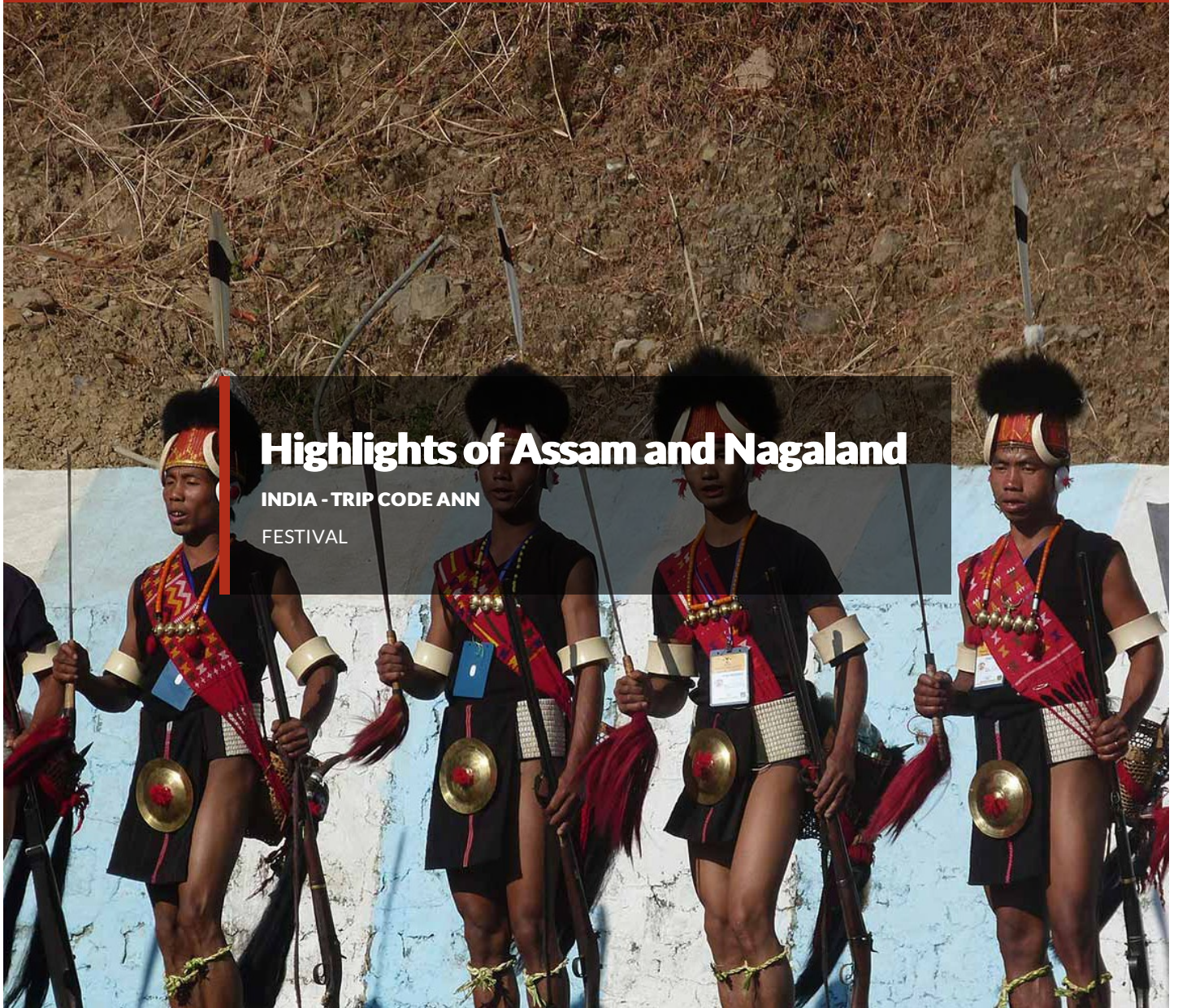


# EXPLORE!

[Book with confidence](#)



## Highlights of Assam and Nagaland

INDIA - TRIP CODE ANN  
FESTIVAL

### Why book this trip?

Wedged between Burma and Bangladesh, the Indian states of Meghalaya, Assam and Nagaland present a fascinating picture of remote tribal cultures. On this adventurous trip visit headhunter villages, stay in a stilt house and taste tea straight from the plantation.

