



ChaloHoppo

“Whispers of Western Arunachal Pradesh”

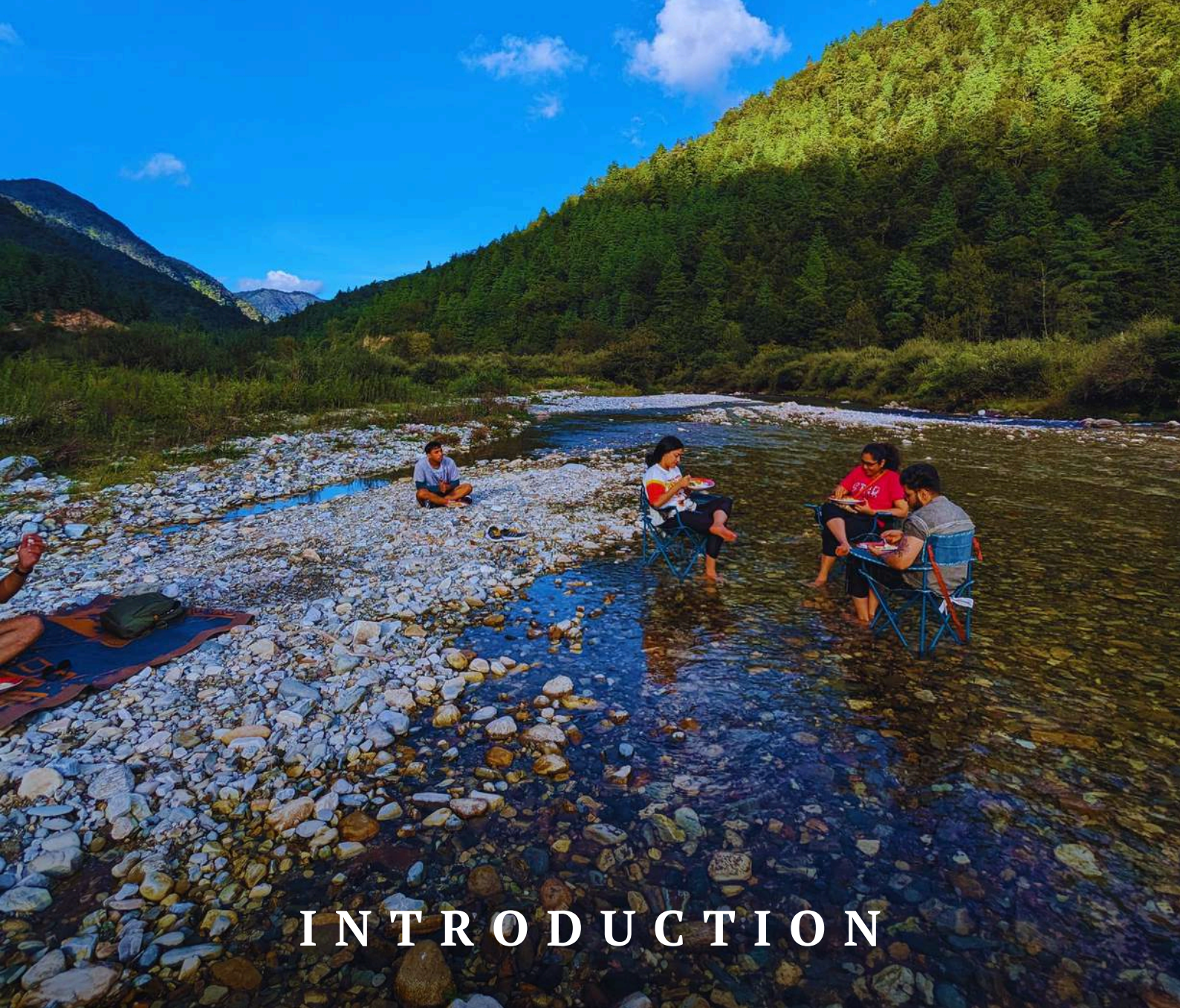
SLOW TRAVEL THROUGH THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS

(13N/14D)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
KEY HIGHLIGHTS	3
DAY WISE BREAKDOWN	4
PRICING	20
INCLUSIONS	21
EXCLUSIONS	22
IMPORTANT POINTS	23
CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY	25
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	26



INTRODUCTION

In the high folds of the Eastern Himalayas, where roads curve into the clouds and monasteries stand, watch over valleys carved by time, lies Western Arunachal Pradesh. This journey is not about rushing from place to place, but about taking time to absorb the landscapes, stories, and people along the way. It is for those who wish to watch prayer flags flutter in the mountain breeze, sip butter tea by the hearth of a Monpa home, and let rivers, forests, and alpine lakes reveal their quiet magic.

