the Pal and later the Sen. 15th century Moghal architecture is also present here.

Temples, Mosques, Monasteries

Jalpeswar in Jalpaiguri, Madan Mohan in Cooch Behar, Mosques across Maldah, Ghoom and other numerous Monasteries in Darjeeling.

Cities

Darjeeling Town: The Hill Queen of North Bengal.

Siliguri and Jalpaiguri – Destination points for all the tourist spots.

Cooch Behar – The remnants of Royal legacy. Balurghat – Cultural capital of North Bengal. Raiganj – The starting point for an archaeological tour.

Maldah- The entrance for North Bengal.

River Valleys

Kulik, Mahananda, Teesta, Torsa, Murti, Raidak, Jaldhaka – River rafting, boating, scenic beauty and angling are specialties of rivers in North Bengal. The rivers have contrasting beauties in Winter and Summer.

Hill Station

Darjeeling, Kurseong for Darjeeling Himalayan Railways, a World Heritage Site.

Handicrafts

Bamboo, Jute, Cane and Terracotta products are famous in the districts of North Bengal. Intricate detailed bamboo and cane products of Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri have an international market. The jute products of Maldah and the Dinajpurs, specially the jute carpets, have good international demands. Masks of Maldah as decorative items are popular in cities. Terracotta works are widely practiced in the plains. The Hills are famous for semi-precious stone jewelery and wool products.

Butterfly Tour

Eastern India is home to more than 1200 species of butterflies and is considered as being the richest butterfly area, not only in India but in the entire oriental region.

Butterflying tours covering the best possible areas in Darjeeling and Dooars.

Birding

The Birding area covers the moist and dense riverine forests of the Bengal dooars (duars) and the stark foothills of the snow-capped Kanchenjunga range. The unique climatic and ecological conditions makes North Bengal an unique home for a variety of superb biome restricted bird species.

Key birding hotspots in the region are Sandakphu and Singalila ridge, Sittong Kalimpong, Tinchuley, Latpanchor, Rikisum. Best time to visit: April to May & October to December.

Bengal Dooars region Jaldapara, Gorumara, Buxa and Mahananda Wild Life Sanctuary. Best

time to visit: October to April. For migratory bird: Rasikbill in Cooch Behar and Kulik in North Dinajpur.

Rafting

White water rafting in Tista was introduced in Darjeeling Hills more than a decade earlier and has gained tremendous popularity ever since. Several private organisations along with GTA tourism have set up rafting facilities. River Tista is graded at IV on an international scale. The rafting starts from Chitrey near Tista Bazar on the Sikkim-Bengal Highway. Rafting on Rangit has also been introduced. The icy cold roaring water of Teesta and Rangit River extend a challenging invitation for a unique rafting adventure.

Mountain Biking

Mountain Biking is another adventure sport which is becoming very popular. The hills around Darjeeling are most frequented by the mountain bikers. Many mountain biking expeditions are organized by the clubs and mountaineering institutes.

Paragliding

The touch with the air and the scenery around have

always attracted man's mind. Man had one more chance to learn how to fly. Paragliding has evolved into a wonderful flying sport all over the world, also in India and now in North Bengal. It is now possible for a common man to experience the thrill of flying. The best spots for para gliding in North Bengal are: From Saint Pauls to Lebong and from Tukvar Tea Garden to Jaumney in Darjeeling, and from Dello ground to Dr. Graham's Home ground at Kalimpong.

Eco Tourism

Eco Tourism, as defined by UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization), involves traveling to relatively undisturbed area with natural wealth, the specific objective of studying, admiring and enjoying the scenic beauty, flora, fauna and indigenous traditions of these places. It requires the leisure infrastructure than other forms of tourism and has a lower impact of the environment. It also encourages the participation of the local community leading to the economic development of the area.

The Forest Department and Tourism Department has started such

approach towards Darjeeling Hills and Dooars region like- Chatakpur under Senchal Wild Life Sanctuary, Sittong the Lepcha village, Lamahata in Darjeeling and Magurmari under Baikantapur Forest, Jalpaiguri district, Buxa under Alipurduar district and Chilapata under Coochbehar district.

Tea Tourism

The unparalleled greeneries of Darjeeling hills and Dooars is not only on account of its forests, but also the sprawling Tea Estate that dot the area. Tea Tourism offers the spectacular beauty of the region, with acres of tea plantations, British Bungalows many wild life parks and of course the tea. The state government is coming with a tea tourism policy recently to develop the infrastructure and uses of old bungalows' for the said purpose.

At present the Tea Tourism is running with the local support in Darjeeling hills - **Selim Hills** near Kurseong, **Rungli Tea Estate** near Teesta Bazar, **Ranga Roon** near Darjeeling, **Takadah** near Lamahata, **Zurantee** near Meteli etc.

Do's and Don'ts

DO'S

Right Dressing

It is advisable to wear clothes which cover the arms and legs so that if one comes in contact with insects or wild animals, she does not catch any allergy. Wearing layers of clothing is also a good idea.

Blend your clothes with nature

Stay away from loud colors, bold prints like polka dots or noisy trinkets as they might be disturbing for the animals, or might get scared or can also attract unnecessary attention. Blending with the environment is actually the basic idea.

Stay Calm

Be composed and calm when inside the jungle. Unnecessary excitement might keep them away from you.

Stay in Right Company

It is extremely important that you should stick to your group, headed by a naturalist.

Pack Light

Packing light is important.

Only pack what you need inside the jungle. Jungle safaris can sometimes be tiring; do not carry anything, which is absolutely not required.

Do not forget these

Forests are closed during Moonsoon time i.e. 15 June to 15 of Sept. Do not forget to carry sunhats, sunglasses and sunscreen to keep you safe from sun rays and sunburns. Wear covered comfortable shoes along with socks. Wearing exposing footwear might be a bad idea.

Medical aid

If any one of you is allergic to dust or animal fur, do not forget to carry your medication.

Click Click

One doesn't partake in jungle safaris every now and then. Do not forget to carry a good camera so that you can click some good photographs of the flora and fauna. What if you spot the big cat!

Other Necessary Items

Raincoat, mosquito repellent, antiseptic

creams, water bottle, band-aids, a small torch, first-aid kit, personal hygiene products and similar kind of items.

DON'TS

No Feeding Animals

Restrict yourself from feeding animals. Their behavior cannot be predicted and this might prove to be harmful for you or for them.

Refrain from Littering

The jungle is home to the wild animals, thus, it is best that you do not litter your garbage here and there in their home.

Stay Vigilant

Stay alert and avoid an ignorant attitude. If you see any visitor or staff any wrong, report it as soon as it is possible.

Closeness could be Harmful

Do not get too close to animals in order to observe them closely. They can either get scared or attract them towards you. Do not try to be too friendly with the wild in the jungle.

No Loud Talks

The forest is no place for long talks or conversation. Keep your talks limited and that too in low tones.

No Place for Souvenirs

Please do not get down from your jeep or elephant in the jungle to carry bird feathers, leaves or stones.

Child Trouble

It is wiser not to bring small children or infants in jungle as it is sometimes not possible to keep them calm. The animals may shy away from you.

Stay Calm during Photography

Please do not create any disturbance for the wild animals while shooting videos or clicking photographs. Keep calm and the flash mode off.

Fire Alert

Stay away from using any combustible substances during your jungle safari.

Cellphone Nuisance

It is advisable to keep your cellphones in your hotel room or if you are carrying them with you inside the jungle, keep them switched off or on silent mode.

Do not agitate

Please remember that you are inside the jungle to explore the animals, while they are inside their house. Do not agitate them by throwing stones at them or doing antics to attract them.

GOVERNMENT ACCOMODATION

All the Government Tourist Lodges may be booked from:

Tourism Centre (Kolkata)
3/2, B.B.D. Bag (East),
Kolkata - 700 001
033-2243 6440/ 2248
8271
tourismcentre.kol@west
bengaltourism.gov.in

West Bengal Forest Development Corp. Ltd.
6A, Raja Subodh Mullick Square, 7th Floor
Kolkata-700013
033 2225-8549

For obtaining permission to book PWD and Irrigation Bungalows, prior permission is needed from the respective dept. Engineer-in-Chief & E. O. Secretary, Nabanna, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, (8th Floor), Shibpur, Howrah - 711102
91-33-2214-5494
eincpwd@wb.gov.in

Details for PWD Bungalows may be found in http://www.pwdwb.in/html/bungalow_gallery.php

For obtaining permission to book Irrigation Dept. rest houses contact:
Jalsampad Bhavan
1st Floor, Block DF,
Sector - I, Salt Lake City,
Kolkata-700 091
(033) 2321-6980



Malda



At a Glance

- ➔ **District Headquarter**
English Bazar
- ➔ **Total Area**
3,733 Sq Kms
- ➔ **Population**
39,97,970
(Ref: Census 2011)
- ➔ **Best time to Visit**
October to March
- ➔ **Average Rainfall**
1381 mm
- ➔ **Language**
Bengali (Prime), Hindi & English (Alternative)
- ➔ **Festivals**
Ramkeli Mela
Piran-e-Pir Mela
- ➔ **Places of Interest**
Gour, Pandua
- ➔ **Special Feature**
Mango Land of West Bengal.
Lake District of West Bengal.
World famous for Silk products.

Best Places to stay

Govt. Accommodation

- Malda Tourist Lodge (WBTD)
- PHE Guest House, Gour

Why Go?

Maldah, a place rich in archaeological gems, surely deserves a World Heritage Site status. Lying on the confluence of the Mahananda and Kalindri rivers the Malda town rose to prominence as the river port of the Hindu capital of Pandua. Malda is a base for visiting Gour and Pandua. Gour, capital to three dynasties of ancient Bengal - the Buddhist Palas, the Hindu Senas and the Muslim Nawabs - has seen three distinct eras of glory. The district Head quarter town was formerly known as Ingraj Bazaar as an English factory was established here in 1771.

Mulberry plantations and mango orchards occupy large areas; mango trade and silk manufacture are the main economic activities. Maldah produces the finest varieties of mangoes in India.

How to Reach

The National Highway-34 passes through the District. NBSTC, SBSTC, CSTC buses and many privately operated buses ply between Kolkata and Malda.

By rail, Malda is on the main line between Kolkata and New Jalpaiguri, served by all trains going through or to NJP, such as the Darjeeling Mail, Padatik, Kanchankanya, Satabdi, Kanchenjunga, Teesta Torsa, Kamrup, Gour Express (upto Malda), Kolkata-Malda Intercity Express etc.

Located 365 km north of Kolkata & 260 km south of Siliguri.

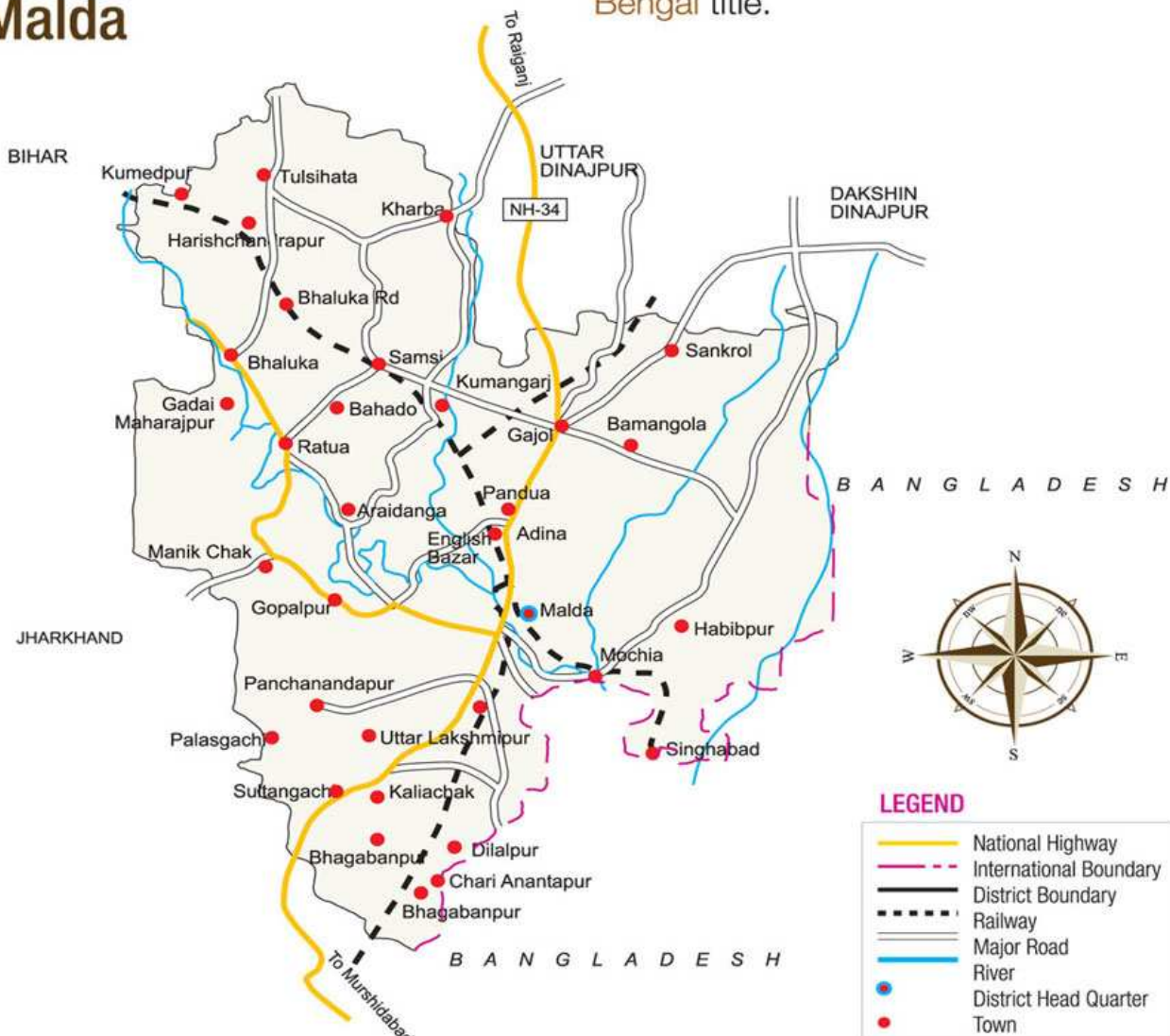
History

- Ancient Malda and surrounding zone (the then *Barendrabhumi*) was the centre of political interest from 3rd Century BC-16th Century AD.
- In the 15th Century during Sultan Dynasty, Pandua was the Capital of Undivided Bengal.
- Rising from the paddy fields of Gaur (355km from Kolkata) are Mosques and crumbling ruins of the 13th-16th Century capital of Muslim Nawabs of Bengal.
- Little remains from the 7th-12th Century pre-Muslim period when Gaur was the capital of the successive Buddhist Pal and Hindu Sen Dynasty.

Geography and Topography

- Major Rivers flowing through Malda are Ganga, Mahananda, Kalindi and Koshi.
- The River Mahananda has divided Malda into the East and the West segments.
- The Eastern side is known as *Barendrabhumi* comprising of Gajal, Habibpur and Bamangola. Infertile laterite Soil is one of the salient features of this segment. The western side is relatively fertile and consists of Kaliachak, Ratua and English Bazar.
- 20000 Lakes glorified the water rich *Barendrabhumi*. Many of these (more than 2000 years old) still remain and aptly justify Malda's **Lake District of Bengal** title.

Malda





Art & Handicrafts

- Silk produced (garments) in Malda is exported globally (from the ancient days) and is highly appreciated throughout the world.
- Local artisans also make Garlands, Picture Collage etc from the Silk Cocoon.
- Varieties of Cloths are stitched together to form a winter garment known as *Kantha*. Usually, women of the household are involved in this type of Handicraft work. Designs are normally based on local Folk Tales or Ballads.
- *Dhokra* and *Shika* are forms of Handicraft Art based on eco-friendly Jute products. Dhokra form include Jute based Small Carpets, Bags, Floor Mat etc and Shika form usually mean exclusive Jute based Hanging Decorative items.
- Wooden Mask, associated with 1500 year old Gambhira Festival is one of the unique art forms observed in this region. These days the wooden masks are often replaced by Paper made Masks for ease of use.
- Clay made Masks are also seen in the English Bazar area.

Culture and Festivals

Cultural activities popular in and around Malda include *Gombhira*, *Alkap*, and *Kavigan*.

Gombhira

This kind of song is very much popular in Malda. It is performed with a particularly distinctive rhythm and dance with two performers, always personifying a man and his maternal grandfather, discussing a topic to raise social

awareness. Various masks are curved out from wooden pieces and the dancers wear the masks while performing the Gombhira dance.



Gombhira

Some of the mostly reputed cultural fairs of the district are:

Ramkeli Fair, *Gazole Utsab*, *Kartik puja Fair*, *Charu Babu Mela*, *Charak Fair*, *Piran-e-Pir fair*, *Chobbish (24) Prahor* at *Shingabad* and *Rishipur*.

Ramkeli Mela

A small temple constructed under the *Kadam* tree contains Sri Chaitanya's footprints on stone. Every year, on the *Jaishtya Sankranti* (14-15 June), celebrations are held here to commemorate the arrival of Sri Chaitanya. A week-long fair also starts on this day. Vaishnav devotees from all over India gather here at this time where ritualistic songs are performed. A village fair, with local produce, is held for three days which continues for a couple of days more after the celebrations are completed. The local feel of rural Bengal is abundant and thrilling.



Ramkeli Mela



Mango

is pleasant and pulp is sweet and fibreless). **Golap Khas** (It is a mid season mango. Fruits are small to medium-sized. It has rosy flavour. Fruits are amber yellow with reddish blush towards the base and on sides). **Langra** (Flesh is firm, lemon yellow in color and scarcely fibrous. It has characteristic turpentine flavour), and also **Kshirsapati, Mohonbhog, Dudhkumar, Begambahar, Nababpasin, Dudhiya** etc..

By products: Chaatney, jam, jelly, aachar, aamswatta, aam sherbet. All these are available throughout the district.

You could probably kill yourself through overeating mangoes in this place! Gour is delightful, one of the nicest places in India, incredibly peaceful and beautiful.

Malda has seen a record production of 3.5 lakh metric tonnes of mangoes in 2013. Varieties like **Fazli** (A late maturing (August) mango. Fruits are large, with firm to soft flesh. Flavour

Gurh (Mollusces)

prepared from sugarcane, the best varieties are available in Manikchwak, Baishnabgarh and Kaliachawk areas.

Jaggery

The liquid palm jaggery or Tal gurh is another delicacy of this region. Prepared from the extract from the palm fruits, this product is a delight for the taste buds.

Haati Paawa Luchi

Available in most fairs and haats, these oversized 'luchi' is similar to the size of

the feet of an elephant. Shadullahpur is famous for this delicacy.

Khaja

A delicacy available in parts of Kaliachak

Rasakadamba, Makhna

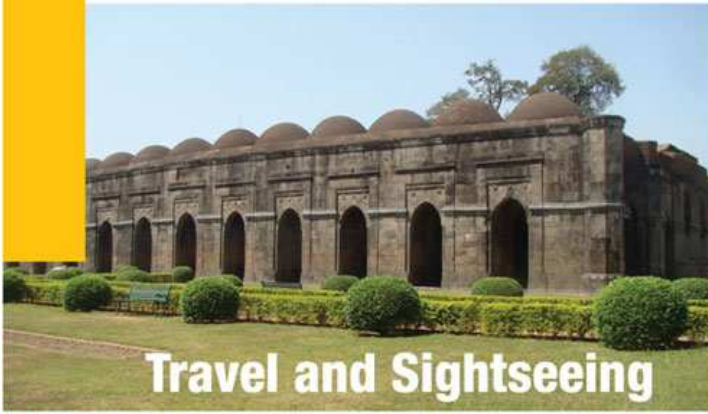
Harishchandrapur is famous for Makhana, however both these delicacies are available all through the district.

Fish

Hilsa, in the Ganga basin at Khehejuria and Manikchwak. 74 other varieties of sweet-water fish is available.



Mango Garden



Travel and Sightseeing

Gour and Pandua are significant landmarks in history which tell the stories of historical epochs from the Buddhist age to the British imperial period. The importance therefore is not only centered around Bengal and India, Malda is historically notable in the growth of society and civilization in South East Asia.

Malda Museum is an archaeological museum under the West Bengal Directorate of Archaeology, situated on the Bandh Road of Malda Town. The museum showcases the archaeological, anthropological, and historical heritage of the region. The museum has a number of fine specimens of sculptures, figurines, calligraphic inscription tablets, terracotta plaques and other artifacts that represent more than 1500 years of history and heritage.

Baroduari (Boro Sona Mosque): Half a kilometre to the south of Ramkeli, this gigantic rectangular structure of brick and stone is the largest monument in Gour. Though the name means Twelve Doors, this monument actually has eleven. The construction of this huge mosque was completed in 1526. The Indo-Arabic style of architecture and the ornamental stone carvings make Baroduari a special attraction.

Dakhil Darwaja This impressive gateway built in 1425, is made of small red bricks

Places of Interest

- Adina Mosque
- Eklakhi Mosque
- Adina deer park
- Firoz Minar
- Chika Masjid
- Qutwali Gate
- Barduari
- Jahura Kali Bari, Malda
- Chanchal Palace
- Sujapur Jame Masjid
- Piran-e-Pir Shrine
- Jagjivanpur

Religious Walks

- Boro Sona Mosque
- Chamkati Mosque
- Kadam Rasul Mosque
- Qutub Sahi Mosque
- Ramkeli Dham

Heritage Walks

- Jagjibanpur
- Kotowali Gate
- Ingrej Bazar



Early 19th century lithograph of the Muslim ruins of Dakhil Darwaza at Gour.

and terracotta work, and is more than 21 m. high and 34.5 m. wide. Its four corners are topped with five-storey high towers. A 20-m. high wall encloses the ruins of an old palace.

Firoz Minar: Located a kilometre away from the Dakhil Darwaza, the Feroze Minar, was built by Sultan Saifuddin Feroze Shah during 1485-89. This five-storey tower, resembling the Qutb Minar, is 26 m. high and 19 m. in circumference. Built in the Tughlaqi style of architecture, the walls of Feroze Minar are covered with intricate terracotta carvings.

Chika Mosque: Sultan Yusuf Shah built the Chika Mosque in 1475. The name originated from the fact that it used to shelter a large number of chikas, or bats. It is a single-domed edifice, almost in ruins now.

Gumti Darwaza: Standing to the north-east of the Chika Mosque, the Gumti Darwaza was built in 1512 by Allauddin Hussein Shah. Made of brick and terracotta, the once brilliant colours woven into the artwork are still partly visible. It is said that real gold was used in the decorations.

Luko Churi Gate: The Lakhchhipi Darwaza or Lukochuri Gate is located to the south-east of the Kadam Rasool Mosque. Shah Shuja is said to have built it in 1655 in the Mughal architectural style. The name originated from the royal game of hide-and-seek that the Sultan used to play with his begums.

According to another school of historians, it was built by Allauddin Hussein Shah in 1522. This double-storeyed Darwaza functionally acted as the main gateway to the palace.

Kadam Rasul Mosque: Half a kilometre away from the Feroze Minar, built in 1530. Kadam Rasool means Footprints of the Prophet. The mosque contains the footprints of Hazrat Muhammad on stone. On the four corners there are four towers made of black marble, .

Opposite the Kadam Rasool Mosque stands the 17th century **tomb of Fateh Khan**, a commander of Aurangzeb's army. This interesting structure was built in the Hindu chala style.

Lattan Mosque: Legend attributes the building of this mosque to a dancing girl of the royal court. It was built in 1475. Traces of intricate mina work in blue, green, yellow, violet and white on the enamelled bricks lining the outer and inner walls are still visible. The splendour of colours has also led to the Mosque being called the Painted Mosque. Another interesting feature of this mosque is its arched roof, supported by octagonal pillars.

Adina Mosque: Built in 1369 by Sultan Sikander Shah. One of the largest mosques in India, it also typifies the



Inside of Adina Masque, Pandua

most developed mosque architecture of the period, the orthodox design being based on the great 8th century mosque of Damascus. Carved basalt masonry is used to support the 88 brick arches and 378 identical small domes.

Other places of interest include the **Adina Dear Park, Hamamghar, (Turkey Bath Room, 17th Centuries), Pandab Dallon, Minar** etc.

Other places of interest include the **Adina Dear Park, Hamamghar, (Turkey Bath Room, 17th Centuries), Pandab Dallon, Minar** etc.

Two places of religious interest in Pandua are **Chhoti Darga** (made in early 17th century) and **Badi Darga**

square brick tombs in Bengal, with a carved Ganesh on the doorway, it is the tomb of the convert son of a Hindu Raja.

Jouhra Kali Bari: A century old temple dedicated to *Ma Kali* at English Bazar. It is advisable to visit this temple with some time in hand, as the line to offer Puja gets pretty long.



Jahura Kalibari, Malda



Chamkathi Masjid, Gour

Ramkeli: Around 14 Km from Malda towards south. A small village on the way to Gour, Ramkeli is famous for being the temporary home of Sri Chaitanya, the great religious reformer of Bengal. He had stayed here for a few days on his way to Brindaban. A

(made in Mid 14th Century). Ruins of a Hamam or Bathing Place can be seen near **Satashghara lake** which had a unique Octagonal shape with each of the eight corners having a small room attached. saint Nur Qutb-ul-Alam. The ruins of his shrine are nearby, along with that of Saint Hazrat Shah Jalal Tabrizi, collectively known as the Bari Darga.

Eklakhi Mausoleum: The Eklakhi Mausoleum is the most elegant monument in Pandua. One of the first

conglomeration of two tamal and two kadamba trees can still be seen, under which the saint is said to have meditated. A small temple constructed under this tree contains Sri Chaitanya's footprints on stone. There are eight kundas or tanks flanking the temple. Every year, on the Jaishthya Sankranti (14-15 June), celebrations are held here to commemorate the arrival of Sri Chaitanya. A week-long fair also starts on this day.



Loton Masjid, Gour

English Bazar: This city was formed by Thomas Henchman, the then Company Resident of Malda.

The **English Bazar Factory** still carries the sign of Dutch Architecture in Bengal.

Also there are few buildings of Pre-Victorian-Period: **Old Circuit House**, **The House of Chief of Police** and few other Government Buildings.



Firoz Minar, Gour

Jagjibanpur

About 30 km from Malda town towards south east on Habibpur. Ruins of a Buddhist Monastery (9th Century AD), copper plates with inscriptions. The plate contained inscription on both sides in Siddhamartika script. It has a royal seal attached to the top containing the dharmachakra flanked by two deers and inscription in Sanskrit 'Srimahendrapaldevah'.

Five mounds (locally called Bhita or Danga) were identified, which were the Tula Bhita or Salai Danga, Akhari Danga, Nim Danga, Mai Bhita and Laksmi Dhipi. Apart from these there were several other minor mounds.



Public transport includes cycle rickshaws, auto rickshaws, and local buses. There is no metered vehicular transport. Six-seat city autos shuttle available in every town of Malda at a rate fixed by the municipal authorities.