- **Hornbill Festival** - Spend two full days at Nagaland's annual festival, celebrating the diverse tribal heritage
- **Cherrapunjee** - Walk through Khasi villages and test out a bridge made from tree roots
- **Kaziranga National Park** - Take a jeep safari in search of Asian one-horned rhino, elephant and other wildlife



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
 Breakfast: 16  
 Lunch: 12  
 Dinner: 12



**TRIP STAFF**  
 Explore Tour  
 Leader  
 Driver(s)  
 Local Guide(s)  
 Naturalist(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
 Bus  
 4WD  
 Ferry



**ACCOMMODATION**  
 2 nights simple  
 guesthouse  
 5 nights  
 comfortable hotel  
 5 nights simple  
 hotel  
 2 nights simple hut  
 2 nights simple  
 lodge



**TRIP PACE:**  
 Full on



**GROUP SIZE:**  
 8 - 12

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Guwahati

The trip begins in Guwahati, Assam's bustling capital, which sits on the banks of the mighty Brahmaputra River. Our hotel is located close to Paltan Bazaar and the riverbank with plenty to explore within walking distance.

Our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 7pm for the welcome meeting. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (GAU) which is approximately one hour from the hotel. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
 Dynasty Hotel (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## **DAY 2 - Take a ferry to Peacock Island and visit Umananda Temple**

Today we board a small, local ferry to take us across the Brahmaputra to the 17th century Shiva temple of Umananda. Located on Peacock Island, believed to be the world's smallest inhabited riverine island, the temple stands dramatically at the top of a series of steep steps.

After exploring the island we'll return to the city and stop for lunch before taking a walking tour taking in the colourful markets of Paltan Bazaar. In the late afternoon we walk to Janardhan Temple; set right on the banks of the river it's an ideal spot for watching the sun setting over the Brahmaputra.



ACCOMMODATION:

Dynasty Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **DAY 3 - Drive to Cherrapunjee, exploring Mawphlang sacred forest and Elephant Falls en route**

Leaving the city after breakfast we head first towards the pine forests and rolling hills of Shillong, a region that the colonial British once described as the 'Scotland of India'. We'll make a stop at Elephant Falls. Following the path we'll descend to the foot of the falls, and from this perspective the three tiers of the falls are revealed. Leaving the falls behind we'll continue our drive until we reach the Mawphlang Sacred Forest. A haven for orchids and butterflies, these beautiful and sacred groves have been preserved for countless millennia and form a remarkable living museum that contrasts sharply with the expansive grasslands that surround them.

We plan to take a picnic lunch on the edge of the forest before completing our journey to Cherrapunjee, a town with a reputation as one of the wettest places on earth!



ACCOMMODATION:

Cherrapunjee Holiday Resort (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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#### **DAY 4 - Walk through the forest to unique Khasi tree root bridges**

Following breakfast this morning we will take a short drive to the start of our hike through the spectacular scenic beauty of the Khasi Hills. These fertile landscapes are home to the Khasi people, who are believed to be descended from the Mon-Khmer tribes of Southeast Asia.

The first part of the trail takes us down a series of steep, stone steps, passing by small remote houses and on through the villages of Nongthymmai, Mynteng and Nongriat. At Nongriat we reach the the 'double decker' living root bridge, a truly unique structure that over the centuries has been trained to span the river between two ancient rubber trees, ensuring that even in the middle of monsoon season the villages are not cut off.

After stopping to enjoy a picnic lunch and a well-earned rest, we will begin the steep climb back, following the steps back up to our waiting bus. The entire walk will take us around six hours. You may find walking poles useful as the steps can be tough on the knees. At the end of the trek we return to Cherrapunjee for a second night.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Cherrapunjee Holiday Resort (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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#### **DAY 5 - Drive to Kaziranga National Park**

Today we drive to the World Heritage Site of Kaziranga National Park. Our journey will take most of the day but we'll have plenty of chances to stretch our legs.

For the first part of our journey we'll follow the road back to Shillong, where we'll stop to visit the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Culture. This fascinating museum was set up to preserve and promote the cultural diversity of North-eastern India.

After paying a visit to the centre, we then continue towards the southern banks of the Brahmaputra River and into the national park. Encompassing 430 square kilometres of elephant grass, forest and swampland, it was established in 1974 to help save the Indian greater one-horned rhino. Lying in the shadow of the Karbi Anglong Hills, today this magnificent reserve can boast some 1,200 individuals, the greatest number anywhere in the country and it is probably one of the best places in India to view these rare rhino.

