



75TH ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF IMPHAL & KOHIMA TAILORMADE TOUR

TOUR PRICE	LAND ONLY: £ 1900 PER PERSON ON A TWIN SHARING BASIS <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 AND WE WILL ARRANGE FOR YOUR TRANSFER FROM THE PLACE WHERE THE TOUR STARTS
TIME OF VISIT	THE ANNIVERSARY EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN MARCH- JUNE 2019. ALTHOUGH THE TOUR CAN BE DONE ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR.
NO OF DAYS	9 DAYS

75th Anniversary: Battle of Imphal and Kohima

The battles of Kohima and Imphal are one of the greatest yet relatively lesser known battles of World War II. A complex series of battles lasting from March to July, 1944 marked one of the greatest Allied Victories at Imphal and Kohima defeating the Japanese troops. Most of the battlefields in the area; the trenches, airfield and bunkers remain well preserved although worn out by time, due to the region's isolation. The cities of Kohima and Imphal also boast of allied cemeteries, beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and a Japanese War memorial near Imphal.

The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Imphal and Kohima is to be organized from March to June 2019 marked by several events. The commemoration ceremony is a delightful way to celebrate the shared peace that Manipur has attained past the battle with its soil forever sacred to the memory of the lives lost here.

Through this tour we aim to increase the awareness of Manipur and Kohima's experience of the Second World War globally. The trip starts in the colonial city of Kolkata and then we fly to Imphal and Kohima, where an amalgamation of series of tours covering the main battlefields, war cemeteries and events commemorating the 75th year of the battle alongwith the key places of attractions in and around Manipur and Nagaland will take place.

Destinations

Kolkata-Imphal-Kohima-Dimapur

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Kolkata

Arrive at Kolkata airport, where you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel. Later in the day your guide will take you for an evening tour that will include a walk in Park Street, the most famous and iconic thoroughfare in the city, also includes visit to Indian museum, Sudder Street, New Market. An evening river cruise on the Ganges and then drop to your hotel in the evening. (D)

Accommodation: Hotel Kenilworth, Kolkata

Day 2: Kolkata

You will be picked up at 6:30am to visit Mallickghat- largest flower market in Asia, the essence of old Kolkata can be found at this place as you walk down the alleys full of flowers. Then walk over the famous Howrah bridge above the Ganges. The iconic Howrah bridge on Strand lane in Kolkata is one of the breathtaking architectures built during British India. Return to the hotel for breakfast and then start your tour driving past and stopping at some of these places: GPO, Writer's building, Lalbazaar Police HQ, Stock Exchange building, Raj Bhavan, High Court, Esplanade area, Eden Garden, Princep Ghat, Vidyasagar Setu (Bridge), Fort William, Race Course, Victoria Memorial, St.Paul's Cathedral Church, Kidderpore Bridge and Dock area. Drive to North Kolkata after lunch and visit Kumartoli - making of the Ganga clay idols, drive through College Street - the largest book market and Jorasanko Thakur Bari, the house of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. The tour will end around 5 pm and you will be dropped at your hotel. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Hotel Kenilworth, Kolkata

Day 3: Kolkata-Imphal

Fly in to Imphal Airport from Kolkata. On arrival at Imphal, you will be met by our representative and assisted to transfer to your hotel. Set off for the half-day Battle of Imphal Tour. This covers sites in and around the city related to the Battle of Imphal- 1944 and Manipur's overall war experience, the battlefield closest to Imphal (Nungshigum) and the two Second World War Cemeteries maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It takes just over 3 hours. During your stay in Imphal over the next few days, we will also visit the Kangla Fort Complex, where we can view the colonial-era cottage where British General 'Bill' Slim of the Fourteenth Army stayed for some time in 1944. (B,L,D)

Note: Kangla Fort is closed on Wednesdays.

Accommodation: The Classic Grande, Imphal

Day 4: The Tiddim Road Tour

Heading out of Imphal on the Tiddim Road after breakfast, this tour takes in the only Japanese memorial to the Second World War in India, battlefields along the way, the only Indian National Army (INA) memorial complex in the world at Moirang, and Loktak Lake, the largest freshwater lake in North East India. Optional activities like boating in the lake can be arranged. The entire day tour will take 6 - 7 hours. Lunch at the Sendra Café overlooking Loktak Lake. Overnight in Imphal. (B,L,D)

Note: INA Museum is closed on Mondays.

