Sandakphu Trek (5N/6D)

EMI Option available

(Starting from 9600 INR)



Sandakphu Trek (5N/6D)

Introduction

Overview

Resting between the borders of India and Nepal, the trail to Sandakphu is breathtaking to say the least. The highest point of West Bengal may not be very high, but it's got everything going for it. The thing that probably earned it the title 'Trekker's Wonderland' is the constant company of expansive forests full of blooming rhododendrons of all warm and cool shades of colors spread as far as your eye can see and thick layers of milk-white clouds that literally conceal the world underneath. We may have seen a lot, but we've never seen anything as beautiful! It is quite literally a walk through heaven!

What's more is that this 3,627M peak brings some of the tallest mountains and places them right in front of you. Bound by four of these – Mount Everest, Kangchenjunga, Lhotse and Makalu, Sandakphu remains one of the very few moderate level treks which offers such splendid views and puts you bang in the middle of 8,000M peaks.
There is no end to the wonders this trek has to offer. The trail of Sandakphu goes through the Singalila National Park which is a biodiversity hotspot that boasts of innumerous species of flora and fauna. In fact, the trail lies on the infamous Singalila Ridge which forms the border between Sikkim and Nepal running down the Kangchenjunga (also called the Kanchendzongha) Range earning it yet another name – the Singalila Ridge Trek.

If the constant flirting with the Indo-Nepal border, Kangchenjunga and its cluster forming what's famously called The Sleeping Buddha, the forests full of rhododendrons and glorious sunsets and sunrises weren't enough, Sandakphu adds just the right touch to the trek by offering warm beds, the company of locals, scrumptious home-cooked meals and a comfortable sleep in a closed room with warm blankets each night of the trek. Looking for insurmountable beauty but want to give uncomfortable and cold nights a miss? Sandakphu is the answer to all your wants!

While it may not be too high in terms of altitude, the trek offers up a few challenges in the form of long distances each day, various steep ascents and the unpredictable weather which could turn a bright, sunny day to a sudden downpour. It could also get very windy on the trail and extremely cold depending on the season in which you choose to trek here. Although it is a perfect trek for beginners as well as experienced trekkers, it would serve well to go with the knowledge that the mountain makes you work up a sweat in exchange for the magnificence it has to offer.

Summary

Start Location	Dhotrey
End Location	Srikhola
Base Camp	Dhotrey
Trek Start Time	10:00 am on day 1
Trek End Time	04:00 Pm on day 6 approx
Trek Duration	5 Nights / 6 Days
Trek Difficult	Easy
Trek Distance	37 Kms approx.
Trek Altitude	11,900 ft.
Best time to do this trek	March-June for Rhododendron, October-January
Closest Railway Station	NJP/Siliguri Junction
Closest Airport	Bagdogra
Age Group Required	Between 16 to 45 Years (No age bars for champions)

NOTE : Share cab from Darjeeling Mord (Siliguri) to Dhotrey, first cab in the morning is at 5 am and last share cab is at 11:30 am (post that you have to get a private cab or wait till next morning)

Booking Link : https://trekotrip.com/trek/sandakphu-trek-5n-6d-642188

Price

Type	Price

Sandakshu Trek 5n-6d	INR **9600**

Short Itinerary

Day 01: NJP/Bagdogra to Dhotrey
Day 02: Dhotrey to Tumling
Day 03: Tumling to Kali Pokhari
Day 04: Kali Pokhari to Sandakphu
Day 05: Sandakphu to Srikhola
Day 06: Srikhola to NJP/Bagdogra

Day Wise Itinerary

Day 01: Drive from NJP/Bagdogra to Dhotrey

Distance: 105 Km | Duration: 5 hours | Altitude: 8,500 ft

- Your journey with us starts upon reaching the frontier town of Siliguri. Depending upon your mode of arrival, pick up will be arranged from Bagdogra, NJP or Siliguri Junction. The cost of the transport from the pick up point to Dhotrey is Rs 6,000/- and is shared by the trekkers.
- The road takes you through the bustling town of Siliguri initially, but soon you would be journeying through the tea gardens and lush forests. The ascent starts from after reaching the beautiful lake of Mirik. From there to Dhotrey, it's a constant meandering journey through beautiful tea gardens and mountain forests.
- On the way to Dhotrey, you will cross the hilly settlements of Sukhia Pokhari and Maneybhanjan. Apart from these, its just you and the tranquil nature for company as you reach the beautiful base camp of Dhotrey.
- Nestled within a thick pine forest, Dhotrey is truly a sight to behold.
- If you are lucky, you will get your first glimpse of Kanchenjungha from here itself. Have an early dinner and call it a day as you need ample rest before your trek tomorrow.

