



TOUR: NORTH-EAST INDIA-WILD SAFARI

PLACES OF INTEREST:

1. Kolkata City (West Bengal)
2. Sunderban Tiger Reserve (West Bengal)
3. Kaziranga National Park (Assam)
4. Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary (Assam)
5. Nameri National Park (Assam)
6. Cherapunji (Meghalaya)
7. Guwahati City (Assam)

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive at Kolkata - check in at hotel - rest/sightseeing – overnight stay.

Day 2: Morning Breakfast - Drive down for Sunderban Tiger Reserve – A world Heritage Site – 2.5 hrs journey by car accompanied by 2.5 hrs river cruise through personalized boat.

Day 3: Whole Day River cruise through mangrove creeks Sunderban – Cultural Show at evening.

Day 4: Enjoy the village life - Lunch at Sunderban – back to Kolkata by evening – Overnight stay in Kolkata.

Day 5: Morning Flight to Jorhat –Visit to Gibbon wildlife Sanctuary – Overnight stay

Day 6: Gibbon wildlife Sanctuary – Bird Watching

Day 7: Morning breakfast - drive down to Kaziranga National Park - afternoon Jeep Safari to see the great one horned rhino, Tiger (Highest concentration of Tiger, Elephant, Birds, Deers and various other small and big animals.(There are many ranges in Kaziranga, everyday we will visit different ranges at different times according to our information base to get the highest sightings).

Day 8: Morning Elephant Ride/ Jeep Safari – afternoon Cultural Show.

Day 9: Jungle Jeep Safari - Evening Cultural Show.

Day 10: Kaziranga National Park To Nameri National Park - after breakfast drive down to Nameri National Park - enroute we visit Tezpur - overnight stay at resort.

Day 11: Whole day Nature Trek/Rafting/Bird Watching in Nameri National park.

Day 12: Nameri National Park to Shillong - after breakfast, transfer to Shillong & transfer to Hotel on arrival - evening at leisure - overnight stay at hotel.

Day 13: Visit to Cherrapunji -- The previous Rainiest place on earth - early morning drive to Cherrapunjee - enroute we visit Shillong Peak Elephanta Falls - on arrival we visit Nohkalikai Falls, Mousamai cave, Ramakrishna Mission.etc. - return to Shillong in the evening - overnight stay at Shillong hotel.

Day 14: Shillong To Guwahati - after breakfast transfer to Guwahati - enroute visit Cathedral Church, Ward's Lake, Lady Hydrae Park – arrive at Guwahati and transfer to hotel - evening go for a River Cruise on the Brahmaputra River - local sight seeing - overnight stay at hotel.

Day 15: Return to Guwahati International Airport – after breakfast, transfer to Guwahati airport for onwards destination - Tour ends.



Details of the places are given below:

Sunderbans - The Land of the Royals



Where the land meets the sea at the southern tip of West Bengal lies, the Indian Sunderbans, the largest estuarine wildlife sanctuary in the world, which has the power to leave one awestruck with its varied wildlife amidst lush growth of Sundari trees and spectacular vastness of the terrain. The Sunderbans is estimated to be about 4,110 km², of which about 1,700 km² is occupied by waterbodies in the forms of river, canals and creeks of width varying from a few meters to several kilometers.

The Sunderbans Mangroves eco-region on the coast forms the seaward fringe of the delta and is the world's largest mangrove ecosystem, with 20,400 square kilometers (7,900 square miles) of area covered. The dominant mangrove species *Heritiera fomes* is locally known as sundri or sundari, after which the Sunderbans is thought to be named. Mangrove forests are not home to a great variety of plants. They have a thick canopy, and the undergrowth is mostly seedlings of the mangrove trees.

The Sunderbans is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests. The interconnected network of waterways makes almost every corner of the forest accessible by boat. The area is known for the eponymous Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), as well as numerous fauna including species of birds, spotted deer, crocodiles and snakes.

The Sunderbans is celebrated through numerous Bengali folk songs and dances, often centered around the folk heroes, gods and goddesses specific to the Sunderbans (like Bonbibi and Dakshin Rai) and to the Lower Gangetic Delta (like Manasa and Chand Sadagar).



Gibbon wildlife Sanctuary



It derived its name from the Gibbons. It's the only sanctuary in Assam where seven primate species of Northeastern India can be seen. It covers an area of 20.98 sq. km.

The primate community of Gibon Wildlife Sanctuary consists of four species of macaques, one species each of langur, gibbon and loris. The seven species of primates found in the sanctuary are Western hoolock gibbon, Capped langur, Bengal slow loris, Stump-tailed macaque, Northern pig-tailed macaque, Rhesus macaque, Assamese macaque - of which six of the seven primate species have been declared highly endangered. Some of the other animals found in the sanctuary are elephants, Sambar, Wild boar, Tiger, Jungle cat, Leopard cat, Barking deer, Himalayan orange bellied squirrel, Horry bellied squirrel, Gecko lizard, Malayan giant squirrel, Civets, Foxes, Python, Common monitor lizard, etc.

There are more than 200 varieties of Birds found in the area. Recently, White-winged wood duck, a rare and engendered bird was sighted in the sanctuary.



