



पर्यटन मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
TOURISM



GOVT. OF SIKKIM



Tourism and Civil Aviation Department  
Government of Sikkim

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# MARCH NEWSLETTER

DISCOVERING SIKKIM'S CULTURAL MOSAIC:  
AN EXPEDITION THROUGH THREE LIVELY  
COMMUNITIES

## Greetings, fellow explorers of culture and tradition!

Welcome to the March edition of our newsletter, where we embark on an exhilarating journey through the vibrant communities of Gangtok, nestled amidst the breathtaking Himalayan landscape. Our theme for this month's expedition is ***"Discovering Sikkim's Cultural Mosaic: An Expedition Through Three Lively Communities."***

Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim, is not just a geographical location; it's a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and lifestyles. Each corner of this enchanting city tells a unique story, woven together by the myriad communities that call it home. This month, we set out to unravel the threads of Gangtok's cultural mosaic, celebrating the rich diversity that makes this city a true gem of the Himalayas.

Join us as we set out on an unforgettable journey through the enchanting realms of the Lepcha, Bhutia, and Nepali communities, discovering the essence of Sikkim's soul through their customs, festivals, and everyday life. Let's embark on this expedition together, as we unravel the mysteries and treasures of Gangtok culture

Stay tuned for the next installment of our journey, where we delve deeper into the enchanting world of Sikkim's diverse communities. Until then, let the adventure begin!

# DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

## UNIQUE OFFERING



### THE NEPALIS: FUSION OF TRADITION AND MODERNITY

The Nepali community, comprising a significant portion of Sikkim's population, brings its own dynamic energy to the state. From the soul-stirring melodies of Nepali folk songs to the colorful festivities of Dashain and Tihar, their cultural contributions are woven into the fabric of Sikkimese society. Yet, amid rapid social and economic transformations, the Nepalis proudly uphold their customs while embracing the opportunities of the modern world, embodying the spirit of adaptability and resilience.

### THE LEPCHAS: GUARDIANS OF THE LAND

The Lepchas, the indigenous inhabitants of Sikkim, have a deep connection with the land they inhabit. Their culture is steeped in folklore, spirituality, and a profound respect for nature. Traditionally, they are skilled hunters and gatherers, known for their intricate craftsmanship and vibrant festivals. With their harmonious coexistence with nature, the Lepchas serve as guardians of Sikkim's ecological heritage.



### THE BHUTIAS: KEEPERS OF TRADITION

The Bhutia community in Sikkim is known for its rich array of customs and traditions deeply ingrained in the region's cultural legacy. Over generations, they have upheld their distinctive identity, embodying resilience and adaptability. Celebrating vibrant festivals and performing intricate rituals, they maintain a profound connection to the Himalayan landscape. Through colorful ceremonies, traditional attire, and age-old practices, the Bhutia community remains a vital pillar of Sikkim's cultural diversity, preserving its heritage for posterity.





# DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

## TOURISM EXPERIENCES

### RUMTEK MONASTERY: A SPIRITUAL OASIS

Perched atop a hill overlooking Gangtok, Rumtek Monastery is a sacred haven that exudes peace and spirituality. Home to the Karma Kagyu lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, this monastery is adorned with intricate murals, colorful frescoes, and ancient artifacts. Visitors can participate in daily prayers, witness traditional rituals, and explore the monastery's serene surroundings. The tranquil atmosphere of Rumtek Monastery offers a soul-stirring experience for spiritual seekers and culture enthusiasts alike.



### CULINARY DELIGHTS: A GASTRONOMIC JOURNEY THROUGH GANGTOK

Embark on a gastronomic adventure through the bustling streets of Gangtok and tantalize your taste buds with a diverse array of culinary delights. From piping hot momo and thukpa to delectable Sikkimese delicacies like Gundruk and Sinki, the city offers a cornucopia of flavors to satisfy every palate. Dive into the vibrant street food scene, sampling local favorites at bustling markets and quaint eateries tucked away in alleyways. Let the aroma of spices and sizzling delicacies guide you on a culinary journey that promises to be as memorable as it is delicious.

