



ChaloHoppo

“Of Rains, Rivers and Root Bridges”

THE MEGA MEGHALAYAN MONSOON CHAPTER

(5N/6D)

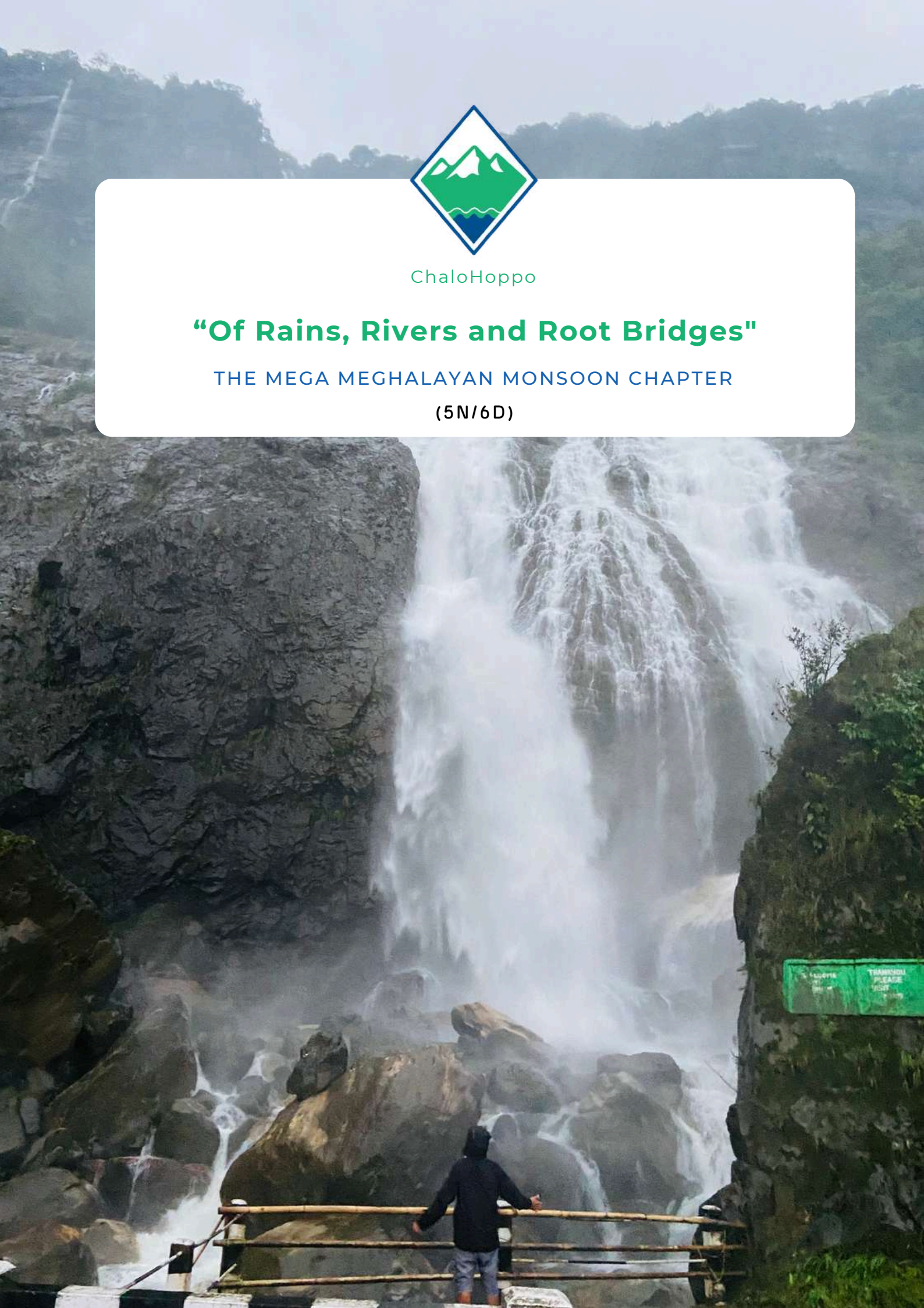


TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	<i>2</i>
KEY HIGHLIGHTS	<i>3</i>
DAY WISE BREAKDOWN	<i>4</i>
PRICING	<i>11</i>
INCLUSIONS	<i>12</i>
EXCLUSIONS	<i>13</i>
CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY	<i>14</i>
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	<i>15</i>