Day 02: Dhotrey to Tumling

Distance: 6 Km | Duration: 3 hours | Altitude: 10,000 ft

- Today will be your first day of trek. After a breakfast, it will be relaxed climb of about 1,500 ft and will mostly warm you up for the difficult terrain up ahead. From Dhotrey its initially a gentle climb towards Tumling.
- You will walk through rich forests of Pine and Coniferous and some occasional appearances of Rhododendron as you slowly gain the altitude.
- The forest is rich in flora and fauna and you will have multiple sightings of numerous birds. At the halfway point, you will find a beautiful resting stop comprised of a flat land, with mountain views all around and a peak of the Dhotrey village down below. From there it's a bit of a steep climb till you reach Tonglu.
- From there its just a km of flat walk to reach your destination for the day, Tumling. Reaching there you will receive the warm mountain hospitality as you sip on some tea while taking in the breathtaking views all around.
- This is the place which gives you a brief trailer of what treat awaits you once you reach your summit.
- After having a hearty dinner, sleep of to the sound of nature as you prepare yourself for the journey ahead.

Day 03: Tumling to Kalipokhari

Distance: 13 Km | Duration: 5 hours | Altitude: 10,500 ft

- Wake up early to catch the beautiful sunrise from Tumling and catch The Mt Kanchenjungha in its full glory.
- After a quick breakfast, we start early around 8:00 am as we have a long journey ahead of us.
- A short distance into the trek, we will reach the entry point of Singalila National Park. We will need to complete our entry formalities here. You will need to pay for a camera permit here if you are carrying any.
- Your trek guide will help you through the process. The Singalila National Park houses a great number of animals like the Himalayan Bear, Leopard cat, Barking Dear, Pangolin and the famous and elusive Red Panda.
- We will have a relaxed flat walk till we reach the settlement of Jaubari. All along the way, our trail will flirt with the Indo-Nepal border as we criss cross through our neighbor lands.
- From Jaubari we will have a descent, till we reach Gairibas. Here you can have a small break and also indulge in some snacks.
- Gairibas houses a rhododendron research centre and has a detailed accounting of the various varieties of Rhododendrons available in the region.
- From Gairibas we will face the first difficult phase of our trek, as we traverse a steep climb all the way to Kalipokhari. After a strenuous but rewarding climb, we will reach the high altitude lake of Kalipokhari.
- After a steaming hot beverage to soothe your aching muscles, you can pay a visit to the calm waters of the lake and feel your tiredness ebbing away.

Day 04: Kalipokhari to Sandakphu

Distance: 6 Km | Duration: 4 hours | Altitude: 11900 ft

- Today is the the most challenging phase of your trek, The trail will test your endurance to the limit. We will start around 9:00 am.
- Make sure to fill up your water bottles before starting, as there will be no settlements between here and Sandakphu. We will climb through barren mountain roads with scarce vegetations as we would be almost above the tree line.
- You can take short cuts in between which will cut down the time but will considerably increase the strain on your legs.
- Milestones along the way would motivate you as you will see the destination come nearer and nearer.
- Once reaching the summit, all your hard work will pay off, as you will witness the wonder called Sleeping Buddha at its full glory. Sandakphu has the distinction of offering the view of 4 of the top 5 highest mountain peaks of the world. Apart from Kanchenjungha, it also offers the view of Mt Kanchenjungha, Makalu and Lhotse along with several other high peaks of the Himalayas.
- On reaching Sandakphu, you can settle down for a bit and then set out to explore the area. Your aching muscles will beg you to call it an early night, but make a mental note to wake up early enough to catch the most beautiful sunrise ever.

Day 05: Sandakphu to Srikhola

Distance: 12 Km | Duration: 5 hours | Altitude: 6900 ft

- After witnessing the magnificent sunrise from the highest point of west Bengal, you will get ready for the last phase of your trek.
- We have a lot of distance to cover today, so we will start quite early around 8:00am. Inspite of the distance we will have a fairly relaxed trek today as it's a steady descent.
- We will descend through rich forest which will get denser as we descend. We will walk through bamboo forests and if lucky enough may also have a glimpse of the famous Red Panda lurking in the trees.
- You will have a brief rest point at Gurdum, where also you can indulge in some snacks and fill up your water bottles. A further descent through some rich pine forest will lead you to the upper Srikhola.
- You will already be able to hear the gurgling sound of the river. The last 2 km stretch of the trail will let you through the settlement of Srikhola, until you reach the river, where will be the final pit stop of the trek.
- Once reaching the homestay, enjoy the hospitality while you revel in the glory of completing your trek. You can relax by the river while your celebratory dinner is being prepared.
- Enjoy a sound sleep as the gurgling river sing you a lullaby and your aching muscles receive a much needed rest.

