

Rising Stories In The East



Dear Travel Partners,

As the month of October dawns upon us, a palpable sense of festivity sweeps across the entire region. The vibrant hues of Durga Puja, the most awaited festival in West Bengal and across Eastern India, illuminate the streets with joy, devotion, and artistry. This time of year is not just a religious celebration but a testament to the region's rich cultural heritage, a fusion of tradition and modernity.

From the grand pandals in Kolkata to the community celebrations in Siliguri and beyond, Durga Puja represents a unique synergy of craftsmanship, faith, and community bonding. It is during these five days that visitors from across the globe witness the unparalleled energy and creativity of the local artisans and performers. The North-East also celebrates this festival with great fervor, with a blend of local traditions that add to the diversity of this beautiful region.

This is also the perfect time for travelers to explore the lesser-known gems of Northeast India—where the beauty of the landscapes is enhanced by the festive spirit. Whether it's the serene valleys of Sikkim, the untamed beauty of Kaziranga, or the tranquil charm of Majuli, the celebrations here offer a unique window into the soul of the region.

As we move through this festive season, we at Rising Stories in the East encourage our readers to immerse themselves in these cultural experiences, supporting local artisans, preserving traditions, and celebrating responsibly. The monsoon has receded, leaving behind lush greenery and crisp air, making it the perfect season to experience the magic of the East in all its glory.

May this festival season bring you joy, prosperity, and a renewed sense of connection to the wonderful people and places of the Northeast.

Upcoming Events



Durga Puja

Date : (09th October — 12th October, 2024)
Celebrated at : All over India

Significance: Durga Puja stands as one of the most magnificent festivals in the region, particularly renowned in Kolkata for its grandeur and deep-rooted faith symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. Kolkata witnesses an unprecedented surge in festivities during these days, with streets bustling with fervent energy, amplifying the already bustling atmosphere. Amidst the hustle, people indulge in last-minute shopping sprees and embark on pilgrimages to the myriad exquisitely crafted pandals that embellish the city. These meticulously designed structures, drawing admiration from global visitors, infuse Kolkata with a vibrant spirit, transforming it into a lively hub of jubilant celebration throughout the ten-day extravaganza.



Dashain/ Tihar

Date : 10th – 16th October/ 1st November – 3rd November
Celebrated at : Sikkim/ Darjeeling

Significance: Dashain is celebrated enthusiastically in Darjeeling and Sikkim, highlighting the region's Nepali cultural heritage. It involves family reunions, worship of Goddess Durga, home decorations, and the application of tika by elders (a red vermilion mark). The festivities feature processions, fairs, and cultural programs, with the traditional Linge Ping swing symbolizing a connection to Shiva Linga. Following Dashain, Tihar, the festival of lights, honors animals like crows, dogs, and cows for their contributions to life. The festival ends with Bhai Tika, where sisters bless their brothers. Deusi and Bhailo, traditional songs, are performed. Bhailo is performed by girls and women on the night of Lakshmi Puja, while Deusi is performed by boys and men the following night during Tihar, enhancing the community spirit.

Sector Updates



Sualkuchi: Assam's Silk Weaving Hub Recognized as a Top Tourism Village in the Craft Category

- **Tourism Recognition:** Sualkuchi, a village in Assam, has been recognized by the Ministry of Tourism as one of the best tourism villages in the 'craft category.'
- **Silk Weaving Tradition:** Known as the "Manchester of Assam," Sualkuchi is renowned for its vibrant silk weaving industry, specializing in Muga and Eri silk.
- **Cultural and Sustainable Tourism:** This recognition emphasizes Sualkuchi's efforts in preserving cultural heritage while promoting sustainable tourism, allowing visitors to interact with artisans and experience the silk weaving process firsthand.



An Elevated Hostel Experience at Sandakphu - Poshtel, Meghma

- The Poshtel in Meghma is the only luxury hotel on the Sandakphu trail, offering a blend of comfort and adventure. Enjoy private en-suite rooms, cozy dorms, and premium amenities like temperature-controlled rooms, Wi-Fi, and a 24-hour front desk.
- Experience luxury at the only hotel in Sandakphu, offering - Deluxe Rooms, Four-Bedded Female and Mixed Dormitories, Quad Rooms, and Four-Bedded Rooms for ultimate comfort.
- The Alpina Multi-cuisine Restaurant at Poshtel, Meghma, Sandakphu provides an unparalleled dining experience. Whether you're fueling up with a robust breakfast before a trek or relaxing with dinner following a day of exploration, the restaurant in Sandakphu is the ideal place to enhance your culinary adventure.



Sikkim's Longest and Highest Ropeway at Bhaleydhunga Now Operational

- Sikkim's longest and highest ropeway at Bhaleydhunga officially launched on September 16, 2024, offering scenic rides over the region.
- The ropeway spans 3.5 kilometers, starting at 1,800 meters and rising to 3,500 meters above sea level, providing breathtaking views of Mount Kanchenjunga.
- With a top speed of 6 meters per second and 18 cabins seating 8 passengers each, the ropeway connects Dhapper to Bhaleydhunga in Namchi, South Sikkim, ensuring a swift journey to the summit.



Directorate of IP&T Drafts Policy for Development and Promotion of Houseboat Tourism in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- **Draft Houseboat Tourism Policy:** The Directorate of Information, Publicity & Tourism (IP&T) of Andaman & Nicobar Administration has introduced a draft policy to promote and regulate houseboat tourism sustainably.
- The policy aims to enhance the tourism experience while ensuring the protection of the islands' natural resources.
- **Operational Guidelines:** Key aspects include adherence to regulations, navigational requirements, safety standards, and proper sewage treatment practices for houseboat operations.

