



Notes to Sikkim Village Experience

Sample Itinerary

Every stay with Shakti can be tailored according to the time you have available, any special interests you may have – and how it fits best with the rest of your trip in India.

This itinerary is just a suggestion (although we think it's the way you will get the very best from the Village Walk in Sikkim)

Day 1

You are driven by Shakti to **Yangsum Farm** near Rinchonpong (South Sikkim), for your first overnight stay. In the early evening, you will meet with your private guide, as well as the hospitable family who own Yangsum Farm. Your guide will share the plans for the forthcoming days, as well as offer an introduction to the area, before a dinner of home-cooked, authentic Sikkimese cuisine.

Day 2

After breakfast you begin with a walk to the Magi Darra, offering a view over the valley, then continue to the village of Rinchonpong where you can visit the aristocratic Lepcha House – a classic example of an historic Anglo-Lepcha inhabited house. After a picnic lunch at an open spot that faces the mountain peaks, you walk to the Monasteries of Resung and Rinchonpong. Later you arrive at **Sandyang Lee** House, where you will stay for 2 nights. From here you have grandstand views of the high Himalaya, set off by the rural life going on in the foreground.

Day 3

Before breakfast, you visit the monastery, a short stroll from the village house, to listen to (and perhaps join in with) the morning chants. Then you spend a relaxing day exploring the village life around you and getting to know your hosts. Mr Dup Tschering Lepcha and his relatives, the owners of Sandyang Lee, are a fascinating family - one son is a Member of Parliament, one is a practising Buddhist monk, and the wife and daughter are the home-makers who prepare and serve authentic Lepcha cuisine for you.

Day 4

A short drive this morning will take you to the Bermoik village—a nice spot for chai—where you will have another opportunity to observe life in the hills. From here, you continue on foot to the ridge reaching Durpin Darra, which has a wonderful view of the Pemyantse monastery. After lunch here, you will take the steady incline upwards towards **Hee Village**, where you will spend the night in a village house. The host family at Hee is of Bhutia origin, descended from 15th century settlers of Sikkim, so you will have the chance to learn about their special traditions and customs.

Day 5

After breakfast, you will walk back down to the road head, where you will be met by your driver.



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Need to Know

Accommodation:

Each village house can accommodate 4 people at any one time, but some rooms are adjoining. Bathrooms (all en-suite) are fitted with western loos. Full Board basis including all meals and drinks (soft and alcohol)

Monasteries:

Resung Monastery, of the Nygmapa Sect of Buddhism, was originally owned by a member of the aristocratic Lepcha family. Although no longer fully active as a monastery, it is beautifully situated on top of a hill overlooking the mountain towns of Pelling, Tashiding, as well as the Kanchenjunga mountain range.

Rinchenpong Monastery was built in the mid 17th century and has almost 60 monks (between 10-22 years old) in residence. The main statue represents a carnal pose of the Ati Buddha.

Guide/Porters:

Each walk is privately accompanied. Luggage is carried by porters throughout the walks.

Children:

Shakti welcomes children from the age of 3 upwards.

Transport:

Cars are available during the itinerary, in case of need.

Walks:

Average 10km a day.

Altitude:

Varies between 1400m – 2500m.

When to go:

September - May

March to early May is the time when the valleys are filled with flowers, a sight Sikkim is renowned for.

Dec-Jan can be cold and views are foggy.