Kaziranga, Nagaland and the Hornbill Festival

Trip Code: HBF

Version:

PIONEER	GUIDED GROUP	2 LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

• Jeep safaris in Assam's UNESCO-listed Kaziranga National Park • Visit Majuli Island in the mighty Brahmaputra River, home of the Mishing tribe• See the temples and palaces of the Ahom Dynasty at Sivasagar• Explore Nagaland's upland wilderness and attend the famous Hornbill Festival• Meet

legendary tattooed Konyak headhunters at Hongpoi Village

AT A GLANCE

- 15 days touring and sightseeing
- Max altitude - 2000 metres
- Join at Kolkata

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

If you have a sense of adventure and a thirst for new experiences, this tour of the north-east states of Assam and Nagaland will not disappoint. Wildlife, natural beauty, historic towns and a wild and wonderful variety of colourful tribal people await you on this unique journey of discovery that begins with a 2-night visit to the Kaziranga National Park in Assam. We then cross the Brahmaputra to visit Majuli, one of the largest river-islands on Earth, home to tribal people and a number of 16th Century Vaishnavite (Hindu) monasteries rich in Assamese history. Then, from Jorhat, we'll visit the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary and the city of Sivasagar with its unusual and spectacular collection of 18th Century Ahom Dynasty temples. We devote the remainder of the holiday to Nagaland, a wild upland state on the border with Myanmar to the east. Our visit coincides with the annual Hornbill Festival which has its focus at Kisama Village where we can meet the various fierce and proud Naga tribes and hear some fascinating stories of their headhunting days! The Hornbill Festival is Nagaland's premier cultural event and brings together the region's tribes in a celebration of their indigenous heritage through colourful dances, traditional music, crafts, local cuisine, and sports. This holiday provides a rare insight into one of India's most fascinating and least explored regions.

Is this holiday for you?

This touring and sightseeing adventure holiday to India's north-eastern states of Assam and Nagaland begins with a short internal flight to the airport at Guwahati. From here, there's necessarily a fair amount of travelling as we pick out the highlights of this fascinating and little-visited region. The roads are rough in places and we will be glad of our comfortable air-conditioned transport. There are two crossings of the Brahmaputra River on local ferries and two game drives at Kaziranga in open jeeps or 'canters'. The holiday also includes some quite leisurely exploration of city streets, cultural sites and wildlife reserves on foot.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional English-speaking local leader
- Kolkata Airport group transfers on the arrival and departure days
- Kolkata to Guwahati and Dibrugarh to Kolkata flights and associated airport transfers
- All land and ferry transport involved in the itinerary
- Accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Park and monument and wildlife reserve entrance fees
- Protected area permit for Nagaland
- Naturalist guides at Kaziranga and Hollongapar
- Guided sightseeing at Mon, Nagaland
- Morning city tour of Kolkata on the final day in India

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Kolkata Airport transfers (other than the group transfers on Day 1 and Day 15)
- Indian Visa
- Tips for local staff

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Kolkata on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

A single group transfer is provided from Kolkata Airport on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary and back to the same airport on the final day of the Land Only itinerary.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are provided from breakfast on Day 2 to lunch on Day 15.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Part of the experience of a visit to India is sampling the excellent local food. Indian cuisine offers a wide choice of dishes, much more variety than the 'curries' we are used to in Indian restaurants at home and the naan breads are like nothing you'll have experienced. Whether the food is presented as a dinner buffet or as a set menu, there will always be vegetarian options. Breakfasts and dinners are provided at our overnight accommodation. Breakfasts include cereals, bread, possibly in the form of local 'rotis', eggs, hard-boiled or omelette, often one or two delicious, spicy Indian breakfast options, fruit, juice, hot water for tea or coffee. Lunches will usually be at a local restaurant where you can choose what you want - the guide will help with this. Dinners will usually take the form of a buffet with both international and local food choices. The cuisine of both Assam and Nagaland is distinct for its minimal use of spices and oil, relying instead on fresh herbs, foraged ingredients like fermented bamboo shoots, organic greens, soy and fiery chilis. Staples include sticky rice, with river fish or smoked or boiled meats, sometimes paired with digestive broths called Khar, as well as sour curries known as Maasor Tenga.

Accommodation

We will have 14 nights accommodation in a mix of tidy tourist-class hotels (generally 3-star) and some simpler guesthouse and rural resort stays including 1 night on Majuli Island and 2 nights at Mon where the accommodation is in homestay cabins or cottages. All accommodation is allocated on a twin-sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Depending upon availability it may be possible to arrange single rooms for the hotel nights. For hotel prices and single supplement costs please refer to the dates and prices page of the trip on our website.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by a professional English-speaking leader who will meet the group on arrival at Guwahati Airport on Day 2 and leave the group at the Dibrugarh Airport for the flight back to Kolkata on Day 14. Additionally, there will be naturalist guides with the group at Kaziranga and Hollongapar. A cultural guide will assist the group during the time at Mon on Day 12 and for the Kolkata city tour on Day 15. Representatives of our local partner will assist the group during the transits through Kolkata at the beginning and end of the holiday. Private, air-conditioned vehicles and drivers will be used for all road transfers.