### SHOP AND STROLL ALONG MG MARG

Indulge in a leisurely stroll along MG Marg, Gangtok's bustling pedestrian promenade, and soak in the lively ambiance of this vibrant thoroughfare. Lined with charming cafes, boutique shops, and local handicraft stalls, MG Marg offers a delightful blend of culture, cuisine, and commerce. Sample delicious local delicacies, shop for exquisite handicrafts and souvenirs, or simply unwind amidst the festive atmosphere. MG Marg is not just a shopping destination but a cultural melting pot where travelers and locals come together to celebrate life's simple pleasures.

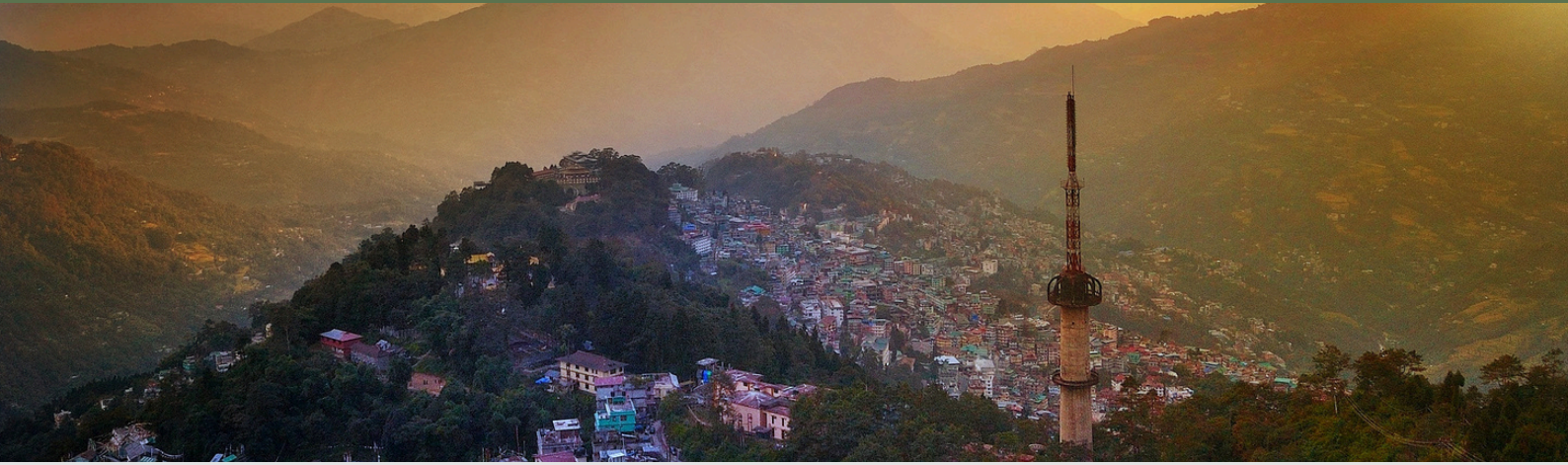


### UNEXPLORED TOURIST ATTRACTION UNVEILING DZULUK: A HIDDEN GEM

Perched at an altitude of approximately 10,000 feet amidst the rugged terrain of East Sikkim's lower Himalayas, Dzuluk (also spelled Zuluk, Jhuluk, or Jaluk) is a quaint hamlet gaining recognition as an emerging offbeat destination. Historically, it served as a pivotal transit point along the Silk Route from Tibet to India, boasting breathtaking vistas of the eastern Himalayan mountain range, including the majestic Kanchenjunga. Today, with its serene ambiance and burgeoning tourism infrastructure, Dzuluk invites visitors to explore its pristine wilderness, offering glimpses of indigenous wildlife and vibrant rhododendron blooms during the summer months.

# DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

## LOCAL CULTURE



Gangtok is a melting pot of cultures, where traditional practices blend seamlessly with modern influences. Take a stroll through the bustling streets of MG Marg and discover the essence of Sikkimese culture through its lively markets, where artisans showcase their crafts and local delicacies tempt your taste buds. Don't miss the opportunity to witness traditional dance performances at Enchey Monastery or delve into the mystical world of Tibetan Buddhism at the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology. For a deeper understanding of local customs and rituals, engage with the friendly locals who are always eager to share their stories and traditions.

## TRAVEL TIPS AND GUIDE



**Permits:** Make sure to obtain the necessary permits for visiting restricted areas like Nathu La and Tsomgo Lake. These permits can be arranged through authorized tour operators or at the Sikkim Tourism Office.



**Weather:** Gangtok enjoys a moderate climate throughout the year, but be prepared for sudden changes, especially if you're venturing into higher altitudes. Layering your clothing is key to staying comfortable.



**Transportation:** Explore Gangtok and its surrounding areas conveniently by hiring a local taxi or joining guided tours. Shared taxis are a budget-friendly option for short trips within the city.



**Accommodation:** Choose from a range of accommodation options, from cozy guesthouses to luxurious resorts offering panoramic views of the Himalayas. Booking in advance is recommended, especially during peak tourist seasons.



**Cuisine:** Indulge in the culinary delights of Sikkim, from traditional momo and thukpa to hearty Sikkimese meals. Don't forget to try the local delicacies like gundruk and chhurpi for a taste of authentic Himalayan flavors.



# UPCOMING FESTIVAL & FAIR



## HOLI

As March unfolds, we are thrilled to announce the upcoming festival of colors, Holi, which promises to paint our beloved city in hues of joy and camaraderie. Get ready to immerse yourself in the vibrant festivities as we come together to celebrate the triumph of good over evil and the arrival of spring. From the streets of MG Marg to the tranquil corners of Enchey Monastery, every nook and cranny of Gangtok will resonate with laughter, music, and the exuberant splashes of colored powders. Let us embrace the spirit of unity and harmony as we usher in this joyous occasion, strengthening the bonds of friendship and community that define our beautiful hill town. Stay tuned for more updates on the exciting events and happenings in Gangtok this Holi season!

*March 2024*



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   |
| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |
| 31  |     |     |     |     |     |     |

**25TH: HOLI**

**29TH: GOOD FRIDAY**



# FOCUS OF THE MONTH



**DAY 2: 31ST MARCH**



## **TSOMGO LAKE**

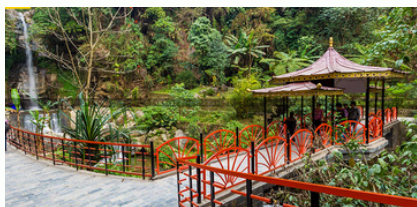
Embarked on a breathtaking journey to the sacred Tsomgo Lake, experiencing its serene beauty at 12,400 ft.

**DAY 1: 30TH MARCH**



## **BURTUK HELIPAD**

A thrilling helicopter ride from Bagdogra to Gangtok, landing at Burtuk Helipad, marked the beginning of an extraordinary adventure.



## **BANJHAKRI FALLS**

Influencers were enchanted by the magical cascade amidst lush greenery, steeped in myth and legend.

Immersion in culinary delights and cultural festivities at the Institute of Hotel Management provided an unforgettable experience.



## **IHM FEST AT RUMTEK, SAJONG**



## **GANESH TOK**

Seeking blessings and capturing stunning vistas of the valley and surrounding landscapes.



## **TASHI VIEWPOINT**



# FOCUS OF THE MONTH

DAY 2: 31ST MARCH



Influencers and key officials gathered at **Denzong Regency's** Banquet Hall for a **glamorous high tea**, fostering discussions to elevate Gangtok's prominence on the tourism map.

