

THE MAGIC OF MEGHALAYA



Meghalaya is one of those places that offers stunning scenery at every turn. A land of surreal charm – that of the local people, of its mysterious natural caves, glorious waterfalls, unique living root bridges, crystal clear rivers, bright blue natural pools and so much more.

Experience the cultural and natural beauty of this Abode of the Clouds.

Highlights

- A visit to Umphrew village to interact with the women who work with ahimsa silk
- Visit the beautiful crystal clear waters of the Umgot river
- A visit to Mawlynnong, considered to be the cleanest village in Asia.
- Trek to the famed double root bridge near Nongriat
- Visit Mawkma village to explore its pristine waterbodies
- Explore the Mawphlang secret grove
- Spend 2 nights at the lovely Ri Kynjai at Umiam lake.

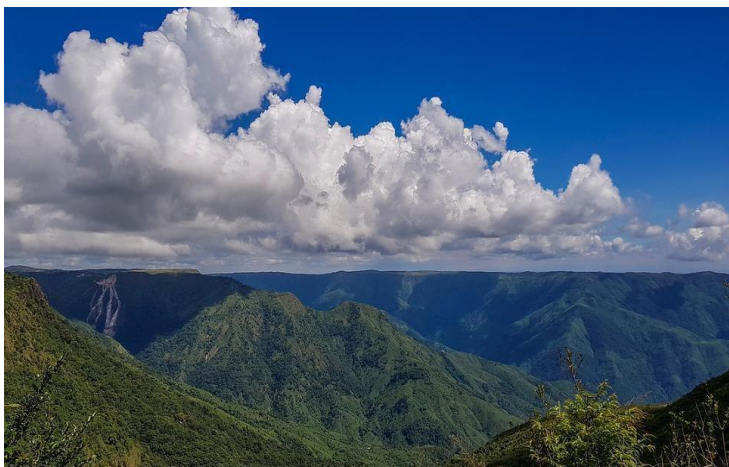
DAY 1 – 18 September 2022 - Arrival Guwahati

Arrival into Guwahati Airport and the transfer to the hotel will be arranged for you. You will be booked at the **Taj Guwahati** or similar for a stay of 1 night.

Dinner will be at the hotel

DAY 2 – 19 September 2022 - Guwahati to Shillong

After breakfast, check out by 8 am, and transfer from Guwahati to Umden. Drive duration is 2hrs 30mins with a stop at Nongpoh to refresh.



Spend a few hours with the local women who are still practising rearing and spinning of indigenous Eri silk yarn also known as **ahimsa silk**. You will get to try your hand at flattening the cocoons for spinning, watching a hand spinning and natural dyeing workshop. Please note the drive is partially over road that is in poor condition. A local lunch and then a visit to their co-operative shop ends this experience.

Continue towards Shillong (drive duration 2 hours) and check into the hotel by early evening refresh. Dinner will be at a local café or restaurant

You will be booked at the **Hotel Windermere Shillong** or similar for a stay of 2 nights.

DAY 3 – 20 September 2022 – Shillong

Morning after breakfast set out for the day by 9 am. First visit the Don Bosco Museum focussing on local indigenous people and culture. Enjoy the sky walk here too to get a bird's eye view of the city. Then visit the Cathedral and All saint's church. The latter is one of the oldest churches in Shillong and a great example of colonial Assam type architecture in the north east.

Today the **lunch will be at a private residence**. Visit the home of a food enthusiast where we have arranged for you to sample a glass of local fruit wine and enjoy a home-cooked delicious meal, best described as **a contemporary twist to traditional Khasi cuisine while you interact with your hosts**.

Afternoon visit the grounds where the antiquated game of teer (**local archery**) is held and join the locals to place your bets. *Please don't disturb the archers while their game is on.*

Later a guided **walk-through bara bazaar and police bazaar**. Bara bazaar is one of the oldest and biggest open flea market in the region that attracts local farmers and cottage industry enterprises. Tonight, we will dine in one of the small Jadoh shops (these are little restaurants set up by local women who are addressed as kong, meaning elder sister)

Overnight in Shillong.

DAY 4 – 21 September 2022 - Shillong – Shnongpdeng – Mawlynnong - Cherrapunjee

Check out early this morning or a packed breakfast, and drive towards the border of Bangladesh to Shnongpdeng village. (approx. 3 hours) Near this village flows the **crystal-clear waters of the Umgot river**. Enjoy a traditional boat ride here, followed by a **zip lining experience** and a simple lunch.

From here we make our way towards the lovely village of **Mawlynnong**, considered as the cleanest village in Asia. We will take a quick walk around the village and have a cup of tea.

Finally, we drive towards Cherrapunjee (approx. 2 ½ hours).

Check in at the hotel and relax. You will be booked at the **Jiva Resort** or similar for a stay of 3 nights.

Dinner and overnight at the property.



DAY 5 – 22 September 2022 - Cherrapunjee

Start out after breakfast by 8.30 AM for the trek to the famed **double root bridge** near Nongriat. Total duration (both ways) 4hs 30 mins -5 hours. A snack will be provided. *Please note the trek is moderate up and down hill but it is over many stone steps and hard on the knees. For those with knee issues please consider this.*

For those who are unable to do the trek, we will arrange for a guide to meet you at the hotel to see the local market and some of the sights around. You will then proceed towards Laitkynsew or mot village and do a short walk to the Umkar root bridge located here. It will transport you to the fairy tale land of the Grimm brothers. Spend some time exploring it.

Lunch will be arranged at a local restaurant or hotel near here so that both groups can meet and have lunch together.

Afterwards have lunch in a local restaurant.

Post lunch, we will visit the **Welsh missionary settlement** and watch the sunset over famed **Nohkalikai waterfalls**. There is a sad tale behind the name given to the tallest plunge waterfall in India, listen to the story there.

