

# HSJ – Authentic Himalayan Experiences, Treks & Pilgrimages

Your Adventure Awaits

## Nepal, Darjeeling and Sikkim Tour

### ? Tour Gallery Available

This tour includes 15 professional photos showcasing the journey, landscapes, and experiences.

View complete gallery online at: <https://hsj.com.np>

### Tour Overview

Duration	16 Days
Region	Inter-country Tours
Group Size	2-14 persons
Best Season	Any
Transportation	Tourist Bus, Private Car Or Plane Flight (optional)
Location	Nepal

**USD \$3,000.00**

Per person (based on group size)

### Tour Description

## Overview

This package is very suitable for that traveler who wants to have both experiences of Nepal, Darjeeling, and Sikkim. Explore the mysterious culture of Kathmandu valley, visit the medieval art & culture, artistic palace, breathtaking scenery of sunrise over Himalaya as well as the magnificent mountain view including Mt. Everest.

This popular tour package takes you to important places in the west and east Sikkim such as the mystical Khechophalri lake popularly known as the Wishing Lake, Pemayangtse Monastery which is one of the oldest and most important monasteries, and the Rabdentse Palace ruins located near Pelling. Visit the Tiger Hill for sunrise, Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park where Snow Leopard and Red pandas are bred in captivity; The Yoga Choling Monastery with the Statue of Maitreya Buddha which happens to be the oldest monastery in Darjeeling, The famous tea gardens which produce some of the finest teas in the world.

## Highlights

Guided tour of Kathmandu valley

Explore the beautiful city of Darjeeling

Visit the stunning tea garden

Get familiar with the culture, tradition and with the locals

Sightseeing tour around different culturally affluent places

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival Kathmandu – transfer to hotel

Arrival in Kathmandu and transfer to the Himalayan Suite Hotel. Group Orientation meeting. In the evening welcome dinner with cultural program. (B.D)

### Day 2: Full day city tour Kathmandu

**Patan Durbar Square** is surrounded by a fascinating array of temples in different architectural styles. One of the Kathmandu Valley World Heritage Sites, Patan is well worth a visit. Its origins are clouded in mystery, but it has a long Buddhist history. For many centuries Patan's importance eclipsed that of Kathmandu and by the 7th century, it was one of the major Buddhist centres of Asia, attracting pilgrims, scholars and monks from India, Tibet and China. Most of Patan's magnificent architecture dates to the late Malla era (16th - 18th centuries).

**Boudhanath Stupa** is one of the holiest sites in Nepal. It holds utter importance, and faith not only from the perspective of Buddhism, but Hindus of Nepal pay their equal respect to this pious Buddhist site. The stupa is one of the UNESCO world heritages for Nepal and the place where the stupa is established; it used to be an ancient resting point for the Tibetan merchants for Nepal and India, where they would rest and perform their holy prayers. Ever since then and now, especially Tibetans but also Buddhist from all around the world regard Boudhanath Stupa as their ultimate holy destination. (B)

### Day 3: Kathmandu -Bhaktapur-Nagarkot one and half hour drive

Nagarkot, at an altitude of 2,175 meters above the sea level, is the most popular touristic destination out of the Kathmandu Valley. It is the favourite weekend gateway among those seeking Mountain View in comfort and quiet. At sunrise, the Himalayan range, stretching from Dhaulagiri in the west all the way past Everest to Kanchenjunga in the east, emerges from the darkness to greet the happy visitors with its awe-inspiring majesty and beauty.

For those wishing to stretch their legs and enjoy the fresh morning air, there are charming walking trails as well as a lookout tower from which the sights can be taken in. Among all the places for mountain viewing around Kathmandu Valley, Nagarkot is usually considered to be the best. The views go from Dhaulagiri in the west to Kanchenjunga in the east. On a clear day, you can see Mt. Everest (Sagarmatha). You can also see Manaslu (8,463m), Ganesh Himal (7,111m), and Langtang (7,246m). (B)

#### **Day 4: Kathmandu to Bhadrapur by Flight**

You will be met by our office Executive who will assist you to board your vehicle to Gangtok (154 km / 5hrs). Check-in and overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 5: Gangtok**

