

# FLOWER FESTIVAL



## KOLKATA + DARJEELING + PEMAYANGTSE + GANGTOK + KALIMPONG

The **International Flower Festival** showcases an exceptional show of interesting varieties of flowers including rare orchids and rhododendrons. In this festival, you can also figure-out remarkable plants that are actually indigenous to Sikkim. This Flower Festival is celebrated in summers during the peak blossoming season in Sikkim. During these months, the horticultural delights of Sikkim look their best. The venue is made near White Hall, not far from Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim.

Sikkim is renowned for its rich flora and the festival approves the idea, with the display of around 600 species of orchids, 240 species of trees and ferns, 150 varieties of gladioli and 46 types of the world-famous rhododendrons. Continuing the list, you can also see variety of magnolias and many other foliage plants. However, the main attraction is gathered by exquisite orchids, gladioli, roses, cacti, alpine plants, creepers, climbers, ferns, herbs etc.

The experts and masters of botanical sciences also come up to hold lectures and seminars. The International Flower Festival is definitely a colorful treat for the eyes and the event is important not only on state level but on the national level too. The amazing assortment of flowers confirms it as a fantastic event and attracts a multitude of people from all over.

### 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: KOLKATA ARRIVAL

Fly to Kolkata. On arrival in Kolkata you will be greeted and escorted by Indo Asia Tour's staff to your hotel. On arrival, check in the hotel. (Room will be available from 1200 Noon).

Overnight stay at hotel

### 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: KOLKATA

In the morning after breakfast visit the **Famous Jain Temples** of Kolkata, The **Howard Bridge**,



**DIGAMBAR JAIN TEMPLE - KOLKATA**

The cantilevered bridge, also known as Rabindra Setu, is similar in size to the Sydney Harbour Bridge but carries a flow of traffic which Sydney could never dream of. It is the busiest bridge in the world. Later drive to the **Kali ma temple** located near the banks of the River Ganges at Kali

Ghat. According to popular legend the Lord Shiva's consort sati killed herself by burning herself as her parents humiliated Lord Shiva, Shiva reached too late and then he picked up her charred body and began the 'tandav' the dance of cosmic destruction. To prevent the destruction of the world Lord Vishnu chopped

Sati's charred body into 51 pieces that fell in different parts of the earth and a part fell on the



VICTORIA MEMORIAL - KOLKATA

banks of the Ganges and thus the name Kali Ghat and consequently the name Kolkata.

Also visit **Victoria Memorial** that is a huge white-marble structure and the most enduring of remains of the British Raj in India. Built by Lord Curzon in memory of the popular monarch, Queen Victoria, it is a wonderful example of the Western style of architecture. It has been now converted in a museum that houses the most impressive collection of memorabilia from the days of Raj. The manuscripts, paintings and sculptures here are outstanding.