Spending Money

Approximately £300 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses including tips for your guides, snacks, bar bills, soft drinks, etc. There will be some opportunities to buy souvenirs on this trip. It is not necessary to purchase local currency (Indian Rupees) before you travel. Sterling and US dollars are readily exchanged in Kolkata and in Guwahati and in Jorhat. Since you will be changing the majority of your spending money into local currency during the first couple of days, one option is to travel with currency. Credit cards can be used to purchase many goods in the cities and are particularly useful for more expensive souvenirs. It is possible to withdraw cash (rupees only) from ATM's in certain banks in the cities using credit and debit cards.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is an accepted and expected part of Indian culture, although you should only tip for services which are well done. We recommend that tips to your guides and driver be made from the group as a whole and that the group decides together on an appropriate amount. Your guide will help with sundry tipping; bell boys, other hotel staff, toilet attendants, lunchtime restaurant staff and game reserve guides and festival staff. This means you don't need to concern yourself with who to tip and who not to tip. Your guide will set up a tip 'kitty' for this and you will probably be asked to contribute 4000 rupees (£40) each for this at the start of the trip. Separately from this, you will need to tip the driver who will be with you for much of the trip. And you will need to tip your guide. As a rough guide we suggest that £100 per person (depending on group size) will allow you to pay reasonable tips.

Baggage Allowance

You should restrict your luggage to one main travel bag plus a small daypack to carry cameras, binoculars, water etc. A robust holdall or a piece of luggage fitted with wheels is appropriate for this kind of trip. The weight restriction on the internal flights is 15kg for check-in luggage and 7kg for hand luggage.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Visa India

Most nationalities, including travellers from the UK, the USA and many European countries can apply for their Indian Visa online through the **E-Visa Application** process. You must make your application at least four days prior to departure. Please download the detailed information document for details of how to apply for your visa: Visa India PDF

NB. The application process can be temperamental and we suggest you try a different browser (Firefox is known to work) if your application does not at first go through.

e-Arrival Card - Important

Separately and additionally, foreign nationals must now complete an e-arrival card to present at immigration on arrival in India along with their e-Visa. The digital e-Arrival form is found here https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival/ It should be completed **within the 72 hours prior to your arrival in India.**

Ebola Self-Declaration Form (SDF) - Important

All passengers travelling to India must now also complete the Ebola Self-Declaration Form (SDF) to present at immigration on arrival in India. The form is found here https://airsuvidha.civilaviation.gov.in It should be completed **within the 72 hours prior to your arrival in India.**

Sikkim

If you are joining one of our Sikkim Beneath Kangchenjunga (SIK) groups, we will ask you to complete a Sikkim Permit form approximately 20 days before you travel. You will need your Indian Visa details for this form. A 30-day E-Tourist Visa can be applied for within 30 days of travel and will usually be processed within a couple of days. As an alternative you can apply for a 1-Year E-Tourist Visa within 180 days of travel. DO NOT MENTION SIKKIM in 'Places to be visited' when you make your application.

Nagaland

If you are joining the Kaziranga, Nagaland and the Hornbill Festival (HBF) group we need to apply for a PAP (Protected Area Permit) for Nagaland once the tour is confirmed. Approximately 20 days before you travel, we will need from you a copy of your passport and of your Indian E-Tourist Visa, along with a colour passport photo and a copy of your international flight e-tickets.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency of India is the Indian Rupee.

Climate

December is the best time to visit Assam and Nagaland with little expected rainfall at this season. Daytime temperatures at Jorhat typically range from 15°C to 27°C, misty in the mornings and warm and sunny in the afternoons. Temperatures fall to 12°C at night. Higher, at around 1400 metres, Kohima is cooler with daytime temperatures up to 15°C, falling as low as 5°C at night.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

Nagaland Travel Guide 2026 - 2027. Tom K Hartwell

Assam Travel Guide 2024 (The Ultimate Travel Guide Series). Akinniyi Moshood

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

HPB Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. You should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

Please bring the following items:

- Comfortable walking shoes or trainers
- Lightweight walking trousers
- Light, long-sleeved shirt with collar)
- Light waterproof jacket
- Fleece jumper or jacket
- Casual clothing for evenings
- Travel clothes
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)

- Small daypack 20 to 25 litres
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters (band-aids), insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite)
- Camera
- Travel clothes
- Swimwear (optional)
- Pocket knife and repair kit (optional)

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

We have more than 35 years' experience of operating a wide range adventure holidays in India, from Ladakh in the far north to the tropical, southern state of Kerala. This remote north-eastern corner of the Subcontinent is somewhere we have always wanted to go.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change