

# Cycling Through Sikkim



Days:	13
Price from:	1770 USD International flight not included
Comfort:	★★★★★
Difficult:	★★★☆☆
🚲 Cycling	

## MYSTIC, MAJESTIC, MESMERIZING

Sikkim, acclaimed as one of the world's last utopias, is fast gaining popularity as an ideal destination for trekking, cycling and other adventure activities. This amazing cycling holiday explores the scintillating nature and rich Buddhist culture of Sikkim – one of India's smallest states, nestled in the shadow of the mighty Kanchenjunga. This meticulously crafted tour takes us from the lush sub-tropical rain forests up into the high Himalayan regions.

Travelling through the charming and picturesque Ravangla, Yuksom and Pelling, the journey takes us through verdant forests and meadows, quaint villages and past impressive hillsides offering picture-perfect views. Add yummy local fare, and exotic wildlife and it's a little wonder that this mountain paradise is such a haven for cyclist from around the world.

Along the trip, we will also visit the fascinating monasteries at Rumtek, Pemayangtse, and Dubdi for an insight into the rich Buddhist customs and culture. Khecheopalri Lake and a trip to the bustling town of Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim, are other highlights of this tour. Our journey ends in the tea capital, Darjeeling. Here we capture the spectacular sunrise from Tiger Hill and on a lucky day, we might even catch a glimpse of the Everest.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Gangtok: Views of the higher Himalayan peaks
- Martam: Lush vegetation, majestic mountain views, quaint villages, nature walks and forests
- Ravangla: Surrounded by forested hills and undulating valleys dotted with village huts
- Pelling: Breathtaking view of the Kanchenjunga and surrounding ranges
- Darjeeling: Famous for its tea gardens and the eponymous 'champagne' of teas

## Day 1. Traditional welcome on arrival



Delhi 📍

- Arrive at the **International airport** of Delhi. After the traditional welcome, transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

🏠 Accommodation

Ashok Country Resort

## Day 2. Delhi – Bagdogra (By Flight) – and drive to Gangtok



### Delhi - Bagdogra

- After the breakfast, we will be transferred to the Airport to board the flight for **Bagdogra**.

### Bagdogra - Gangtok

- Upon arrival, we board the vehicle (Support vehicle) and continue our journey a little further to **Gangtok**. After checking in at our hotel, we have enough time to explore the city and wander around the market.

Delhi 📍  
✈ 1114km - ⌚ 2h  
Bagdogra 📍  
🚗 125km - ⌚ 4h  
Gangtok 📍

🍽 Breakfast	Ashok Country Resort
🏠 Accommodation	The Lindsay

## Day 3. Sight-seeing of Gangtok (No cycling)



Gangtok 📍

- Today, we go for the sight-seeing programme of the capital of **Sikkim** - Gangtok. We start with the **Namgyal Institute of Tibetology** – a fantastic museum housed in a traditional Tibetan-style mansion that boasts a jaw-dropping collection of artifacts related to the Vajrayana Buddhism and Tibetan Culture. It houses one of the world's largest collections of books, icons, thangkas (religious paintings), objects of tantric rituals and rare manuscripts on Mahayana Buddhism. Thereafter, we visit the **Royal Chapel (tsuk-la-khang)** – the Buddhists' principal place of worship and assembly and the repository of a vast collection of Buddhist scriptures. Continuing our sight-seeing programme, we also visit Enchey Gumpa – located above Sinolchu lodge, about three kms from the centre of the town. **Enchey Monastery** situated in Gangtok is a very pious and appealing place of worship . It was built in the year 1909 on a magnificent ridge overlooking remarkable town of Gangtok from where we can enjoy a breathtaking view of **Mount Kanchenjunga**.

🍽 Breakfast	The Lindsay
🏠 Accommodation	The Lindsay

## Day 4. Gangtok to Martam Village (Cycling 38 kms approx.)



Gangtok 📍  
🚲 30km  
Martam Village 📍

### Gangtok - Martam Village

- In the morning, our route descends into the valley to then gradually climb towards Rumtek, passing through the paddy fields and small hamlets as we edge our way to the beautiful **Martam Village**. En-route, we visit **Rumtek Monastery**, one of the main monasteries of Sikkim and the seat of the Karmapa Lama, the third highest monk in Tibetan Buddhism. It was built in 1960's by His Holiness the late 16th **GYALWA KARMAPA** when he took refuge in Sikkim after the Chinese attack. It houses some of the world's most unique art objects, ancient manuscripts and icons. After a short climb we contour a rocky mountain-side to then start a gradual descent past the fertile rice fields of Martam to reach the village. We arrive here and check into our Resort overlooking a wide valley of terraced paddy fields and bounded by rich forest-covered hills.