We will spend our next two nights in a simple lodge in the heart of this magnificent landscape. Our rooms are simple, with twin share beds and en suite bathrooms. Hot water is provided but can on occasion be limited. The lodge is located just a few kilometers from the entrance gate to Kaziranga National Park so ideal for our day of wildlife viewing tomorrow.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Bonhabi Resort (or similar)

Grade: Simple Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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## DAY 6 - Search for Indian one-horned rhino on two jeep safaris

We begin early this morning with a jeep safari in search of the Indian one-horned rhino. They can be hard to spot in the tall elephant grass but there are several large watering holes which are ideal viewing spots. As well as rhino the park is home to a sizeable population of tigers, a variety of snakes, large monitor lizards and a significant bird population that includes crested serpent eagles, Palla's fish eagle, great adjutant stork, whistling teal and pelicans.

In the afternoon we take to the jeeps once more. Each safari takes approximately two hours and our jeeps follow fixed routes throughout the park, with a ranger in each jeep to help spot and identify the wildlife.

Before dinner we hope to have the opportunity to witness the local tribal communities of the area demonstrating traditional Bihu and Jhumur dance forms. Unique to the region, the dancers wear colourful clothing and are accompanied by drummers.



ACCOMMODATION:

Bonhabi Resort (or similar)

Grade: Simple Lodge



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### DAY 7 - Cross in to Nagaland and drive to Kohima

This morning we depart Kaziranga and head east towards Kohima, Nagaland's thriving capital. We travel via the city of Dimapur, site of the old capital of the Dimasa Kachari Kingdom, and visit the ruins of this once prosperous dynasty, before continuing on to Kohima. After the flat terrain of Kaziranga, the Naga Hills offer plenty of impressive views during the journey. This region is less populated than other Indian states and for much of the journey we'll be surrounded by forests.

Occupying the eastern fringes of the subcontinent, next to the border with Myanmar, the hills and valleys of this staunchly independent and little visited region are the traditional homeland of the Naga's, fiercely proud warrior clans who still revere their ancestral beliefs. Interestingly some 90% of today's Naga's are Christian, the British missionaries finding a receptive flock amongst village communities that already believed in a solitary and all-powerful being.

Our drive today is long and once in Nagaland the road conditions deteriorate so it can be slow-going. When we reach Kohima we'll stretch our legs with a visit to the WWII cemetery, a memorial that honours one of the most bitterly fought battles of the Second World War.

Our accommodation for tonight is in a simple hotel, located across from the WWII cemetery and within a short walk of the town centre so ideal to stretch our legs after today's long drive. Rooms are twin share with en suite bathrooms. The hotel does not have heating and it can get cold during the winter months so having a few extra layers for the time here is worthwhile.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Blue Bayou (or similar)

Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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## DAY 8 - Spend a full day at the Hornbill Festival

Today we join locals as they come together and celebrate at the annual Hornbill Festival. Taking place in the first week of December each year the festival is a celebration of the rich heritage of Nagaland. The festival is named after the state bird, the hornbill, admired by the tribes for the grandeur of its plumage. The headdresses worn by many of the tribes reflect the bird's colourful feathers.

Nagaland is home to 16 different tribes, and each will perform traditional dances and music at the festival. Colourful clothing and ornate jewellery and headdresses make it a fantastic opportunity for photographers. The festival ground has seated area where the majority of events take place, it's worth bringing a jumper or something to use as a cushion as the seating arrangements are simple. Recreations of traditional homes surround the ground allowing the chance to see the differences between these rural villages.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Blue Bayou (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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## DAY 9 - A further full day at the Hornbill Festival

Today we spend a second day soaking up the atmosphere at the festival. As well as the traditional dances being performed there is a chance to see traditional artwork and sculpture or pick up a few souvenirs at various stalls selling handicrafts. Food is a big part of the local culture and there are stalls selling tempting treats throughout the day, look out for dishes containing the spicy naga chilli and try them if you are brave enough.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Blue Bayou (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 10 - Visit Tseminyu Village en route to Mokochung**

Heading north today we drive to the hill-town of Mokochung, a typical Naga town surrounding by Ao tribal villages.

Along the way we'll stop and explore Longkhum village; once a key location for the Ao to launch attacks on their rival tribes back in the old headhunting days, today it is well known for its handicrafts. The village's high point is occupied by a watch tower which commands some stunning views of the surrounding landscape. The village is also home to a set of preserved footprints that are believed to belong to Chenna and Etiben, the Romeo and Juliet of Ao mythology.

