



ChaloHoppo

"Bailey Trail"

HIGH ALTITUDE MOUNTAIN PASSES

(9N/10D)



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INTRODUCTION

Embark on a journey through the historic Bailey Trail in the Gorichen region of the Eastern Himalayas. This 5 nights/6 days trek in Western Arunachal Pradesh offers an incredible opportunity to engage with a path rich in history and surrounded by stunning natural beauty.

Starting from Thungri, the Bailey Trail winds through forests of cedar, pine, oak, and vibrant rhododendrons. Weather permitting, trekkers will be rewarded with breathtaking views of peaks like Mt. Gorichen, Mt. Kangto, Mt. Nyegyri Kangsang, and Mt. Takpa Shiri.

The trail includes high-altitude passes and alpine lakes, presenting a challenging yet rewarding experience for those with prior multi-day trekking experience.



BACKGROUND

The Bailey Trail is named after Lt. Col. F. M. Bailey, who, alongside Capt. H.T. Morshead, mapped the McMahon Line in 1914. This ancient trade route was crucial for commerce and cultural exchange between Burma, India, and Tibet. During the 1962 Chinese incursion into Arunachal Pradesh, it gained strategic importance, with remnants of deserted bunkers still along the path.

The regions we will traverse are home to the Monpa and Brokpa communities. The Monpas, primarily found in the Tawang and West Kameng districts, are known for their rich cultural heritage, distinctive traditional attire, and vibrant festivals like Losar (New Year) and Torgya. Their unique architectural style, reflected in the beautiful monasteries and houses they build, adds to the region's charm. The Brokpas, semi-nomadic herders residing in high-altitude areas, are recognized for their deep connection with nature and expertise in livestock rearing, particularly yaks. They practice transhumance, moving between pastures with the seasons, and have a wealth of knowledge about the medicinal plants and herbs of the region.

B A C K G R O U N D

Our guides and support team will also be from these tribes, offering authentic insights into their cultures. Trekkers will learn stories and folklore of the Eastern Himalayas from local communities as we navigate the forests and high-altitude lakes. Interacting with the Monpa and Brokpa people will provide trekkers with a unique opportunity to understand their way of life, traditions, and the challenges they face in preserving their heritage in a rapidly changing world.





KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Forest and Flora

Immerse yourself in lush pine and rhododendron forests, witnessing the vibrant colours of blooming flowers.

High Passes and Views

Traverse four high passes with stunning views of the Gorichen/Kangto range.

Historical Significance

Follow the route taken by the Chinese Army during the 1962 conflict and explore its historical context. Discover abandoned bunkers from the war.

Glacial Lakes

Encounter multiple high-altitude glacial lakes renowned for their staggering beauty.

Streams and Meadows

Walk across crystal-clear streams and through some of the finest meadows in the Eastern Himalayas.

Birdwatching Opportunity

The region includes rare birds like Grandla, Chestnut-tailed Minla, Blue-headed Rock Thrush, and Bullfinch.

Traditional Yak Huts

Pass through traditional yak huts built by the Brokpas, with opportunities to see yaks up close.

TREK DETAILS



Difficulty Level ● ● ● ● ○

Moderate to Difficult. This trek requires prior multi-day trekking experience and a good level of fitness due to the high-altitude passes and varying weather conditions.

Fitness Requirements ● ● ● ● ○

Participants should be in excellent physical condition, capable of trekking for 8-10 hours a day. Pre-trek preparation, including cardio and strength training, is highly recommended. Participants should also be familiar with high-altitude trekking and acclimatization practices.

Expected Weather Conditions

Prepare for varying weather conditions including cold temperatures, rain, and potentially snow at higher altitudes.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day 1 - *Travel Day*

Early morning departure from Guwahati to Dirang(9 hrs)
Overnight in Dirang.

Day 2 - *Acclimatisation and Preparation*

Briefing session on the trek.
Acclimatisation activities to prepare for the altitude.
Gear check and final preparations.
Short hikes to further acclimatize and get accustomed to the terrain.
Overnight in Dirang.