Kaziranga National Park



Kaziranga National park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. One of the best maintained parks all over in India containing the highest concentration of Tiger. Situated on the south bank of the Brahmaputra river, Kaziranga National Park (Assam, India) is famous for the stronghold of the armoured one-horned Indian Rhinoceros .Kaziranga is home also to Elephants, Sloth bears, tigers, leopard cats, jungle cats, hog badgers, capped langurs, hoolock gibbons, pigs, jackals, Porcupines, Pythons, Wild buffaloes, Indian Bison, Swamp Deer, Sambhars and Hog deer. Besides these, the park has a respectable avian population, which increases considerably in the winter, when migrating birds visit the park.

Kaziranga is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests, crisscrossed by four major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, and the park includes numerous small bodies of water. Kaziranga has been the theme of several books, songs, and documentaries

Observing the wildlife, including birding, is the main visitor activity in and around the park. Guided tours by elephant or Jeep are available. Hiking is prohibited in the park to avoid potential human-animal conflicts. Observation towers are situated at Sohola, Mihimukh, Kathpara, Foliamari, and Harmoti for wildlife viewing. The Lower Himalayan peaks frame the park's landscape of trees and grass interspersed with numerous ponds. An interpretation centre is being set up at the Bagori range of Kaziranga, to help visitors learn more about the park. The park remains closed for visitors from mid-April to mid-October due to monsoon rains



Nameri National Park



Nameri National Park, covering an area of about 200 sq. kms is located at the foothills of eastern Himalaya. Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal. Together they constitute an area of over 1000 km², of which nameri has a total area of 200 km². The park, with its hills of deciduous forests and the Jia Bhoroli river flowing through it, is a birder's paradise, home to more than 300 species of birds: four species of Hornbills, an abundance of Mainas, Bee Eaters, Barbets, Babblers, Bulbuls, Plovers, Ibis, Bills etc.

This is excellent elephant country it was considered to be a elephant reserve. It is also an ideal habitat for a host of other animals including the tiger, Leopard, Sambar, dhole (the Asiatic wild dog), Pygmy Hog, Muntjac, Gaur, Wild Boar, Sloth Bear, Himalayan Black Bear, Capped Langur and Indian Giant Squirrel. In recent years, Nameri has sheltered the rare and endangered White Winged Wood Duck. Over 50 of the total world population of 700 of this species can be found at Nameri National Park.



Cherrapunji



Cherrapunji situated in North East India in the Meghalaya State (*separated from the state of Assam in 1972, Meghalaya means “Home of the clouds”*) in the Khasi Hills, is unbelievably the wettest place on the planet earth which receives the maximum rainfall in the world, holding a record that it once rained continuously every single day for two years. It made a world record of 1,041 inches of rain in 1861.

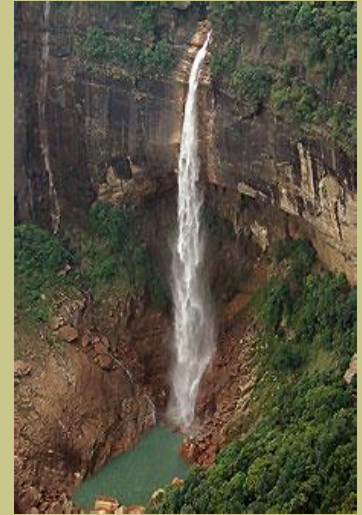
It is a 60 kilometre drive from the state’s capital Shillong, and is situated 1290 metres above sea level. Cherrapunji has started to dry up recently with less rain and Mawsynram is becoming the wettest place.

Cherrapunji is a place which can give one a collection of views, that can last a lifetime. Its richness is in rare varieties of orchids, dense woods, cliffs, ferns, moss, and also orange orchards and pineapple plants. It has also become a paradise for botanists.



Elephant Falls

Elephant Falls is situated about 12 kms. away from the city and is a short diversion from the road to Cherrapunji. It is a scenic spot with two high falls, surrounded by fern covered rocks. You can walk down to the lowest pool by wooden steps and bridges and get a good view.



The Living Bridges of Cherrapunji

These are root bridges of Cherrapunji which are alive and are grown naturally; they are not built. Cherrapunji has a type of rubber tree called the Ficus Elastica, which grows secondary roots from its trunks. The local tribe realised its potential and used hollow betel nut trunks to direct the roots in whatever way they liked. After they grew all the way across the river they are allowed to grow back



to the soil and over a period of time leading to a strong bridge. They take anything between fifteen to twenty five years to develop completely and last for centuries, growing stronger each year. Boulders or stones are placed on these roots to make crossing easier, and they have the strength to hold at least fifty people at a time.



i. Mawsmai falls, the fourth highest falls in India.

ii. Khasi Monoliths, which is situated near the Mawsmai falls, has many underground passages underneath old caves. It is an exciting place for explorers. Khasi monoliths are stones which lie scattered around in memory of their ancestors.



iii. Noh Kalikai Falls is a stream which emerges from a steep mountain and falls down a deep rocky cliff into a stream.



iv. Krem Mawmluh, is a cave situated to the west of Cherrapunji with a five river way. The length of the cave is 4503 m making it the fourth longest cave in India.



v. Krem Phyllut, is a cave situated to the south of Cherrapunji with fossil passages, two stream ways and three entrances, with a length of 1003 m.

ALL TRIPS ARE CUSTOMIZED ACCORDING TO THE NEED OF INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS

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