From the gentle forests of Nameri to the windswept grandeur of Tawang and the timeless calm of Zemithang, each day unfolds like a chapter in a story where nature, spirituality, and culture intertwine. With a balance of scenic drives, short guided walks, and immersive cultural encounters, the journey is crafted for travelers of all ages who seek both adventure and ease.

By the time you return, you carry not just memories of high passes and turquoise lakes, but of human warmth, traditional dances, and valleys that invite you to linger a little longer.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- A gentle introduction to the Himalayan foothills at Nameri, with forest walks and serene river rafting.
- Birding at Eaglenest Community Forest and a visit to the high-altitude Tragopanda Lake.
- Cultural immersion in Chug Valley, where Monpa heritage thrives in traditional museums and workshops.
- Crossing the legendary Sela Pass, with a pause at Jaswant Garh to honour history.
- Exploring Tawang Monastery, the largest in India, and visiting unique nunneries and local cafés steeped in Buddhist philosophy.
- Scenic drives to Bum La Pass and the ethereal Sangetsar Tso Lake near the Indo-China border.
- Cultural encounters in Zemithang, from masked dances to riverside picnics amid buckwheat fields.
- Visits to heritage villages, fruit orchards, monasteries, and trout farms in Shergaon and Dirang.
- A journey designed with the perfect mix of adventure, leisure, and cultural richness.

DAY WISE BREAKDOWN

Day	Starting Point	Ending Point	Experience	Stay	Inclusions	Exclusions
1	Guwahati	Nameri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenic drive through Assam plains, evening forest retreat 	Lodge at Nameri	Transport from Guwahati, accommodation, dinner	Flights/trains to Guwahati, ILP fees, personal expenses
2	Nameri	Tenga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided forest walk in Nameri NP Gentle rafting on Jia Boroli Scenic drive to hills 	Hotel in Tenga	Guided forest walk, rafting, breakfast, transport	Tips, meals not mentioned, shopping
3	Tenga	Dirang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birding at Eaglenest Visit Tragopanda Lake Bugun-style lunch Wildlife Interpretation Centre 	Homestay in Dirang	Birding guide, lunch with Bugun family, entry fees	ILP fees, personal snacks
4	Dirang	Dirang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural immersion at Chug Valley Monpa Living Museum Papermaking workshop Monpa lunch Forest walk 	Homestay in Dirang	Entry fees, Monpa meal, guided walk	Tips, optional purchases
5	Dirang	Tawang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross Sela Pass Visit Jaswant Garh and Alpine lakes 	Hotel in Tawang	Transport, entry fees	ILP, weather-related delays
6	Tawang	Tawang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Tawang Monastery Ani Gonpa (nunnery) Dharma Coffee House 	Hotel in Tawang	Guided monastery visit, breakfast	Meals not mentioned, shopping
7	Tawang	Tawang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive to Bum La Pass Visit Sangetsar Lake 	Hotel in Tawang	AP-registered vehicle for Bum La, permits, breakfast	Foreign permits (not included), tips
8	Tawang	Zemithang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit Gorsam Stupa Evening light show 	Homestay in Zemithang	Transport, stay, breakfast	Lunch/dinner not specified, personal expenses
9	Zemithang	Zemithang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk through buckwheat fields Ajilamu masked dance Riverside picnic, Lumpo Heritage Village 	Homestay in Zemithang	Picnic lunch, cultural program, guided village visit	Extra snacks, optional activities
10	Zemithang	Dirang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive back, stop at Jang Falls, scenic valley drive 	Homestay in Dirang	Transport, breakfast, entry fees	Meals not mentioned, personal expenses
11	Dirang	Bishum Phudung	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short trek along Panshing River, riverside lunch, and village walk 	Homestay in Dirang	Outdoor lunch, trek guide, local interaction	Personal purchases, tips