The event was graced by the presence of esteemed officials including Mr. Tushar DC Gangtok, Mr. Roshan ADM Gangtok, Mr. GL Meena SDM, Mrs. Vijeta Chettri AD Tourism Department, Mr Saurav Baraily TO Tourism department, and Mr. Pintso Gyatso GS Homestay Association of Sikkim, among others.



**ENCHEY MONASTERY**

Delving into the rich history of this hidden gem left a lasting impression.

Strolling along the bustling heart of Gangtok's culture and vibes was an immersive experience.



**M.G. MARG**

DAY 3: 4TH APRIL



## **GANESH TOK, ENCHEY MONASTERY, BANJHAKRI FALLS, M.G MARG**

Sakshi Sharma (sikkim\_girl1) and Aparna Rai (okaparna\_) continued their shoots at these iconic locations, capturing the essence of Gangtok's beauty.

**Stay tuned for more captivating content and breathtaking visuals from our influencers' adventures in Gangtok! Follow us on social media and tag us in your own adventures to be featured!**

# CONNECT WITH US



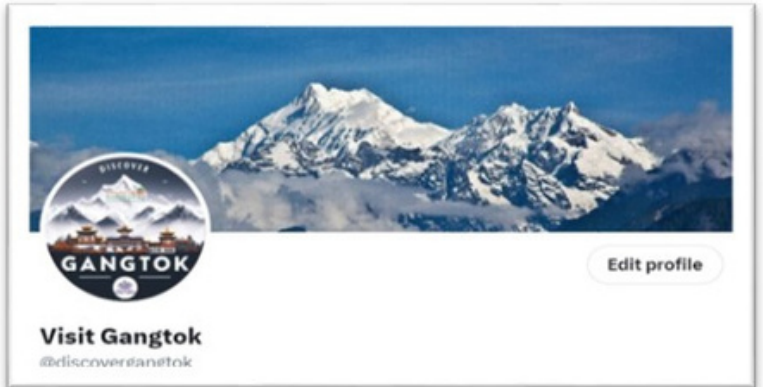
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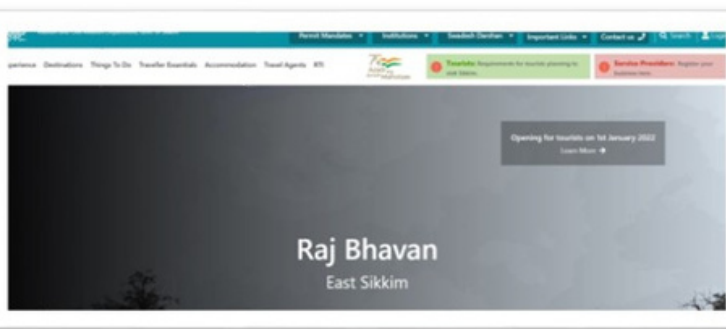
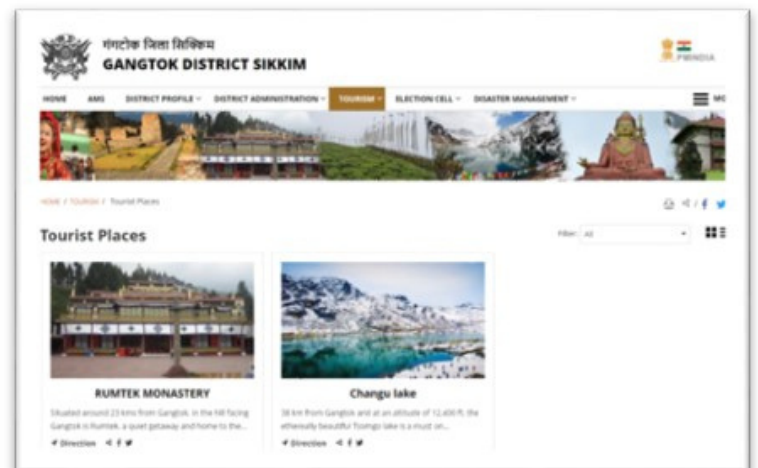
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