

MYSTERIES OF NAGALAND

INCLUDING THE HORNBILL FESTIVAL



Nagaland is one of India's most beautiful states. Sometimes referred to as the Switzerland of the east, it is a land of rolling hills and lush valleys. Nagaland is engulfed in mystery, inhabited by vibrant people each fiercely proud of their identity. Folklore still abounds, with stories passed down from generation to generation and music is an integral part of their life. This land of proud warriors, weavers and green pristine hills is like a chapter that one always wants to read again and again. Our journey is calling you to come unravel its mysteries and explore a different way of life.



Highlights



- Experience the wonderful HORNBILL FESTIVAL
- Interactive session with local young arts and artisans of Nagaland
- Visit authentic Naga villages
- A walk through the green forests of Nagaland
- An insightful heritage walk in Kohima
- Some unique dining experiences



ITINERARY

Day 1- 7 December - Dimapur Arrival – Kohima (L,D)

All arrivals to reach Dimapur between 1300 – 1400 hours.

On arrival, you will be met by our local representative, and we will head straight to Kohima (approx. 3 hours). There will be a packed lunch given to you for the journey.

You will be booked at the **Hotel Vivor or similar**. Check in and relax.

Kohima is the capital of Nagaland and is the land of the Angami Naga tribe. The name, Kohima, was officially given by the English as they could not pronounce the Angami name 'Kewhima' or 'Kewhira' (Tenyidie for 'the land where the flower Kewhi grows'). It is named after the wild flowering plant Kewhi, found in the mountains. Rest of the afternoon at leisure.



Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 2- 8 December - Kisama (B,L,D)

Hornbill Festival

Today you spend the day at the hornbill festival. The drive time from your residence to the Hornbill festival venue will take roughly around 45 minutes to an hour depending on traffic.



Hornbill Festival 2022

There are certain special highlighted events that happen every day of the hornbill. This year's calendar of

events will be out sometime in November. *The itinerary for your days in Kohima have been kept flexible so that we can tweak the itinerary to include these events **as required**.*

Activities planned for the day:

- ☒ Breakfast at your hotel and then head to Kisama Village - the venue of the Hornbill Festival.
- ☒ You will be spending the entire day here.
- ☒ Spend the morning at the main arena where the various programmes will be showcased.
Some suggested areas to visit while at Kisama: *The World War Museum, the Bamboo Pavilion for handicrafts, the Bamboo Hall where events are held during specific times of the day, the Tribal Morungs, the Artscape Centre.*
- ☒ Break for lunch at one of the many food stalls at the venue. (own cost for lunch)
- ☒ Visit the handicrafts stalls in the afternoon for a bit of souvenirs shopping
- ☒ Attend the evening programme and then head to a venue for a music and dinner.

About Kisama:

Kisama Heritage Village is spread across a hill, the land for which has been donated by two villages- **KI**gwema Village and Phe**SAMA** Village - hence the name - Kisama. This village is used to host the Annual Hornbill Festival

The Hornbill Festival:

Organized by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments, the Hornbill Festival showcases a mélange of cultural displays under one roof. This festival usually takes place between the 1st and the 10th day of December each year.

All the tribes of Nagaland take part in this festival. The aim of the festival is to revive and protect the rich culture of Nagaland and display its extravaganza and traditions.

The Hornbill Festival is the best place to experience the culture of all the Naga tribes. In addition to the culture, the festival exposes you to the local arts and crafts that can also be purchased from the Bamboo pavilion. Food is another major aspect of the festival – each tribe has an almost distinct style of cooking and the tribes use a variety of locally sourced ingredients, many of which are not found in the rest of the country.

For visitors, it means a closer understanding of the people and culture of Nagaland. It must be included in your itinerary, if you are visiting Nagaland during that time so as to enjoy the food, songs, dances and customs of Nagaland.

The festival has been named the Hornbill Festival, as one of the few common things across all Naga tribes is the use of the Hornbill feather in traditional attire.

Tonight, enjoy music and dinner at a local restaurant

Back to Kohima and overnight at your hotel

Day 3- 9 December - Trek (B,L,D)

Enjoy a short trek to mount Shurho and explore a south Angami village and high tea in the paddy fields



This morning we head out for a moderate hike to mount Shurho near Kigwema village. A popular trekking trail, it goes past old rhododendron trees and from the watch tower near the view point one can spot at least 10 villages (Trek duration – approx. 2 ½ hours with a short break to enjoy the stunning views and some light snacks).

Post the trek, we will have lunch at a local restaurant.

We will then head further out to explore Jakhama, the second largest southern Angami village in Nagaland.

A warrior tribe with a proud history of battle prowess and a few incidents with the British forces. The villages have beautiful terraced farms on one side and you will get to witness their daily life during the village walk. One of the major reasons why travellers visit Jakhama village is to experience the multi-layered way of life of the locals here.

A huge ceremonial gate known as ‘Kharu’ bids you welcome to this enchanting village. When you walk through this gate, you will get a chance to visit the traditional Naga kitchens. When you head out into the village, you will find terraced paddy fields everywhere your eye can see – it is Jakhama village’s way of making the most of the land that they have.

We will walk through the village where you can interact with the locals after which a lovely local high tea will be arranged in the paddy fields.

Drive back to Kohima in the evening.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 4- 10 December – KOHIMA + KISAMA (B,L,D)

Spend the morning exploring the state museum in Kohima town before heading to Kisama. This museum has a collection of rare artefacts of all the 16 major tribes that inhabit the state. Some of the artefacts exhibited in this museum are clan motifs, precious stones, necklaces, traditional attires and inscriptions. A visit to the state museum will provide you a better understanding of the tribes and as a result of the festival.

