

ARUNACHAL PRADESH TOP TEN

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contents

Introduction	06	THE CAPITAL AND ITS TWIN	72	SEPPA, DOIMUKH, SAGALEE	104	ANINI	130
Culture And Tradition	16	ITANAGAR	72	District Museum and Library		MAYUDIA PASS	135
Adventure In Arunachal	28	Ita Fort		Crafts Centre		OF MYTHS AND MAMMALS	136
Advice For Tourists	34	Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum		WHERE THE HILLS BEGIN	108	PARASURAM KUND	136
Map of Arunachal Pradesh	40	Gompa Buddha Vihar		PASIGHAT	108	TEZU	139
		Gekar Sinyi		ROING	114	WAKRO	140
OF HIGH MOUNTAINS AND MONASTERIES	42	NAHARLAGUN	82	Camping		Kamlang Tiger Reserve	
TAWANG	42	Mela General Ground		NAMSAI	118	ADVENTURE IN THE WOODS	142
Tawang Monastery		Polo Park		Golden Pagoda		MIAO	142
Gyangong Ani Gompa		ABODE OF THE APATANIS	84	Other Temples		JAIRAMPUR	146
Tawang War Memorial		ZIRO VALLEY		Other Places of Interest		NAMDAPHA NATIONAL PARK	148
Urgelling Gompa		Hapoli		MONASTERIES, RITUALS AND MORE	122	Deban	
DIRANG	54	Apatani Bastis		MECHUKA	122	Treks	
Dirang Dzong		Ziro Viewpoint		BASAR	125	Hotel Listings	156-69
New Gompa		Tarin Fish Farm		A BRIDGE ACROSS FOREVER	126	Tourist Offices	170
National Research Centre on Yak		Ziro Festival of Music		TUTING	126	Permits	171-172
BOMDILA	62	Kardo Hill Temple		YINGKIONG	129	Transport Directory	173-75
Upper Gompa		THE BIG CAT IN MISTY WOODS	96	SPECTACULAR VISTAS, SHAMANIC RITUALS	130	Photo Credits	176
Middle Gompa		PAKKE TIGER RESERVE	96				
Lower Gompa		Birdwatching					
Bomdila Bazaar area		Nature Interpretation Centre					
		Village Visits and Festivals					



SANJIV VALSAN

The Road Less Travelled

The roads to, and in, Arunachal Pradesh are long and winding, and brimming with a promise of adventure. Irrespective of which road you decide to take in the largest state in India's Northeast, in all probability, it will be 'the one less travelled by'. Roads can be bumpy at times, and definitely thrilling thanks to

snow, rain and heavy vehicular movement, but once you manage to galumph past these little challenges, you will be gifted with sights that your eyes simply cannot fathom.

While you're immersed in the quiet majesty of the Himalayas, you will learn that these mountains are home to tribes scattered

Lake at Sela Pass bounded by snow-covered mountains

across the state, each with their own language, culture and practices. Their life and culture revolves around their respective topographies. The Monpas and Sherdukpens reside in the western part of Arunachal Pradesh; the Apatanis and Nyishis in the central areas; while the Idu Mishmis live on the eastern side. All are expert weavers and most

are adept at bamboo craft, fishing and organic agriculture.

A visit to this far-flung corner of India will show you what life is like in its simplest form. Till today, Arunachal Pradesh continues to be one of the greatest and last remaining repositories of unique cultures and unexplored ecological wealth.

Geography

Arunachal Pradesh shares its borders with Bhutan in the west, the Tibetan Autonomous Region and China to the north, Myanmar and Nagaland to the east and Assam in the south. The state extends over an area of 83,740 sq km and is the largest among the Northeastern states. Although it is the 15th larg-

A yak in western Arunachal



SHUTTERSTOCK

est state in India with respect to size, it has one of the lowest population densities in India.

For administrative purposes, Arunachal Pradesh is divided into 25 districts depending on cultural differences, connectivity and geography. Several rivers, such as the Kameng, Siang, Subansiri, Lohit and Tirap, whose sources are in the Greater Himalayas, meander through the high mountains and lower valleys of Arunachal Pradesh to eventually join the mighty Brahmaputra.

The western and northern boundary areas of the state are characterised by lofty, snow-capped mountains and sparse vegetation. The challenging terrain occasionally disrupts connectivity of roads and bridges during monsoon and winter. Landslides, snow and heavy rains are the norm here. Several high-mountain



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Nuranang Waterfalls makes for a spectacular view

passes such as Sela and Bumla are located here. There are also various lakes in the area that are considered sacred in Tibetan Buddhism. Additionally, the region is a free grazing ground of the Himalayan yak, which can be spotted almost everywhere. The Kameng River originates in the Tawang district and flows all the way down to Nameri National Park in

Assam, where it joins the Brahmaputra.

The central zone of the state hosts the busy capital city of Itanagar. It marks the beginning of the Eastern Himalayas and the state border. The region hosts spectacular river valleys, which are home to several indigenous tribes such as the Apatanis, Adis, Nyishis, Tagins and many others. It is also home to the *mithun*, a

large, semi-domesticated bovine.

Dense rainforests cover much of the eastern part of the state, which is one of the most accessible regions from outside the state owing to an improved road network. Several rivers flow through the area to join the Brahmaputra, one of which is Noa-Dihing that enters Arunachal Pradesh from Myanmar. The northeastern side of the state is home to

A long footbridge



SHUTTERSTOCK

the spectacular Mishmi Hills, while both hills and plains comprise the south-eastern belt.

Climate

The plains and lower reaches of Arunachal Pradesh experience humid, subtropical climate through most of the year. The higher mountains are snowbound and witness alpine climatic conditions with the barometer recording sub-zero temperatures during winter, which lasts from November to March. Abundant rainfall occurs in the state from March to October. The lower Himalayas receive heavy rainfall and tend to get cold in the winter months.

History

The early history of this region is shrouded in mystery since no written records from that time exist. The rich oral traditions of the



SANJOY GHOSH

Mountainside covered in mist, Tawang

tribes, which were passed down through the generations, provide clues to many questions about their origins.

The earliest sources of written history on the region can be found in Sutiya and Ahom accounts, since both kingdoms held parts of the state from the 12th to 19th centuries.

In 1824, the First Anglo-Burmese War broke out with

the British and Burmese empires fighting to gain control over India's Northeast region. After Burma's defeat, Assam became a part of British India in 1826. Even with this development many tribes of Northeast India continued to govern themselves, without interference from the British till Independence. Moreover, the Inner Line Regulation Act of 1873 cut

off the tribes from any outside influence.

In 1914, the British separated areas with a high density of tribal population from the rest of the Assam Province. These areas formed the North-East Frontier Tract (NEFT), which became a part of the state of Assam in 1947. In 1954, it was renamed North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA).

Tawang War Memorial



SANJOY GHOSH

NEFA was declared a union territory of India in 1972 and was later named Arunachal Pradesh. It was made a state with Itanagar as its capital in 1987.

Sino-Indian War (1962)

Conflict over who controlled the Aksai Chin and NEFA (present-day Arunachal Pradesh) regions were the main triggers for the war between India and China in 1962. However, several other factors also escalated tensions between the two countries that eventually led to all-out war.

One such reason was India granting asylum to the Dalai Lama during the Tibetan Uprising in 1959—a step that was not looked upon favourably by the Chinese government. Another reason was the road China constructed between 1956–57 that linked Tibet with Xinjiang, a part of China. The road ran through



NAMDAPHA NATIONAL PARK ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Four big cats in one park! Who would have thought? Chase the tiger, leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard all on your treks through the dense woods of Namdapha.

Department of Tourism

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SANJOY GHOSH



Joginder Singh Memorial, Bumla

the Aksai Chin region as well. However, the Indian government considered Aksai Chin to be a part of Kashmir. Thus, the road became a bone of contention that led to frequent border altercations between the two countries.

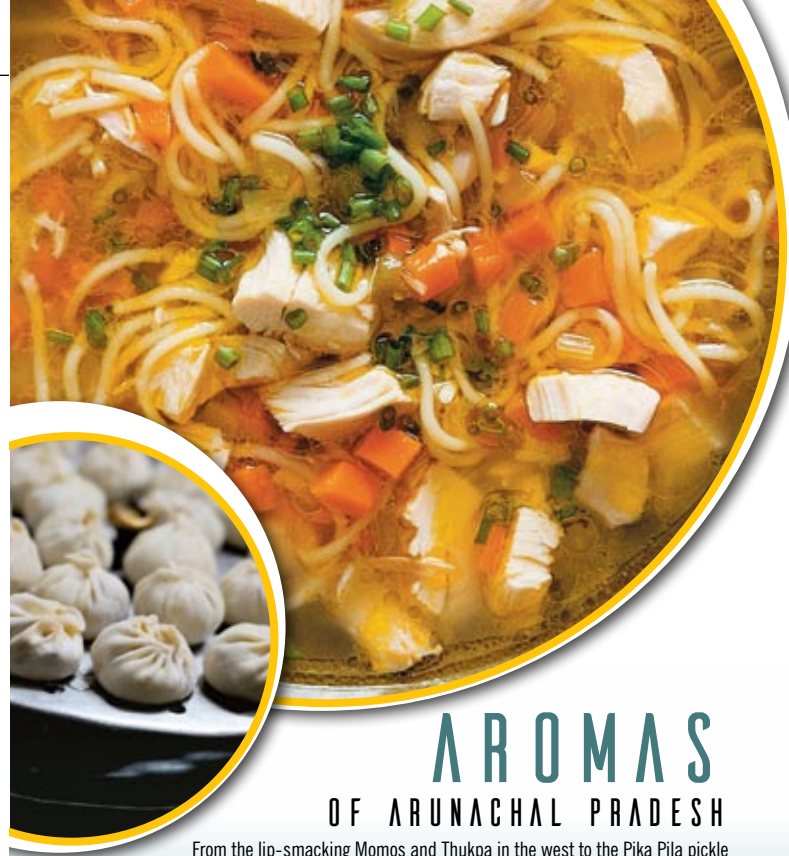
The Chinese army attacked India through the western part of Arunachal Pradesh and took control over the entire region. After a ceasefire the region was handed back to India. Today, the Tawang and

West Kameng districts in Arunachal Pradesh are dotted with several war memorials and the military's presence is very evident.

Travel Essentials

Due to Arunachal's proximity with international borders, Indian citizens will require inner-line permits to visit various parts of the state. Foreign citizens need a Protected Areas Permit (PAP) to travel in Arunachal Pradesh. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY



AROMAS OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

From the lip-smacking Momos and Thukpa in the west to the Pika Pila pickle and Apong in the central, eat your way through Arunachal Pradesh and reach a true gourmand's paradise.

Department of Tourism

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Culture And Tradition



MADHU KAPPARATH

People of Sarthi village

TRIBES

The origins of the tribes that are currently living in Arunachal Pradesh remain shrouded in mystery. Whatever little is known has been passed down from generation to generation via oral traditions.

Natural calamities in the area might have forced tribes to take up different habitats and adapt to the nature of their surroundings. In order to maintain a distinct identity, some tribes used tattoos, headgears, nose plugs, etc. But many

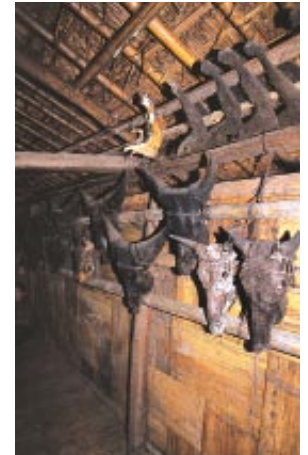
of these elements are fast disappearing. Today, some of the tribes in Arunachal, if not all, are slowly catching up with modern times.

Earlier, these tribes had their own judicial systems in place. Today, many tribes still have a village council. These councils solve issues pertaining to kinship, group activities, and set moral standards and necessary regulations for the people; the role of these councils today are less official and more socio-cultural. There are about 26 scheduled tribes in Arunachal Pradesh, each with its own sub-groups. Further, each community has its own unique culture, customs, practices, language and folklore. Although a large section of tribes are now warming up to modernisation—going to other towns and states to study or work, not wearing tattoos or traditional headgear on a daily basis—some

of the tribal festivals such as Myoko and Nyokum present a great opportunity to witness the cultural traditions of the tribes even today. The communities of Arunachal maintain a harmonious relationship with nature even in the face of changing times.

The Monpas who inhabit the West Kameng and Tawang districts, are essen-

A traditional bamboo house



MADHU KAPPARATH



DINODIA PHOTO LIBRARY



Women from the Monpa tribe at an agricultural field, Jang village

tially Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect. The Nyishis and Apatanis in the East Kameng, Papum Pare and Lower Subansiri districts are traditionally animists.

The Tai Khaptis and Singphos, found in eastern Arunachal, follow Theravada Buddhism. In many parts of the state, some communities have started practising Christianity.

Monpas and Sherdukpens

These people follow the Mahayana sect of Buddhism, which they adopted in the 17th century CE from Merak Lama.

Hence, the Tawang Monastery plays a central role in the everyday life of the people of this tribe. Some of the Monpas are yak herders. In the times gone by, they used to large-

ly depend on yaks, cows, goats and horses for sustenance and had no permanent settlements. While many have adopted more modern lifestyles, some yak herders still maintain some of their original traditions.

The Sherdukpens reside in western Arunachal Pradesh and practice Mahayana Buddhism.

A Sherdukpen practices shooting



ALAMY IMAGES / INDIA PICTURE

Nyishi

The word 'Nyishi' literally translates to 'human being'. They are the most populous tribe of Arunachal and inhabit some of the eastern and central districts of the state. They are mainly involved in shifting cultivation.

Apatanis

UNESCO has proposed that the Apatani Cultural Landscape in the Ziro Valley be listed as a World Heritage Site for its 'extremely high productivity' and 'unique' way of preserving ecology. The tribe practices wetland paddy cultivation, which produces high yields even without the use of farm animals and agricultural machines. Apatanis are a vibrant tribe that celebrate several festivals. They make intricately woven shawls and sarongs. They also make jewellery. Many Apatani families run their houses as

DINODIA PHOTO LIBRARY



An Adi-Galo tribal woman dressed in traditional attire

homestays, offering visitors a glimpse of their traditional lifestyle.

Khamptis

The Khamptis are mainly found in Namsai and follow Theravada Buddhism. The Khampti dance, Ka Poong Tai, is a highly expressive art

form, which reflects their unique culture.

Adis

The Adis are one of the most prominent tribes in the state. They follow animism and believe in various spirits of the forest and shamanic rituals.



LASYA NADIMPALLY

Early morning prayer gathering at the Tawang Monastery

BUDDHISM

The Gaden Namgyal Lhatse, or the Tawang Monastery as it is commonly known, is the largest monastery in India. It is the fountainhead of spirituality as well as a sociocultural institution, which heavily influences the lives of people here.

To understand why this monastery holds such reverence, it is essential to learn

about the advent of Buddhism in the state.

Advent of Buddhism

Much before Guru Padmasambhava brought Buddhism to this region, somewhere in the 8th century CE, the people here practised a form of shamanism generally referred to as Bon, which is the indigenous religion of Tibet. The followers of Bon, referred to

as Bonpos, prayed to gods and spirits such as Teng Lha, an upper god who resides in the sky, Bar Tsan, a middle god who rules the earth, and Lu, a being with a snake-like body, which lives underwater.

Appeasing the gods in order to avert natural disasters plays a big role in the Bon religion. When Buddhism was introduced in the region, people began converting to it but did not completely discard their old

beliefs—they continued to practise certain aspects of Bon. Buddhism also incorporated a few local deities into its pantheon and made them its protectors.

In the 7th century, Tawang was known as Yul Mendrelgang. Certain historical texts from that time, such as *Kandroe Bumo Drowa Sangmoi Namthar*, mentioned the necessity of introducing Buddhism to the region in order to counteract the increasingly ego-

A Buddhist prayer wheel

SHUTTERSTOCK

tistical attitudes of people.

Sometime between 742–797 CE, Tibetan king Trisong Detsen invited Guru Padmasambhava from the famous Nalanda University in present-day Bihar to persuade the Bonpas to adopt Buddhism. Padmasambhava managed to convert most of the people of this region into Buddhism. Eventually, the guru's popularity grew immensely and he came to be known as Lopon Pema

Monks at a monastery



SANJOY GHOSH

Jungne (lotus-born guru) or Lopon Rinpoche (the precious guru). During this period, Padma-sambhava is said to have visited a den in the Monyul region, located to the east of Tawang, where he sat and meditated for about nine days. Following his success, many lamas visited the same area to spread Buddhism. Consequently, the Gelugpa school of Buddhism was established in Tibet in the 15th century CE. Many gompas belonging to the Gelugpa (Yellow hat) sect of Mahayana Buddhism were constructed in the area around Tawang. Tawang Monastery was founded by Merak Lama in the 17th century CE, in accordance with the wishes of the fifth Dalai Lama. The main prayer hall of the monastery was constructed in 1680 CE and the buildings around it came up in the years that followed.



Photographs: SHUTTERSTOCK

Different shades of Buddhism in Arunachal Pradesh

Some sources suggest that Tawang (meaning horse chosen) was named following the incident during which Merak Lama's horse wandered off when he was meditating in a cave near the monastery's site. The area over which the horse roamed came to be known as Tawang.

Branch Gompas

Tawang district itself has about 97 gompas, some of which belong to individual villages in the area. The Tawang Monastery has over 10 branch monasteries in the area, where it sends monks as caretakers. These caretakers also provide services in the villages that they

are sent to and, in return, the villagers provide them with food grains as per convention. In a practice known as *tonggo*, each monk has to periodically take up the responsibility of feeding the residents of the monastery in order to ensure that they give back to the institution.

The Kyimnas Gompa located near Jang village in the Tawang district was supposedly established by a

Theravada Buddhist monks



MADHU KAPPARATH

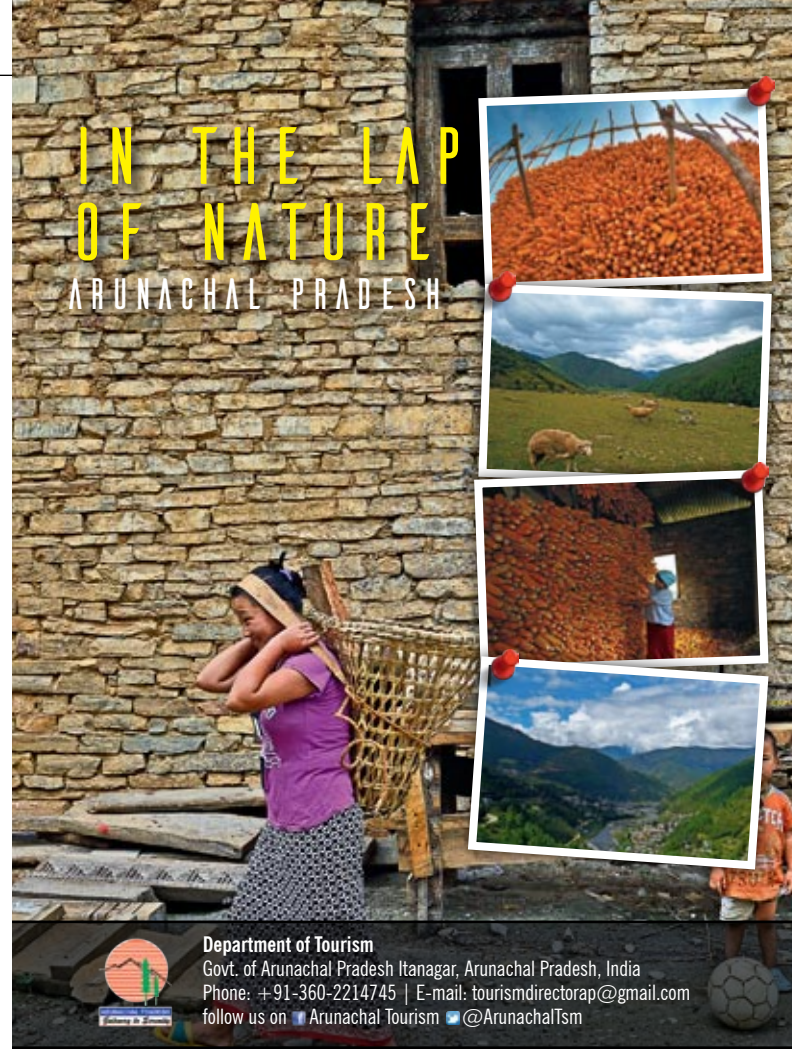
disciple of the third Karmapa Rangjung Dorje. Situated above Singsur Ani Gompa, near Tawang, the Brakar Gompa also comes under Tawang Monastery. Thongmon Gompa, towards the east of Tawang, Tsangbu Gompa, Bagajang Gompa and the Urgelling Gompa are some of the other branch gompas.

All these gompas and the monks play crucial roles in keeping the sociocultural supremacy of the Tawang Monastery intact.

Eastern Arunachal Pradesh

Some tribes in eastern Arunachal Pradesh practise Theravada Buddhism, like the Tai Khampati and Singpho. This type of Buddhism tends to be more orthodox in its customs and rituals. The recently constructed Golden Pagoda in Namsai is one of their most famous monasteries. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY



IN THE LAP OF NATURE

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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Photographs by HARISH KAPADIA



The stony banks of the Subansiri River

Adventure In Arunachal

Nature is at its best in Arunachal Pradesh. Low and high mountains, gushing rivers, national parks and unexplored terrains make the state an ideal destination for adventure tourism. A completely different brand of travellers

usually visits Arunachal Pradesh—those who are true adventure aficionados at heart. You can find all sorts of adventure sports in this offbeat destination: everything from hiking, camping and rafting to angling and biking, are up

for grabs in this state. For trekking and mountaineering, you can head to the western part of the state where these activities are prominent. For rafting, you can visit the river valleys in the central part and birding, wildlife adventures can be best experienced in the far-

flung eastern end of the state. However, all these activities can be experienced throughout as well.