DAY WISE BREAKDOWN

Day	Starting Point	Ending Point	Experience	Stay	Inclusions	Exclusions
12	Dirang	Shergaon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visit Zimthung village, Mandala Top (108 prayer wheels)Encounter with Brokpa herders	Homestay in Shergaon	Transport, breakfast, entry fees	Meals not mentioned, shopping
13	Shergaon	Shergaon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Visit monastery, hidden waterfall, trout hatchery, horticulture farm,Riverside lunch	Homestay in Shergaon	Outdoor lunch, entry fees, guided visits	Tips, optional purchases
14	Shergaon	Guwahati	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drive back to Assam plains, drop at Guwahati Airport	—	Transport, breakfast	Flights/trains from Guwahati, personal expenses



DAY 1- PLAINS TO FOOTHILLS

Your journey begins in the soft light of Assam, where rice fields stretch across the plains and tea gardens shimmer in the distance. Leaving Guwahati behind, the drive takes you along roads framed by beetle nut trees, bamboo groves, and the rolling green of the Brahmaputra valley. By afternoon, you reach Nameri, a peaceful forest retreat where the Himalayan foothills first rise into view. After checking into your lodge, you may spend the evening wandering under tall sal trees or simply listening to the calls of birds that gather at dusk. Tonight, the forest is your neighbour and the air carries the promise of mountains ahead.

OVERNIGHT IN NAMERI



DAY 2- FOREST SONG AND GENTLE WATERS

The day begins early, with the forest waking up around you. Guided by a naturalist, you step into Nameri National Park for a slow-paced walk—hornbills flit through the canopy, butterflies weave across the path, and the undergrowth rustles with unseen life. Afterwards, drift gently down the Jia Bhoroli River on a leisure rafting session. Unlike the adrenaline-filled rapids of other rivers, here the water is calm, carrying you past forested banks and sandbars where wild ducks rest. By midday, you set off on a scenic drive into the hills, watching the terrain rise steadily. By evening you arrive at Tenga, a quiet mountain town, and settle in for a restful night.

OVERNIGHT IN TENGA



DAY 3- BIRDS AND MEADOWS

Morning in Tenga begins with birdsong. A guided walk into the Eaglenest Community Forest introduces you to one of the world's most celebrated birding hotspots. The air is alive with calls, and if fortune favours, you may catch a glimpse of the elusive Bugun Liocichla, a bird found nowhere else on earth. A short drive away lies the serene Tragopanda Lake, cradled at 2650 meters. The air here is crisp, and prayer flags ripple gently in the wind. After visiting the Wildlife Interpretation Centre and enjoying a wholesome Bugun-style lunch in a local Bugun home, you drive onwards to Dirang. Nestled in a valley between apple orchards and the Dirang Chu river, the town welcomes you with its warmth and alpine charm.

OVERNIGHT IN DIRANG



DAY 4- LIVING MONPA TRADITIONS

This day is devoted to culture and calm. After breakfast, you drive to Chug Valley, where Monpa traditions are carefully preserved. A visit to the Monpa Traditional Living Museum opens windows into their daily life, wooden houses, traditional clothing, and stories of resilience. Later, step into a centuries-old paper-making workshop, where bark and herbs are transformed into sheets once used for Buddhist scriptures. Lunch is a highlight: lovingly prepared Monpa dishes served at a local kitchen in Damu, where flavours of yak cheese, buckwheat pancakes, and wild herbs come together. A gentle forest walk closes the day before you return to Dirang, carrying with you the slow rhythm of the valley.

OVERNIGHT IN DIRANG



DAY 5- ACROSS THE HIGH PASS

Today the road climbs higher, winding past streams and pine forests toward the clouds. The highlight is Sela Pass, perched at 13,700 feet. Here, the landscape opens wide, turquoise lakes mirror the sky, mountains wear crowns of snow, and the wind carries both chill and purity. Stop to pay homage at Jaswant Garh, a memorial to the soldier Jaswant Singh Rawat, who became a legend during the 1962 war. By afternoon, the descent brings you into Tawang, a town steeped in spirituality and history. Your evening is at leisure, perfect for a gentle walk in the cool air or quiet tea with mountain views.

