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# 11D Sikkim & Bhutan Splendid Tour

TOUR CODE: IND11A

## Day 1 SIN CCU

On arrival meet and transfer to hotel for overnight. **SQ516 SIN/CCU 2100/2240**

## Day 2: CALCUTTA BAGDOGRA - DARJEELING (2,130m) (B/L/D)

Morning free time till transfer to airport for flight to Bagdogra. On arrival meet and drive through the scenic countryside to Darjeeling for about 4-5 hours journey. Darjeeling is the former summer capital of the British Bengal Raj and is famous for its world famous Darjeeling tea. We will ride The **Darjeeling Himalayan Railway**, also known as the "Toy Train", Built between 1879 and 1881, the railway is about 78 kilometres long. Its elevation level varies from about 100 metres (328 ft) at New Jalpaiguri to about 2,200 metres (7,218 ft) at Darjeeling. Four modern diesel locomotives handle most of the scheduled services; however the daily Kurseong-Darjeeling return service and the daily tourist trains from Darjeeling to Ghum (India's highest railway station) are handled by the vintage British-built B Class steam locomotives. The railway, along with the Nilgiri Mountain Railway and the Kalka-Shimla Railway, is listed as the Mountain Railways of India World Heritage Site.

## Day 3: DARJEELING - GANGTOK (B/L/D)

Enroute visit the Himalayan Zoological Park. The zoo serves as a breeding center for snow leopards and red pandas, as well as a home for mountain yaks, Himalayan black bears and Siberian Tigers. Visit the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, located within this zoo, which was founded in 1954 to commemorate history's first successful conquest of Mt. Everest in 1953 by 'Darjeeling's son', Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary. Thereafter visit Japanese Temple, which was built by a Japanese monk to spread peace on earth, the mountain view from this stupa is magnificent. After lunch at hotel, visit Darjeeling mall, famous for Tea, and souvenirs. Thereafter proceed to drive to Gangtok, capital city of Sikkim.

## Day 4: GANGTOK (B/L/D)

After breakfast, drive to Tsomgo Lake, also means as "The Source of the Lake" (3,780m). Warm clothes needed for this place. The lake derives its water from melting snows off the surrounding mountains, which is one of the famous sacred lakes in Sikkim, situated near the borders of Tibet's. Return to Gangtok enroute visit the Institute of Tibetology where one can see the history of Sikkim at photo gallery and Handicraft centre.

## Day 5: GANGTOK - PHUNTSOLING (B/L/D)

Today we'll drive towards Phuntsoling, via West-Bengal. On arrival at borderline, we'll register our passports and receive our visas for Bhutan before proceeding to hotel for overnight.

## Day 6: PHUNTSOLING - THIMPHU (B/L/D)

Drive to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan along a beautiful mountain-road. On arrival check in hotel for overnight.

## Day 7: THIMPHU - PUNAKHA (1,250m) (B/L/D)

In the morning, visit the National Memorial Chorten built in the early 1970's, then, to an old temple of Changangkha built in the 15th century A.D, where local people worship daily by walking around it and praying. We also visit the Folk Heritage Museum (closed on Sunday), a fascinating testimony of Bhutan's living traditions. Also visit the Post office and government owned Handicrafts Emporium, which offer a wide range of handcrafted products, including the splendid thangka paintings and exquisitely woven textiles for which Bhutan is famous. After lunch, we drive over the stunning 3150m Dochu La mountain pass marked by 108 Stupas and many colorful prayer flags on our way to Punakha.

## Day 8: PUNAKHA - PARO (B/L/D)

Punakha, one of Bhutan's best agricultural regions, was Bhutan's capital until 1955, and even now is the winter home for the country's central monk body. Exquisitely beautiful paintings, fine carvings of wood and brass and stone are some of the Bhutanese architecture that one can explore. You will visit Khamsum Yuele Namgyal Chorten, built by the Royal family. After lunch, proceed for a 20-minute walk to Rinchengang Village, a small

clustered village known for its skill in traditional method of stone masonry. It has a great view of the Dzong, valley and the river. Spend some time there mingling with the locals and children. Thereafter drive to Paro for overnight.

**Day 9: PARO (B/L/D)**

After breakfast, hike to Tiger's nest monastery (5 hours round trip). We'll drive to Satsam Chorten and further up to the base of Taktshang monastery and hike for an hour till the cafeteria. After tea/refreshments, we walk another one hour through thick forests and follow the trail cut on sheer cliff till you reach the monastery. Taktshang or Tiger's Nest monastery, built on a sheer cliff overlooking the valley below was said to be where the legendary Indian saint, Guru Padmasambhava, flew from eastern Bhutan on the back of a tiger to overcome the demons of Paro region who were opposing the spread of Buddhism. After the trek, we'll walk all way down hill to our waiting car and return to Paro. If time permits visit Kyichu Temple, built in the 7th century A.D.

**Day 10: PARO  CALCUTTA (B)**

After an early breakfast, transfer to airport for flight back to Calcutta. On arrival, meet by representatives and transfer for a complimentary city tour of Calcutta including Mother's Theresa Home, Victoria Memorial and to shopping mall for dinner at your own expense. Evening transfer to airport for flight back to Singapore.

**Day 11: CALCUTTA  SINGAPORE**

SQ 517 CCU/SIN 2350/0635+1

Arrive in Singapore.

**Remark:**

1. The sequence of the itinerary is subjected to change in accordance to the arrangement based on the local agency.
2. Trip due to irresistible factors leading to delay or change the additional costs arising from the guests themselves;
3. If there are any discrepancies in the information between the English and Chinese Itineraries, please refer to the Chinese version.