Trekking

The western valleys of Arunachal Pradesh lie on the international borders with Bhutan (west) and

China (north). This region was rather remote and mostly cut-off from the rest of the country till the mid-20th century. The unconquered peaks and uncharted territory was a big draw for early explorers and mountaineers such as Bill Tilman, FM Bailey, HT Morshead, Pundit Nain Singh and Frank Kingdon-Ward. The area has a

Trekking in Arunachal



sparse population and is mostly Buddhist. There are several trekking routes to take in this part of the state.

In central Arunachal, Takpa Siri (5,735m), a holy mountain, is the centrepiece of the Subansiri Valley. The name Takpa Siri is derived from the Tibetan words *takpa* (birch), *shi* (death) and *ri* (mountain), that is, a mountain where birch trees die. It now falls entirely in Tibet. Due to geopolitical conflicts, Tibetans now use the shorter route for *kora* called 'Kingkor'. The longer trail, 'Ringkor', passes through valleys, which are now a part of India and is prohibited to pilgrims from both sides. Indians are permitted to trek on those sections of the route that fall in Indian territory—along the Subansiri in the east and along the Tsari in the north. The Takpa Siri pilgrimage is one of the three major pilgrimages of Tibetan



Winding roads of the Eastern Himalayas

Buddhism—the other two being that of Kailash Mansarovar and Kundu Potrang (near the Dibang Valley, further east).

Rafting

Rafting in Arunachal Pradesh is experiencing nature in its rawest form. While rafting on the Ganga in Uttarakhand has become quite a commercial activity, the Brahmaputra is for those who prefer clean, unaltered habitats, with a high dose of adrenaline to boost. On

either sides of the river (wherever you opt to raft—Siang and Kameng are popular options) you will see dense forests, rural habitation and crystal clear waters. If you have rafted in the Ganga anywhere near Rishikesh, you will realise that rafting in the Brahmaputra River requires more skill and experience. The river here is untameable, and it feels as if your raft is a stallion ready to knock you right off the saddle.



AHTUSHI DESHPANDE



Rafting through pulsating grade IV rapids

Birding, Angling & Others

Arunachal Pradesh is the holy grail of birders in India. A massive altitudinal range from 200 to 4,500m throws open a broad range of habitats from tropical rainforests at lower elevations to subtropical and temperate forests at mid-elevations, and rhododendron shrubbery to alpine pastures close to the top. Provided you can manage the climbing required. Due to the sheer variety on offer, it makes sense to go prepared to Arunachal. Thankfully, there are also

high-altitude spots in Arunachal which are connected by road such as Mechuka, Mayudia Pass and Sela Pass, where you can spot snow birds that cannot be found anywhere else in the Northeast without extreme climbs. For those interested in angling, the Kameng River near Bhalukpong is a great destination, as are several small villages located by the tributaries of the mighty Brahmaputra. ■

BY HARISH KAPADIA,
AYESHA KHAN RAVAL &
SIDDHARTHA SHARMA



LASYA NADIMPALLY

Busy Itanagar is the capital of Arunachal Pradesh

Advice For Tourists

Being one of the easternmost, not to mention hard to traverse states in India, Arunachal Pradesh doesn't receive too many tourists. The population density of the state is 17 people per sq km, so you won't really see many people during your travels. Most shops are concentrat-

ed in market areas in main towns; and food is available in small restaurants attached to the houses of local people (in a few villages) on roads that connect one town to another. Since Arunachal Pradesh shares its borders with China, Bhutan and Myanmar, it is mandatory to acquire inner line

permits before you begin your trip to the state. Travelling here is relatively safe—locals are friendly and helpful and the Indian Army has a heavy presence almost everywhere.

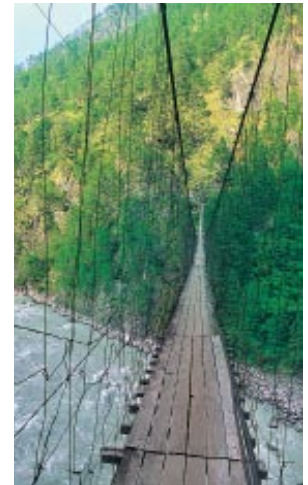
Inner Line Permits

The most important thing to remember while travelling here is to secure inner line permits (ILP). Indian citizens need permits to visit Arunachal, while foreign nationals need a protected areas permit (PAP).

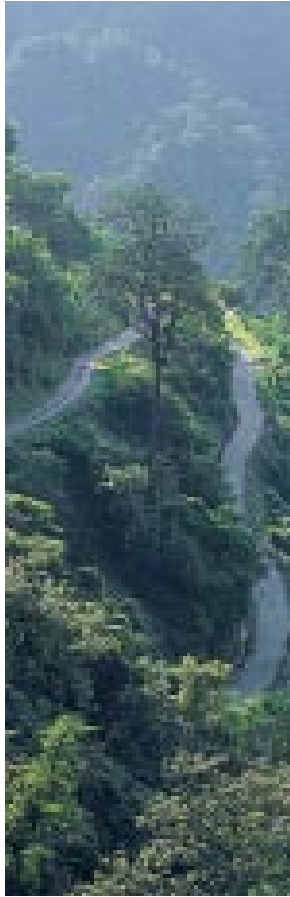
Every circuit in Arunachal Pradesh requires a specific permit. For example, the permit for Tawang circuit will only give you access to western parts of the state. Trips to Itanagar and Ziro will need separate permits. You can log on to www.arunachalilp.com to apply for inner line permits. The Arunachal Bhavan on Kautilya Marg in New Delhi can issue a combined per-

mit for the circuits you wish to visit, for a maximum period of 15 days. The Arunachal Tourism counter at the Guwahati Airport can also help you obtain a permit. Keep your passport or any other government-issued identity card (and its photocopies) and passport size photographs handy when applying for permits.

A quaint bridge



MADHU KAPPARATH



MADHU KAPPARATH

You can also contact **Help Tourism** (Kolkata Cell: 09831031980) for assistance with permits and travel in the state.

Getting Around

Public transport is scarce in Arunachal Pradesh. You can hire a car either from Guwahati or Dibrugarh to get around in the state. For some parts, nothing short of an SUV will do to conquer the terrain here. So expect to shell out around ₹5,000–7,000 per day for an Innova or a Scorpio, if you want to opt for a private cab. Alternatively, most towns have tour agents who operate cabs from one destination to another.

Arunachal is quite large so it's best to divide your trip into two parts, eastern and western Arunachal.

Time Management

The sun rises as early as 4.50am in Arunachal

LASYA NADIMPALLY



The state's terrain is best explored in an SUV; (and left) Lohit viewpoint

Pradesh. So the days here start very early and end early too. It is advisable to start your travels (all of which have to be done during the day) as early as 6.00am and reach your destination by 5.00pm, maximum. After this time, the roads are covered by mist and it gets dark; lack of streetlights and mountainous terrain makes road trav-

el hazardous once the sun sets. Remember to include travel days in your entire itinerary of the state.

Also remember to not calculate the travel time based on the number of kilometres between one town to another. A distance of about 200km can take up to 10 hours here because of the terrain.

MADHU KAPPARATH



View from a Rest House

Food and Stay

It's advisable to be open to whatever is available and make the best of it.

Restaurants and *dhabas* are scarce along the state highways here. Modest eateries can, however, be found in several villages along the route. In bigger settlements like Itanagar there are proper restaurants. Lunch usually consists of rice with vegetables or meat on the side (to

order). Apart from this, some places serve Maggi, *chowmein* and *momos*. Some restaurants serve *thenthuk*, *thukpa* and regular Indian food.

Travel Tips

Monsoons can get really wet, but this is when some orchids and rhododendrons are in season. Winters can get quite cold; snow can block high mountain roads from December to February. October to March is the driest time of the year, and ideal for travel. Make sure to carry medicines and toiletries. Carry sturdy shoes, umbrellas and woollens.

Hindi works as the *lingua franca* in most places, and many people speak English. The locals are unfailingly helpful as long as you respect their culture. Travelling in Arunachal is an experience unlike any other; a little planning will ensure you have an enjoyable trip. ■

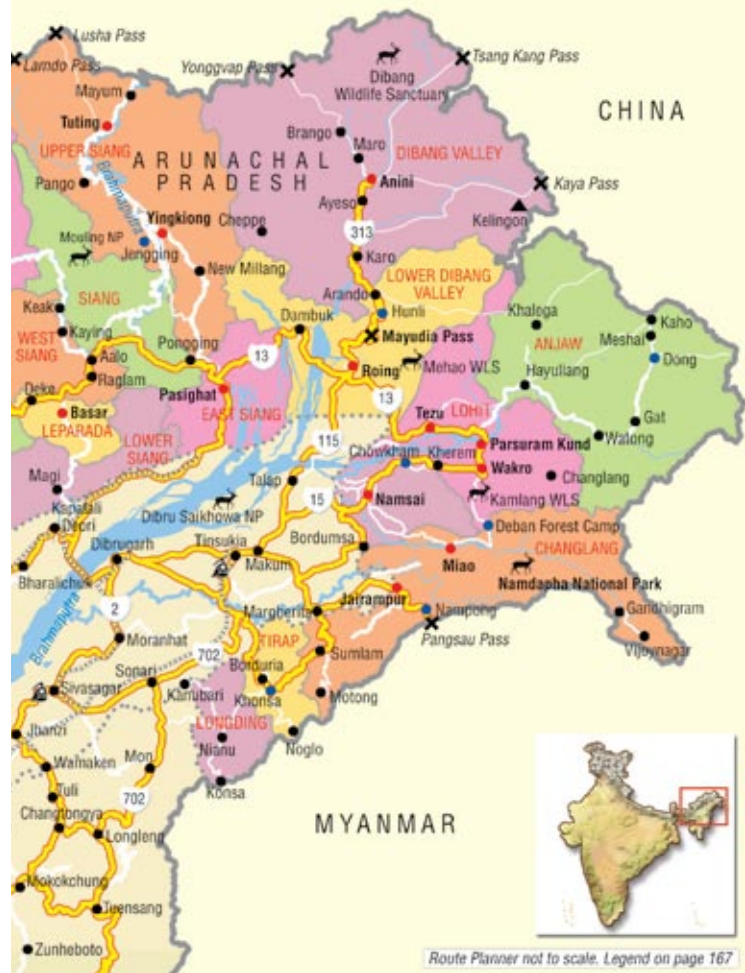
TREKKING IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Spectacular vistas and the beautiful Himalayas; the untouched Arunachal Pradesh is a paradise for trekking enthusiasts

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Arunachal Pradesh

ROUTE PLANNER



Route Planner not to scale. Legend on page 167

OF HIGH MOUNTAINS AND MONASTERIES

TAWANG | DIRANG | BOMDILA

SHUTTERSTOCK



Sela Pass, the entry point to Tawang district

TAWANG

An ethereal mountain town that immediately transports you to a plane of pure bliss, Tawang is one of those places that never quite reveals the secret behind its

mesmerising charm. Even if you try to pinpoint the reason for its almost otherworldly vibe, you will fall short of answers. Is it the quiet majesty of the Tawang Monastery that towers over the entire town? Perhaps it

is the aura of calmness and serenity that the locals exude? Or maybe it's the panoramic views of the Greater Himalayas that you get to see everywhere you look? Is it the stories of war that every village has to tell? Or is it the unbelievable vistas that you encounter on your way to the town? Once you sit back and think about it, you'll realise that it is not any one factor that makes Tawang what it is; in fact, all these elements blend seamlessly together to mould the town into a Shangri-La of peace and spirituality.

The first thing you will automatically look for as you enter Tawang is the Gaden Namgyal Lhatse Monastery, which sits at the highest point in town. The imposing yellow-roofed structure, in a way, holds the spirit of Tawang, not just due to its stateliness but also because of the reli-



Directorate of Tourism,
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Nirvanchal Bhawan Marg,
D. Ering Colony, Itanagar-791111,
Arunachal Pradesh
Website: www.arunachaltourism.com

FAST FACTS

When to go September to March

Tourist Office

- Department of Tourism, Arunachal Pradesh **i**

Doni Colony

Itanagar

Tel: 0360-2247470 (Dep. Dir.)

Cell: 08794864348

W arunachaltourism.com

STD code 03794

Permits

- Deputy Resident

Commissioner

Government of Arunachal Pradesh

GS Road Rukminigaon

Dispur, Guwahati

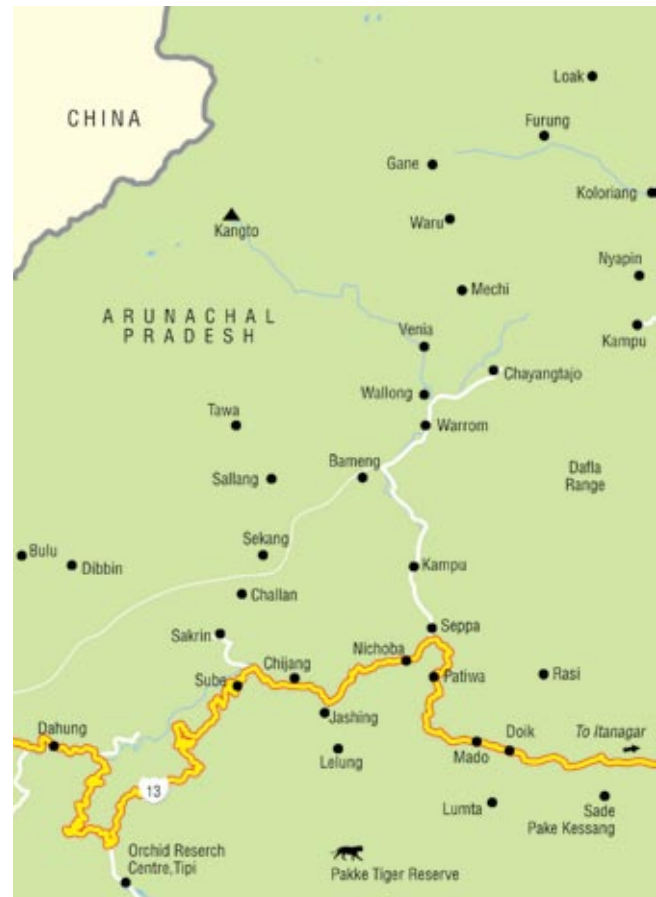
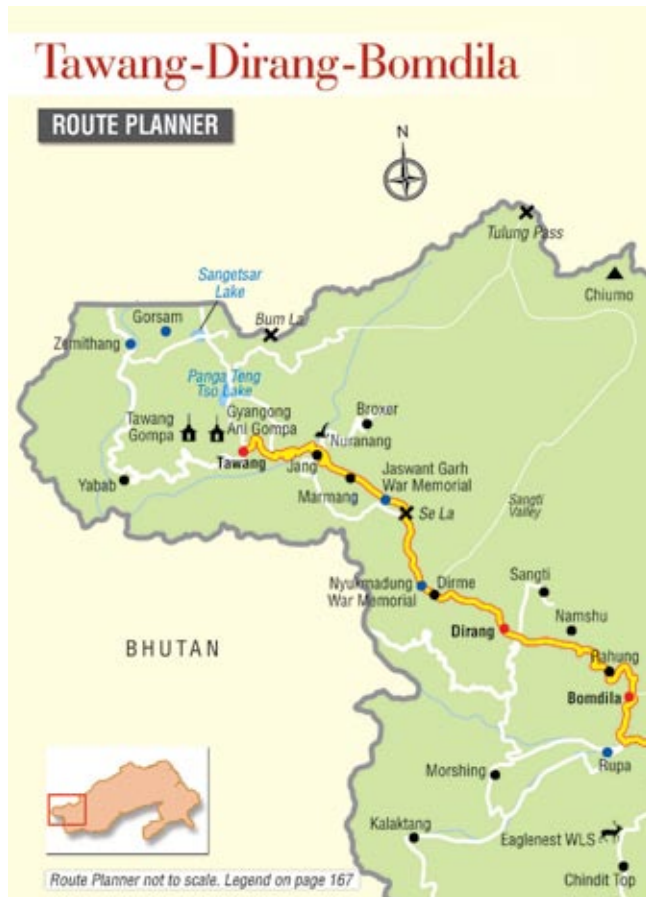
Tel: 0361-229506

- Resident Commissioner

Government of Arunachal Pradesh

Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

Tel: 011-23013915, 23013844





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GETTING THERE

Air Nearest airport: Tezpur (360km/10hrs), but Guwahati (532km/15hrs) is better connected, with several daily flights. Taxis cost ₹6,000–7,000 per day depending on the season. If you keep the taxi for seven days for a return tour from Tawang you can negotiate that down to ₹4,000 a day. If you spend the night in Bomdila it's about 185km/7hrs to Tawang and taxis charge ₹7,000 approx

TIP Guwahati taxis may sometimes not be allowed to travel up to Tawang; you then have to hire at the Tezpur taxi stand

Rail Nearest railhead: Guwahati. *For onward journey, see Road below*

Road From Guwahati it is a 532-km-long drive. *See Route Planner on p44.*

gious and cultural significance it holds in the minds of the people that live in the state. The monastery is the largest of its kind in India and the second largest in the world after Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet. It follows the Gelugpa sect of Mahayana Buddhism.

Tawang is also one of the main fronts on which the Sino-Indian War of 1962 was fought. There is a War Memorial dedicated to the soldiers who lost their lives. Tourists, defence personnel, locals and monks all co-exist in perfect harmony, making Tawang a mish-mash of sorts.

HISTORY

The word 'Tawang' literally translates to 'chosen by horse'. Historically, a part of various Tibetan kingdoms, the people of Mon used to follow Bon, a shamanistic practice, before the advent



SHUTTERSTOCK

A monpa woman at the Tawang monastery

of Buddhism in the area. Buddhism possibly spread to Yul Mandrelang (Tawang's former name), a part of Mon, in the seventh century CE, when the region used to be ruled by king Kala Wangpo. Several Buddhist preachers and gurus (including Padmasambhava, who is called Lupon Rinpoche here) visited the region and

played instrumental roles in spreading the religion.

Meanwhile, the Gelugpa school of Mahayana Buddhism was established in Tibet in the 15th century CE. In the 17th century CE, Merak Lama Lorde Gyasto travelled to Yul Mandrelang and laid the foundation to the Gaden Namgyal Lhatse gompa (commonly called

Tawang Monastery). In 1681 CE, the main prayer hall of the monastery was constructed and the fifth Dalai Lama consecrated it the same year.

In more recent history, Tawang served as a battleground for the Sino-Indian War of 1962. The war lasted for 31 days during which Bumla, Tawang and

War Memorial



SANJOY GHOSH

Nyukmadung were taken by the Chinese troops who marched all the way to Bhalukpong before the ceasefire was called.

ORIENTATION

You enter the town from the Old Market side, from where the road leads you to the Tawang monastery, visible from most places in town, located approximately 2km ahead on the same road. Beyond the Old Market is the route to the Buddha Park and the New Market.

Most hotels and restaurants are concentrated near these market areas. You cannot travel in outstation vehicles to Bumla Pass, Sangetsar Lake, etc. However, several tour operators in the Old Market organise day trips to these places. Special permissions are needed to visit these sights since they lie close to

SHUTTERSTOCK



The august, yellow-roofed Tawang monastery complex

the Line of Actual Control. Tour operators generally take care of the necessary paperwork for you.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Tawang Monastery

The monastic complex makes for a splendid sight with its yellow-roofed edifices that have been laid out

in perfect geometric symmetry along the incline of the mountain. No wonder then that it is aptly named Gaden Namgyal Lhatse, which translates to 'peak of the heavenly abode of joyfulness'. The monastery stands on an almost impregnable ridge and served as a military post as well. In its current form, the Tawang

Monastery houses a museum, a dance ground where different types of Cham dances are performed, the Centre for Buddhist Cultural Studies, an extensive library and a residential area meant for monks.

Gyangong Ani Gompa

Popularly referred to as Ani Gompa, the Gyangong Ani Gompa looks like a solitary citadel perched upon a far-

Urgelling Gompa



Photographs by LASYA NADIMPALLY

way ridge located behind the Tawang Monastery, 5km from the township. It is interesting to note that this monastery is actually a nunnery, which houses over 50 nuns. The gompa had been constructed by Merak Lama who then dedicated it to his sister Mera Lama.

Tawang War Memorial

Built by the 180 Mountain Brigade, the memorial is dedicated to the 2,240 soldiers who lost their lives in the Sino-Indian War. The sanctum of the memorial houses a statue of war hero and Param Vir Chakra winner (posthumous) Subedar Joginder Singh, who valiantly fought the Chinese troops at the Bumla Pass.

Urgelling Gompa

A small monastery situated 4km from the centre of the town, the Urgelling Gompa is the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama. The complex is



SANJIV VALSAN

The high-altitude Sela Lake is considered holy in Tibetan Buddhism

a simple one with small white buildings.

Sela Pass is the serene and sacred Sela Lake.

AROUND TAWANG

Sela Pass (67km)

At 13,700ft, Sela Pass is the highest motorable road in Arunachal Pradesh, connecting the West Kameng and Tawang districts. You will have to cross the pass to reach Tawang. Next to the

Jaswant Garh (40km)

Between the Sela Pass and Tawang is Jaswant Garh, a war memorial dedicated to Mahavir Chakra (posthumous) Jaswant Singh Rawat, who valiantly fought the Chinese troops from this post during the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

Nuranang Waterfalls (25km)

At a distance of 2km from the town of Jang, the Nuranang Waterfalls, also known as Jang Falls, look dramatic to say the least. Legend has it that the falls were named after a local Monpa girl, Nura, who helped Jaswant Singh during the war. She was later captured by the Chinese.

Nuranang Waterfall

SHUTTERSTOCK

Sangetsar Lake (28km)

Formed as a result of an earthquake that hit the region in 1950, the Sangetsar Lake is simply gorgeous to look at. The Hindi film *Koyla* (1995) was shot at this lake, following which the lake came to be known as Madhuri Lake (after the lead actor Madhuri Dixit).