Sleeping & Eating

Guest House



Malda Tourist Lodge
03512 220123 / 220991
New Circuit House
03512 252330



PHE Lukochuri Guest House
033 2262 4792 / 2248 2901
Zilla Parishad Athithi Niwas
03512 252423
Youth Hostel
03512 252158

Hotel

NH - 34



Golden Park Hotel & Restaurant
+ 91 9647700204 / + 91 9647700203 /
03512-262251 / 03512-262252
goldenpark.malda@gmail.com
Hotel Pavel
+ 91 9434421226
devbrata75@gmail.com
Hotel Jamini Cum Restaurant
+ 91 9800719974 / + 91 9932968313 / +
91 9932407515 / 03512-267350
Hotel Purbanchal
+ 91 9434132516
hotelpurbanchal@gmail.com

Hotel Kalinga

+ 91 9932939008 / + 91 8116699993 /
03512-283558 / 03512-283567

Hotel Mayukh

+ 91 7872803613 / + 91 9647824454

Hotel Royal Park

+ 91 9933160106 / + 91 9093516582 /
03512-252178 / 03512-220723
hotelroyalparkmalda@gmail.com



Hotel Green View

+ 91 9153610054 / + 91 9153142780 /
03512-223707 / 03512-223708
hotelgreenviemalda@gmail.com

Hotel Samrat Cum Restaurant

+ 91 8116904622 / 03512-266039 / 03512-
645329



Meghdoot Lodge Cum Restaurant

+ 91 9232790708 / 03512-266236 / 03512-
266216

KJ Sanyal Road

Mita Lodge

03512-253604 / 03512-223862
mitalodge1997@rediffmail.com

Continental Lodge

+ 91 9434189955 / + 91 9733047259 /
03512-252388 / 03512-253379 / 03523-
225915
continentallodge@gmail.com
www.continentallodge.com

Station Road

Kshounish Residency

+ 91 9733333639 / + 91 9732185333

Hotel Pratapaditya & Restaurant

+ 91 9474341457 / 03512-268104 / 03512-
268105

Rajmohal Road



Raj Hotel

03512-252042

Hotel Landmark

+ 919641693184 / + 91 9046573047 / 03512-221560 / 03512-221184

landmark.malda@gmail.com

Central Lodge

+ 91 9434052994 / 03512-252959

Netaji More

Hotel Gitanjali Cum Restaurant

+ 919593200166

info@hotelgitanjali.in

Rabindra Avenue

Hotel Nalanda

+ 91 9434245561/03512 220773/221667

parthoghosh.2008@rediffmail.com

Paradise Hotel Aahar Restaurant -

Paradise Bakery

+ 91 9434231950



Hotel Indraprastha

+ 91 9563527029 / 03512-223243

hotelindraprastha.2012@gmail.com

Nataraj Hotel

03512-220281

KK Tara Road



Hotel Mallika

+ 91 9734122730 / 03512-220146 / 03512-258346

BG Road

Hotel Appayan

+ 919434817506 / + 91 9046188804

appayan88@rediffmail.com

Restaurant/Bar

NH - 34

Metro Life

+ 91 9434066629 / 03512-267689

lokraagarwal@gmail.com



Station Road

Barron Bar Cum Restaurant

+ 91 9775826039 / 03512-267987

tirthankar.jha@gmail.com



Swaad Restaurant

+ 91 9126590170 / 03512-258697



KJ Sanyal Road

Lokochuri Restaurant

+ 91 8158880992



Rajmahal Road



Aaheli Restaurant

+ 919434056044 / 9735069199

03512-252483



Disco More

Zaika Bar Cum Restaurant

+ 91 9547699667



Important Informations

Police

Malda District Police

EPABAX 03512 - 252310 / 252951

SP Malda 03512 - 252520

Ingraj Bazar PS 03512 - 252071

Manikchak PS 03512 - 272333

Malda PS 03512 - 260222

Habibpur PS 03511 - 252664

Harishchandrapur PS 03513 - 255215

Hospital

Malda Medical College & Hospital

English Bazar

Phone: (03512) 221087

ATMs

Central Bank of India ATM

Joy Plaza Shopping Complex, Ground Floor,
N.H-34

United Bank of India ATM

Kali Bari, Palla Road

Oriental Bank of Commerce ATM

Kani More

Station Road, Malda

United Bank of India ATM

Khatra Branch, Sahu Bhaban

Axis Bank ATM

Malda Branch

Malda Muslim Institute ATM,

1 K J Sanyal Road

Mangalbari, old Maldah Municipality Mina

Market Complex Kaliachak Chowringhee

The Main Market

Sujapur , Opp.Sujapur High School, P.S.Kalia
Chowk

Sukanto More, Lici Br li And Ggb Rathbari
Br Building

Super Market Complex .Po Jhanjhalia, Near
Malda Railway Station

State Bank of India ATM

Malda Town

UCO Bank ATM

Mongal Bari

Punjab National Bank ATM

NH-34 Sukanta More

Allahabad Bank ATM

Rabindra Avenue, Malda



Tips

If you find time after going around the archeological ruins, make a trip to the chars or the islands on the river Ganga. The Bhutnir Char and other such areas near Maldah town are inhabited. See with own eyes a different lifestyle amidst the river .Boats will be available for your hiring.



North Bengal Wild Animals Park

A Project by
North Bengal
Development Department
Govt. of West Bengal

The animal park is proposed to be developed over an area of around 700 acre of land. A site has been selected a few kms away from NH-31 from Siliguri including Dabgram-I, four compartments of Adabari Beat, Salugara Range, Baikunthapur Division and will have safari enclosures for Omnivorous (feeding on both plant and animal material), Mammals (animal or class secreting milk to feed young) and Carnivorous (animal or plant that feed on flesh).



Dakshin Dinajpur



At a Glance

- ➔ **District Headquarter**
Balurghat
- ➔ **Total Area**
2,219 Sq Kms
- ➔ **Population**
16,70,931
(Ref: Census 2011)
- ➔ **Best time to Visit**
October to March
- ➔ **Average Rainfall**
1690 mm
- ➔ **Language**
Bengali (Prime), Hindi
& English (Alternative)
- ➔ **Festivals**
Natua
Halna-Halnani
- ➔ **Places of Interest**
Bangarh, Hili
- ➔ **Special Feature**
Hili border
Lakes of the district
Bangarh

Best Places to stay

- Kshanika Guest House
Municipality Road
- PWD Banglow,
Balurghat
- Irrigation Banglow,
Balurghat

Why Go?

The history of Dakshin Dinajpur which used to be a part of the erstwhile Dinajpur district, dates back to the PAL and SEN dynasties and boasts of a glowing cultural heritage. From the different antiques discovered during excavation and existence of many big tanks all over the district, it becomes evident that this district had a flourishing past in the sphere of education and culture.

Hili is situated along the Indo-Bangladesh international border. It is 25 km from Balurghat. Here hundreds of large trucks can be seen plying across the border for the exchange of goods and commodities. The rail track connecting India with Bangladesh is another thrilling memory which may recall the travel our ancestors during 1947. Those who had their roots in other countries and had to relocate will find this place enchanting.

How to Reach

By rail, South Dinajpur is connected by Gour Express (daily) and Balurghat Kolkata Exp. New railway line has been laid between Eklakhi and Balurghat, the district headquarter. There is one State Highway with only 3 km of National Highway 34 falling within the district.

Daily Balurghat-Kolkata CSTC bus services is available. Private operators buses ply from Balurghat to different locations.

By road: Kolkata 437.2 Km, Siliguri 140 Km,
Malda 78.3 Km

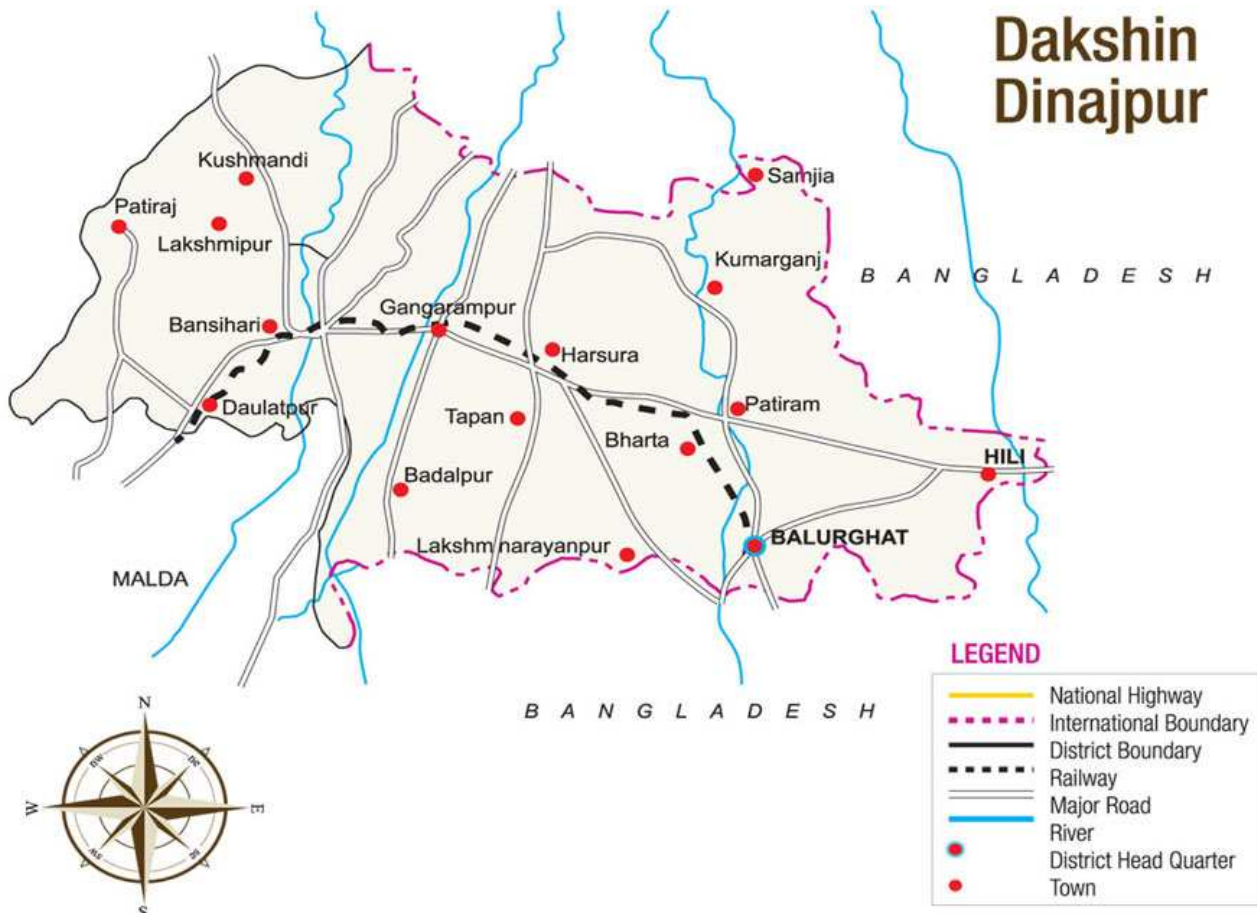
History

- A good number of places in the district are associated with the epic stories. In *Mahabharata* it is said that the Pandavas in incognito, took shelter in the palace of king Virat, ruins of which are seen at Bairhatta - a village in Harirampur PS. It is also said, an ancient shami tree, a unique species in this region, is also seen at the entrance of the village, in which Nakula is said to have kept the arms of the Pandavas hidden before entering the Palace of Virat
- Ancient manuscripts and inscriptions tell that there was a district named Kotibarsha with its capital at *Devkot* near Gangarampur Town which was locally known as Bangarh. The ruins of Bangarh speak volumes about the importance of this area. Its capital town Devkot is considered to be a historically famous place, from where a large number of inscriptions dating from

Ashoka Age to the Middle Ages, have been discovered.

Geography and Topography

- The district is drained by a number of North-South flowing river like Atreyee, Punarbhaba, Tangon and Brahmani.
- It is predominantly an agricultural district with large area of land being under cultivation.
- West Dinajpur district was created out of the erstwhile Dinajpur district in 1947 at the time of partition of India. The rest of the Dinajpur district is now in Bangladesh. The West Dinajpur district was enlarged in 1956 at the time of reorganisation of the State with the addition of some areas of Bihar.
- The district was bifurcated into Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur on 01.04.1992.



Art & Culture

Khan

This Folk form is a unique form typical to the 'Dinajpur' region. It is an age-old folk-cultural form practised by the rural people of the district – mainly belonging to the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe communities. **Khan** intermingled with dialogues.



The language is, of course, Bengali in the form of local dialect. Songs used to be composed and tuned by the participants. performers are mostly concentrated in Kushmandi and Bangshihari blocks. Their performances are seasonal particularly after the harvesting season is over and when rural people have money in their pocket to spend on entertainment.

Fair of *Khan-gaan* is held during Kartik Puja.

Jang Gaan

Folk songs composed in Dinajpuri & Surjapuri dialect. Gangarampur and Kumarganj blocks have artistes of Jang Gaan.



Natua

Practised in some villages in Kushmandi Block, deals mainly with the

love of Radha & Krishna.

Mokha dance (Mask Dance)

Mask dance practised by the rural people representing various ethnic groups. Masks are made locally using locally available wood. Kushmandi Block is the main centre at present. Masks of animals like monkey, Tiger, Gods and Goddesses such as Kali, Shiva, and also of some fictitious comic characters Bura-Buri are made. Male dancers wear

these masks with suitable attire and perform. The dancers are accompanied by drummers and local flute players.

Halna-Halnani

Main Characters are two fictitious rural person - male **Halna** & female **Halnani**. This is a folk-opera type performance. Folk artistes of this district are socially conscious.

Bislihava, Saitpir (Satyapir Gan), Jalmanga Gan, Khaja Gan, Chorchunni Practised in some villages in Kushmandi block, deals mainly with the love of Radha & Krishna.

Handicrafts



being made.

Bamboo and wood works of Kushmandi are famous, 35 families work on bamboo and wood for generations. Now bamboo table fans and skeletons are also

Madhumangal Malakar of Muskipur is famous for works on **shola**.

Jute Dhokra & carpets are famous in Harirampur, Kusmandi & Bangsihari.

Festivals

A three-day fair is held at **Bolla Kali Bari**, 17 Km from Balurghat, on the Maldah-Balurghat Highway. Organized Friday following the Rash Purnima, in the month of November, the Fair is attended by locals and a huge number of devotees from adjoining Bangladesh. This three day fair is a meeting point of devotees from the two Bengals, the East and the West. Local products and flavor of rural Bengal is abundantly disbursed.

A **Baul Mela & Utsab** is held at Nayabazar Hattola in Tapan Block.



Food

*Muri, Khoi,
Chira aar
Gurh
Ei chaar niye
Dinajpur
Folk Proverb*

Food in Dakshin Dinajpur is based on simplicity. High quality of local Khoi, Muri and Chira are available all through the district. Best quality of rice including Kathuria, Chinisakkar and Tulaipunji are the major varieties of paddy grown this district. Muri made from 'Sashimohan' rice and Chira and Khoi from 'Kathuriya'. Hili is famous all over Bengal for its potol

River Atreyee



(parwal). Fruits like watermelon, Khormuj etc are also abundant.

The rivers, Tangon, Punarbhaba and Atreyee along with numerous lakes are sources of vast varieties of fresh water fish like **Bowal, Aarh, Gagor, Tangra, Punt, Shol, Foli** etc.

Dried Fish (Shuntki) is a delicacy in Danarhat, Kamarpara, Patiram, Fulbari and Rampur.

Travel and Sightseeing



Balurghat

is the district Headquarters of the Dakshin Dinajpur district. Balurghat town played an important role in the August Movement in the year 1942 against the British. This is a small municipal town surrounded by green trees and is free from pollution. Balurghta is also the



Hili



Hili is an important checkpoint point where permission to visit Bangladesh may be obtained for trade-related purposes. It is one of the main coordination points between India and Bangladesh. Everyday more than 150 trucks carrying goods pass this place.

Distance from Balurghat district Headquarters is 25 Km. It is well connected by State Highway. On the way to Hili, Bangladesh Border can be seen just by the side of the road. At present there is only one PWD Bungalow which can be used to accommodate tourists.

The best varieties of *Gurh* (Molluscs) is also available here.

nerve center of theatre in north Bengal. 1 Kilometre away from Balurghat, there is a small forest at Raghunathpur. There is one Bungalow of Forest department inside the forest.

The college museum of Balurghat is worth seeing. Many antique collections including coins, inscriptions, sculptures, terracotta, ornamental stones, etc. of ancient ages are preserved here. Two inscriptions have been deciphered which has thrown new light on the religious belief of the Pala period. Dedicatory Stone inscription from Bangarh from the era of Naipal (1027 1043 AD) are on display. Fossils of different kinds are on display besides various middle age weapons including a large collection of swords.

South Dinajpur District Archaeological Museum set up on 1966, a wing to the district library. Collections include archaeological findings from 7-8 AD to 12th AD.

Private Museum of Nirmal Agarwal near Balurghat Buri Kalibari.

Vindeshwari Matrimandir

Potiram, on Balurghat-Raiganj –Maldah Road, taken to be the 51st Pithasthan, where mythically the feet of Sati were dropped during the Daksha Yagna.

Tagore Estate

On the Balurghat-Malda state highway, the Patiram Thakur Estate can be seen by the side of the river Atreyee. Old buildings of this estate are still there bearing the memory of the Tagore family.

Karadaha Shib Mandir

38 Km from Balurghat towards Chakbhrigu – Lalgola road. Made of terracotta, intricate designs. Mythically, the tale goes that the Ban kings had many soldiers killed in the battle of Mahabharata.

There were so many deads that all could not be cremated. So their arms (kars) were chopped off and cremated at this place.

Lakes (Dighi) of the district



Within 1 Km of Gangarampur town, there is a big lake named **Dhal-Dighi**. It is about 1.5 Km in length and dates back to the Pal Dynasty. As colour of the water of this lake was **Dhala** i.e. White, the lake is called **Dhal-Dighi**. On the northern bank of the lake is the grave of a famous muslim saint **Atash Fakir**.

Just about 200 meters away from Dhal Dighi, there is another lake called **Kal-Dighi**. As the colour of the water of this lake was black it is named as **Kal-Dighi**. During winter, large number of migratory birds flocks to this place.

Mahipal Dighi (Area 61.16 acre) is situated at a distance of 60 Km from Balurghat and 30 Km from Gangarampur. During the period of Pal Dynasty, Mahipal II, dug this lake. This is also a very big water body. On the

northern bank of this lake there was a **Nilkothi** of Mr. Tomas who was a close friend of William Kerry. The ruined buildings of **Nilkothi** still attracts the people of this locality. During winter large number of migratory birds flock to this place.

The big lake of Tapan namely **Tapan Dighi** (Area 85.30 acre) is situated in the village Tapan at a distance of 35 Km. from Balurghat town. Behind the naming of this lake there is a myth that king Laxman Sen in AD 1181 dug this lake with a view to offering Tarpana for his ancestors.

On the northern bank of this lake, one dilapidated mound dating back to the period of Buddha can be seen. Another important site in this area is the village Manohali. One can see large number of icons still remaining scattered in this area.

Bahirhatta

14 km from Narayanpur. Kingdom of Virata according to Mahabharat. Here Pandavas hid their weapons on the Shami tree.

Jagatdala

9 km from Harirampur on the way to Fatehpur, famous for ancient educational institutes. Supposedly, the place where Jagatdal Maha Vihar existed alongside Nalanda, Kanishka Vihars of the ancient times.

Bolla Kali Temple



About 17 Kms away from Balurghat town on the Balurghat- Malda Highway, the village Bolla is situated. There is a famous Kali temple named after 'Bolla Maa Kali'. Kali Puja is observed here on every Friday following the Rash Purnima. Three day fair is organized on the occasion.

Khanpur

On 20 February, 1947, a large contingent of Police force went to Khanpur to arrest the leaders of the **Tebhaga Movement**. Under the leadership of Sri Chiarshai Sekh, the people disconnected the road. The Police opened fire against the rebel. As a result 21 cultivators died on the spot. Among these victims were people belonging to the Hindus, Muslims and the Schedule Tribes.

There is a small memorial in the spot inscribing the names of the patriotic souls.

Places of Interest

Balurghat Museum
Tagore Estate
Bolla kalibari
Kushmandi
Bangarh
Khanpur
Hili

Heritage walk

The Lakes (Dighi)
Bangarh

Nature Walk

Aira Forest
Bhaluka Beel Ecotourism Spot
River Atreyee



Four big pillars of Granite stones at Bangarh

Public transport includes cycle rickshaws, auto rickshaws, and local buses. There is no metered vehicular transport. Six-seat city autos shuttle available in every at a rate fixed by the municipal authorities.

Bangarh

44 km from Balurghat, 2 km from Gangarampur old bus stop. Found in the mythical literature, this is an archaeological site.

Historically probably the most important of all places in the entire district, Bangarh boasts of the largest share of archaeological ruins and icons to be found in Dakshin Dinajpur. It is situated 45 Km away from Balurghat town and 65 Km from Malda town. Bangarh was the capital of **Koti-Barsha** district. During the **Gupta** period, the whole of North Bengal was known as **Pundra** Vardhana Bhukti (Pradesh). It was again subdivided into number of Vishayas (District). Koti Barsha was one of the districts. Its old name was Debkot/ Debikot. In a radius of 8 Km of this area, different ancient archaeological remnants have been found.



After excavation (1938-1941), many historical objects and archeological ruins have been found beginning from Mauryan era to Muslim period. Some of the notable objects found on excavations are **Manuscript of king Naipala of 11th century**, **Statue of century (Darpal)**, **Four big pillars of Granite stones**, walls of buildings, **Statues and Pillars grave of Bakhtiar Khilji**, **Usha Haran Road** - The myth has it that by this road the grand son of Lord Krishna namely Anirudhya kidnapped Usha, the daughter of King Bana.

Forests

Aira Forest

From Mahipal road at a distance of 2 Km, there is one small forest belonging to the Forest Dept. This forest has recently been taken up for beautification by planting ornamental trees and flowers. Further, provision for constructing one lodge is also there, which can be used to accommodate tourists.

Bhaluka Beel Ecotourism Spot



Situated within Hili block of Dakshin Dinajpur in Jamalpur GP, Bhaluka has the potential to turn into a dream destination for all kinds of tourists including nature lovers and bird lovers from all over the country and abroad. The pristine virgin beauty of the place with a substantial tribal population residing along its periphery presents an ideal destination for eco cultural tourism in line with similar European destinations.



Sleeping & Eating

Guest House

Balurghat

PWD Bungalow

03522 25583

PWD (Roads) Bungalow

03521 255266

Irrigation Bungalow

03521 255254

Gangarampur

Irrigation Bungalow

03521 256031

Dakshin Dinajpur

Zilla Parishad Bungalow

03521 255056

Community Hall Gangarampur

Municipality

03521 255140



Kaldighi Tourist Lodge

Rajibpur near Gangarampur

Banshihari

Banshihari Inspection Bungalow

03524 255067

Kushmandi

Atithi Nibas

03524 263451

Hili

Atithi Nibas

03522 250262

Sarongbari Forest

03522 255266

Municipality Road

Kshanika Guest House

03522-255680

Hotel

College Road

Monalisa Lodge

+ 91 9474140244 / 03522-255535

Main Road

New Day Night Lodge

+ 91 9933957978

Dey's Lodge

+ 91 9434460163 / 03522-270016

Lodge Lila

+ 91 9434145007 / 03522-257723

Hotel Horn Bill

+ 9 1 9932734251/ 9434035084 / 03522-270055

Near Town Club

Susma Residency Lodge

+ 91 9635890189 / 03522-255067

Bangarh Lodge

+ 91 9933708598 / 03521-257855

Sahara Lodge

03521-0255744

Nelson Mandela Road



Poulomi Lodge

+ 91 9434373954

New Bus Stand

Akash Residency

+ 91 8670127999 / 03521-257199

Mukta Hotel Cum Lodge

03521-257713

Shibbari Road

Swasti Loke Lodge

+ 91 9475933252

Restaurant/Bar

College Road

Olive

+ 91 9647813036



Main Road

Golden Park

+ 91 9609749947



Tania

+ 91 9734051728



Important Informations

Police

Superintendent of Police

03522-255321 / 255689/255560 (Fax)

Police Control Room (Wireless Office)

03522-255554

Balurghat Mobile Police Van

96098 06406 / 76027 26200 (for SMS)

Balurghat Police Control

255554

Balurghat Police Station

255651

Hospital

District Hospital of Dakshin Dinajpur

255288, 255641

Medical Officer, District Hospital of Dakshin Dinajpur-Blood Bank: 270464

M/s. Raj Krishna Pharmacy (for oxygen)

99329 69324

Marwari Yuba Kendra (for night-time oxygen/emergency medicines)

257278

Dakshin Dinajpur District Red Cross

255175

District Hospital of Dakshin Dinajpur

255288

ATM

Central Bank of India

Balurghat Branch, Chowringhee, Balurghat

Axis Bank

Balurghat Branchchakbhabani Rathtala, Dunlop More Opposite UBI, -Congress Para, Beside The Old Cinema Hall, Trimohini Road, Balurghat,

Rajibpur, Pwd Para, Ps Gangarampur, Near Paul Brothers Stores

ICICI Bank

Naranyanpur, 13 No.Ward, Opp. State Bus Depot

IDBI Bank

Bankura-Raghunathpore , Beside Masjid, Machantala

Bank Of India

Narayanpur(Near State Bus Stand), Balurghat

Union Bank of India

Promoda Bhawan, Opp Lila Lodge, Narayanpur

Punjab National Bank

KB Market, Chak bhabani

Bank Of Baroda

Nazrul Sarani, Narayanpur, Opp. Taxi Stand

Internet

Right Click Solutions

School Para, Gangarampur

Maa Tara Cyber Cafe

Near D.ghosh Chamber, S.r.sarani, Balurghat

Patiram Cyber Point

Patiram, South Dinajpur, Trimohini Road, Patiram

Tathya Mitra Kendra

Gangarampur, +(91)-9800877545

Tips

Border tourism at its best can be an experience at Hili and the Chhitmahals. A walk here will not let you understand the man-made boundaries that divide India and Bangladesh. There are homes where the boundaries separate bedrooms and the rest of the household. Trees rooted in West Bengal have their branches spread in Bangladesh. The sense of peace and fraternity that exists in these areas, in spite of being on the opposites sides of an international boundary is remarkable.



Uttar Dinajpur



At a Glance

- ➔ **District Headquarter**
Raiganj
- ➔ **Total Area**
3,140 Sq Kms
- ➔ **Population**
30,00,849
(Ref: Census 2011)
- ➔ **Best time to Visit**
September to March
For Kulik:
July to September
- ➔ **Average Rainfall**
1600 mm
- ➔ **Language**
Bengali (Prime), Hindi,
Urdu & English (Alt.)
- ➔ **Festivals**
Fair in the month of
June at Bhopalpur,
Hasua village, near
NH34, around
Swaminath Temple
- ➔ **Places of Interest**
Kulik Bird Sanctuary
Asuragarh
- ➔ **Special Feature**
Kulik Bird Sanctuary

Best Places to stay

- Raiganj Tourist Lodge (WBTDC)
- Kulik Forest Guest House

Why go?

The main attraction is Kulik Bird Sanctuary, situated in the district and along the National Highway and by the side of the Kulik river. The forest, water bodies and the river attract the migratory birds like the Open Bill Stork, Night Heron, Cormorant, Little Cormorant and Egrets from South Asian.

Ruins of structures from the Pal dynasty in Karndighi and near Raiganj. Bardwari at Dumdama etc. and other sites like Ramabati in Raiganj, ruins at Itahar, old river port at Churaman on Mahananda near Itahar, Udgram on the banks of river Tangan at Kaliaganj, ruins of Buddhist Monastery at Tamchhari near Kaliaganj, destroyed by invaders on 1206 AD etc. are other interesting archaeological sites from the Pal and Gupta era. Stone sculptures, depicting Hindu Gods and Goddesses can be found abundantly all thorough the district. At Hemtabad, Moghal dynasty ruins, other ruins of Middle age structures including Das Gambuj Mosque. Ruins at Kamalabari, Kasba-Mahaso, Bhatara, Baharail, Bamor.