Evening relax at the property. Performance by a **local band** in the evening.

The living roots bridges are human ingenious created using the roots of the Indian rubber tree to create bridges across the cliff side for easy access which are now over 100 years old. Good walking shoes are a must, carry a waterproof jacket too and a light change, water bottle in a back pack.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



DAY 6 – 23 September 2022 - Cherrapunjee – Mawkma – Cherrapunjee

In the morning we drive towards the village of **Mawkma** (apprx 45 mins) to enjoy and explore the various pristine waterbodies around here. This will truly allow you get a feel for this wonderful state. We have chosen a lesser known but very scenic spot for you. Take a dip in the crystal-clear natural water pools or under a waterfall with a life jacket. A simple lunch will be prepared for you near one of the spots while you relax, swim or just soak in the place.

Post lunch we spend an hour exploring **Arwah caves**, again a destination with fewer footfalls, interesting fossils and the walk to the entrance is definitely the highlight. Evening enjoy sunset overlooking the lights in Bangladesh that lies below in the plains.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



DAY 7 – 24 September 2022 - Cherrapunjee – Mawphalang - Umiam lake

After breakfast, check out and drive to Umiam lake, with a stop at **Mawphlang** to visit the Mawphlang secret grove (approx. 1 hour 4 5mins)

Spend about an hour and a half exploring the forest that is so enchanting, with its rich variety of exotic flora, which has a great significance here. *Please note nothing can be taken out of the forest and we request you to abide by this sentiment.*

Enjoy lunch in a tiny local restaurant run by locals or a private home here before you continue towards **Umiam lake**. Check into the hotel by tea time and watch the sun set over the lake.

You will be booked at the lovely **Ri Kynjai hotel (Forest view)** for a stay of 2 nights.



DAY 8 – 25 September - Umiam lake – Mairang – Umiam lake

After breakfast, drive an hour to Kylan rock for mild trekking as your guide will explain the local folklore attached to the rock. You will also visit Khudoi waterfalls. Both destinations are off beat and away from the usual tourist map but very scenic. Have lunch in a local restaurant in Mairang before returning back to the hotel. The afternoon is at leisure.

We recommend you go for a short walk to the water's edge through the pine trees or visit the park near the lake where sometimes water sport activities are offered. (optional)

Overnight and farewell dinner at the hotel

DAY 9 – 26 September 2022 - Umiam lake - Guwahati airport

Check out after breakfast and drive down to Guwahati (approx. 4 hours). We depart at 9 AM to Guwahati airport. (all flights to be booked post 3 pm)

**** Return home with wonderful memories ****

Price per person on a twin sharing basis: Rs. 1,08,000
Single room supplement: Rs. 37,990

Cost to upgrade to Lake View rooms at Ri Kynjai:
Per person twin-sharing: Rs 5780 for 2 nights
Per person in a single room: RS 11560 for 2 nights

Inclusions

- Accommodation in the hotels mentioned in this itinerary for 8 nights
- Airport transfers on arrival in Guwahati
- Transportation using a 12-seater Tempo Traveller to and from Guwahati
- All meals from Dinner on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 9
- English speaking guide
- Services of a tour escort
- Sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary
- All entrance fees for places mentioned in the itinerary
- Care bag with equipment kit (waterproof poncho, head torches and trekking sticks), medical kit and drinking water for the transfers. *In case equipment is not returned at the end of tour it will be charged at cost.*

Exclusions:

- Airfare to Guwahati & back
- Tips to the driver / guide
- Any alcoholic / non alcoholic drinks
- Personal expenses
- Camera fee, porter, laundry
- Evening tea, coffee, snacks, any beverages
- Expenses arising from unexpected circumstances beyond our control.
- Medical or Travel Insurance
- 5% GST

Please note

- Due to government restrictions, we may need to re-plan the itinerary and it may require certain cost adjustments.
- We require a minimum of 8 people to operate the group.

Please carry the following with you

- Please carry all your electronic and camera chargers.
- Medicines that you normally use
- Outdoor clothes that dry quick
- A light backpack
- A cap
- Sunscreen lotion
- A pullover or thick sweatshirt and a medium weight jacket
- Insect repellent.
- Waterproof trek pants, two pairs of good walking shoes (one could be trekking shoes)
- Umbrella or waterproof jacket.
- **Good walking shoes are a must.** (2 pairs)
- Optional Trekking pole
- Aadhaar card
- Double vaccination certificates
- A negative RTPCR test report obtained within 72 hours of traveling (to be double checked closer to travel)



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BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

- A deposit of Rs 15,000 per person is payable at the time of booking to block your seat on the tour.
- Balance payment has to be made 30 days prior to the start of the tour
- At the time of making the balance / full payment, please send us a copy of your ID proof (Aadhar Card)

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 only when we get the minimum number of guests to operate the tour

4. Cancellation of any reservations are subject to the following conditions:

- o Cancellation effected after paying the booking deposit & within 30 days of start of the tour: Full refund
- o 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*
- o Cancellation effected within 10 days of start of the tour: 100% of the tour cost will be levied as cancellation charges*
- o *Cancellation charges will be waived if the guest can find a replacement person to join the tour
- o No refund will be due after commencement of travel

5. Cancellation due to Covid (prior to the tour): All guests will be required to submit a Covid Negative test report 72 hours prior to the start of the tour. If a guest tests positive, a full refund will be given

6. 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

7. Cancellation due to state travel restrictions: In the event that the state we are travelling to imposes travel restrictions that makes it difficult to travel, we will refund the entire amount paid for the tour or hold the entire amount as a travel credit to be used for a future tour.

8. Refunds due can take upto 5 weeks to process.