Day 06: Drive to NJP/ Bagdogra

Distance: 130 Km | Duration: 6 hours

- Today you say goodbye to the Singalila National Park as you drive down towards NJP.
- Post breakfast (will start around 9:00 am) you can take some cool insta worthy photos at the hanging bridge in Srikhola.
- After that you journey takes you along the mountain paths back to the chaotic city life. The cab fare to Siliguri is Rs 8,000/- and will be shared by the trekkers.
- You will pass through the settlements of Rimbik, Dhotrey and Maneybhanjan, after which the familiar tea garden vista will greet you.
- You will be able to attend a tea testing at the Gopal Dhara tea garden on the way. Where from you can source some authentic Darjeeling tea for yourself.
- Finally, your journey will come full circle at NJP, from where you can depart for your onward destination with fond memories from the trip.

Inclusions

- All accommodations.
- All meals from day 1 Lunch to Day 6 Breakfast. (Veg / Non Veg)
- Experienced Guide and other support staff.
- All equipment like, tents, sleeping bags

- All trek permits.

Exclusions

- Transport to and from the station/airport.
- Singalila National Park Entry Fees (approx Rs.800/-)
- Cost of emergency.
- Any personal expense.
- Any other expense not mentioned in Itinerary.
- Due to limited inventory if you need anything extra will be chargeable.
- Dining during Transit
- Emergency evacuation charges
- Porter charges if required. (maximum 10 kg layoff per person)
- Taxes @5% extra.
- Insurance Policy.
- Camera Charges.
- Any other service not mentioned above in inclusions.
- Fees or permits for non-Indians.

How To Reach

- From NJP Railway station to Darjeeling Mord (Siliguri) which is around 6 kms, the avg cost per person will be around Rs 30 via auto.
- From Bagdogra Airport to Darjeeling Mord (Siliguri) via bus the avg cost per person will be around Rs.50/- (every 20 to 25 mins there is a bus service from main road outside airport) and a private cab, the avg cost per person will be around Rs.1000/-
- From Darjeeling Mord (Siliguri) to Dhotrey on day 1 and back from Srikhola to Darjeeling Mord (Siliguri) on last day, per person cost will be around Rs.1500 /- deponding on number of person in share cab.
- The private cab from Bagdora airport / NJP railway station to Dhotrey will cost around Rs.5500/- and return journey from Srikhola to Bagdora airport / NJP railway station will cost around Rs 7500/-
- Avg time to reach Dhotrey from Siliguri is around 4 to 5 hours
- Avg time to reach Siliguri from Srikhola is around 6 to 7 hours.

Things to carry

Basics:

- A sturdy ruck-sack with support rod(50-60 ltrs)
- A small day pack(15-20 ltrs) in case you are off loading your bag
- A trekking shoe with ankle support

Clothing:

- 4 pairs of polyester T shirt
- 3 Pairs of quick dry trek pants
- A lightweight Hollowfill/Feather jacket
- A set of thermal inners(For winters)
- A fleece Jacket(For winters)
- A rain coat/Poncho
- 4 pairs of cotton socks + 2 pairs of woolen socks
- 1 Pair of gloves

Medicine:

- Coca 30: 30 ml
- Crocin: 6 tablets
- Avomine: 4 tablets
- Avil(25 mg): 4 tablets
- Combiflam: 4 tablets
- Norflox TZ: 6 tablets
- Digene: 6 tablets
- ORS: 6 sachets
- Band Aid: 6 strips
- Eno: 4 sachets
- Betadine or any antiseptic ointment
- Pain spray
- Knee cap and crepe bandage

Toiletries:

- Sunscreen
- Moisturizer
- Lip Balm
- Hand Sanitizer
- Tooth brush & paste
- Toilet Paper
- Light and preferable quick dry towel
- Hand Wash/Liquid Soap

Accessories:

- A pair of sun shades
- A cap/sun hat
- A head torch
- Hand Sanitizer
- Trekking Pole
- Toilet Paper
- Water bottle

Documents:

- Photocopy of a Govt. issued id
- 2 recent passport size photos
- Medical certificate
- Disclaimer Certificate

Apart from these, trekkers can also carry some dry fruits/trail mix/chocolates or light snacks.

Cancellation Policy / T&C / Refund Policy

Click to view :

Terms & Conditions

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