🍽 Breakfast	The Lindsay
🍴 Lunch	Martam Retreat
🍷 Dinner	Martam Retreat
🏠 Accommodation	Martam Retreat

## Day 5. Martam to Ravangla via Temi Tea Garden ( Cycling 35 kms approx)



Martam Village 📍  
🚲 35km  
Ravangla 📍

### Martam Village - Ravangla

- Today is another great route as we head to Ravangla via **Temi Tea Gardens** close to **Damthang**. The first part of the day is a fantastic ride passing through the small terraced villages of **Sirwani and Sang**. A breathtaking descent takes us to **Makha bridge** from where we start a gradual climb towards **Ravangla**. En-route, we stop to visit the **Temi Tea Gardens**, the only tea plantation in Sikkim. Continuing our ride past small waterfalls, we reach Ravangla. Situated at a height of 2100 metres, Ravangla is among a few places in Sikkim to offer unmatched views of the **Greater Himalayas. Mt. Kanchenjunga, Mt. Pandim, Mt. Sinialchu and Mt. Kabru** are just a few of the major peaks that are clearly visible from our vantage point. The beauty of its landscape and its location as a transit point to nearby destinations has made Ravangla a must-visit place.

☕ Breakfast	Martam Retreat
🍴 Lunch	Hotel Ravongla Star
🍷 Dinner	Hotel Ravongla Star
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Ravongla Star

## Day 6. Ravangla to Yuksom ( Cycling 50 kms approx)



Ravangla 📍  
 🚲 50km  
 Yuksom 📍

### Ravangla - Yuksom

- After the breakfast, we continue biking from Ravangla to Yuksom, via **Tashiding monastery**. We start with a fantastic descent towards legship and river Rangit and continue by a gradual climb towards Yuksom, stopping en-route to visit **Tashiding**. **The Tashiding monastery** belongs to the Nyingmapa order and is highly revered among the people of Sikkim. Build on the top of the hill, the monastery is looming over the **Rathong and Rangit river**. It is believed that even a slight glimpse of the monastery can cleanse mortals of all sins. After the visit, we continue our ride past small villages and terraced rice fields, passing great waterfalls to reach Yuksom. Yuksom literally means the meeting of three great lamas. These lamas came from Tibet and established the Nyingmapa order of Tibetan Buddhism there. Yuksom is the base camp for various trekkers. Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and proceed to visit **Dubdi Monastery**, built in 1700 CE, also known as the Hermit's Cell it is one of the oldest monasteries in Sikkim, located at the top of a hill about an hour's walk from Yuksom. Dubdi means 'the retreat'.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Ravongla Star
🍴 Lunch	Ejam Residency
🍷 Dinner	Ejam Residency
🏠 Accommodation	Ejam Residency

## Day 7. Yuksom to Pelling ( Cycling 35 kms approx)



Yuksom 📍  
 🚲 35km  
 Pelling 📍

### Yuksom - Pelling

- Today is a short day ride, but challenging as we head to **Pelling**. Leaving Yuksom in the morning, a lovely descent will take us past some fantastic waterfalls. Heading downstream the road rollercoasters past little villages and views of terraced paddy fields on the opposite side of the valley are a treat to the eyes. Placid Pelling situated at an altitude of 2,072 metres offers good views of entire mountain ranges. Upon arrival in Pelling, we check into our hotel. Rest of the day is free to relax or to wander around the town.

☕ Breakfast	Ejam Residency
🍴 Lunch	Norbu Ghang Resort
🍷 Dinner	Norbu Ghang Resort
🏠 Accommodation	Norbu Ghang Resort

## Day 8. Pelling to Rinchenpong (Cycling 42 kms approx)



Pelling 📍  
 🚲 42km  
 Rinchenpong 📍

## Pelling - Rinchenpong

- After the breakfast, we head towards Pemayangtse Monastery. Pemayangtse (perfect sublime lotus) is located about 107 km west of Gangtok. It is one of the state's oldest and most important monasteries and commands an impressive view of **Mount Khangchendzonga**. This monastery belongs to the Nyingma order and all other Nyingma monasteries in Sikkim are subordinate to it. After the lunch, we start our descent towards **Dentam** and a gradual climb ending with a downhill ride to **Rinchenpong**.

🍽️ Breakfast	Norbu Ghang Resort
🍴 Lunch	Yangsum Heritage Farm
🍷 Dinner	Yangsum Heritage Farm
🏠 Accommodation	Yangsum Heritage Farm

## Day 9. Rinchenpong to Nayabazar (Cycling 35Kms approx) & drive to Darjeeling



Rinchenpong 📍  
 🚲 35km  
 Nayabazar 📍  
 🚗 25km  
 Darjeeling 📍

### Rinchenpong - Nayabazar

- Today, we leave Rinchenpong behind and continue our ride, mostly downhill, as we make our way to **Nayabazar**. Riding past terraced rice fields and small village huts, this is the last ride in Sikkim before reaching Nayabazar, a busy bustling border village.

