

Kangchenjunga Trek Sikkim, India **New**

Scenic trekking beneath the world's third highest peak through the varied mountain landscapes of Sikkim.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Trek
Accommodation	Hotels, Camping
Grade	Vigorous / Strenuous
Duration	22 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	On trek: 13 days Walk on: 1 day
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader Sikkim
Land only	Joining in Delhi, India
Max altitude	4,500m/14,764ft, Viewpoint, Day 17

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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Departures

Group departures

2024 Dates:

Sat 12 Oct - Sat 02 Nov

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



Darjeeling, despite its relatively low altitude, has long held an important place in the history of Himalayan trekking and climbing. Sherpa Tenzing made his home here and the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute founded in the 1950s, is renowned as a centre of excellence for the training of guides. Today's walking and trekking guides in Sikkim uphold the strong traditions and your leader will be a knowledgeable, fluent English-speaking Indian guide. He will be supported by a hard working team on trek, comprising a cook, porters, pony men and depending upon the group size, additional guides.

Your trip highlights

- Splendid Himalayan trekking with scenic camps and panoramic viewpoints.
- Genuinely wild and remote with few other trekkers for first eight days of the trek.
- Stunning sunrise views of Kangchenjunga and the surrounding peaks - weather permitting!
- Time in Darjeeling & Kalimpong to enjoy the sights.
- Full-service camping on trek and good quality centrally located hotels, including the Windamere in Darjeeling.

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Fly to Delhi.
Days 3-4	Fly to Bagdogra. Drive to Darjeeling. Sightseeing.
Day 5	Drive to Pemayangtse. Walk to Rabdenste ruins and visit Pemayangtse Monastery. Overnight at Pelling.
Day 6	Drive to Shyang Chola via Rimbi. Begin trek and camp at Chonzom.
Days 7-9	Trek to Upper Yambung via Doban and Bichchok.
Days 10-13	Cross the Danfe Bir Pass to Pokhari. Trek to Panding then cross the Tegyapla pass to Chauri. Descend to Bikbari.
Days 14-16	Cross the Dzongri la pass. Rest day then trek to Kangchenjunga viewpoints and Thangsing.
Days 17-18	Trek to Tshoka and on to Yuksom. End trek.
Day 19-20	Drive to Kalimpong, at leisure
Days 21-22	Drive to Bagdogra. Fly to Delhi. Fly to London.

Trip summary

Situated in the far northeast of India, the small state of Sikkim lies along the spine of the Himalaya, squeezed between Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan. As rich in culture, history and scenic wonders as its neighbours, Sikkim is often overlooked but this tiny green state is a world leader; in 2018 it became the UN's first 100 percent organic state beating 25 other countries and regions from across the world, including Denmark.

Kangchenjunga at 8,586m/28,169ft is undoubtedly the jewel in Sikkim's crown, and the world's third highest mountain, providing a wonderfully inspiring backdrop to Sikkim's scenic trails. Along with its majestic, mountain landscapes Sikkim is famed for a wealth of cultural attractions. Before starting your trek you will visit the bustling hill station of Darjeeling with its verdant tea plantations, colonial era architecture and celebrated mountain railway. You will also make a stopover in Pemayangtse to visit the second oldest and most important monastery in Sikkim.

Having sampled some of the cultural delights of Sikkim, it's now time to immerse yourself in its natural wonders as you set off on trek from Shayang Chola. Over the next two weeks you will experience a variety of landscapes. As you gradually ascend you encounter rhododendron forests, lush meadows, babbling streams and even a sacred lake, and every night you enjoy a first rate camping experience at superbly located sites that give you fabulous early morning vistas. The undoubted high point of the trek though is seeing the sun rise over the mighty eastern face of Kangchenjunga - undoubtedly one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the Himalaya - and a just reward for your exertions.

This trek was recce'd in October 2023 by our reservations manager Seraphina Berry, accompanied by an intrepid band of experienced trekkers. They all enjoyed the wild and remote terrain and the stunning mountain views. There were many steep ascents and descents to ensure plenty of exercise!

Special notes

Permits

Trekking in Sikkim requires a Restricted Area Entry Permit. In order for us to obtain this on your behalf, you will need to apply for an Indian tourist visa in advance - not an e-visa. This is because we need the visa number in advance to apply for your Restricted Area Permit for Sikkim in good time.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Delhi.