Day 3- *Travel to road head*

Drive from Dirang to Thungri(4 hrs)
Continued acclimatisation with short walks
Overnight in Thungri

Day 4 - Day 8 - *Trek Days*

Day 9 - *Return Journey*

Drive From Mago to Shergaon (8 hrs)
Farewell dinner and closing activities.
Overnight in Shergaon

Day 10 - *Return Journey*

Drive back to Guwahati (7 hrs)

***Detailed day wise breakdown at the end of document**

DAY WISE BREAKDOWN

DAY	Starting Point (Height)	Ending Point (Height)	Pass Crossing	Distance (kms)	Elevation Gain (m)	Overnight Stay
1	Cuwahati (50 m)	Dirang (1650 m)	Bomdia	380 kms (8 hrs drive)	1600	Homestay
2	Acclimatisation Day in Dirang		-	8km (4 hrs trek)	1200	Homestay
3	Dirang (1650 m)	Thungri (3100 m)		50 kms (4 hrs drive)	1450	Campsite
4	Thungri (3100 m)	Changla (3750 m)	-	12 kms (9 hrs trek)	650	Campsite
5	Changla (3750 m)	Samchung (3900 m)	Poshing La (4116 m) Pangi La (4000 m)	10 kms (9 hrs trek)	350	Campsite
6	Samchung (3900 m)	Potok (4200 m)	Chomkuzamin Lake	Samchung to Potok (5 kms / 4 hrs) Potok to Lake (2.5 kms / 2 hrs)	300	Campsite
7	Potok (4200 m)	Lurtem (4250 m)	Tse La Pass Highest Point (4800 m)	15 kms (9 hrs trek)	600	Campsite
8	Lurtem (4250 m)	Mago (3500 m)	Jere la Pass (4200 m)	18 kms (10 hrs trek)	-750	Homestay/ Tourist Lodge
9	Mago (3500 m)	Shergaon (1500 m)	Sela Pass	150 kms (6 hrs drive)		Homestay
10	Shergaon (1500 m)	Cuwahati (50 m)	-	380 kms (8 hrs drive)		



DAY 1- EMBARK ON YOUR EASTERN HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE

Our journey begins at Guwahati Airport, where we will depart by 12 PM. We embark on an 8-hour drive, transitioning from the lush plains of Assam to the rugged mountains of the Eastern Himalayas, finally reaching the beautiful region of West Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh. The scenic drive allows for a wonderful opportunity to get to know your fellow trekkers better, fostering a sense of camaraderie within our small-sized group.

As we ascend towards Dirang, the change in scenery becomes more pronounced, with rolling hills giving way to towering peaks. The drive itself is an adventure, winding through dense forests and along the banks of rivers. Reach your stay in Dirang by evening.

OVERNIGHT IN DIRANG



DAY 2- ACCLIMATISATION IN DIRANG

This day is dedicated to preparing for the trek ahead. We will start with a detailed briefing session on the Bailey Trail, covering essential information and safety guidelines. This will be followed by acclimatisation activities to help us adjust to the altitude, ensuring we are well-prepared for the journey.

We will also conduct a thorough gear check and make final preparations for the trek. Once done, we can embark on a short hike in the surrounding area with our local partners to further aid acclimatisation and also to provide an opportunity to get accustomed to the terrain and explore the local flora and fauna. Finally, return to your stay for an evening of leisure.

OVERNIGHT IN DIRANG



DAY 3- ENTER THE WILD

After breakfast, we set out on a drive from Dirang (5,200 feet) to Thungri (10,000 feet). The village of Thungri was, till not too long back, accessible only by foot. The construction of a new road has significantly altered the Bailey Trail trekking experience, making Thungri the new starting point instead of Thembang (7,545 feet).

The drive to the village, though bumpy, offers breathtakingly gorgeous views. The road, carved into a steep cliff, offers spectacular views, making for an adventurous experience. When not focusing on the road, you'll be treated to panoramic vistas of the Eastern Himalayas. Upon reaching Thungri, we'll take a casual walk to acclimatise further and soak in the serene mountain environment.

OVERNIGHT IN THUNGRI CAMPSITE



DAY 4- THE BAILEY TRAIL BEGINS

The time has come to start our adventure on the Bailey Trail. We wake up to the fresh mountain air, a hot cup of tea, and a hearty breakfast, ready for our first day of trekking. We meet up with rest of the support team and one can feel the excitement buzzing in the air. After all, we're going off the grid for a few days!