### Nayabazar - Darjeeling

- At Nayabazar, we leave the bikes and drive for about 25 kms to **Darjeeling** in West Bengal. Darjeeling is spread in ribbons over a steep mountain ridge, surrounded by the Emerald-green tea plantations with a backdrop of jagged white Himalayan peaks floating over distant clouds.

🍽️ Breakfast	Yangsum Heritage Farm
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Pink Mountain Darjeeling

## Day 10. Sight-seeing of Darjeeling (No cycling)



Darjeeling 📍

- Famous for its richness of flora and fauna, and located at a height of **2134 metres** above sea level, serene green Darjeeling is famous throughout the world for the tea it grows. It is also known for its richness in cultural and natural heritage and the famous **Toy train**. We start our day by getting up early to visit **Tiger Hill**. Situated at an altitude of 2,590m and 13 kms from the town, this spot has earned International fame for the magnificent view of the sunrise over 'Kanchenjunga' and the great Eastern Himalayan Mountains. Even **Mount Everest**, the world's highest peak, is visible from here. We also visit **Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI)** and Museums – the HMI was created by the late Tenzing Norgay, the Sherpa who conquered Mt Everest with Sir Edmund Hillary. A display of equipment used for climbing is one of the highlights. **A Zoological garden** nearby has an assortment of wildlife such as yaks, Siberian tigers and red pandas who call the region their home. Lastly, we visit the **Tea Garden**. It is said that the best tea in the world comes from India. While in Darjeeling a visit to any nearby Tea Garden to watch the actual process of manufacturing of "Darjeeling Tea" is worth it. There are many tea gardens in this hill region and the most accessible one is the Happy Valley Tea Estate, where one can watch tea from the gardens being processed.

🍽️ Breakfast	Hotel Pink Mountain Darjeeling
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Pink Mountain Darjeeling



# Day 11. Darjeeling to Kurseong via Old Military Road ( Cycling 36 kms approx)



Darjeeling

36km

Kurseong

## Darjeeling - Kurseong

- In the morning, we set off from the hotel and take a secondary road that contours the hills towards **Ghoom**. We ride past small hamlets set above tea plantations. Upon arrival in Ghoom, we take a detour to visit **Ghoom Gumpa**. It is one of the oldest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in this area, built in the year 1850. This is the original and the old Ghoom Monastery as it enshrines an image of the Maitreya Buddha. From Ghoom, we ride on the “old Military road”, totally car free, as we enter ancient conifer forests past small waterfalls, hardly meeting anyone on the way. While we still ride above 2000 mt, the views occasionally open up to the lower hills and the tea plantations, where people with baskets are seen picking tea leaves. We thereafter, descend to **Kurseong**. Our accommodation for the night is yet another Colonial house converted into hotel, where we sit out on the veranda sipping tea and enjoying the views of the plantations while reflecting on our fantastic holiday.

Breakfast	Hotel Pink Mountain Darjeeling
Dinner	Cochrane Place
Accommodation	Cochrane Place

# Day 12. drive Kurseong - Bagdogra and fly to Delhi



Kurseong

42km - 1h 20m

Bagdogra

1114km - 2h

Delhi

## Kurseong - Bagdogra

- Today after the breakfast, we are transferred to **Bagdogra** to board the flight for **Delhi**. Upon arrival in Delhi, transfer and check into the hotel. We have rest of the day free to explore the bazaar.

Breakfast	Cochrane Place
Accommodation	Ashok Country Resort

# Day 13. Departure from Delhi



Delhi

- Check-out from the hotel and transfer to the International airport or any point of convenience for onward journey to respective countries.

Breakfast	Ashok Country Resort
-----------	----------------------

# Itinerary map



## Individual price per person

2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
3230 USD	2110 USD	1800 USD	1770 USD

## Included

- Accommodation for 06 nights in a double room in the hotels mentioned or equivalent on breakfast basis
- 01 night half board at the Kurseong Hotel
- 05 nights full board at Hotel Martam, Ravangla, Yuksom, Pelling and Rinchenpong
- Support Vehicle and back-up equipment
- All ground transportation included in the program using private air-conditioned vehicle with English speaking driver
- Entrance fees to the park and monuments as described in the program
- Professional English speaking Cycling tour leader throughout the trip
- Govt. Taxes

## Not included

- International flight tickets
- Travel insurance
- These rates will not be valid for peak season from 20 December 2019 to 10 January 2020 , Christmas and New Year's extra supplement cost will be charged during this period
- Domestic flight tickets for the two Sectors: (Delhi - Bagdogra and Bagdogra - Delhi)
- Lunch and Dinner through out the trip except Dinner in Pelling and Rinchenpong
- Miscellaneous Expenses - drinks, souvenir, personal expenses etc.
- Tips for driver and other local staff
- Charges for Camera in the monuments and Parks
- The cancellation and baggage insurance, assistance and repatriation
- Indian Visa
- All services not mentioned in "Inclusion"