How to Reach

NH 34 connects Raiganj by road. NH 31 connects Kisanganj, Islampur and Chopra.

By Rail: Major railway station is Dalkhola.

Train services ar limited. Major Station: Radhikapur at Raigunge. However the nearest Station is Malda (major Junction station).

By Road: Kolkata-425 Km, Malda-76 km, Siliguri-181 km.

History

During ancient times, the 'Dinajpur' District area was a part of the Kingdom of Pundravardhana. Pundranagara was also called the 'Mahasthangarh' was the centre of Buddhism during the Maurya Period.

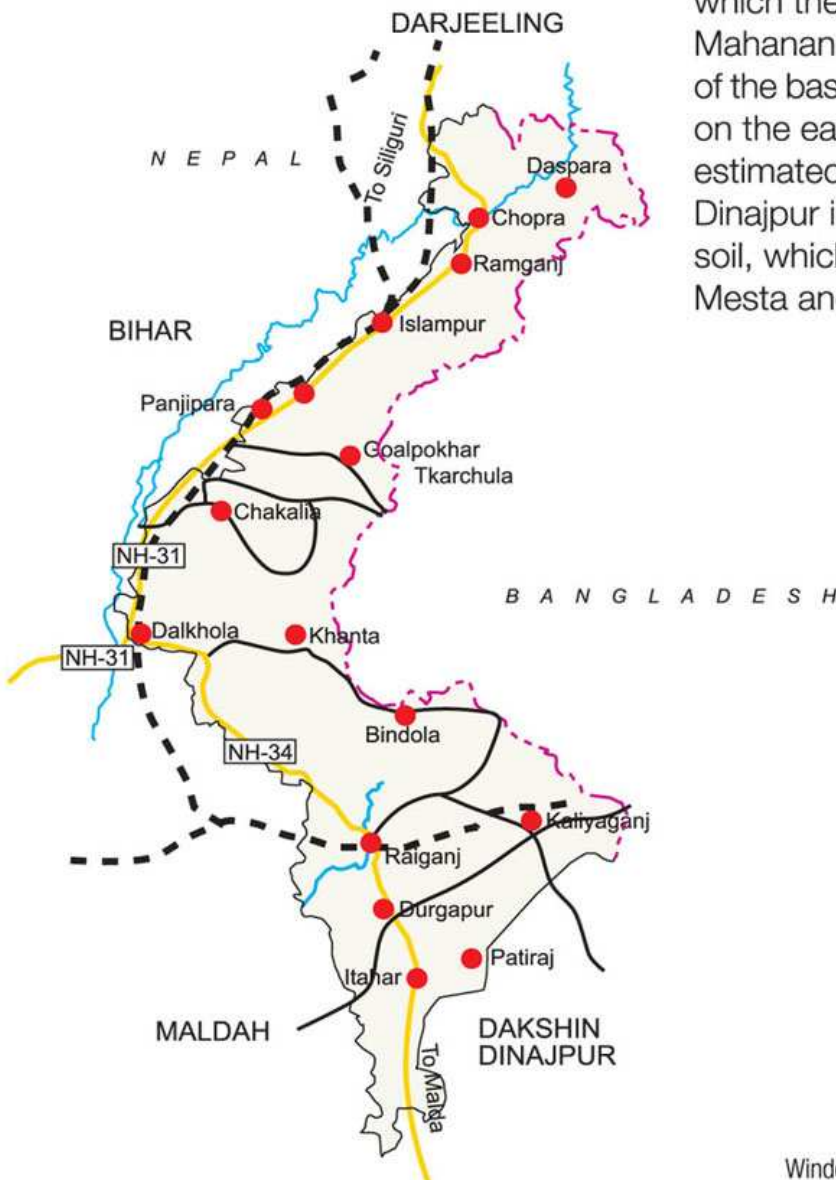
In Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur has been a part of and under the reign of several ancient dynasties and kingdoms such as the *Pundravardhana*, the *Gupta Empire*, the *Pala Dynasty* and the *Sen Dynasty*, until 1201 when the Muslim King Muhammad Bakhtyar Khalji conquered the area.

This district came under the British East India Company in 1765 who were overthrown by Indian Union in 1947. In 1992, April 1, the district of Uttar Dinajpur was born.

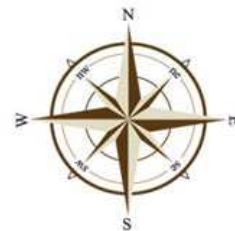
Geography and Topography

Uttar Dinajpur district is enclosed by Bangladesh on the east, Bihar on the west, Darjeeling district and Jalpaiguri district on the north and Malda district and Dakshin Dinajpur district on the south.

The regional topography is generally flat with a gentle southerly slope towards which the main rivers like Kulik, Nagar, Mahananda. The District forms a part of the basin lying between Rajmahal hills on the east. The older alluvium is estimated to be Pleistocene age. Uttar Dinajpur is bestowed with a very fertile soil, which helps to grow Paddy, Jute, Mesta and Sugarcane etc.



Uttar Dinajpur



LEGEND

	National Highway
	International Boundary
	District Boundary
	Railway
	Major Road
	River
	District Head Quarter
	Town

Art & Handicrafts

Terracotta: Kunor Haatpara village in Kaliaganj is world famous for Terracotta works. The special clay horses (Pirer Ghora) from this village are exported worldwide. Also famous are the clay lampshades, oil lamps, flower vase, chandeliers etc

The clay dolls (**Maa-Meye putul**) is a speciality of this village. **Boruas** (used for collecting milk from cow) and designer **dhunuchis** are also famous.

Culture and Festivals

Fair in the month of June at Bhopalpur, Hasua village, near NH34, around Swaminath Temple.



Bamboo handicrafts are found all over the district but Dhankol in Kaliaganj produces masks of monkeys made of bamboo. **Kulo**, a traditional Bengali tray and strainers are also famous here.

Raiganj is famous internationally for **Dhokra** (jute carpets) which are made in Malgaon. These colourful **Dhokras** are now a craze all over the world.

Bronzeworks from Dalkhola are also famous.

Folk Music: Khan, Natua, Jang Gan, Mokha Dance and Halna Halnani dances.



Dhokra (jute carpets)

SPECIAL FEATURE



Tulaipanji Rice

It is an indigenous aromatic rice grown mainly in the Mohiniganj, Bindol areas of Raiganj. In 2012, the Government of West Bengal sent 'Tulaipanji Rice' to the food festival at the London Olympics.

Aroma and quality of this rice variety is strongly associated with its native origin. Tulaipanji is categorized as 'non-Basmati aromatic rice'. It has medium-long slender grain. Tulaipanji

is grown without using any fertilizer in mid-land to high-land condition and preferably in jute harvested fields, after rainy season during August-December period. Low soil fertility and moisture stress generally prevail in the growing field and believed to be the key factor behind the aroma.

This rice is the main delicacy of this district.

Food

Muri, Khoi, Chire and Gur – Haats of Madhuban, Itahar, Chakulia, Joyhat, Rasakhowa, Dalkhola.

Fruits like watermelon, khormuj, and vegetables like wax gourd from Hili are abundant. Lafa Shak is available only in this district. Other popular item is bitter-sweet Paat Shak (Jute Plant). Milk and milk products are also abundant.

The district has numerous lakes as well as Mahananda, Nagar, Gamari and Kulik

rivers has a good supply of fresh water fish. Morosh, Teen Kata and Bata are the three local fish that are gastronomical delights. The other varieties include 'Chuno'-fish of wide varieties which are



rich in minerals. Shutki maachh (dried fish) is a special delicacy of Rasakhowa, Tungi Dighi, Bilaspur Dalkhola etc.



Travel and Sightseeing

Sap Nikla forest under Chopra block is 22 km from Islampur and tourists visit the lake and the forest for site seeing. Development of an Eco park is underway.

Eco Tourism at Bijolia More is being developed. Here river Sudhani forms an island by dividing into 2 branches and joining again.

Banabithi Resort at Barui, Barduari.

Ashram of Surendranath Babaji containing ancient manuscripts on the banks of Kulik at Raiganj.

The **Bhairabi Kali Temple** at Bindole, made of Terra Cotta with a statue of Goddess Bhairabi made of Black Stone. This temple, as it gathered, is one of the temples constructed by the docoits and contemporary to Debi Chowdhurani.

Maazar of Baba Sayed Fazle Rabib near Islampur.

Karnajora

District Museum at Karnajora near Raiganj (4 km) - 141 stone sculpture (Black Stone) Vishnu, Surya, Ganesh, Hara-Parbati, Lakshmi-Narayan, Manasa), terracotta artefacts, ancient manuscripts, ancient written records, stone scriptures.

There is also a **Nature Park** at Karnajora.

Vishnu Temple at Tenahari Stone Scripture found in the **Mosque Rajbari** at Durgapur

Dharmadangi Rail Station at Chopra, Archaeological site. Findings of ruins of a fort of middle age.

Places of Interest

- Kulik Bird Sanctuary
- Karnajora Museum and Park
- Burhana Fakir's Mosque
- Goddess Kali's Temple at Baira
- Malgaon Famous for terracotta work
- Goddess Bhairabi's Temple
- Kunore-famous for terracotta pottery
- St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church

Nature Walks

Sap Nikla Forest
Bijolia More
Karnajora Park

Heritage Walks

Asuragarh
Karandighi
Bhairabi Temple, Bindole



Kulik River, Raiganj

Public transport includes cycle rickshaws, auto rickshaws, and local buses. There is no metered vehicular transport.

Nearest rail stations are Dalkhola (48Km), Aluabari Road, Islampur (108Km), Raiganj (0.3Km). Nearest Airport is Bagdogra, Siliguri (167Km)

Asuragarh, Chakulia on NH-31. Archaeological findings of a non-Aryan Middle Age fort, paid homage by both Hindu and Muslim communities.

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church at Chhatparua, near Raiganj – Glass paintings and organ, time to visit – Christmas Eve

A number of historical mosques, and structure, mostly in ruins near Islampur. Sonakhoda Mosque, Bari and Chhoti Mosque, the structure of Shatmunjila are important few

Karandighi

18th century Nilkuthi at Sabdhan village at the banks of river Nagar at Karandighi area

Lake at Karandighi (2 miles wide). Mythically excavated by Karna, the King of Anga, in the age of the Mahabharata.

Baliagram Mosque and structure of the Madari clans, who with their leader Majnu Shah were involved in the Sannyasi-Fakir Revolt, circa 1760-1800

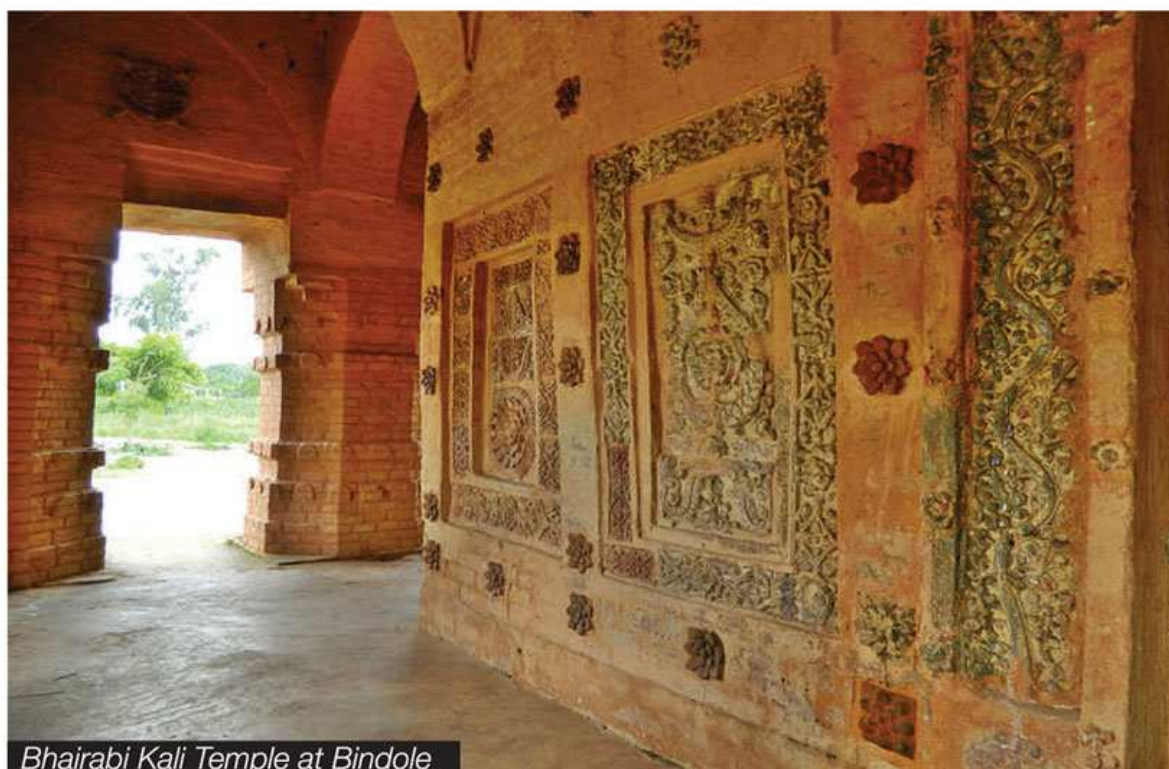
Hemtabad

Moughal dynasty ruins, other ruins of Middle age structures including Dash Gambuj Mosque at Kamalabari. Ruins at Kamalabari, Bhatara (Ruins, known as 'Ganeshdhipi'), Baharail (Durga Temple) and Bamor ('Tarasundari' Temple by Rani Bhawani), Farm-House at Samaspur.

Other Heritage Sites

Ruins of structures from the Pal dynasty in Karndighi and near Raiganj. Bardwari at Dumdama etc. and other sites like Ramabati in Raiganj, ruins at Itahar, old river port at Churaman on Mahananda near Itahar, Udgram on the banks of river Tangan, Kaliaganj, ruins of Buddhist Monastery at Tamchhari near Kaliaganj, destroyed by invaders on 1206 AD etc. are other interesting archaeological sites from the Pal and Gupta era.

Other areas near Raiganj are Mirual (Pirer Majar), Bandar Kali temple (1296 AD, site for Sannyasi rebellion), Tenhari (temple of Brahma-Vishnu-Maheswar). Mosque of Burhana fakirs.



Bhairabi Kali Temple at Bindole

Kulik Bird Sanctuary

- Kulik Bird Sanctuary in North Dinajpur Raiganj – On the banks of river Kulik, an area of 35 acre and buffer area of 286.23 acre, Migratory Birds, colony of mainly Asian Open Billed Stork (Samuk khol), coming from coastal south Asia, Knight Heron, Little Egret, Little Cormorant, Cattle Egret, 134 varieties of birds, 70-80000 migratory birds every year.



- The biggest reproduction centre in Asia of Asian Open Billed Stork, time to visit is in May to December. The nests are on the either sides of the NH. One of the biggest henary in India.

- Local birds like dove, bulbul, sparrow, king fisher, woodpeckers, owl, duck and cuckoo, can also be seen in large numbers. The migratory birds arrive from end of May to 1st week of July and depart from mid December to end of January. The nesting time is from July to August & egg laying from August to September. The flying training to the young ones is the best time to observe the birds, around October to November.

Composition of Forests in the District

- The most common species found within the forests area are **Sissoo** (*Dalbergia sissoo*), **Simul** (*Bombex Ceiba*), **Siris** (*Albizzia lebbeck*), **Akashmoni** (*Acacia auriculiformis*), **Khair** (*Acacia catechu*), **Lali** (*Amoora wallichii*), **Khadam** (*Anthocephalus kadamba*), **Mingiri** (*Cassia siamea*), **Eucalyphus Spp.**, **Sidha** (*Lagerstroemia perviflora*), **Jarul** (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*), **Sal** (*Shorea robusta*), **Sheora** (*Strebulus*



asper), **Arjun** (*Terminalia arjuna*) etc. **Segun** (*Tectona grandis*) is also available sporadically in some patches. The forests in this district are mainly plantation. Sal is mainly of coppice origin. The total forest area is hardly 0.19 percent of the total geographical area.

Nature Interpretation Centre During February, 2011 Nature Interpretation centre is an added feather to Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary. The important features of the sanctuary is displayed here through models, charts and photograph.



Yellow Monitor Lizard of Kulik

Medicinal Plants

Medicinal and Aromatic plants like **Ashok**, **Sarpagandha**, **Lemon grass**, **Makna**, **Kalamegh**, **Nichinda**, **Costach**, **Abir**, **Isabgol**, **Ming Oil**, **Menthanol**, **Jasmine** etc. are possible export items which are already being planted in some parts of the district.

Sarpagandha



Largest Heronry of India

Global population of the Asian Openbill is estimated to be 130,000 by Wetland International, and around half of them live in Asia. The species is known to breed in a colony, called heronry, but there are very few heronries in India, particularly those that are well protected against human greed, Ornithologically.

Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary is a very important heronry. As per the breeding population data of Asian Openbills, the sanctuary reveals that it regularly supports 32-40 percent of the existing population of Asian Openbills of South Asia. A heronry, which supports such a high percentage of Asian Openbills, is not only a nationally important heronry but also an internationally important heronry.



The time of formation of heronry is July to December. Asian Open Bill Stork generally starts nesting during mid of June, though the migration depends upon the rain. It is seen that if monsoon starts early the Asian Openbill also comes early.

Sleeping & Eating

Guest House



Raiganj Tourist Lodge

03523 25915/25285

Kulik Forest Guest House

03523 246047

Kulik PWD Bungalow

03523 225286

Karnajora Guest House 03523 256411

Karnajora Circuit House 03523
250009

Hotel

NS Road

Hotel Surya Lakshmi

+91 9800861047/ 03523-252815
www.hotelsuryalakshmi.com



Hotel Natraj Inn

+91 96355 68028 / 03523-254201

Hotel Natraj

+91 90028 87188 / 03523-252007

Hotel Harshbardhan

+91 8900518572 /03523-252169

Kaniska Lodge

+91 94340 52900 / 03523-252976

Hotel Vinayak

+91 9933921321 / 03523-242082
03523-242024

hotel.vinayak@yahoo.co.in

Dona Lodge

92330 95996

Hotel Mamata's

+91 9804516673 / 03523-252698
hotelmamtas@gmail.com



Hotel Viraj

+91 8759359772 / 03523-244565

Jain Lodge

+91 7384146722 / 03523-252517

MG Road

Anand Hotel

+91 8982537805 / 03523-252062

NH-34

Hotel Imperial

90469 25259 / 03523 – 252570

Hotel Purbachal

9434132516

hotelpurbanchal@gmail.com

Hotel Embassy

03523-252498

hotelembassyraiganj@gmail.com

Raiganj Tourist Lodge

9733008791

Restaurant/Bar

NH-34



Badsha Hotel & Restaurant

+91 96477 54365 / 03523-252469

Important Informations

Police

SP	03523-252461
Addl. SP U/DNJ	03523-252223
Chakulia	03525 252581/02
Chopra	03525 26261/02
Dalkhola	03525 252551/45
Goalpokhar	953526266204
Hemtabad	953523221513
Islampur	953526255004
Itahar	953523277144
Kaliganj	953523258060
Kanki	953525254165
Karandighi	953525252256
Panjipara	953526266238
Raiganj	9535232523387/2426

Hospital

Raiganj District Hospital

242409/252509

Jeevan Rekha Clinic, Raiganj

(03523) 241248 / 241077

Upasam Nursing Home, Raiganj

(03523) 244122 / 243611

ATMs

Bank of India ATM

Near Asha Talkies, N.S.Road, Raiganj
Sudarshanpur, NH 34, Siliguri More,
Raiganj

ICCI Bank ATM

N.S. Road, Mohanbati Bazar, Raiganj

Axis Bank ATM

Kishan Lal Agarwal, Tungidighi, NH 34

M.G Road, Beside Ashirbad Bhawan,

Ukilpara, Raiganj

vivekananda More, Kaliyaganj

N. S. Road, Raiganj

Raiganj College, Collegepara

Punjab National Bank ATM

Mohanbati, Raiganj

HDFC Bank ATM

N.S Road, Near Asha Talkies, Raiganj

State Bank of India ATM

Raiganj

Indian Overseas Bank ATM

Shanti Market, Mohanbati, Raiganj

Bank of Baroda ATM

Ukil Para, Raiganj

Union Bank of India ATM

Kulik Towers, Parbati School Road

Internet

Guha Computer Center

+(91)-9614033298 Kaliyaganj, N S
Road, Kaliyaganj.

Tips

Ornithologists and amateur bird watchers will find Kulik to be a watcher's paradise. Binoculars and cameras are must if you want to capture the feathered beauties in their natural habitat. Plan your trip between April and December to watch the migratory birds and their live action.



Jalpaiguri



At a Glance

- **District Headquarter**
Jalpaiguri
- **Total Area**
3,457 Sq Km
- **Population**
23,70,863
(Ref: Census 2011)
- **Best time to Visit**
September to March
Wild Life Sanctuary is closed from 15 June - 15 September
- **Average Rain Fall**
3160 mm
- **Language**
Bengali (Prime), Hindi & English (Alternative), Sadri, Rava, Mech (Local)
- **Festivals**
Jalpesh Mela, Karam Puja, Teesta Burir Puja
- **Places of Interest**
Jalpesh Temple, Murti Lataguri, Mongpong, Chapramari, Chalsa.
- **Special Feature**
Gorumara National Park

Best Places to stay

- Mongpong (WBFDC)
- Malbazar (WBTDC)
- Murti (WBTDC)

Why go?

Rarely can one find a place like Jalpaiguri that is so potentially rich in tourism. But a major part of it still remains to be exploited. Turbulent rivers battling out of the steep gorges, the vast stretches of forest cover, the undulating span of Tea Estates and the panoramic grandeur of the Himalayas are only a few jewels that made the British ground their roots deep into the heart of this land. Just drive around or take a hike, never will your eyes feel to rest. If a tourist is a nature lover or an admirer of Wild Life there cannot be a better place than this for him. One can run wild in the various Sanctuaries, National Parks & Tiger Reserves that are on offer.

Garumara N.P., Jaldapara W.L.S. etc. are only a few. The more adventurous ones may prefer to trek to Rupang Valley & Buxa-Duar in Buxa Tiger Reserve. Apart from these, there are very old temples like the Jalpeshwar and Jatilleshwar.

How to Reach

Jalpaiguri is well connected with Kolkata by bus via Siliguri and train. Jalpaiguri is situated some 45 km away from Siliguri which is said to be the Gateway of North-East India.

By Bus: Almost all the NBSTC and others pvt. buses between Siliguri and Jalpaiguri.

By Train: There are number of train services both from Sealdah and Howrah Railway Station to Jalpaiguri Railway Station.

History

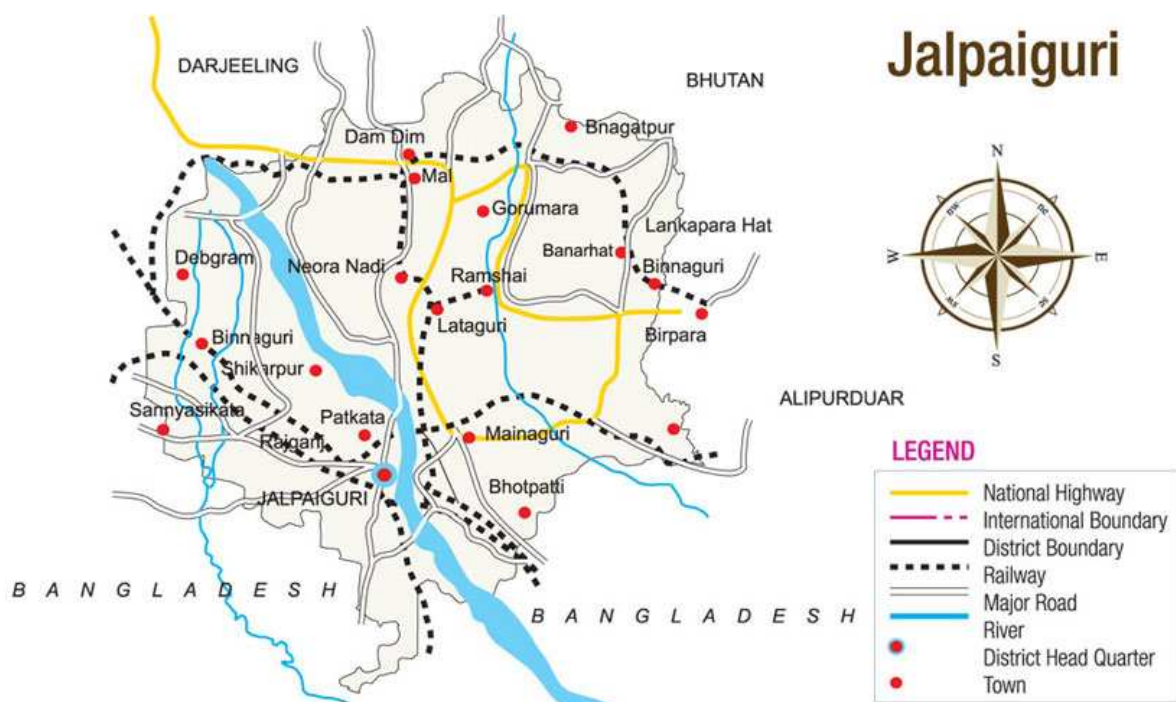
The name Jalpaiguri came from the word "jalpai" means "olive" which grew in the town and were seen even in 1900. The suffix "guri" means a place. The name as well is associated with Jalpesh, the presiding deity (Shiva) of the entire region. The name of the city Jalpaiguri actually comes from the Bhutanese term je-le-pe-gu-ri meaning a place where warm clothes are traded, suggesting a trading center.

Geography and Topography

The district situated in the northern part of West Bengal has international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh in the North and South respectively and borders with Assam and Darjeeling hills in the East, West and Northwest. The entire topography is crisscrossed with rivulets, rivers and hills. The district is primarily rural with more than 80% of rural population. It has also high percentage of SC/ST population. Relatively sizeable

population resides in Tea Gardens and Forest villages which are isolated and mostly inaccessible. The district is the gateway to the entire North-Eastern States and Bhutan. It has the district of Alipurduar in the east and Darjeeling in the West. Having high percentage of migrated population different cultural groups (Ranjbanshi, Ravas, Mech, Santhals, Madasia and Oraons) have created a unique cultural harmony which is rarely seen in other districts of West Bengal.

The entire topography is crisscrossed with rivulets, rivers and hills. Jalpaiguri with its myriad and verdant, undulating and plain beauty soothes the heart of travellers & nature lovers. Veined by mighty rivers like the Teesta, Torsa, Jaldhaka, Raidak, Dyna, Neora, Sankosh, Murti etc. this piece of land has been aptly named as the land of 'Tea', 'Timber' and 'Tourism'. A major stretch of area is bordered in the north by Bhutan and hence the name Dooars/Duars which means -Door of Bhutan.





Manjhi Haram and Maran Buru and pray for the prosperity of the house. This worship is followed with singing, dancing and playing of instrumental music. All those present there, are given rice-beer. The traditional dress of Santhal women is called Pandhat, which is a covering from the chest to the foot. Bow and arrows are the favourite weapons of Santhals.