Fly overnight from London to Delhi.

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Delhi. Transfer to hotel. At leisure.

On arrival at Delhi International Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax after your long flight.

If you would like a guided sightseeing tour this can be arranged by the Mountain Kingdoms office prior to your departure. Please contact us for further details.

Overnight: Muse Sarovar Portico Hotel or Similar, Delhi

Day 3: Fly Delhi to Bagdogra. Drive to Darjeeling, 2,134m/7,001ft - 3½ hours drive.

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Bagdogra. If the weather is clear, this flight, which runs parallel with the Greater Himalayan chain, will give you views of many huge peaks including Dhaulagiri and Everest. You will also enjoy your first glimpse of the Kangchenjunga Massif as you approach Darjeeling.

From the airport you drive along the windy road which takes you up from the plains to Darjeeling. Straddling a ridge in the Darjeeling-Sikkim Himalaya at 2,134m/7,001ft, and surrounded by tea plantations on all sides, Darjeeling has been a popular hill station since the British established it as a rest and recuperation (R and R) centre for their troops in the mid-1800s. The industrious British, not averse to mixing a little business with pleasure, recognised that the quality of the soil and the mild climate were ideal for tea cultivation; the forested hill slopes were soon denuded of their cover and planted with this most lucrative revenue earner. These days, people come here to escape from the heat and humidity of the north Indian plains. You will find yourself surrounded by mountain people from all over the eastern Himalaya who have come to work, to trade or, in the case of the Tibetans, as refugees. Mother Teresa spent her early years as a nun here with the sisters at Loreto Convent and Lawrence Durrell was educated at the prestigious St Joseph's College.

Darjeeling is also a popular tourist town with many visitors coming to enjoy the faded colonial grandeur and the far-reaching vistas across to the Himalayan peaks including Kangchenjunga.

Overnight: Windamere Hotel, Darjeeling (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Morning sightseeing in Darjeeling. Afternoon at leisure.

It is worth getting up early to walk to the Observatory Hill to take in the splendid mountain views. Later you will visit the Everest Museum at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute where you can see a fascinating collection of memorabilia from some of the early expeditions to Everest. You then drive to the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre where you can observe carpet making and other handicrafts, and visit the centre's shop to pick up a unique souvenir. There may also be time to visit the old Happy Valley Tea Garden to see the traditional tea-making process in action and to enjoy a good brew!

You will return to the hotel for lunch, the afternoon is free.

Overnight: Windamere Hotel, Darjeeling (Meals: BLD)



Day 5: Drive to Pemayangste, 2,085m - 5½ hours. Walk to Rabdentse ruins. Visit Monastery.

After an early breakfast, you set off by jeep for the long drive to Pemayangste. Once you've checked in to your hotel at nearby Pelling you'll enjoy a walk to see the scattered ruins of Rabdenste Palace. The palace was built by the second king of Sikkim, Tenzung Namgyal in 1670. There are fine views from the site across to the village of Tashiding and its gumpa. In the evening there will be a visit to Pemayangste Monastery - the second oldest monastery in Sikkim. It has a wonderfully colourful exterior and several treasured artefacts including the "Sangthok Palri", a masterpiece in carved and painted wood, depicting the various levels of earth and heaven on the way to Nirvana. This was the vision of one master, created over a period of seven years.

Overnight: The Elgin Mount Pandim, Pelling (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Drive to Shyang Khola, 1,763m/5,817ft - 2 hours. Meet your trek crew and trek to Chongri 2,207m/7,281ft - 4 hours.

After breakfast you leave Pelling to make the drive, via the villages of Rimbi and Nambu, to the start of your trek at Shyang Khola. Your trek crew will be waiting for you with the ponies and dzos, and it won't be long before you set off. After walking alongside the river, you cross on a footbridge and start to climb steeply for an hour or so to Shoshing village. The small hamlet is perched on the hillside, with views of the river far below. It is then a more gradual ascent past remote houses to reach the Sherpa village of Chongri. The houses here are all wooden and surrounded by beautiful gardens. You will stop here for the night, camping on one of the terraced fields.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Trek to Doban, 2,292m/7,520ft and on to Nayapatal, 2,535m/8,365ft - 4 to 5 hours.