Bumla Pass (37km)

At 15,200ft above sea level, the pass is located at the border of India and China and is perennially covered in snow. The Chinese entered Tawang through this pass during the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

Taktsang Monastery (45km)

The word Taktsang literally translates to 'tiger's den'. The monastery has been built on a cliffside and is considered one of the holiest Buddhist shrines in all of Arunachal Pradesh.



SHUTTERSTOCK

The Taktsang Monastery is a prominent pilgrim site

Dolma Lhakhang (45km)

A huge statue of Zetsun Dolma, the goddess of compassion, stands at this famous site. It is believed that the goddess rose from the first tear of compassion that was shed by Bodhisattva Avalokiteswara.

Gorsam Chorten (85km)

The Zemithang Valley is home to the largest stupa in

the region, Gorsam Chorten. Built in the 12th century, the white-coloured stupa opens only once in 12 years during the Khathing festival.

As part of the celebrations, 84,000 candles are lit here to wish for world peace, representing the number of stupas built by Ashoka during his lifetime. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

DIRANG

Literally and figuratively, all roads in Arunachal Pradesh lead to Tawang; and Dirang lies on this road, somewhere mid-way between Tezpur and Tawang. Since the entire journey from Tezpur to Tawang can take about 15 hours, tourists tend to halt for the night at

A bridge near Dirang Dzong



SHUTTERSTOCK

Dirang. But this small town, situated in a picturesque valley nestled amidst forests of pine, juniper and oak, deserves more than just a night's stay.

Dirang encompasses everything that western Arunachal Pradesh is made of—it gives you a glimpse into the region's history, its people, and the flora and fauna amongst others facets. The Kameng River flows through the valley, past the pretty wooden houses of the town, making for picture postcard-like vistas in any direction you look. There are kiwi, apple and orange orchards that you can walk through, besides historical monuments and monasteries both old and new.

However, there are no signboards that direct you to any of these sights. The inhabitants of this sleepy little town will be more than willing to give you directions to whichever place



The monastery inside Dirang Dzong

you're heading to, and sometimes they might even offer to drive you to your destination. Even when you reach your destination, there are no information boards or guides—Dirang is one of those places where you explore everything on your own. The best way to learn about the places to see is by striking up conversations with friendly locals.

ORIENTATION

Since Dirang lies on the road to Tawang, many hotels and homestays have sprung up along the main road. The actual town is situated in the valley. The Dirang Dzong is located a little away from the main market of the town, across a bridge—this is the hardest place to find, so it is best if

you let the locals guide you. The New Gompa and the Yak Research Institute are close to the market. Sangti Valley is located at a distance of 7km to the east of the town (not on the road to Tawang).

There is also a hot water spring and a war memorial en route to Tawang. The main market in Dirang has a few hotels and small restau-

Entry to the Dirang Dzong



rants. There are several tour operators in the market who can make arrangements for treks and other activities around town.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Dirang Dzong

Built upon a small hillock, the Dirang Dzong is a must visit for everyone. Painted in bright blues, reds and yellows, it is strikingly different from the rest of the buildings that surround it.

One look at the Dzong and you will start wondering if you should even step inside, for it looks and feels like somebody's ancestral home, which would typically have one of those hanging boards reading 'trespassers will be prosecuted'. But this forbidding air is exactly what makes it so enticing. Once you ascend the narrow staircase and enter the complex, you'll immediately be transported to an an-



Entry to the New Gompa in Dirang

ent colony where people's lives are vastly different.

The Dirang Dzong, or Jong (as the locals call it), is an old fortification, which is still inhabited by people. Constructed in 1831, the fort is one of the oldest Monpa structures and played an important role in their history. The fort used to be the centre for administrative, judicial and military

activities in times gone by. It was also the official residence of the Tibetan governors, who ruled the area at that time.

The fort once had the capacity to accommodate the entire town when faced with an attack from an enemy. Today, some of the structures with stone walls and wooden roofs still remain standing within the

Black-necked crane

The *Grus nigricollis*, commonly referred to as the black-necked crane, breeds in the Tibetan plateau and parts of India and Bhutan. It is a medium-sized whitish-grey crane that can weigh up to 5.5kg. The crane is revered in Buddhist tradition—it finds representation in several monastic paintings and motifs—hence it is culturally preserved. The current estimated population of the black-necked crane is somewhere between 8,800 and 11,000 individuals. Hence, the bird is legally protected in China, India and Bhutan. It is the state bird of Jammu & Kashmir.



Dzong and several people live in them.

New Gompa

Also known as the Thupsung Dhargye Ling Monastery, construction on the gompa began in the year 2008 and was completed in 2016. It was consecrated by the Dalai Lama on 5 April 2017. An institute for Buddhist cultural studies is set to be established within the monastic complex.

Built upon a hill with an excellent view of the entire town, this monastery is a haven of peace and serenity. Take the slope from the parking lot which leads to the main prayer hall. The prayer hall is a striking structure surrounded by well-manicured gardens and pathways that are flanked by multiple rows of prayer wheels. The walking path that begins near the prayer hall runs all the way to the edge of the cliff on which



National Research Centre on Yak

the monastery sits. From this vantage point, you get to see fabulous views of the entire Dirang Valley and the Kameng River gushing through it.

National Research Centre on Yak

The yak is referred to as the ‘ship of the mountain’ and the people in this part of the state have a close rela-

tionship with the animal. The yak isn’t just a useful mode of transportation, it also provides food, in the form of cheese and milk, and clothes made from its wool are incredibly warm.

This domesticated wild ox can be found grazing in meadows near high mountains that are on your route to Tawang. The town of Dirang is home to the

National Research Centre on Yak, which was established in 1989 and is the only such centre in the country. The centre is located close to the market.

AROUND DIRANG

Sangti Valley (7km)

To reach the valley, you have to drive till you find

Sangti Valley



markings showing directions to the Norpel Retreat hotel. At this trisection, you must take a right to reach Sangti Valley, which is home to kiwi, apple and orange orchards. Birdwatchers should note that the black-necked crane (see box on p58) makes its way from Siberia to this area every winter. During this time the trees are laden with fruit and the valley is at its colourful best.

Hot Spring (1km)

Around a kilometre from Dirang, en route to Tawang, is a narrow flight of stairs by the roadside. Go down the steps and walk for about 500 metres, to reach a hot spring, which is considered holy by the locals as it has medicinal powers.

Nyukmadung War Memorial (10km)

Built along a hill side en route to Tawang, the



The Nyukmadung War Memorial is located en route to Tawang

Nyukmadung War Memorial is dedicated to the army personnel who lost their lives in the battle of Nyukmadung on November 18, in the Sino-Indian War of 1962.

There is a chorten at the entrance to the memorial, commemorating the bravery of the members of the 62 Infantry Brigade, who valiantly fought during the war.

On the opposite side of the road, there is a small tea stall and a Naga artefacts shop. You can stop here for a few minutes and enjoy stunning views of the Eastern Himalayas, which offer a tantalising glimpse of what lies ahead.

For Fast Facts, Air and Rail Information see Tawang. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

BOMDILA

In a country with states like Rajasthan and Kerala, where commercial tourism reigns supreme, Arunachal Pradesh is quite a far-flung, off-the-beaten-track kind of place to visit. The sparse population and the surreal natural beauty almost make you feel like you are on another

Upper Gompa



planet! And then you come across a place like Bomdila. A lovely, well-planned town in the middle of this misty valley. What a wonderful little surprise for the city dwellers among us! The journey to Bomdila might be extremely arduous, but it's completely worth it.

At Bomdila, the headquarters of West Kameng district, you will find everything that you so far found lacking during your tryst with Arunachal Pradesh—well-paved roads, decent hotels, pretty cafés, well-stocked shops, sports complexes, exhibition grounds and concrete houses. However, these urban conveniences still won't distract you from the fact that you are visiting a stunningly gorgeous place—the town is spread over rolling hills overlooking scenic valleys, which make for spectacular views. You will also be able to see the two highest



Bomdila is inhabited by Monpas and Sherdukpens

mountains in the state from here—the Kangto and Gorichen peaks.

Bomdila is home to the Monpas and Sherdukpens, two Buddhist tribal communities who inhabit western Arunachal Pradesh.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Upper Gompa

The Gontse Gaden Rabye Ling monastery is more

commonly referred to as the Upper Gompa or the Bomdila Gompa. The monastery follows Tibetan Buddhism and is a centre for Buddhist cultural studies. It houses a residency building for monks, a school, an administrative block, a prayer hall and a guest-house within its premises.

The gompa is a replica of the Tsona Gontse Monastery in southern

Tibet, which was established in the 15th century. It was constructed in the 1960s and the main prayer hall of the monastery was added later by the 13th Rinpoche. The 14th Dalai Lama sanctified this hall in October 1977. Several thangkas adorn the inner walls of the

Middle Gompa; Lower Gompa



GUINEET NARJULA



prayer hall, which houses a massive Buddha statue at the altar. The main attraction is undoubtedly the large prayer wheel, set at a little distance from the prayer hall under a brick-and-mortar awning.

Middle Gompa

Although the route to Middle Gompa involves an arduous climb, it offers stunning views of the surrounding hills. You can drive for about 2km past the market lane, after which the trekking begins.

Believed to be the oldest of the three gompas, the Middle Gompa was recently renovated and its architecture is influenced by the Tibetan style, complete with motifs and images of Buddha in several avatars, on its walls. The Blue Medicine Buddha statue in the main hall of the gompa, according to locals, has healing powers.



DINODIA PHOTO LIBRARY

Lady selling vegetables and utensils at Bomdila Bazaar

Lower Gompa

Situated at the beginning of the main market road, the Thubchong Gatsel Ling Monastery (popularly known as Lower Gompa), is the easiest to access. The influence of Tibetan architecture is prominent in this gompa, as evinced from the sloping roofs, spacious prayer hall and the use of natural raw materials, such as mud, in

the construction of the monastery.

Bomdila Bazaar area

The best place to buy souvenirs in western Arunachal Pradesh is a **Crafts Emporium** in the government complex, which is located at the beginning of the town's market. You can take home items such as *thangkas*, wooden cutlery,

Monpa bags and shawls, wooden masks, etc., which are available here at affordable rates.

The market area has several restaurants and hotels. There are also shops selling local produce such as vegetables, pulses, handicrafts, shoes and clothing. Several travel agents and adventure sports operators, offering

Local arts and crafts



motor biking and trekking activities, can be found here as well.

Close to the market and the football ground is the **District Ethnographic Museum**, where you can learn a thing or two about the cultural traditions and lifestyle of the Monpas, Sherdukpens and other tribal communities that dwell in the West Kameng district.

◆ **Museum Timings**
10.00am–4.00pm Closed Saturdays, Sundays and government holidays

TIP Bomdila Bazaar provides the best range of products at the most affordable prices. So don't wait till you get to Tawang to begin souvenir shopping.

AROUND BOMDILA

Rupa (32km)

Twenty kilometres off the main Bhalukpong-Bomdila road lies the peaceful little town of Rupa. Ironically, its



A bird's-eye view of the Rupa monastery

landscape is dominated by army barracks. You can visit Rupa either on your way to Bomdila from Bhalukpong or during your journey back from Tawang. Take the road that winds through the town and then climbs uphill. This road is, oddly enough, some of the best tarmac you will drive on during your whole journey and the Chillipam Gompa at the top

of the hill is the proverbial icing on the wind-swept cake. Originally named Tukpan, the town is situated in a vividly green valley with the Tenga River flowing by. The gompa here is a colourful wooden structure, typical of Tibetan Buddhist architecture. It enjoys a spectacular location, with mountains and valleys as far as the eyes can see.

GUNEET NARULA

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary (65km)

Spread over an area of 218 sq km, the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary derives its name from the Red Eagle Division of the Indian Army, which was stationed in the area in the 1950s. The park's vegetation consists of tropical, sub-tropical and tem-

Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary



SHUTTERSTOCK

perate forests. The sanctuary conjoins with the Pakke Tiger Reserve and the Sessa Orchid Sanctuary, together making up the Kameng Protected Area Complex.

The sanctuary is a major birding destination in Arunachal Pradesh as it is home to around 454 avian species including the heron, black stork, oriental white ibis, harrier and falcon. The capped langur is an endangered species that can be spotted here. Bengal tiger, Asiatic elephant, gaur and red panda can also be seen here. The Bugun tribes, who are indigenous to this land, now run the Bugun Welfare Society (Tel: +91-3782-273359) and organise birding tours.

◆ **Entry Fee ₹500 per day** for foreign nationals and ₹100 for Indians.

Bhalukpong (97 km)

The journey from Assam to western Arunachal Pradesh



SANJIV VALSAN

On the way from Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary to Sela Pass

is almost like witnessing a live lesson in geography—undulating green plains give way to mist-enveloped low-lying hills. The Assam plains end just before the scenic little town of Bhalukpong to make way for the Eastern Himalayas. Characterised by narrow, winding roads flanked by restaurants, shops and lodges, Bhalukpong has a distinctly

different vibe from the small towns you would have seen in Assam on your way here. There is a sudden nip in the air, and the aroma of street food wafting along the breeze is also unlike any you would have encountered before.

For Fast Facts, Air and Rail Information see Tawang. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY



ARUNACHAL PRADESH

GATEWAY TO SERENITY



Department of Tourism

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THE CAPITAL AND ITS TWIN

ITANAGAR | NAHARLAGUN

Photographs by LASYA NADIMPALLY



Itanagar is a bustling city with beautiful vistas all around

ITANAGAR

The four-lane National Highway 52A begins at the border check post as you enter the state from Assam.

Driving on this road is an exciting experience as the scenic vistas that surround it keep you wondering about what lies ahead. This road leads to Itanagar, the

administrative capital. However, this city completely throws off your expectations of what you will see in gorgeous Arunachal Pradesh. If you believe that you're going to reach Itanagar and witness nature in all its bountiful glory and winding roads with not a soul in sight, you're in for a surprise. The roads are chock-a-block with pedestrians, scooters and cars, and traffic police personnel trying to manage the chaotic situation; Itanagar is quite a busy city. However, since it's located on the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, it's also wonderfully picturesque.

Itanagar is a great place to experience the socio-cultural heritage of the entire state of Arunachal Pradesh. The pre-harvest festival of the Nyishi tribe, called Nyokum, is celebrated here. Many other tribes also celebrate their festivals in

Itanagar on a grand scale—the Dree Festival of the Apatanis; Losar, the new year of the Monpas; the Mopin festival of the Galos in April are some of them.

For the urban dweller, the city of Itanagar serves as the perfect gateway into the mesmerising wonders of Arunachal Pradesh.

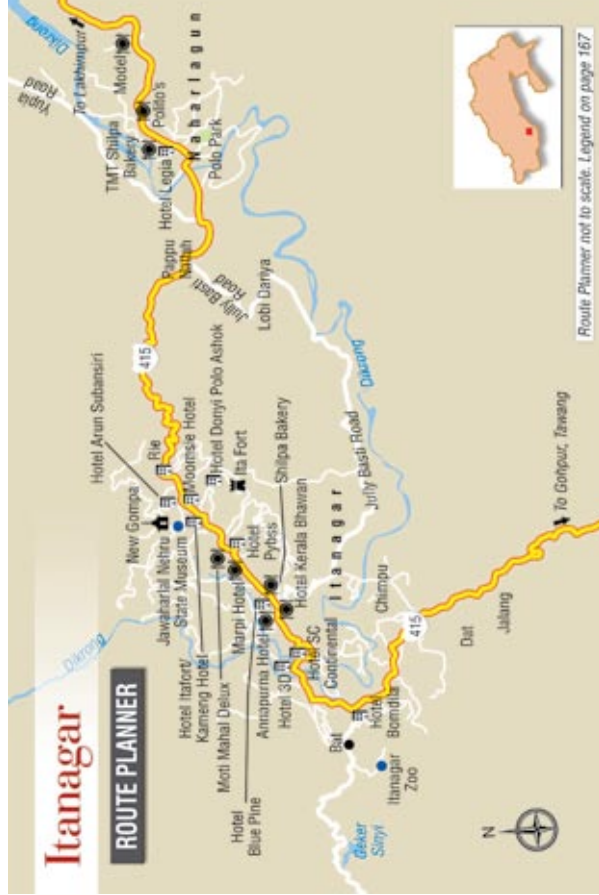


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Website: www.arunachaltourism.com

FACT FACTS

Permits

Indian citizens need Inner Line Permits to enter different circuits in Arunachal Pradesh. You can log on to www.arunachalip.com to apply for the permit online. You can also visit the designated offices to procure permits. Foreigners need a protected areas permit (PAP) to visit Arunachal Pradesh. For more details, refer to p171.



Route Planner not to scale. Legend on page 167

HISTORY

There are some theories that ancient Hindu texts such as the *Mahabharata* and *Kalika Purana* refer to the place where the sage Parasurama (the sixth avatar of Vishnu) washed away his sins after beheading his mother on the orders of his father, sage Jamadagni. It is also believed that king Bhishmaka established his kingdom here and his daughter, Rukmini, eventually married Lord Krishna. This is probably why certain places close to Itanagar (such as Bhismaknagar, Rukmininagar, Parasuram Kund) are named after these characters.

In recorded history, Itanagar was ruled by the Ahoms of Assam from at least the 16th century to the year 1858, when the British annexed the area. The Ita Fort was constructed by the



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GETTING THERE

Air Nearest airport: Guwahati (420km/ 9hrs). Taxi costs ₹6,000–8,000 per day (seasonal);

Rail Nearest railhead: Naharlagun Railway Station (8km/ 20min) lies in the Northeast Frontier Railway Zone and falls under the Rangiya Division

Road From Guwahati (420km/ 9hrs) to Itanagar follow NH15 to Gohpur. From Gohpur get on to the 4-lane NH415 to Holongi (8km) where you will show your ILP at the checkpoint. Itanagar is another 25km from Holongi **Bus** State and a few private buses operate daily between Guwahati and Itanagar from the ISBT. Other options are shared taxi and private Sumos
See Route Planner on the facing page.

Ahom rulers. Itanagar became the capital of Arunachal Pradesh in 1987.

ORIENTATION

The city of Itanagar is located in the central part of the state. Most hotels, restaurants and ATMs are concentrated around the Bank Tenali and Zero Point areas. Bank Tenali is also a busy marketplace where you can find mid-range and budget accommodation. Zero Point has luxury hotels and good

The historic Ita Fort in Itanagar



restaurants. The Ita Fort can be approached from a by-lane near Bank Tenali. The Gompa Buddha Vihar and the Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum are located close to Zero Point. Ganga Market is also a popular bazaar and there are a couple of large hospitals here. However, as Itanagar is the state's capital, it is filled with people and traffic, and complete peace and silence, as is found in the rest of the state, is not easily found in this city.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Ita Fort

One of the five historical forts located in Arunachal Pradesh, besides Bhalukpong, Rukmininagar, Bhismanagar and Mud Fort, the Ita Fort was built by the Ahom Dynasty. "Ita" means brick in the Ahom language. The fort is in the centre of the Capital



The state museum is a great place to learn about Arunachal

Complex and has two brick ramparts, three gateways (southern, eastern and western), two natural ridges, and several central structures, which are in ruins. It was an imperial structure, and is said to have been constructed using 80 lakh bricks.

Now, only the ruins remain, standing amidst sprawling gardens, offering splendid views of the city. There is a small bookstore behind the ticket counter, where you can buy several

books on Arunachal Pradesh and the fort.

◆ **Entry ₹10** Timings 9.00am–5.00pm
Photography ₹200 Closed weekends and holidays

Jawaharlal Nehru State Museum

Established in the 1980s, the two-storeyed state museum is probably the best place to start if you're planning to travel through the whole of Arunachal Pradesh. Tribes and their

concentration are represented on a map of the state, with pictures of each tribe printed on their exact geographic location.

There are dioramas demonstrating each tribe's primary occupations. It is interesting to note that the dioramas have been carefully sculpted keeping in mind minute details such as attire, jewellery, tattoos and headgear of different tribes.

Chorten in the gompa



Another section of the museum showcases the local arts and crafts of the various tribes in the state. Local jewellery, face masks used for monastic dances in western Arunachal Pradesh, smoking pipes and hunting weapons such as bows and arrows, are also on display. The museum also houses archaeological artefacts, which date back to the 11th–12th centuries CE, that were excavated from different parts of the state. There is also a small library area on the ground floor, with many books containing information on the state, which can be browsed or bought.

◆ **Entry ₹100 Timings**
9.00am–5.00pm

Photography ₹200 Closed
weekends and holidays

Gompa Buddha Vihar

The gompa is located on a small hillock next to the state museum and a snaking



The yellow-roofed main prayer hall, Gompa Buddha Vihar

road that begins at the foot of the hill runs all the way up to the gompa's parking area. The main prayer hall is a small structure that has been constructed in the middle of a well-manicured garden. The hall has yellow roofs (representing the Gelugpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism) and in front of the prayer hall is a tall chorten that has been built upon a raised platform. The gompa boasts excellent views of Itanagar and the adjacent hills.

Gekar Sinyi

Around 6km from the centre of the city is the Gekar Sinyi or the Ganga Lake, which is a beautiful, naturally formed lake. 'Gekar Sinyi' means confined water in the Nyishi language—the lake is surrounded by hard rock banks. Beautiful tall trees, ferns, and colourful orchids around the lake make for a stunning landscape. It is a popular picnic spot among locals. Boating facilities are also available here.



Courtesy EASTERN FRONTIERTOURS & TRAVELS



Ganga Lake is Itanagar's most popular picnic spot

Other Places of Interest

There is a state-owned crafts centre-cum-emporium in Itanagar, where artefacts and handicrafts from across the state are sold. The Zoological Park at Chimpu houses a wide variety of fauna and certain avifaunal species that are particular to Arunachal Pradesh. Located atop the Naharlagun ridge, the Polo Park is a small botanical garden quite popular with the locals.