Go for half-day sightseeing covering Rumtek Monastery, Droul Chorten, Research Institute of Tibetology, Directorate of Handicraft & Handloom, Flower Show, Enchey Monastery & Nam Nam View Point. Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 6: Gangtok**

This is a day excursion to Tshangu Lake (departure in the morning). Situated at a height of 3,780 Mts. with an average depth of 50 ft. The Cool water of the Lake is perfectly attuned with the scenic beauty around. Return Back to Gangtok. Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 7: Gangtok - Pemayantse**

After Breakfast transfer from Gangtok to Pemayangtse (116 km / 05 hrs). via Sikkim Temi Tea Garden and on the way Rabangla arrive Pemayangtse Check in hotel. The evening takes a pleasant walk enjoying the sunset over Mt. Khangchendzonga. Stay Overnight hotel (B)

#### **Day 8: Pelling**

Today you go for a Full day sightseeing covering Rimbi Waterfalls, Rimbi Hydel Project, Khecheopari Lake & Kanchenjunga Falls. Back to Hotel for Lunch. After lunch, you cover Pemayangtse Monastery, Changay Falls, Singsoor Bridge & Dentam Village (includes Alpine Cheese Factory). Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 9: Pelling - Yuksom**

After breakfast we drive to Yuksom (35 Km / 02Hrs) on way visit Khecheopalri Lake, Khecheopalri Lake is one of the sacred Buddhist mountain lakes wherever it is believed that whatever is wished in front of the lake comes true. Myth has it that when a leaf falls on the placid clear water surface is picked by a bird. A further drive takes you to Yuksom (the meeting place of three monks)- the first capital of Sikkim. This was the place where the first Chogyal (a ruling dynasty in Sikkim) was crowned. Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 10: Yuksom**

Early morning 35 minutes moderate walk to Dhubdi Monastery (built-in 1700 AD, the oldest monastery of Sikkim) and Tashi Namgyal (the stone throne for the first king). Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 11: Yuksom**

After breakfast today transfer to Kalimpong (85 Kms/ 4 Hrs). Check-in at Hotel. Evening visit to Flower Nurseries, Durbin Dara Hills & Durbin Monastery. OverNight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 12: Kalimpong**

Here you do the sightseeing of Dello hills, Dr Graham's Home, Flower Nurseries, Nature Interpretation Center and Durbin Dara Hills & Jang-Dong-Palrifo Brang. Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 13: Kalimpong - Darjeeling**

Transfer to Darjeeling (70 km / 3 hrs.) and toy train ride. Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 14: Darjeeling**

Early morning tour to Tiger Hills (at around 4 am) to view sunrise over Kanchenjunga Peak (subject to clear weather). On way back visit Ghoom Monastery, Batasia Loop. After breakfast visit to Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (closed on Thursday), Tenzing & Gombu. Rock, Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Center (Closed on Sunday)

& Tea Estate. Overnight at Hotel. (B)

#### **Day 15: Darjeeling – Bhadrapur airport**

Darjeeling to Bhadrapur Airport 4hrs /145km. Morning Breakfast transfer from Darjeeling to Nepal border after complete immigration and proceeds for Bhadrapur Airport catch Kathmandu Flight. Overnight at Himalayan Suite Hotel (B)

#### **Day 16: Adventure Day**

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your departure. (B)

## **What's Included & Excluded**

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### ? INCLUDED

- ? Airport pick up and drop
- ? Accommodation in Kathmandu- Himalayan Suite Hotel and in Hotel Himalayan Villa in twin sharing basis with breakfast
- ? Sightseeing tour in Kathmandu with tour guide
- ? Kathmandu to Nagarkot by private vehicle
- ? Welcome dinner with cultural program in Kathmandu
- ? Kathmandu –Bhadrapur –Kathmandu by flight
- ? All Transportation AC / Qulise, Innova / Xylo / Mini Tourist Bus
- ? Guide/ leader (Experienced Tour Guide will lead the tour).
- ? All monument fees, Permit arrangement, All taxes and VAT in Darjling ,Skkim
- ? All accommodation as Darjeeling, Gangtok, Pelling, Yuksom and Kalimpong in twin sharing With Breakfast
- ? Himalayan toy train ride in Darjeeling

### ? NOT INCLUDED

- ? Lunch and dinner during the trip
- ? Sightseeing entrance fee in Kathmandu (200 +250+1000)
- ? Expenses of personal nature expenses, travel insurance and anything not mentioned in the trip itinerary

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Q: Things to know about India

#### VISA INFORMATION

#### OVERVIEW

All foreign nationals entering India are required to possess a valid international travel document in the form of a national passport with a valid visa obtained from an Indian Mission or Post abroad.

