



TAILORMADE TOUR

15 DAYS NORTH EAST INDIA TOUR: LIVING ROOT BRIDGES, RHINOS, TEA & TRIBES

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| TOUR PRICE | LAND ONLY: £ 2450 PER PERSON ON A TWIN SHARING BASIS AND MINIMUM TWO PEOPLE IN THE TRIP FLIGHTS: FLIGHT FARES IN THE RANGE OF £ 550-700, DEPENDING ON THE TIME OF BOOKING (RECOMMENDED JET AIRWAYS FLIGHT) <i>PRICES ARE ALL INCLUSIVE WITH NO HIDDEN OR LOCAL PAYMENTS</i> |
| FLIGHTS | WE CAN ARRANGE TO BOOK FLIGHTS FOR YOU THROUGH OUR PARTNER TRAVEL AGENT OR YOU CAN ARRANGE YOUR OWN FLIGHTS |
| BEST TIME OF VISIT | SEPTEMBER-MAY |
| NO OF DAYS | 15 DAYS |

15 Days North East India Tour: Living Root Bridges, Rhinos, Tea & Tribes

Destinations- Guwahati-Cherrapunjee- Kaziranga National Park- Kohima- Mokokchung-Sivasagar-Mon-Majuli-Jorhat

In this tour you will visit the North East Indian states of Assam, Meghalaya and Nagaland. The tour begins in Guwahati, the gateway to North East India and also the most important commercial centre of the region. Thereafter, you will visit Meghalaya, the most scenic of the states with rolling hills, lakes and waterfalls and also the place where you see the Tolkienesque looking Living Root Bridges built by the indigenous War Khasi tribes. For an amazing wildlife experience visit Kaziranga National Park, home to two-thirds of the One Horned Rhino population and many exotic wildlife and birds. Thereafter journey into Nagaland, the land of fierce Naga warriors, where you will visit the capital city of Kohima, Mokokchung- land of the Ao tribes where the Christian missionaries first converted the Naga tribes and Mon near the Indo- Myanmar border to meet the last of the tattooed headhunters. You will then travel back to Assam and experience a relaxed stay amidst lush tea gardens in a heritage tea garden bungalow, visit Majuli from there and enjoy a tea tasting and manufacturing tour.

Day 1: Arrive at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi airport in Guwahati where our representative will meet you and transfer you to your hotel.(D)

Day 2: **Guwahati- Cherrapunjee** (300 km., 4 hrs): Next day, after breakfast, visit Kamakhya temple, a Shakti temple, which is known for Hindu Tantric practices, a very ancient temple with sculptures depicting pagan deities. Thereafter start your journey to Cherrapunjee, the erstwhile rainiest place in the world. On the way, experience the beautiful rolling hills, the flora and the waterfalls, most importantly the Nohkalikai or Seven Sisters Falls, a seven segmented waterfall which falls from a height of over a 1000 ft. (B,L,D)

Day 3: In the morning, after breakfast, hike through meandering paths and thick tropical woods and little villages on the way down to the Double Decker Living Root Bridge. The War Khasis, the local tribe of the place discovered an indigenous form of making bridges by intertwining the roots of rubber tree and use trunks of betel nut tree as root guidance systems. Overnight in Cherrapunjee. (B,L,D)

Day 4: **Cherrapunjee- Kaziranga National Park** (270 km., 6.5 hrs): Leave for Kaziranga National Park home of the world renowned one-horned rhino. Check-in at a jungle lodge and the rest of the day at leisure. (B,L,D)

The Park is divided into three regions- Western, Eastern and Central. The western range has maximum short grass areas, wetland, patches of tall grassland and woodland and is the optimum habitat for Rhino and Water buffaloes. The Eastern Range is situated towards the eastern part of the park, less frequented and the area is excellent for birding. It includes nesting of the globally threatened Pallas's Fish Eagle, Spot-billed Pelicans, Migrant waterfowl, the drive through this range is very scenic and swamp forest elephants can be seen, as well Water Buffalo and Swamp Deer. The Central region is characterised again by short grass and it gives an ideal introduction to the park and its ecology as the route passes through the entire spectrum of habitat types prevalent in the Kaziranga area. Sightings include elephants and other big animals especially the swamp buffalo and rhino.

Day 5: Early in the morning go for an elephant safari in the Western range, which is a good opportunity to see the animals from close. In the afternoon go for a jeep safari in the Eastern range, which takes you deeper into the jungle. (B,L,D)

Day 6: **Kaziranga- Kohima** (210 km. 5.30 hrs)- Start your journey into Nagaland right after breakfast. On the way you will stop at Dimapur, the commercial capital and go and see the medieval ruins, temples and baths of the Kachari Kingdom, who ruled the area around the 10th century AD. The ruins point out to a culture that is predominantly non-Aryan despite

having traces of Hinduism. After lunch head to Diezephe Craft Village, which houses expert weavers and craftsmen, deft in the arts of wood carving, bamboo and cane works. Reach Kohima by evening. (B.L.D)

Day 7: **Kohima:** The capital of Nagaland is home of the Angami Nagas and characterised by their unique cultural traditions. It is a town steeped in history, a place which changed the fate of world politics in the 2nd World War when British soldiers aided by Indian Sepoys and valiant Nagas stopped the invasion of Japanese forces. Here you will visit the Kohima World War Cemetery, a memorial in honour of those officers and soldiers killed during the war and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Kohima Cathedral, largest one in Asia and Kohima State Museum, which houses a rare collection of artefacts of each of the 16 Naga tribes. (B.L.D)

