



Trip Details

How to get to the trip

Fly into any major Indian city, though Kolkata (Calcutta) is the closest to our area, stay in an airport hotel if you don't want the city experience. The next day fly to Bagdogra.

DATES

9 to 23 November 2025

Day 1

You will be met at Bagdogra Airport with transport to take you the 30 min trip to our hotel in Siliguri.

We'll have welcome drinks in the bar at 6 pm followed by dinner. Temperatures in Siliguri will be in the high 20s at this time of year.

Day 2

On this day we'll be driven 30 minutes to New Jalpaiguri where our trip on the Darjeeling Himalaya Railway commences! Our train will climb up to the hill town of Kurseong, passing through villages on the way - a beautiful introduction to the Himalayan foothills. Here we'll stay in an historic colonial hotel for 3 nights

Days 3 & 4

During these 2 days we'll explore the region with walks to a Tea Estate and local markets then continue our exploration of the railway, meeting with local Nepali whose families have worked on the railway for generations. They'll introduce us to the heritage of the railway and the legacy of my grandfather including the General Manager's residence where he lived. We'll have a beautiful concert here of traditional Nepali music.

Days 5 - 12

It's time to set off on the main walking part of our trip exploring hiking trails, little villages and tea houses. Here you'll experience the warmth and welcome of the Nepali people. We'll stay in a combination of home stays, mountain lodges and small hotels depending on the trip you've booked.

Days 5 - 12 (cont)

You can choose to do walks of 1 - 4 hours depending on your energy and enthusiasm. We'll have local guides for the walks and be surrounded by views of the Himalayas! Jo will also offer meditation and yoga sessions during this week.

Days 12 - 14

Our 2025 trip will finish with 3 nights in a colonial hotel in the historic hill town of Kalimpong, a town with a relaxed atmosphere and focus on nature and culture. Other years we may finish in Darjeeling which is a more bustling hill station. During these 3 days we'll explore the markets and local attractions and try some local restaurants. Jo is happy to organise an additional few days in Darjeeling if it's not included in your tour. It offers the Himalayan zoo, the Tibetan Refugee Centre, and the Mountaineering Institute that pays a significant and moving homage to decades of Himalayan and Everest expeditions

GENERAL INFORMATION

Temperature

In the lowlands of India, temperatures will be in the high 20s. Once we get to Kurseong and the Darjeeling/Himalayas region expect about 6-18 degrees, though you also need to factor in snow and cold days. I'll provide a packing list when you book.

Accommodation

Our first night in Siliguri is in a modern international motel with en-suites and restaurant.

6 nights are in 2 comfortable colonial style hotels with great aesthetics. All rooms have en-suites. Our Kurseong hotel has a cafe that operates all day and in Darjeeling we have a restaurant, a charming bar and a massage therapist. We are within a 5 minute walk of shops/bazaar and cafes/restaurants.



Lower Himalayas

Accommodation continued

7 nights are in more 'village' style accommodation staying in family run home-stays and small mountain hotels.

Meals

Our hotel accommodation offers a choice of Indian or western menus. They are used to dealing with preferences/allergies so let Jo know if you have particular needs. During our 7 days out in the Himalayas, our cooks are also able to manage food issues though the cooking will be more simple.

Group Size

We'll have small groups of 8 – 12 people unless it's a singing group with up to 16 people.

Walking

Some days will have 1 or 2 hours of walking including sightseeing. During the middle of the trip for 7 days we'll have walks of 1-4 hours. Some days you'll have the option to extend that, and you always have the option to take a day off or to only join us for the first part of the walk. For the walks you will only be carrying a day pack. Luggage is transported for you.

Walk Fitness

We are in the lower Himalayas so you will need to be comfortable that at times we are walking up and down hills, and on rougher surfaces. Expect compacted dirt in the form of goat tracks and 4 wheel drive tracks. Walks will be 5 -12 kms to an altitude of 2,970metres (10,000ft).

If you live at sea level or are not accustomed to walking at altitude, please consider spending 3 nights in Darjeeling or a high hill town before joining the group. Please consult your doctor if you have heart or other issues that may be affected by altitude. Some trips are at lower altitudes than others. Talk to Jo about this.

Vaccinations

Talk to your Doctor about these. Allow for vaccinations to happen 6 weeks before arrival in India.

Visa

You'll need a visa. It's easy to do electronically 30 days before travel or you can apply by snail mail.

Price

The price for the non-singing trips is \$4,250, and for the singing trips is \$5,000, for a person sharing a twin or double room. For both trips single rooms are usually available for 7 nights of the trip for an additional \$650.

Included

Accommodation, guiding, railway tickets, taxi transfers to and from airport and railway and to walks, all breakfasts and most meals.

Items not included are travel between your country of origin and Bagdogra, airport taxes and fuel surcharges, passport and visa fees, travel insurance, health costs and drinks/alcohol. You will need to pay for up to 10 meals (such as lunches in mountain Tea Houses and the odd restaurant) as well as snacks, entrance fees to exhibits, taxis if you opt out of some walks.

You can choose to join Jo's mail list by emailing her at jo@jocresswell.com OR

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://jocresswell.com/registration-overseas-trips>

Cancellation Conditions

If you must cancel your reservation the following criteria apply:

31-60 days 50% retained by us
22-31 days 75% retained by us
21 days or less no refund

Jo Cresswell
music art events

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