Leaving camp, you initially descend past the final houses that you will see for several days before continuing on an undulating path through thick forests to cross a side stream on a modern bridge. You soon reach Doban where there is an SSB checkpost. Just beyond here you cross the beautiful Shyang River on a newly built traditional style bamboo bridge. The structure of these bridges is amazing and it is worth spending time at this delightful spot to admire both the bridge and the sparkling clear river. Setting off uphill again you climb more steeply, following the path through further forested areas until you reach Nayapatal. This campsite is on the edge of the trees, with stunning views over the valleys that you have walked up for the last couple of days.



Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Trek to Upper Yambung, 3,559m/11,744ft - 6-7 hours.

Today is another day of gradual ascent as you make your way through further shaded forests of pine and huge rhododendrons, first to Bichchok and then on up more steeply at times, past an area recovering from a small forest fire. You reach the final border post in the trees, and it is then a steep 300m climb to open ground and your camp for the next two nights. There may well be yak herders at the small stone hut above the camp.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Acclimatisation day in Upper Yambung - 300m ascent and descent.

After a leisurely breakfast, you will go for an acclimatisation walk. The path climbs for half an hour or so before you reach a large grassy shelf covered in the ruins of a gumpa reputedly lived in by a Tibetan lama who fled Tibet with the Dalai Lama in 1959. You then climb more steeply through berberis and azalea bushes for an hour or so to reach the ridge line. There are spectacular views on the other side of the ridge, and you can just see the second pass that you will cross tomorrow in the far distance. At the other end of the ridge you can see the town of Pelling glinting in the lower hills. You may well see your first snowy peaks peeping over the ridge, weather permitting. After descending to have lunch in the camp, the rest of the day is free for relaxing.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 10: Cross the Danfe Bir Pass, 4,336m/14,308ft, descend to Jumlay Pokhari and continue to meadow above Gomathang, 3,929m/12,965ft- 6-7 hours.

Leaving camp after breakfast you walk up past the ruined gompa and then continue to contour around the ridge, climbing steadily. The large wide valley is stunning, and far below is the final remote border post with the Singalila ridge that divides Sikkim and Nepal visible across the valley. Weather permitting, you can see the big, snowy mountains of Makalu and the Mera range in Nepal. Passing two beautiful mountain tarns (where your ponies and dzos will stop to drink), you climb more steeply on a good rocky path to reach the Danfe Bir Pass - one of the high points of your trek, and bedecked in fluttering prayer flags. From here you can see the Kangchenjunga and Padim range of mountains stretching out before you, and on a clear day, other Himalayan peaks beyond. It is simply breathtaking in every way. It is about half an hour to the second pass, before you descend for about 70m, to the sacred twin lakes of Jumlay Pokhari from where there are further far reaching views of the high mountains. From here you descend to reach a yak herder's camping spot above Gomathang where you will camp for the night.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 11: Trek to Yangseb, 3,800m/12,540ft- 4 hours.

There should be stunning mountain views in the morning, before leaving the camp to descend steeply to Gomathang. This initial descent needs to be taken slowly on the narrow path. It is about an hour to the flat river valley which you will traverse, crossing the small streams on wooden bridges. You follow a good path for about 1½ hours, before climbing for a further 1½ hours to the delightful wide, grassy valley at Yangseb by the river. This will be your camping spot.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 12: Trek to Panding, 4,116m/13,582- 5 hours.

You initially climb out of the valley before continuing along the hillside on an undulating trail, crossing a small river, then climbing again to a pass at 4,310m/14,140ft. You may stop for a short rest here whilst admiring the views looking back the way you came and on ahead where there is a large, remote valley that you will cross after descending from the pass. It is then a steady climb on a good path to reach the next small pass. From here you should have excellent views. There is a broad, grassy meadow up here that you cross before descending slightly to reach the large, open campsite at Panding.



Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 13: Trek to Dzongri 3,881m/12,807ft - 6 hours.