Post the museum, we will head to the hornbill festival ground for more exploration, last minute shopping and of course, the **finale ceremony of the Hornbill Festival**



Later, we will return to Kohima and have dinner at a local café with some local live music. Western music is very popular in the northeast and no trip to the east is complete without a jam session.

Overnight at the hotel

Day 5- 11 December – KOHIMA (B,L,D)

After breakfast this morning we will head out on a **Heritage walk of Kohima**.

Start your day by visiting the Kohima Cathedral, the view point and then head to the Heritage Old DC Bungalow

From here, take a short walk from the bungalow to the Kohima War Cemetery and the museum and interact with our local guide to understand the role the region played during the second world war.

Kohima War Cemetery

The Battle of Kohima fought in 1944 during the course of the 2nd World War is considered as 'Britain's Greatest Battle' and is often referred to as the 'Stalingrad of the East'. The Kohima War Cemetery on the slopes of the Garrison Hill is a memorial dedicated to 1420 Commonwealth soldiers along with 917 Hindu and Sikh soldiers who laid their lives while halting Japanese advance into India. A series of terraces on the sloping ground houses the stone markers of the names of the soldiers and a short reference of their loved ones who waited painstakingly for their return.

Kohima Cathedral

The Cathedral of Kohima (Mary Help of Christians Church) is noted for its architecture which incorporates many elements of traditional Naga houses, including its facade which resembles that of a Naga house. The architecture of the cathedral blends into the hill on which it is situated. The 16 feet high carved wood crucifix is one of Asia's largest crosses. The construction commenced in 1986 and the church was consecrated in January 1991. The expense for constructing the cathedral was mostly funded by Japanese people who wished to construct a monument to the Japanese soldiers who died in the Battle of Kohima during the Second World War.



We will then break for lunch at a nearby restaurant.

Post lunch, we will **visit the local market**. This is the main market in Kohima (open air) selling vegetables, indigenous tools, fruits etc. You will get to see several local crafts too like baskets and wooden plates, which they use daily.

We will also head to a local shopping arcade that sells handicraft and houses a book store.

We will then return to the hotel for a little downtime.

In the evening, your **dinner has been planned at a charming heritage homestay** that was witnessed a lot of history.

You will be regaled with stories about the history of the house over your meal.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 6- 12 December – KOHIMA TO DIMAPUR (B,L,D)

Check out after breakfast and transfer to Dimapur (3hours)



You will be booked at the **Hotel Niathu** OR SIMILAR for a stay of 1 night.

Lunch at the hotel.

Early this evening we will visit the **workshop of a contemporary lifestyle brand** that uses local natural fibers to create their products.

Post this, we will head out to a local farm where we will enjoy our farewell dinner. Start by going for a walk around the property at sunset and then do a workshop with your hostess and learn to make two -three different types of Naga chutneys and salads, followed by a glass of rice beer. There will be a bonfire and recorded music to sit around and exchange tales of your trip.

Overnight at the hotel

Day 7- 13 December - Dimapur Departure

This morning, the transfer to the airport will be arranged for you as per your flight timings.

**** Return home with wonderful memories of your holiday ****

Price per person on a twin sharing/single basis: Rs. 92,900

Single room supplement: Rs. 39,900

Inclusions

- 6 nights accommodation in the hotels mentioned or similar
- Daily Breakfast
- All meals from Lunch on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 7 (No lunch is included on the 2 festival days)
- The Hornbill Festival
- Services of a tour escort
- A local Naga guide throughout the tour
- Sightseeing tours as mentioned
- All entrance fees
- All local permits & taxes

Exclusions

- Airfare to Dimapur & back
- Tips to the driver / guide
- Drinks with meals
- Items of a personal nature
- Anything not specifically mentioned under "Inclusions"
- 5% GST

Please note:

- The Hornbill festival schedule may require us to change the order in which we do the trip.
- Due to Covid restrictions, we may need to re-plan the itinerary and it may require certain cost adjustments.
- All guests are required to get a Covid Test done and sent to us within 72 to 48 hours prior to departure.



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BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

1. A deposit of Rs 15,000 per person is payable at the time of booking to block your seat on the tour.
2. Balance payment has to be made 40 days prior to the start of the tour
3. At the time of making the balance / full payment, please send us a copy of your ID proof (Aadhar Card / Driving Licence)

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

1. **Payment of the booking deposit constitutes acceptance of our terms and conditions**
2. We require a minimum **of 8 guests** to operate the tour. In case we do not get the minimum number of guests, the deposit paid will be refunded in full
3. The Balance / Full payment will be collected 40 days prior only when we get the minimum number of guests to operate the tour
4. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:
 - Cancellation effected after paying the booking deposit & within 30 days of start of the tour: Full refund
 - Cancellation effected between 30 and 10 days of start of the tour: An administrative service charge equivalent to the initial booking deposit of Rs 15,000 will be levied*
 - Cancellation effected within 10 days of start of the tour: 100% of the tour cost will be levied as cancellation charges*
 - ***Cancellation charges will be waived if the guest can find a replacement person to join the tour**
 - No refund will be due after commencement of travel
5. Cancellation due to Covid (during the tour): In the unfortunate event that the guest tests positive during the tour, there will be no refund due for the remainder of the tour. Any additional costs of hotel quarantine / isolation will be applicable as required and has to be paid directly by the guest to the service providers
6. Refunds due can take upto 5 weeks to process.