There is a lot to explore when it comes to food options in Itanagar. Most

restaurants in Itanagar offer a variety of cuisines. The Ganga Market area is where most restaurants are located. **Kendy Galo Food** restaurant on DN Road is a must-visit. Try their Chicken Roast. **Makhan Bhog** serves Assamese and Bengali cuisines. **Hotel Kerala Bhawan** serves good food. **Bamboo Feast** serves great food from the West Siang.

For additional and detailed information on ILPs and PAPs see p171. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

NAHARLAGUN

Situated in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, Naharlagun is a town that connects Itanagar and other central parts of the state to the rest of the country. The town has a railway station, and a helipad. The town itself lies at an elevation of 200m above sea level, and

Bamboo shoots



SANJIV VALSAN

experiences sub-tropical climatic conditions with long monsoon months when the entire area turns into spectacular shades of green.

Naharlagun is also home to some of the most prominent educational institutions in the state. Off the busy main roads of Naharlagun, you can find *Nyishi bastis* where you can take a swig of the famous fermented rice beer, *apong*.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Naharlagun is smaller and less-crowded when compared to its neighbour Itanagar. However, there are a few interesting places to visit in the town. The **Naharlagun market** is a must visit! There are lovely tribal ornaments, textiles and ritualistic items, organic fruits and vegetables, aromatic herbs, chillies and wild foods from the villages, fermented bamboo shoot



SANJIV VALSAN

Fresh local produce being sold at the Naharlagun market

and oddities like smoked rodent meat, live *gandipuks* (stinkbugs) and silkworms sold by the mug.

Mela General Ground

If you want to experience the 'local way of life' when in Naharlagun, it's best to head to one of the many events organised at the Mela General Ground. From small festivals to screening

of FIFA world cup, this is where Naharlagun gathers.

Polo Park

Set on a small hill, not too many people know about the Polo Park. Even though the name suggests otherwise, the park is a botanical garden with varied flora.

For Air, Road and Rail information see Itanagar. ■

ABODE OF THE APATANIS

ZIRO VALLEY

Photographs by LASYA NADIMPALLY



Verdant landscape around Ziro Valley

Arunachal Pradesh's wide sprawl has ensured that the state does not possess one unifying cultural or geographic characteristic, but many different, almost contrasting identities. Since it's

the largest state in the Northeast, you are bound to come across several wonderfully diverse sights that will leave you enthralled. And this uniqueness really hits you when you head to

Ziro—you will encounter splendid river valleys with thick vegetation tucked amidst the low-lying mountains of the Eastern Himalayas. And it is not just the scenery that changes—the people, their culture and cuisine are also drastically different in the Ziro Valley. One visit to the Hapoli Market here will give you an insight into the distinct culture of this beautiful valley. Silkworms, alive or roasted depending on the consumer's preference, are sold by the kilogram by Apatani tribeswomen in the market; the meat of rats, pigs, and other critters you probably won't be able to recognise can be found hanging outside several shops; sharp tools made of iron, stone and bamboo are also available for purchase. To first-time visitors, the sight of these products may seem bizarre and overwhelming. However, you will

soon realise that they are commonplace in the lives of the Apatanis of the Ziro Valley.

A trip to Ziro Valley is not just for any ordinary tourist—it's for those who want to gain an understanding of the culture and lifestyle of the Apatanis, one of the most interesting and well-known communities in the



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Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
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D. Enrig Colony, Itanagar-791111,
Arunachal Pradesh
Website: www.arunachaltourism.com

FACT FACTS

When to go September to April

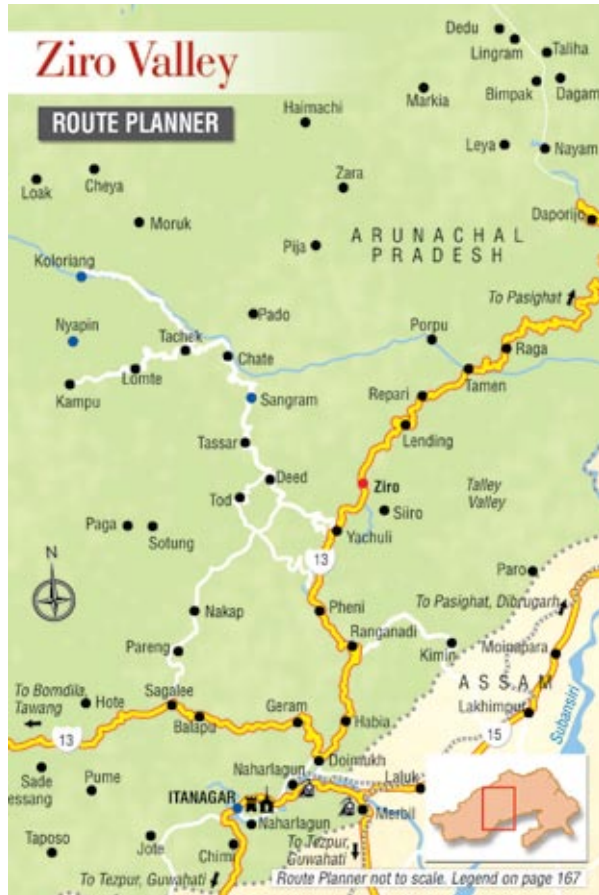
Tourist office

- Directorate of Tourism
Government of Arunachal Pradesh

Papum District, Itanagar
Tel: 0360-2214450, 2214745
STD code 03788

Permits

See details at the back of the book on p171.



country today. The picturesque locations and salubrious climate here are only the cherry on top of this unique experience. Further asserting the need for special attention towards Apatani culture is the fact that UNESCO has proposed that the valley be included in its list of World Heritage Sites because of the community's high productivity and unique way of preserving the area's ecology.

The Apatanis practise wetland rice cultivation and manage to get substantial yields without using any machines or fertilisers. They employ age-old, tried and tested methods of sustainable farming and prevention of soil erosion, which work well in this area. They stick to their own well-established practices in the face of modernisation, which is what makes the Ziro Valley so unique, remarkable and beautiful.



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Arunachal Pradesh
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GETTING THERE

Air Nearest airport: Guwahati airport (468km/1hr). A Sumo taxi will cost you ₹5,000–11,000 per day. The cost is inclusive of the vehicle, fuel and driver expenses. Shared Sumos are also available.

Rail Nearest railhead: Naharlagun Railway Station (108km/ 4hrs) offers connections between Assam and New Delhi.

Road From Guwahati head for Itanagar on NH15 via Gohpur and Tezpur. From Itanagar, you will have to take NH415 and then NH13 via Yupia and Ranganadi Peni and Jath; at the Potin tri-junction loop around Yazali and turn right to Yachuli. After that, you need to head straight to the Ziro **Bus** State buses and shared taxis ply frequently
See Route Planner on p86.

ORIENTATION

At an elevation of 1,500m above sea level, you will find terraced hills of paddy cultivation that are encircled by bamboo and pine groves in the Ziro Valley.

Ziro is the headquarters of the Lower Subansiri district. Hapoli is the main

Artisans of Ziro Valley



urban conglomeration in the valley, where most of the restaurants and shops are located. Beyond Hapoli is the quaint Siiro village where you will find all the resorts and homestays.

Old Ziro also has a few *dhabas* and shops, but there is nothing much to see here except the Ziro Viewpoint. At the end of Old Ziro are the famous Apatani *bastis* (totally seven of them), where you will witness the unique Apatani way of life.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Hapoli

This town is the administrative centre of the district. You can visit the Crafts Emporium and the District Museum, which are located opposite each other. This is, undoubtedly, the best way to begin your trip to Ziro.

The District Museum houses artefacts that belong



Hapoli is the main settlement in the Ziro Valley

to the Apatanis—their jewellery, handlooms, clothes, kitchenware, etc. are on display here. The **Crafts Emporium** in Ziro is divided into two sections—the shop and the workshop. At the workshop, you will witness how the Apatanis make carpets, bell metal items, shawls, etc.

You can also visit the **Hapoli Market** where locals

buy daily supplies, utensils and other utilitarian items.

Apatani Hamlets

There are seven Apatani *bastis* in Ziro Valley—Hong, Hari, Bulla, Hija, Dutta, Mudung Tage and Bamin Michi. You can drive through these *bastis* to gain a keen insight into the Apatani culture and lifestyle. The Apatanis are used to

tourists and, if you request politely, they will let you see their distinctive houses from the inside. Most Apatani houses will have a fireplace at the centre of the main living room, an open kitchen and several storage roofs in the living room.

Hong is the largest Apatani *basti* in the valley.

Shivalinga, Kardo Hill



ALAMY IMAGES / INDIA PICTURE

At *Hari basti*, there are several trees which the Apatanis believe were planted by their ancestors when they first moved to the valley. Paddy fields and fish ponds separate the *bastis* where you will see people practising wetland cultivation and pisciculture.

Ziro Viewpoint

Located atop a small hillock adjacent to the circuit house is the Ziro Viewpoint. The viewpoint boasts panoramic views of the verdant valley spread out below, dotted with paddy fields and bamboo groves.

Tarin Fish Farm

Pisciculture is one of the primary occupations of the people in this valley. The Arunachal Pradesh Fisheries Department set up the Tarin Fish Farm, which houses 74 fish ponds, as a research centre on high-altitude fish farming techniques.

SHIV AHUJA



Snapshots from the Ziro Festival of Music

Ziro Festival of Music

Slowly garnering a reputation of being India's Glastonbury, the Ziro Festival of Music is an annual musical extravaganza (organised in September) that is held in the mesmerising Ziro Valley. The festival ground is approximately 10km from the centre of the town and can be reached via a well-maintained road. The festival is the brainchild of Anup Kutty, of the band Menwhopause and Bobby

Hano, an Itanagar-based event manager. Having started in 2012, year after year, the festival has been responsible for bringing electronic, Indie and pop sounds to the quaint, picturesque valley and with it, hordes of youngsters from the rest of India.

In a way, the festival has been instrumental in making Ziro an important destination on the itinerary of the modern Indian backpacker.

This is also the best place to witness paddy-cum-fish cultivation since two different types of rice (Emoh and Mipya) and a species of fish called Ngihi are raised together.

Kardo Hill Temple

Earlier, one had to trek for two hours to reach Kardo Hill, which has a large rock

Apatani woman



that resembles a *Shivalinga*. Now, a road has been constructed from Hapoli, which gets you to the hill in about 15 minutes.

The *Shivalinga* here is 25ft in height and has a circumference of about 22ft. There is a smaller rock adjacent to it, which is considered to be a form of Goddess Parvati. There is a priest who performs regular prayers to the rocks of Shiva and Parvati here.

True Apatani Experience

While hotels are a great option, living in a homestay is the best way to understand the unique culture of the local communities of the Ziro Valley and this is undoubtedly an experience in itself. Ngunu Ziro, a local NGO, runs homestays in the area. It is also involved in many community activities such as environmental conservation and sanitation. Presently, a few families



Siiro Resort is one of the good accommodation options in Ziro

have turned their homes into homestays—Ngunu Ziro Homestay (Tel: 225808, Cell: 09436047891, 09856209494) at Siiro-Hapoli Short Cut Road and Tajang Village; Pura Yanya Homestay (Cell: 081199 15038) in Nenchalyang, Old Ziro; Suchusi Homestay (Cell: 09436224834, 08575-052646) in Siiro Village; and

Tam Yamyang Homestay (Cell: 09402464841, 08014012680) in Hong Village, Old Ziro.

Unless you want to sample *mithun* meat or wish to join in with an Apatani family for their traditional meal of bamboo shoots and dried roasted pork, repose your trust in the cooks of the accommodation you

choose. Striking up a conversation over dinner with the Apatani families that you're living with will provide you with immense information about the valley. Also, you wouldn't want to miss out on a few swigs of the famous *apong*, the local rice beer that will definitely put a smile on your face; it is served in bamboo mugs!

Hanging bridge, Tamen



ALAMY IMAGES / INDIA PICTURE

AROUND ZIRO VALLEY

Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary (35km)

A global hotspot for biodiversity, the Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary makes for an excellent trekking destination. The park is one of the best places in Arunachal Pradesh to spot Bhutan Glory, a butterfly species. The first record of the purple cochoa bird in Arunachal was made here. Nugnu (Cell: 9856209494; Email: punyochade@gmail.com) organises hiking and trekking tours in the sanctuary.

Palin and Nyapin (75km)

The picturesque hill stations of Palin and Nyapin are located at a distance of 25km from each other. Palin and Nyapin fall under the Kurung Kumey district of Arunachal Pradesh and are home to the Nyishis, the largest tribe in the state.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Ward's trogon at the Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Sangram (81km)

Paging, a tributary of the Kurung River, flows through the picturesque little town of Sangram. Home to the Nyishis, it is an ideal place to experience the local culture. Most Nyishi festivals are celebrated on a grand scale in Sangram. When here, you may get to see a performance or two of the Rikam Pada, a traditional dance.

Koloriang (170km)

The route to Koloriang offers enchanting views of the Himalayas. There are several hanging bridges that you will come across on your route to the town. Koloriang is located on the right bank of the Kurung River and is an ideal destination for adventure sports and nature trails. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

THE BIG CAT IN MISTY WOODS

PAKKE TIGER RESERVE | SEPPA AND AROUND



SANIYA CHAPLON

The Pakke River flows through the tiger reserve

PAKKE TIGER RESERVE

Located on the border with Assam and covering an area of 862 sq km, Pakke Tiger Reserve was formerly part of the Khellong Forest

Division, and was declared a game sanctuary in 1977. The sanctuary was later declared a tiger reserve in 2002. For a number of years, this relatively new tiger reserve witnessed rampant poaching, but with the

commendable initiatives of the forest department and the efforts of local communities, the situation has now improved a lot.

In September 2006, the heads of 16 villages within the reserve area passed a resolution that listed penalties for wildlife violations—a decision that was followed up with villagers helping the forest department in keeping strict vigil in the reserve. This innovative strategy, one of the first of its kind in India, is a marked departure from conventional top-down conservation practices. The emphasis here is on the local village chiefs, the *gaon burahs*, of the Nyishi tribe, who play an influential role in the protection of the jungle and its inhabitants as well as in persuading people to conserve forest resources.

Pakke falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot, and is

home to over 2,000 species of plants, 300 species of birds, and over 30 species each of mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The vege-



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Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
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Arunachal Pradesh
Website: www.arunachaltourism.com

FACT FACTS

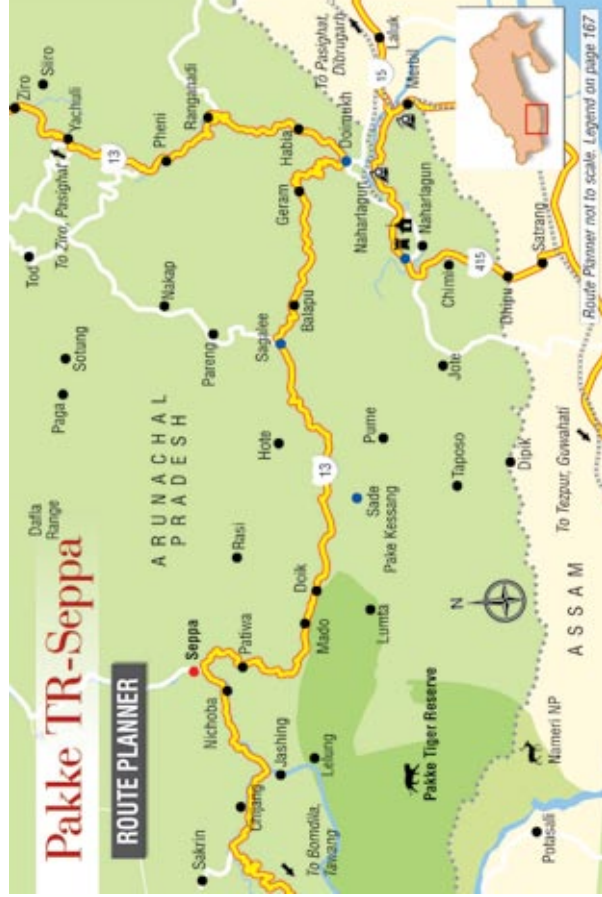
When to go The best time to visit Pakke is between November and March.

However, if you are a butterfly enthusiast, monsoon is the ideal time, during the months of May and October

Wildlife/ Forest offices

- Divisional Forest Office Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary & Tiger Reserve Seijosa East Kameng District Tel: 03778-200016, 200014

- Chairperson Ghora Aabhe Society & Pakke Tour and Travel Management Committee Cell: 08974671878 STD code 03778



tation here comprises lowland semi-evergreen, evergreen forests and Eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests. The most important mammal in Pakke is, of course, the tiger, but the reserve also supports a thriving population of leopards, leopard cats, Asiatic black bears, fishing cats, barking deer, elephants and sambar.

ORIENTATION

Nestled in the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas, Pakke Tiger Reserve is bounded to the north and west by the Kameng River and to the east by the Pakke River. The reserve shares its boundary with Nameri National Park, in Assam, to the south and southeast. The reserve's elevation ranges from 100m to 2,000m above sea level. The northern part of the reserve features a rugged, mountainous terrain, while

the south has narrow plains and sloping hill valleys.

Pakke can be accessed via the small village of Seijosa in the east, Bhalukpong in the west and Pakke Kessang in the north. Most tourists head for the Seijosa entrance, either to stay at the Forest Rest House in Khari, or to stay at the community-run Pakke Jungle Camp. Seijosa is well connected with Guwahati and Tezpur through the Soibari-Pakke Kessang Road. Note that there aren't

Binturong or bearcat



SANIYA CHAPLOND



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GETTING THERE

Air Nearest airport: Tezpur (50km/1.5hrs) but Guwahati (280km/7–8hrs) is better connected to Seijosa or Bhalukpong. Taxis charge a day rate as the per km system does not work here

Rail Nearest railheads: Soibari (36km), Rangapara (60km). But the Tezpur station (65km/2hrs) is better connected

Road From Tezpur, take the road to Seijosa via the Itakhola-Seijosa Road or the Soibari-Pakke-Kessang Road. A jeep or 4WD is imperative to drive within the forest, as the park authorities may not always have one available for tourists who wish to explore the park. **Bus** Arunachal Pradesh State Transport (APST) as well as private bus services ply from Tezpur. See *Route Planner* on p98.

any signboards along the route to indicate if you're heading the right way, and following the wrong route will take you towards Assam, so make sure to ask often for directions. The Bhalukpong entrance is connected through the Tezpur-Bomdila Road, and there is proper signage along the route. The entry point at Pakke Kesang can be reached via the Itanagar or Seppa route.

◆ **Entry** ₹50 per day **Vehicle** Entry ₹500 per day **Camera** Still ₹100 **Video** ₹500

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Birdwatching

The abundance of bird species in Pakke means that birdwatchers will never be left wanting. A 10km-long trek from Khari leads to Khari Lake, where rare white-winged wood ducks can often be spotted. Be sure to carry a set of good



SANIYA CHAPLUD



Photographs: NAVENDU PAGE



Birds and orchids are popular attractions of Pakke Tiger Reserve

binoculars and a birding guidebook.

Khari Base Camp offers wonderful views, with a platform overlooking the river. In the afternoons, the trees around the camp are flush with birds.

If you decide to stay at Pakke Jungle Camp, do ask

to be taken for a walk to the trees by the river, where dozens of hornbills can be seen at dusk. If you are visiting in the winter months, you are likely to see the spectacular ibisbill swoop down and then up again by the waters. As part of its conservation efforts to save

the hornbill from extinction, the Nyishi community protects hornbill nests, and imposes hefty fines against hunting and cutting down of trees where hornbills nest.

Nature Interpretation Centre

In December 2014, a Nature Interpretation Centre was set up near the Seijosa entry

A trail in Seijosa



GUNEET NARULA

gate, with the support of the Wildlife Trust of India's (WTI) Wild Aid division, to spread awareness about the bio-diversity of Pakke Tiger Reserve.

This informative centre displays infographics, posters and interactive quizzes, all of which make for an enriching experience.

Village Visits and Festivals

It is a good idea to plan a trip to the reserve in such a way that it coincides with some local festivities in the village, and one is able to gain a holistic experience of the local customs and traditions of the tribes living here. Towards the end of February, the Nyishis celebrate a three-day-long harvest festival known as Nyokum Yullo.

During the festival, the *mithun* (a semi-domesticated bovine), which is of great economic and cultural significance to the tribe and



APARAJITA DATTA

Snapshots of celebrations from the Pakke Paga Festival

the people of the state, is sacrificed.

It is a great idea to stay at one of the jungle camps to immersively experience Pakke Tiger Reserve and its cultural offerings.

Pakke Jungle Camp is a community-based tourism initiative implemented by the local tribal self-help conservation group, Ghora Aabhe, along with Help

Tourism (Kolkata Tel: 033-24550917, 24549719, Cell: 09733000442/43; www.helptourism.net).

There is also an **Inspection Bungalow** adjacent to the West Bank Forest Rest House. Bookings can be made through the DFO (Tel: 03778-200016, Cell: 09436042859). ■

BY SHOBHNA IYER

SEPPA, DOIMUKH AND SAGALEE

Located on the banks of the Kameng River, Seppa was earlier known as Sapla, which means 'marshy' in the local language. Sure enough, the area is shrouded in mist, receives heavy rainfall and is




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FACT FACTS

When to go September to March

Tourist Office

Department of Tourism,
Arunachal Pradesh 

Doni Colony
Itanagar

Tel: 0360-2247470 (Dep Dir)
Cell: 08794864348

 www.arunachaltourism.com
STD code 03787

Permits

See details at the back of the book on p171.



Courtesy HELP TOURISM

humid most of the year. Seppa is the headquarters of the East Kameng district. To its west lies the West Kameng district while the Papum Pare and Kurung Kumey districts lie on its eastern side. The area is part of the Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot and is home to several hill stations and reserve forests. Seppa is a popular destination for trekking expe-

Residents of Seppa by the banks of the Kameng River

ditions and skiing. You can start your journey of this circuit from Doimukh, located 25km from Itanagar, as well.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

District Museum and Library

The Nyishi tribe, the largest in the state, dominates the

East Kameng district. The District Museum and Library offers great insight into the culture and lifestyle of this tribe.

