



**EXPLORE NORTH EAST INDIA**  
**NAGALAND HORNBILL FESTIVAL TOUR 2019**  
**SMALL GROUP TOUR**

<b>TRAVEL DATES</b>	<b>START: NOV 29, 2019</b>	<b>END: DEC. 13, 2019 (15 DAYS)</b>
<b>GROUP SIZE</b>	<b>MINIMUM: 2</b>	<b>MAXIMUM: 12</b>
<b>TOUR PRICE</b>	<b>LAND ONLY: £ 2350 PER PERSON ON TWIN SHARING BASIS</b> <b>SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: AVAILABLE AT £ 350</b> <b><i>PRICES ARE ALL INCLUSIVE WITH NO HIDDEN OR LOCAL PAYMENTS</i></b>	
<b>FLIGHTS</b>	<b>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</b>	

## Overview

In this trip, visit India's North East during the Hornbill Festival, where each of the 16 Naga tribes (belonging to the state of Nagaland) showcases its colourful costumes with beads, jewellery, ivory armlets, headgears (made of bamboo, orchids and decorated with boar's teeth and hornbill's feathers) and weapons (spears and daos). In the past, only those warriors who proved their gallantry could adorn such an attire. You will also visit the historic district of Mokokchung – the land of the Ao Nagas – the place where the American Baptist missionaries first came into contact with the Nagas. Visit the land of the last generation of Headhunting Konyak tribe and Lungwa village, where the village chief's house sits amidst the India-Burmese border.

Also visit Kaziranga National Park, which is home to the one horned rhinos, the Majuli islands, world's largest river island, known for Assamese neo Vaishnavism, which is still practised by the monks in the island, also witness the precarious condition due to climatic challenges faced by the island.

Our guests have enjoyed the annual Hornbill festival tour with us continuously and this year we have improvised the itinerary with additional activities like a boat safari in Kaziranga with sightings of rare river dolphins and a stay in rural settings of Majuli and experience the way of life of the Mishing tribes there.

## Destinations

Guwahati-Kaziranga-Kohima-Tuophema-Mokokchung-Mon-Majuli-Jorhat

## Detailed itinerary

**Nov 29:** Reach Guwahati airport, the gateway to the North East India, where you will be received by our representative and transferred to the Guest House. Rest of the evening relax. (D)

Accommodation: Umal Guest House

**Nov 30:** Guwahati- Kaziranga (170 km, 5 hrs.) - Early in the morning after breakfast, drive to Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site and a biodiversity hotspot. The one animal that Kaziranga is globally famous for is the one-horned rhinoceros, that finds two-thirds of its total population in the world right here. A flurried abundance of avifaunal species (more than 400 in total), unusually tall elephant grass, marshland, numerous water bodies and intimidating broadleaf forests pitch in to make Kaziranga a world renowned wildlife conservation site. Check in at your jungle lodge and go for an afternoon jeep safari (B.L.D).

Accommodation: <http://kazirangaborgos.com/> or similar (Jungle lodge with modern amenities)

**Dec 1:** Kaziranga- Early in the morning embark on an elephant safari, which gives you ample opportunity to see the varied wildlife found in the park, as elephants can approach very close to these wild animals. After your elephant safari, have your breakfast and then go for a boat safari. In the afternoon, after lunch, go on a jeep safari into the jungle. (B.L.D)

Accommodation: <http://kazirangaborgos.com/> (Jungle lodge with modern amenities)

**Dec 2:** 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. Thereafter, continue your drive to Kohima and reach by evening. (B.L.D)

Accommodation: Hotel Blue Bayou or similar (town hotel )

**Dec 3-4:** 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)

Kisama- On the outskirts of Kohima, is Naga Heritage Complex of Kisama, the venue for Hornbill festival, a cultural extravaganza showcasing the stunning natural beauty and great cultural traditions of Nagaland. On both days, you will visit Kisama in the mornings and go for sightseeing around Kohima later in the day. Overnight stay at hotel in Kohima. (B.L.D)

Accommodation: Hotel Blue Bayou or similar (town hotel )

**Dec 5:** Kohima- Tuophema (40 km., 2 hrs) In the morning, drive to Tuophema, a tourist village, where you get to experience traditional Naga lifestyle. The most striking feature of Tuophema is the assortment of wooden huts closely stacked up next to each other with a thematic character for every hut. Each of them is outlined with intricate woodwork, spears, machetes, wooden stars and just about anything that speaks of Naga culture and traditions. Here, you will stay in one of these huts. (B.L.D)

Accommodation: Tuophema Tourist village ( traditional Naga styled huts built by the local community and care and upkeep of each hut is the responsibility of the Khels or clans of the village)

**Dec 6:** Tuophema-Mokokchung (150 km., 5 hrs)- After breakfast start your 4 hrs. 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)

Accommodation: Whispering Winds (town hotel)

**Dec 7:** 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)

Accommodation: Whispering Winds (town hotel)

**Dec 8:** Mokokchung-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)

Accommodation: Hotel Shiva (town hotel)

**Dec 9:** 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)

Accommodation: Helsa Morung (newly renovated slightly modernised traditional huts)

**Dec 10:** 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 around. Overnight in Mon. (B.L.D)

Accommodation: Helsa Morung (newly renovated slightly modernised traditional huts)

**Dec 11:** Mon- Majuli (140 km., 5 hrs. and 1 hr by ferry)- In the morning drive to Neamatighat, Jorhat, and catch your ferry to Majuli, the largest river island, much threatened by climate change and is estimated to have lost a third of its landmass to erosion in the later part of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The island is also seat of Neo- Vaishnavism and has many Assamese monasteries and is known for its crafts. Today explore the island and visit the monasteries and meet the monks, alongwith a Xatriya classical dance performance by the monks. Overnight at the traditional Mishing stilted thatched hut (B.L.D)

Accommodation: Mepo Okum

**Dec 12:** Majuli-Jorhat- After breakfast, explore the Mishing tribal villages in the island and witness the way of life of the people here. The threat of losing their lands to erosion and flooding looms large among the people here and how they prepare for it. A very rural setting and atmosphere, people's main livelihood here is farming, fishing and weaving. You will meet weavers, visit the local haat/bazaar, visit a local house and see how they live, taste apong (the local beer) and how it is made. you will catch a ferry back to Jorhat and overnight in the hotel. (B.L.D)

Accommodation: <http://kazirangagolfresort.in/>

**Dec 13:** 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 Multi Utility vehicles like Toyota Innova or similar  
Tour Guide  
All entrance fees  
02 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

### **Road Conditions**

As with visiting any remote destination, you will experience continuous hours of travel on a few days of your tour. This is mainly due to bad road conditions especially in Nagaland.

### **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**

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 and 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)

Please note North east India is a malaria prone region

### **Climate**

Assam will be dry and pleasant in the months of November- December with maximum temperature of 25 degrees and minimum of 10 degrees. The days will be mostly clear, sunny and bright. Nagaland will be relatively cold with night temperatures going down to 5 degrees. Light sweater or a jacket in Assam and warm clothing is recommended for Nagaland.

### **Clothing**

It is recommended to carry fleece/ jacket/coat, gloves and woollen hat as temperatures tend to drop in certain places especially in the mornings and at night. During the day, lightweight clothes will be fine. Comfortable shoes recommended as their will be moderate amount of walking.

### **Currency**

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

### **Budgeting and Tipping**

There are no local payments to be done on this trip. You may however, like to budget for any snacks and drinks not included in the tour, as a guidance, a bottle of beer costs £ 1.5,

Tipping the guides and driver is at your discretion and you can budget a total of £ 50 for this.