All Individual visa seekers are requested to apply for the Indian Visa through Online application link , in order to make an application for getting the Indian visa.

The duly signed physical copy of the application form completed in all respect and submitted successfully, is to be submitted at the concerned Indian Visa Application Center (IVAC) or directly to Indian Mission/ Post, on the scheduled date of interview along with the requisite supporting documents. The instructions for filling the form and scheduling the appointment can be seen at Instructions for Online Visa Application. Important technical information for filling online Indian visa application can be referred at Technical Instructions.

The applicants are also requested to visit website of the Indian Mission concerned for detailed information about Indian visa.

### **ONLINE VISA APPLICATION**

All Individual visa seekers are requested to apply for the Indian Visa through online application link. Or can apply by typing the URL: <http://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/> in the address bar of web browser, in order to make an application for getting the Indian visa. In either case, no hand written application form will be accepted by any of the Indian Mission/ Post, where-ever online Visa facility has been implemented. The application form completed in all respect and submitted successfully, is to be submitted at the concerned Indian Visa Application Center (IVAC) or directly to Indian Mission/ Post in absence of IVAC, on the scheduled date of interview along with the requisite supporting documents. The instructions for filling the form and scheduling the appointment can be referred at Instructions for Online Visa Application. Important technical information for filling online Indian visa application can be referred at Technical Instructions. If you have already applied online for Indian Visa online and want to know the status of your application,

### **VISA CATEGORIES**

Government of India issues the following visas: Business Visa, Conference Visa, Diplomatic Visa, Employment Visa, Emergency Visa, Entry Visa, Journalist Visa, Medical Visa, Missionaries Visa, Permit to re-enter within 2 months, Research Visa, Student Visa, Tourist Visa, Transit Visa.

Please follow the link for details on Visa Provision and supporting documents

### **VISA PROCESSING TIME**

Upon receipt of the Visa Application through Indian Visa Application Center or directly, the Indian Mission/ Post requires a minimum of three working days to process the case and issue a visa depending upon the nationality and excluding special cases.

### **PHOTO REQUIREMENTS**



Online India Visa Application allows the Applicant to upload a digital photograph of self to complete the online visa application.

Guidelines/procedure to upload a digital photograph

The digital photograph to be uploaded along with the Visa application should meet the following requirements:

Format – JPEG

Size

Minimum 10 KB

Maximum 300 KB

The height and width of the Photo must be equal.

Photo should present Full face, front view, eyes open.

Center head within frame and present full head from top of hair to bottom of chin.

Background should be plain light colored or white background.

No shadows on the face or on the background.

Without borders.

Make sure that photo presents full head from top of hair to bottom of chin. Head should measure 1 inch to 1-3/8 inches (25mm to 35mm). Make sure eye height is between 1-1/8 inches to 1-3.

## **FEE FOR INDIAN VISA**

The visa fee depends upon the type of applied for and duration of visa. Visa fee is divided into various types depending upon the case viz; Basic fee, special fee, processing fee by out-sourcing agency. During the online registration process, at the end of the process the basic fee shall be displayed. However, this fee shall be indicative only and final fee shall be charged while submitting the application at the respective counters Fee once received are non-refundable even if the visa application is withdrawn, the visa is not granted, or if visa issued is of shorter duration of period than applied for or otherwise issued or returned at a time or on terms and conditions that may vary from those sought by the applicant. For further information on this, please check with

local embassy office or Indian Visa Application center office or websites for information on applicable fee and payment methods.

## **VISA PROVISION**

SL. NO.