Our long drive ends in Mokochung, the cultural centre of the Ao and the most economically and politically important city in northern Nagaland. Our accommodation for tonight is in a simple hotel with twin-share, en suite rooms.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Whispering Winds (or similar)

Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 11 - Cross the Brahmaputra by ferry to Majuli Island**

This morning we take a short drive to the town of Neematighat, where we board a ferry across to the island of Majuli, the largest river island in the world. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Majuli is home to some splendid Hindu temples and has been considered the cultural capital of Assam for the past 500 years. Its origins are steeped in mystery, but it is believed that the social reformer Shankardeva came here in the 16th century and established the 'satras' (monasteries and hermitages) that dot the island, sowing the seeds for a unique tribal culture that continues today. The satras have become beacons of art and religion and on arrival on the island we'll visit some as we make our way on to our overnight eco camp.

Our accommodation for the next two nights is in simple Mishing style stilt houses. Rooms are twin share and each has a simple bathroom, and they are raised approximately 8 feet from the ground to ensure everyone stays dry during the monsoon months!



Our main bags will stay in Neematighat and we will be using just an overnight bag for our stay on Majuli.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Mepo Okum Eco Camp (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hut



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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## DAY 12 - Explore the monasteries and villages of Majuli

We will spend today exploring the island on foot, visiting some of its monasteries and learning a little more about Majuli's unique traditions. The monasteries are still seen as centres for learning, drama and dance, and the ethnic culture of the Mishing and the Deori have remained relatively unchanged for centuries. Several of the satras specialise in making masks and we'll have the chance to see how they are made, and learn the myths and stories behind their designs.

Besides its cultural importance, the island is also well known for its migratory birdlife, affording us some possibilities of an encounter or two with some of its resident birds. As we explore the island we'll spot bee eaters, adjutant stork and kingfishers perched on poles looking for their next meal. Our accommodation is close to a tributary and for those up early it offers a great chance for some pre-breakfast bird watching.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Mepo Okum Eco Camp (or similar)



Grade: Simple Hut



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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## DAY 13 - Return to the mainland and drive to Mon, Nagaland

This morning we say goodbye to our stilt houses and take the ferry back to the mainland and drive to the town of Mon.

Mon is the district headquarters for the region and a town populated almost exclusively by Konyaks and Aos; tribes distinguishable by their elaborate dress, adorned with a rich array of jewellery and colourful designs.

As we are back in Nagaland the roads deteriorate again and it's slow going. We'll arrive in Mon this afternoon and have the rest of the day free to explore. There are very limited accommodation options in Mon and our guesthouse is very simple. Rooms are twin shares with en suite bathrooms however the water supply can be erratic so hot water isn't always available.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Teihpha Cottage (or similar)



Grade: Simple Guesthouse



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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## DAY 14 - Visit Longwa, located on the border line of India and Burma

This morning we'll visit Longwa village, one of the largest villages in the Mon district located directly on the Indian/Myanmar border. The village chief, known as the Angh, controls an area that extends into the neighbouring Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and also into Myanmar. The international border line runs through the middle of his house - his kitchen is in Myanmar and his bedroom is in India!

The villagers are part of the Konyak tribe. The traditional ceremonial attire of the Konyaks is elaborate, with headdresses and ornate weaponry combining with elephant tusk bracelets and colourful feathers, which we will have seen during the Hornbill Festival. We'll also have a chance to see close up the jewellery and tattoos that signify how successful the males were during their lives as headhunters.

We'll explore the village with the local headman and take a walk up to a viewpoint where we'll have a picnic lunch with views of Nagaland and across in to Myanmar. After lunch we then return to Mon.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Teihpha Cottage (or similar)

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## Grade: Simple Guesthouse



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

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### **DAY 15 - Drive to Dibrugarh via the ancient capital of Sivasagar**

We head next for Dibrugarh in the upper districts of Assam. The drive takes us via the town of Sivasagar, the former capital of the Ahom Kingdom which ruled this region for some six centuries, from 1228 until their destruction by the Burmese in the early 19th century. We will stop and visit the ancient ruins before continuing on to the city that has been titled the 'Tea City of India'.

Located close to the Brahmaputra River, Dibrugarh lies in the heart of Assam's tea country, its surrounding estates accounting for some 50% of the entire regions tea crop. In 1950 a major earthquake, measuring 8.5 on the Richter Scale, diverted the course of the river and wiped out about three quarters of the old city. From those disastrous ashes though a new city arose, one that has gone on to become a major centre of learning and commerce in India's north-eastern provinces.