If the weather is clear, it is worth getting up at 5.30am to see the sunrise over Kabru North and South and Mount Pandim. The summit of Kangchenjunga herself should be visible just peeping over the top of the other snowy peaks. After breakfast, hopefully out in the open to take full advantage of the stupendous views, you have a short climb before starting the steep trek down to the river. The descent is arduous but luckily not too far before it flattens slightly to make easier walking. There are fabulous waterfalls at the top of this next valley, and the mossy path is delightful as you follow the sparkling river to two ancient bridges that lead to Tegyapla, the site of ruined shepherd's huts. After crossing another river it is a short, sharp climb up zig zags for half an hour or so. Here you join an excellent path built under the instruction of Tenzing Norgay - in the opposite direction it leads to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute Base Camp. You follow this path for a few hours, high above the river valley, dipping in and out of the trees and walking below spectacular cliffs on occasion. You gradually climb to reach Dzongri - a very large, open area of small hills and yak herders stone huts and your campsite for the next two nights.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 14: Rest day with optional ascent to view sunrise over Kangchenjunga, optional walk to Dzongri La.

There is a small peak just above the camp that is a popular spot for watching the sunrise. On a clear day it is well worth getting up at 4.30 am and walking up the 200 meters or so to view the sun hitting Kangchenjunga and the neighbouring peaks of Rathong, 6,683m, Kokthang, 6,150m, Kabru Dome, 6,604m and Forked Peak, 6,116m. Having drunk in the vistas you descend for breakfast back at camp. You are then free for the rest of the day. For those with energy, there is a lovely walk up to the Dzongri La Pass 4,216m/13,912ft. There are fine views just below the pass across to the HMI base camp, the Rathong Glacier and the snowy peaks that enclose the Rathong valley.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 15: Trek to Thangsing and on to Lamune, 4,048m/13,358ft.

Weather permitting, there should be stunning views of Mt Pandim and Mt Kabru this morning as your walk starts with a gentle uphill contour to reach a stunning ridge. You undulate along this ridge for an hour or so, taking in the amazing views. There is a long and at times steep descent to the river, and for the first time you may well encounter other trekkers together with their ponies and dzos. It is a surprise to see the wooden hut at the glacial Praig Chu river at Kokchurong! After some boulder hopping you cross the river on a good bridge to start your gentle ascent to Thangsing, a large open campsite on a grassy pasture. The southern ridge of Kangchenjunga and the moraines of the Oglathang Glacier are visible directly ahead, and there are close up views of Pandim. You will probably have lunch here before a wonderful walk up the wide valley, to your camp at Lamune. Every step is pure joy, with big snowy peaks on either side and a wide, easy path. You will camp just below the terminal moraine.



Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 16: Trek to Kangchenjunga viewpoint 4,391m/14,490ft, and return to Thangsing 3,796m/12,526ft - 6½-7 hours.

You have an alpine start this morning, leaving whilst it is still dark. You begin with a walk up a scree path by torchlight to the beautiful sacred lake of Samiti Pokhari. You then climb again for around 1½ hours until you reach the viewpoint at 4,391m. Hopefully you will be in time to see a spectacular sunrise on the towering eastern wall of Kangchenjunga - rising more than 4,000m above the Talung Glacier and only five miles away from you at this point. As the sun emerges, the full grandeur of the scenery will be revealed with the five summits of the Kangchenjunga Massif coming into view as well as the imposing peaks of Kabru and Rathong. It is truly an awe-inspiring sight.

This is the furthest you can go as the area is restricted in an effort to protect the endangered snow leopards that reside here. So, after spending some time enjoying the views, and no doubt taking lots of photos, you will descend back to Lamune. With the sun now up as you descend you will be able to enjoy the beautiful sight of Samiti Lake, ringed by prayer flags and reflecting the surrounding massive peaks. After a late breakfast at camp, you continue downhill for a further two hours to Thangsing.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 17: Trek to Tsokha, 2,990m/9,867ft - 6-7 hours.

After enjoying more superb mountain views, your morning begins by backtracking to the river and crossing the bridge at Kokchurong. Whilst your ponies and dzos will have to follow the route via Dzongri, you take a smaller undulating path through the forest to Phedang set in a clearing in the forest. From here you start your serious descent through thick, tall rhododendron and magnolia forest to the tiny settlement of Tsokha. Once a settlement for Tibetan refugees it is now a trekker's stopping point with a gompa and several simple huts. Having descended around 1,000m today, you will feel the difference in temperature at your campsite.

Overnight: Camp (Meals: BLD)

Day 18: Trek to Yuksom, 1,780m/5,874ft - 6 hours. End of trek.

