

The 20 greatest destinations on Earth for flowers

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2. India for rhododendrons

In the shadow of the world's third-highest mountain, Kanchenjunga (28,170ft), Sikkim's foothills come alive in late spring when lilac jacarandas, orchids and 36 native species of rhododendron burst into bloom. Shakti Sikkim Village Experience – where you walk between rustic houses (spruced up for Western tastes) -- provides local guides who throughout the season (beginning of October to the end of April) navigate tracks and enlighten visitors as they walk through flower-lined mountain trails.

Original Travel offers a five-night holiday with Shakti Sikkim Village Walks on a full-board basis, including two nights in Delhi and flights, from £4,335 per person (020 7978 7333; originaltravel.co.uk).