De-Coding Paradise Unexplored



Wokro: A Serene Destination of Scenic Beauty and Rich Cultural Heritage in Arunachal Pradesh

- Cultural Heritage and Scenic Beauty Wokro, located in Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit district, is renowned for its stunning landscapes and rich cultural heritage, particularly that of the Mishmi tribe, showcased through festivals, dances, and crafts.
- Visitors can explore attractions such as the pilgrimage site Parashuram Kund, natural hot springs, the Lohit River for rafting, and the nearby Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary for wildlife viewing.
- The ideal time to visit Wokro is between October and March, when the weather is pleasant, and local festivals like Tamladu provide a vibrant mix of nature and culture.



Caravan Tourism: Now in North-East India

- Now explore the stunning landscapes of North-east India with Caravan Tourism, available in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Upper Assam, and Dima Hasao. Travel in comfort and discover these beautiful regions like never before. The fleet features three caravan models, each with a driver:
- **Sprinter:** Compact and ideal for 2 adults and 2 kids, equipped with a kitchenette and washroom.
- **Wanderer:** Mid-size, accommodating 4 adults and 2 kids, featuring bunk beds, a TV, and outdoor dining.
- **Voyager:** Large luxury caravan for 6 adults, fully equipped with 3 queen-size beds, two air conditioners, and outdoor facilities. Each caravan ensures comfort with power backup, air conditioning, and heating systems, making travel convenient and enjoyable.



Pingla Excursion In south Bengal

- Location: Pingla, Paschim Medinipur, approx. 150 km from Kolkata.
 - Cultural Heritage: Home to 250 Patachitra painters (Patuas) known for storytelling through vibrant scrolls.
 - Rural Craft Hub: Developed in partnership with UNESCO, featuring a Community Museum.
- Activities:
- Village Tour: Explore beautifully painted walls and color trails.
 - Workshops: Learn to make natural colors and paints.
 - Community Museum: Witness rare vintage scrolls and diverse artisan products (T-shirts, hand fans, lamps, bags, umbrellas).
 - Mat Weaving: Visit mat weavers in Sabang or Pingla for traditional craftsmanship.



Cycling tour in East Kolkata Wetlands

- Location : Central Kolkata.
- Duration of the tour : Upto 02 - 03 Hours.
- Best Time/Period of Travel : Start at 06:00 hrs. in a Morning/ from September to March.
- Minimum/Maximum group strength : Min 02 Pax to 06 Pax.
- Guide Mandatory : Yes, local tour coordinator/ expert is must
- Description : Join a delightful 2-3 hour cycling trip through Kolkata's East Wetlands, an unexplored paradise featuring winding roads, fish ponds, and lush greenery. Discover the area's unique biodiversity while sipping on a hot cup of local tea amidst nature's beauty. Experience why Kolkata's wetlands are vital to the city's economy!

Flavours Of the East

A traditional Nepali and Sikkimese dish that one must try is Selroti and Gorkhey Achar.



SELROTI: Selroti is a ring-shaped rice bread, commonly made during festivals like Tihar and Dashain. It has a crispy exterior and a soft, mildly sweet interior. The batter, made from rice, sugar, and cardamom, is deep-fried in circular shapes, creating its iconic form.

- Soak rice overnight or for 5-6 hours.
- Blend rice with milk into a smooth paste.
- Add sugar, cardamom, and salt.
- Heat oil/ghee, shape batter into rings, and fry until golden.
- Drain excess oil and serve with achar or tea.

GORKHEY ACHAR: Gorkhey Achar is a tangy and spicy pickle made from boiled cubed potatoes, onions, cucumber, roasted peanuts, sesame seed powder, chillies, salt, chilli powder, lemon juice and timur (Sichuan pepper). It is typically served with selroti or rice, offering a sharp, flavourful contrast to the sweetness of the selroti.

- Boil cubed potatoes, onions, and cucumber.
- Roast and grind peanuts and sesame seeds.
- Mix veggies with peanut and sesame powder.
- Add chillies, salt, chilli powder, timur, and lemon juice.
- Toss, garnish with coriander, and serve with selroti or rice.

Awards And Recognitions



We are thrilled to share that Clubside Tours and Travels Pvt. Ltd. has been honored with the Best Inbound Tour Operator award at the prestigious 6th Himalayan Hospitality and Tourism Awards, organized by HHTDN.

This recognition, supported by India Tourism and the UNWTO, is a testament to our unwavering commitment to showcasing the beauty, culture, and adventure of the Himalayan region. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our incredible team, partners, and clients who have trusted us throughout this journey.

We remain dedicated to delivering exceptional travel experiences and promoting sustainable tourism across the East, Northeast India, Andaman Islands, and Bhutan.

News and Update

- Kaziranga National Park and Manas National Park two of the most prominent National Park will be open for the season of 2024-2025 for tourist from the 01st October 2024. Elephant ride still remains operational.
- Guwahati is set to launch a new catamaran service for tourists on the Brahmaputra River this September, aiming to boost regional tourism. Spearheaded by the Inland Water Transport.
- Inspired by PM Modi's vision, Port Blair is renamed "Sri Vijaya Puram," reflecting India's freedom struggle and the Andaman Islands' historical significance, from the Chola Empire to Netaji's Tiranga hoisting and the sacrifices of freedom fighters.

OFFICES AT

Siliguri | Darjeeling | Kolkata | Guwahati | Port Blair | Thimpu

Registered Office Address : Suite No. 3, 2nd Floor, 75 C Park Street, Kolkata 700016.

Contact : +91 9332701865, enquiry@clubside.in

www.clubside.in