Our accommodation for tonight is in colonial tea bungalows, twin share rooms set within peaceful gardens on the edge of the city. They are a great chance to relax and reflect on the experience of exploring the remote villages of Nagaland.



ACCOMMODATION:

Mancotta Heritage Chang Bungalow (or similar)

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## Grade: Simple Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 16 - Learn about the tea industry at a local tea garden. Fly to Guwahati**

We'll have a relaxed start to the morning today. After breakfast we visit Ethelwold tea plantation and have a chance to see how one of our favourite drinks is grown, harvested, processed using the crush, tear and curl method. Most importantly we'll have a chance to taste the tea. Tea from Ethelwold is mostly used

for the Indian domestic market and is ideal for making strong masala chai.

In the afternoon we'll take the short flight back to Guwahati. After checking in to our hotel the evening is free for a final meal together.



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Dynasty Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST**

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**DAY 17 - Trip ends in Guwahati**

Our trip ends in Guwahati after breakfast today. There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Guwahati at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (GAU), which is approximately a one-hour drive from our hotel.



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST**

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## **Trip information**

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### **Climate and country information**

**India**

## Climate

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September. During these months it can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. In the winter, northern and mid India can be very cool, with cold evenings, so warm clothing, including plenty of layers, are essential. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months.

### Time difference to GMT

+5

### Plugs

3 Pin Round

### Religion

Catholicism, Hindu, Islam and Sikhism

### Language

Hindi and English.

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## Budgeting and packing

### Clothing

In general only lightweight clothing is needed during the day with average temperatures around 25 degrees celcius.

Early mornings and evenings can be cold, averaging 10 degrees, so a windproof jacket, warm layers, gloves and hat are also recommended. Hotel heating arrangements are not on a par with UK standards and from December to February thermals are also recommended.

Casual clothes are the most practical: tight fitting garments, brief shorts and skirts should be avoided, since they attract unwelcome attention. Waterproofs and or and umbrella may be useful.

### Footwear

Comfortable shoes or trainers and sandals.

### Luggage

15Kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. We recommend a holdall or rucksack for ease of getting on and off trains and buses and please remember, you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself. You will need to take an overnight bag whilst staying on Majuli Island, the main luggage will be left in Neematighat. Please note on internal flights the luggage limit is 15kg.

### Equipment

A walking pole will be useful for the walk to the living tree bridges in Cherrapunjee. The terrain is steep steps for the entire walk and so the additional support can ease the strain on knees. We also advise taking a water bottle for day to day use.

A sheet sleeping bag can be useful to use in addition to blankets provided at some of the hotels.

The roads in Nagaland are of varying condition, driving is often slow going. For those who suffer from travel sickness it is worth having your usual remedy to hand as there are some windy sections on several days.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow GBP65, approx. 5'500 Indian Rupees for group tipping.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

## India

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£8	£10	£3	£0.5

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Indian Rupee Recently new 500 and 2000 rupee notes have been bought in to circulation and as the old notes are no longer accepted there have been some cash flow issues. You don't need to worry about being given old notes as it's very easy to tell the difference, the new notes are pristine in comparison with most Indian money which is fairly tatty.

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP/US\$ are the best currency to change into local currency.

### **Where To Exchange**

The Indian rupee is a restricted currency and it is best not to obtain in the UK as rates are very poor. You can either change money at the airport on arrival or in major towns during the tour. Your Tour Leader will advise you on the best places in each town. Both GBP and USD cash are easy to exchange at the airport and at hotels however you will be restricted to changing £60 cash at a time and it's not possible to change money at these locations using a credit or debit card.

### **ATM Availability**

ATMs are available in most large cities in India but they are very limited elsewhere so please do not rely on this.

### **Credit Card Acceptance**

Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

### **Travellers Cheques**

Opportunities to exchange are limited.

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## **Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

### **Transport Information**

Bus, 4WD, Ferry

### **Accommodation notes**

Accommodation in India is as varied as the country itself. Standards do not equate to standards in the UK and it's best to approach each type of accommodation with an open mind. Service can be slow in places especially as this region is off the standard tourist trail.

For the most part hotels do not have heating so in the winter months it can be chilly and if you feel the cold you may wish to ask for extra blankets. Hot water is not always available 24 hours a day in some of the smaller properties, and with a group staying you might find if you are showering last you may miss out on the hottest water.