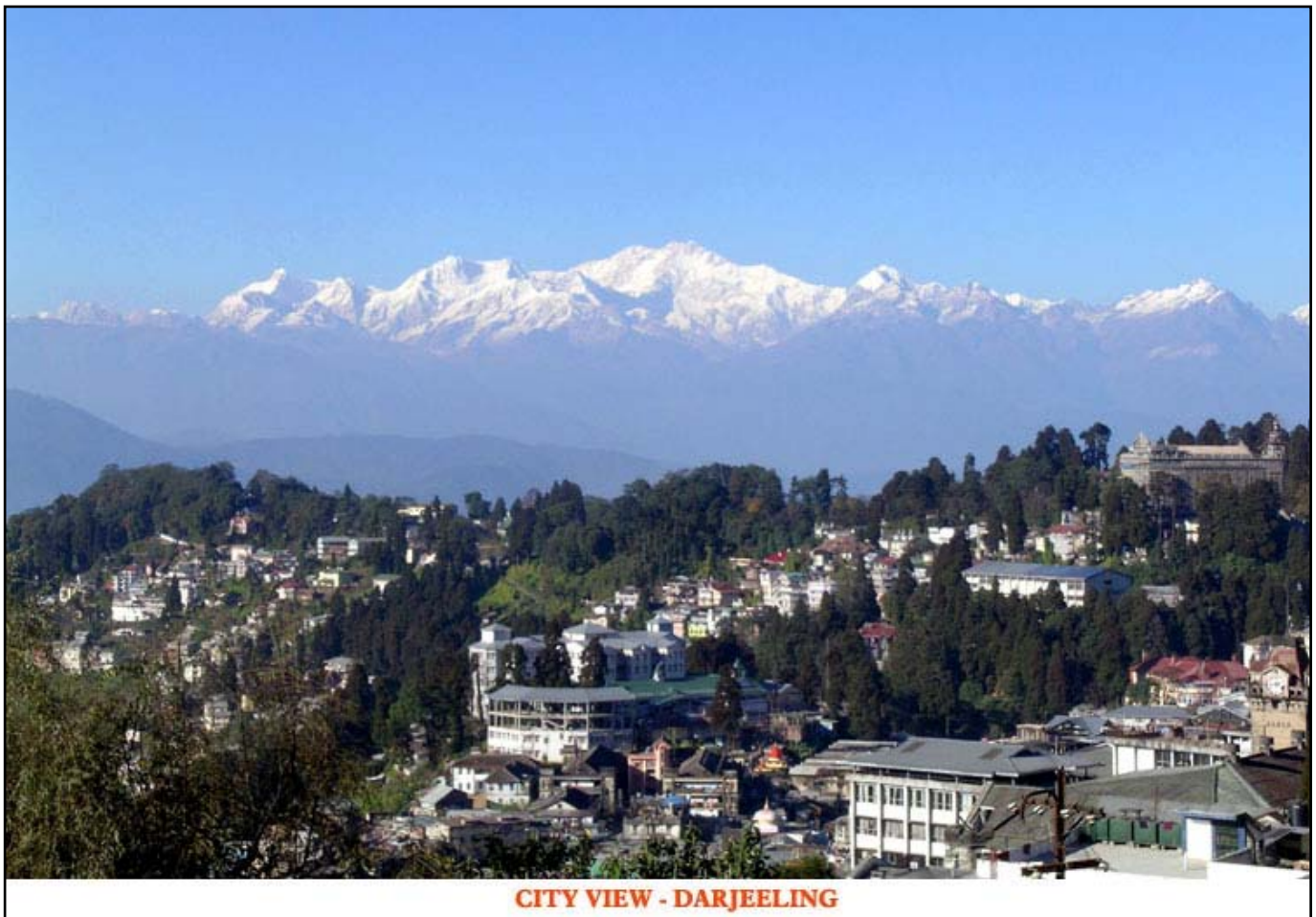
Overnight in the Hotel

## 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: KOLKATA - BAGDOGRA - DARJEELING

After breakfast transfer to airport to board the flight for Bagdogra.

On arrival, drive to Darjeeling through green forests of teak and tea plantations up the serpentine mountain roads to the Queen of Hill stations. (96 km.- 3-½ hrs)

**Darjeeling** - a picture perfect hill station sitting atop a ridge at 2134m is replete with Buddhist monasteries, trekking trails and awesome mountain views. The panoramic views of the snow clad peaks of the Himalayas are straight out of a postcard and provide a welcome relief from



the dust and soot of urban India. Darjeeling originally belonged to the independent state of Sikkim. Later in the eighteenth century, it was taken over by the Bhutanese and the Gurkhas. The British East India Company in its many annexes finally gained control of the town and developed its potential as a sanatorium, and a "rest and recreation" centre for the troops and a pass to Nepal and Tibet. Even today, the place is full of Sherpas, Gurkhas, Bhutias and Nepalis.

On arrival, transfer to the hotel and check in.