Today is your final day on trek and you begin by descending past yak herder clearings and then through dense, sub-tropical rhododendron forests to cross several suspension bridges over the Prek Chu River. Here you pick up an undulating trail through beautiful, virgin forest that will take you eventually to the large village of Yuksom, and the end of your trek. Yuksom is an important place in Sikkimese history as the first king of Sikkim had his coronation here and his seat can still be seen. Dubde monastery, the first in Sikkim is also here, as well as a small religious lake. Above the village is a forested hill where it is believed the footprint of Guru Rimpoche can be found on a rock, also the site of the coronation. You say a fond farewell to your trekking crew as tonight as they cook you a final meal.

Overnight: Tashigang Hotel, Yuksom (Meals: BLD)

Day 19: Drive to Kalimpong 1,250m - 5½ hours.

After breakfast you make the drive from Yuksom to Kalimpong. Kalimpong is an interesting bazaar town located in the foothills of the Himalaya on a ridge above the River Teesta.

During the days of the British Raj Kalimpong was a gateway for trade with Tibet. It was also a jumping off spot for much of the 19th and 20th century exploration of the eastern Himalaya and there are many old colonial bungalows and churches in the town from that time. Like Darjeeling, the town is also known for its educational institutions many of which were established by Scottish missionaries during the British colonial period. Nowadays Kalimpong is a centre for ginger growing and is well known for its horticulture - its flower market is famous for the superb display of orchids. The town is also a centre for Buddhism, and the Tibetan Buddhist Monastery, Zang Dhok Palri Phodang, has a number of rare Tibetan Buddhist scriptures which were brought to Kalimpong from Tibet.



Overnight: Elgin Silver Oaks, Kalimpong (Meals: B)

Day 20: At leisure in Kalimpong.

You are free to explore or relax in the hotel today.

Overnight: Elgin Silver Oaks, Kalimpong (Meals: B)

Day 21: Drive to Bagdogra airport, 80km - 2½ to 3 hours. Fly to Delhi.

After breakfast you will depart Kalimpong with a heavy heart as you leave the mountains to travel down to the Indian plains at Bagdogra. Here you will board your plane for Delhi where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Muse Sarovar Portico Hotel or Similar, Delhi (Meals: B)

Day 22: Group transfer to airport. Fly to London.

After breakfast you will transfer to the airport for your flight home. **(Meals: B)**

Our grading system

Kangchenjunga Trek Sikkim is graded as a Vigorous / Strenuous trekking holiday, as described below.

Vigorous

Typically these trips involve 8 to 14 days (occasionally more) trekking in relatively remote landscapes. High passes up to 4,900m/16,000ft may be crossed (sometimes snow-covered) and there may also be glacier travel and peak ascents. Walking days can be between 5 and 8 hours with considerable ascents and descents. This grade also covers some European treks of shorter durations. Overnight stops on trek could be in tea houses, mountain huts or camping.

These holidays would suit enthusiastic hill/mountain walkers.

Strenuous

Our strenuous trekking holidays can involve anything from 10 to 30 days on trek and are often in remote areas, far from 'civilisation'. Rest days are interspersed but there may be up to 7 consecutive days of hard walking. Most treks reach altitudes of at least 4,900m/16,000ft and there will be a great deal of ascent and descent. The majority of our strenuous treks utilise camping, tea house or mountain lodge accommodation.

Trip altitude

Important - please be aware that this trip involves travel at altitude. Whilst all our itineraries are carefully designed to optimise acclimatisation to high altitudes, participants on this trip are likely to experience some symptoms of being at altitude. The Dossier pack we provide when you book your holiday includes comprehensive advice on safe travel at altitude. If you require further information or advice on travel at altitude prior to booking please contact the office to speak to an experienced member of our team. Alternatively we recommend www.medex.org.uk as a good source of information.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ Local, experienced English-speaking leader
- ✓ A free high-quality Mountain Kingdoms kit bag
- ✓ All internal flights and domestic hotel/airport transfers
- ✓ 2 nights hotel in Delhi on twin share, bed and breakfast basis
- ✓ 2 nights hotel Windamere in Darjeeling on twin share, full board basis
- ✓ Best available hotels in Pelling, Yuksom and Kalimpong on twin share basis
- ✓ All camping facilities and all meals on trek
- ✓ Camp staff to carry out all camp work
- ✓ Costs of all portage and their insurance
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ Sightseeing where specified
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & all Departure Tax (flight inclusive holidays only)
- ✓ Airport transfers for international flights on arrival and departure

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Lunch and dinner in Delhi
- ✗ Tips

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit [For further information about our campaign visit https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign.](https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign)

Your accommodation



Muse Sarovar Portico Hotel Or Similar, Delhi

Located close to the airport in Kapashera, New Delhi, this modern 4* hotel has a wide range of facilities and high-quality rooms. There is a restaurant and café on site, whilst good-size guest rooms have tea/coffee makers and unlimited Wi-Fi.