Accommodation: The Classic Grande, Imphal

Day 5: The Shenam Saddle Tour

The Shenam Saddle Tour takes you to the very hills that made up the Shenam Saddle position on the road to Burma/Myanmar. Hear all about the fierce fighting in the area and spot trenches dating back to 1944. At a height of some 5,000 feet, take in some truly spectacular views on all sides. The pretty Kakching Garden en route is included, as is a visit to the Khongjom War Memorial, where you learn about the Khongjom War or Anglo-Manipuri War of 1891. This takes just over 6 hours. Drive back to Imphal and visit Ima Keithal, the 500 year old all women's market with its vibrant array of silk and handloom textiles, spices, vegetables, etc. Overnight in Imphal. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: The Classic Grande, Imphal

Day 6: The Battle of Shangshak Tour

The Battle of Sangshak Tour takes you up the Ukhrul Road from Imphal and right into the heart of the village of Sangshak (or Shangshak), passing through places such as Litan and Finch's Corner, which find mention in many war accounts. Explore the area that made up the British defensive position during the battle and learn of the ferociousness with which both sides fought. Trenches dating back to 1944 can still be spotted in Sangshak, which also affords glorious views of the hills of Ukhrul district. The tour of the village is rounded off by a visit to a war memorial which commemorates the battle. En route to Sangshak you get a feel of the terrain along the Ukhrul Road, which was the scene of much fighting during the Battle of Imphal. Overnight in Imphal. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: The Classic Grande, Imphal

Day 7: Imphal-Kohima (137 km, 5 hrs)

Drive to Kohima after breakfast along the Imphal-Kohima Road. This road was built in 1944 – and remains today – Manipur’s lifeline and main connection to the outside world. On the way to Kohima we will see a WWII-era airfield, a war memorial, battlefields, the area of the historic Milestone 109 where the two arms of the British Fourteenth Army linked up in June 1944, and the Kohima WWII Museum at Kisama. This drive to Kohima will take up to 6 hours since we have many stops en route. Overnight in Kohima. (B,L,D)

Note: The Kohima WWII Museum is closed on weekends.

Accommodation: Hotel Vivor

Day 8: Kohima

The Battle of Kohima Tour starts with a walk around the famous Kohima Ridge. This takes in an abandoned tank dating back to the Second World War, and some of the old British positions, including DIS, Kuki Piquet and Garrison Hill. Although a largely built up area today, the walk on the ridge allows one to get a feel of one of the most iconic battlefields of the Burma Campaign, it culminates at the Kohima War Cemetery where, among others, one can still see the outline of the famous tennis court around which fierce fighting raged in 1944. Weather permitting, the tour also takes in a spectacular view of the entire Kohima area.

The latter part of the day involves a visit to Khonoma, the first green village in India and an important home of the Angami tribe. On reaching Khonoma, see the Naga age-group houses (Morungs), forts and ceremonial gates. Khonoma is a one hour drive away from Kohima. In Kohima, visit the famous Naga bazaar. Overnight in Kohima. (B,L,D)

Accommodation: Hotel Vivor

Day 9: Kohima-Dimapur

In the morning check out of your hotel and drive to Dimapur airport for your onward journey. Tour ends. (B)

Includes

All meals as indicated above (B- Breakfast, L-Lunch, D- Dinner)

8 Nights’ accommodation on tour

Transport by Multi Utility vehicles like Toyota Innova or Minibus depending on the group size.

English speaking tour guide

All entrance fees

All transfers

Excludes

Visa

Travel/medical Insurance

Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, snacks between meals

Tips for local staff

Flights-both international and internal

Accommodation

Accommodation used in this tour includes modern hotels equivalent to 3-4 star properties.

Passport and Visa Requirements

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. In UK, this is done by an agency VFS. Please visit the website <http://www.vfsglobal.com/india/uk/Tourist.html>

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 and advice for prophylaxis against malaria. 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)

FCO travel advice

There is FCO advice against travel to Manipur. The state has seen heights of insurgency in the past but in the more recent times normalcy has returned. The sites visited in the tour are safe. For more please visit <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india/safety-and-security>