Overnight at the hotel

### 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: DARJEELING

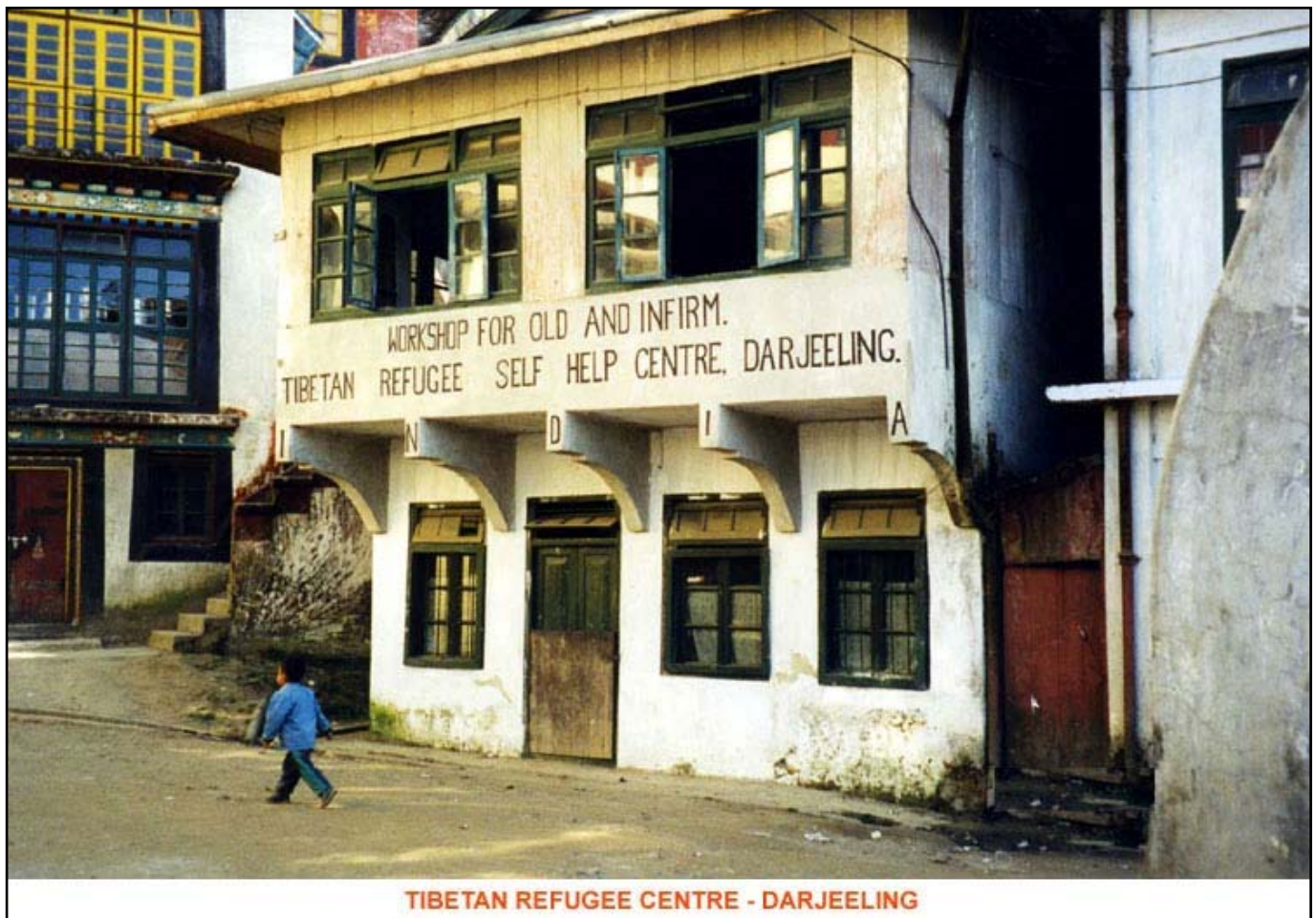
Wake up in the early hours around four in the morning. Have a quick cup of tea and drive to Tiger Hill, which stands at a height of 2590 mtrs. to witness the spectacular sunrise over the snowy Kanchenjunga Later board the train till Ghoom. Visit the Ghoom Monastery to see a 15-foot high statue of Maitreya Buddha. Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Return to the hotel.

Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel.

### 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: DARJEELING

After breakfast drive to the railway station to board the Toy train ride to Ghoom.



**TIBETAN REFUGEE CENTRE - DARJEELING**

Later drive to the hotel for lunch. After lunch half-day city tour of Darjeeling visiting the Tibetan Refugee Center, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, the Zoo and the market. Return to the hotel. Evening is free for the independent activities.

Dinner and Overnight in the hotel

## 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: DARJEELING - PEMAYANGTSE

After breakfast drive from Darjeeling to Pemayangtse. It is about 135 Kms and will take about 6/7 hrs drives.



Afternoon is free.

Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel.

## 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: PEMAYANGTSE - GANGTOK

In the morning walk to the most interesting and important monastery of Pemayangtse - a premier monastery in Sikkim built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The unique feature of this monastery is the wooden structure depicting Sanglokpahi, the Heavenly Abode of Guru Padma Sambhava. Later drive to Gangtok. It is about 125 Kms and will take about 6 hrs drive.

On arrival, transfer to the Hotel.

Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel.

## 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: GANGTOK

After breakfast visit the Flower Show.

A rare shows of exotic varieties of flowers, orchids and other plants native to Sikkim, a northeast state. Held every summer during the peak flowering season, this is a spectacular



FLOWER SHOW - GANGTOK

event attracting people from all over India.

Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel.

