



## Sekrenyi Festival tour – 11 days

Colourful Naga festival, living root bridges of Meghalaya & rhinos of Kaziranga N.P.

**Tour JTT-ASNAME01:** Guwahati – Shillong – Cherrapunjee – Kohima – ToupHEMA – Kaziranga - Jorhat

**Activities & sights:** festivals, tribal villages & culture, natural beauty, walks & wildlife

**Fixed dates:** Feb. 20 – March 1, 2019

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

The festival of Sekrenyi (also called Phousnyi) is celebrated in the month of February by the Angamis of Nagaland. Sekrenyi normally falls in the 25th day of the Angami month of "Kezei". This is actually a 10-day festival which goes on in the households of the Angamis, but the most important days are celebrated openly with community feasts, dancing and singing traditional songs. Purification of body and soul is the underlying theme of the festival.



Apart from attending this lesser known festival, you'll be taken to the hills and plateaus of Meghalaya where you'll witness the unique phenomenon of living bridges, among other things. And you'll visit world-famous Kaziranga National Park, home to 75% of the total population of the Indian one-horned rhino.

### *Itinerary*

**Day 01: Arrive Guwahati – Shillong (120 km/3 hrs)**

On arrival at Guwahati airport, you will be met by our guide who will accompany you on the short journey to Shillong. We will check into Tripura Castle, a comfortable, small resort built next to the castle of the erstwhile king of Tripura, a neighbouring province. We take an evening walk around the Police Bazar, Shillong's prime location to get acquainted with this charming hill station.

### **Day 02: Shillong**

Today, we explore Shillong with visits to the Don Bosco ethnic museum, market and archery grounds where local Khasi tribesmen shoot at a target. Bets are placed by the on-lookers predicting the number of arrows hitting the target. This is a traditional game that was legalized by the local government. We wrap up the day with a great dinner and overnight stay at the nice hotel.

### **Day 03: Shillong – Cherrapunjee (56 kms/2 hrs)**



After a hearty breakfast, we drive to Cherrapunjee. Before reaching the hotel, we go over to the Nohkalikai Falls, the highest waterfall in Meghalaya. We then drive on to the most pleasant and extraordinary situated Cherrapunjee Resort.

There are assorted and interesting options to choose from such as visiting a park with many interestingly bio-diverse trees, the Mawsmai limestone caves where you can go inside for a short distance as the cave is illuminated.

Or:

From the resort, we walk down the hill towards a living root bridge and come out near a waterfall. Note that this is a steep descent going through a village. Packed lunch will be carried today by the local guide. We return to the resort by late afternoon. Evening is a relaxed affair that ends with a sumptuous dinner.

#### **Day 04: Cherrapunjee – Guwahati (165 km/6 hours)**

After breakfast, we walk down through the forest to witness one of Meghalaya's most unique natural phenomena: the living bridges. These bridges are made out of the roots of a naturally in the forest growing tree, that are led over rivers and ravines, guided in such a manner that a bridge emerges. This takes a very long time, but ultimately a very strong bridge emerges. And as long as the tree(s) are alive, the bridge continues to become stronger year by year.

After this, we drive to Guwahati, which is a picturesque but slightly long drive. On arrival, we check into an excellent guesthouse. In the afternoon, we visit the famous 'shakti' temple 'Kamakhya'.

#### **Day 05 (24 Feb): Guwahati – Dimapur – Kohima (5 hr train to Dimapur & 2 hr drive to Kohima)**

We rise early and board the 0630 hours AC Chair car train to Dimapur in the state of Nagaland. We disembark at Dimapur station and get into a waiting vehicle to drive to Kohima (4500 ft), 74 km/ 2 hours. On arrival at Kohima, we check into Hotel Japfu. After refreshing ourselves, we visit the Second World War memorial and the very interesting ethnic local market. Overnight stay is at the Japfu hotel.

### **SEKRENYI FESTIVAL**

The Sekrenyi Festival follows a series of rituals and ceremonies. The first day begins with all young and old men going to the village well to bathe. The previous night, two young men go to the well to clean it. Some of the village youth guard the well in the night as no one is allowed to fetch water after cleaning of the well. Bathing in it assures them that all their ills and misfortunes have been washed away by the purified well water. For major part of the festival the people of the village sit together and sing traditional songs. Jugs of rice beer and plates of meat are placed before participants. Traditional games are also performed. Until the close of the festival, no one goes to the fields.



#### **Day 06 (25 Feb): Kohima – Toupheima (45 km/ 1½ hour)**

We drive to Toupheima and check into a village guesthouse built in the Angami Naga style with modern amenities.

Today is the first day of the Sekrenyi festival of the Angami Nagas. At the well-designed festival grounds we enjoy a traditional dance performance by the local people.

#### **Day 07 (26 Feb): Toupheima**

We come to Toupheima to enjoy the **festival**. We walk in the old village and visit the small but interesting museum.

### **Day 08 (27 Feb): End of festival; ToupHEMA - Kohima**

We spend the morning at ToupHEMA attending the festival. Then we drive back to Kohima after lunch. The journey will cover 45 kms/ 1 and ½ hours. We will head straight to Khonoma village, which is 20 kms away. You may see many village folks enjoying Sekrenyi here too. We check into Hotel Japfu (or similar accommodation) again after coming back to Kohima.

### **Day 09: Kohima – Kaziranga National Park (220 m/ 5 hrs)**

We drive to Kaziranga National Park where we check into Iora, the retreat or a similar accommodation. In the afternoon, we will take a jeep safari in the western range of the park. Kaziranga is famous for the Indian One-horned Rhinoceros. We stay overnight at Iora Resort or Infinity Resort.

### **Day 10: Kaziranga National Park**

Early morning, we set off on an elephant safari in the central range of the park. We do an afternoon jeep safari as well in the eastern range of the park. Kaziranga is quite well known for its bird life with more than 450 species recorded. Wild buffalo, deer, elephants make this park a favorite haunt for the wildlife enthusiast. Evening is time to unwind and relax over a delicious dinner at the resort.

### **Day 11: Kaziranga – Jorhat airport (95 km/ 2 hrs)**

The tour ends at Jorhat airport, from where you can fly to Guwahati, Delhi and Kolkata.

### **Tour Price**

2-3 persons: INR 103,000 per person, using 1 Toyota Innova (luxury SUV)  
4-6 persons: INR 95,000 per person, using 2 Toyota Innova (luxury SUV)

Single Supplement: INR 32,000.

Prices quoted are net and non-commissionable.

**Price includes:** Accommodation on twin share at the indicated places on full board; transfers and sightseeing as per itinerary by AC vehicles; AC chair car train tickets Guwahati-Dimapur; entry fees; one elephant safari and two jeep safaris in Kaziranga, local guides where necessary; village visits.

**Not included:** Air fare; tips; drinks; laundry; telephone calls; travel/ personal insurance; camera fees; expenses of personal nature.