OVERNIGHT IN TAWANG



DAY 6 -MONASTERY AND MINDFULNESS

This day is for slow discovery. Begin with a visit to the magnificent Tawang Monastery, the largest in India, where the chants of monks echo softly against painted walls and golden altars. Later, take a short ropeway ride to Ani Gonpa, a unique nunnery where daily life flows with devotion and simplicity. In the afternoon, pause at Dharma Coffee House, a calm retreat offering both books on Buddhist philosophy and sweeping mountain views, a place to sip tea and reflect. The pace is gentle, the spirit contemplative.

OVERNIGHT IN TAWANG



DAY 7 - BORDERS AND SACRED LAKES

A drive towards the border takes you to Bum La Pass, a windswept frontier where India meets Tibet. The journey itself is breathtaking, lakes appear like sapphires against rugged mountains, and streams rush under wooden bridges. On the return, stop at the ethereal Sangetsar Tso Lake, its waters reflecting prayer flags and jagged peaks. Known as “Madhuri Lake,” it is stunning yet peaceful, offering a perfect moment of stillness. By evening, return to Tawang for the night.

OVERNIGHT IN TAWANG



DAY 8 - INTO THE HIDDEN VALLEY

Today's drive takes you deeper into the frontier, towards Zemithang, a valley near the Bhutan and Tibet borders. Here stands the ancient Gorsam Stupa, its white dome shining against green hills. In the evening, as lamps are lit, the stupa glows during a local light show, a scene both spiritual and serene. Your stay tonight is in Kyelengtang, where the mountains feel close and time feels far away.

OVERNIGHT IN ZEMITHANG



DAY 9 - FIELDS, DANCES, AND RIVERS

Wake to the quiet of a hidden valley. Begin with a walk through sea buckthorn fields, dotted with orange berries, before driving to villages where buckwheat and millet farms line the hillsides. At Shocksten village, the day comes alive with a traditional Ajilamu dance, performed by masked Monpa dancers. Later, sit by the river for a picnic lunch, the water murmuring beside you. Visit Lumpo Heritage Village, where ancient stone houses stand as reminders of timeless ways of life. The day flows unhurriedly, ending with another restful evening in Zemithang.

OVERNIGHT IN ZEMITHANG



DAY 10 - WATERFALLS AND VALLEYS

The road back weaves through valleys and across rivers, with a memorable stop at Jang Falls, a majestic cascade thundering down rocky cliffs. The long drive is softened by views of grazing yaks, terraced fields, and pine-scented air. By evening, you are back in Dirang, welcomed once again by the comfort of the valley.

OVERNIGHT IN DIRANG



DAY 11 - RIVERSIDE SERENITY

Today is designed for leisure in nature. Drive to Bishum Phudung, a charming village by the Panshing River. A short, gentle trek follows the river's bends, opening to a quiet spot where lunch is served outdoors under fluttering prayer flags. Afterwards, stroll through the village, meeting locals and admiring traditional homes. Return to Dirang by evening, where the day ends with rest and reflection.

OVERNIGHT IN DIRANG



DAY 12 - PRAYER WHEELS AND MEADOWS

The drive begins with a visit to Zimthung village, where orchards and seasonal fruit farms spread across rolling hills. Gaze at the breathtaking view of Dirang town and the shining Dirang monastery amongst it. A short detour takes you to Mandala Top, crowned with 108 prayer wheels, each spun by the mountain breeze. Along the way, you may encounter nomadic Brokpa herders with their yak caravans, or discover wild herbs and star anise growing by the paths. Continue onwards to Shergaon, a tranquil village embraced by forests and streams.

OVERNIGHT IN SHERGAON



DAY 13 - SLOW RHYTHMS OF SHERGAON

Shergaon offers the perfect finale to your Himalayan retreat. Visit a local monastery, its prayer flags fluttering against a backdrop of pine forests and distant peaks. A short walk brings you to a hidden waterfall, its cool spray blending with birdsong to create a natural symphony. Pause at a trout hatchery, and wander through a horticulture farm bursting with seasonal produce. Lunch today is served outdoors, beside a river where time flows unhurriedly. As the day winds down, the evening is yours to wander through the village, share a smile with friendly locals, or simply breathe in the crisp mountain air, letting Shergaon's serenity linger in your memory.