TYPE OF VISA

PERIOD FOR WHICH GRANTED

ENTRY – SINGLE (S), MULTIPLE (M), DOUBLE

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WITH APPLICATION

EXTENDABLE IN INDIA

1

TOURIST

180 DAYS

M

-

NO

2

TRANSIT

15 DAYS

S/ DOUBLE

RETURN/ ONWARD JOURNEY TICKET

NO

3

BUSINESS

5 YEARS

M

DOCUMENTS TO PROVE BONAFIDE PURPOSE (COMPANY'S LETTER ETC.)

YES

4

EMPLOYMENT

1 YEAR/ PERIOD OF CONTRACT

M

PROOF OF EMPLOYMENT (APPOINTMENT DOCUMENT), TERMS AND CONDITIONS

YES

5

STUDENT

PERIOD OF COURSE/ 5 YEARS

M

PROOF OF ADMISSION IN INDIAN INSTITUTION

YES

6

FOREIGNERS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

5 YEARS

M

PROOF OF BEING OF INDIAN ORIGIN

YES

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

### **A. Online application form:**

This application form is meant for those foreigners who are applying for visa from outside India.

Each online application form is meant for one person only. Separate application has to be filed for each applicant.

Furnish information exactly in the manner asked for in the forms, especially the names, address and date of birth.

Applicants are required to verify the application details before submitting the online application. They have an option to save the online application form, in case it is not to be submitted.

Once the online application form is submitted by the applicant, then further modifications are not allowed. Hence applicants are requested to check and validate the details before submitting the online application form.

Applicants are requested to keep the Application Id (generated automatically after the submission of online form) for further communications.

### **B. Appointment Scheduling:**

Applicant can schedule the appointment as per his/ her convenience with the concerned Indian Mission.

Each applicant to schedule a separate appointment with the Indian Mission

### **C. Process for filling up online application form:**

Applicant shall access the Visa Application system online through the following link:

<http://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/>.

Applicant visits the above mentioned web link and selects the Indian Mission from where he intends to apply for the Visa from the tab "Select Mission".

Applicant fills the application on-line as per the forms standardized by the Ministry.

After filling the form and submitting it, the system shall automatically generate a Application Id.

Applicants are requested to keep this Application Id for further communications with the

concerned Indian Mission.

System will automatically ask the Applicant for the following confirmation: "Select 'Yes' if the applicant want to seek appointment and make payment online or 'No' if the applicant just want to print the submitted application form."

If the applicant response is "No", then it is requested by the applicant to take the print out of the submitted online application form and approach the concerned Indian Mission for submission of the online form along with supporting documents.

If the response from applicant is "yes" then the system automatically takes the link to perform the following:

Selection of Date and Time of appointment at the concerned Indian Mission

Calculation of Visa fee, service charge, VAT etc. as applicable according to the Visa type

#### **D. Payment using service provider's payment system**

In case the facility of Appointment Scheduling and e-Payment is not available for the concerned Indian mission, then applicant has to take the printout of the online application form and visit the concerned Indian Mission to submit the same along with supporting documents and make the payment.

#### **Indian Culture: Traditions and Customs of India**

India's culture is among the world,s oldest; civilization in India began about 4,500 years ago. Many sources describe it as "Sa Prathama Sanskrati Vishvavara" — the first and the supreme culture in the world, according to the All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) organization.

Western societies did not always see the culture of India very favorably, according to Christina De Rossi, an anthropologist at Barnet and Southgate College in London. Early anthropologists once considered culture as an evolutionary process, and "every aspect of human development was seen as driven by evolution," she told Live Science. "In this view, societies outside of Europe or North America, or societies that did not follow the European or Western way of life, were considered primitive and culturally inferior. Essentially this included all the colonized countries and people, such as African countries, India, and the Far East."

However, Indians made significant advances in architecture (Taj Mahal), mathematics (the invention of zero) and medicine (Ayurveda). Today, India is a very diverse country, with more than 1.2 billion people, according to the CIA World Factbook, making it the second most populous nation after China. Different regions have their own distinct cultures. Language, religion, food and the arts are just some of the various aspects of Indian culture. Here is a brief overview of the culture of India.

## **Language**

India has 28 states and seven territories, according to the World Health Organization. There is no official language in India, according to a Gujarat High Court ruling in 2010. Many people living in India also write in Devanagari script. In fact, it is a misconception that the majority of people in India speak Hindi. Though many people speak Hindi in India, 59 percent of India residents speak something other than Hindi, according to The Times of India. Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil and Urdu are some other languages spoken in the country.

