

Hornbill Festival – 7 days

Spectacular display of Naga tribal culture

Tour JTT-NA01: Kohima and surroundings **Activities & sights:** festival, tribal villages & culture **Fixed dates:** Dec. 01 – 07, 2020



The Hornbill festival is an indigenous, exotic, extraordinary event. Organised by the State Directorate of Tourism every year between December 1 and 7 in Kohima, the festival is intended to revive, protect and preserve the richness and uniqueness of the Naga heritage. At this festival, one can see a fascinating melange of Naga cultural displays all at one place. The festival is also a tribute to the hornbill, a bird most admired by the Naga people for its qualities of alertness and grandeur. The awe and admiration for the bird is symbolically displayed in almost all traditional tribal headgears worn during festivities. Local handicrafts and handlooms, ranging from bamboo products to intricately woven traditional garments are on display at the festival, including organic fruits and vegetables. Stalls with an array of tempting Naga dishes help to lure food lovers as well. The festival is organised to showcase the rich cultural mosaic of Nagaland.

Itinerary

HORNBILL FESTIVAL

Day 01 (01 Dec): Arrive Dimapur, drive to Kohima (74 km/2 hours)

We arrive at Dimapur airport in the state of Nagaland. Our local guide will meet and drive with you to Kohima. On arrival in Kohima, we check into Hotel Japfu or a similar accommodation. We then proceed to the Naga heritage village at Kisama, the festival venue near Kohima, where we join the hundreds who will be enjoying the festival the next few days.

We return to the hotel in the evening and then stroll around the main street of Kohima, normally closed by dusk on other days, now abuzz with the 'night market' that springs up during the Hornbill Festival. For the foodie, there is mouth watering Naga cuisine to tantalize the taste buds.



Day 02 (02 Dec): Kohima

We head towards the Hornbill festival grounds at Kisama. While the whole day is spent experiencing the celebrations at the festival, the evening is enjoyed at the 'night market' again.





Day 03 (03 Dec): Kohima – Khonoma

In the morning, we visit Khonoma village, which is 20 kms (one way). This village is held in high esteem by all Nagas as this village was never subjugated by any power and is known for its valour and courage. Now, it has declared itself a 'green village' due to its commitment to protecting the environment. In the afternoon, we attend the Hornbill Festival, at the Kisama Heritage Village.

Day 04 (04 Dec): Kohima – War Memorial and Cathedral

The war memorial is a cemetery honoring the dead during the Allied war. It is at the site of one of the final battles between the allied forces and the Japanese at the end of the Japanese advance in British India. The epitaph carved on the memorial of the 2nd British Division in the cemetery has become world-famous as the Kohima Epitaph. It reads: "When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say, For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today".

We later visit the Cathedral, the Catholic Church located on the Aradhurah Hill, near the Little Flower School. It is probably the biggest church of its kind in the northeastern region of India. In the afternoon, the Hornbill festival takes over again.

Day 05 (05 Dec): Kohima – ToupHEMA – Kohima, 45 kms one way

In the morning, we drive to ToupHEMA village.

The village of ToupHEMA to the north of Kohima is an ancient heritage village. The people of this village are hard working and one can find exquisite handicrafts and handloom items in this village. You can



also taste authentic Naga cuisine here. Returning to Kohima, we visit the WW II museum next to the festival grounds and also spend some more time at the festival.



Day 06 (06 Dec): Kohima

It's the last day of the festival! Enjoy the traditional dances and games, while your gastronomic juices run amok with the Naga dishes. It is also a great opportunity to pick up souvenirs to carry home.

Day 07 (07 Dec): Kohima – Dimapur airport, 74 km/2 hrs

We drive to Dimapur Airport for the out-bound flight.

Tour Price

2, 3 persons: INR 56.000 per person, using 1 Mahindra Scorpio (luxury SUV)

4, 5 persons: INR 54.000 per person, using 2 Mahindra Scorpios (luxury SUV)

6, 7 persons: INR 52.000 per person, using 2 Mahindra Scorpios (luxury SUV)

Single supplement: INR 28,500

Prices quoted are net and non-commissionable.

Price includes: Accommodation on twin share at the indicated places on full board; all transfers and sightseeing as per itinerary by vehicle specified; traditional dances as specified; local guides where necessary; one bottled water per person per day; all entrance and monument fees, fresh fruits everyday; candies/ chocolates/ wafers on drives/ transfers.

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

Hotels used:

Kohima – Hotel Japfu or similar (supplement available for Razhu Pru on request).