OVERNIGHT IN SHERGAON



DAY 14 - HOMEWARD BOUND

After breakfast, begin your return to the plains. The valleys gradually give way to rolling hills, and the hills in turn to the wide fields of Assam. By the time you reach Guwahati airport, the journey has come full circle. Yet the calm of monasteries, the laughter of village hosts, and the silence of high passes will travel home with you, lingering long after the mountains fade from view.



PRICING

MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE : 10 ADULTS

“Price on request”



INCLUSIONS

- Comfortable stays in hotels, homestays, and lodges (double occupancy).
- Breakfast daily; select local lunches as mentioned; traditional Monpa meals and riverside picnics.
- All transport in a Tempo Traveller/ SUV / Sedan depending on the group size with a ChaloHoppo certified driver, including tolls, parking, fuel.
- Guided forest walks, birding, monastery visits, local cultural programs, and all entry fees.
- AP registered vehicle for Bum La Pass visit.
- Experienced local guides on curated days.
- Inclusions mention it day wise.



EXCLUSIONS

- Flights or trains to and from Guwahati.
- Lunches and dinners not specified.
- Inner Line Permit fees (₹500 per person).
- Tips for guides, drivers, and local hosts.
- Personal expenses, shopping, or additional snacks.
- Costs due to unforeseen weather or road delays.
- Optional activities not listed in itinerary.



IMPORTANT POINTS

Permits:

A ILP mandatory for Indian nationals visiting Arunachal Pradesh (₹500). Assistance provided.

Pacing:

Balanced itinerary with a mix of cultural immersion, scenic drives, light treks, and leisure time.

Weather & Packing:

Expect cool to cold weather, especially at high passes. Carry warm clothing and rain protection.(Ideal between Oct-March)

**Group Size:**

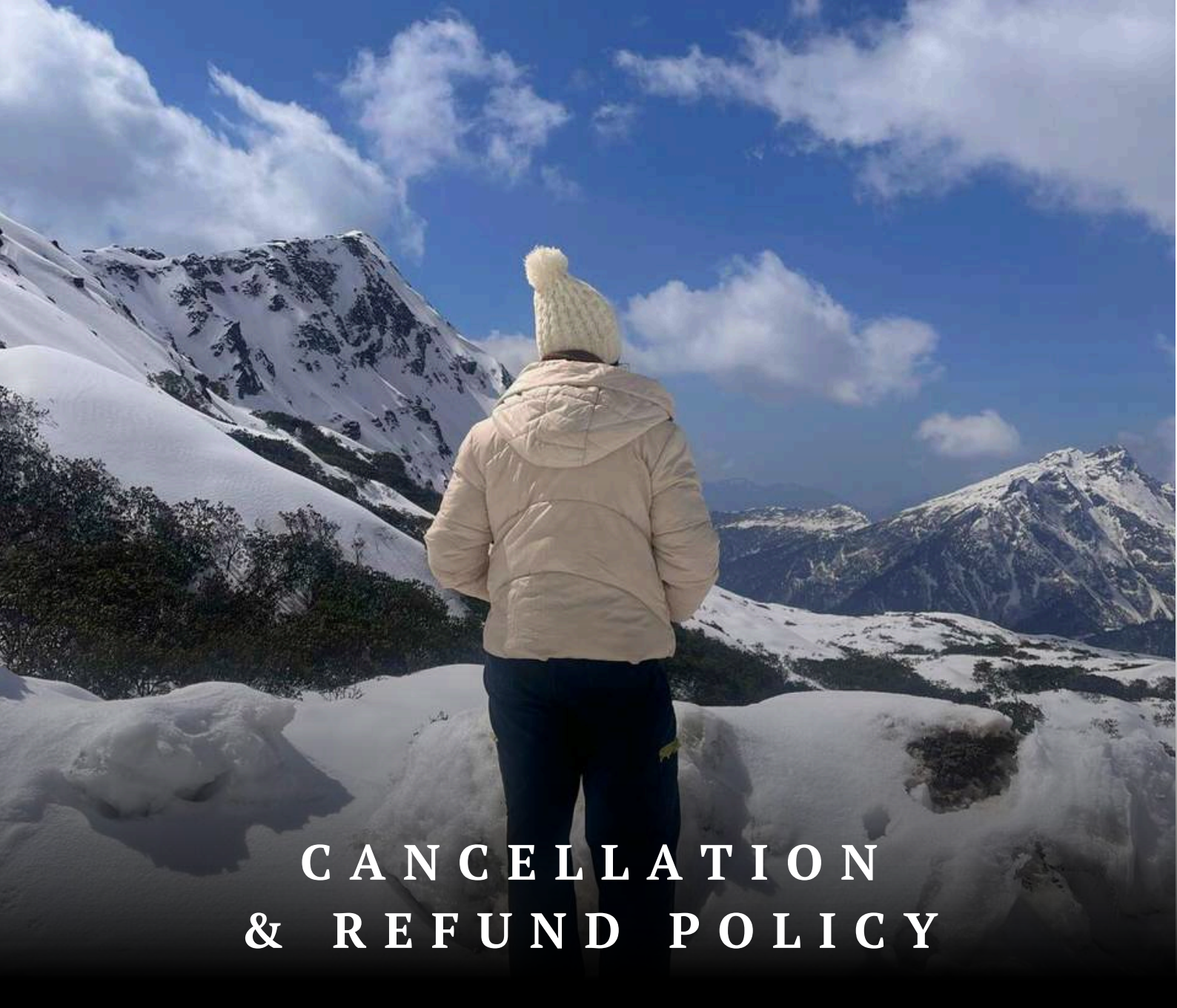
Small group travel for an immersive, unhurried experience.