Culture and Festivals

Jalpesh Mela, one of the main fairs in Jalpaiguri district, takes place on the occasion of Shivratri in the months of February and March. The age old Shiva temple is the main attraction of the mela and the mela takes place round this temple. Not only local people but people from different parts of the country come to take part in the fair which is the meeting place of various cultures.

Karam Festival is celebrated by the Santhals in the month of Aswin (September- October) in order to have increased 'wealth and progeny' and to get rid of evil spirits. During this festival, two youths after being purified, fetch two branches of Karam tree from the forest and plant them just outside the house. The head of the household offers rice beer and other articles to

Though different varieties of races and their cultures got intermingled in the same land; each individual race retained their individual culture and heritage over the ages. Thus the phenomenon of 'Combined Culture' never got a chance to bloom here. In the serenity of the forests, beyond the misty curtain of the hills or by the gushing streams here and



Jalpesh Mela

there developed and prospered various culture like - the **Bhotia** Culture, the **Rajbanshi** Culture, the **Lepcha-Limbu** Culture together with the Cultures of the **Coch**, the **Mech**, the **Rava**, the **Toto**.



Karam Festival

Majority of tribal cultures are Folk Cultures. Folk dance, Folk songs and Folk lores form an integral part of these cultures. And then there are festivals. Many festivals are common to both the Bengalees and the Rajbangshis who

constitute the bulk of Jalpaiguri's population. Apart from the major festivals like the **Durga Puja** and the **Kali Puja**, there is the **Teesta Burir Puja** epitomising the Life line of this region the Teesta River; an occasion observed by the Bengalees and the Rajbangshis alike. **Manosha Puja** or the worship of the Serpent Goddess is another important festival of this region. Many Village Fairs and stage dramas commemorate this event. Then there are rituals for 'Good Crops' and 'Good Rain'; the later is known as 'Hutt Ghurni'.



Dhol Sanai- Mainaguri

Folk Culture

Jalpaiguri's very own Folk form is the **Chor Chunni**. **Dham Gaan** is another popular folk song of Jalpaiguri. It evolves round the rise and fall mythological characters. **Bhawaiya** the folk song of



Mahakal Dham- Garumara

the Rajbangshis, depict the love of both God and Man. Another popular folk culture of Rajbangshi's is **Dhol-Sanai**, an instrumental performance by Rajbangshi artists, a must for marriage ceremony. **Bisha-Hara Pala** is another very popular stage drama of Jalpaiguri. It reveals the story of Devi Manosha - the Serpent Goddess and Behula - a pious wife who had lost her husband - Lakhindar due to snake bite on her marriage night. It depicts the confrontation of Man and God. Karom, Bishua, Jitia, Bandna and Gaburdeb are some of the festivals of other Tribes. Rava songs and Dance are gaining popularity these days.



Rava Dance

Art & Handicrafts

Jalpaiguri streets are shopper's delight with its range of traditional handicraft items, jewellery, dress materials and fabrics, furniture and electronic goods which embellish the city's major commercial zones.

Jalpaiguri is famous for its traditional handicrafts especially cane and bamboo crafts. Other materials which you can carry back as souvenirs and gifts include wall hangings, jute and wooden artworks and other traditionally made jewellery.

Since the Jalpaiguri district is one of the prominent places for tea cultivation, tea produced in Jalpaiguri or nearby Darjeeling is a must carryback option.

Some of the noted shopping attractions in Jalpaiguri include wood products, jute products, pottery, leather products, silk and other fibre textiles, plastic products and rubber, beverages, wool knitted items, electronic goods from the nearby Siliguri Hong Kong market and many others.



Food & Drinks

Belakoba is famous for **chumchum**, **kalakand**, **rosogolla** and **doi**.

Metli, Chalsa, Malbazar are famous for orange market.

Pineapple is found all through the district besides coconuts, betel nuts, jackfruit and kalojaam.

Boroli/Boiral fish, the mineral rich diet found in Teesta is a delicacy. Dhupguri and Moinaguri are famous for shutki (dried) fish.



Fishing at Daina River

Travel and Sightseeing

Wildlife Tourism

The essence of tourism in Jalpaiguri lies in wildlife. Covered with dense forests and grasslands, Jalpaiguri is the harbour of one of the richest bounties of wildlife. The forest region is the shelter to many endangered species viz., **Indian One-horned Rhinoceros**, **Hispid Hare**, **Pigmy Hog**, **Bengal Florican** etc. Other species like **Elephant**, **Gaur**, **Leopard**, **Sambar**, **Sheetal**, **Hog Deer**, **Barking Deer**, **Badger**, **Rhesus**, **Monkey**, **Sloth Bear**, **Otter**, **Wild Boar**, **King Cobra** etc. can be found in the deep forests of Jalpaiguri. Bird watching & butterfly watching have grown to be significant adventure activities.

this national park. Situated on the bank of Murti River the National Park has a large variety of flora and fauna. The



grassland of Garumara is famous for Asiatic one-horned rhino. The watchtower beside the Forest Rest House is the best place to observe rhino, elephant, bison and deer as they regularly come to the salt reservoir just below the tower. In the year 1949,



Garumara National Park

This park is located in the Dooars region of Jalpaiguri district. River Murti, Jaldhaka and Ingdong passed through

Gorumara Forest was declared as wildlife sanctuary when it was a small forest. Later, in the year 1992, it was declared as a National Park, comprising

of 80 km² of diverse forest. Near extinct species like the Hispid Hare and Pygmy Hog have been spotted here.



Chapramari Forest

This Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the foothills of Eastern Himalayas in the district of Jalpaiguri. It provides a breathtaking view of forests against the backdrop of the Kanchanjungha and other Himalayan peaks.

Chapramari is famous for its mega-herbivores such as Elephant & Gaur. Leopards abound here. Different other varieties of deer, reptiles and other animals can be easily seen around here. The place is a heaven for bird watchers.



Lataguri

Lataguri is located near Gorumara. Besides the quiet and calm surroundings, the main attraction here are forest **Watch Towers** inside Gorumara National Park, and Nature Interpretation Centre.

Ethnic Tourism

Magurmari Oraon village is situated near Kathambari under Baikunthapur forest region in the western part of the Dooars. Oraon is one of the tribal communities of India, which mainly depends on agriculture for earning their living. The Oraon house is usually made of mud walls and tile roofs. All the same, house construction requires the use of timber and bamboo. Important festivals of the Oraons pertain to the forest, hunting, agriculture and cattle. **Karam festival** is celebrated usually on *Bhado Ekadashi* (August-September).

The Baikunthapur forest is an important ecological zone and home to many wild elephants. The nearest Railway station is at Oodlabari (11 km). The Gajaldoba Eco-Tourism project is 7-8 km away.





Monsoon Tourism

Monsoon is an unlikely season to visit most of the places in West Bengal except perhaps Jalpaiguri. The greenery is a shade brighter and the forest looks rejuvenated and the fast lanes of the rain-soaked highways with the foliage on both the sides makes a drive really worthwhile.

Chalsa

Chalsa is a small town situated just on the foot of the Himalayas in the Dooars on the way towards Birpara or Alipurduar from Siliguri via Malbazar. This small town is surrounded by hills, tea gardens, rivers and forests. One part of the town is surrounded by Gorumara National Park and other part by Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary. This small town was known as Queen of Dooars in British India.

Do-Mohani

Old railway junction (now abandon) nearby the Teesta backwater. It is also the gateway of Garumara National Park, and famous for migratory birds.

Murti

Murti is a place besides river Murti famous for its scenic beauty located in between Gorumara and Chapramari. Both Gorumara National Park and Chapramari Wild Life Sanctuary are very close to this place.

Khuttimari

Scenic beauty and sighting of wild life is the main attraction of this place.

Moulani Park

Moulani Park is situated near Lataguri at a distance of 1.5km from NH-31 . Presently it is a virgin land with numerous ponds and a seasonal picnic spot having potential for all round the year attraction. The land ownership is under Moulani Gram Panchyat. It can be added to the Mainaguri-Lataguri circuit.

Paschim Damdim

Situated only 5 km form Malbazar, it can turn into a perfect tourist attraction, providing sight-seeing opportunities in the tea gardens nearby and Chel rivers,

besides a few more mountainous streams.

Rangamati

Rangamati is encircled by breathtaking mountains close to Bhutanghat. It is strategically located for visiting Phuentsholing Market, Gumpha Temple, Orange Garden and Crocodile Park. The rivers Basra, Panna and Raimatang form a vast river bed here. Raimatang is close to Central Dooars Tea Estate and Tea processing units there. Bus services are available upto Jaigaon which is situated adjacent to this place.



Khuksiya Udyan

Khuksiya Park is situated 500 metres from Maynaguri. It is an amusement park with separate facilities for picnic. Accommodation is also available here.

Heritage Tourism

Jalpesh Temple



A famous shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of North Bengal, established in the year 1665 by the Cooch king Prannarayan, is the

main point of attraction of this place. Every year in the Hindu calendar month of shravan (15 July-15 August) thousands of devotees throng the Jalpesh Temple and a large fair is

organised for a month. Devotees collect water in vessels from the river Teesta after offering puja and walk barefoot towards the temple which is 15 km from the river. This place is located 8 km from Mainaguri and 21 km from Jalpaiguri.

Jatileswar Temple

Situated at Hushlurdanga near Maynaguri, it is famous for its idol of Lord Shiva. After offering prayers, one can find for oneself a nice corner and settle down with some books while listening to the chirping of birds. This place is around Located 12 km from Mainaguri and 25 km from Jalpaiguri.

Bhamridevi/Vamori Devi Temple

The temple site is situated around 1 km from Jatileswar temple. It has a long heritage with hordes of people coming here to offer their prayers. This place is located 13 km from Mainaguri and 26 km from Jalpaiguri.

Meteli Kali Bari

At Meteli. The Kali Bari is 130 years old.

Bhabani Pathak Temple

It is situated at Bodaganj forest near Sikarpur, Belakoba . It is in common parlance that during the British period the Sanyasis who were famous as “Swadesi Dacoit” in North Bengal had links with the Jaminders of Baikunthapur. Bhabani Pathak was the leader of the Sanyasi Movement. It is also a hearsay that Devi Choudhurani took her lessons from Bhabani Pathak. In spite of being a dacoit, Bhabani Pathak enjoyed a lot of following among the downtrodden of the society and was quite acceptable to them. Bhabani Pathak was vanquished and killed by a British, Lay Branen. After that sanyasis came to the

jungle of Baikunthapur under the leadership of Devi Chowdhurani. Till date local people offer their homage to Bhabaina Pathak and Devi Chowdhurani.

Prithu Rajar Garh

Constructed in the end of the 15th Century, Pre-Muslim period. There used to be five forts, also known as the Bhitargarh Fort. Near Jalpaiguri Town.



SPECIAL FEATURE



Devi Choudhurani Mandir



It is a legend that Devi Choudhurani the bandit queen of the famous **Sanyasi Movement** period in the 19th century had established the Kali temple near Gosala More of Denguajhar, The area was covered by deep forest and people did not come to this place. Devi Chowdhurani used to take shelter here. The legend goes on and the puja is still held at this temple under the age-old huge banyan tree. The Kali puja is now organised by a committee formed for the Kalipuja in Devi Chowdhurani Kali Mandir of Jalpaiguri. The puja is a major attraction for the region and hundreds flock to worship the goddess at this temple. It is 35 km from Siliguri.

Tea Tourism

More than 100 years old heritage tea bungalows of British period, some rare species of birds, splendid mountain views, orange orchards and green forests will welcome the tourists most cordially. A place which any nature-lover cannot afford not to see. Tea tourism going popular now.

The Tea Gardens are:

Nakhati Tea Garden (near Malbazar),
Denguajhar Tea Garden (Tea Processing),
Domohani, Kranti,
Kailashpur Tea Garden, Oodlabari Tea

Garden, Ranichera Tea Garden, New Glanco Tea Garden-Malbazar, Soongachi Tea Garden, Aibheel Tea Garden, Kurti Tea Garden, Batabari Tea Garden, Baradighi Tea Garden.



Places of Interest

- Wildlife Tourism – Gorumara
- Temple of Jalpesh, presiding deity of Lord Shiva
- Lataguri
- Bamnijhor
- Mongpong
- Chapramari
- Chalsa

Nature Walks

Garumara National Park
Chapramari Forest, Lataguri
Forest, River Murti, Chalsa,
Gajoldoba

Heritage Walks

Jalpesh Temple
Jatileshwar Temple
Bhamridevi/Vamori Devi Temple
Devi Choudhurani Mandir
Bhabani Pathak Temple



Public Transport: Cycle ricksaw,
auto ricksaw, buses & hired cars.



Birdwatching: Gajoldoba and Apalchand Forest

Gajoldoba is a reservoir formed by the first Teesta Barrage, which was built for irrigational purposes. It is surrounded by the Baikunthapur forests, and is an hour's drive from Jalpaiguri.

The reservoir is used by many water birds from Ladakh and Central Asia - Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Bar-Headed Goose, Greylag Goose, Lesser Whistling Duck, Ruddy Shelduck, Common Shelduck, Cotton Teal, Tufted Duck, Common Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Spot-billed Duck, Mallard, Great Cormorant, Indian Cormorant, Little Cormorant, Indian Pond Heron, Grey Heron, Purple Heron, Northern Lapwing, River Lapwing, Grey-headed Lapwing, Little Ringed Plover, etc.

Domahani Jheels and river Teesta & Karola are also popular Birdwatching spot.

Sleeping & Eating

Guest House



WBTDC Teesta Paryatak Abas
+91 9733008794 / + 91 3561 252699



WBTDC Guest House, Malbazar
+91 9733008793 / 03562 257206
WBFDC Guest House, Mongpong
033 2237 0060 / 2237 0061
WBFDC Guest House, Suntalikhola
033 2237 0060 / 2237 0061

Hotel

Jalpaiguri

Hotel Del Pritam
+ 91 9434058740
jpghoteliers@sify.com
Provat Hotel
+ 91 9434607472
Ruby Boarding
03561230180
Ratna Deep
03561222801/03561222502



Hotel Safari
+ 91 9836917012 / 9775997347
u1ghosh@gmail.com
doarsatithi.com
Atithi
+ 91 9832017012 / 9775997347
u1ghosh@gmail.com

Hotel Rajmahal
+ 91 9832397909
Hotel Jharna
+ 91 9832016101
Akansha Lodge
+ 91 9434809214
bishal.tour@rediffmail.com

Lataguri

Kadambini Resort
+ 91 9874099806 / 9830075797
033 40015806
holiday@kadambiniresort.com
Hotel Dreamland
+ 91 9830043488
lataguri@hoteldreamlandgroup.com
www.hoteldreamlandgroup.com
Green View
+ 91 9932234158
Rhino Jungle Resort
+ 91 9475907151 / 8116015159
subaddhadey12@gmail.com
Silver Ridge
9800475953
Resort Green Heaven
+ 91 9434367709 / 9832515215
03561 233505
info@greenheavenlataguri.com
resortgreenheaven@gmail.com
www.greenheavenlataguri.com
Resort Lataguri
+ 91 9932576002 / 9933038225
resortlataguri@gmail.com
Resort Floret
+ 91 9474896618 / 03561 266252
simaswasti@gmail.com
Resort Gajgamini
+ 91 8017189565 / 03561 266524



Resort Hatiana
+ 91 8670553278 / 03561 266383
thegreencastle@gmail.com
www.greencastle.lataguri
www.greencastle.gorumara.com

Maa Tara Resort

+ 91 8101404992

Resort The Forest

+ 91 9679378924

Resort Mayur

+ 91 9434808436 / 9679181699

03561 266347

www.resortmayur.in

**Aranya Jungle Resort**

+ 91 9733005454 / 03561 266346

aranya_lataguri@yahoo.co.in

www.aranyajungleresort.com

Priti Forest Resort

+ 91 9636947156 / 9239886747

03561 266050

pfr@acconpriti.com

www.accompriti.com

Hotel Sonali

+ 91 9832577394 / 9641797771

hotelsonali@gmail.com

www.sonalilataguri.com

Resort Banani

+ 91 9832516877 / 03561 266237

ankan_ankan@rediffmail.com

lake View Resort

+ 91 9434118043 / 9832472481

03561-266415

resortlakeview@ymail.co

Sylvan Retreat

+ 91 9733346817 / 9832439913

Akarshan Bono Bungalow

+ 91 9433035589 / 9641398842

akashbonobungalow@yahoo.in

www.akashbonobungalow.com

Tarai Eco Dooars Resort

+ 91 9641668289

Green Touch Dooars Eco Resort

+ 91 9635118917 / 9933160103

info@greentouchlataguri.com

www.greentouchlataguri.com

Unique Inn Resort

+ 91 9800868534 / 9800868536

info@uniqueinn.net

Orchid Resort

+ 91 9832081813 / 94341 66877

0353-2641749

orchidatlataguri@yahoo.com

www.orchidlataguri.net

Hatari The Wild Club

+ 91 9832016925 / 03561 266204

Pasakha Tourist Inn

+ 91 9932897255

Tuskers Den

+ 91 9932535334 / 03561 266447

tuskersden@gmail.com

www.tuskersden.com

www.lataguri.net

Resort Sahayogi

+ 91 9932223564

Resort haven View Inn Pvt Ltd

+ 91 9434103082 / 9564021555

heavenviewlataguri@gmail.com

Resort Sukanya

+ 91 9832397418 / 8016434942

simlaskg@rediffmail.com

Destiny Inn

+ 91 8001107731 / 8972504478

hotel_destiny07@yahoo.com

www.hoteldestiny.in

Panchak Resort

+ 91 9733064334

d.dutta782@gmail.com

Jungle Neer

+ 91 8101445285

Resort Sonar Bangla

+ 91 9932483338 / 0356 1266558

info@sonarbanglaresort.com

www.sonarbanglaresort.com

Madhuban Resort

+ 91 8967376670

Green Lagoon Resort

+ 91 9635948301

greenlagoonresort@yahoo.in

www.greenlagoonresort.com

Ayush Jungle Resort

+ 91 9002218536

Pasaka Inn

+ 91 9932897255

Banabitan Forest Resort

+ 91 9433075685 / 9433321950

anamitra.ghoshmukherjee@gmail.com

Totopara Rest House

+ 91 9733371985

Canal Road**Resort Morning Glory**

+ 91 7586823172

Murti**Murti River Camp**

+ 91 8001523618

Resort Olive Village

+ 91 9836184554 / 9434188319

resortolivevillage@gmail.com



Resort Murti

+ 91 9933773356

Garumara Green Wilderness Resort

+ 91 9831248083

Dooars Residency Resort

+ 91 8345095290

Gorumara Nature Resort

+ 91 9477228201 / 9593735892

Dream Land Resort

+ 91 9126006286 / 9932996598

www.murtidreamlandresort.com

The Riverwood Forest Retreat

+ 91 9593677148

dooars@waxpolhotels.com

Kolkata@waxpolhotel.com

www.waxpolhotels.com

The cacur-badi Forest Resort

+ 91 8972031131

www.cassowaryhotel.com

Aranyakanya Resort

+ 91 8172022883 / 9433491277

Jungle Bari Resort

+ 91 9635248261

Resort Wag Tail

+ 91 8697455368

Green Lake Eco Resort

+ 91 9093354297

www.greenlakeecoresortdooars.com

Resort Tusker Den

+ 91 9830523600

www.tuskerden.com

Batabari

Green Park

+ 91 9933630736

Dooars Palm Resort

+ 91 9434376466

dooarspalmresorts@gmail.com

Gayerkata

Utsa Bhawan

+ 91 9733245909

Madhubani Nature Park & Resort

+ 91 9002922306

NH-31

Uttorayan Lodge

+ 91 9933611611

Ramsai

Forest Inn

+ 91 9831577725 / 9883472222

forestinnresort@gmail.com

www.forestinn.in

Resort Royal Treat

+ 91 9434466259 / 8016854296

0353-2534097

resortroyaltreat.ramsai@gmail.com

www.resortroyaltreat1.getit.in

Odlabari

Bamboo Trail

+ 91 9836362937 / 9830822937

Lama Dhaba

+ 91 9933071002 / 9593285806

Maynaguri

Touring Point Lodge

+ 91 7864093054 / 03561234021

New Shyamal Cabin Lodging

+ 91 9733405997 / 03561203314

Ghosh Hotel

+ 91 7679444413

Town Hotel

+ 91 8509809461

Paradise

+ 91 8927009629 / 8101944574

Malbazar

Adarsha Tourist INN

+ 91 9434428208

Hotel Kasturi

+ 91 9830270097

Udichi Guest House

03562257452

Dooars View Lodge

+ 91 9434021435 / 9832505622

New Shanti Lodge

+ 91 9932136506

Mangal Bari

Anamika Guest House

+ 91 9733150383

Dooars View Resort

+ 91 9007769038

Chalsa

Dooars Holidays

+ 91 9832318701 / 9474354723

santunzee@ymail.com

Heaven View Resort

+ 91 9733147175

Gorumara Jungle Camp

+ 91 9733003330

www.anupribhor.com

Tiyabon Resort

+ 91 9775959555

Annapura Hotel

+ 91 9734995101

Tarai
+ 91 9609830996

Kumlai
Neora River Resort
+ 91 8927327117

Baradighi



Jupiter Resort
+ 91 8798152606 / 9434739200
sales@dooarshotel.com
www.dooarshotel.com

Restaurant/Bar

Malbazar

Star Restaurant
+ 91 9735042859 / 9679313334

Bapir Hotel
+ 91 9733268193

Khabar Ghar
+ 91 9933796807

Important Informations

Police

DIG Jalpaiguri Range	03561-230485 03561-232028
SP Jalpaiguri	03561-230492 03561-232034
Addl. SP	03561-230597 03561-230470

DSP (HQ) 03561-230590
03561-230725

Hospital

Jalpaiguri District Hospital
03561-228187
Ambulance Helpline 03561-222299
83486 -97381 / 97382 / 97383

ATMs

Axis Bank ATM
Belakoba Bazar
A.C. College of Commerce, BDC Road
3 No. Ghumti, Pandapara Road
Falakata Road, Dhupguri

Bank of India ATM
Mahatma Gandhi Road, Dinbazar

Corporation Bank ATM
Ground Floor, Ukilpara
Kadamtala Main Road

State Bank of India ATM
164 / 6 Dbc Road, Pritam Complex

United Bank of India ATM
Birpara



Tips

Make sure you carry a camera. Jalpaiguri is a green district. Wildlife, birds and greenery are molded into exquisite scenic beauty. If you are visiting the reserved forests, do not use flash photography, just might prove dangerous even if the harmless animal is scared. If you are taking pictures of the locals, especially the tribals, make sure to take permission. Be sure that permission will be given with a smiling face but do ask.



Alipurduar



At a Glance

- ➔ **District Headquarter**
Alipurduar
- ➔ **Total Area**
2,788 Sq Km
- ➔ **Population**
1,501,983
(Ref: Census 2011)
- ➔ **Best time to Visit**
October to March
June to September for
Monsoon Tourism
Wild Life Sanctuary is
closed from 15 June -
15 September
- ➔ **Average Rain Fall**
3150 mm
- ➔ **Language**
Bengali (Prime), Hindi
& English (Alternative),
Rava, Mech, Garo,
Dukpa, Sadri (Local)
- ➔ **Places of Interest**
Wild life Tourism-
Jaldapara, Chilapata
Jayanti, Buxa
- ➔ **Special Feature**
Buxa Fort
Totopara

Best Places to stay

- Govt. Accommodation
- Jaldapara
 - Holong
 - Nimati Raimatang
 - Mendabari

Why go?

The major portion of the Dooars region is now in the new district of Alipurduar. The beauty of the region lies not only in its tea gardens but also in the dense jungles. A number of rare endangered species of animals like tiger, rhinoceros and elephant make their habitat in the forests of the Dooars. Other animals include different types of deer, bison, birds and reptiles.

Located in the north bank of the Kaljani river, Alipurduar is the gateway to Bhutan and the north-eastern states of India.

Pumtse is the highest peak of Chhota Sinchula area in Alipurduar. The peak offers beautiful views of the impermeable forest covers of the Buxa hills and Bhutan valley.

The South Khairbari Tiger Rescue Centre, a unique endeavor that is unmatched in the entire north-east, has recently come up in Alipurduar. It now acts as a permanent shelter for tigers and the place has been aptly named 'Bagh Ban', meaning 'tiger forest' in Bengali.

How to Reach

By Road: Kolkata to Alipurduar is 699 Km. Siliguri (NJP) is 165 km and from Ailpurduar to Bagdogra Airport is 178 km.

By Train: Kolkata to Alipurduar is 705 Km. Direct trains from Kolkata to Alipurduar are Kanchan Kanya Exp, Saraighat Exp, Guwahati Exp, Gwahati Garib Rath etc.

History

The Dooars belonged to the Koch Kingdom. This region was controlled by the kingdom of Bhutan when the British annexed it in 1865 after the Bhutan War under the command of Captain Hedayat Ali. The area was divided into two parts: the eastern part was merged with Goalpara district in Assam and the western part was turned into a new district named Western Dooars. Again in the year 1869, the name was changed to Jalpaiguri District. After the end of the British rule in India in 1947, the Dooars acceded into the dominion of India and it merged with the Union of India shortly afterwards in 1949.

Alipurduar was declared as 7th district of North Bengal and the 20th district of the state on 25th June 2014.

Geography and Topography

The altitude of Dooars area ranges from 90 to 1,750 m. Innumerable streams and rivers flow through these fertile plains from the mountains of Bhutan. In northern West Bengal, the major river is the Teesta besides many others like the Jaldhaka, Murti, Torsha, Sankosh, Dyna, Karatoya, Raidak, and Kaljani rivers, among others. The average rainfall of the area is about 3,500 mm. Monsoon generally starts from the middle of May and continues till the end of September. Winters are cold with foggy mornings and nights. Summer is mild and constitutes a very short period of the year.

Alipurduar



Culture and Festivals

Alipurduar is a place of multi-culture. The people here are believed to be connoisseur of art and culture. The tribal people hold a rich cultural heritage. They have their own form of art. Mud wall of their houses are beautifully painted.

Some festivals (including carnivals) of Alipurduar district:

Lossar: Biggest festival of Dukpas of Buxa Hill. Generally starts on 2nd week of Feb.

Theugap: another festiv of dukpas. quite familiar with 'hudum dao'. generally occurs at March.

Karam: Main festival in Tea-belt. The interesting part of 'karam' is it's nature of intensity. Generally occurs just after monsoon, on the eve of Autumn.

Mela



Mahakal Mela in Chepani; Chepani is a very small habitat, near Samuktala. Mahakal is the Local name of Shiva. The mela lasts for only a day, on Shiv Chaturdashi.

Kalipuja festival in Hamiltonganj: After Coochbehar Ras Mela, this

particular mela is the highest crowd-puller in this part of Bengal.

Starts at "Bhut Chaturdashi", just a day before Kalipuja and stays for 14 days. One can taste 'a little touch of Dooars' in this mela.

Mazidkhana/Maszidkhana mela:

Mazidkhana is a small habitat near samuktala. This mela is famous for its food variety.

