



Trip Details

Sunday 31 Oct to 14 Nov 2027

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.

Day 1

You will be met at Bagdogra Airport with transport to take you the 10 min trip to our hotel. We'll meet for welcome drinks and dinner at 6 pm. The temperature here will be around 13-20C.

Day 2

Today you'll ride the historic Darjeeling Himalaya Railway from New Jalpaiguri. 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 for 2 nights in a simple family run hotel with beautiful views over the tea plantations.

Day 3

A not too busy day while we get over some jet lag and settle in with each other. We'll go for a local walk around the town and tea area, visit the local markets, enjoy a delicious lunch out with panoramic views and dinner back at our hotel.

Days 4 & 5

A 2 hour drive to Chatakpur with a stop to look at the Sonada Monastery and walk on the way. For people who like to meditate there is usually the option to do this at the monasteries we visit. At Chatakpur we're in a high, rustic, traditional village perched on the hills overlooking the plains of India and mighty Kanchenchunga range.

On Day 5 we have the option to get up at dawn to see the sun rise over the Himalayas and later we'll do a 3hr forest walk.

Days 6 & 7

We have a 3 hour drive to Singalila National Park. After lunch at a homestay we have a 7km scenic walk with an additional steep 2km option for those who want it. We have support jeeps for the rest of our 2 weeks, so you can choose how much walking you want to do each day. We'll stay in a mountain lodge in Tonglu for 2 nights. Here you have the option to get up for dawn views of Kanchenchunga and a hot cuppa. On Day 7 we have a 3 hour walk along the border with Nepal and lunch at another mountain lodge with warm hospitality.

Day 8, 9 & 10

We now walk and drive to our trekking accommodation in Sandakphu, a welcoming village with little Tea Houses and a truly spectacular 180 degree view of the Himalaya range including Everest. Here we'll see an extensive dawn view over the Himalayas that you will NEVER forget.

You have the opportunity for short, medium or long walks on day 8 ranging from 5 – 20kms as we move toward Sandakphu. We'll be looking into Nepal and Sikkim and West Bengal during our walks. On days 9 & 10, there are little T houses we can visit and stunning walks of 2 – 20kms.

Jo Cresswell
music art events

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Days 11, 12 & 13

On Day 11, the opportunity, for some, of a 1.5 hour spectacular but steep walk down from Sandakphu to Kalpokhri, then about a 45 min drive to Tonglu where we'll walk 2 hours down to Dhotrey for lunch. A 1.5 hour drive to Rimbick, where we'll wander through the bazaar, then up to our accommodation in a Tibetan Buddhist monastery and adjacent homestay. Here we'll be greeted by our friend Lama Kunsang and his delightful French wife Petunia.

These 2 days can include meditations in the monastery. On one day we'll have a 2 hour, 7km walk through the Black Forest to Srikola and lunch at a trekkers Tea House. Keener walkers have the option to add a further 2 hour walk along a dirt road back to Rimbick. On the other day we have the option of another walk or a slothful day hanging out in this special place.

Day 14

We'll drive 4 hours to our comfortable Colonial Hotel in Darjeeling. Here I suggest you stay an additional 2 nights. There are so many things to do in Darjeeling including a visit to the Tibetan Refugee Centre with its museum, weaving studio and shop OR the Himalayan Zoo & Mountaineering Institute. Lots of markets and good shopping for presents and pashminas, textiles.

Day 15

This is your departure day where you may choose a transfer to Bagdogra airport to leave OR you're welcome to book more nights at our hotel in the top of Darjeeling handy to markets,

shopping, and a walk around Observatory Hill with its sensational views of the Himalaya. . .

GENERAL INFORMATION

Temperature

On average we'll have lows to 6C and highs to 19C, however at Megma/Tonglu lows could be to 1-2C and highs of 15/16C. I'll provide a packing list to help judge your clothing.

Accommodation

A night at either end of the trip in comfortable boutique hotels where single rooms are possible. You may want to arrive a day earlier to Bagdogra and stay on a further 2 nights in Darjeeling.

2 nights are in a small family run hotel, 5 nights are in trekkers dormitory accommodation, 3 nights in a comfortable monastery and adjacent homestay. All rooms have ensembles and there may be the opportunity for twin or single rooms during the trip. This may not be known until we've started though.

The highlight of our stay will be our warm interaction with our hosts and their simple way of life.

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.

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Trip Details

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meals (continued)

During our 12 days out in the Himalayas, our cooks are also able to manage food issues though the cooking will be more simple and traditional.

Group Size

We'll have small groups of 6 – 10 people.

Walking

Walks will be 5-15kms or 2-4 hours with many opportunities to extend or reduce the amount of walking as we have back up jeeps with us. For the walks you will only be carrying a day pack. We go to an altitude of 3,600 metres. Luggage is transported for you.

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.

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 trip is \$4,750 for a person sharing a twin/double room. 'Singles' are available for 2 nights of the trip and attract a further \$120.

REGISTER ONLINE

<https://jocresswell.com/november-2027-registration>

Cancellation Conditions

If you must cancel your reservation the following criteria apply:

46-60 days 50% retained by us
32-45 days 75% retained by us
31 days or less no refund (Your travel insurance should cover this)