

Discover **DARJEELING**



Darjeeling

Take a train to New Jalpaiguri or a flight to Bagdogra and then climb the undulating forest trail to the hill station of Darjeeling. Let the cool mountain air lightly scented with the fragrance of jasmine enter your straved lungs, breathe the deep and open your eyes. Let the colours sear your senses; flame-red rhododendrons, sparkling white magnolias, miles of emerald green hillsides, exotic forests of silver fir nestled under the blanket of a brilliant azure sky draped with specks of clouds and backed against the austere grandeur of the Himalayas. Inhale the vibrancy of the landscape and leave the hustle and bustle of your life behind. It is a land blessed by the Gods; Indra's thunderbolt is fabled to have fallen on the spot where the Observatory Hill now stand giving the region its name-Darjeeling-'land of the thunderbolt'.

In 1829, this 'old Gorkha Station' enchanted the two Britishers, Llyod and Grant, who were instrumental in transforming it into a sanatorium for the British by 1835. Today, Darjeeling beckons thousands for a leisurely respite from the heat and dust of the plains. Walk down the old pathways past the colonial churches, ride the miniature toy train, trek to the zoo and make friends with the lazy red panda but beware the predatory snow leopard, snack on delicious momos and dine on authentic Nepali cuisine. Trekker or tourist, photographer or artist, family man or the lone backpacker, whoever you are....Welcome .

You have finally arrived, now stop and savour the 'Champagne of the East'.

Fact File

Area	11.44 sq.kms
Altitude	2134 mts (7053 ft.)
Location	26°31' and 27°13'North Latitude 87°59' and 88°53' South longitude
CLIMATE	
Summer	Max 24°C, Min 8.5°C
Winter	Max6°C, Min1.5°C
Rainfall	July to September: 320 mm Ann.
Population	120000(2001 census)
Clothing required	Summer: light woolens Winter : Heavy Woolens
Best Season	March to June and Sep. to Jan
Languages Spoken	Nepali, English, Hindi, Bengali & Tibetan



Chowrasta The Mall at night

How to Reach

AIR

The nearest Airport: Bagdogra is approximately 90 kms from Darjeeling and is well connected by flights from Delhi, Kolkata and Guwahati. There is also a biweekly flight from/to Paro (Bhutan) and Bangkok (Thailand).

RAIL

New Jalpaiguri Railway Station is the nearest major rail head located 85 kms from Darjeeling town and has direct railway connections with Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Puri and other major cities of India.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway: You have an option of traveling uphill on the 'Toy Train' - labeled a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO since 1999. Affectionately termed the 'old granny' the train huffs and puffs its way up the steep incline through golden green alpine shrubs and ferns, bamboo groves and coniferous forests. Over 130 years old, the Lilliputian locomotive traverses what is perhaps the most romantic road in the country.

ROAD

Darjeeling is connected by road with Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik, Gangtok and Siliguri and from there to the major cities of India.

Some important road links from Darjeeling (in Kms)

Kalimpong	51 kms
Kurseong	48 kms
Mirik	40 Kms
Siliguri	80 Kms
Gangtok	115 Kms
Guwahati	90 kms
Kolkata	656 Kms
Delhi	1389 Kms
Kathmandu	677 kms



Places of Interest

AVA ART GALLERY (9 am - 4 pm)

This unique gallery houses fine art and embroidery work of Mrs. Ava Devi.

BATASIA LOOP

This railway loop between Darjeeling and Ghoom is a marvel of engineering feat. It is one of the most popular sections on the DHR line. The Toy Train circumvents the War Memorial built in memory of the Gorkha soldiers who laid down their lives for the motherland.

BHUTIA BUSTY MONASTERY

Originally built as a branch of Phodong Monastery of Sikkim in 1879 at the Observatory Hill, this beautiful monastery is now situated below the mail.

BURDWAN PALACE

Uday Mahal, the summer residence of the erstwhile Maharaja of Burdwan is situated at Rajbari and is noted for its remarkable architecture.

CHOWRASTA & THE MALL

The signature spot of Darjeeling town, Chowrasta is a happening square located on the top of the ridge below the observatory hill. This bustling promenade is the place to laze around and watch the world go by. The Mall circumvents the hill providing one of the most leisurely walks against a stunning backdrop of the Himalayan range.

DARJEELING RANGEET VALLEY PASSENGER ROPEWAY

The first passenger ropeway in India is located at North Point. The ropeway provides a breathtaking experience over tea gardens and orange orchards.

DHIRDHAM TEMPLE

Located just below the Railway Station, the beautiful Nepali style Dhirddham temple is built on the model of the famous Pashupatinath temple of Kathmandu, Nepal.