Art & Handicrafts

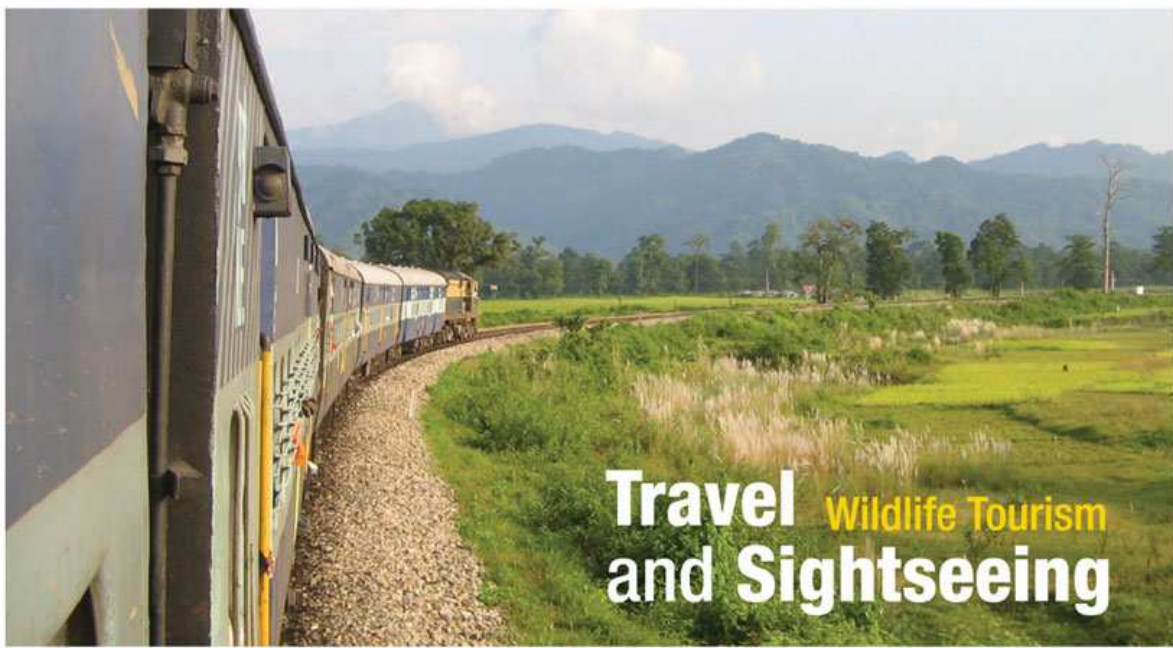


Tea, food products, bamboo crafts, wood crafts, jute products, pottery, embroidery and village carpentry. Specialty: The district is qualitatively endowed in terms of traditional skills comprising cane and bamboo craft, wood crafts, jute products, pottery etc. Alipurduar and Madarihat are the important centers of handicrafts.

Food & Drinks

Totopara, Bhutanghat and Jhalikol are famous for oranges and squash. Totopara is famous for its high quality ginger, coconuts, betel nuts, jackfruit and kalojaam are found all through the district.

Fish & rice is main food for local people.



Travel **Wildlife Tourism** and **Sightseeing**

Dooars

The Dooars or Duars are the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in North-East India around Bhutan. Duar means 'door' and the region forms the gateway to Bhutan from India. There are 18 passages or gateways through which the Bhutanese people can communicate with the people living in the plains. This region is divided by the Sankosh river into the Eastern and the Western Dooars, consisting of an area of 8,800 Km² (3,400 sq mi). The Western Dooars is known as the Bengal Dooars and the Eastern Dooars as the Assam Dooars. Dooars is synonymous with the term Terai used in Nepal and northern India and form the only nitrate rich plain in India.

The Dooars region politically constitutes the plains of Darjeeling Himalayas, the whole of Jalpaiguri district and Alipurduar district. The altitude of Dooars area ranges from 90 to 1,750 m. Innumerable streams and rivers flow through these fertile plains from the mountains of Bhutan. The major river is the Teesta besides many others like the Jaldhaka, Murti, Torsha, Sankosh, Dyna, Karatoya, Raidak, and Kaljani rivers, among others. The average rainfall of the area is about 3,500 mm. Monsoon generally starts from the middle of May and continues till the end of September. Winters are cold with foggy mornings and nights. Summer is mild and constitutes a very short period of the year.

Dooars is the ideal place in Bengal for





monsoon travelling.

The economy of Dooars is based on three "T"s – Tea, Tourism and Timber. The main industry of the Dooars region is the tea industry. Thousands of people are engaged in the tea estates and factories. Several people are also engaged in the cultivation of betlenuts which also contributes to the economy. Cultivation of other crops are done mainly for local consumption.

The area is dotted by several national parks and wildlife sanctuaries which attract a lot of tourists from all over India and abroad, making it an important contributor to the economy and also employer of a number of people.

The timber industry, flourishes in this region. A number of saw mills, plywood industries and other allied business also act as an important contributor to the economy.

Dooars act as doorways to Bhutan; thus, export-import industry also flourishes in the area. The towns of Jaigaon, Siliguri and Phuntsholing are important hubs of the export-import industry.

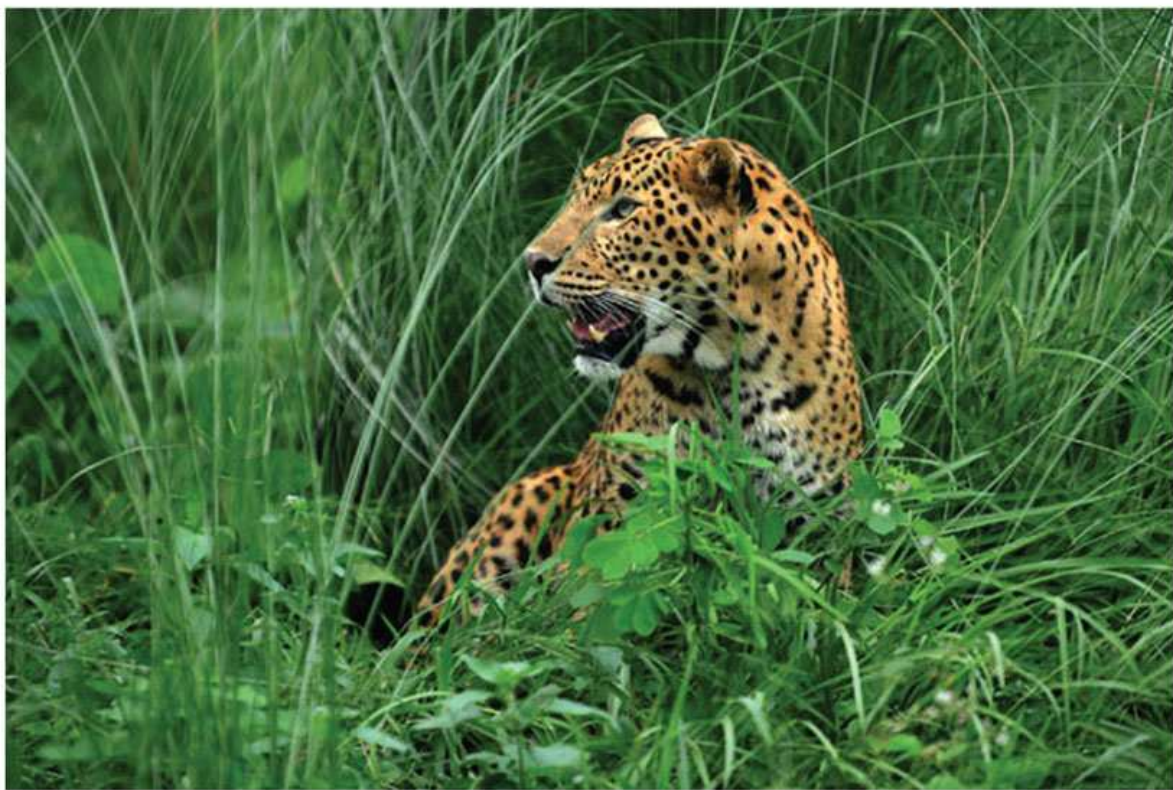
Jaldapara

Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary

Situated in the foothills of eastern

Himalayas, the river Torsha flows through this rain forest sanctuary, the sanctuary encompasses a luxuriant vegetation and a rich variety of wildlife. The Malangi River also flows nearby from east to west. Riding elephants and 4x4 safaris are the only ways to move inside this forest. An elephant safari is preferred by most people staying at Jaldapara (in Holong lodge or other tourism lodges) overnight. The 4x4 safari is available both in the morning and in the afternoon.

The forest is mainly savannah, covered with tall elephant grasses. The main attraction of the sanctuary is Asiatic one-horned rhinoceros. The sanctuary holds the highest rhino population in India after Kaziranga National Park in Assam. The other animals found are tiger, elephant, deer, sambhar, barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer, wild pig and bisons. Jaldapara is a paradise for bird watchers. It is one of the very few places in India, where the Bengal florican (also called the Bengal Bustard) is sighted. The other birds found here are the crested eagle, Pallas's fishing eagle and shikra, besides jungle fowl, peafowl, partridge, and lesser pied hornbill. Python, monitor lizard, krate, cobra, gecko and about 8 species of fresh water turtles have also found sanctuary here.



A thrilling elephant safari is organized in the early morning from Hollong to offer the exquisite beauty of the vast grassland of Jaldapara. The elephant ride is the best possible way to explore the sanctuary with the rare sight of **One Horned Rhinos, Asiatic Elephants, Gaur (Indian bison), Deer** etc. Elephant safari charge is Rs.600 per head as of Jan 2014.

Recently elephant safari was also introduced from Barodabari Malangi Lodge of WBFDC. Tourists who do not get tickets from Hollong can avail this option.

Jeep safari is another way to explore the wild. Jeep safari can be done from Madarihat Jaldapara Tourist Lodge and Kodalbasti Point on way to Chilapata range.

Hollong

Hollong is the name of the settlement just outside of Jaldapara. The Hollong bungalow is situated well inside the forest from where exciting elephant safari is organized in the morning. Car Safari is also organized from the bungalow.

Buxa Tiger Reserve

Buxa National Park, in the subdivision of Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri district, was set up in the year of 1982-83 at the north eastern corner of West Bengal bordering Bhutan and Assam. It was declared as a National Park in January 1992. The name **Buxa Tiger** has been derived from Buxa Fort. With an area of 759sq km this picturesque reserve with its prodigious Terai – Bhabar, as well as Hilly landscape is crisscrossed by numerous rivers and their tributaries present a breathtaking landscape.

The Phipsu Wildlife Sanctuary of Bhutan is contiguous to North of Buxa Tiger Reserve. Manas Tiger Reserve lies on east of Buxa Tiger Reserve. Buxa Tiger Reserve, thus, serves as an international corridor for elephant migration between India and Bhutan. The reserve encompasses as many as eight forest types.

Buxa is rich in biodiversity and has a great collection of rare orchids and medicinal plants. Owing to inaccessible terrain, some parts of Buxa hills in the

Sinchula range are still unexplored. The generic diversity of mammals here is second highest among all the tiger reserves of India.

A number of animals like Chinese Pangolin, Regal Python (reticulate), Clouded Leopard are endemic to the region. Astonishing bio-diversity of animals comprise of a rich avifauna of more than 230 identified species, 67 mammals and 36 species of reptiles including both endemic as well as migratory species.



One of the rarest birds of India, the Black-necked Crane has been sighted in the Reserve during the early winter. More than 300 species of trees, 250 species of shrubs, 400 species of herbs, 9 species of cane, 10 species of bamboo, 150 species of orchids, 100 species of grass and 130 species of aquatic flora including more than 70 sedges (Cyperaceae) have been identified so far. There are more than 160 species of other monocotyledons and ferns. Main species include Sal, Champ, Gamar, Simul, Chikrasi etc.

Madarihat

Madarihat is a small village located in the Alipurduar subdivision of Jalpaiguri district. This village is situated the outskirts of Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary. It is the entry point for the sanctuary

and one of the main tourist spot in North Bengal having a great diversity in the population, surrounded by tea gardens, forests, hill and small rivers. Madarihat is also famous for the local wooden furniture.

Alipurduar

Located in the north bank of the Kaljani river, Alipurduar is the gateway to Bhutan and the north-eastern states of India. Small streams intersect the town and add to its natural beauty. Previously Alipurduar was an old trading centre that was part of the **Silk Route**. Today the remains of the traditional route are still visible at Santalabari.

The highest peak of the district, Chhota Sinchula is located in Alipurduar. Situated at an altitude of 1733 m about 12 km away from Buxa the peak offers beautiful views of the impermeable forest covers of the Buxa hills and Bhutan valley.

South Khairbari Tiger Rescue Centre and Leopard Rehabilitation Centre: The South Khairbari Tiger Rescue Centre, a unique endeavor that is unmatched in the entire north-east, has recently come up in Alipurduar. It now acts as a permanent shelter for tigers and the place has been aptly named Bagh Ban, meaning 'tiger forest' in Bengali. A maximum of 15 tigers can be accommodated in the forest. A leopard rehabilitation centre is located at Khairbari that offers safaris to visitors.

Bhutanghat

Strategically located near Indo-Bhutan border, the region is blessed with scenic beauty and the swift flowing River Raidak. It is located in a mountainous

terrain flanked by hills covered with luxurious green forests and is an attractive destination for wildlife lovers. Endangered species of animals like tiger, rhinoceros, elephant, make their habitats in the forests. One would also have an occasional rendezvous with deer, bisons, birds and reptiles.

Rajabhatkhawa

Surrounded by dense forests of Buxa Tiger Reserve, located in between Alipurduar and Jayanti, Rajabhatkhawa is an ideal place for the wild life lovers. A watch tower deep inside the forest gives the best opportunity to view elephant, bison and even tiger. The Nature Interpretation Center and Tiger Rescue Centre at Rajabhatkhawa is another attraction. There is a small bazaar and a beautiful small rail station.

Jayanti

A picturesque spot along the meandering Jayanti River forming a natural border with beautiful Bhutan hills, Jayanti is the confluence of the music of wilderness, the chirping of unknown birds, the murmur of wild

streams and the fragrance of mother Nature . There is a stalactite cave, popularly known as the Mahakal cave of Jayanti. It is difficult to enter the narrow, dark, damp cave but trying the same may be a worthwhile adventure.

Damanpur

It is a strategic location for visiting Alipurduar , Rajabhatkhawa, Buxa Hill, Jaiti, Rasik Bill etc. A tourist lodge is located here.

Garuchira

Situated in Madarihat block, Garuchira is a place where one can get a view of herds of elephant, deer, peacock and the distant hills of Bhutan. Forest Bungalow is available with basic amenities amidst the wilderness.

Hasimara

A picturesque little town surrounded by tea plantations, Hasimara's main interest to travellers is the town's railway station. It is the nearest rail head to the Bhutanese border town of Phuentsholing, a thirty minute journey by road.



SPECIAL FEATURE



Buxa Fort

Buxa fort is special attraction for the trekkers. It is situated 24 kms from Alipurduar and 7 km from Buxa Road. The fort was particularly built for arid prison at the Buxa on hill-cliff.

The Cooch King captured this fort from British Empire during the end of the 18th century. This Fort was used as a jail for prisoners. In order to save part of its Silk Route, the King of Bhutan used the Buxa Fort which connected Tibet with India.

One of the most popular trekking that starts from Santrabari towards Buxaduar is enthralling. The trekking allows full excitements and adventure with some breathtaking views of the river Jayanti, glimpse of animals, colorful orchids, beautiful bird flights and ever green ravines.



Buxa Museum: Around 10 minutes walk from the Buxa fort is the Buxa museum in the old office of the Divisional Forest Officer. The museum is built in a unique way and is lit up by daylight, not requiring any artificial lighting. The museum houses historical documents of the freedom fighters who were imprisoned in the area during the fight for India's independence, including their letters to Tagore among other such collections. Dukpa dress and artifacts of local tribal people also forms a part of collection of this small museum.



Toto Para

Toto para is a small village on the lap of Himalayan range situated at the border of India and Bhutan under Madarihat-Birpara Block in the Alipurduar district of West Bengal. It is bounded by the foothills of Bhutan to the north, Torsa River to the east, and Titi river and the Titi reserve forest on the south-west separated by the Hauri river. The village is about 22 Km from Madarihat, which is the entry point of the famous Jaldapara National Park. This picturesque village is the abode of the Primitive Tribal Group, Toto. Toto culture and language is totally unique to the tribe, and is clearly distinguished from others. Presently there are 1564 Totos in Toto Para.

Guest House: There are two guest houses each consisting of two double bedded rooms, an open space in front of the guest house with traditional sitting arrangements where guests can enjoy traditional dance and scenic beauty of the Himalayan range.

Home Stay: There are some home stay arrangements. One can stay with Toto households in their traditional huts and enjoy their life style at the fullest.



Chilapata

The Chilapata Forest is a dense forest near Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary in Dooars, Alipurduar district. It is about 20 km from Alipurduar, and just a few minutes away from Hasimara town.

Chechakhata Fort

South West to Shamukkhola lies this fort which tells the history of the Cooch Behar princely state of yester years.

Bhutanghat

40 Km from Alupurduar is the Turturi Tea estate. Travelling another 8 Km through the forest roads, one can reach Bhutanghat, a place famous for scenic beauty. Combination of forest and Hills, this is a bird watchers paradise. From

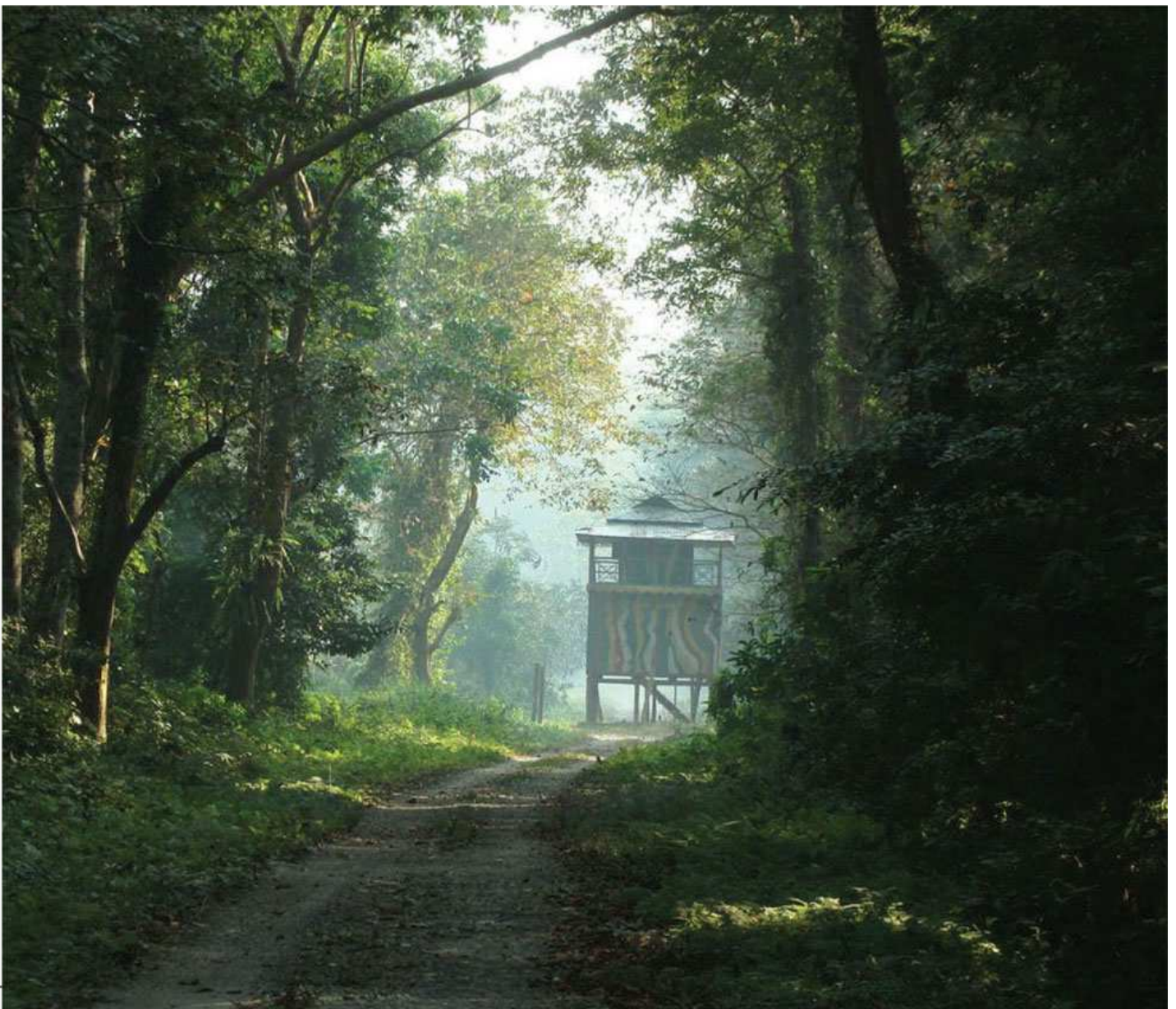
the highlands one can see the blue waters of Raidak river flowing below.

Mahakal Shib Mandir and Mahakal Goomfa

Situated 5 kms from Jayanti riverbed towards Buxa hills. Made of limestone, this hilly caves house a shib mandir and a goomfa side by side. On the day of Shib Ratri, thousands of pilgrims visit the Shib Mandir while thousands of pilgrims, even from Bhutan, visit the goomfa on Buddha Purnima in May. Within 100 mts lies the Mahakal Falls.

Sakhiabazar

3 Km from Bhutanghat Bungalow, lies Sakhiabazar, a temporary market place for oranges in winter.





Trekking in Dooars

Route I

From Santalabari to Buxa
 From Buxa to Lepchakha
 From Buxa to Lepchakha via Tashigaon

Buxa

Situated almost 5 kms away from Santalabari, this place reverberates in the history of national freedom movement and reflects the simplicity of its Dukpa residents. Homestays are available apart from the Forest Bungalow.

Tashigaon

Tashigaon is situated 3 kms away from Buxa. The route is short yet steep. Trekkers would find themselves among the company of orange trees. This is a bird-watchers' paradise.

Lepchakha

About three kilometers from Buxa and also the same from Tashigaon, this is a small Dukpa village. Homestays are available. One can get an excellent view of the hill-top from here. One can lose oneself in the silence of the entire verdant region. This is also a bird-watchers' paradise.



Route II

From Santalabari to Buxa To
 Chunabhathi to Adma to Raimatang

Chunabhathi

It is a small village amidst green forests and hills.

Adma

From Chunabhathi one has to climb a steep trek route to reach the beautiful sylvan Adma.

Raimatang

From Adma one has to traverse 10-12kms on foot through the Buxa Hill Forest. There is a Forest Bungalow.

Route III

Jayanti to Mahakal

It is a 5-kms steep trek route. It is well-known for its spectacular Jayanti Falls.

Sleeping & Eating

Guest House



WBFDC Buxa Jungle Lodge

033 2237 0060 / 2237 0061

Khuttimari Forest bungalow

03561 232016

Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR)

Forest Rest House

03564 256005

Rajabhatkhawa

Leo House and Tiger Lodge (BTR)

03564 255129

Bungalow at Jayanti

03561 230659

Bhutan Ghat / Raimatang / Hathipota (BTR)

03564 255129 / 256005

Totopara

Under Backward Classes Welfare

03564 230917

Home Stay

Jayanti

Nature Hut -1

Narayan Ch. Singh, 03564-216172

Banalata

Bapi Banerjee, 9434607393

Green View Eco Family Toursim

Ajay Banerjee, 03564-203157 / 03564-216069

Prakrity Eco Family Home stay

KiranKr.Chettri, 03564-204089

JSGS

SubhajyotiBasu, 9832515551 / 03564-251772, subhajyoti.basu@gmail.com

Jayanti Bala

Sanghamitra Deb, 9434204776 / 9434204753 / 03561-276735 / 03561-226050, jaintibala@rediffmail.com

Rovers Inn

Jayanti, ParthaSarathi Roy, 9434014233 / 9734172815 / 03564-203163, roversinnjayanti@gmail.com

Sakuntala Lodge

Dr. Pradip Kuamr Das
+91 9775482189 / 03564 216022

Banante

Jagadish Oraon, 9593707910 / 9609931857

Nature Hut 2

Appal Naidu, 03564-204095

BF Road

BadalBina Eco Toursim Centre

Sandip Bose, 9434319581 / 03564255325

Rajabhatkhawa



Dreamalaya

Lal Singh Bhujel

+ 91 9474627893 / 8016585977

Mamon Trekker's Hut

Parimal Ghosh, 9735062397

Sinchula Hill Road

Buxa Jungle Home Stay

Ram Kumar Lama, 9733448763,
lamaramkumar22@gmail.com

Sankhachil

9775827756 / 03564-203196

Santalabari Road

Buxa Inn

Ratul Majumdar, 9434229040 /
9775946511, ratward@gmail.com

Jungle Inn

Roshan Adhikary, 9733474192 / 03564-203196

Sankalp

Ambika Rai, 9775843567

Rover's Inn Crown

IndrasankarThapa
9002830287 / 9475249138

Dukpa Hut

Tamal Goswami, 8906922137 / 9735075831

Yanzo Home Stay

PinchoDukpa, 8609752824 / 7872360292

Lepchakha

Trekker's Inn Lepchakha

DojiWangchu, 9563316376 / 8512924882

Baby Wangmo Home Stay

ChambaDukpa, 03566-208000

Heaven of Doors

Pasang Tshering

Pumtse

Penjo Dukpa, 03564-216054

Dooars View

Fubdem Dukpa, 9093907198

Sunrise View

TashiLham, 8513918126 / 7797937040

Orchid

TenduDukpa

8513915847 / 9563850821, 750-900

Chilapata

Chilapata Jungle Camp

Coachbihar-Jalpaiguri NH 31

Ganesh Kumar Sha 9733349806 /

9474382442, helptourism@satyam.net

www.helptourism.com

Resort Chilapata Green

Manoj Chakrobarty, 9679602505 /

8116319879

resortchilapatagreen@rediffmail.com

Jharmajar Home Stay

Shyamal Rava, 9775260784

Bamboo Village

Pritam Das, 9007093391 / 9007099393

reservation@bamboovillage.in

www.bamboovillage.in

Torsha Tourist Lodge

Malin Karjee, 9800539875/9733410949

Nalghar Jungle Camp Home Tourism

Suresh Rava, 9733402306, 9563171417

Hotel

BS Road



Hotel Dooars Mountain

+91 9679716622 / 03564 251491

dooarsmountain@gmail.com

Hotel Sinchula

+ 919734903280 / 03564-253284

contact@hotelsinchula.com

www.hotelsinchula.com

NS Road

Ibis Hotel

+ 91 9735646711 / 03566-265424

ibishotel12@yahoo.co.in

www.hotelibis.in

Places of Interest

- Madarihat
- Jayanti
- Holong
- Mahakal Shib Mandir and Mahakal Goomfa
- Bhutanghat

Nature Walks

- Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary
- Rajabhatkhawa
- Buxa Tiger Reserve

Heritage Walks

- Buxa Fort
- Toto Para
- Chechakhata Fort



Public Transport: Cycle ricksaw, auto ricksaw, buses, hired cars.