## 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: GANGTOK

After breakfast, drive to the most important and famous monastery of Sikkim at Rumtek on the other side of the valley.

In the afternoon visit the Enchey monastery and the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology with its largest collection of Tibetan books, rare Thangkas and Tibetan manuscripts.

Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel.

## 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: GANGTOK - KALIMPONG

Drive to **Kalimpong** (75 kms), a remote hill station which has been meeting point of the once "three Closed lands" on the trade route to Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal. The original name meant the stronghold (pong) of the king (Kalim). It is an attractive place with mountain scenery, oak forests and abundance of flowers.



On arrival check in at hotel.

Rest of the day is free. In the evening visit Kalimpong Market.

Dinner & Overnight in the hotel.

## 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012: KALIMPONG

After breakfast visit **The MacFarlane Church** testimony of the Scottish missionaries' influence and a monument of Kalimpong's diverse history, Dr. Graham's Home, which was founded in 1880 by Dr. John A. Graham, is a sprawling educational institution built on Deolo Hill north of the main township.



**Durpin Dara** an observatory point from where a truly spectacular view of the Himalaya can be enjoyed.

**Pedong monastery** built around 1837, is of Bhutanese origin, while a kilometer away is the historical Bhutanese fort of Damsang, an important landmark of the area before the main town of Kalimpong came into prominence.

**Kalimpong Arts & Craft Center** founded in 1897 by Mrs. Graham, is a thriving center where carpet weaving, dyeing, painting, tailoring, leather craft and carpentry are taught, besides promoting the work of local artisans and craftsmen.

Overnight in the hotel

### **21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2012: KALIMPONG - BAGDOGRA - KOLKATA**

After breakfast drive to Bagdogra Airport. On arrival board the connecting flight to for Kolkata. (Room will be available from 1200 Noon)

On arrival, transfer to the hotel and check into the Hotel.

Overnight in the hotel

### **22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2012: KOLKATA DEPARTURE**

On time transfer to the International Airport to board the flight for onwards journey

**== End of the Services ==**

**Hotel List:**

Place	Hotel	Room Type	Dates
Kolkata	Peerless Inn <a href="http://www.peerlesshotels.com">www.peerlesshotels.com</a>	Superior Room	10 – 12 April 2012
Darjeeling	Ceddar Inn <a href="http://www.cedarinndarjeeling.com">www.cedarinndarjeeling.com</a>	Standard	12 – 15 April 2012
Pelling	The Elgin Mount Pandim <a href="http://www.elginhotels.com">www.elginhotels.com</a>	Standard	15 – 16 April 2012
Gangtok	Nor-khill <a href="http://www.elginhotels.com">www.elginhotels.com</a>	Standard	16 – 19 April 2012
Kalimpong	Silver Oaks <a href="http://www.elginhotels.com">www.elginhotels.com</a>	Standard	19 – 21 April 2012
Kolkata	Peerless Inn <a href="http://www.peerlesshotels.com">www.peerlesshotels.com</a>	Superior Room	21 – 22 April 2012

**Prices:**

Slab	Prices
Prices on twin sharing basis	EUR 1220.00 PER PERSON
Single Room Supplement	EUR 694.00 PER SINGLE ROOM
Supplement for Entrances in the monument	EUR 13.00 PER PERSON
Supplement for the airfare for the sector Kolkata / Bagdogra / Kolkata in economy class	EUR 242.00 PER PERSON

**Regarding Airfare:**

- Kindly note that the above airfares are the CURRENT fares of the Airlines for the given sectors & is subject to change at the time of booking.



**Cost includes:**

- Double room on twin sharing basis on bed & breakfast basis, except full board at Pelling & at Gangtok.
- All transfers and sight seeing by non air-conditioned Vehicle in the hills & by air-conditioned vehicle in Kolkata.
- Services of English Speaking local guides in each city for sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- Service Tax.

**Cost does not include:**

- Any airport taxes.
- Any airfares.
- Any new tax imposed by the Government.
- Any entrances
- Any meals other than specified
- Any expenditure of personal nature such as tips, drinks, telephone charges, laundry etc.

**IMP:**

- In case of waitlisted booking we have to hold the alternate, for which we will advise the supplement OR reduction accordingly.
- The above rates are based on presently prevailing taxes and entrances to the monuments. If there is any change, prices will also change accordingly.
- Check in and check out time is 1200 Hrs noontime.
- *In case of fluctuations in the Rate of Exchange, the above-mentioned prices will change.*

**|| Book Now ||**