GHOOM MONASTERY

The Yiga choling Buddhist monastery at Ghoom was established in 1875 and enshrines the image of the Maitreya Buddha or the future Buddha.

BATTERY OPERATED CAR

This services has been recently started from Gorkha Rangamanch Bhawan to Mahakal Temple and PNHZP.

GHOOM RAILWAY STATION & THE DHAR MUSEUM

The highest railway station in India at 7400 feet, this 130 year old station houses the DHR Museum.

HAPPY VALLEY TEA ESTATE

This tea state is the one which is nearest to the town. Here one can see the processing of the world famous Darjeeling Tea.

HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTE

Situated on Jawahar Parbat about 2 kms from town, this unique institution was founded in 1954 following the conquest of Everest. The museum at the HMI contains an array of artifacts, mountaineering equipments and also Hitler's telescope.

JAPANESE PEACE PAGODA

The Nipponzan Myohoji Budhist Pagoda was established in 1992 in celebration of 2500 birth anniversary of Buddha. It is situated on the western slope of Jalapahar.

LLOYDS BOTANICAL GARDEN

This 40 acre garden situated just below the market square contains a representative collection of a wide range of Himalayan plants, flowers and orchids.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (9 am -4.30 am)

Within walking distance from Chowrasta, this interesting museum established in 1903, contains a comprehensive collection of the fauna of the region.

OBSERVATORY HILL & MAHAKAL TEMPLE

The Observatory hill houses the Mahakal temple greatly revered by both Hindus and Buddhists who worship here in thousands. The location commands a magnificent view of the Himalayan range and the town.

PADMAJANAIDU HIMALYAN ZOOLOGICAL PARK

The Darjeeling Zoo located on Birch Hill is a refreshingly well laid out high altitude wild life park. It is home for Siberian Tigers, Himalayan Black Bears and a breeding centre for Red Pandas and Snow Leopards. (8.30 am - 4.00 pm) (Thursday Closed)

ROCK GARDEN AND GANGA MAYA PARK

The Chunnu falls at the Rock Garden and the Gangamaya Park is about 10 Kms away from town and are both attractive picnic spots. The lake here is very popular with the tourist for boat rides.

SHRUBBERY NIGHTANGLE PARK

A beautiful garden situated on the Jawahar Parbat behind Raj Bhawan provides a magnificent view of the Kanchenjunga range and the Singla valley.

SIDRAPONG HYDEL POWER STATION

The Sidrapong Hydel Power Station is the first of its kind in Asia. This was established in 1857.

DESHBANDHU MUSEUM-STEP ASIDE (10 am -4.30 pm)

Located just below the Mall, it was the residence of Desh Bandhu Chittarnjan Das, a famous Freedom Fighter.

TENZING AND GOMBU ROCKS (9 am - 5 pm)

Situated at Lebong Cart Road, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute conducts preliminary courses on rock climbing here.

TIBETAN REFUGE SELF HELP CENTRE (9 am - 5 pm)

This centre was established in 1959 to rehabilitate displaced Tibetans who had followed His Holiness the Dalai Lama to India. Today, this centre produces excellent carpets, woolen goods and wood carvings.

TIGER HILL

Situated at an altitude of 2590 metres and 13 kms from the town, time spot has earned International fame and is synonymous with the incredible sight of the sunrise over the Great Eastern Himalayan range. This first rays of the sun at dawn bathes Kanchenjunga, Kabru, Jannu and even Everest in a kaleidoscope of colours, a sight you simply cannot afford to miss.

VICTORIA FALLS

The victoria Falls is a spectacular sight at its cascades over boulders from a height of over 100 feet. The picturesque ferroconcrete bridge over the falls was constructed exactly a century ago.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS DARJEELING : 0354

D.M'S OFFICE	(Off)2254233 (Res)2256182 (Fax)2254338	General Post Office	2252076
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S.R, Darjeeling	2254263	Mariam Nursing Home	2254637
Addl. S.P. (H.Q.)	2254270	DDMA Hospital	2256263
DY. S.P. (H.Q.)	2254096	Yuma Nursing Home	2257651
Sadar Police Station	2254422	State Bank of India	2256318
Traffic Police	2258685	Indian Airlines	2254230/31
Foreigner's Regn. Office	2254203	Circuit House	2254827 2254290
Secretary Tourism Dept	2252318	Youth Hostel	2254290
Railway Enquiry, Dj.	2252555 2254290	Red Cross	2256352
		Dj, Gymkhana Club	2254341
		The Planter's Club	2254348



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