Bhangapul Road



Hotel Vishal Palace

+ 919733086112 / 03564-257237

Purana Bazar

Hotel Chitra

+ 91 9679799095 / 03564-255249

Green Faced Lodge

+ 919547392620

Vai-Vai Lodge

+ 918116705575 / 9564347999

Samuktala Road

Payel Lodge

+ 919434004765 / 03564-251766

Hotel Elite Cum Restaurant

+ 919733330489 / 03564-255707 / 03564-255399



Hotel Shivam

+ 91 9832325050 / 03564-257720 / 03564-253534, hotelshivam61@gmail.com

Rajabhatkhawa

Rim Hotel

+ 91 8116706615 / 9474844943

Gracilipes Tourist Lodge

Under Eco Village FamilyTourism

+ 91 9434630954 / 7407020761

Santalbari Road

Buxa Valley Resort

+ 919434184624

Popular Hotel & Lodge

+ 91 9932291494

Madari Road

Jaldapara Jungle Camp

0353 2535896

Resort Heaven Inn

+ 91 9733149811 / + 91 9733163466 /

+ 91 9434142088

resortheaveninn@gmail.com

resortheaveninnjaldapara.com



Jaldapara Inn

+ 91 9051938171 / 9733141091

jaldaparainn@gmail.com

jaldaparainn.com

Acacia Eco Resort

acacia.jaldapara@gmail.com

Rhino Resort

+ 91 8509171599 / 9007661800

Jaldapara Wild Hut

+ 91 9593711555 / 9832048343

www.jaldaparawildhut.in

Hotel Nandik Palace

03563-261166

hotelnandikpalace@gmail.com

Birpara Main Road

Maa Sarda Lodge

+ 91 8016239909 / 9474390411

Renesa Lodge

+ 91 9832055299 / 03563-267380

MG Road

Triparna Hotel & Lodge

03563268600

Hotel Anand

+ 919002099311 / 03566-263290 / 263990

ashokagarwall@hotmail.com

Falakata

Popular Hotel & Lodge

+ 91 9932291494

Madhuban Hotel & Lodge

+ 91 9735927391

Tourist Lodge

+ 91 9832035475 / 9434601599 /

9474591185 / 03563-260966 / 260581

Biva Lodge

+ 91 9126596000 / 03563-251273

Saha Lodge

+ 91 9832063023 / 9832415577

Restaurant & Bar

BF Road

Bikkuz Family Restro

+ 91 9734955265 / 9797870708

Aahar Restaurant

+ 91 9734907435



Important Informations

Police

SP +918170060001
IC (Alipurduar) 03564 255100
+919874117171

Hospital

Alipurduar Sadar Hospital
Alipurduar Choupathy +919433413604
Ambulance Helpline 9434197700

ATMs

HDFC ATM
Alipurduar Choupathy
ICICI ATM
Bhangapool
State Bank of India ATM
College Hault

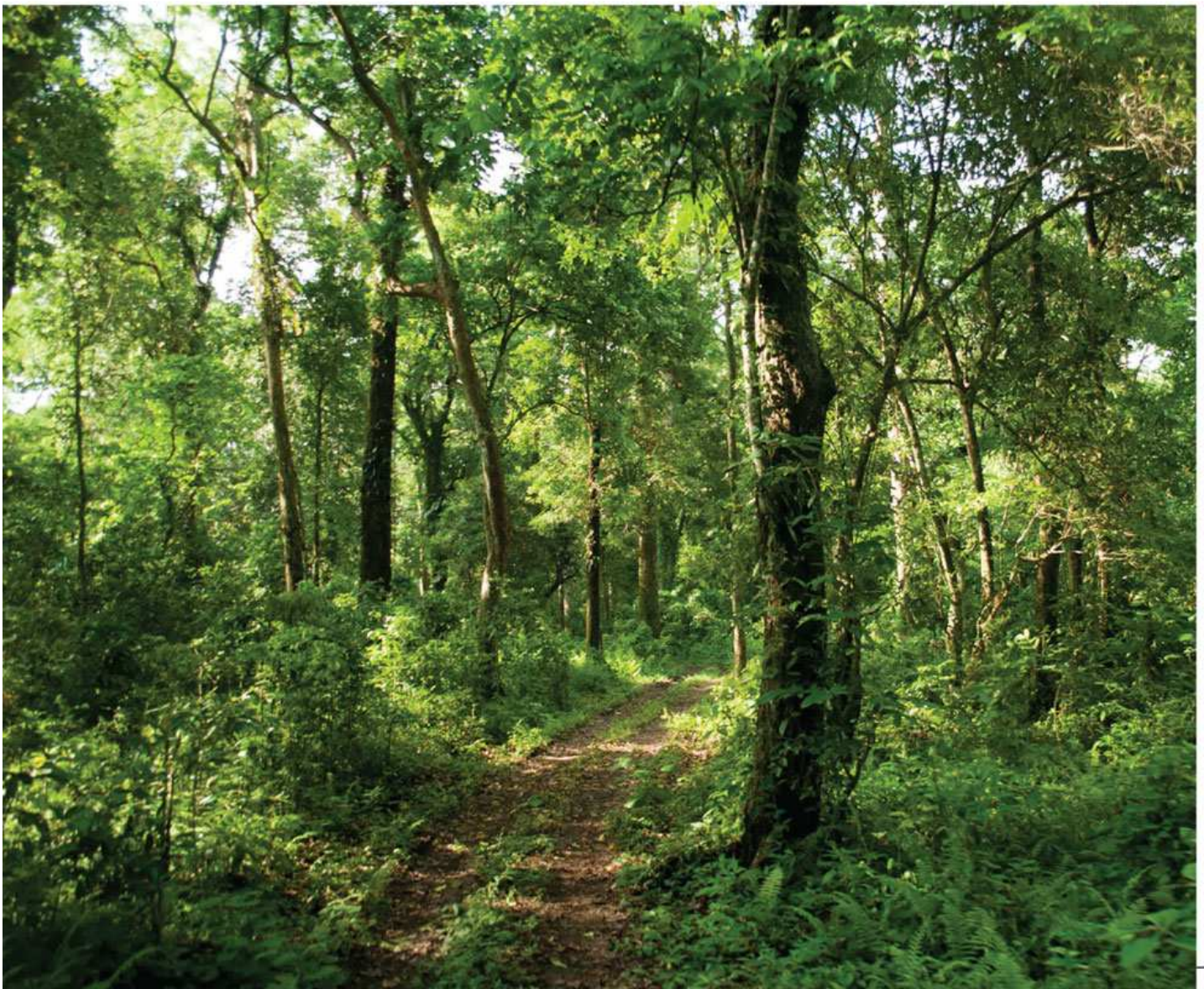
United Bank of India ATM
Alipurduar Choupathy

Internet

Cyber World
B.S Road, Alipurduar Choupathy
Akorshan
B.S Road, Alipurduar Choupathy

Tips

Listen to the locals or forest officials; follow their instructions to stay safe if you are visiting the forests. If you are driving on your own means, avoid from using diesel vehicle. Cellphones or music playing devices are best turned off inside the park, especially on elephant safaris.



Cooch Behar



At a Glance

- ➔ **District Headquarter**
Cooch Behar
- ➔ **Total Area**
3,387 Sq Kms
- ➔ **Population**
2,82,2780
(Ref: Census 2011)
- ➔ **Best time to Visit**
September to March
- ➔ **Average Rainfall**
5348.8 mm
- ➔ **Language**
Bengali (Prime), Hindi & English (Alternative), Rajbangshi (Local)
- ➔ **Festivals**
Raas Mela and Ratha Yatra at Cooch Behar Town, Siv Ratri mela at Baneswar
- ➔ **Places of Interest**
Cooch Behar Royal Palace, Madan Mohan temple, Rasik Bil, Sagar Dighi
- ➔ **Special Feature**
Royal Heritage
Rasik Bil

Best Places to stay

- Govt. Accommodation
- Cooch Behar
 - Rasik Bil (Tufanganj)

Why go?

The history of Cooch Behar is synonymous with the grandeur of kings, palaces and temples – and its influence can be witnessed in the magnificent structures that dot the entire land. Cooch Behar is well known for its palaces and royal buildings; prominent among them is the Royal Palace of the Koch Kings called Rajbari.

Cooch Behar has also gained importance from an archaeological perspective since the excavation of remains at Gosanimari Rajpat where ancient stone sculptures, stone engravings and a water system were found recently.

Rasik Bil: Spread over an area of 175 hectares wetland on the Alipurduar - Khamakhyaguri Road. Rasik Bill is the largest abode of migratory birds in North Bengal.

How to Reach

By Air: Bagdogra airport, about 154 km northwest of the city.

By Rail: New Cooch Behar railway station, about 6 km north east of the city centre, lies on the Barauni-Guwahati line.

By Road: Private and state run buses connect the city to most major cities in West Bengal, Assam. NBSTC Head Quarter, Central Bus Terminus, the main bus stand is near Rajbari Palace.

History

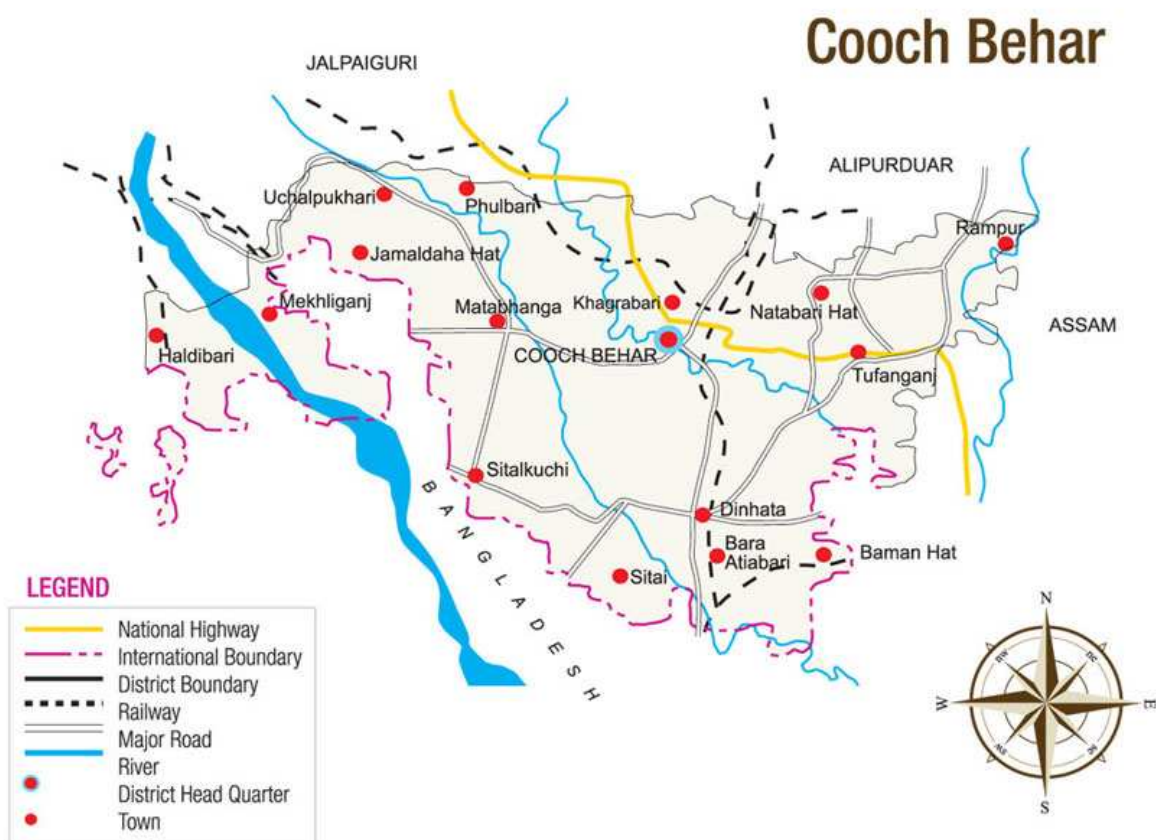
The history of Cooch Behar dates back to the period of 11th - 12th century AD during the reign of the Pala-Senas. Various artifacts, sculptures, coins, antics found from the excavations in different times reveal that the ancient territory of Kamrup played a role in the development of the present region of Cooch Behar District in West Bengal.

The present Cooch Behar originates from this 'Kamta' land and Maharaja Niladhvaja being the founder of the dynasty. Later during 1510 to 1530 AD Maharaja Viswa Singha established an independent 'Koch' kingdom. Cooch Bihar is the feudatory state under British Government before 1949. Finally, on 19th January 1950 Cooch Behar was transferred and merged with the province of West Bengal.

Geography and Topography

Location: North-eastern part of West Bengal; bounded by the district of Jalpaiguri in the north and north-west, state of Assam in the east and the International Border in the form of Indo-Bangladesh boundary in the south and south-west. Beside this bounded area there are enclaves (called Chhits) which are outlying and detached tracts of land situated inside Bangladesh. There are 110 such Chhits.

Cooch Behar is essentially a flat country with a slight south-eastern slope along which the main rivers of the district flow. The rivers flow in a slanting course from north-west to south-east. These are: the Tista, Jaldhaka, Torsa, Kaljani, Raidak and Gadadhar.



Culture and Festivals

The grandeur of celebrating numerous fairs and festivals all throughout the year has rightly signified Cooch Behar as the land of festive moods. Out of the approximately 3,400 fairs-n-festivals listed in Bengal, 572 of them are celebrated in North Bengal itself. The fairs held in Cooch Behar have a separate identity of their own for their uniqueness and indigenous clarity. Some fairs portray ancient tradition even today.

Raas Mela (November – December) : Raas Mela is the most ancient and traditional of all fairs. Every year people of Cooch Behar get set to celebrate the Raas Yatra of Sri Sri Madan Mohan Thakur. Raas mela celebrations commence from the auspicious day of Purnima in the month of Kartik according to Bengali calendar. Its origin can be

traced back during the rule of the 17th King of Cooch Behar, i.e. Maharaja Harendra Narayan, during 1783-1839. Evidence of this origin can be traced in the famous book of 'Rajyopakhyan' by Jainath Munshi. This Raas Mela was celebrated first at Vetaguri, then at the Madan Mohan Temple of Cooch Behar city adjacent to Bairagi Dighi and afterwards from 1912 at the Parade Ground or the present Raas Mela Ground.



Raas Chakra: Raas Mela is being celebrated annually at the Raas Mela Ground. At present the local Municipal Corporation conducts this Raas Mela and the Temple Trustee Board conducts the fair at the temple compound. Many devotees along with sellers from all over Bengal and adjacent states including Nepal and Bhutan throng this place during this fair. The revolving Raas-Chakra (a tall semi-cylindrical like structure made out of paper and bamboo/posts) at the temple lawn is being beautifully decorated for over generations by a Muslim family. This is an excellent example of communal harmony. This Raas-Chakra is beautifully decorated with paper floral designs and different pictures of Sri Krishna are pasted all over. This traditional fair takes place for at least fifteen days.

Rath Yatra: Ratha Yatra held in the month of Asard according to Bengali calendar (June – July) This attractive fair takes place in celebration of Ratha-yatra



of Sri Sri Madan Mohan in Cooch Behar. All throughout these seven days of HIS visit, a great fair takes place at the main temple campus and at Gunjabari. The royal clarity of the fair may have been lost in due course, but still now presence

of **Gilipi** (a kind of Bengali sweet) and **Latka** fruit in huge quantities mark the unchanged spirit of celebrations of the fair. It is true that in today's fair one would rarely find the famous fishing rods and toys built of 'shola' (thermocool).

Baradebi Fair: After Ratha-yatra comes the four-day long celebration of worship of Sri Sri Baradebi (Sri Sri Durga) at Devibari of Cooch Behar Town. This fair is an outstanding one among the age-old fairs and notable as well. Though there is enough controversy relating to the origin of this fair, as per Jainath Munshi's book 'Rajopakhyan', the temple of Baradevi was established in the 16th century and likewise this fair is supposed to be held from that time onwards.

Sri Panchami Mela (August): During the reign of Nara Narayan, the 3rd Maharaja of Cooch Behar (1554–1587), Shankardev, the protagonist and preacher of Baisnava cult, after being ousted from Assam received shelter under the Koch kingdom and stayed in Madhupur Dham about 12 km away from Cooch Behar town. From then on Madhupur Dham has been the pilgrimage of the Baisnava followers. Every year people from Assam throng Madhupur Dham on the occasion of Sri Panchami. In this respect a five-day long fair takes place. The Sri Panchami Mela is outstanding in its own characteristics.

Dol Purnima: A sound intimacy prevails amidst the religious diversity of Cooch Behar. Surpassing its hundred years of

celebration, the fair that is held in Phulbari within Tufanganj has a tradition of its own. Presence of numerous people from different districts and Assam adds life to this fair.

Hujur Saheb Mela at Haldibari (February – March): Blessed with supernatural powers saint Shah-Sufi Md. Ekramul Haque (R.) was engaged in preaching Islam in Assam and northern provinces of Bengal. In 1944 he set forth for the heavenly abode and as per his wish he was interred at Haldibari in Cooch Behar district. Every year on 5th-6th day of the month of Phalgun according to Bengali calendar, people come here to pray and make wishes to be fulfilled at the holy Mazar Shareif. Indiscriminate of religious creeds, Hindus and Muslims visit there. In that connection a two-day long big fair takes places characterised mainly by religious environment.

Muharram (March): In the sub-divisional town of Dinhata a daylong fair takes place after the rotation of Tajiyas round the town in connection to the holy festival of Muharram. The main attraction and characteristic of this fair is Lathi khela or playing with sticks. Now that fair is celebrated in Gudam Maharaniganj village even for a short period.

Baneswar Shivaratri Mela: In the month of February - March: On 'Shiva

Chaturdashi' according to Bengali calendar a big fair is arranged at Baneswar. Beside Baneswar, a fair also take place in the sub-divisional towns of Dinhata and Mathabhanga on the occasion of Shiva Ratri. Recently the fair which is held at Mathabhanga, has reached wide dimensions over years of celebrations.

Astami Snan Mela (March-April): There is a popular belief that by taking a dip in river Brahmaputra on the Shukla Astami of the Chaitra month of Bengali calendar, one is relieved of his vices and attend Brahmapad (enlightment). People gather on the banks of Gadadhar, Gidari (Giridhari) and at the meeting points of Gadadhar with other rivers to take this holy dip and in this respect every year fair takes place in Ambari village on the bank of Gadadhar river. Baruni Snan Mela is also celebrated at par with Astami Snan Mela. On this occasion fair takes place for seven days at Sahebganj in Dinhata sub-division. This fair is locally known as "Madaikhalir Mela". We can also see "Gangapani Mela" at Kuthi of Rui adjacent to Vetaguri.

Agricultural Fair: This fair has started recently in agriculture-based town of Cooch Behar. Agriculture Department of the State Government conducts this fair.

Flower & Fruit Shows, Tufanganj: Fairs also take place concerning Flower & Fruit shows in the district town and Tufanganj by the Horticulture Society. This fair is competitive based and prizes and certificates are handed over to the winners.



Art & Handicrafts

Bamboo Crafts: Among the numerous different varieties of mats woven and used, the Madur mat is another widely used household item. The warp is cotton/jute thread and the weft is the madur kathi. Crafts of very fine textured mats made of carefully selected reeds with beautiful geometric designs are indeed pleasures to the eye.

Dhamas & Chalunis are netted-baskets/containers of different sizes and shapes, made of whole or uncut bamboo/cane, are traditionally used extensively in the rural areas for the carrying, storing and measuring of grains. Apart from this Dhama work is now being adapted to various shapes for use by planters, fruit-sellers and bread-bakers. Domestic items like fruit-trays, paper-baskets, bowls and home



Shitalpaati, a kind of mat, is perhaps the most notable and popular product among the handicrafts of Cooch Behar. Unlike other kinds of mat woven in Bengal, Shitalpaati is more expensive. Barokodali, Ghughumari and Nakkati-Pushnadanga of Cooch Behar district are the most

Shitalpaati

important centers of Sitalpaati. Besides this is also available in states of Tripura, Assam and in the neighboring country of Bangladesh. The word 'Sital-paati' means cool-mat. The makers are usually Kayasthas in caste, not a traditional craftspeople caste. The raw material is the Mutra cane (*Maranta dichotoma*).

Many varieties of Bamboo as well as cane are available in Cooch Behar. These are extensively used for handicrafts apart from building thatched houses in the rural areas. The cane is heated and bent over a charchole fire and then coiled together by the expert craftsmen giving the required shape, after which it is smoked carefully to make it insect and waterproof.



decorative like arm-chairs, sofa-chairs, low-seats (Morha), table-mats, waste paper baskets, magazine racks & lot of decorative furniture are made out of cane/bamboo. Bamboo-crafts in the form of vase, bed-lamp. Cane tray may be used as trays for various purposes.



Cane kunki may be used as pen/pencil stands apart from measuring grains in rural areas.

Jute, a bio-degradable product, is grown almost all over West Bengal. Exquisite jute articles are made in Cooch Behar by the Polia and Rajbanshi tribals. Jute items come in a range of fascinating designs and sizes. Crafts Council of West Bengal has pioneered the craft of jute embroidery by training about 30 women under training programmes of Govt. of India and World Crafts Council. A range of items like table mats, bags, bottle holders and cushions covers are made using these intricate embroideries.

Jute bags can be used for various carrying purposes. **Cushion covers** are used as bed room decorative.

Kantha is an indigenous household craft, stitched by the rural women. It is also referred to as the thrift craft as it was usually done on layers of old cotton **dhotis/sarees** with threads drawn out from the saree border for softness. These are then embroidered all over. Thereafter the beneath-side is covered by stitching single-coloured cloth for making it more durable in case of front-side Kanthas. More fine the embroidery, more is the sophistication effect. Hence the real value of Kantha embroidery lies

in its fine craftsmanship and vignettes of daily folk life motifs being a favorite of the embroiderers. Nowadays it is usually commercially done on a single layer of new silk cloth using new thread, but the Crafts Council strictly adheres to the traditional three-layered quilting technique.

Some of the popular Kantha pieces are stoles, bedspreads, wall hangings, cushion covers, napkins and beach bags.

Shola-pith is a kind of very light pithy reed found in the marsh lands of Eastern India. The craftsmen or 'malakars' work with their special iron knives or 'kath' to fashion intricate objects out of it.

The core of this reed, which is pure white in colour, is exposed when the outer layer of the stalk is shaved. The core is light, porous, soft, and pliable and can be shaped to suit the imagination of the artisan. Skilled craftsmen shape this reed into many objects: scaled down models of temples, churches and mosques, carved images of Gods/Goddess (like Durga, Kali, Ganesh and so on), marriage headgear (**Topor** and **Mukut**), flowers and garlands, toys are crafted from this reed.



Apart from toys and images, big and small, some shola-pith craftsmen also create items that form an integral part of most of the major religious rituals - mainly in the form of **Solar Saaj** - which is the ornamentation and decoration for sacred images. This latter form uses foils, sequins, beads or artificial pearls mounted on main frame.

Food & Drinks

The most popular food of this district is **Dahi-Chira** (curd and beaten rice). More than 75% of locals prefer this. This is also a must in every festivities.

Gilipi (a spiral juicy fried sweetmeat) of Babu'r Haat is famous. **Gaja**, **Gilipi** and **Khurma** of Bhetaguri are very famous. Koash of Dewanhat is a delicacy.

Latka fruits (juicy and sour) are found only in Cooch Behar and adjoining areas. Cauliflower, ladies finger and cucumber of Dinhata are also famous.

Coch Behar is famous for **Boroli/Boirali** fish, found in Teesta, Jaldhaka and Kaljani rivers. The 'Putitar' fish found in Jaldhaka/Sankosh is also very famous. Patharchata fish is also a delicacy.



Rajbangshi

The homelands of Koch Rajbongshi people comprises their ancient Kingdom, Kamatapur, Kochrajbongshi Kingdom. Koch Rajbongshi people stay very close to nature. It is a tradition for Koch Rajbongshi men to go hunting in the wild, they usually go in a group for hunting.

They bring the 'prey' from the wild and share the meat in a Banana Leaf as per the requirement of each family. Usually every Koch Rajbongshi house has a Mango tree, a Jackfruit tree and a small kitchen garden, with a small pond where they keep fish.

Koch Rajbongshi people have their ancient tradition of treatment which is not very well known to the modern medicine world, the significant medicine that they use is not known to even Ayurveda Medicine scientists.



Women and Men of Koch Rajbongshi have sets of traditional dress and jewellery. 'Patani' being wore by the women of this community and men wear 'gamsha/dhoti' and a yellow color piece of cloth surrounded in the neck for men, They wear this yellow color cloth in their neck as a mark of respect for nature.



The Royal Palace

The most important tourist attraction in Cooch Behar is the Palace or Rajbari. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan built this magnificent palace. Every Friday and Saturday the cultural dept of West Bengal organizes a musical show with colourful lighting and fountains just beside the Cooch Behar Palace. The Cooch Behar Palace is noted for its elegance and grandeur is also protected by the Archaeological Survey of India. This magnificent Palace was constructed by the 'Koch' king Maharaja Nripendra Narayan in 1887 AD. Built in bricks in the classical Western style this double-storied structure is rests on a 4 feet 9 inches above the ground and covers an area of 51309 square feet. It is 395 feet in length and 296 feet in breadth. The elegantly shaped metal

dome of the Durbar Hall is topped by a cylindrical louvre type ventilator (being 124 feet high from the ground level) recalling the style of the Italian Renaissance. The intrados of the dome is carved in the stepped patterns while the Corinthian columns that support the base of the cupola found a new dimension in variegated colours and designs to an entire surface. The palace comprises various halls and rooms that include the Dressing Room, Bed Room, Drawing Room, Dining Hall, Billiard Hall, Library, Toshakhana, Ladies Gallery and Vestibules. The sole museum in Cooch Behar is located inside the Cooch Behar Palace. It has a variety of photographs and articles used by the Maharajas of Cooch Behar and also information about the tribals of North Bengal.



Rasik Bil

Spread over an area of 2500 hectares on the Alipurduar - Khamakhyaguri Road. Rasik Bil is the largest abode of migratory birds in North Bengal. Rasik Bil is situated at the foothill of Sintura Hill. It is basically low water land (Bil or Bill) or swamp, where water may be available all over the year. There are five such a kind of low water land or marshland, namely, Neeldaba, Bochamari, Raichangmari, Shankhadanga and Rasik Bil. These attract a lot of birds which make nests in the trees around this area. The Bird Sanctuary is grown up with 175 hector area. Besides the bill a tribal village is also there. Various kind of local birds are available in and around the Rasik Bil all over the year and also some migrant birds are available in winter. The bird variety includes cormorants, different varieties of storks, ibis, spoonbill, kingfisher, parrots, owl and many others. Famous water birds are **Lesser Whistling**

Teal, Common Teal, White Eyed Pochard, Red Crested Pochard, Shoveler, Pintail, Wigeon duck, Grey headed Lapwing and many more. There are also a Deer Park, a python house, a leopard house, an aviary, a tortoise rescue center and a crocodile rehabilitation center. Tourists who love to watch the local birds and migratory birds, Rasik bil is the real place for them.



Madan Mohan Bari: This is the most important temple situated in the heart of the Cooch Behar town. Maharaja Nripendra Narayan constructed Madan Mohan temple during 1885 to 1889. The deities in the temple include Lord Madan Mohan, Ma Kali, Ma Tara and Ma Bhavani. On the occasion of Raas Puja the traditional Raas Jatra Festival along with Rass Mela is held in Cooch Behar, which is among the biggest festivals of North Bengal.

Sagar Dighi: Most important water body

Kamteswari temple: Kamteswari temple is situated at a distance of about 8 km west of Dinhata railway station. The original temple was destroyed. The present temple has been established by Maharaja Pran Narayan in 1665.



Baneswar Temple



Madan Mohan Bari

Brahmo Mandir



in the town the Sagar Dighi is situated in the heart of Cooch Behar. Surrounded by the age-old royal heritage buildings by the 4 sides of the square shaped lake Sagar Dighi.

Baradebi Bari: Situated at Debibari of Cooch Behar Town the Baradebi temple was constructed with the influence of European architecture. The temple holds the idol of 'Devi Durga'. Each year a big fair is organized here during Durga Puja.

