

Rising Stories In The East

CLUBSIDE
TOURS & TRAVELS PVT. LTD.

WEST BENGAL | SIKKIM | NORTH EAST | ANDAMAN | BHUTAN

**DIRECTOR'S DESK****Dear Travel Partners,**

As the monsoon breathes freshness into the East, it's the right time to plan journeys that go beyond sightseeing — into experiences that are cultural, soulful, and truly unforgettable.

Durga Puja may be in September, but now is the time to start curating. Recognized by UNESCO, this is Kolkata's grandest celebration — a spectacular blend of art, tradition, and devotion. From heritage walks to creative pandals and community rituals, it's a festival every traveller must witness once in their lifetime.

Further north, Tawang calls for a deeper kind of discovery. Set in the high Himalayas of Arunachal Pradesh, it offers spiritual calm, dramatic beauty, and rich Monpa culture. It's still off the radar — and that's exactly what makes it magical.

This edition also brings updates that are shaping travel across the region. Bhutan leads with a national crypto tourism system; eco-resorts are being developed in the Andamans; and Radisson Blu is set to open in Siliguri at the upcoming Crossroads Mall. Meanwhile, the RBI Museum in Kolkata remains a hidden gem for culture and learning.

The East continues to rise — and together, let's take our travellers deeper into its story.

Best wishes,
Amit Periwal
Director, Clubside Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.

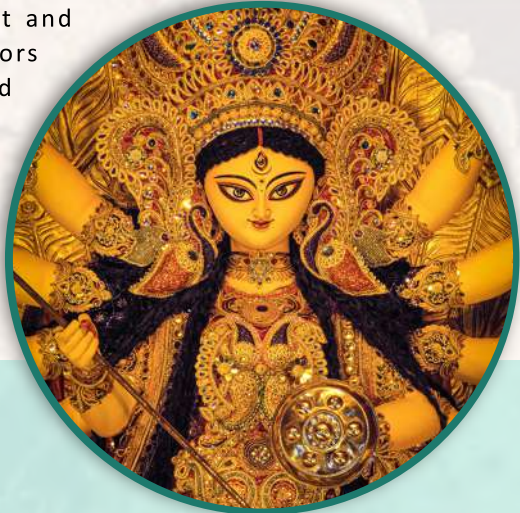
SKIES AHEAD
Travel Weather Guide**WEST BENGAL**Min: 27° C
Max: 35° C**DARJEELING
&
SIKKIM**Min: 14° C
Max: 25° C**NORTHEAST**Min: 24° C
Max: 31° C**ANDAMAN**Min: 26° C
Max: 32° C**BHUTAN**Min: 12° C
Max: 23° C

FESTIVAL WATCH: CULTURE IN FULL BLOOM

DURGA PUJA – A CELEBRATION OF HERITAGE, CULTURE AND CREATIVITY

Recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Durga Puja, also known as Durgotsava, is West Bengal’s most vibrant and cherished festival. Celebrated with grand fervor in Kolkata, it honors Goddess Durga’s victory over evil and highlights the creative and spiritual spirit of the city. In 2021, UNESCO inscribed Durga Puja in Kolkata on its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. A 2019 British Council study valued the creative economy of Durga Puja in West Bengal at ₹32,377 crores, reflecting its cultural and economic impact. Beyond devotion, the festival showcases art, community participation, culinary excellence, and heritage.



Festival Dates

28 September
to
2 October 2025

Nearest Airport

Netaji Subhas
Chandra Bose
International
Airport, Kolkata.

Nearest Railway Stations

Howrah, Sealdah,
Kolkata (Chitpur).

Suggested Itinerary



29 September 2025 – Maha Saptami

Arrival in Kolkata

Arrival at Kolkata airport. Meet & greet, followed by hotel transfer. Day at leisure.



30 September 2025 – Maha Ashtami

Traditional Puja & City Tour

Morning: Explore traditional household pujas in North Kolkata. Interact with locals and witness age-old rituals.
Afternoon: Visit the Indian Museum and Victoria Memorial.
Highlights: Cultural immersion, rituals, and colonial-era heritage.



1 October 2025 – Maha Nabami

Pandal Hopping & Heritage Walk

Morning: Guided tour of South Kolkata’s iconic and creative theme-based pandals.
Afternoon: Heritage Walk at Dalhousie Square – covering Raj Bhavan, St. John’s Church, High Court, and more.
Highlights: Artistic pandals and colonial history.



2 October 2025 – Vijaya Dashami

Belur Math & Sindur Khela

Morning: Spiritual visit to Belur Math.
Afternoon: Witness Sindur Khela and the emotional farewell of the Goddess during idol immersion at the riverfront.
Highlights: Spiritual serenity and traditional farewell customs.

3 October 2025 – Departure

Timely transfer to the airport for onward journey.

Tour Highlights

- Pandal Hopping Extravaganza
- Cultural Performances
- Immersion Ceremony
- Traditional Rituals
- Gastronomic Delights
- Guided Heritage Walk

Accommodation Options in Kolkata

Kolkata offers a wide range of stays suitable for all budgets and preferences:

Luxury Hotels: ITC Royal Bengal, Taj Bengal, JW Marriott, Hyatt Regency, Lalit Great Eastern, The Oberoi Grand (under renovation).
Business Hotels: Novotel, Westin, Fairfield by Marriott, Holiday Inn.
Mid-Range Hotels: Peerless Hotel, Taj Raajkutir, Taj City Centre New Town.
Boutique Hotels: The Elgin Fairlawn, Calcutta Bungalow, Glenburn Penthouse, The Astor.
Resorts: Vedic Village Spa Resort.