Connectivity:

Limited mobile coverage in high-altitude areas. Wi-Fi available in some hotels at Tawang/Dirang.

Food:

A mix of Indian, Tibetan, and Monpa cuisine. Vegetarian options available.



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 days 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 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 Shergaon, as the vehicle will not stop or enter the city beyond these points.

What time does the trip start and end?

We will start the trip from Guwahati Airport at 12:30 pm on Day 1. We suggest a flight out post 7:30 PM and will reach the airport by evening.

What is the best time to visit this region?

September to December, and March to Early June is the best time to visit Western Arunachal.

How much money to carry?

While most of your expenses are taken care of in the trip cost, an additional ₹1,000 per day (upper limit) would be more than enough to cover any personal expenses. Most places along the route also accept online payments, making transactions convenient and hassle-free.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What type of properties are we staying at?

- We will be staying at clean, comfortable, and hygienic homestays at all the locations.
- Please note, there are different room categories and sizes at all the homestays and room allocation is done at random by the Trip lead.

Are there vegetarian food options everywhere?

Vegetarians do not need to worry. While a lot of the local delicacies are meat-based, with the influx of tourism there are multiple vegetarian options at all places. You must also try out the seasonal fruits and vegetables in the region.

Things to Carry?

Once you sign up for the trip, we will be sending you a detailed list of Things to Carry for the season!

Do I need a permit to travel to Arunachal Pradesh?

Yes, you would be requiring an Inner Line Permit to travel enter Arunachal Pradesh. We will be arranging the same for you. We would need details such as your Aadhar Card/Passport, passport size photo, along with a few other details to procure this.

The ILP usually takes about 7 days to process.

How can I apply for the ILP to visit Arunachal Pradesh?

To visit Arunachal Pradesh, Indian citizens need to apply for an Inner Line Permit (ILP), which can be easily obtained online through the official portal <https://eilp.arunachal.gov.in>. Simply register, fill in your travel details, upload a passport-sized photo and a valid ID (like Aadhaar or Voter ID), select the districts you plan to visit, and pay 500 per district. The e-ILP is usually approved within 24-48 hours. Once approved, download and carry printed copies of the permit, as it will be checked at various entry points and checkpoints within the state.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why has Mandala been dropped from this itinerary?

Mandala is a village that is around one and a half hours away from Dirang. It is well known amidst the birding circles, and also as an offbeat destination for those looking to witness snow in the winter.

We have added a riverside hike at Bishum Phudung instead, where you will witness life in a Himalayan Monpa village.

As for snow, you will have multiple other chances for the same as we will be taking you to altitudes even higher than Mandala in this chapter.

Do we get to see snow?

While Snowfall is weather dependent, you will definitely see snow and snow sheets at the high-altitude passes from November to March.



REACH US HERE

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