Brahmo Mandir: Established by Maharaja Nripendra Narayan during 1860 to 1880, the Roman époque architecture of the temple is a rarity in this area. The temple indicates the influence of Brahmo Samaj on the Maharaja of Cooch Behar.

Siddheswari Kali Bari: Situated at a distance of 11 km from Cooch Behar town (one km from Baneswar), it was constructed around 1830 by Maharaja

Harendra Narayan. The temple houses the idol of Goddess Siddheswari. There is a holy tree by the side of the temple.

Dangar Ayee Temple: Situated at Gunjabari in Cooch Behar town. Constructed by the 1st Queen i.e. Dangar Ayee, Kameswari Debi of Maharaja Shibendra Narayan during 1839 to 1847. It is famous as the 'Aunt's House' of Lord Madan Mohan and hence the locality is known as Gunjabari.

Baneswar Siva Temple: Situated at a distance of about 10 km to the North of Cooch Behar town, the temple has a 'Shivalinga' 10 feet below the plinth level. There is a big pond within the temple campus having a large number of tortoises. Some of the tortoises are very old and big in size. At Siva Chaturdashi a big mela is held here for a week.



Baneswar Siva Temple and its hundred years old resident



Places of Interest

- Rajbari
- Madan Mohan Bari
- Baneswar Shib mandir
- The ruins of Nalrajar Garh
- Hasimara Forest
- The Rasikbeel
- Sagar Dighi

Nature Walks

- Rasik Bil
- Sagar Dighi
- Chilapata Forest

Heritage Walks

- Cooch Behar Rajbari
- Ruins of Nalrajar Garh

Religious Walks

Madan Mohan temple, Baradebi Bari, Brahmo Mandir, Kamteswari temple, Siddheswari Kali Bari, Dangar Ayee Temple, Madhupur Dham temple



Rasik Bil

Public Transport: Cycle ricksaw, auto ricksaw, buses & hired cars.



Bhawaiya: The popular folk music

Bhawaiya may be of two types: one draws out the voice in melancholy notes, while the other has a chatka or skipping tone. The first type is emotional in theme and usually about a young woman's tender feelings of love and separation.

The fast paced chatka is comic and light. It is about expectations and ambitions, about conflicts between husband and wife as well as about the ups and downs of family life. A third type, called kshirol, is a combination of these two tunes. The two-stringed Dotara is the main musical accompaniment.

Abbasuddin Ahmed popularised bhawaiya songs all over Bangladesh. His daughter, Firdousi Rahman, and his son, Mustafa Zaman Abbasi, are well-known contemporary singers of Bhawaiya.

Siddhanath Siva temple: Situated at a distance of 7 km from Cooch Behar Town on the way from Cooch Behar to Dinhat, this beautiful temple epitomies terracotta as a mode of art. Constructed by Maharaja Harendra Narayan and Maharaja Shibendra Narayan during 1799 to 1843 the Temple has 5 dome-like peaks, but at present the largest, the middle one has been damaged.

Madhupur Dham temple: In 1489, Shankaradeva performed his last journey to Cooch Behar when Maharaja Nar Narayan requested him to preach the teachings of the neo-Vaishnava cult. It was in his honour that the Madhupur Dham was built in the 16th century. This place has a special significance for the devotees of Acharya Shankaradeva.

Other Heritage Sites

Debi Bari, Bairagi Dighi, Purani Masjid, New Dispensation Charch, Victor Palace, Acharaya Brajendranath Sheel College and Jenkins School at Cooch Behar town.



Sleeping & Eating

Guest House

Coochbehar

Zillaparishad Atithi Nibas (Sagar Dighi)

03582 231527

Maharaja Tourist Complex

+91 98310-33181 / 033 2355 4931

033 2357-5215



PWD Bungalows

Coochbehar Highway Division

Coochbehar 03582 222242

31 Dinhata Rest Shed 03582 222283

34 Gitaldah Rest Shed 03582 222283

Hotel

BS Road

Hotel BD

+ 91 9434027615 / 03582 222328

Hotel Yuvraj

+ 91 9434031710 / 03582 227885

231710

hotelyubrajcoochbehar@gmail.com

www.hotelyubrajcoochbehar.com



Hotel Ellora

+ 91 9434024318 / 03582-222125

/03582-224318

hotelellora@yahoo.com

Sunity Road



Royal Palace

+ 91 9547570101 / 03582-222210

03582-229658 / 03582-230731

hotelroyalpalace@gmail.com

Hotel Sarbashree

+ 91 9593719734 / 03582-250101

03582-250197



NN Road

Hotel Maharani Palace

03582-223509 / 03582-230455

hotelmaharanipalace@rediffmail.com

Kalika Das Road

Hotel Kanishka

+ 91 9733249958 / 03582-226245

hotelkanishka@gmail.com

Restaurant / Bar

RN Road

Restaurant Trishna

03582-224206



Mitali Restaurant

+ 91 9434191260 / 03582-223089



BC Road

Baburchi Restaurant

03582 226293



Important Informations

Police

SP	03582-227755
Addl. SP	03582-227643
Dinhata	03584-255004
Tufanganj	03582-244230
Mathabhanga	03583-255233
Ghoskadanga	03583-262233
Sitalkuchi	03583-263240
Sitai	03583-245230
Mekhliganj	03584-255224
Haldibari	03561-263239
Boxirhat	03582-263630
Kuchlibari.	03584-251223

Hospital

M.J.N. Hospital	03582-222243
Sheela Nursing Home	03582-223704
St. John Ambulance	03582-222742
Red Cross	03582-224540

ATMs

Central Bank of India ATM
Chowdhurihat Branch, Chowdhurihat
Bazar Branch N.N. Road (Mina Kumari
Chowpathi)
Coochbehar Branch, Biswasingha Road

HDFC Bank ATM
N.N Road, Cooch Behar 736101
Indian Overseas Bank ATM
Sri Krishna Bhavan, N N Road

Internet

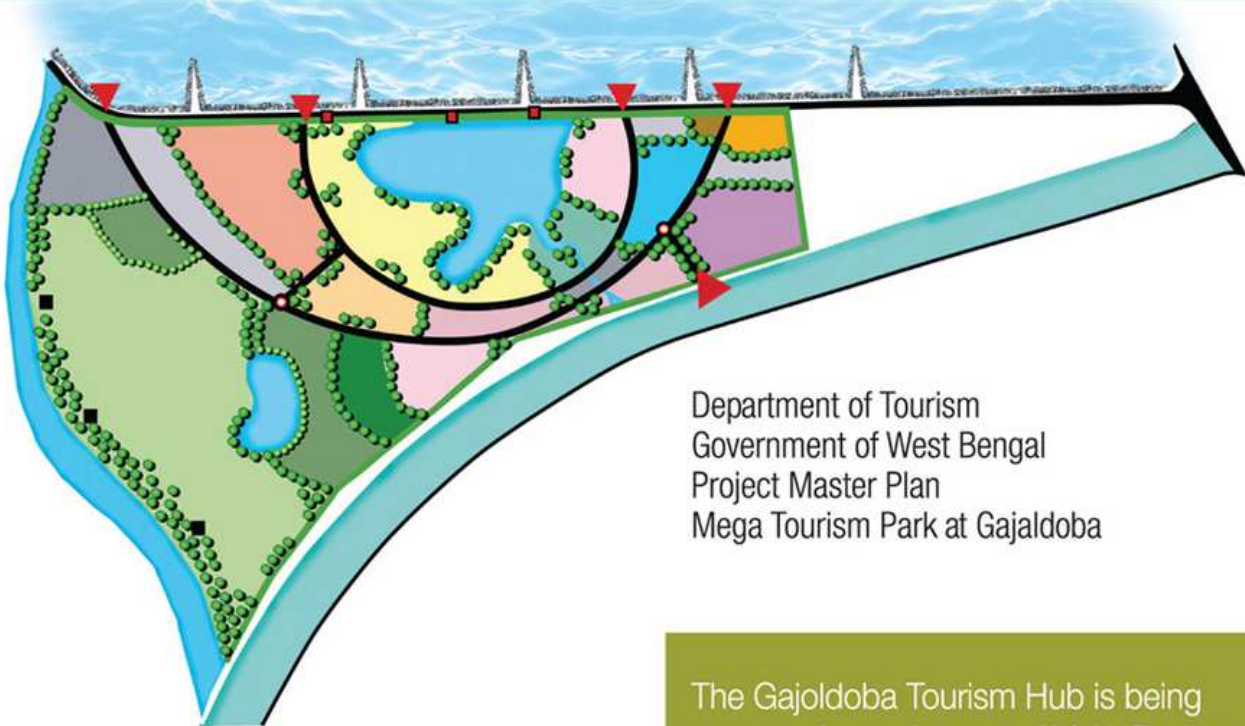
Spectrum
Old Post Office Road, Cooch Behar,
Joyguru Computer Cafe
Cooch Behar Bazar, Sunity Road
Pakrashi Computer
Japani Patty, S J Road
Flex World
Mini Bus Stand, Siliguri Road
Lotus Cyber Cafe
Mini Bus Stand, Keshab Street

Tips

The royal heritage of Cooch Behar is its TRP. Do not be surprised to know that Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur was the princess of Cooch Behar. Do check the calendar before planning your tours because festivals like Ras Utsab, Dol Jatra (Holi), Durga Puja and Deepavali bears the signatures of the royal legacy. In no other districts the elegance of these Bengali festivals are so diversified.



Gajoldoba Tourism Hub



Department of Tourism
Government of West Bengal
Project Master Plan
Mega Tourism Park at Gajoldoba

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Unit	Tentative Area (Acres)
▶ High-end Lake Resort	15
▶ 3 Star & 4 Star Resorts [@5 Acres each]	10
▶ Budget Hotels [@3 Acres each]	06
▶ Camping Area with log Huts	05
▶ Ayurvedic Spa Village	04
▶ Old-Age Home	04
▶ Hospitality Training Institute	05
▶ Food Courtr/Picnic/Children's Park	08
▶ Reception /Interpretation Centre	02
▶ Parking Area [5.25 + 2.25]	07.5
▶ Cultural Zone:Amphitheatre/Craft Village	15
▶ Botanical Garden/Harbarium/Park	12
▶ Buffer Green+Golf Course+	
Water Bodies+Green Verge	65
▶ Theme Garden	02.5
▶ Bird Watching Area	01.2
▶ Arterial Roads	08
▶ Water Body	18
▶ Utilities/Water Body/Peripheral Buffer	19.8
TOTAL	208

The Gajoldoba Tourism Hub is being structured as an Integrated Multi -Product Mega Tourism Park situated in Dooars in North Bengal to be set up over 208 acres of unencumbered land. 25 km away from South-East of Siliguri.

Barrage on the River Teesta with an unique surrounding of Forests, Hills and Water bodies

The project site is a part of the Terai-Dooars Forest Circuit giving the tourist an opportunity to visit a range of the best of wild life parks in the county. Some of the major parks in the region are as follows:

- The, Garumara National Park
- The ChapramariWildlife Sanctuary
- The JaldaparaWildlife sanctuary
- The Buxa Tiger Reserve
- The Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary
- The Baikanthapur Forest
- The Neora Valley

Darjeeling



At a Glance

- ➔ **District Headquarter**
Darjeeling
Total Area
3,149 Sq Kms
- ➔ **Altitude**
6710 Ft. (Darjeeling)
398 (Siliguri)
- ➔ **Population**
18,46823
(Ref: Census 2011)
- ➔ **Best time to Visit**
October to May
- ➔ **Average Temperature**
8.9 c - 14.9 c
- ➔ **Average Rainfall**
3092 mm
- ➔ **Language**
Bengali & Nepali
(Prime), Hindi, Gorkha,
Tibetan, & English
(Alternative)
- ➔ **Places of Interest**
Batasia Loop
Home Stays
Tea Estates
Sandakphu Trek
- ➔ **Special Feature**
Toy Train
Adventure Sports

Best Places to stay

- Darjeeling Tourist Lodge
- Lepchajagat
- Chatakpur Eco Village Resort.
- Morgan House

Why go?

Darjeeling is the Queen of the Hills. Scenic view of Kanchenjunga is a treat for the eyes.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railways-UNESCO's World Heritage Committee inscribed DHR as a World Heritage Site on 5th December 1999.

Tea Tourism-Tea and Darjeeling are synonymous. Darjeeling Tea is world renowned for its flavour, which is unequaled by other tea producing areas not only of India but also of the world. Darjeeling still manufactures the tea by the original methods known as the 'orthodox' method.

Trekking and adventure in Siwalik Himalayas like the Sandakphu is one of the most popular reasons to visit.

How to Reach

Siliguri, a bustling town about 77 kilometers from Darjeeling is the gateway to the Hills.

By Air: The closest air port is at Bagdogra (about 90 Km from Darjeeling and a 3:30 hour drive)

By Rail: Nearest Railway Station is NJP about 80 km from Darjeeling.

By Road: Bus services can be availed from Siliguri to Darjeeling, from Tenzing Norgay Bus Terminus, Siliguri. However, it is more convenient to travel in smaller vehicles which are available on seat sharing basis/hire, from near the Bus terminus, airport and railway station via Pankhabari and Rohini road. Alternately one can go through NH-31 via Mongpoo and Teesta Bazar.

History

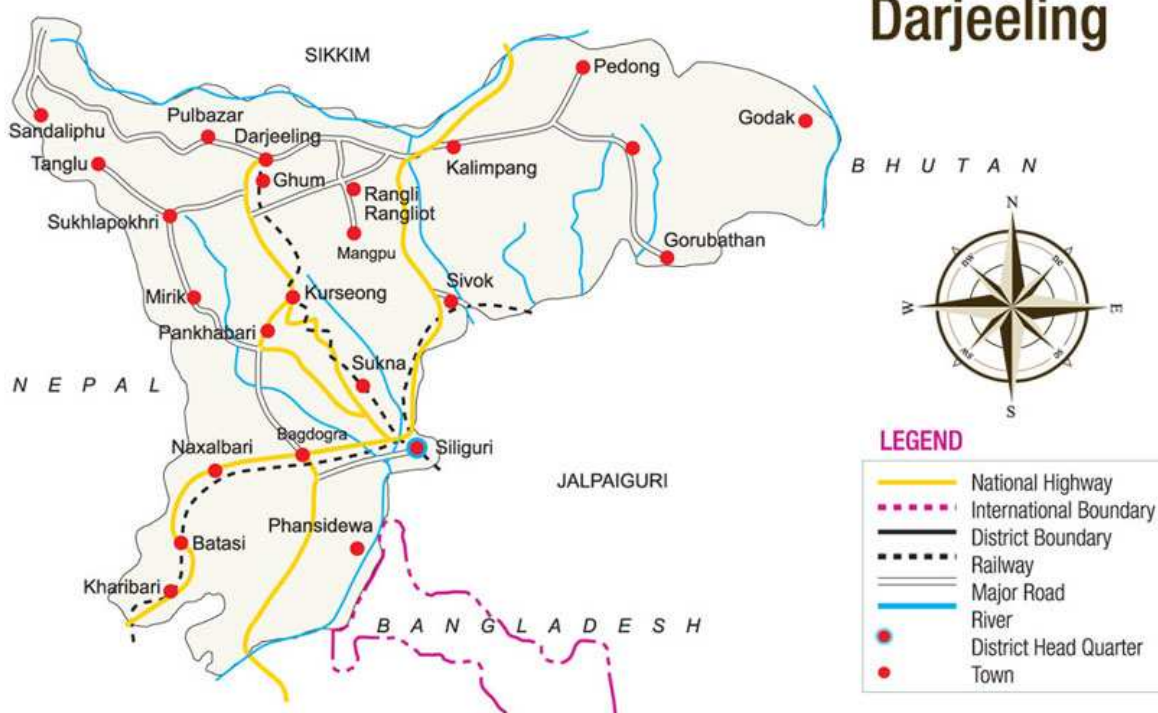
The name 'Darjeeling' came from the Tibetan words, 'dorje' meaning thunderbolt (originally the scepter of Indra) and 'ling' a place or land, hence 'the land of the thunderbolt'. A landmark year in the History of Darjeeling was 1835. Prior to its acquisition by the East India Co. in 1835, Darjeeling formed a part of Sikkim and for a brief period of Nepal. In 1863, Ashley Eden was deputed to negotiate with Bhutan. In Nov. 1864, the treaty of Sinchula was executed in which the Bhutan Dooars with the passes leading into the hills and Kalimpong were ceded to the British.

The Darjeeling district can be said to have assumed its present shape and size in 1866 is 1234 sq. miles. The 15th of August, 1947 saw India becoming a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic Republic. Thereafter, the district administration has been continuously upholding the values that the country was based on.

Geography and Topography

Darjeeling hill areas are unique from environmental Eco-perception. The relief varies from 100 m. above sea level to the mighty Kanchanjungha. The Hill areas of Darjeeling District are located within the Lesser and Sub - Himalayan belts of the Eastern Himalayas. The area is bounded by the Sikkim Himalaya in the north, the Bhutan Himalaya in the east and Nepal Himalaya in the west. The inner belt is defined by a ridgeline stretching from the Darjeeling Hill to the west and Kalimpong Hill to the east, overlooking the southerly flowing Tista valley in between.

Prominent rivulets contributing to the Rammam - Rangit basin, dissipate the northern slope of Darjeeling Hills. The principal economy of Darjeeling Hill Area depends on tea production, horticulture, agriculture and forestry. The major portions of the forests are today found at elevations of 2000 mts and above.



Culture and Festivals

The Lepchas and Bhutias celebrate the New Year in January, while the Tibetans have their **Devil Dances** to celebrate their New Year in their monasteries from the last week of February to March. As in the Chinese tradition the **snake or dragon dances** curl through the streets. In mid-June, processions celebrate the birthday of His Holiness, The Dalai Lama.

Houses are decorated and spirit start building up for Diwali eve when the festival commences. Lasting two weeks, it consists of **Lakshmi Puja, Bhailo, Deosi and Bhai Tika.**

There are robust folk dances with the males participating enthusiastically in the **Chabrung** of the Libus, the Tamangs



dance, **Damfu**, and the most popular of them all, the scintillating **Maruni**. Gay folk songs fill the air with **Jhowre** relating to the lover, and the **Juhari** which throws questions and answers between the lovesick couple. The **Rosia** is sung in the fields, the **Baloon** extols the deeds of the Mahabharata and **Malsiri** is kept for the Durga Puja. The **Rateli** are nursery rhymes set to music. It seems that the

people have saved all their energy for these two weeks which are filled with great rejoicing.

The Nepalese are rich in folk culture. The hills and dales are the treasure house of songs and dances of the hill folk. The following are some of the most popular and worth mentioning forms of Nepali folk dances: **Maruni, Dhan, Jhankri, Jatra, Damphu Khukuri, Deora, Panchay, Dhimay Sanginy, Balan, Jhyauray, Paschimay Chutki, Rodhighar, Baton, Jhumara Sakhia.**

Art & Handicrafts



The culture of the hill people of Darjeeling are uniquely expressed in the exquisite and inimitable artistic handicrafts of the district and their traditional colourful designs, which show marked resemblance to the art of neighbouring Tibet, Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan. Among the artistic crafts, **ornaments, trinkets and handlooms** are worth mentioning. There is also fine craftsmanship in woodwork and bamboo fret work. While the principal utility products are **blankets, woolen knitted garments and woven fabrics**, the artistic products are **handbags, wall panels, fire-screens, folding partitions, Bhutan paintings, cotton**

shoulder-bags etc. Beautiful curios are made at Darjeeling and Kalimpong on copper plates studded with red and blue stones with engravings of replicas of deities. Wonderful Thankas with paintings depicting the life of Lord Buddha are also available. Woolen carpets are made in a combination of shades in vegetable and synthetic dyes. Bhutia chaddars can be found in beautiful textures. Decorative Nepali khukris are made in Ghum. Bedroom slippers and rope-sole shoes, jackets, hats, hanzu coats made from handloom cloth and masks are among the many items which attract tourists and curio collectors.

Food & Drinks

Pamper your taste buds with the best quality of tea, the exotic but homely food and discover a mosaic of culture while satiating your gastronomical needs.

Darjeeling Tea occupies a place of pride for the whole of India. The aroma and taste of Darjeeling orthodox tea is unparalleled in the world. There are a total of 78 tea estates in the hills. These estates cover over 17,500 hectares producing over 9 million kg of tea. In Darjeeling the first trial plantation of seed was planted at an altitude of 700 ft. by Dr. A Campbell and in 1845 an experimental nursery in Darjeeling was set up by the Government. In 1847 the Government planted a nursery at Lebong. The Darjeeling logo is a hallmark of excellence.

Momo: Meat dumplings which are steamed and accompanied by a bowl of clear soup and achar. One can also



order for vegetable momos in which the meat is ideally replaced by cabbage and other vegetables.

Thupka: Tibetan noodles mixed with egg/meat, vegetables with a predominant soup base.

Shaphalay: Tibetan bread stuffed with meat.

Tibetan tea: Salt tea which is mixed with butter which has its own distinct taste.

Tongba: Local brew made from millet and has to be sipped through a bamboo straw. Usually found in the local haat(fair) held on Sunday near the Rock Garden.

Orange is one of the most abundant fruit in the region. **Rai Shak, Cabbages, Cauliflowers, Gundru leaves and Squash** are the most common vegetables.

Darjeeling and Kalimpong are famous for red and green chilies. **Delo Chillies** are one of the hottest varieties of chilies all over the world.



Travel and Sightseeing

Siliguri

Siliguri is the gateway to the North Eastern states and the neighboring countries of Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. It also the best place to start exploring the Dooars and Hills area of North Bengal.

New Jalpaiguri Railway Station (NJP) is the most important railway station in this region. Bagdogra airport is located 13 KM away from Siliguri.

Siliguri can well be described as shoppers paradise. **Hong Kong Market, Seth Srilal Market, Hill Cart Road, Cosmos Shopping Mall, City Centre** are among it's most popular shopping destinations.

Sukna: 8 km from Siliguri is one of the entry point of Mahananda Wild Life Sanctuary. A new destination **North Bengal Wild Life Park** with 700 acres of land under Mahananda Wild Life Sanctuary is coming up as the first open zoo in West Bengal just 5 Km away from Siliguri.

Popularly referred to as the city of the three T's - Tea, Tourism and Trade.

Darjeeling

Darjeeling is internationally famous for places like the Mall, the Chowrasta, the Tiger Hill View Point for Kanchenjunga, the Batasia Loop etc. But hidden treasures, lesser known to the tourists await at every nook and corner of the district.

Tiger Hill: Situated at an altitude of 2590 meters (8482 ft.) and 13 Km from the town.

Batasia Loop and The War Memorial: The Batasia loop situated almost 5 km away from the town is a gigantic railway loop where the Toy Train makes a 360



Degree turn. A **War Memorial** can be seen at the same spot.

Darjeeling - Rangit Valley Passenger Cable Car: Darjeeling-Rangit Valley Passenger Cable Car is about 3 km north of the town and situated at what is known as the North Point. The Ropeway is India's oldest passenger ropeway.

Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre: Well known for their handicrafts. The centre makes excellent carpets, woolen goods, woodwork, etc, which are famous across the globe.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park: It is the only centre that breeds the **Tibetan Wolf** in captivity. Breeding programmes for the endangered **Red Panda**, **Snow Leopard** and the **Siberian Tiger** are also carried out here.

Himalayan Mountaineering Institute:

HMI was set up following the successful ascent of the Mount Everest-the highest peak in the world by the local hero Tenzing Norgay Sherpa and Sir Edmund Hillary on 28 May 1953. The oldest mountaineering institute in the country.

Other places of interest

Rock Garden, the Observatory Hill, the Japanese Peace Pagoda, the Botanical Garden, Roy Villa, the house where Sister Nibedita breathed her last, the last resting place of Chittaranjan Das - Step Aside, Happy Valley Tea Garden,

Raj Bhawan and other such places.

Monasteries of Darjeeling

The Ghoom Monastery, built in 1875, by Lama Sherab Gyatso, this ancient monastery is said to have been blessed by the renowned Tomo Geshe Rimpoche of Tibet, the **Druk Thupten Sangag Choling Monastery (Dali Monastery)**, situated at Dali, about 4 kms away from Darjeeling town, the **Tashi Dargyalingh Monastery** or the **Tamang Ghumba**, established in 1926 and one of the oldest monasteries of the Tamang community, the **Mag-Dhog Yolmowa Buddhist Monastery (Aloobari Monastery)**, situated on the Aloobari road and founded in the beginning of the First World War in 1914 are some of the important Buddhist landmarks in and around Darjeeling.



Apart from the names that are found on the popular tourist maps, the hidden spots are now exposed to nature-lovers for their passion for tranquility amongst beauty.

Chatakpur: Chatakpur is located at a distance of around 16 km from Jorebungalow under Senchal Wild Life Sanctuary. At an altitude of 7887 ft. this small Himalayan village accommodates 17 houses and around 90 villagers. It



is a place of silence accompanied with a Forest bungalow and also homestay facilities in a few houses. **Senchal Lake**, is a scenic place between Chatakpur and Tiger Hill.

Aloobari Jungle Busti: From Ghoom – Jorebunglow to Darjeeling with old Pony Road at the right hand side is a natural breeding centre of wild orchid, medicinal plants.

Ranga Roon Tea Garden: One of the



oldest Tea Gardens in this area. From the homestay facilities, one can enjoy both the Darjeeling and the Kanchenjunga range.

Dawaipani Bhutia Busti: Beside Ranga-roon Tea Garden, Home stays with adventure activities and mountain view.

Takdah Tea Garden: Between Ghoom-Jorebunglow and Teesta Bazaar, before Lamahata. There is a homestay facility within the tea garden, which boasts orchards of oranges.

Lamahata: In between Ghoom-Jorebunglow and

Teesta bazaar. This is the new destination for Home Stay amongst with the Dukpa community. Tent Houses are also available.

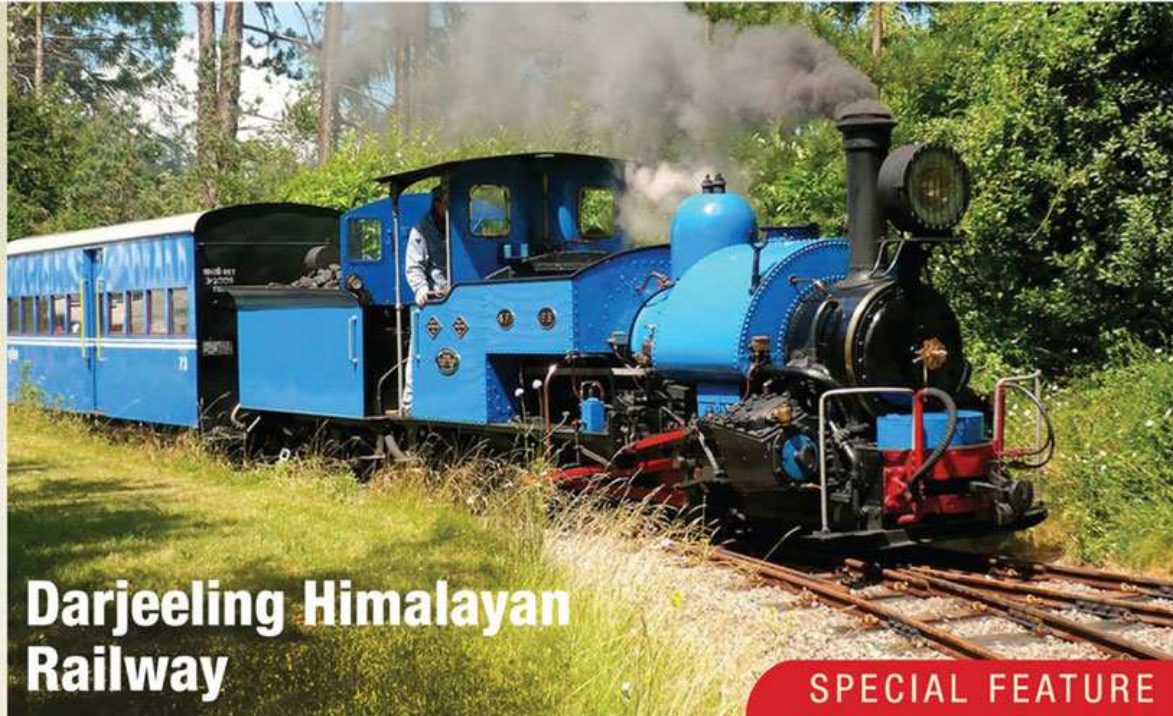
Rampuria Forest Village: Beside Senchal Wildlife Sanctuary, this village boasts organic farming and provides homstays. Ideal for bird-watching and camping besides scenic beauty.