INTRODUCTION

The name “Meghalaya” comes from “Megh” which translates to “clouds” and “Alaya” which means “an abode”. True to its name, this abode of clouds, with its natural gift of rain, has earned destinations like Sohra and Mawsynram the title of the world’s wettest places, recognized by multiple records for their average rainfall.

Over a million years, this rain has shaped the geology and topography of the state in many unique ways, resulting in one of the more beautiful terrains one may encounter in the world. It is a natural playground for the adventurer at heart — if you grew up in the villages of Meghalaya, no amusement park in all of the land would fascinate you as much anymore.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

From hidden waterfalls to natural pools fed by gushing rain-fed rivers, the monsoon in Meghalaya offers an unforgettable experience for any nature lover exploring the rainiest region in the world. Pack your raincoats and ponchos as you embark on a wet and wild journey through the lush green jungles of Meghalaya! Some of our favourites from this chapter are-

- Hikes to **root bridges** and secret handpicked **swimming spots**
- **Hidden waterfalls** of Sohra and Pongtung.
- Visit Sohra and Mawsynram, both of which hold Guinness world records for the **rainfall** they receive- all in this season.
- **River canyoning** to Umkhakoi
- Experience the music of the **local musicians**, the few who still play traditional Khasi instruments.

DAY WISE BREAKDOWN

Day	Starting Point	Ending Point	Driving Time	Experience	Meal Plan	Stay
1	Guwahati	Sohra	5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive in Guwahati Airport by 11:45 am • Quick stop in Umiam Lake • Night in Sohra 	-	Resort in Sohra
2	Day in Sohra		1-2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterfalls, caves and spots in Sohra 	Breakfast, Lunch	Resort in Sohra
3	Sohra	Pongtung	3 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mawkynot Living Root Bridges • Pynter Village and Traditional Music Experience 	Breakfast, Lunch	Guesthouse in Pongtung
4	Pongtung	Shillong	2.5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secret Waterfalls and Ancient Trails in and around Pongtung • Evening at Shillong 	Breakfast	Homestay in Shillong
5	Day trip to Mawlyngbna		6 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water activities at Mawlyngbna 	Breakfast, Lunch	Homestay in Shillong
6	Shillong	Guwahati Airport	3.5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive to Guwahati Airport 	Breakfast	



DAY 1- GEAR UP! YOUR MONSOON ADVENTURE BEGINS

Gear up for an adventure of a lifetime as you start your journey from the plains of Guwahati and make your way up into the "Abode of Clouds"- Meghalaya.

You are likely to experience the rains and clouds on your first day first day itself, as you drive up to the hills. This trip is designed to take you through the mega monsoons so you better come prepared.

We will start the journey with a pitstop at the grand Umiam Lake. After this, we continue towards Sohra (also known popularly as Cherrapunjee). Finally, we will settle at our stay in Sohra for an evening of leisure.

OVERNIGHT IN SOHRA



DAY 2- A DAY IN SOHRA

Rise and shine! Your journey into the Meghalayan outdoors begins today.

After a leisurely breakfast (don't forget, the sun rises and sets very early around here), we explore Sohra. Sohra lies on the Southern side of the East Khasi Hills- A region filled with waterfalls, natural pools, living root bridges, caves, and many other natural wonders.

On this day, you will begin to experience not just the beauty of the Meghalayan landscape, but also the warmth of the local communities that call this region home.

Spend your day outdoors as you explore some hidden gems with our local experts. We work very hard to keep our spots secret so that our guests can experience these places with no crowds, loud music, and litter.

Come sundown, set out towards your stay for the night. Spend your evening singing and getting to know your fellow travellers better.