There are costumes, headgear, bamboo and cane crafts, weapons, jewellery, handlooms, etc. belonging to the Nyishi and Aka tribes on display here.



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GETTING THERE

Air Convenient airport:

Guwahati (400km/9–10hrs) is well connected with several daily flights

Rail Convenient railhead:

Guwahati. For onward journey, see 'Road' below

Road From Guwahati it is a 400km/ 8–9hrs picturesque drive along NH15 to Baihata Charali to Bhalukpong via Balipara, Mangaldai and Tezpur. From Bhalukpong to Seppa (150km) get on to NH13 and the diversion after Nichoba. The army keeps the road open through the year, but don't be surprised if you get stuck for a few hours. A vehicle with a high-ground clearance is recommended. Getting a taxi from Seppa can also be a hassle so do some forward planning

See *Route Planner* on p98.

Crafts Centre

The most distinctive feature of the Nyishis is their elaborate headgear. At the Crafts Centre, you can see several different types of headgear and costumes worn by these people.

AROUND SEPPA

Sagalee (130km)

The Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary is located close to Sagalee, a pristine valley with great views. The sanctuary is spread over an area of 140 sq km.

The Himalayan black deer, musk deer, red panda and porcupines are among the most commonly found animals in the park. The Pam River languidly flows through the wildlife sanctuary. Other than the sanctuary, Sagalee is an ideal place to experience the Nyishi lifestyle. The people in the area still practise their traditions and you can see



DINODIA PHOTO LIBRARY

A traditional Nyishi house near Sagalee

their various places of worship, houses, etc.

◆ **Wildlife Sanctuary Timings**
9.00am–6.00pm

Doimukh (196km)

You can begin your journey along this circuit in the small town of Doimukh as well. Doimukh is only 25km from Itanagar and is easily accessible by road. This

small town is located on the left bank of the Pare River. The Rono Hill in Doimukh is home to the Rajiv Gandhi University, one of the biggest there is in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The hill also provides for spectacular views of the river and the mountains beyond it. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

WHERE THE HILLS BEGIN

PASIGHAT | ROING | NAMSAI

SHUTTERSTOCK



The beautiful Siang River flowing through Pasighat

PASIGHAT

Before you visit the town of Pasighat, you need to acquaint yourself with a story, the tale of a mighty river. The Yarlung Tsangpo

originates in the high mountains of Tibet. It then flows through Arunachal Pradesh where it's called the Siang. This river eventually enters the plains of Assam and becomes the Brahmaputra,

before draining into the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh. The tenth largest river in the world by discharge, its banks are never too far away in this part of the state; and people's everyday lives here are intricately linked with the river's ebb and flow.

As the people here know all too well, the river wears two faces: on good days, the nurturing river turns the landscape into spectacular shades of green; but come monsoon, it overflows, posing a great threat to life and property in the region. Even though the river's waters wreak havoc on people's lives every year, they hold it in high reverence.

Located in the East Siang district, Pasighat stretches along the banks of the Siang. The river enters Assam just after Pasighat. Pasighat was the first town to be built in Arunachal Pradesh—the British con-

structed it in 1911 to serve as a gateway to the Abor Hills. Today, it is home to the Adi and Mising communities. You can also see several colonial-era structures if you walk around in the town. With views of snow-capped mountains, the town is blessed with amazing natural beauty.

The town also serves as an ideal gateway to visit destinations like Tuting, the Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary, Jengging and the Mouling National Park.



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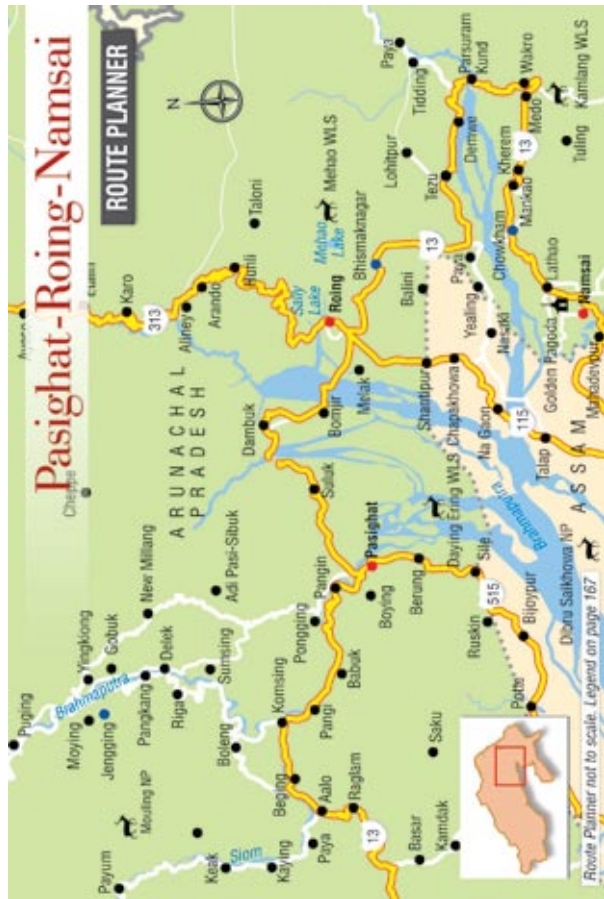
FACT FACTS

When to go October to February; avoid the monsoon months (June to August)

Tourist offices/ Permits

See permit details at the back of the book.

STD code 0368



THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Pasighat is a laid-back town where you can spend a day or two soaking in some hilly charm. The British built several walking paths along the banks of the Siang River here. Unfortunately, they were destroyed when an earthquake struck the region in 1950. However, you can still take long walks along the embankment of the river. Sunrise is an especially popular time to visit the banks of this beautiful river. You can also go rafting on the Siang River.

The town's market has many colonial structures. You can buy artefacts made by the local tribes here. The town is surrounded by several orange orchards too, so don't forget to visit them, take long walks around them and, of course, buy the oranges.

Numerous interesting

caves have also been discovered in the villages that surround Pasighat. Among them is a *porung*, a bat cave, located near the village of Pongging where the



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GETTING THERE

Air Nearest airport:
Mohanbari, Dibrugarh; You can take the newly inaugurated Bogibeel bridge that runs across the Brahmaputra to the north bank and carry on to Pasighat via Kemi (80km approx/2hrs drive). Ferry services have now been discontinued

Rail Nearest railwayhead:
Dibrugarh Railway Station
Road The Bogibeel bridge has cut down travel time in this region to a large extent; you can hire a Sumo/Tavera from Dibrugarh

See Route Planner on p110.

Yamne River joins the Siang. In the past, a family was considered wealthy if a *porung* was found within the *morang* (hunting and fishing territory) of a clan.

As is the case with most of Arunachal Pradesh, the best places to soak in the local culture is in homestays. The **Takar Homestay**

Fishing in Pasighat



SHUTTERSTOCK

has four rooms. **Normi Homestay** in Runne Village offers one room as a homestay. Home-cooked meals are offered.

The best place to savour the local food is in the main market area. There are several standard eateries and sweet shops along the main market road. But it is best to have your regular meals at your hotels or homestays as they tend to be more wholesome and filling.

AROUND PASIGHAT

Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary (55km)

There is a cluster of riverine islets in the Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary that are home to wintering waterfowl. The tiger, hog deer, wild buffalo, hispid hare and elephant can all be found in these enchanting forests of central Arunachal.



OMAR KHAN

Sun sets upon the Daying Ering Wildlife Sanctuary

Jengging (197km)

Pasighat-Jengging-Yingkiong is a good circuit, the towns serving as bases for good trekking routes.

Kekar Monying is a black rock where Adi warriors made their last stand against the British in the 1912 British-Abor War. There is also the memorial cairn to Noel Williamson, a political officer of the British.

Mouling National Park (195km)

Spread over an area of 483 sq km, the park is home to some rare species of fauna such as the serow, goral, takin, clouded leopard, black bear and red panda. Birding enthusiasts will be in for a treat as the park plays host to a large number of migratory birds. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

ROING

The Lower Dibang Valley district is bordered by the Dibang Valley district in the north, the Lohit district in the east, China in the north-east and Assam in the south. The area boasts of wonderfully contrasting landscapes—low-lying hills that rise from the Assam plains, thick rainforests that cover most of the land, scenic valleys by the Dibang River and the snow-capped

Hanging bamboo bridge



Courtesy ARUNACHAL PRADESH TOURISM

mountains that are closer to the border with China. A trip through this area is bound to captivate you.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The Dibang River flows near the town of Roing, making it a picture-perfect destination. The **Nehru Van Udyan** is a well-maintained garden with an orchidarium. You will also see **orange orchards** set in the backdrop of undulating green plains and low-lying hills.

The **Baily Bridge**, constructed over the Deopani River, affords some spectacular sights. When in Roing, you can also visit the surrounding **Idu Mishmi and Adi villages**.

Camping

With very little population, beautiful, unexplored vistas, rolling hills, hanging bamboo bridges and a gushing river around, Roing is a par-



Courtesy ARUNACHAL PRADESH TOURISM

The Dibang River gushes over boulders

adise for campers. You can spend several days here living the camp life and making the most out of the best things nature has to offer to you. There are several campsites which provide accommodation, meals and organise local sightseeing and activities.

Alternatively, you can also pitch a tent at a good

location. Help Tourism's **Dibang Valley Jungle Camp** (Tel: 0353-2433683, 2534896, Cell: 09733000442, 098628-29416) is a great place to stay. Meals are simple, yet sumptuous. The camp is a haven for birdwatchers!

Jibi Pulu's **Mishmi Hill Camp** (Cell: 09862856981), located by the Deopani

River, is a picturesque local-style homestay; Jibi can help you with your itinerary and plan your outdoor activities. He is also an excellent cook and rustles up delicious local dishes for his guests.

There are good local restaurants to eat out in Roing, or you might want to stick to the meals being provided at your campsite; unless, of course, you fancy cooking for yourself.

Pork is a local delicacy



SANJIV VALSAN

AROUND ROING

Sally Lake (3km)

A part of the Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, the Sally Lake is a naturally formed waterbody that is surrounded by thick vegetation.

The Sally Lake offers some great views. There is a tourist lodge for accommodation near the lake, but it is currently not functional.

Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary (17km)

Spread over an area of 281 sq km, the Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary is home to some rare species of fauna such as the takin, hoolock gibbon, tiger, leopard and red panda.

The park was declared a sanctuary in 1980 and includes four types of forests, namely, tropical evergreen forest, sub-tropical and temperate forest, temperate broadleaf forest and temperate coniferous forest.



Asian Barred Owlet, Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary

Bhismaknagar (30km)

The oldest archaeological site in the area, Bhismaknagar houses the ruins of a hill fort dating back to the 12th century CE. The fort is named after king Bhismaka, a character in the *Mahabharata*. Some believe that the fort was once a part of

Bhismaka's kingdom. The semi-circular fortress stretches for an area of 10 sq km. It was excavated in the period between 1960 and 1973.

For Fast Facts, Air, Road and Rail information, see Pasighat. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

NAMSAI

An almost continuous stretch of emerald green tea gardens flank both sides of the scenic road that stretches from Dibrugarh to Namsai. The aromatic fragrance of Assam tea is impossible to ignore in this part of the state.

As you cross Tinsukia and enter Arunachal Pradesh at Dirak, the Assam plains continue till Chowkham. The Deori live here.

Namsai and the surrounding areas in eastern

Arunachal Pradesh are also home to the Tai Khampti, Singpho, Mishmi and Meyor tribes. The Khamptis follow Theravada Buddhism and have several temples in the area. The region finds mention in Hindu scriptures as it is closely connected to the legend of Parasuram, one of Lord Vishnu's *dasavataras*. The Noa-Dihing and Lohit rivers flow through this region. Rising from the plains beyond Chowkham, the last few peaks of the Eastern Himalayas stand tall, in stark relief to the deep blue sky.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The tribes in Namsai and the surrounding areas have vibrant cultural traditions. When here, you can witness their traditional dances, games and regional festivals such as Tamladu, a Mishmi festival, and Sanken (the Buddhist new year).



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FACT FACTS

When to go October to February; avoid the monsoon months (June to August)
Tourist Offices/Permits
See details at the back of the book p170

SANJIV VALSAN



The Golden Pagoda is a stunning sight to behold

Golden Pagoda

Located in Tengapani, a little ahead of the main town, the Golden Pagoda is one of the largest Buddhist monasteries in the region.

Constructed only in the past decade, the gompa is situated in the middle of a

well-manicured garden, which has several statues of Buddha and other mythological figures. As the name suggests, the gompa has been painted golden and, hence, its façade makes for one of the most stunning sights that you can witness in the state.



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GETTING THERE

Air Nearest airport : Dibrugarh Airport (118km/3.5hrs) is served by flights from Kolkata and Delhi. You can hire a taxi for Namsai or check for a hotel pick-up. Taxis will charge around ₹4,500 (min)

Rail Tinsukia Junction (42km/ 1.5 hrs) from Dibrugarh is served by several trains such as the Dibrugarh-New Delhi Rajdhani, Dibrugarh-Amritsar, Dibrugarh-Chandigarh Express, Dibrugarh-Kolkata Express and Dibrugarh-Bangalore Express amongst others. Namsai is located at a distance of about 72.5km (2hr drive) from Tinsukia

Road From Dibrugarh take NH15 to Namsai (118km/ 3.5hrs) via Chaubua Panitola, Tinsukia, Doom Dooma, Dirak and Chowkham
See *Route Planner* on p110.

Other Temples

Unlike in western Arunachal Pradesh, which follows the Mahayana sect of Buddhism, most monasteries on this side of the state follow the Hinayana order. The Khamptis, in particular, follow the Theravada school of the Hinayana sect, which follows the older, more traditional beliefs and practices of the religion. There are several Hinayana Buddhist *viharas* in the Khampti settlement areas that are traditionally called 'chong'. The **Namsai Chong** and the **Momong Chong** are famous in the region.

Other Places of Interest

The Noa-Dihing River, which originates in Tibet and joins the Brahmaputra in Assam, flows through Namsai. There is a bridge that has been constructed across the river, just outside Namsai. It offers splendid views of the waterbody. You can visit the



LASYA NADIMPALLY

A traditional Khampiti tribe house near Namsai

Namsai Reserve Forest, a part of the Piyong Reserve Forest. There is also a traditional **mat-making unit** at Namsai, where you can learn more about the arts and crafts of the region.

AROUND NAMSAI

Chowkham (26km)

This is the region where the plains of eastern Arunachal

Pradesh end and the winding journey into the mountains begins.

When you visit the region near Chowkham, you can experience the culture of local tribes and participate in their festivities. It is also a place of great biodiversity as it is the nodal point of the Manabhum and Tengapani reserve forests. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

MONASTERIES, RITUALS AND MORE

MECHUKA | BASAR



SHUTTERSTOCK

The Siom River flows through Mechuka

MECHUKA

The hamlet of Mechuka lies at an altitude of 1,828m in a forested valley, in the Shi Yomi district. It is close to the Indo-China border and thereby offers spectacular

views of the snow-capped Eastern Himalayas.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The high-altitude **Mechuka Lake** is one of the biggest attractions in the village.

The **Siom River**, locally called Yargyap Chu, flows through the valley and offers river rafting and angling opportunities. But Mechuka is more about its people than its spell-binding natural beauty.

The village is inhabited by the lesser-known but friendly Buddhist Membas, and the animist Adis.

The 400-year-old **Samten Yongcha Monastery**, located on a hillock on the western edge of the village, is the most prominent tourist attraction here. The Samten Yongcha belongs to the Mahayana sect of Buddhism and was built around the same time as the Tawang Monastery in western Arunachal Pradesh.

You can time your visit to coincide with **Adventure @ Mechuka**, the 3-day-long annual adventure festival organised in the month of November. You can participate in activities such as

angling, biking, paragliding and river rafting, all in the lap of nature with friendly locals playing host to you. ■

BY SHOBHNA IYER &
LASYA NADIMPALLY

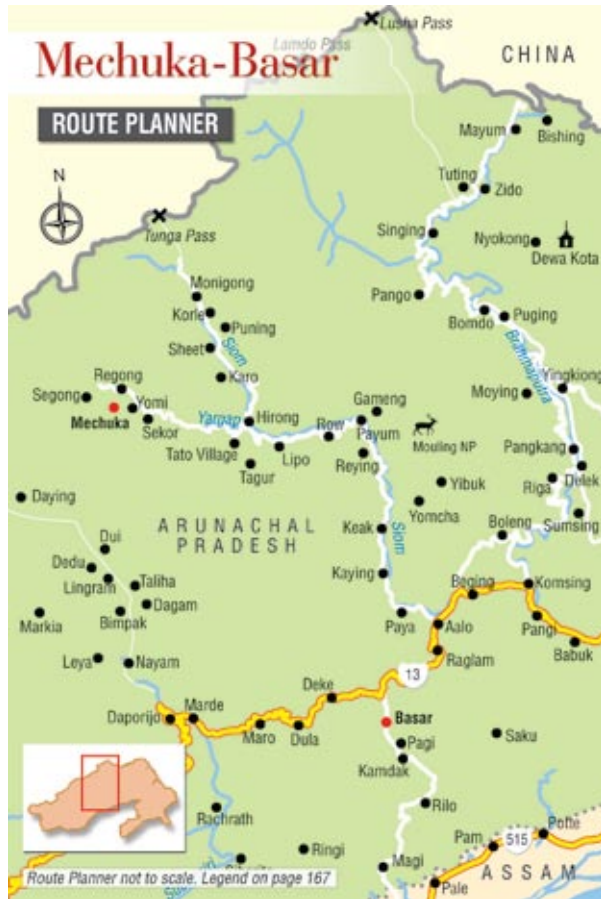


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GETTING THERE

Air Convenient Airports: You can fly to Guwahati or Dibrugarh and then head to Pasighat and make your journey upwards to Mechuka. Earlier, one had to take a ferry from Dibrugarh across the Brahmaputra, but now there is the Bogibeel bridge which cuts the journey short by 2-3 hours.

Rail Nearest Railhead: Naharlagun near Itanagar
Road From Itanagar take the Road to Along through Pasighat via Pangin
See Route Planner on p124.



Basar offers spectacular views of the Eastern Himalayas

BASAR

A town located in the Lepa-Rada district of Arunachal Pradesh, Basar is home to the Galo people. Basar sits at an elevation of 578m above sea level, and enjoys pleasant climatic conditions throughout the year. The town and its surrounding areas are famous for its wet rice cultivation.

The religious customs of this region are much like that of the Apatani valley. The Galo people follow animism.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Although Basar is breathtakingly beautiful, not many people know of this hidden paradise. You can visit the many orange and pineapple orchards or walk alongside the lush green paddy fields.

Basar is also a great destination for those interested in hiking and trekking. If you're interested in other adventure activities such as caving, you can trek to reach the Tapan Penru series of caves located 20km from Basar. ■

BY SHOBHNA IYER &
LASYA NADIMPALLY

A BRIDGE ACROSS FOREVER

TUTING | YINGKIONG



Tuting Monastery and its picturesque backdrop

TUTING

The little village of Tuting is so far and off the beaten path that reaching here feels like an adventure in itself.

Located in the Upper Siang district, Tuting is 270km from Yinkiong and the road that leads to it is in fair-weather conditions even during the dry months. While visiting

Tuting, remember that you're almost heading to India's international border with China. If visiting such far-flung destinations is on your bucket list, this little town is a great place to consider. The area is mainly inhabited by the Adi and the Khamba tribes who follow Donyi-Polo (a prominent religion of the tribes of central Arunachal Pradesh) and Tibetan Buddhism, respectively.

While here, you can catch the *Solung* harvest festival, which is celebrated on a grand scale by the Adi tribe and *Losar*, which is the Tibetan new year.

Make sure to book your stay at the **PWD Inspection Bungalow** well in advance as there are very few accommodation options in the area.

When here, you'll be completely cut off from the rest of the world; there is hardly any mobile network.

The China border is visible from Tuting.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Although Tuting is pretty disconnected from the rest of the world, there are a few interesting tourist destinations here.

You can visit the newly constructed Tuting **gumpa**, which is set in a picturesque location, or take a day trip to the scenic **Shibi waterfall** to engage in outdoor activities.

It is also a great idea to visit Tuting in either September or February to catch the *Solung* or *Losar* festivals, respectively. Owing to its remote location, there aren't many options for you to stay and eat in Tuting.

For Fast Facts, Air, Road and Rail information, see Pasighat. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY



AHTUSHI DESHPANDE



Cane bridges are commonplace in this part of the state

YINGKIONG

The Siang flows through this tiny hamlet. The population consists mainly of Adis. Do try attending a local festival or two while you're here.

Nature is at its bountiful best in Yingkiong. There are mountains, valleys and rivers here. This aspect also makes the little town an ideal place for adventure activities such as trekking, hiking, angling and camping. If you prefer to experi-

ence adventure activities in their rawest forms, you should head right to Yingkiong. Besides, the dense forests that surround the area make it a great destination to witness some of the diverse flora and fauna that Arunachal Pradesh has on offer.

For Fast Facts, Air, Road and Rail information see Pasighat. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

SPECTACULAR VISTAS, SHAMANIC RITUALS

ANINI | MAYUDIA PASS

Photographs by SANJIV VALSAN



Spectacular river valleys near Talin

ANINI

The least populated district in the country, even though it is the largest in the state (9,129 sq km), the Dibang Valley is perfect for seekers of solitude. The population density is only 0.8 inhabitants per square kilometre!

The Dibang River, which originates in China, flows through this particular district and is the lifeline of the residents here—members of the Idu Mishmi tribe.

Dibang Valley boasts enchanting sights—snow-covered peaks, river valleys, deep gorges and rainforests. Anini is the headquarters of this far-flung district. The town is situated close to Mipi, the northernmost point of Northeast India.

Located on a high plateau overlooking the Dri and Mathun river valleys, Anini was once a remote outpost that could only be reached after an arduous



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THE INFORMATION

When to go October to February; avoid the monsoon months (June to August)

Tourist Offices/ Permits
See details at the back of the book.

