



## Aoling & Mopin Festival Tour – 11 days

Naga cultural festival, tea plantations and wildlife

Tour **JTT-ASNAAP01**: Dibrugarh – Mon – Basar – Along – Daporijo – Ziro – Tezpur – Guwahati

**Activities & sights:** Two festivals, tribal villages & culture

**Fixed dates:** March 31 – April 10, 2021

[Festival dates often change at the last minute, so please check with us]

### ***Festivals***

**Aoling festival:** The Konyak Nagas celebrate the arrival of spring with their indigenous festival, the Aoling festival. This is a 6-day festival, and is held in the first week of April, which is the Konyak New Year period. During Aoling, the Konyaks perform different rituals that are agriculture related along with dancing and feasting. One day is kept aside for cleaning of the houses and the village.

**Mopin festival:** The Adi Gallongs in the Along-Basar-Bame areas celebrate Mopin festival in the first five days of April. Mopin is thought to bring wealth and prosperity to the village. It is also believed to drive away the evil shadow and to receive the blessing of God for universal happiness. During the time of this festival, the Adi Gallong villages come alive with the dancing and chanting of their rhythmic songs made livelier by smearing of rice powder on each other's faces. The Mopin festival plays an important role in the cultural history of the Gallong tribe. The village people don their traditional costumes and organise the amazing 'popir dance', expertly performed by the women. They form a circular queue, one group assemble themselves and chant folk songs, while the other complements this with dancing, keeping to the beat of the songs.



**Aoling** is best seen in and around Mon. **Mopin** is

celebrated in Along, Basar areas. Our itinerary takes you to the Konyak inhabited areas like Mon Village, Longwa, Shangnyu and Langmeang and also to the Gallong villages of Along, Basar, Kabu and Paya.

## ***Itinerary***

### **Day 01 (March 31): Arrival at Dibrugarh**

We arrive at Dibrugarh. Our guide will meet and accompany you to Hotel Natraj, or a similar comfortable accommodation.

## **AOLING FESTIVAL**



### **Day 02 (01 April): Dibrugarh – Mon (150 km/ 5 hrs)**

We drive to Mon in northern Nagaland and check into a simple but clean guesthouse. In the afternoon, we visit the nearby Mon village. Today is the first day of the Aoling festival.

### **Day 03 (02 April): day trip to Longwa & Langmeang**

We make an early start today as we have to first drive to Longwa in the India-Myanmar border to experience the festival. You will enjoy the rural atmosphere with long palm roofed Konyak houses, old village folk with tattoos on their faces and bodies. From here, we drive to Langmeang village. We spend the evening at Mon enjoying the festival.

### **Day 04 (03 April): Mon – Dibrugarh (150 km/ 5hrs)**

In the morning, we drive to Shangnyu village, another traditional Konyak village and then drive back to Dibrugarh.

## **MOPIN FESTIVAL**

### **Day 05 (04 April): Ferry across River Brahmaputra – Along (1 hr ferry ride, 180 km/ 7 hrs drive)**



In the morning, we board a ferry and sail across the mighty River, Brahmaputra. Then we drive up to Along in Arunachal Pradesh. After brief entry formalities at the Assam – Arunachal Pradesh border we drive on to Basar village on the

way to Along. Basar is a traditional stronghold of the Adi Gallongs where we will enjoy watching the Mopin festival being celebrated by the villagers. We check into Hotel Toshi (or similar) on arrival.

### **Day 06 (05 April): Along**

We spend a full day at Along, walking in Adi tribal villages, experiencing their customs and traditions, fully absorbing and enjoying the Mopin festival.

### **Day 07 (06 April): Along – Daporijo (160 km/ 5 hrs)**

We drive to Daporijo, and on the way stop at Tagin and Hill Miri tribal villages. We check in to a simple but decent hotel in Daporijo.

### **Day 08 (07 April): Daporijo – Ziro (130 km/ 4 hrs)**

We drive to Ziro. At 5000 ft, this is the highest place on this tour. In the afternoon, we visit Apatani tribal villages and the local market. We stay overnight at Siiro Resort, a family-run village resort built in semi-traditional style.



### **Day 09 (08 April): Ziro**

At Ziro, we visit more villages of the Apatani and Nishi tribes, besides checking out the museum and handicrafts center.

### **Day 10 (09 April): Ziro – Tezpur (320 km/ 8 hrs)**

We drive to the plains in Assam while enjoying the lush green beauty of the scenic tea gardens that fall on the way. In Tezpur we check in to Hotel KCR Palace.

### **Day 11 (10 April): Tezpur – Guwahati airport (180 km/4 hrs)**

On the last day, we drive to Guwahati airport/ railway station.

### ***Tour price***

2 persons: INR 94,000 per person, using 1 Mahindra Scorpio (luxury SUV)

3, 4 persons: INR 91,000 per person, using 2 Mahindra Scorpios (luxury SUV)

5, 6 persons: INR 89,000 per person, using 2 Mahindra Scorpios (luxury SUV)

Single supplement: INR 33,000

At Dibrugarh: Mancotta Chang Bungalow supplement: INR 6,000 pp.

Prices quoted are net and non-commissionable.

### **Extra:**

- Restricted Area Permit (Rap) fee of INR 5000 per person for Arunachal Pradesh.

*Price includes:* Accommodation on twin share at the indicated places on full board; all transfers and sightseeing as per itinerary by vehicle specified; English speaking escort throughout the tour; traditional dances as specified places; local guides where necessary; one bottled water per person per day; all entrance and monument fees.

*Not included:* Airfare both international and domestic; camera charges; tips; drinks; laundry; telephone calls; insurance; expenses of personal nature.