Windamere Hotel, Darjeeling

We have been using the world-famous Windamere Hotel for many years and our clients unfailingly sing its praises. It is a step back 80 years to the Raj, with cucumber sandwiches for tea, coal fires in the bedrooms and a fascinating collection of historic photographs on the walls.



The Elgin Mount Pandim, Pelling

The Elgin Mount Pandim is a heritage hotel full of old world charm. Set in eight acres of virgin forest, facing the Himalaya, almost every room in the hotel offers spectacular views of the Kangchenjunga range. Along with its gardens, the hotel has a dining room, tea lounge and library whilst rooms are individually decorated and equipped with tea/coffee making facilities.



Camp

On our camping treks, the following are provided: a sleeping tent, a dining tent, a toilet tent exclusively for your group to use, and a kitchen tent. There are camp chairs or stools, a solar/ gas lamp for reading in the dining tent at night, a dining table, crockery and tableware. The trek staff cook, put up and take down tents, make the tea, cook the food, wash the dishes, and load the porters or pack animals. Your kit bag is carried for you either by porters or pack animals and you just trek with a light day sack.



Tashigang Hotel, Yuksom

This well located hotel has its own restaurant, serving a variety of cuisines, as well as a bar, lounge and pool room. Rooms are simple but comfortable and there are impressive views of Mount Kabru to be enjoyed from the gardens.



Elgin Silver Oaks, Kalimpong

The Elgin Silver Oaks was the home of a famous Jute magnate that has been sympathetically converted into an attractive boutique hotel in the Himalaya. From the delightful landscaped gardens there are breathtaking views of Kanchenjunga and the hotel has its own dining room as well as a tea lounge and bar. Rooms are large, bright and elegantly furnished with each having a view of either the mountains or gardens.

Meal arrangements

Bed and Breakfast in Delhi. Most meals included elsewhere and on trek.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

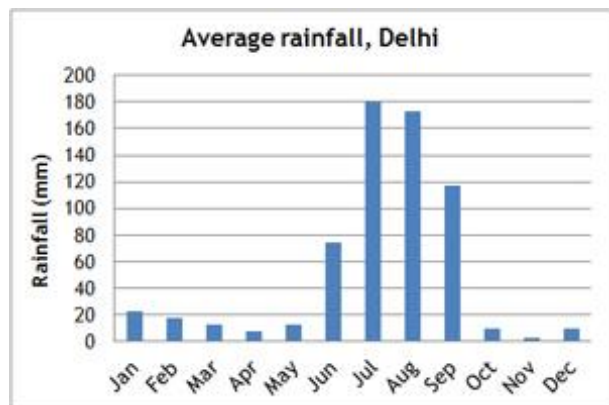
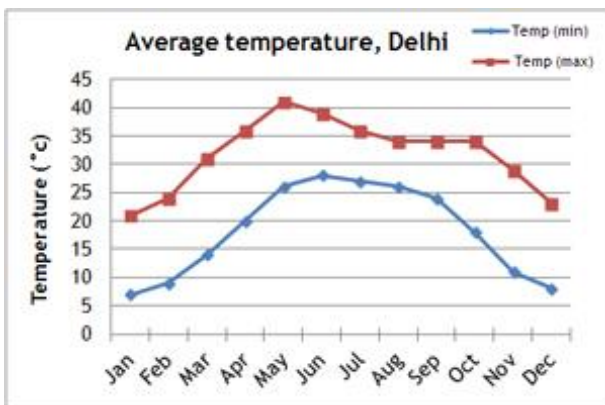
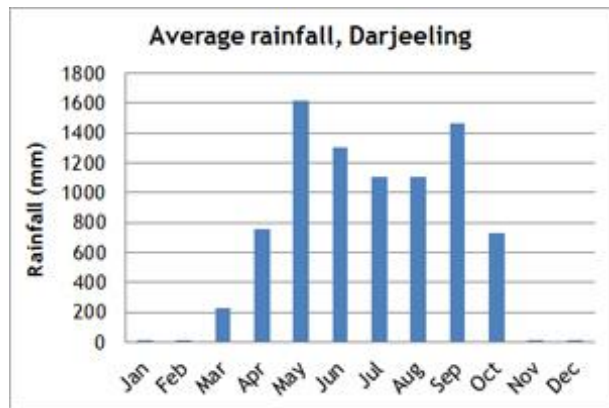
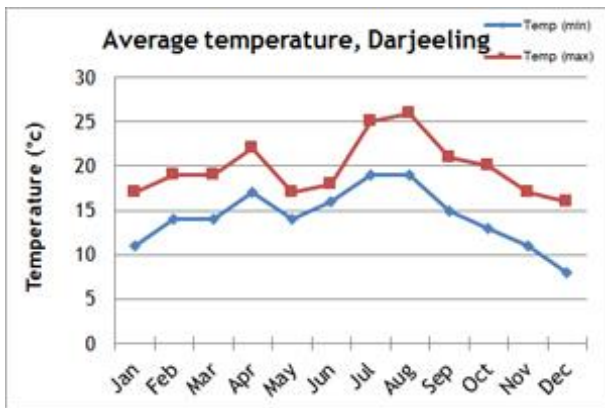
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at www.mountainkingdoms.com.