OVERNIGHT IN SOHRA



DAY 3- EXPLORE THE UNEXPLORED LIVING ROOT BRIDGES

After a relaxed breakfast, prepare yourself for another day of adventure. There are over 100 known living root bridges in Meghalaya. Staying true to exploring paths off the beaten trail, our local guides will take you to the lesser-known root bridges in a magical place called Mawkyrnot.

There's a lot to learn from the age-old culture of building these root bridges in Meghalaya. Our local guides work hard to conserve the bridges in these villages and they would be the best to tell you all about these natural wonders that speak volumes about the culture of the Khasi community.

After spending a full day surrounded by greenery and root bridges, we'll make our way to Pynter. Meghalaya has produced some brilliant music and is known to be a destination for many enthusiasts. At Pynter, local artists will introduce you to Meghalaya's vibrant musical heritage. Experience traditional instruments live, played by the few who continue to preserve this art form. Finally, we return to your stay for an evening to leisure.

OVERNIGHT IN PONGTUNG



DAY 4- OFF THE BEATEN TRAIL

After an early breakfast, we meet our local expert who will take us to a few magical spots that lie well off the beaten trail. Don't forget to keep your swimwear and hiking shoes ready - you will be making good use of them on this day. The hikes that we will embark on this day are a maximum duration of 40 minutes each way and are relatively easy. However, since we'll visit multiple locations, the day will involve a good amount of movement, you'll be on your toes throughout. We will take you to various waterfalls and hidden pools in the area, lush and brimming, where you can cool off and enjoy the beauty of the natural world around you.

After exploring Pynursla, we will finally make our way towards Shillong for the night. Feel free to explore the local markets and eateries as we get there. Evening at leisure.

OVERNIGHT IN SHILLONG



DAY 5- AN ADRENALINE PACKED NATURAL PLAYGROUND, MAWLYNGBNA

On this day, we dive into the natural world of Meghalaya. After an early breakfast, we make our way towards Mawsynram, in the East Khasi Hills. Our experienced guides will lead you through an unforgettable adventure (roughly 3 hours long), where we will embark on a river canyoning experience, followed by kayaking in Umkhakoi lake.

Once done, we will move to the nearby village for a quick local lunch. After lunch, learn more about the region as our knowledgeable guides take you to explore some of our other favourite local spots, like the split rock. Don't forget to ask about the fascinating fossils that have been found here!

In the evening, return to your homestay and end the day with stories, games and brews.

OVERNIGHT IN SHILLONG



DAY 6- BIDDING FAREWELL!

After breakfast, bid goodbye to the hills and make your way back to the plains of Assam. The drive will take 3 and a half hours. You can choose to carry on to your next destination or take a flight back home.

Whichever way, we shall look forward to having you back for more experiences around North East India.



PRICING

MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE : 10 ADULTS

“Price on request”