## **Religion**

India is identified as the birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism, the third and fourth largest religions. About 84 percent of the population identifies as Hindu, according to the “Handbook of Research on Development and Religion” Edited by Matthew Clarke (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2013). There are many variations of Hinduism, and four predominant sects — Shaiva, Vaishnava, Shakteya and Smarta.

About 13 percent of Indians are Muslim, making it one of the largest Islamic nations in the world. Christians and Sikhs make up a small percentage of the population, and there are even fewer Buddhists and Jains, according to the “Handbook.”

## **Food**

When the Moghul Empire invaded during the sixteenth century, they left a significant mark on the Indian cuisine, according to Texas A&M University. Indian cuisine is also influenced by many other countries. It is known for its large assortment of dishes and its liberal use of herbs and spices. Cooking styles vary from region to region.

Wheat, Basmati rice and pulses with chana (Bengal gram) are important staples of the Indian diet. The food is rich with curries and spices, including ginger, coriander, cardamom, turmeric, dried hot peppers, and cinnamon, among others. Chutneys — thick condiments and spreads made

from assorted fruits and vegetables such as tamarind and tomatoes and mint, cilantro and other herbs — are used generously in Indian cooking.

Many Hindus are vegetarians, but lamb and chicken are common in main dishes for non-vegetarians. The Guardian reports that between 20 percent and 40 percent of India's population is vegetarian.

Much of Indian food is eaten with fingers or bread used as utensils. There is a wide array of breads served with meals, including naan, a leavened, oven-baked flatbread, and bhatoora, a fried, fluffy flatbread common in North India and eaten with chickpea curry.

### **Architecture and art**

The most well-known example of Indian architecture is the Taj Mahal, built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan to honor his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It combines elements from Islamic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian architectural styles. India also has many ancient temples.

India is well known for its film industry, which is often referred to as Bollywood. The country's movie history began in 1896 when the Lumière brothers demonstrated the art of cinema in Mumbai, according to the Golden Globes. Today, the films are known for their elaborate singing and dancing.

Indian dance, music and theater traditions span back more than 2,000 years, according to Nilima Bhadbhade, author of "Contract Law in India" (Kluwer Law International, 2010). The major classical dance traditions — Bharata Natyam, Kathak, Odissi, Manipuri, Kuchipudi, Mohiniattam and Kathakali — draw on themes from mythology and literature and have rigid presentation rules.

### **Clothing**

Indian clothing is closely identified with the colorful silk saris worn by many of the country's women. The traditional clothing for men is the dhoti, an unstitched piece of cloth that is tied around the waist and legs. Men also wear a kurta, a loose shirt that is worn about knee-length. For special occasions, men wear a sherwani, which is a long coat that is buttoned up to the collar and down to the knees. The Nehru jacket is a shorter version of a sherwani.

### **Customs and celebrations**

The country celebrates Republic Day (Jan. 26), Independence Day (Aug. 15) and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday (Oct. 2). Diwali is the largest and most important holiday to India, according to

National Geographic. It is a five-day festival known as the festival of lights because of the lights lit during the celebration to symbolize the inner light that protects them from spiritual darkness. Holi, the festival of colors, also called the festival of love, is popular in the spring.

## Weather

India is situated in Southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and Pakistan.

The climate in India varies from a tropical monsoon climate in the south to a temperate climate in the north. If you are thinking of Visiting Delhi (the capital of India) then best to visit it in October, November, February and March. That's when the nights are cool and the days are filled with a little sunshine. May, June and July are very hot with temperatures over 45 degrees (113 Fahrenheit). It is a dry heat and is sometimes accompanied by dusty desert winds. Most of the rain falls between July and September but they are not the tropical rains you'll experience in India's coastal cities.

## Customer Reviews

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### Excellent Rating

*Our tours consistently receive outstanding reviews from travelers worldwide.*

? **Read Real Reviews:** Visit our website to see detailed customer testimonials, photos, and video reviews from past guests.

? **TripAdvisor & Google:** Check our verified reviews on major travel platforms.

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