Additional accommodation in Delhi

If you would like to stay longer in Delhi we can arrange additional nights and upgrades from our selection of first rate hotels such as the Oberoi Maidens in the city or Claridges Hotel in New Delhi.

Agra, Taj Mahal & Jaipur

We offer various extensions to Agra, from a one-day visit to see the majestic Taj Mahal to a six-day trip to visit both the Taj and the Amber Fort at Jaipur. All options travel to Agra on the Shatabdi Express and include the services of an English-speaking guide, sightseeing and private transport.



Glenburn Tea Estate, Sikkim

The Glenburn Tea Estate, nestled in the beautiful Himalayan foothills, offers a wonderfully relaxing extension at the end of your trekking holiday in Sikkim. A working tea estate, you can tour the tea factory and fields and also enjoy nature walks, birdwatching or longer hikes in the estate's extensive grounds. Accommodation is elegant and indulgent, with rooms in restored planter's bungalows and meals are always delicious using ingredients grown in the estate's own gardens.



Ranthambore National Park

Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan is one of the finest national parks in northern India. It has a diverse range of habitats attracting a fantastic variety of wildlife including tigers, leopard, bears and monkeys as well as a large number of exotic birds. We can arrange a three night stay at a jungle camp from where you can enjoy many wildlife watching activities such as nature walks, jeep safaris and bird watching.



Corbett National Park

Corbett was India's first national Park and hosts a spectacular range of mammals, reptiles and birds including a large population of Royal Bengal tigers, elephants and leopard. For this extension, you take the train to Ramnagar for a three night stay at a lovely lodge with a full programme of safari activities.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- This trek combines some superb off-the-beaten track wilderness trekking with the classic trek to the main Kanchenjunga viewpoint.
- We have created a varied and well-paced holiday with excellent acclimatisation and selected campsites with wonderful views.
- We include visits to Darjeeling and Kalimpong with time to soak up the atmosphere of these attractive mountain towns.
- Your trek will be led by a highly experienced, English-speaking local guide supported by a team of cooks, porters and pony men.
- Your gear will be fully portered on trek so you only need to carry a day sack.
- The cost of the domestic flights from Delhi to Bagdogra and return are included in your holiday cost, along with group airport transfers.
- With over 36 years' experience we are the UK's leading operator taking people to the Himalaya. If you have any questions about this trip, please contact Seraphina Berry at the MK office who completed the trek in 2023.
- We have a maximum group size of 12 people for a genuine, small group, trekking experience.
- We offer a flexible service and can extend your holiday with extra hotel nights, upgrades and exciting activities.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights team for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

What we say



As a trekking destination Sikkim goes right to the top of my list. It's a scenically stunning region of very steep hillsides, pristine primeval forest and soaring snowy peaks. Its population is small and its wild countryside, along with its mountains, is very large. On this new Kangchenjunga trek our little group didn't see another trekker for eight days but we did see some stupendous mountain vistas include some breathtaking views of Kanchenjunga at sunrise.
-Seraphina Berry, Mountain Kingdoms

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