As we begin, the trail leads us through a vibrant rhododendron forest, where bursts of red, pink, and white flowers contrast against the green backdrop. The initial three hours of the trek involve a gentle incline through the forest. As we approach Kadambara, the trail becomes steeper, leading us to Chang La, our campsite for the night. Chang La is a stunning, expansive campsite perched above dense forests, providing breathtaking views of the surrounding peaks.

Along the way, remnants of the 1962 Indo-China war, including old army bunkers, offer a sobering reminder of the region's history. This route was used during the conflict, adding a layer of historical significance to our journey.

OVERNIGHT IN CHANG LA CAMPSITE



DAY 5- TRAVERSING MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN PASSES

Starting from the Chang La campsite, today's trek is long but rewarding, taking us over two picturesque mountain passes. We begin with a moderate two-hour climb to the base of Poshing La (4,116 m), followed by a steep one-hour ascent over rocky terrain, where we are rewarded with stunning views of Gorichen and Kangto if the weather is clear.

After enjoying the view, we continue for another hour on gentler terrain until we reach Pangri La (4,000 m). The descent through forests filled with juniper and rhododendron trees is long but beautiful. We'll cross a glacial stream near an army camp before arriving at Samchung, our campsite for the night, located by the scenic Samchung River, the source of the Sangti River.

OVERNIGHT IN SAMCHUNG



DAY 6- DISCOVERING HIGH-ALTITUDE GLACIAL LAKES

Today's trek allows for recovery from the previous day's demands. We start with a relaxed morning in Samchung and reach Potok in a few hours, walking through breathtaking scenery. Along the way, we will see blooming rhododendron trees on one side and the rushing Samchung River on the other. The landscape gradually opens up, resembling the Tibetan plateau.

Once we reach the Potok campsite, we'll rest briefly before heading out for a day hike to the stunning Chomkuzamin Lake, a vast glacial lake that lies at an altitude of 4350 meters and is approximately 2.5 kms away from the campsite. The hike offers spectacular views, and the pristine waters of the lake reflect the surrounding peaks, creating a picturesque setting. This hike also helps us acclimatise for the next day's ascent to the highest point of our trek. We'll return to our campsite to end the day.

OVERNIGHT AT POTOK



DAY 7- CONQUERING TSE LA PASS – THE PINNACLE OF OUR TREK

This day marks the most significant day of our trek as we reach its highest point. We'll be climbing over 4,000 meters, where every step counts due to the thin air. Although the trail is moderately sloped with no steep sections, it will be very exhausting because of the altitude.

We will maintain a slow and steady pace as we make our way to Tse La Pass (4,700 m), the highest point on the Bailey Trail. From there, we have an optional climb to a higher vantage point where we can view the massive glaciers of the region. If visibility permits, we'll also be treated to breathtaking views of the Gorichen and Kangto peaks. This pass is adorned with several high-altitude glacial lakes, reflecting the pure beauty of the Himalayas.

After taking in the views and the serene environment, we will begin our descent towards the valley. The landscape changes dramatically as we follow the Gorjo Chu river, making our way to Lurtem, our final campsite of this trek.

OVERNIGHT AT LURTEM



DAY 8- THE SERENE DESCENT

Our final trekking day features a gentle walk through lush valleys, yak huts, and pine forests, reminiscent of the Kashmir Valley. The journey begins with an ascent to Jere La Pass, offering one last breathtaking view before we begin our descent to Mago.

A portion of today's trek includes walking on a road that is still under construction, which might slightly detract from the trekking experience. However, this is part of the trail and leads us through stunning landscapes. As we descend, the trail follows the Gorjo Chu River, passing through scenic landscapes and offering glimpses of traditional yak herding and nomadic life. The sense of accomplishment is profound as we near the end of our trek, knowing we've conquered one of the most challenging trails in the region. Mago is a quaint village with natural hot springs, providing the perfect setting to relax and reflect on our journey. Evening at leisure.

OVERNIGHT AT MAGO



DAY 9- BIDDING FAREWELL

The time has come to bid farewell to Mago and the local teams that have supported us throughout the trek. We embark on a scenic drive to Shergaon, a beautiful village that serves as a pitstop on our way back.