Tinchuley: From Darjeeling to Takdah Cantonment Tinchuley is famous destination for tourist. Scenic beauty and village life is the attraction beside forest in Tinchuley.

Bada & Chota Mangoa: Between Ghoom –Jorebunglow to Teesta Bazaar via Takda and Tinchuley is the organic village with step cultivation

and scenic beauty with Home stay facilities.

Mongpoo: 35 km from Darjeeling, through Ghoom-Jorebunglow, one passes through lovely scenic spots and lush green tea gardens. Flower nurseries and crystal clear rivulets cross your way



Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is the first, and still the most outstanding example of a hill passenger Railway. Open in 1881, it applied bold and ingenious engineering solutions to the problem of establishing and effect rail link across a mountainous terrain of great beauty. It is fully operational and retains most of its original features intact.

from here there is a descent for four miles down a spur to Darjeeling Station (6,812ft). Loops are the speciality of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. The last loop near Batasia, popularly known as **Batasia Loop** is Km 75/1. This loop is the most beautiful loop out of the existing loops. There are 132 unmanned level crossings in the route.

The Franklin Prestage, the agent of guaranteed Eastern Bengal Railway was fascinated by the ethereal views of Kanchenjunga floating in the mists of Darjeeling. He settled for a 2ft. rail gauge, and formed the **Darjeeling Steam Tramway Co.** On September 15, 1881, title of the company was changed to **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Co.**



Most of the steam engines in these days have been replaced by diesel electric or electric traction. Some narrow gauge lines still feature the old **iron horses**. DHR is a work of genius and technological achievement of 1881. It has social and cultural importance.

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee inscribed DHR as a **World Heritage Site** on 2nd December 1999.

The Official opening date of **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR)**, from Siliguri to Kurseong is **23-08-1880**.

Fares range from Rs 210 for 1st class and Rs 30 for 2nd class from Kurseong to Darjeeling. For a trip to Ghum from Darjeeling is Rs 400 for 1st class. For Charter Train Single Trip is Rs 22,000

The Ghoom Station is the highest point reached by the railway (7,407 ft.), and



not only as a summer residence of poet Rabindranath Tagore, but also famous for Cinchona plantation. The Bungalow where Tagore stayed is being maintained now as museum with his photograph, painting, writings etc. 2 KM away from Mongpoo is the **Surel Kothi**, an old remittance where Rabindranath Tagore also stayed.

Sittong: This is the Orange Village of the area, situated beside the river Riyang. This village boasts a 100 year old Lepcha church, the first of this region. Homestay is available and the best time to visit would be from October to December, during Orange harvesting time.

Lalung village: Homestay facility is available in this tranquil Himalayan village which lies beside Mongpoo.

Latpanchor: Beside the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary on the lap of a Cinchona plantation, this paradise for bird lovers have homestay facility. There is a 100-year old mud Goompha and a lake breeding



Himalayan Salamanders.

Takdah Cantonment: Between Ghoom-Jorbanglow and Teesta Bazaar. Old British quarters, 100 years old include Takdha Club. The ancient cemetery is a must to pay a visit to. Home Stay facilities are available.

The other important places to visit are **Jorepokhari, Sukhia Pokhari, Manebhanjan and Sandakphu**. These places have homestay facilities.

Sandakphu & Manebhanjan: At an altitude of 3,636 m, Sandakphu is located at a distance of 58 km. from Darjeeling. Trek to Sandakphu starts from Maneybhanjan (2134 m), a small town near Darjeeling. The place is resplendent with the ethereal beauty of **Magnolias, Rhododendrons, Primulas** and other sub-alpine flowers. It also contains more than 600 varieties of **Orchids**, the largest to be found in a single geographical area in the world.



Kalimpong

King's Minister's strong hold, a Bhutanese word. It is also called Kalimpong in local dialect meaning **black spur**. The Lepcha term for Kalimpong means **Ridge Where We Play**. Situated at an altitude of 1250 meters it enjoys



Forests of Darjeeling

Mahananda Reserve Forest

60% in Hills, rest in Terai, 158.04 sq km, 150 to 1300 mts altitude, beside Teesta and Mahananda.

Famous for Khayer, Shimul, Shirish, Sishu, Teak, Sidha, Panesaj, Gamar, Tun, Dhobinut, Treefern, varieties of Bamboo Trees etc. and the fauna Tiger, Elephant, Cheetah, Shambar, Chital Deer, Wild Cat, Barking Deer, Wild Boar etc.

Darjeeling-Jorpukhri Salamandar Reserve Forest

At 4000 ft., 0.04 sq km, reproduction center for Himalayan Salamanders is 4 km from Lepchajagat.

Senchal Reserve Forest

At 8260 ft, 38.88 sq km Senchal means fog, includes Verious types of Bamboo, Fern, Rhododendron, Pipli, Kowla, Utis, Katooz etc. and famous for Himalayan Black Bear, Giant Squirrel, Wild Dog, Himalayan Jackal, Green Pheasant etc.

Singalila National Park

At 7000 ft, Easter Himalayas, Sirikhola and Rammam rivers. Various types of Bamboo, Kaola, Chanp, Oak, Bhurjapatra, Silver Fir, Rhododendron, Magnolia etc. and the fauna include Himalayan Black Bear, Red Panda, Kankar Clouded Leopard, Leopard Cat, Python etc.

temperate climate throughout the year.

The journey from Darjeeling to Kalimpong is a beautiful experience. The road drops from Ghoom 7407 ft., to Teesta Bazar 700 ft. in 12km and passes through lush green forests and tea gardens via the **Lover's Meet** from where the confluence of river Teesta and Rangeet can be seen.

Dr. Graham's Homes School: A unique educational institution started in 1900 by Dr. John Anderson Graham. The School is situated on the slopes of Kalimpong's highest hill, Delo. Every year in the month of May the school organizes **Mayfair**.

Durpindara: It is the highest point in Kalimpong accessible by car. It offers a breath-taking view of the plains and the mighty Teesta. **Gouripur House**, situated about 2 Km from the town on the way to Durpindara, was one of the favourite haunts of poet Rabindranath Tagore. where he stayed on his many visits to Kalimpong.

7th Mile View Point: 3 Km from the town on the way to Teesta Bazaar. A panoramic view of Teesta Rangeet Valley can be seen from here.

Flower Nurseries: Kalimpong is famous for its nurseries which export exotic flowers like **Amaryllis Lilies, Anthuriums, Roses, Gerbera, Dahilias, Gladiolias** as well as **Orchids and Cacti.**



Thongsha Gumpa is 1 km from

town. Situated at the 10th Mile this monastery of Bhutanese origin was built in the year 1630, the oldest monastery in this region. The **Tharpa Choling Monastery** is situated at Tirpai Hill and built around 1937 belongs to Gelukpa Sect. **Zong Dong Palri Fo-Brang Monastery** is located in Durpin Dara from where one can get a panoramic view of the town. **The Golf Course** is located just beside Kalimpong Circuit House and it offers a fascinating view. **The Pedong Monastery** is 26 Km from Kalimpong, was established in 1837. **The home stay facilities that are coming up in these areas offer serenity and scenic beauty combined together. These places are:**

Damsang Fort and other historical places are in and around Pedong. **Aritar**, Sikkim is close to Pedong. Those who want to visit Jelepela Route prefer to stay in Pedong.

Rishi: The border of West Bengal and Sikkim, beside Rishi river, home stays and adventure activities centre beside bird watching and camping. Rishi is also famous for the starting point of **Old Silk Route**.

Rikisum: A panoramic view from view point cover the mountain range of Bhutan, China Tibet and Mt. Kanchanjanga range. Home stay facility present.



Rishyap: Situated at the height of 8250 ft. The local sherpas and Lepchas have built small cottage type tourist accommodation here. A magnificent view of Himalayas can be seen from here along with a view of the Nathula Pass, Tin Simana, Gangtok and Tibet Hills. Tiffindari, the highest view point can be reached after a short trek through jungle.

Ichey Village: Between Kalimpong to Algarah near Sikkim Border at Rangpoo. **Ramdhura**, a view point of Teesta and Rangeet river with adventure activities like mountain biking and rock climbing. **Algarah**, 19 Km away from town and **Sillary Gaon**, View of Mt. Kanchenjanga with number of small treks.

Pedong: The Old Silk Route after Algarah, Pedong is famous for view of Kanchanjanga range.



Lava: Situated 32 km from Kalimpong, a small town at the height of 6500 ft. rich in flora and fauna and suitable for

Places of Interest

- Tiger Hill
- Batasia Loop
- Mirik Lake
- Rocky Island
- Chatakpur
- Bara Mangwa
- Mongpoo
- Pedong
- Sittong
- Dow Hill
- Tinchuley



Adventure Point

- Tonglu
- Lebong
- Sandakphu
- Phalu
- Rimbik

Heritage Walks

- Damsang Fort
- Takdah Cantonment
- The old Military Road
- Peddong
- Mongpoo

bird watching and wild life. The department of forest has log huts and rest houses. **Lolay Goan / Kaffer** is situated at the height of 5200 ft. rich in flora and fauna, has dense virgin forest.

Jhandidara: 4 kms away from the village Kaffer has spectacular view of the sun rise. Mount Everest is also seen from here. Heritage Forest Park, developed by Department of Forest is a major attraction here.

Samthar: Situated at the height of 4500 ft. is an adventurous destination. Trek to this destination from Sevoke, Kaffer and Lava.

Charkol: Under Kalimpong subdivision also accessible from Dooars . The village is getting popular for adventure sports.

Samsing & Suntaley Khola: Two beautiful places situated just 45 Km away from Gorumara National Park. Sunaley Khola has WBFDC cottages and Tent house. Samsing is having number of Home Stays in Phari busti and **Rocky Island** is itself a travel destination beside river Murti. This place is also known as gateway of Neora Valley Forest.

Jhalong: Located beside Jaldhaka river.



It is popular for its beautiful valleys and river flowing through it.

Bindu: At Indo-Bhutan border beside Jhalong on Jaldhaka river with its unique beauty.

Holong: Holong a tucked away jungle location. Breath pollution free air, and watch animals in their natural habitat in a nice forest banglow.

Treks

1. Kalimpong-Relli River-Kaffer-Lolaygon-Lava-Algarah-return to Kalimpong via Dr. Graham's Homes Tirpai. Hill(4 days approx)
2. Kalimpong-Durpin Dara-Samthar busy-and return to Kalimpong by same route(2 days).

Kurseong

Situated at an altitude of 1458 mts (4860 ft.), Kurseong is 51 km from Siliguri and 30 km from Darjeeling. The word Kurseong means – the place of White Orchid. Because of its lower elevation, Kurseong enjoys milder and very healthy climate throughout the year.

Dilaram: Kettle Valley Home Stay – on

the way to Darjeeling from Kurseong. This place is famous for true Gorkha hospitality with traditional food and culture. USP is village walk , nature walk rich and diverse vegetation in this area.

Dowhill: 30 kms from Darjeeling. A popular tourist site with a beautiful Deer Park, a Forest Museum.

Bagora: Bagora is a small village located at the highest altitude (7,150 ft) of Kurseong sub division. The quaint village is well known for its variety of birds, forest of oak and pine and of course the rhododendrons. In winter, you can see oranges as well.

Chimney: 30 minutes by car from Bagora. The name Chimney comes from a tall Chimney in the village that has been existing since the British days.

Eagle's Crag: Beautiful point in Kurseong town to watch the panoramic view of Siliguri plains and hills.

Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Museum It is located at Giddhapahar 4 kms. from Kurseong.

Mirik: Mirik-a nest in the hills is West



Bengal's one of the hill resort at an altitude of 1767 metres with its own special charms - 49 Km. From Darjeeling and 52 km. From Siliguri. 1.25 km. Long lake is fed by perennial streams. Very often you may find the glory of Kanchenjunga reflected in the lake waters. A rich forest with thousands of

Lake is the most attractive spot of Mirik. Boating is a popular sport in the lake.

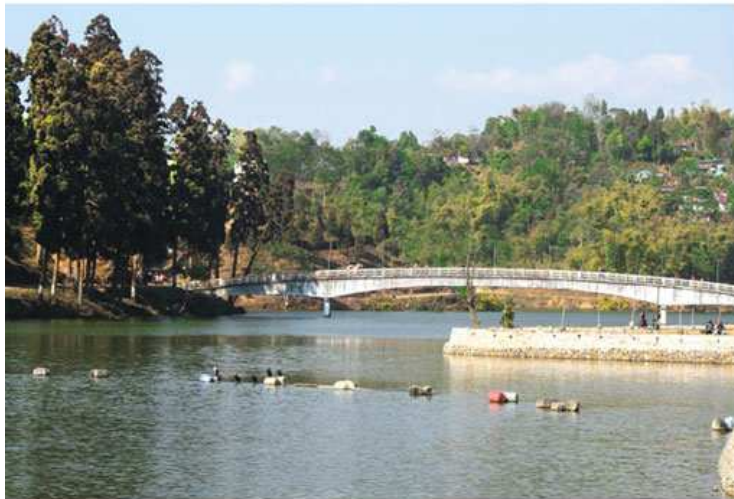
Other important places in the vicinity include **Kawlay Dara**: which offers beautiful view of sunrise and sunset can also be seen. **Deosi Dara** is another observatory point for stupendous

landscape view, while **Rai-Dhap** and **Dudhia**-30 km. from Mirik are other ideal picnic spots. Cardamom groves can be seen anywhere near the marshy land. There is also the **Singha Devi Mandir** on the western bank of the lake. There are eight tea gardens in Mirik area. **Thurbo Tea Estate**., one of the best tea-estates, is only 2 kms. from the lake. About two kilometers from Mirik, situated on the spur, one can see beautiful orange orchards. Mirik is the largest

supplier of orange in West Bengal. Cardamom groves can be seen anywhere near the marshy land.

Short-trek

Trekking from Mirik to Sandakphu - Phalut, has become very popular. Short Trek from Mirik to Kurseong via Balasan river & Namsu could be covered within one day only.



Cryptomaria-Japanica trees clothe the slopes on the west. A 3.5 km. zig-zag footwalk takes you along the lake – a sleek foot bridge connects the garden on the east with the woods on the west. **Mirik-Rangbhang** Home stay at **School Dara**, 3 km down from main bazaar inside orange orchard. The organic village is practicing Home stay with total vegetarian food and lot of adventure activities. The beautiful 1.25 km. long





Adventure Sports

Paragliding

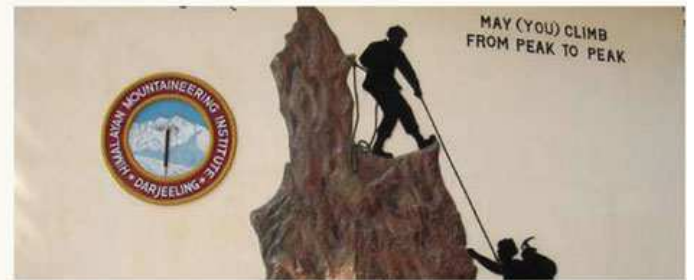
Paragliding has evolved into a wonderful flying sport all over the world, also in Darjeeling. It is now possible for a common man to experience the thrill of flying. The best 2 spots for paragliding in Darjeeling are: From Saint Pauls to Lebung and from Tukvar Tea Garden to Jaumney.

White Water Rafting

An adventure Hill Sport, which is relatively new in the Darjeeling Hills. Beckon the strong hearted as Darjeeling is also home to the mighty River Teesta and Rangeet whose turbulent currents make a formidable challenge to even the seasoned rafter. DGHC has acquired well trained members and quality equipment ensuing a safe and pleasant ride to all visitors. Family Trips for river rafting is available at nominal costs.

Foreign Tourists: Foreigners are required to carry their passport as it has to be produced while signing the 'Assumption of Risk and Release' bond and also before crossing the Teesta Bridge.

Rock Climbing



Tenzing Rock, a gigantic natural rock in Darjeeling. Opposite to this is the Gombu Rock. Both these rocks are used for rock climbing training by HMI. One needs to take help of guides and pay some nominal fee. The gradient of the right face is gentle and surface is easier for climbing.



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Home Stay (Darjeeling)

Gandhi Road

West Point Home Stay

Rabin Gurung
+ 91 99322 96906

Snow Line Home Stay

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Rangaroon



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Siliguri Road

Rajeshwari Home Stay

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Kancha Gurung Home Stay

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Syangden Home Stay

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Tulsa Cottage

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Angel Home Stay

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Sittong



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Chatakpur



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Dilaram



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Mutanchi Home Stay

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Takdah Tea Garden



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Rampuria



Rampuria Forest Village Home Stay (Total 6 Nos.)

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Deolo Tourist Lodge (WBTD)
 +91 3552 274101/253341/255320
Mirik Tourist Lodge (WBTD)
 +91 354 2243371/72
Kurseong Tourist Lodge (WBTD)
 +91 354 2344409/2345608
Lava, Lulegaon, Kaffer, Chatakpur,
Kalimpong (WBFDC)
 +91 33 22370060 / 61 (Kolkata)
 +91 353 2432599 (Siliguri)
 +91 3552 255780 / 83 (Kalimpong)
 www.wbfdc.com

Restaurant & Bar (Darjeeling)

Chowk Bazar
Kalika Vegetarian ■
 + 9194341 71873
Dr. Zakir Hussain Road
Mistyck Mountain ■
 + 91 97330 41480
Sonam's Kitchen ■
 + 91 92325 63654
Footy Café ■
 + 91 98006 00985 / 94341 31468
Gutty's Café ■
 + 91 99330 70013 / 0354-2259578
Senchal Road
Ad's Corner ■
 + 91 96797 48668



The Park ■
 Laden La Road
Ghoom Monastery ■
Sterling Holidays Silver Oaks ■
 + 91 97341 31268
Hill Cart Road
Norgima Restaurant ■
 + 91 99323 46890

Fabula Restaurant ■
 + 91 86709 32040
Ghale's Restaurant ■
 + 91 76790 73851
Wangda Put Put ■
 + 91 98320 45450
Wind Café ■
 + 91 97330 52403
Tea Bar Restaurant ■
 + 91 86704 04891
Kokila Bar & Restaurant ■
 + 91 87687 34583
Blue Pine ■
 + 91 98007 22415
White Orchid Restaurant ■
 + 91 98323 67060

Lebong Cart Road
Burnees Restaurant ■
 + 91 90026 26089
Purple Haze ■
 + 91 97333 79959
Swesta Restaurant ■
 + 91 81580 48778
Benu's Restaurant ■
 + 91 97359 11761
Riva Restaurant ■
 + 91 98325 84554
Delicious Moment ■
 + 91 86706 87655
Café Restaurant ■
 + 91 81162 15380 / 89278 71185
Mawhor Restaurant ■
 + 91 81162 15380 / 89278 71185
Paragon Restaurant ■
 + 91 98005 71539
Road House Café ■
 + 91 86703 23776
Nirdesh Restaurant ■
 + 91 97331 51310



Way Side Inn ■
 + 91 98323 67878
Ladenla Road
Café Coffee Day ■
 + 91 93310 34805 / 95933 87556

Penang Restaurant
+ 91 90025 30054

Golden Dragon Bar & Restaurant
+ 91 95938 67327

Dominos Pizza
+ 91 0354-2255431 / 0354 2255432

Nepali Vansha Ghar
91 89271 77127

Park Restaurant / Bar
+ 91 0354-2255270

CR Das Road

Café Coffee Day
+ 91 96357 44788 / 76393 72341

SM Das Road

Lotus Restaurant
+ 91 96411 11097

Peshok Road

Sangay Restaurant
+ 91 98320 37894

Hot Stimulating Cape
+ 91 98320 76664

JP Sharma Road

New Dish Restaurant & Bar
+ 91 0354-2252861

NC Goinka Road

Simla Bar & Restaurant
+ 91 92338 27030 / 9832481327

Kaveri Bar & Restaurant
+ 91 97490 95945

Dawat Lodge & Restaurant
+ 91 98325 72073

Nehru Road

Pizza Hut
+ 91 97334 77777 / 0354 2256000



Keventers
+ 91 98320 41448 / 0354-2254397

Food Steps
+ 91 95938 64606

KFC Darjeeling
+ 91 77972 77831 / 0353 2254009

Hasty Tasty
+ 91 0354-2256572

Glenary's Confectionary
+ 91 94755 09490 / 0354 2258408

Glenary's Darjeeling
+ 91 96351 62005 / 89671 88659

NB Sing Road

Gangjong Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 95477 27861 / 0351 2256086

Blind Date ☑ ☐
+ 91 97341 41099

Chok Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 90021 99285

Chowrasta Road

Tiesta ☑ ☐
+ 91 90021 66206

Golpahar Tea Shop ☑ ☐
+ 91 97330 78203

Krishna Nagar

Pradhan Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 95938 92798

Hills Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 97331 69617

Prenam Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 96099 04399

Mirik, Lakeside

Gautam Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 95647 96233

Taz Fast Food Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 99323 55426

Uttam Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 95647 94955

Mirik

Samden Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 99331 86002

Lagoon Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 98323 28971 / 90026 73770

Aroma Food Plaza ☑ ☐
+ 91 96417 61930

Wooden Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 96098 16910

Lakeside Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 96097 36056

Bijanbari

Anjana Hotel / Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 97359 07416

Rimbick Road

Sainik Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 97332 50083 / 83719 03590

Samjouta Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 95631 23390 / 95932 68850

Kalimpong Gangtok Road

Peshok Wayside Inn ☑ ☐
+ 91 95471 51417

Restaurant & Bar (Kalimpong)

Main Road

Kyilkhor Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 98323 47196 / 99333 73035

Kalash Restaurant ☑ ☐
+ 91 94340 59435

Chaina Restaurant

+ 91 92646 40360

Malli Road

Hong Kong Restaurant

+ 91 98320 7169

Ongden Road

Red Dragon

+ 91 97333 28380

Rishi Road

Ujjal Restaurant

+ 91 80168 78188 / 98320 43709

Loleyaon

Yonzons Restaurant

+ 91 98323 81345

Lava

Gupi Bagha Restaurant

+ 91 95474 00293

Cheap & Best Restaurant

+ 91 99320 95242

Café Concot

+ 91 99331 98339

ATMs



Bank Of India ATM

1 H.D. Lama Road, Darjeeling



Axis Bank ATM

Jalapahar, Darjeeling



7/3, Hill Cart Road, Darjeeling



Bordaman Road, Kurseong

SBI Bank ATM

2 Laden La Rd., Darjeeling



United Bank Of India ATM

25, H.D.Lama Road, Darjeeling



4b, Chaurasta Road, Darjeeling

Corporation Bank ATM

Ladon-La Road, Darjeeling



Union Bank Of India ATM

559, Surya Nagar No. 1, Siliguri



Central Bank Of India ATM

N.C. Goenka Road, Darjeeling

Important Informations

Police

SP	0354-2254270
Addl. SP (HQ)	0354-2253123
Addl. SP (Siliguri)	0353-2433900
Addl. SP (Kalimpong)	03552-255366
(HQ)	0353-0000000

Police Station

Sadar	0354-2254422
Jorebunglow	0354-2274343
Sukhiapokhri	0354-2264270
Pulbazar	0354-2260226
Mirik	0354-2243226
Kurseong	0354-2330222
Kalimpong	03552-255268
Gorubathan	03552-222013
Siliguri	0353-2420101
Bagdogra	0353-2551242
Matigara	0353-2571472
Khoribari	0353-2554227
Phansidewa	0353-2587361

Hospital

Eden Hospital	0354 2252131
Planter's	91 9332490262
Mariam Nursing Home	0354 2254637
Yuma Nursing Home	0354 2257651

Tips

Umbrella is a must if you are visiting the Hill Station as rains are almost frequent, whatever the month maybe. If you are a food lover, your shopping list should include the Delo Chilie paste, available in most of the bazaars. Do step down the stairways through the main bazaar from Ladenla Road to find out the cheapest things in the market, from heavy woolens to spicy Chinese sausages.



List of approved tour operators

Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of West Bengal

Alpine Nature Beyond Pvt. Ltd.

+ 91 0353 – 2500 656
info@east-himalaya.com

Bonvoyage Leisure Pvt. Ltd.

+ 91 97330 07085
mail@thetourindia.com

Disha Tour & Travels

+ 91 94342 22328
info@dishatourindia.com

Discover India Tours & Travels

+ 91 94340 19134
info@unexploredparadise.com

Dey's Holidays

+ 91 98324 96222D

Durga Tours Pvt. Ltd.

+ 91 94340 45211
Durgatours99@yahoo.co.in

Dream way Destinations

+ 91 94340 92500
info@dreamwaydestinations.com

Destination North East (Travels)

+ 91 94340 19805
destinationnortheast@yahoo.co.in

Guruvandana Tours & Travels

+ 91 94340 46644
Guru.vandana94@yahoo.com

Heat Travels & Tours (India) Pvt. Ltd.

+ 91 0353 2504631
heat@sancharnet.in

Help Tourism Pvt. Ltd.

+ 91 0353 2535896
info@helptourism.com

Himalayan Tourism

+ 91 94340 54777
info@himalayantourism.com

Himalayan Eagle Paragliding

+ 91 96351 56911

India Beacons Sojourn

+ 91 99032 95920
info@indiabeacons.com

Magellan Tours & Travels

+ 91 97332 09206
magellantvls@gmail.com

Maynaguri Tourist Bureau

+ 91 94344 12517
touristbureau@gmail.com

Mars Tourism & Services

+ 91 94342 31870

NBTT Travel Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

+ 91 033 2555 0262
info@nbtt.co.in

Navigator India

+ 91 94342 58613
info@navigatorind.com

Northeast Tour & Travels

+ 91 94340 45492
Northeast_slg@yahoo.com

Rajputana Travels

+ 91 94755 25525

Suvidhaa Aapki

+ 91 93330 60606
suvidhaa.aapki@gmail.com

Sky-7 Travels (India)

+ 91 0353 2434 613

Seemana Chariye

+ 91 94750 38304

Shree Travels

+ 91 0353 2545 157

Shikha Tours & travels

+ 91 98320 72020

Swarnabhumi Leisure & Holidays Ltd.

+ 91 033 4069 4021

The Balasun Experience

+ 91 94340 07026
info@baasun.com

The Eastern meadows

+ 91 94342 22328
info@visiteasternmeadows.com

Tourist Service Agency

+ 91 94344 67236
tsaslg@sancharnet.in

Travel Abakash

+ 91 89005 18631

Ubique Tour & Travel

+ 91 98320 36053
ubiquemail@yahoo.co.in

Wind Oz

+ 91 99323 17299
info@wind-oz.com

Zest India Tours

+ 91 97330 38135
contact@zestindiatours.com