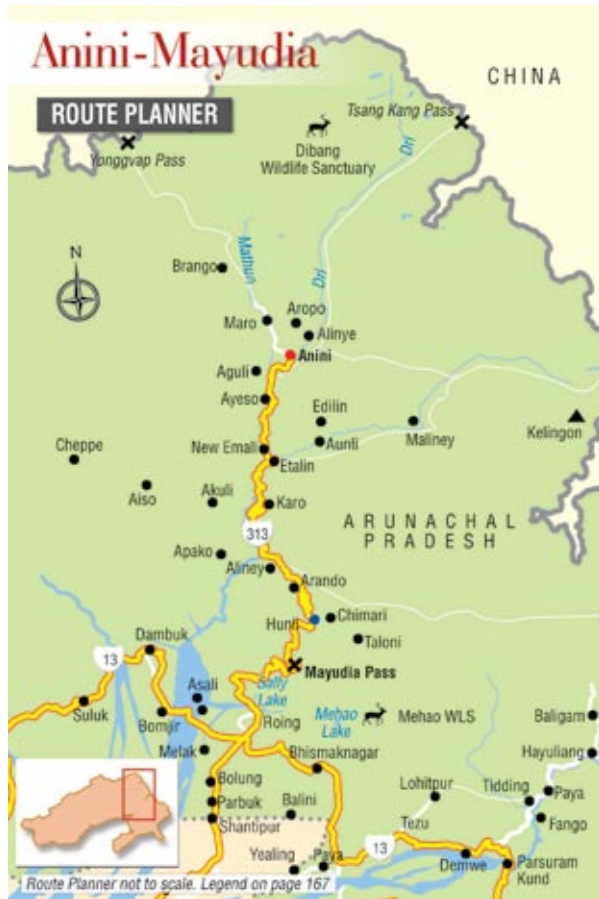
STD code 03801

Getting There

Air Nearest airport:
Mohanbari, Dibrugarh (300km approx/ 7–8 hrs); Hire a taxi

Rail Nearest railhead:
Dibrugarh Railway Station
Road From Dibrugarh take NH15 and NH115 to get to the Dhaulaghat-Sadiya Bridge via Tinsukia, Doom Dooma and Rupai Siding.

After crossing the Brahmaputra, carry on along NH 115 and NH 313 for Anini via Roing, Hunli and Akobe, from Sadiya
See *Route Planner* on p132.



A scene from the Reh Shamanic rituals

14-day-long trek. A road has been constructed here now to make the journey easier.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The real attraction of Anini is the exciting journey to the countryside. You get to see splendid river valleys and rainforests enroute. There is nothing much to do in Anini but marvel at the views of the surrounding

snow-capped mountains. If you're visiting the region in February, remember that it's time for the Reh Festival. 'Reh' means 'to call'. During this festival, individual clan members who reside in far corners of the region come together to celebrate Goddess Nanyi-Intaya, the creator of the universe. The festival involves dancing (performed by the shaman), feasting and drinking. The

tribe has an interesting tradition where they present their relatives with a long string with knots called 'tayih'. The receivers of the *tayih* are supposed to tie it at a prominent place in their homes and cut off one knot every single day until the day of the festival.

AROUND ANINI

Hunli (139km)

Situated at an altitude of 1,240m above sea level, the quaint little town of Hunli is set in a scenic valley and

boasts of spectacular views of the Eastern Himalayas. The town is the sub-divisional headquarters of the Lower Dibang Valley district. A two-hour trek from Hunli will take you to the **Kupuli Cave Temple**, which is an important religious site.

There is a **Circuit House** (Cell: 09402476002, 09436-222202) perched upon a ridge here, which offers a splendid view of the valley. Close by is an **Inspection Bungalow**. Both the places offer four rooms each. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

Restaurant located en route to Anini



A biker at the snow-covered Mayudia Pass

MAYUDIA PASS

Located at an altitude of 2,655m above sea level, the Mayudia Pass affords breathtaking views of the lofty Himalayas. If you visit the pass during the winter months, from December to March, you will be gifted with the sight of snow-covered mountains all around you. However, the pass, and its surrounding areas, offer spectacular views at any time of the year. Further, the

region is also a great destination for trekking.

The winding road that leads to Mayudia from Roing is a picturesque drive. The Mayudia town close by offers accommodation in the form of a **Forest Rest House**. There is also a **Coffee House** here.

For information on Fast Facts, Air, Road and Rail see Pasighat. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

OF MYTHS AND MAMMALS

PARASURAM KUND | TEZU | WAKRO



SHUTTERSTOCK

The mighty Lohit River surrounded by rolling hills

PARASURAM KUND

Situated within the Kamlang Reserve Forest area, the picturesque Parasuram Kund is a site of great religious importance.

According to a legend recorded in the sacred Hindu text *Kalika Purana*, the sage Parasuram (one of Lord Vishnu's *dasavtaras*), washed away his sin of matricide in the waters of the Lohit River at the Brahmakund here.

The site is popular among Hindu pilgrims in India and Nepal, who travel here to take a dip in the waters of the Lohit River during the harvest festival of Makar Sankranti in the month of January.

The area plays host to a fair during this time when tribes living in the surrounding mountains travel here to trade in livestock, rugs and trinkets. ■



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THE INFORMATION

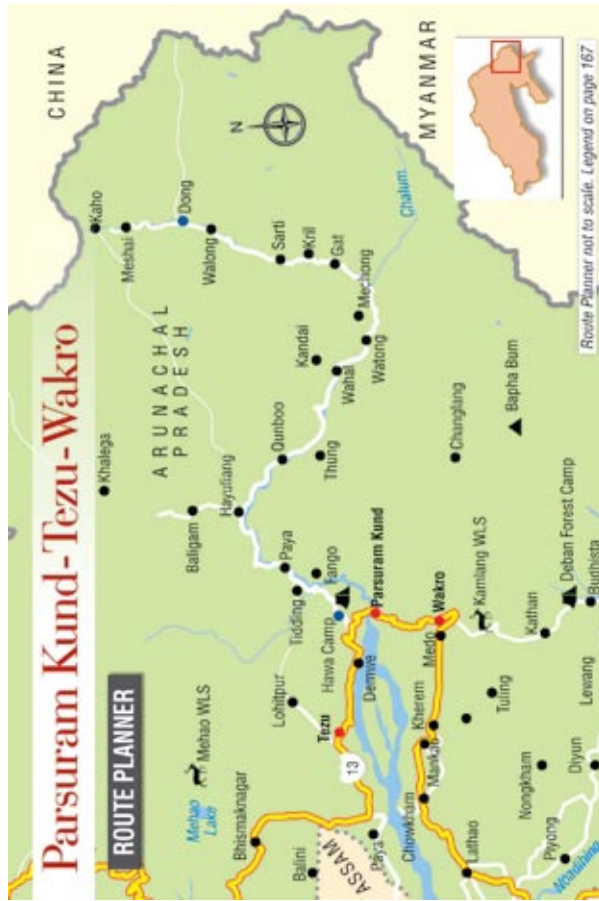
When to go September to March

Tourist Office

- Department of Tourism, Arunachal Pradesh 📍
- Tel: 0360-2247470 (Dep. Dir.)
- Email: info@achaltourism.com
- 📄 www.arunachaltourism.com

Getting There

Air Nearest airport is Dibrugarh, 173 km from Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS), It has regular flights from Guwahati and Kolkata and connecting flights from Delhi. Prepaid Taxi available to reach the sanctuary Rail Nearest railhead: Tinsukia Railway Station. Buses and taxi available to the sanctuary. Road From Dibrugarh via Tinsukia NH15. Regular Buses run here
See Route Planner on p138.



A road leading to Tezu, headquarters of the Lohit district

TEZU

The headquarters of the Lohit district, Tezu is located on the banks of the Lohit River. Tourists can start their journey to the surrounding areas from this town. However, Tezu itself is a beautiful place to spend some time to soak in the spectacular views of the riverine vistas. Tezu has decent road connectivity, a Circuit House, a market and several accommodation options.

Within Tezu, you can pay a visit to the District Museum and Crafts Centre, which has a repository of information on the district, its tribes, culture and history. You could also check out the Tezu Botanical Garden. If time permits, go to Dong, which is the easternmost village in India. It is located at the confluence of the Sati and Lohit rivers and at the tri-junction of India, China and Myanmar. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY

WAKRO

Nestled in the Mishmi hills, the picturesque hill station of Wakro is home to the Kamlang Reserve Forest and Kamlang Tiger Reserve. Wakro's biodiversity is characterised by thick vegetation and a wide variety of fauna; it is an organic hub for oranges and green tea. The wildlife sanctuary is

Kamlang Tiger Reserve



Photographs: ABHINAV KUMAR

home to the hoolock gibbon, tiger and takin, among other species. The **Glow Lake** in Wakro is a scenic high-altitude lake, which offers spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. Wakro is also famous for adventure sports.

It is an ideal destination to start your treks in this region of the state. Whitewater rafting on the Lohit River is also a popular activity here.

Kamlang Tiger Reserve

Named after the Kamlang River that flows across the reserve, the park is spread over an area of around 783 sq km and is home to some of the important endemic species found in the Mishmi hills. Kamlang is one of the lesser-known wildlife areas of Arunachal Pradesh, and was given the status of a Tiger Reserve as recently as March 2017. With the declaration of it as a tiger



ABHINAV KUMAR

The river which flows through the Kamlang Tiger Reserve

reserve, it has become a part of the All-India Tiger Estimation exercise, the quadrennial census conducted all over India to document tigers in the wild. This has led to experts from the census team coming to the place and studies on flora and important faunal species, but the reserve still

lies mostly unexplored. Mammals that have been spotted in the park include sun bear, clouded leopard and the Assamese macaque. Patrolling teams have regularly spotted Mishmi takins and Himalayan serows. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY &
ABHINAV KUMAR

ADVENTURE IN THE WOODS

MIAO | JAIRAMPUR | NAMDAPHA NATIONAL PARK

GUNEET NARULA



The stony banks of the Noa-Dihing River

MIAO

A charming little town set on the banks of the Noa-Dihing River, Miao serves as a gateway to the natural jewel of Arunachal Pradesh, Namdapha National Park. The town can be reached

via the historic 430 km-long Stilwell Road, which used to connect Margherita in Assam to Kunming in China. Built by Chinese troops in 1942 under the supervision of US Army General Joseph Warren Stilwell during World War II, and is said to

be one of the most expensive roads in the world.

Miao also has its helipad, from where a helicopter operates up and down to the border town of Vijoyagar. The town's main street is dotted with the ubiquitous tea-shops, PCOs, a post office and stalls selling vegetables and different varieties of fish. Further into the town lies the mini zoo.

The zoo is home to varied species of fauna common to this part of the state such as hoolock gibbons, Assamese macaques, leopard, porcupines and slow loris.

It also boasts a variety of flora, including rare orchids as well as a wealth of timber species. Located 4km from Miao, the Choephelling Tibetan Refugee Settlement Camp is worth a short visit. The settlement is known for its carpet-weaving centre that produces high-quality

woollen carpets with rich and exotic designs.

AROUND MIAO

Khonsa (140km)

Situated on the easternmost tip of India is the beautiful hill town of Khonsa, which serves as the headquarters



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THE INFORMATION

When to go November to March

Wildlife/ Forest Dept office

- Field Director, Project Tiger Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Miao Changlang District. Tel: 03807-222249

- District Informatics Officer DC Office, Changlang District Tel: 03808-222621/ 222840

- District Commissioner Office Changlang District. Tel: 03808-222221

STD code 03807



A bird's-eye view of Khonsa village

of Tirap district. A three-hour drive southwest from Miao, Khonsa borders Assam in the south and Myanmar in the east.

The charm of Khonsa lies in its pristine setting, surrounded by mountains and dense forests. The area around Khonsa offers exhilarating treks through forests. In April, the forests are flush with orchids and

you can spy on the white gibbon or track the red panda. When in town, head to the Khonsa Museum that houses traditional artefacts. The District Museum has exhibits that showcase the culture and traditions of the locals.

You can also visit Kheti and Lajo villages, inhabited by the Nocte tribes. ■

BY SHOBHNA IYER

JAIRAMPUR

Located in the Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh at an elevation of 200m above sea level, Jairampur is a small town that is home to the Tangsas and Singphos. Reaching this little town, near the Indo-Myanmar border, after pass-

ing through some serpentine roads, could seem difficult at first; but the tough journey will soon be forgotten as the town is an oasis of peace.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

There are several places of interest in and around

The historic Stilwell Road constructed during World War II



SWAPAN NAYAK



Jairampur Cemetery, burial grounds for World War II martyrs

Jairampur. First, there is the **Jairampur Cemetery**. It is the burial grounds for soldiers who died in WWII.

The town of **Nampong** is a must-visit for everyone. From here, you can reach the **Pangsau Pass** and the **Lake of No Return**, which you can see from the pass (the lake is in Myanmar). Both the areas are hard to reach and are marked by

treacherous terrain. For this reason, the pass earned the nickname of 'Hell Pass' over the years. The lake, on the other hand, was used as an emergency soft landing strip during World War II for the fighter planes that were attacked by the enemies. Hence, it acquired the name, Lake of No Return. ■

BY LASYA NADIMPALLY



NARENDRA BISHT

NAMDAPHA NATIONAL PARK

A few kilometres from the town of Miao, the Namdapha National Park is the largest protected area in the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot. Among the biggest national parks of India, Namdapha stretch-

es along the international border between India and Myanmar.

Spanning over varying elevations, the park harbours many natural habitats, making it one of the richest and most biodiverse parts of the subcontinent.

Namdapha's remote location, the Dapha Range (at a

The Noa-Dihing River winds its way through Namdapha

height of 5,000m) and the snow-fed rivers that criss-cross through the area have kept it well protected and largely unexplored.

Established as part of Project Tiger in 1983, Namdapha National Park has a core area of 1808 sq

km and a buffer zone of 177 sq km. The vegetation here changes from tropical moist forests at the lower altitude to montane forests and alpine meadows at the higher elevations.

A number of rare orchid species can be found in the



park, including the lady's slipper, blue vandall, foxtail and dendrobium. The lower reaches have a dense undergrowth, with abundant bamboo and canebrakes. With trees reaching as high as 150m, the jungle has a thick canopy. Needless to say, the forest at Namdapha is near unnavigable and impenetrable, and hence proves quite challenging for wildlife-watchers to spot animal or bird species.

While this means that there will be no jeep safaris, nor lounging in a hammock while deer graze nearby, it certainly ensures an unparalleled nature experience.

Namdapha is home to many species of mammals, such as tiger, leopard (both clouded and snow), elephant, red panda, deer and even the endangered hoolock gibbon.

The park is also home to several avian species, including white-bellied

GUNEET NARULA



Elephants at Namdapha; (facing page) Indian giant squirrel



Directorate of Tourism,
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Namsang Colony, Itanagar-791111,
Arunachal Pradesh
Website: www.arunachaltourism.com

FACT FACTS

When to go November to March

Wildlife/ Forest Dept offices

- Field Director, Project Tiger Namdapha Tiger Reserve Miao, Changlang District
Tel: 03807-222249

- District Informatics Officer DC Office

Changlang District
Tel: 03808-222621/ 222840

- District Commissioner Office Changlang District

Tel: 222221

STD code 03807



Directorate of Tourism,
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Nirvanchal Bhawan Marg,
D. Ering Colony, Itanagar-791111,
Arunachal Pradesh
Website: www.arunachaltourism.com

GETTING THERE

Air Nearest airport: Dibrugarh (197km/7hrs to Deban via Miao/20km/1hr). Connected to all the metros via Guwahati. Taxi ₹7,500 (to Deban), and ₹6,000 to Miao, but book in advance. In case of flight delays you may be charged for two days (₹9,000–10,000)

Rail Nearest railhead: Tinsukia (150km/ 6hrs) is served by connections from Delhi, Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri.

Road From Dibrugarh NH37 to Makum via Tinsukia; NH38 to Lekhapani via Ledo; SH to Miao; link road to Deban *Bus* services only up to Miao from Tinsukia

Ferry To save time, from Tinsukia get to Wakro (100km). Catch the ferry for the 5hr journey to Deban on the Deban River
See *Route Planner* on p144.



GUNEET NARULA

heron, snowy-throated babbler, and five species of hornbills. Namdapha boasts a variety of butterfly species, such as the koh-i-noor, red caliph, cruiser, wizard and fluffy tit.

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Deban

Located on the northern banks of the Noa-Dihing

Accommodation options in Namdapha

River, Deban is an excellent base for exploring Namdapha. The site is a haven for naturalists, offering plenty of birding opportunities. Visitors will be able to spot little and slaty-backed forktails, scarlet minivets, lesser and greater yellownape woodpeckers and perhaps even

the red-tailed minla and collared treepie.

Treks

Trekking is the only way to explore Namdapha and experience nature at its wildest. The first part of the trek involves crossing the Noa-Dihing River. When the flow is less, you can simply

walk on the stones and cross over shaky yet reliable wooden bamboo bridges, but when the water levels are high, you will need a ferry (arranged by the Forest Department) to take you across the rapids.

There are two ways to trek in Namdapha, depending on time and availability.

While it is possible to trek 14km to Bulbulia—the third base camp—and return to the starting point the same day, it can be extremely tiring and is only recommended if you are pressed for time. The trail from the river will take you up an incline for about 300m, before you walk a short distance along

Trekkers en route to Moti Jheel



NARENDRA BISHT

NARENDRA BISHT



View of the Noa-Dihing River from the forest rest house in Deban

a ridge to the picturesque Haldibari campsite. Set up an overnight camp and listen to the sounds of the jungle—the birds calling out to each other, the hoolock gibbons sounding off their warning calls and the rustle of leaves in the wind.

The next campsite, Hornbill Glade, is only 5km away, but the path that leads to it is enchanting.

Tigers aren't easy to spot

in Namdapha National Park. Even today, the Forest Department finds it an uphill task to set up monitoring and image-capturing devices in order to determine how many tigers there are. So, while you may not run into a tiger during your time there, remember that you are on foot, so take due caution in these areas ■

BY SHOBHNA IYER

INPUTS BY SHREYA SARKAR

LEGEND

NH	National Highway
NP	National Park
Opp	Opposite
PO	Post
TE	Taxes extra

Accommodation type?

Spot these flags

HERITAGE

Special Hotel needs?

Spot these flags

SPA TREKS

ANINI STD 03801

Belly Lodge

Location Main Town, Adjacent to Circuit House Cell 09612744941 Tariff ₹1,000 Facilities Kitchen, cook and caretaker, food on request

IN ALINEY

Aliney Tourist Lodge

Location Aliney LG Cell 094366 53181, 09402659633 Rooms 3 wooden cottages (12 bedded) Tariff ₹1,200 Facilities Kitchen, cook and caretaker, food on request, attached bath

Ranli Lodge

Location Arzoo Circle, Ranli Cell 09436875102, 09366709589, 089742 99357 Rooms 3 Tariff ₹500 per person Facilities Kitchen, attached bath

IN HUNLI STD 03803

Circuit House

Location Hunli Town, 90 km from Roing Cell 09402024536 Rooms 6 Tariff ₹250 for Govt officials, ₹2,000, others Facilities Caretaker, food on request

Eze Breeze Tower FRH

Location Hunli Town Cell

09402024536 (DFO) Rooms 4 Tariff ₹1,000 Facilities Kitchen, caretaker, food on request, attached bath

Inspection Bungalow

Location 100 mtr from Circuit House Cell 09402024536 Rooms 3 Tariff ₹250 for Govt officials, ₹2,000 Facilities Caretaker, food on request, attached bath

BOMDILA STD 03782

Anu Homestay

Location Sera Road, Near BSNL Office Cell 08729895222 Rooms 5 Tariff ₹1,100-1,300 Facilities Meals on prior request, attached bath, geyser

Atisha Guest House

Location Main Market Tel 222254 Cell 09402454991 Rooms 12 Tariff ₹1,800-2,500 Facilities Meals on prior request, TV

Note: No room service, guests have to come to the dining hall.