Upon reaching our homestay in Shergaon, we will be warmly welcomed by our local hosts. We'll spend the evening sitting around a fire, reminiscing and celebrating the incredible journey we've shared over the past week. As we reflect on our adventures and the breathtaking landscapes we've encountered, we'll enjoy a final night of camaraderie before getting a well-deserved rest.

OVERNIGHT AT SHERGAON



DAY 10- RETURN TO GUWAHATI

Our journey concludes with a 7-hour drive back to Guwahati. This marks the end of our incredible Bailey Trail adventure, but also the beginning of many more trips to the enchanting region of North East India. As we part ways, we carry with us unforgettable memories and a deep appreciation for the natural and cultural heritage we've experienced.



WHY FITNESS MATTERS

Safety

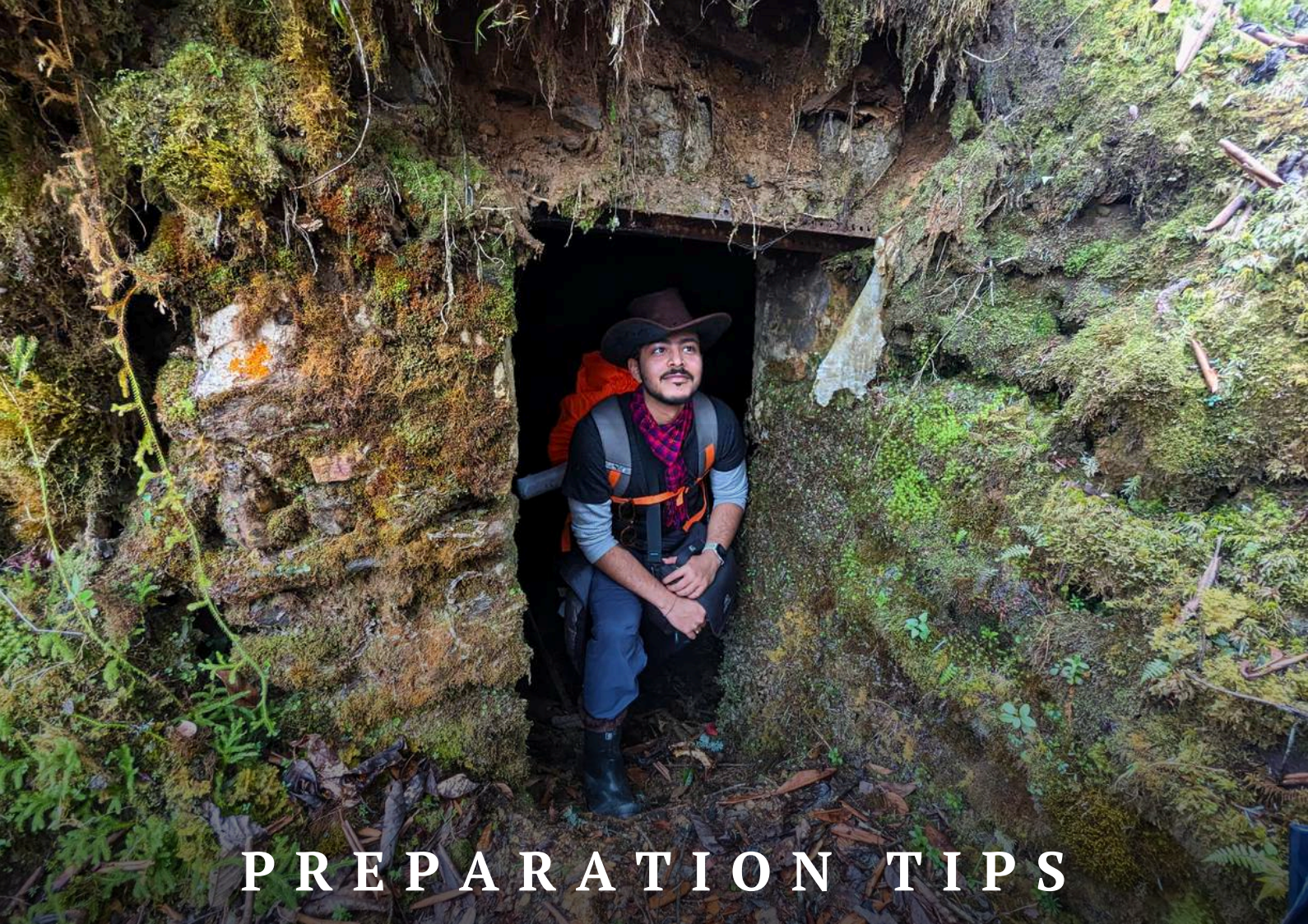
Some sections of our itinerary will take us deep into unexplored territory where evacuation can be challenging. Maintaining a good fitness level ensures you can keep up with the group and handle unexpected situations more effectively.