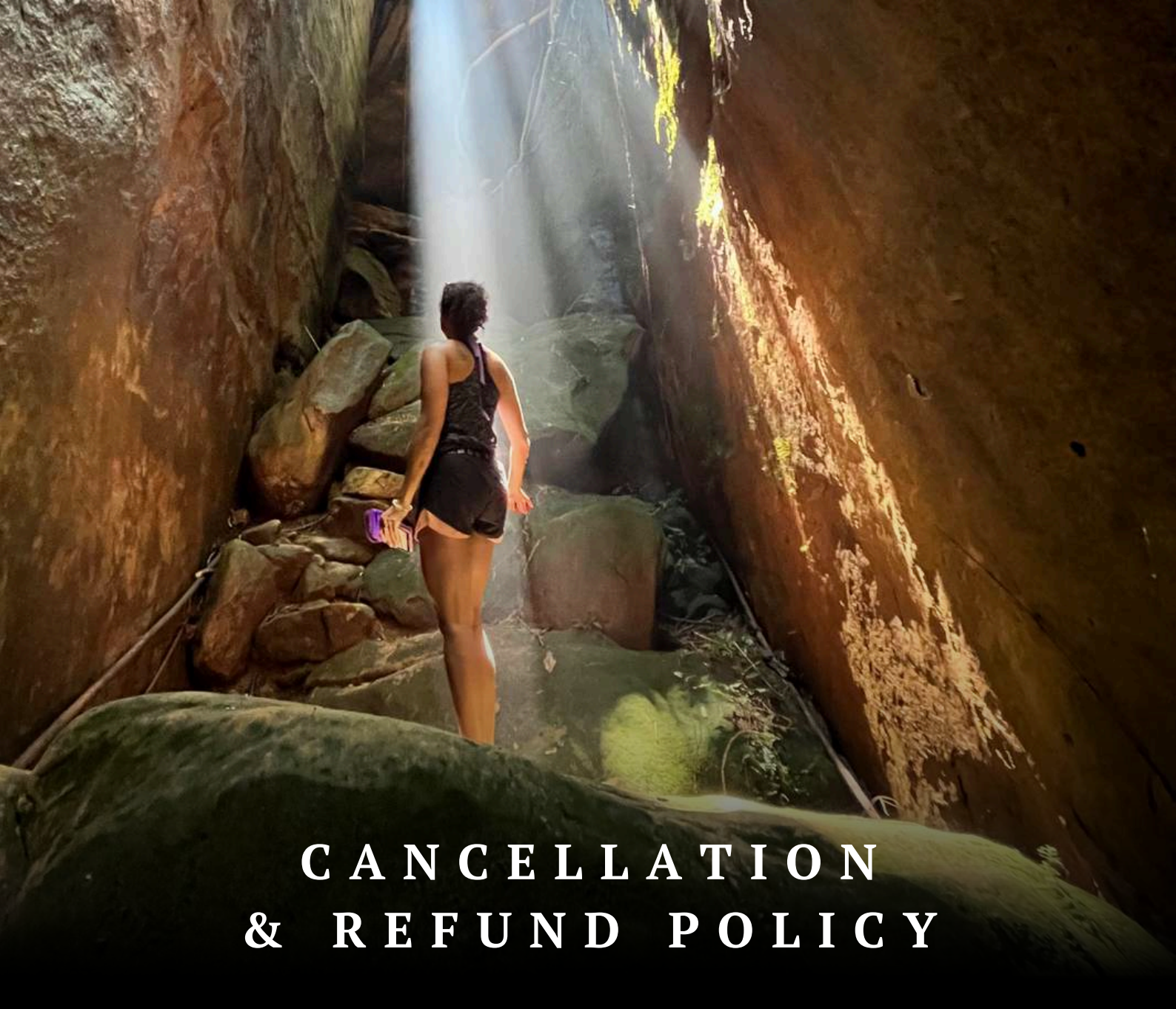
INCLUSIONS

- Stay in comfortable, clean and hygienic accommodation (2 travellers in 1 twin-sharing room)
- Transport to and from Guwahati airport in a Tempo Traveller
- Breakfast on all days except Day 1
- Lunch on Day 2, 3, and 5
- Local guide on Day 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Trip Lead throughout the trip
- All expenses related to the vehicle and the pilot
- All activities at Mawlyngbna (River Canyoning, Kayaking)
- Pynter Music Experience
- Bonfires wherever required



EXCLUSIONS

- Airfare charges
- All food & beverages costs apart from the ones mentioned above
- Any camera fees
- Hotel & driver tips (since the locals earn low wages, your tips will show your appreciation)
- Entry ticket fees to Museums, Parks, etc.
- Any personal expenditure (Toiletries, medicines, etc.)
- Cost incidental to any change in the itinerary/ stay on account of flight cancellation due to bad weather, ill health, roadblocks, and/or any factors beyond control.
- Anything not specifically mentioned under the head "Inclusions".



CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

General Refund Policy

45+ days prior to starting date of the trip – 100% refund of the total trip cost
30-44 days prior to starting date of the trip – 75% refund of the total trip cost
15-29 days prior to starting date of the trip – 50% refund of the total trip cost
8 -14 day prior to starting date of the trip – 25% refund of the total trip cost
7 days or less prior to starting date of the trip – No refund

Note - For Fixed Departures (Group Trips) - If you are able to find a replacement for yourself in the group, we'd be happy to provide you with a 100% refund!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What time does the trip start and end?

This trip is planned in a way that the group (guests and team) will be departing from Guwahati airport strictly by 11:45 AM on Day 1.

Please ensure that you book your flights accordingly. If need be, we suggest flying in a day early. Guests who reach Guwahati after the scheduled time will have to make their way to Sohra by themselves.

We suggest a flight out post 2:30 PM and will reach the airport by noon.

How to get to Sohra -

- Catch a shared/private cab from the airport to Shillong. There will be options at the parking area itself
- OR
- Catch an Uber to Khanapara, from where you can book a Tempo Traveller / Sumo to Shillong
- After reaching Shillong, you can catch a shared taxi to Sohra

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the pick-up points in Guwahati if I arrive before the trip starts?

If you are landing a day prior to the trip, you can join the group either at Guwahati Airport, Jalukbari Junction, or near Khanapara – depending on where you are staying in Guwahati. These are the designated pick-up points en route to Sohra, as the vehicle will not stop or enter the city beyond these points.

What type of properties are we staying at?

We'll be staying at simple homestays, and guesthouses throughout the trip. None of the properties on the trip are boutique/luxurious. They are all clean, comfortable, and hygienic and have been vetted by our team!

Note - Some of the properties have different categories of rooms and the allocation of rooms will be random and at ChaloHoppo's discretion.

What are the meals that are provided and what about the ones not included?

- Breakfast will be served at the properties that we are staying at. Most of these places provide simple breakfast that ranges from Poori + Vegetables to Sandwiches, Bread, Butter, and Omelettes.
- The lunches that are included are usually simple home-cooked Khasi meals (Rice, Dal, Vegetables, Meat, Pickles) that are apt while hiking or engaging in water activities.
- Other meals can be ordered at the place of stay or nearby restaurants. You have options for all cuisines in Shillong, Pongtung and Sohra

What happens if someone books their flights before reserving a slot with us and we are sold out?

It is important to note that booking flights before reserving a slot with us does not guarantee availability. In the event that we are sold out, we cannot be held responsible for any inconvenience caused.

What time do we need to book our flights?

On Day 1, you will need to land in Guwahati by 11:45 am at the latest. Our trip will start from Guwahati Airport by noon. On Day 6, you have to book a return flight any time after 2:30 pm.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Room sharing

Rooms are shared on twin sharing basis. In case you are a solo traveller, you will be paired up with another solo traveller of the same gender.

How can we swim in such harsh climates?

Your primary day of water activities will be at Mawlyngbna. Unless there is torrential rain, the activities will go on as it is. In the case of heavy rainfall, we will have an alternate plan for the day and the guide will take a call based on the activities open

How much money should we carry?

While most of your expenses are taken care of, an additional Rs. 1,000 per day (upper limit) would be more than enough for all your expenses. You can take a look at our Exclusions to get a better understanding of how much money you may need. Most places along the route also accept online payments, making transactions convenient and hassle-free.

What if I want to extend my trip and visit other spots?

If you have a few more days to go around the Northeast, we would recommend Kaziranga, Majuli, Nagaland or parts of Arunachal Pradesh depending on the number of additional days you have in hand and the season:

- 2 to 3 days - Hikes in and around Meghalaya
- 3 to 5 days - Kaziranga / Dzukou Valley in Nagaland
- 5 to 7 days - Full trip to Nagaland
- 8 to 10 days - Full trip to Arunachal Pradesh

What are some things I should carry?

Once you sign up for the trip, we will be sending you a detailed list of Things to Carry for the season! But don't forget your raincoat.

What are the current road conditions and driving times?

The roads in Meghalaya are some of the best hill roads in the country with beautiful views. Chances of motion sickness are lesser than usual, as the number of windy roads is much lesser.



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