Dhe Dhen Gakhyl HOMESTAY

Location Near GRL Monastery Tel 222757 Rooms 7 Tariff ₹1,900-3,500 Facilities Restaurant, room service, TV

Hotel Dilli Phu

Location Hill Top Tel 223947 Cell 06909448824 W hoteldilliphu.com Rooms 7 Tariff ₹1,750-2,000 Facilities Restaurant, Internet, TV

Hotel Elysium

Location Nr DC Office, NH 229, Main Road Tel 223156 Rooms 15 Tariff ₹1,900-3,900 Facilities Restaurant, room service, power backup, TV

Hotel Hill Plaza

Location Main Market Cell 097744 30499, 09436221328 Rooms 6 Tariff ₹1,500 Facilities Restaurant, TV

Hotel Nambrog

Location Near PWD Garage, NH 229, Near Petrol Pump Cell 07640911988 Rooms 15 Tariff ₹1,500-2,700 Facilities Restaurant, room service

Hotel Siphiyang Phong

Location Main Road Tel 222286 W hotelsiphiyangphong.com Rooms 24 Tariff ₹1,300-5,000; TE Facilities Restaurant, parking, room service

Hotel Tashi Den

Location Near SBI Tel 223856 Cell 09402474304 Rooms 10 Tariff ₹1,000-1,200 Facilities Room service, TV

Hotel Tsepal Yangjom

Location Near Himalayan Holidays, Main Bazaar Line Tel 223473, 223674 W hoteltsepalyangjom.in Rooms 24

Tariff ₹1,800-4,500; TE Facilities Restaurant, Internet, room service, TV

Lungta Residency

Location Centre Point Tel 222555 Cell 094026566363 Rooms 16 Tariff ₹1,430-3,575; TE Facilities Restaurant, room service, TV

Samurai Lodge

Location Main Market Cell 094360 96227 Rooms 6 Tariff ₹600 Facilities Lodging only, attached bath, TV

DIRANG STD 03780

Gonpalok Homestay

Location Rungkhung Cell 087310 39556, 09774531176 Rooms 6 Tariff ₹1,500-2,500 Facilities Meals on prior request, attached bath, TV

Hotel Dirang Resort

Location Near Medical Ground Cell 07630806446, 09436238290 Rooms 4 Tariff ₹1,200 Facilities Kitchen, TV

Hotel Pemaling

Location Near petrol pump, Narangchilo, PO Dirang, West Kameng Dist Cell 08258919962 W hotelpemaling.com Rooms 26 Tariff ₹2,000-5,000 Facilities Restaurant, room service

Hotel Snow Lion

Location Main Market Cell 08414995556 Rooms 27 Tariff ₹1,500-1,800 Facilities Basic accommodation, meals on prior request

Lanjom Homestay

Location Village Sangti Cell 082589
78112 Rooms 2 Tariff ₹1,500
Facilities Meals on prior request,
attached bath

Mandala Birding Lodge **BIRDING**

Location 22 km from Dirang, West
Kameng District **W** eaglenestbirding.
com Rooms 4 Tariff ₹5,500; TE, with
meals Delhi Reservations Cell
09999030436, 09911336281

Norphel Retreat

Location Rungkhung Cell 087310
46566, 07629841995 **W** norphelretreat.
in Rooms 34 Tariff ₹2,500-7,000 Faci-
lities Restaurant, travel help, parking

Tourist Lodge Arunachal Tourism

Location Near petrol pump Cell
08729906143 **W** arunachaltourism.com
Rooms 4 Tariff ₹1,200 Facilities
Restaurant, room service

DOIMUKH**Rajiv Gandhi University
Guest House (RGU)**

Location Rono Hills, DoimukhTel
0360-2277321, 2277253 Cell 094026
01174 Rooms 21, suites 4 Tariff ₹500-
800 Facilities Mess, room service, TV

ITANAGAR STD 0360**Anne Hotel**

Location Sector C, Bank Tinali Tel
2211289 Cell 09366706847 Rooms
16 Tariff ₹800-2,000 Facilities

Restaurant, room service, geyser, TV
Note: 4 rooms with common bath
₹800, room with attached bath

Arun Subansiri Hotel

Location Zero Point, Tinali Tel
2212677, 2212806 Cell 09485227372
Rooms 26 Tariff ₹1,900-2,700 Facili-
ties Restaurant, laundry, room service

Hotel Blue Pine

Location Near APST Bus Station,
Main Ganga Market Tel 2211118,
2212042, 2214204, 2211377 Cell
08732075315 **W** hotelbluepine.in
Rooms 32 Tariff ₹600-2,500 Facili-
ties Restaurant, Internet, geyser, TV
Note: A few rooms have a common
bath

Hotel Dawn-Land

Location Near Akash Deep Market,
Ganga Tel 2291756, 2291707 Cell
09856042962 Rooms 7 Tariff ₹2,100-
2,500 Facilities Restaurant, bar

Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok

Location Near All India Radio, Sector
C Tel 2212626-27/ 31 **W** theashok
group.com Rooms 19 Tariff ₹4,650-
7,500; TE Facilities Restaurant, bar,
Internet, laundry, room service, TV

Hotel Kosing

Location C Sector, Near Petrol Pump
Tel 2213074 Cell 07005110512 Rooms
23 Tariff ₹1,200-2,500; TE Facilities
Restaurant, Internet, room service, TV

Hotel Pybss

Location D Sector, Near Civil
Secretariat Tel 2292114, 2292178
Cell 07085873975 **W** pybsshotel.
com Rooms 45 Tariff ₹3,800-7,000
Facilities Restaurant, gym, Internet

Hotel SC Continental

Location Near Old Polytechnic
College, Sector C, Vivek Vihar Cell
09436075875 **W** hotelscontinental.
com Rooms 23 Tariff ₹3,600-9,500
Facilities Restaurant, bar, Internet, TV

Hotel Tsangpo

Location T T Marg, VIP Road, Bank
Tinali Tel 2290724-25 Cell 087877
28574 Rooms 32 Tariff ₹1,344-2,688
Facilities Restaurant, room service, TV

Hotel Todo

Location B Sector, Near Mithin Gate
(NH 52A) Tel 2291875 2290347 Cell
09774674323 **W** hoteltodoitanagar.
com Rooms 20 Tariff ₹3,500-4,950
Facilities Restaurant, bar, Internet, TV

Waii International Hotel **SPA**

Location Near State Museum/ Gompa
Tel 2291471-73, 2008002 **W** waiiinter-
national.com Rooms 61 Tariff ₹5,500-
15,000 Facilities Restaurant, Internet

JAIRAMPUR STD 03800**Circuit House** **PWD**

Location Jairampur Town Cell 070859
98862 (ADC) Rooms 8 Tariff ₹500
Facilities Kitchen, cook food on request

Forest Inspection Bungalow

Location Jairampur Town Cell 070859
98862 (ADC) Rooms 2 Tariff ₹1,500
Facilities Kitchen, cook, food on request

Guest House

Location Jairampur Town Rooms 8
Tariff ₹500-1,500 Facilities Kitchen,
cook, food on request, TV

MAYUDIA STD 03801**Inspection Bungalow (IB)**

Location Mayudia Tel 09774748828
Rooms 6 Tariff ₹1,500 Facilities
Lodging, food on request

Mayudiya Coffee House

Location 52 km from Roing Cell
09774748828 Rooms 8 Tariff ₹1,500
Facilities Lodging, food on request

MECHUKA STD 03783**Almost Heritage Homestay****HERITAGE**

Location Mechuka Cell 09402889576
Rooms 6 Tariff ₹800-1,200 Facilities
Meals on prior request, 3 rooms have
common bath

Gyaboo's Traditional Lodge

Location Mechuka Cell 09436074877
Rooms 8 Tariff ₹1,500-3,600, with meals
Facilities Dining area, attached bath

Tourist Lodge

Location Mechuka Cell 09436600764
Rooms 20 Tariff ₹1,000-3,000 Facili-
ties Meals provided on prior request

MIAO STD 03807**Circuit House**

Location Miao Town **Cell** 09436229607
Location (ADC) **Rooms** 4 **Tariff** ₹600 **Facilities** Kitchen, cook, food on request

Eco Tourist Forest Guest House

Location Engineering Colony Upper Miao **Cell** 09436228763, 08974141614, 08257994436 **Rooms** 4 **Tariff** ₹800-1,000; TE **Facilities** Restaurant

IN KHONSA STD 03786**Circuit House**

Location Khonsa Town **Cell** 07086987287, 07641019177 (Circle Officer) **Rooms** 8, VVIP 4 **Tariff** ₹1,000 (Indian) -1,500 (foreigners) per bed **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, caretaker

Hotel Raj

Location Cinema Hall Road, Tirap **Cell** 08732806289, 08730074708 **Rooms** 10 **Tariff** ₹500-1,000 **Facilities** Restaurant, travel help, room service

NAHARLAGUN STD 0360**Hotel Achi Ama**

Location B Sector, Prem Nagar Road, Behind Tomorida Hospital **Tel** 2350988 **Rooms** 16 **Tariff** ₹1,000-1,500 **Facilities** Restaurant, room service, TV

Hotel Barapani Residency

Location Near Spun Pipe Factory **Tel** 2351022 www.hotelbarapaniresidency.com **Rooms** 15 **Tariff** ₹2,000-2,450; TE **Facilities** Basic accommodation, TV

Hotel Chandini

Location E Sector, Opp Rajiv Gandhi Stadium **Tel** 2350776 **Rooms** 35 **Tariff** ₹990-1,680 **Facilities** Restaurant, travel help, room service, TV

Hotel Court Street

Location D Sector, Near High Court **Tel** 2350570 **Rooms** 9 **Tariff** ₹2,500; TE **Facilities** Restaurant, room service

Hotel Rajhans

Location Barapani Bazaar, Sect D, Near Teen Hathi Chowk **Tel** 2244400 **Rooms** 22 **Tariff** ₹900-1,800 **Facilities** Restaurant, travel help, room service, TV

Hotel Rajdhani

Location E Sector, Near Kali Mandir **Tel** 2350577 **Rooms** 13 **Tariff** ₹1,000-2,000 **Facilities** Basic accommodation, travel help, room service, TV

Hotel River View Inn **SPA**

Location NH 52A, Near Barapani Bridge **Tel** 2351080, 2350064 **Cell** 09856027234 **Rooms** 19 **Tariff** ₹1,680-4,500 **Facilities** Restaurant, TV

State Guest House

Location D Sector **Cell** 09402690313 **Rooms** 4 **Tariff** ₹1,000 **Facilities** Caretaker can prepare food on request **TIP** Mainly for Govt Officials. **Tariff** ₹500 for Govt Officials, ₹1,000 others

Tosum Hotel

Location Sector A **Tel** 2247228

Rooms 17 **Tariff** ₹1,344-2,352

Facilities Restaurant, TV

YT Hotel

Location E Sector, Near Town Baptist Church **Tel** 2351477, 2351424 **Cell** 08729838030 www.ythotel.in **Rooms** 47 **Tariff** ₹1,700-4,130 **Facilities** Restaurant, Internet, travel help, TV

NAMDAPHA NATIONAL PARK**STD 03807****IN DEBAN****Forest Rest House**

Location Deban, Namdapha Tiger Reserve **Email** fdnamdapha@gmail.com **Rooms** 4, dorms 1 **Tariff** ₹300/- per room (plus surcharge) **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request

TIP Not approachable during monsoons. Autumn and Spring are the peak season, so book 2 weeks ahead

Namdapha Jungle Camp **FRH****TREKS** **BIRDING**

Location 7 km from NP entry gate **Cell** 09436228763, 08974141614, 08257994436 **Rooms** 6 **Tariff** ₹1,500-1,800; TE **Facilities** Kitchen, dining area, food on request, guides, trekking, bird watching, tribal visit

NAMSAI STD 03806**Circuit House**

Location Namsai Town **Tel** 03806-262228 **Cell** 09958933945 (DC) **Rooms** 5, suites 2 **Tariff** ₹1,500, suites ₹2,400 **Facilities** Kitchen, cook, attached bath

Forest Rest House

Location Forest Colony **Tel** 262223 **Cell** 09436635664 **Rooms** 5, dorms 1 (8 bedded) **Tariff** ₹600, dorms per bed ₹300 **Facilities** Kitchen, cook

Golden Pagoda Eco Resort

Location Noi Chenam, Tengapani, Namsai **Cell** 08730081650, 09402788362 **Rooms** 8 cottages, suites 4, dorms 5 (4 bedded each) **Tariff** ₹2,500, suites ₹3,000, dorm per bed ₹600 **Facilities** Restaurant, attached bath

PAKKE TIGER RESERVE**Inspection Bungalow**

Location Inside the Forest, adjacent to West Bank Forest Rest House **Cell** 09436093632 (Range Officer) **Rooms** 2, dorms 1 (6 bedded) **Tariff** ₹400, dorm per bed ₹100 **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, caretaker **For Reservations** DFO **Tel** 03778-200016 **Cell** 09436042859

Khari Forest Rest House

Location Inside the forest, 12 km from West Bank forest Rest House **Cell** 09436093632 (Range Officer) **Rooms** 2 **Tariff** ₹400 **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, caretaker **For Reservations** DFO **Tel** 03778-200016 **Cell** 09436042859

Pakke Jungle Camp

Location Mabusu 1, Seijusa, Pakke kessang **Cell** 09436200628, 07086103282 **Rooms** 4 cottages **Tariff**

₹4,000; TE with meals **Facilities** Restaurant, guided safaris/ game drives, guided nature walks, village tours

Upper Dekoroi Rest House

Location Inside the Forest **Cell** 09436093632 (Range Officer) **Rooms** 2 **Tariff** ₹400 **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, caretaker, room service, attached bath **For Reservations** DFO **Tel** 03778-200016 **Cell** 09436042859

West Bank Forest Rest House

Location Inside the Forest Close to the Gate **Cell** 09436093632 (Range Officer) **Rooms** 4, cottages 2 **Tariff** ₹400, cottages ₹600 **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, caretaker **For Reservations** DFO **Tel** 03778-200016 **Cell** 09436042859

PARSHURAM KUND

Parsuram Kund Tourist Bhavan

Location Parsuram Kund Bridge, NH52 **Cell** 08974878398, 09402676281, 08413833453 **Rooms** 10 **Tariff** ₹1,000-2,500 **Facilities** Kitchen, cook, dining hall, attached bath in VIP rooms

PASIGHAT STD 0368

Circuit House

Location High Region Area **Cell** 09612249408, 09612561722 **Rooms** 8 **Tariff** ₹500-1,000 for Govt officials, ₹2,000 for Private **Facilities** Kitchen, cook, food on request **Bookings** Contact Harnam Singh, **Cell** 09612249408

Donyi Hango Resort **TENTS**

Location Tebo Village, East Siang, NH 52, 5 km from Pasighat **Tel** 222324 **Cell** 09436043393, 07005586217 **Rooms** 7 tents **Tariff** ₹2,200-3,000 **Facilities** Kitchen, dining room

Forest Rest House

Location Near Asha Diagnostic Centre, Town Area **Tel** 2222210 **Cell** 09436621222 (Range Officer) **Rooms** 4 **Tariff** ₹400-1,200 **Facilities** Kitchen, cook, food on request

Hotel Aane

Location Banskota, Pasighat Bazaar **Tel** 2222777 **Cell** 09863348385, 09436639648 **Rooms** 17, suites 2 **Tariff** ₹1,400-2,300; TE **Facilities** Restaurant, Internet, room service, TV

Hotel Siang

Location Main Market **Cell** 07005645929 **Rooms** 28 **Tariff** ₹600-1,700 **Facilities** Kitchen with cook

Inspection Bungalow

Location High Region Area **Cell** 09612249408, 09612561722 **Rooms** 4 **Tariff** ₹360 for Govt officials, ₹1,200 for Private **Facilities** Kitchen, cook, food on request **Bookings** Contact Harnam Singh, **Cell** 09612249408

Narmi Homestay

Location Runne Village **Cell** 09862911689, 09402474991 **Email** otoktamuksiram@gmail.com **Rooms** 1

Tariff ₹1,500 per person with 2 meals **Facilities** Kitchen, dining area

Siang Guest House

Location High Region Area **Cell** 09612249408, 09612561722 **Rooms** 7 **Tariff** ₹500-1,000 for Govt officials, ₹2,000 for Private **Facilities** Kitchen, cook **Bookings** Contact Harnam Singh, **Cell** 09612249408

The Serene Abode

Location Banskota, East Siang **Tel** 2222382 **Cell** 07005087986 www.sereneabodehotel.com **Rooms** 16, suites 3 **Tariff** ₹2,950-5,310

IN ALONG STD 03783

Circuit House

Location Near DC office **Tel** 222221 **Rooms** 13 **Tariff** ₹600- 1,000 (Indians) 900-1,500 (Foreigners) **Facilities** Caretaker can prepare food on request

Hotel Aagam

Location Nehru Chowk, Paktu, Aalo **Tel** 223640 **Cell** 09436696028 **Rooms** 12 **Tariff** ₹800-1,200 **Facilities** Restaurant, attached bath, hot water

Hotel Toshi Palace

Location Opp State Transport Office, Aalo **Tel** 222838 **Cell** 09436056379 **Rooms** 13 **Tariff** ₹700-1,800 **Facilities** Restaurant

Hotel West

Location Medical Road **Tel** 222411

Cell 07627965913 **Rooms** 28 **Tariff** ₹1,300-2,000 **Facilities** Restaurant

PWD IB

Location Near DC office **Tel** 222221 **Rooms** 11 **Tariff** ₹600- 1,000 (Indians) 900-1,500 (Foreigners) **Facilities** Caretaker can prepare food on prior request

ROING STD 03803

Circuit House

Location Town **Cell** 09612744941 **Rooms** 9 **Tariff** ₹1,000 **Facilities** Kitchen, cook and caretaker, food on request, attached bath

DS Hotel & Resort

Location Lower Dibang Valley **Tel** 03803-222678 **Cell** 09436048161 **Email** dshotelresort@gmail.com **Rooms** 9, dorms 1 (10 bedded) **Tariff** ₹1,600-2,500, dorm bed ₹500 **Facilities** Restaurant, Internet, room service

Hotel Siwundi Winds

Location Ezengo Village, Dev Pani Riverside **Cell** 08258889023, 08732811959, 09774048395 **Rooms** 9, suites 1, traditional rooms 4 **Tariff** ₹1,344, suites ₹2,240, traditional rooms ₹2,744 **Facilities** Restaurant, laundry, TV

MIMU Hotel

Location Lower Market **Tel** 222698 **Cell** 09862857330 www.arunachaltourism.com **Rooms** 40 **Tariff** ₹500-1,500 **Facilities** Restaurant, Internet, room service, attached bath, TV

HOMESTAYS

BHALUKPONG**Bham Homestay**

Location Thembang Village, Dirang
Cell 08729930222, 09436635835

Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹700** **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, room service, parking, geyser, heater, common bath

Dirkhipa Homestay

Location Thembang Village, Dirang
Cell 08729930222, 09436635835
Room 2 **Tariff ₹700** **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, geyser, attached bath

Khaje Homestay

Location Thembang Village, Dirang
Cell 08729930222, 09436635835
Rooms 3 **Tariff ₹1,000** **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, room service, parking, geyser, heater, attached bath

Yangdol Homestay

Location Jigaon Village, Rupa, West Kameng
Cell 09402071593, 09402928011
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹1,000** **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, room service, geyser, heater, attached bath

Yeshi Homestay

Location Tipi Village, Near Kameng River
Cell 08415850764, 08731978022
Rooms 3 **Tariff ₹1,300-1,600** **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, room service

Yul Pema Chhen Homestay

Location Thembang Village, Dirang
Cell 08729930222, 09436635835

Rooms 2 ₹1,000 **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, parking, geyser, heater

NAMSAI**Greenview Homestay**

Location behind Higher Secondary, Namsai
Cell 09436637187
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹3,000** with all meals **Facilities** Kitchen, vehicle for sightseeing

Hewli Homestay

Location Behind Buddhist Monastery, Namsai
Cell 09862708997, 09436049977
Rooms 3 **Tariff ₹2,500** with two meals **Facilities** Kitchen, traditional cuisine, vehicles for sightseeing

Sangtini Homestay

Location Behind Buddhist Monastery, Namsai
Cell 08794089075, 09366604048
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹2,500-3,000** **Facilities** Kitchen, parking, pic and drop, common bath

PASIGHAT STD 791102**Ane Gumin Homestay**

Location Tigra Mirbu, Pasighat, East Siang
Cell 07005059493, 08731991784
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹1,600** per person, with two meals **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, common bath

K Gumin Homestay

Location Village Mebo, Romdum
Cell 09436053509, 08729989123
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹1,600** per person, with two meals **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, common bath

Nana Homestay

Location Village Takilalung, Pasighat
Cell 07085858003
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹1,800** per person, with two meals **Facilities** Kitchen, common bath

Narmi Homestay

Location Runne Village, East Siang
Cell 09862911689
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹1,600** per person, with two meals **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, room service, common bath

Takar Homestay

Location Tebo Village, East Siang, NH 52
Tel 222324
Cell 09436043393, 07005586217
Rooms 4 **Tariff ₹2,800-3,000** **Facilities** Kitchen, dining room

Pineapple Homestay

Location Village Napit, Pasighat, East Siang
Cell 09862571827

Tuniyang Homestay

Location Village Takilalung, Pasighat
Cell 09436057717

ALONG STD 03783**Ori Home Stay**

Location Ori Village
Cell 07638933767, 08424802002
Rooms 8 **Tariff ₹1,500** per person, with all meals **Facilities** Kitchen, local guide, dining hall, room service, attached bath

ROING STD 03803**Dibang Valley Jungle Camp**

Location 12 km to Miuliati, Lower

Dibang Valley
Tel 0353-2433683
Cell 09733000442
W help tourism.net
Rooms 4, tents 6 **Tariff ₹5,000**; TE with all meals, tents ₹3,500; TE with all meals **Facilities** Restaurant, laundry, room service, attached bath, TV

Zaktum Notko – Artist Camp

Location Lower Dibang Valley, Bomjir, 17km from Roing
Cell 08258829810, 09402054057
Rooms 6 cottages **Tariff ₹2,500-3,500** **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, dining hall, attached bath
TIP Also called Dambuk Homestay

TAWANG STD 03794**Jambey Villa Home**

Location Urgelling (4 kms)
Cell 08414987117, 09436045988
Rooms 6 **Tariff ₹1,800-3,000** **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, dining hall, geyser, heater, attached bath

Lemberdung Home Stay

Location 8 km from Tawang Market
Cell 09436051009
Rooms 3 **Tariff ₹1,500-2,000** **Facilities** Kitchen, food on request, dining hall, geyser, heaters, attached bath

ZIRO STD 03788**Ngunu Ziro**

Location Siro Village, Ziro (3 kms from main Ziro Town)
Cell 09436047891, 09856209494
Rooms 2 **Tariff ₹1,200-2,000** per person, with two meals **Facilities** Kitchen, dining hall, parking, geyser, heater, attached bath

SAGALEE STD 03809

Circuit House (PWD)
Location Cona, Sagalee **Cell**
 09436637208 **Rooms 4 Tariff** ₹900
Facilities Caretaker, attached bath

Inspection Bungalow (PWD)

Location Cona, Sagalee **Cell**
 09774949532, 09436669097 **Rooms 4**
Tariff ₹300 (Govt), ₹600 (Indian), ₹900
 (Foreigners) **Facilities** Kitchen, caretaker

IN KHEEL**Inspection Bungalow (PWD)**

Location Kheel **Cell** 09774143587
Rooms 5 Tariff 600 **Facilities**
 Caretaker, attached bath

TAWANG STD 03794**Bumla Inn**

Location Old Market, Near General
 Parade Ground **Cell** 08729902020,
 08794494422 **Rooms 8 Tariff** ₹1,500-
 2,500 **Facilities** Restaurant, room
 service, TV
Note: 2 rooms have common bath