Enjoyment

Being in good physical shape will enhance your overall experience, allowing you to enjoy the adventure to its fullest without undue strain or fatigue.

Group Dynamics

We aim to maintain a steady pace throughout our activities. Meeting the fitness requirements ensures everyone can stay together, promoting a cohesive and enjoyable group experience.



PREPARATION TIPS

Active Lifestyle

Maintain an active lifestyle with various fitness regimes at least one month before the start of the trip. b

Endurance Building

Regular running or jogging is highly recommended to build the necessary endurance and agility.



SAFETY AND GUIDELINES

Safety Measures:

- Trained guides with knowledge of the terrain and emergency protocols.
- Certified trip leader with experience in mountaineering and trekking.
- Regular health checks and acclimatization schedules.
- Communication equipment for emergencies.

Guidelines:

- Follow Leave No Trace principles.
- Respect local cultures and customs.
- Stay with the group and follow the guide's instructions.
- Avoid unnecessary risks and inform guides of any health issues.



WHAT TO PACK

Essential Gear:

- Sturdy trekking boots (although gum boots work best, and you can get the same from Dirang Market)
- High-quality backpack.
- Sleeping bag (rated for -5°C to -10°C cold temperatures).

Clothing:

- Layered clothing (thermal base layers, fleece, waterproof jacket and pants).
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Moisture-wicking socks.

Miscellaneous:

- Personal first aid kit.
- Sunscreen and sunglasses.
- Personal hygiene items.
- Trekking poles (optional but recommended).

A person holding a purple umbrella is walking away on a narrow, misty forest path. The path is covered in fallen leaves and is flanked by dense green bushes with bright red flowers. Tall pine trees line the path, and the background is shrouded in a thick mist. The overall atmosphere is serene and slightly somber due to the weather.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LOGISTICS AND TRAVEL

Which airport should I arrive at, and what time will we reach Guwahati on Day 10?

Arrive at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati on Day 0, the day before the trek starts. We begin early on Day 1 and will reach Guwahati by around 5 PM on the last day. You can book your flight from Guwahati after 7 PM.

What time does the trip start and end, and from where?

The trek starts from Guwahati at 6:00 am on Day 1. We will return to Guwahati on Day 10 by late afternoon, so you can schedule your return flight for after 7:00 pm.

How much money should I carry?

During the trek, there are no additional expenses. For the days in Guwahati and other non-trekking days, carrying around INR 1000 per day should be sufficient.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need a permit to travel to Arunachal Pradesh?

Yes, you need an Inner Line Permit (ILP) for Arunachal Pradesh. We will arrange this for you. Please provide your Aadhar Card/Passport, a passport-size photo, and any other necessary details. The ILP typically takes about 7 days to process.

Are foreign nationals allowed on this trek?

No, due to the trek's proximity to the Indo-Tibetan border, foreign nationals are not permitted in this region.

TIPPING AND GRATITUDE

Should I tip the guides and support staff?

Yes, our guides, cooks, porters, and support staff work hard to ensure a great experience. Tipping is appreciated as a gesture of gratitude for their efforts.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

What are your evacuation protocols, and where is the nearest hospital?

In emergencies, the nearest roadheads are Thungri or Mago, from where we can drive to medical facilities in Dirang or Tawang.

What is the mobile network coverage during the trek?

There is no mobile network coverage throughout the trek.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TRIP OVERVIEW AND COSTS

Why are treks in North East India so much more expensive than other popular treks around the country?