Day 8: **Kohima- Mokokchung** (150 km., 5 hrs)- After breakfast start your journey to Mokokchung, home of the Ao tribe and the first place where the Baptist missionaries came into contact with the Naga headhunters and started making the fierce hunters embrace Christianity. On the way, visit tribal houses and interact with them. Stay at a hotel in Mokokchung. (B.L.D)

Day 9: Today you will visit the villages of Mapungchuket, Impur and Longkhum and witness the way of life of the Ao tribe. Return to your hotel in Mokokchung and stay overnight. (B.L.D)

Day 10: **Mokochung-Sivasagar** (130 km., 4 hrs)- Leave for Sivasagar, the seat of Ahom Kingdom, rulers of Assam. The town is replete with traces of history and mythology through its enigmatic palaces and temples. After reaching visit Rang Ghar, the dual-storied amphitheatre for the then Ahom royalty and the seven-storied palace of Kareng Ghar with Talatal Ghar being its below-ground level three-storied secret getaway through two exit tunnels, though in ruins now, speak a lot about the ingenuity of the royal architects. Overnight stay in a hotel. (B.L.D)

Day 11: **Sivasagar- Mon** (100 km., 5 hrs)- In the morning, you will start your journey to Mon, located along the India-Myanmar border and the home of Konyak Nagas is where you will experience real Naga fierceness and tradition as the last case of headhunting in Nagaland was reported in Mon in the later part of the 1980s. Here besides semi-traditional villages and tattooed warriors in loincloths you will find the densest landscape. Go for a trek and meet the villagers and witness the customs and traditions. Stay at a lodge. (B.L.D)

Day 12: **Lungwa-** In the morning you will go to the village of Lungwa, situated on the Myanmar border. Here you will visit the chief's house, which sits on the India- Myanmar border. The chief has dozens of wives and his house is decorated with trophies of various animal skulls. Here experience the traditions and hospitality of the Naga Konyak tribe. After lunch you can explore the villages of Hongphui and Chui and meet the retired Headhunters. Overnight in Mon. (B.L.D)

Day 13: **Mon- Jorhat** (140 km., 6 hrs.)- In the morning drive to Jorhat, also called the cultural capital of Assam which has the world's oldest and largest Tea Experimental station. Here stay at a tea estate bungalow, located amidst lush green tea gardens. (B.L.D)

Day 14: **Jorhat-Majuli-Jorhat-** After breakfast you will drive to Neamatighat, Jorhat where you will take a ferry and cross over to the island of Majuli, that claims to be the largest river island in the world is much threatened by climate change and is estimated to have lost a third of its landmass to erosion in the later part of 20th century. The island is also seat of Neo- Vaishnavism and has many Assamese monasteries and is known for its crafts. In the afternoon, you will catch a ferry back to Jorhat and overnight in the hotel. (B.L.D)

Day 15: You will be dropped at Jorhat airport for your onward journey home. Tour ends. (B)

Inclusions

All meals as indicated above (B- Breakfast, L-Lunch, D- Dinner)
14 Nights' accommodation on tour
Transport by Toyota Innova or similar (Toyota Innova is a MUV)
English speaking tour guide including local guides in various location.
All entrance fees
01 Jeep and 01 elephant safari
All transfers
Bottled water

Exclusions

Camera fees
Visa
Travel/medical Insurance
Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, snacks between meals
Tips for local staff
Flights

Accommodation

We try to use the best accommodation available whichever place we go. However, given the remoteness of the destination, some of them maybe basic but clean and comfortable and all are personally quality checked. In this tour our accommodation ranges from city/ town hotels, jungle lodges, traditional styled hut stay, homestay and colonial styled Bungalows,

Hotel Shoolin Grand, Guwahati
Cherrapunjee Holiday Resort, Cherrapunjee
Wildgrass resort, Kaziranga
Razhu Pru or similar, Kohima
Hotel Metsuben, Mokokchung
Hotel Brahmaputra or similar, Sivasagar
Helsa Guest House, Mon
Kaziranga Golf Resort, Jorhat

Suggested Flight

Flights by Jet Airways/ Jet Konnect have shortest duration flights into Guwahati includes layover at Delhi airport and likewise for return from Dibrugarh to London Heathrow includes layover at Kolkata and Mumbai airports.

Food

Food is prepared using local, fresh produce in most places and maybe mildly spiced for Indian food, local cuisine, continental, Chinese is also available in some of the places. If you have any dietary requirements please mail us at the time of the booking and we will take care wherever possible.

Passport and Visa Requirements and Permit

A passport (with at least six months remaining validity) and a current Indian visa are required for this trip. Please note that you are required to have a passport with a machine-readable bar code. You will need to apply for your Indian visa in advance from the relevant issuing authority in your home country.

Please visit this site for more details <http://www.vfsglobal.com/India/UK/>.

Travel Insurance

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, repatriation, loss of baggage and holiday cancellation.

Vaccinations

Please visit your GP for guidance for vaccinations while travelling to India. Please also visit this website for more details [http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-\(east\)/india.aspx](http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-(east)/india.aspx)

Currency

The currency used is Indian Rupee. It is recommended to get your money exchanged on arrival at Delhi airport.