Circuit House

Location Near Gas Agency, Old
 Market **Tel** 224580, 222221 **Rooms 12**
Tariff ₹1,000-2,000 **Facilities** Care-
 taker can prepare meals on request

Forest Rest House

Location Near Circuit House **Tel**
 222041 **Rooms 4 Tariff** ₹700-1,000
Facilities Caretaker can prepare meals
Contact Caretaker **Cell** 08258000565

Forest Eco Lodge Jang

Location Near Jang Waterfall **Tel**
 222041 **Rooms 4 Tariff** ₹700-1,000
Facilities Caretaker can prepare meals
Contact Caretaker **Cell** 08258000565

Hotel Buddha

Location Old Bazaar Lane **Tel** 222954
Cell 09436872954 **Rooms 8 Tariff**
 ₹1,000-1,500 **Facilities** Restaurant

Dolma Khangsar Guest House

Location Near Monastery, Gompa
 Road **Tel** 223271 **Cell** 09436252319
 www.dolmahotels.com **Rooms 14 Tariff**
 ₹1,750-3,250 **Facilities** Restaurant

Hotel Dolma Chhinkar

Location Old Market **Tel** 223271 **Cell**
 09436252319, 09436051011 www.
 dolmahotels.com **Rooms 12 Tariff**
 ₹1,750-2,450 **Facilities** Restaurant

Hotel Gakyi Khang Zhang

Location Near DC Office **Tel** 224647-
 48 www.gkztawang.com **Rooms 27 Tariff**
 ₹1,500-3,900; **TE Facilities** Restaurant,
 bar, discotheque, travel help

Hotel Gorichen

Location Old Market **Tel** 224151
Rooms 13 Tariff ₹1,000-1,500
Facilities Basic accommodation,
 attached bath

Hotel Mon Paradise

Location Nehru Market **Tel** 222443,
 222039 **Cell** 09436825931

www.hotelmonparadise.com **Rooms 19**
Tariff ₹2,300-3,850; **TE Facilities**
 Restaurant, heater/ geysers, TV

Hotel Mount View

Location Main Road, Nehru Market
Tel 224304 **Cell** 07642829448 **Rooms**
 8 **Tariff** ₹1,550-2,000; **TE Facilities**
 Meals provided on request

Hotel Nefa

Location Nehru Market **Tel** 222419
Cell 09436417492 www.hotelnefa.
 weebly.com **Rooms 15 Tariff** ₹800-
 3,500 **Facilities** Restaurant, TV

Hotel Samdrup-Ling

Location Old Market **Cell**
 09436875279, 08258852232 **Rooms**
 13 **Tariff** ₹1,200-1,500 **Facilities** Basic
 accommodation, room service

Hotel Siddhartha

Location Opp NHPC Office, Nehru
 Market **Tel** 222515 **Cell** 09436635998
Rooms 7 Tariff ₹1,500-1,800
Facilities Restaurant

Hotel Tawang Holiday

Location Opp SBI, Old Market **Tel**
 222030 **Cell** 08794554003 www.
 hoteltawangholidays.com **Rooms 13**
Tariff ₹1,550-2,550 **Facilities** Restau-
 rant, Internet, heaters, geysers, TV

Hotel ZAX Star

Location Craft Centre Colony **Cell**
 09862220859, 07085221885 **Rooms**

29 **Tariff** ₹2,000-4,000 **Facilities**
 Restaurant, geysers, room service, TV

Monyul Lodge

Location Old Market, Near Taxi Stand
Tel 222196 **Cell** 09402910061 www.
 monyullodgetawang.in **Rooms 14**
Tariff ₹1,000-3,000 **Facilities**
 Restaurant, parking, power backup

Tawang Inn

Location Nehru Market **Cell**
 09402066004, 08415075199 **Rooms**
 11 **Tariff** ₹1,000-2,500; **TE Facilities**
 Restaurant, parking, hot water, TV

Tourist Lodge

Location Near Telephone Exchange,
 Old Bazaar **Tel** 222359 www.arunachal
 tourism.com **Rooms 30 Tariff**
 ₹600-2,000 **Facilities** Restaurant
Metro Reservations See *Itanagar*
Fast Facts page 168

TEZU STD 03804**Circuit House**

Location Near Lohit House, Lohit **Cell**
 09862367006 **Rooms 8**, dorms 1 (10
 bedded) **Tariff** ₹2,000, dorm per bed
 ₹200 **Facilities** Kitchen, caretaker

Duda Lodge

Location Near Circuit House **Cell**
 07085387522, 08415058747 **Rooms 10**
Tariff ₹700-1,100 **Facilities** Caretaker

Forest Guest House

Location Inside Botanical Garden,

Lohit Tel 222258, 222256, 223795
Cell 08131891484, 09436289478
Rooms 3 Tariff ₹500-1,200 Facilities
Kitchen, caretaker, food on request, TV

Hotel East India & Hotel Highway
Location Near Airtel tower Cell
09435035802, 07085203007 Rooms
18 Tariff ₹600-1,000 Facilities
Restaurant, gym, room service

Hotel Highway
Location Main Road Tezu Cell
09435035802, 07085203007,
08837408667 Rooms 17 Tariff ₹999-
1,999 Facilities Restaurant, geyser,
room service, attached bath

Hotel Oshin
Location Main Bazaar Road, Tezu Tel
03804 222776 Cell 09612540933,
08415090334 Rooms 15 Tariff ₹450-
700 Facilities Restaurant, TV

Hotel Taboka
Location Medical Road Cell
08974655222, 08974755777 Rooms
23, suites 2, dorms 3 (15 bedded)
Tariff ₹600-2,500, dorm bed ₹200
Facilities Restaurant, Internet, laundry,
travel help, room service, TV

Shivam Hotels
Location Gandhi Market, Tezu Tel
224610 Cell 08259812324,
08256974014 Rooms 15 Tariff ₹600-
1,500 Facilities Restaurant, Internet,
laundry, travel help, room service, TV

TUTING STD 03799

Circuit House
Location Main town area of Tuting
Cell 09436256133, 09774251346
Rooms 5 Tariff ₹1,000 Facilities
Kitchen, cook, attached bath

YINGKIONG STD 03777

Circuit House Yingkiang
Location Upper market Opp Police
Station Tel 03777-222228 Cell
09402475260 Rooms 6 Tariff ₹1,000
per bed (Indians), ₹1,500 per bed
(Foreigners) Facilities Kitchen, cook,
attached bath

Hotel Baap
Location Upper Market near general
ground Cell 09402715071 Rooms 7
Tariff ₹800-1,200 Facilities Restaurant

Hotel Libang
Location Upper Market, Opp SBI Cell
09402617428 Rooms 10 Tariff ₹600-
1,500 Facilities Restaurant, TV

Hotel Palzor
Location Lower Market near Airfield
Cell 09402820009 Rooms 7 Tariff
₹600-1,000 Facilities Lodging, food
on request, attached bath

Inspection Bungalow
Location Forest Colony Cell
09436058103 Rooms 4, suites 1
Tariff ₹300 per bed (Indians), ₹600 per
bed (Foreigners) Facility Kitchen, cook,
not all rooms attached with bath

WAKRO


Eco-Resort Wakro
Location Chongkham, Lohit Cell
08415016332, 08732019469,
08415895451  wakroecoresort.in
Rooms 4, dorms 1 (5 bedded) Tariff
₹2,500-3,000 dorm per bed ₹600
Facilities Kitchen, attached bath

ZIRO STD 03788


Arunachal Guest House
Location Behind DC Office, Lower
Subansiri, Hapoli Cell 08794668775
Rooms 7 Tariff ₹800-1,500; TE
Facilities Restaurant, attached bath
Note: They have 17 rooms, out of
which 10 are let out to the DC

Circuit House
Location Lower Subansiri Tel 224255
 arunachalipr.gov.in Rooms 6 Tariff
₹Facilities Caretaker can prepare
meals on request
Note: Tariff ₹1,000 for Arunachali
Govt Officials, and ₹1,500 for others



















Dogindo Homestay
Location Hari Village, Old Ziro Cell
09615239954 Rooms 5 Tariff ₹1,200,
per person, with two meals Facilities
Meals on request, attached bath

Hotel Blue Pine
Location Near Pai Gate, Quarry Line,
Hapoli Tel 224812, 225223 Cell 080140
59529  hotelbluepine.in Rooms 30
Tariff ₹1,320-4,000 Facilities Restaurant

Siiro Resort
Location Siiro Village, PO Hapoli Tel
2251123 Cell 08014050952  siiro
resort.com Rooms 10 Tariff ₹1,200-
3,500 Facilities Restaurant, non-
alcoholic bar, library

Ziro Palace Inn
Location Lower Subansiri Dist, Opp Ziro
Music Festival Ground, Biirri Village Cell
09774306367  ziro palaceinn.com
Rooms 10 Tariff ₹2,499-7,000 Faci-
lities Restaurant, room service

→ Route Planner Legend

	National Highway		Ferry
	NH Number		Railway Station
	Road		Airport
	State Boundary		Fort
	International Boundary		Camp
	Train Route		Temple
	Destination		Bird Sanctuary
	Main Places		National Park/WLS
	Other Places		National Park/WLS

TOURIST OFFICES

INFORMATION **i** INFORMATION & BOOKING **i b**

Arunachal Tourism
W arunachaltourism.com

ITANAGAR

Department of
 Tourism **i**
 Govt. of Arunachal
 Pradesh, Itanagar
 Cell 08787619774

METRO/ CITY OFFICES

GUWAHATI

Department of
 Tourism **i**
 GS Road, Rukmani
 Village, Opp Mansa
 Mandir, Dispur, Assam
 Tel 0361-2229506
 Cell 7086026788

NEW DELHI

Department of

Tourism **i**
 Arunachal Bhawan,
 Kautilya Marg,
 Chanakyapuri, New
 Delhi
 Tel 011-23013915,
 23013956

TOUR OPERATORS

BOMDILA STD 03782

Himalayan Holidays

Location ABC Bldg.
 Main Market, Bomdila
 Tel 03782-222017 Cell
 08794891760 **W**

himalayan-holidays.net
 Services Car rental, tours,
 hotels, permits Desti-
 nations All North-East

ITANAGAR STD 0360

Duyu Tours & Travels

Location Vivek Vihar,
 College Road, Itanagar
 Tel 0360-216450 Cell

09436044905 **W**
 arunachaltours.com
 Services Car rental,
 tours, hotels Desti-
 nations All North-East

NAHARLAGUN

Ravi Travel & Tour Inc

Location A Sector,
 Naharlagun (Near Old
 Cinema Hall), Dist
 Papumpare Cell
 08257894003- 04
 Services Hotel/Air/ Rail
 bookings Destinations
 All Arunachal Pradesh

PASIGHAT STD 0368

DONYI HANGO TOURS

– Rafting / Trekking
 Location Tebo Village,
 NH 52, Tel 222324 Cell
 09436043393 **W**
 arunachaldonyihango.
 com Services Tours

ROING STD 03803

The Mishmi Hills Trekking Co.

Location 2 kms from
 Roing Cell 09436875102
 Services Adventure Tours
 Destinations Arunachal

PERMITS

Travel Permits for Indian Travellers

Though an Inner Line Permit (ILP) is mandatory for Indian citizens to enter Arunachal Pradesh, getting it is a simpler process than it is for foreigners, and with fewer restricted areas. Every district in Arunachal Pradesh has a similar administrative structure. Above the village and local authorities are Circle Officers, Additional Divisional Commissioners (ADC) in the bigger villages and towns, and above that the Divisional Commissioner (DC). It helps to decide on the districts you are likely to visit while planning your trip itself, because the ILP is generally issued only a few districts at a time, and often not valid if you cross over to another district which isn't on your ILP, making spontaneous travel complicated for first-timers. To renew, extend your ILP or add a different district on your pass, if you don't choose the online route for whatever reason (such as temporarily not having internet or electricity), you'd need to submit a written application to the local DC or ADC. These offices are of course, closed on public holidays. Keep passport-sized photographs and photocopies of your ID handy

Apply for ILPs online here:
www.arunachalilp.com

Travel Permits for Foreign Travellers

Foreign tourists in groups of 2 or more (single for travel to Tawang and Ziro) need to apply for a Protected Areas Permit (PAP), which costs US\$30 (valid for 30 days). You'd need to apply for these through local tour operators. PAP is issued from the following offices to foreign travellers:

1. Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi
2. Office of Resident Commissioner, Arunachal Bhawan, New Delhi
3. Office of Deputy Resident Commissioner, Arunachal Bhawan, Kolkata and Guwahati.
4. Department of Home, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
5. Department of Tourism, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.

PAPs aren't issued to tourists in certain sensitive border areas such as some parts of Changlang, Tirap, Longding districts. Check if where you want to travel in Arunachal is a no-go zone for

tourists. Researchers, scientists, etc might be able to travel to these parts, however in special cases, provided they have received a local invitation and have proper projects in these places.

Hardcopy ILP applications are also received and issued by the following offices

1. Delhi

The Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
Tel: 011-23013915

2. Kolkata

The Deputy Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, CE-109, Sector-1, Salt Lake City, Kolkata.
Tel 033-23341243, 23589865
Cell 09830822512

3. Guwahati

The Deputy Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, GS Road Rukminigaon opposite Manasa Mandir, Dispur, Guwahati
Tel 0361-2412859, 2416720
Cell 7086026788

4. Shillong

The Deputy Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Shillong. Tel 0364-2224247, 2224476

5. Tezpur

The Deputy Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh Parvati Nagar, Tezpur, Assam Tel 03712-260173, 260141 Cell 09435521735

6. Dibrugarh

The Deputy Resident Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Mohanbari, Dibrugarh, Assam
Tel 0373- 2382560/2382738.

7. From the office of all the Deputy Commissioners of 25 Districts of the state.

PERMITS ON ARRIVAL

Tourist ILP facilitation centres are at the following places:

Naharlagun Railway Station, Gumto railway station, Guwahati Asom Paryatan Bhawan near Nepali Mandir and Guwahati LGBI Airport.

Contacts for ILPs

The office of all the Deputy Commissioners of the 25 Districts of the state, issue hard copy permits www.arunachalpradesh.gov.in/districts-officials; www.arunachaltourism.com/inner.php Timings: Mon-Fri: 10.00am- 4.00pm

TRANSPORT DIRECTORY

AIR

IN ARUNACHAL

AIRLINE OFFICES

Alliance Air

Toll Free 18602331407

[W](http://airindia.in) airindia.in

Origin Guwahati

TEZU AIRPORT has

been inaugurated, but at the time of going to press is not up and running as yet.

IN ASSAM

LOKPRIYA GOPINATH

BORDOLOI/ Guwahati

International Airport

Airport Director Tel

0361-2841909

[W](http://aai.aero) aai.aero

AIRLINE OFFICES

AIR INDIA

Toll Free 18602331407

[W](http://airindia.in) airindia.in

ALLIANCE AIR

Toll Free 18602331407

[W](http://airindia.in/alliance-air) airindia.in/alliance-air

GO AIR

Customer Care: 022-

62732111

Toll Free: 18602100999

[W](http://goair.in) goair.in

Origin Bagdogra, Delhi, Kolkata

INDIGO

Tel: 0124-6173838

Cell 09910383838

[W](http://goindigo.in) goindigo.in

Origin Agartala,

Amritsar, Bagdogra,

Bengaluru,

Bhubaneswar, Chennai,

Delhi, Hyderabad,

Imphal, Kochi, Kolkata,

Mumbai, Varanasi

VISTARA

Cell 09289228888

[W](http://airvistara.com) airvistara.com

DIBRUGARH

AIRPORT

Mohanbari, Assam

Airport Director Tel

0373-2382755

[W](http://aai.aero) aai.aero

AIRLINE OFFICES

AIR INDIA

Toll Free 18602331407

[W](http://airindia.in) airindia.in

INDIGO

Tel: 0124-6173838

Cell 09910383838

[W](http://goindigo.in) goindigo.in

SPICEJET

Cell 09871803333

[W](http://spicejet.com) spicejet.com

LILABARI AIRPORT

North Lakhimpur, Assam

[W](http://aai.aero) aai.aero

AIRLINE OFFICES

ALLIANCE AIR

Toll Free 18602331407

[W](http://airindia.in/alliance-air) airindia.in/alliance-air

SPICEJET

Cell 09871803333,

09654003333

[W](http://www.spicejet.com) spicejet.com

Origin Kolkata

TEZPUR AIRPORTHaleswar Dist-Sonitpur,
Tezpur, AssamAirport Director Tel
03712-258441[W](http://www.aai.aero) aai.aero**AIRLINE OFFICES****ALLIANCE AIR**

Toll Free 18602331407

[W](http://www.airindia.in/alliance-air) airindia.in/alliance-air**HELICOPTER SERVICE**[W](http://www.arunachalipr.gov.in) arunachalipr.gov.in

Guwahati Ticket

Counter Cell

09085738939

Naharlagun Ticket

Counter Cell

09436291907

SECTORS:

Guwahati -Naharlagun

Guwahati-Tawang

Naharlagun-Pasighat

Pasighat-Along

Naharlagun-Mechuka

RAIL

Enquiry 139

[W](http://www.indianrail.gov.in) indianrail.gov.in
irctc.co.in**IN ARUNACHAL
BHALUKPONG
RAILWAY STATION**Bhalukpong Railway
Station is connected to
Assam by the
Bhalukpong-Dekargaon
Passenger.**NAHARLAGUN
RAILWAY STATION**Naharlagun Railway
Station connects Assam
and New Delhi. Trains
serving this station
include the Naharlagun-
Guwahati Donyi Polo
Express, Naharlagun-
Guwahati Shatabdi
Express, Tinsukia
Intercity Express, and
Arunachal AC SF Express
(bi-weekly) which con-
nects Delhi, UP, Bihar,
West Bengal and Assam
to Arunachal Pradesh.**IN ASSAM
DIBRUGARH RAILWAY
STATION**Dibrugarh Railway
Station is well connected
to Delhi, Amritsar,
Chandigarh, Bengaluru,
Kolkata, Uttar Pradesh
etc. Major trains serving
this station are Avadh
Assam Express,
Dibrugarh-Amritsar
Weekly Express,
Dibrugarh-Chandigarh
Weekly Express,
Dibrugarh-Kolkata
Weekly SF Express and
Dibrugarh-New Delhi
Rajdhani Express. It is
connected to Arunachal
Pradesh by the
Naharlagun- Tinsukia
Intercity Express.**GUWAHATI JUNCTION**Guwahati Junction is a
major railway station
connecting Assam to
other parts of the
country. Major trains
serving this stationare Anand Vihar
-Agartala Rajdhani
Express, Bikaner-
Guwahati Express,
Kolkata-Silghat Town
Kaziranga Express,
Mumbai LLT-Guwahati
Express, etc. It is
connected to Arunachal
Pradesh by the
Naharlagun-Guwahati
Shatabdi Express,
Tinsukia Intercity
Express and Arunachal
AC SF Express.**HARMUTI JUNCTION**Harmuti Junction is
connected to served
major metros and
cities by Arunachal
Express.Other trains connecting
Arunachal Pradesh are
Naharlagun-Guwahati
Shatabdi Express,**NORTH LAKHIMPUR
RAILWAY STATION**North Lakhimpur Railway
Station is connected toArunachal Pradesh by the
Naharlagun – Tinsukia
Intercity Express.**RANGIYA JUNCTION**Rangiya Junction is a
major railway station
connecting Assam to
major cities in India and
Arunachal Pradesh.
Trains serving this
station are Kanchen-
junga Express, Avadh
Assam Express etc. It is
connected to Arunachal
Pradesh by Naharlagun-
Guwahati Donyi Polo
Express, Arunachal AC
SF Express.**TEZPUR RAILWAY
STATION**Tezpur Railway Station
falls under the Rangiya
Division. Trains serving
this station are
Alipurduar Jn-Silghat
Town Rajiya Rani
Express, Kolkata-Silghat
Town Kaziranga Express
etc. It is connected toArunachal Pradesh by
Guwahati-Naharlagun
Shatabdi Express,
Guwahati-Naharlagun
Donyi-Polo Express,
Arunachal AC SF
Express.**TINSUKIA JUNCTION**Tinsukia Junction is
connected to Dibrugarh,
Guwahati by Ledo-
Guwahati Intercity
Express, Tinsukia-Jorhat
Town Passenger, etc. It
is connected to
Arunachal Pradesh by
Naharlagun-Tinsukia
Intercity Express.**ROAD
BUS**Bomdila (SS) Cell
09402476020
Pasighat (SS)
Cell 09612453200
Itanagar (SS/AS)
Cell 09774034571,
09774990779
Tawang (SS) Cell
09436836087

Photo Credits

Front Cover

ARUNACHAL PRADESH TOURISM

Third row, Right: A jeep crossing the bridge near Dite Dime village, East Siang

GETTY IMAGES

Fourth row, Middle: Traditional dances performed by monks dressed in ritualistic attire during the Torgya festival at the Tawang Monastery

SANJOY GHOSH

Fourth row, Left: Tawang War Memorial
Fourth row, Right: View of Tawang Monastery

SHUTTERSTOCK

Top: The mesmerizing View of the Mountains near Jaswantgarh
Second row, Left: Suspension bridge in Arunachal Pradesh
Second row, Right: Hornbills perched on a tree branch

Inside the Book

AHTUSHI DESHPANDE

Page 32, Rottung camp

DINODIA PHOTO LIBRARY

Page 18, An old man from the Aptani tribe binding a basket

GETTY IMAGES

Page 5, Right: Traditional dances performed by monks dressed in ritualistic attire during the Torgya festival at the Tawang Monastery

GUNEET NARULA

Page 150, Indian giant squirrel

SANJIV VALSAN

Page 4, Right: A biker at the snow-covered Mayudia Pass
Page 80, Interiors of Itanagr Gompa

SANJOY GHOSH

Page 5, Left: Tawang War Memorial

SHUTTERSTOCK

Page 4, Left: Taksang Monastery