Treks in North East India, including the Bailey Trail, are generally more expensive due to several factors:

- **Accessibility and Infrastructure:** The remote locations and less developed infrastructure in North East India drive up costs related to travel and accommodation.
- **Logistical Challenges:** Transporting supplies and maintaining infrastructure in these remote areas is both challenging and costly.
- **Higher Wages:** The demanding nature of these treks requires highly skilled guides and support staff, who command higher wages.
- **Low Volume of Tourists:** With fewer tourists visiting these areas, costs remain high due to reduced competition.

Moreover, with ChaloHoppo, the Bailey Trail trek is priced higher compared to some other operators, reflecting our commitment to providing an exceptional experience. Key distinctions include:

- **Comprehensive Logistics and Accommodation:** From the handful of operators who have worked in this region, most offer this package starting from Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh itself (requiring travellers to make their own way here). Our package includes high-quality transport to and from Guwahati and vetted, handpicked accommodation during the journey and acclimatisation days. This level of comfort and logistical support adds significantly to the overall cost.
- **Quality of Personnel:** Our trek leaders are highly trained and experienced, and we maintain a high ratio of support staff to trekkers, ensuring enhanced safety and support.
- **Safety Measures:** We implement rigorous safety measures, including daily health checks and well-equipped emergency protocols.
- **Small Group Sizes:** Unlike other companies that handle large groups of 50-70 trekkers, we limit our groups to a maximum of 12 to 15 trekkers. This allows us to offer a more personalised and immersive experience, which is reflected in the cost.

F R E Q U E N T L Y A S K E D Q U E S T I O N S

TREK DETAILS

Do we encounter snow on the trail?

Yes, you will see snow patches and may trek through snow while crossing high-altitude passes.

What is the best time to do the Bailey Trek?

The ideal times are May, June, September, and October when the weather is clearer and snow cover is manageable.

What kind of food can we expect on the trek?

We provide a variety of Indian vegetarian meals, including breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Our menu features Indian bread, vegetables, lentils, rice, and desserts, with additional tea, snacks, and soups in the evenings.

Why is the food 100% vegetarian?

High-altitude conditions make it challenging to preserve non-vegetarian food, which spoils quickly. Most trekking organizations, especially at high altitudes, serve vegetarian meals to ensure safety and freshness.

What are the accommodation arrangements?

During the trek, you will share a three-person tent with one other trekker. On non-trekking days, we stay in clean and hygienic homestays.

What safety measures are in place during the trek?

Our safety measures include:

- Daily oxygen saturation and pulse checks
- Radios for communication and emergency coordination
- Trained mountain staff
- Additional oxygen canisters
- A comprehensive medical kit for high-altitude treks
- Experienced trek leaders

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EQUIPMENT AND PACKING

Are sleeping bags provided?

We highly recommend bringing your own sleeping bag rated for -5 to -10°C for hygiene reasons. Using a public rental sleeping bag may not meet personal cleanliness standards. If absolutely necessary, we will try to arrange a sleeping bag for you, but nothing beats the comfort and hygiene of your own.

Are toilet tents available?

Yes, dedicated toilet tents are provided at each campsite for maintaining hygiene.

How much weight should I carry during the trek?

Your backpack should not exceed 10 kg. Mules carry the rest of your equipment, but we advise against offloading backpacks to preserve the environment. Offloading is available under specific conditions if absolutely necessary.

What type of oxygen supplies are carried during the trek?

We use oxygen canisters, which are practical for trekking. They are preferred over larger cylinders due to their portability and effectiveness.

I am traveling with my laptop.

We recommend leaving your laptop or any non-essential items in Guwahati. The trek is demanding, with limited connectivity, so carry only essentials.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FITNESS AND EXPERIENCE

I've never done a multi-day trek before but am fit and interested. What do you suggest?

Prior high-altitude trekking experience is crucial for this trek. The Bailey Trail reaches altitudes up to 16,000 ft, which is challenging for those without previous experience. We recommend gaining some experience on lower-altitude treks first.

What is considered high altitude, and why is prior experience important?

High altitude is generally considered to be above 9,000 ft. At altitudes up to 16,000 ft, like on this trek, the environment is more demanding. Even fit individuals can struggle without prior experience due to the physiological challenges posed by high altitudes.



REACH US HERE

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