Please note on the last two nights of this trip in Dibrugarh, depending on group size, we will be staying across two different tea plantations that are approximately 4km apart, Mancotta Heritage Chang Bungalow & Chowkidinghe Heritage Chang Bungalow. Mancotta Heritage Chang Bungalow is the bigger of the two, so meals will be served there. The tea bungalows are of the same standard and there will be transfers provided between both to accommodate group meals and relaxation time. Your Explore Leader will confirm room allocation on arrival.

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## **Essential Information**

### **Government Travel Safety Advice**

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and

customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

### **Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### **Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### **Visa and Passport Information**

India: Visas are required for citizens of the UK, Australia, New Zealand, US and Canada and can be obtained in the form of an e-visa. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

The e-visa can be applied for through the official Indian government visa website only - <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html> . Please check all eligibility criteria that can be found on the website but important points are listed below -

You must be arriving into one of 28 selected entry points which can be found via the official Indian Government website link above. However, you can exit from any of the authorised immigration check posts in India.

Passports must have at least 6 months validity from the date of arrival in India and at least two blank pages for stamping. Visa applications will take approximately 4 days to process. There are different validity visas and the costs are as follows:

30-day validity (travelling between April and June) - \$10

30-day validity (travelling between July and March) - \$25

1-year validity - \$40

5-year validity- \$80

Those applying for a 30 day electronic visa can only apply within 30 days of arrival for your visa to be valid. Furthermore double entry is permitted and you can only obtain two 30-day visas in a calendar year.

Please note these costs are subject to frequent change so you should check on the official Indian government visa website mentioned above. Biometric data will be collected on arrival in India.

If you are not eligible for the e-Tourist Visa, please refer to VFS Global to apply for your Indian visa - [https://www.vfsglobal.com/india/uk/how\\_to\\_apply.html](https://www.vfsglobal.com/india/uk/how_to_apply.html)

Whilst the online form offers a relatively quick way to apply for a visa, some applicants have reported difficulty in completing the form. If you do require assistance, then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. They can complete the online visa on your



behalf for a fee of £30 + the visa cost. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## **Booking conditions**

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## **Transfers**

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

### **Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your

responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport. On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

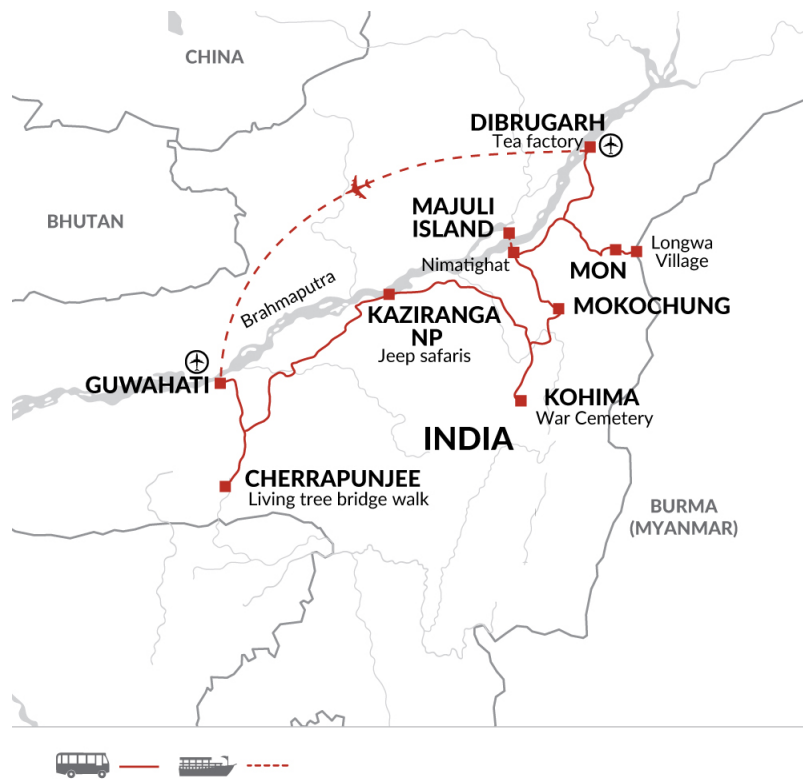
## **India**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## **Additional Information**



## Why book this trip

This tour is ideal for people wanting to experience a different side of India. This busy itinerary travels through the remote north eastern states and spends time in Nagaland, a state more akin to South East Asia. The roads may be bumpy and the accommodation simple but the rewards for travelling through this little visited region are great with a chance to explore villages where headhunting was still taking place as late as the 1960s.

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## Reviews



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**