Transportation

For smooth travel during Durga Puja, Toyota Innova Crysta is highly recommended due to traffic congestion and road closures during festival days. Options range from compact sedans to luxury coaches and tempo travelers for group movement.

Experience the soul of Bengal through its grandest celebration. Witness a festival that blends devotion, art, food, and culture into one unforgettable journey.

DESTINATION DECODE: THIS MONTH'S HIDDEN GEM

TAWANG – A JOURNEY INTO THE SOUL OF THE HIMALAYAS

Explore Arunachal Pradesh's Crown Jewel

Location & Access

Tawang is located in western Arunachal Pradesh, bordered by Bhutan to the west and Tibet (China) to the north. Despite its remoteness, its ethereal beauty and spiritual aura make it one of the most captivating Himalayan destinations in India.

Nearest Airport:

Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati.commodo viverra maecenas accumsan lacus vel facilisis.

Permit Requirements:

Indian Citizens: ILP (Inner Line Permit)
Foreign Nationals: PAP (Protected Area Permit)



TAWANG

Altitude: 10,000 ft above sea level.

Best Time to Visit: March–May and October–November.

Climate: Cold and windy; often drop below 10°C in October.

TAWANG – Where Spirituality Meets the Sky

Cradled in the lap of the Eastern Himalayas, Tawang offers a breathtaking mix of dramatic landscapes, deep-rooted Tibetan Buddhist culture, and warm local hospitality. A peaceful Buddhist community coexists with a significant military presence, reflecting both the spiritual soul and strategic relevance of the region.

Key Highlights



Tawang Monastery

One of the largest and most influential monasteries outside Lhasa.



Bumla Pass

A serene, high-altitude pass on the Indo-China border.



Local Life

Discover the rich traditions of the Monpa tribe, deeply rooted in Tibetan Buddhism.

The Legend of Tawang

The name "Tawang" comes from a 17th-century tale of Lama Mera, a Tibetan monk, who discovered the site while searching for his lost horse. "Ta" means horse, and "Wang" means chosen—thus, 'the place chosen by the horse'.

Historical Background

Originally under Tibetan control, Tawang became part of British India after the 1914 McMahon Line Agreement. After India's independence, the region became part of the North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA) and was later declared a full state—Arunachal Pradesh—in 1987. The name means "Land of the Rising Sun," reflecting its easternmost location.

Suggested Route Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Guwahati – Travel to Tezpur

Day 2: Tezpur – Dirang

Day 3: Dirang – Tawang

Day 4: Explore Tawang – Monastery, Bumla Pass

Day 5: Tawang – Bomdila

Day 6: Bomdila – Bhalukpong

Day 7: Bhalukpong – Guwahati – Departure

For First-Time Travelers

Acclimatization is Key: Plan a stopover at Dirang or Bomdila to adapt to high altitudes.

Clothing: Carry layered warm clothes, windproof jackets, woollens.

Essentials to Pack:

Medicines for altitude and cold, energy bars/snacks, torchlight.

Connectivity: Mobile signal is patchy; BSNL, Airtel, and Jio offer limited coverage; Wi-Fi access is minimal.

Optional Extensions:

Kaziranga National Park: UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to the one horned rhinoceros.

Meghalaya: Discover the living root bridges, waterfalls, and caves of this scenic state.

ON THE GROUND: SECTOR-WISE TRAVEL BUZZ

BHUTAN INTRODUCES WORLD'S FIRST NATIONAL CRYPTO TOURISM PAYMENT SYSTEM

- Travelers can now pay for flights, visas, stays, and tours using crypto via Binance Pay.
- 100+ local merchants onboard, enabling a fully cashless, card-free travel experience.
- A global first in integrating cryptocurrency into national tourism infrastructure.



DISCOVER RHINO AND RIVER BLUSALZZ COLLECTION: NATURE'S PEACEFUL RETREAT NEAR POBITORA

- Located in Mayang village, just 5 km from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Nestled by the Brahmaputra River amidst lush farmlands.
- Combines comfort and adventure for a serene nature escape.



THREE NEW ECO-TOURISM PROJECTS TO BOOST ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR TOURISM

- Eco-resorts coming up at Aves Island, Smith Island, and Megapode Resort.
- ₹367 crore total investment to boost sustainable tourism.
- Long-term leases (50–75 years) with 3–4 year construction timelines.



RADISSON BLU TO LAUNCH FIRST LUXURY HOTEL IN SILIGURI AT CROSSROADS MALL

- 105-room hotel with dining, spa, pool, and event spaces at Crossroads Mall, Uttorayon.
- Part of SKA Lumina Developers' premium lifestyle project.
- Aims to redefine luxury hospitality in Siliguri.



STEP INTO THE WORLD OF MONEY AT THE RBI MUSEUM, KOLKATA

- Interactive exhibits on money, RBI's role, and your economic impact.
- Highlights include a 7-ft Yap Stone, gold mining display, and more — all free.
- Visit the souvenir shop with shredded currency items and enjoy the on-site café.



Offices at

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