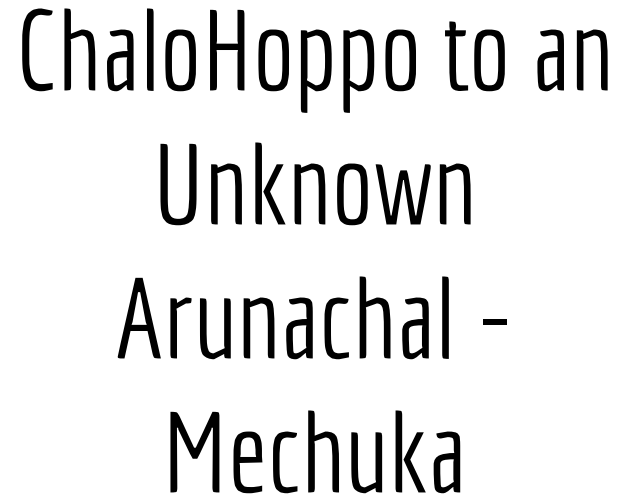




ChaloHoppo



ChaloHoppo to an
Unknown
Arunachal -
Mechuka

Time you get to explore an Unknown Arunachal



If you fall asleep through your journey, long enough, to wake up in Mechuka, missing the road signs that give you a reality check, you may have to pinch yourself, and yet the valley may seem unreal. Come get giddy in Mechuka.



Stray horses grazing around in Mechuka

It turns fluorescent green from May right till August. September marks the beginning of Autumn and everything turns brown and stays that way until December. January brings in snow and then spring comes. Regardless of the season, you visit it in, the place offers breathtaking beauty.

A glimpse of what the Rinjingling looks like in November





The brief Itinerary

8 nights and 9 days



Day 1 A train ride where we break the ice

The journey begins with a train ride. Oh, what fun it is to break the ice while sitting in the comfort of your 2 tier AC train commuting for less than 12 hours. The best thing about this train ride is that it gives travellers enough time to know each other before the road trip starts. We love train journeys and hope you will enjoy it as much as we do.

The trip requires you to reach Kamakhya railway station by 7 pm. The train departs from Kamakhya station at 8:30 pm and reaches Murkongselek at 7 45 am.



Day 2 Bumpy roads and lot of pitstops later

Yes, we are not in Arunachal Pradesh yet. That state is far. That is the fun part, isn't it? But you don't have to wait any longer. After a few photos inside the train with our chai, we step out to be greeted by a friendly driver Rishi da. His Scorpio/Bolero will be our companion for the next 8 days. A drive of approximately 6 to 7 hours with many deserving punctuations will lead us to the first stop and the first homestay of the tour-Reyi Homestay in Along. Our aim is to only reach the homestay for a simple dinner and some tasty ash rice beer! Along the way to "Along"(name of the first town we layover before heading to Mechuka), we will see the landscapes change from lush paddy fields to rugged mountains. The temperatures are going to be on the warmer side so far but that will change soon. Tonight we sleep early because the longest part of the journey awaits us tomorrow!.

Overnight stay at Reyi Homestay.



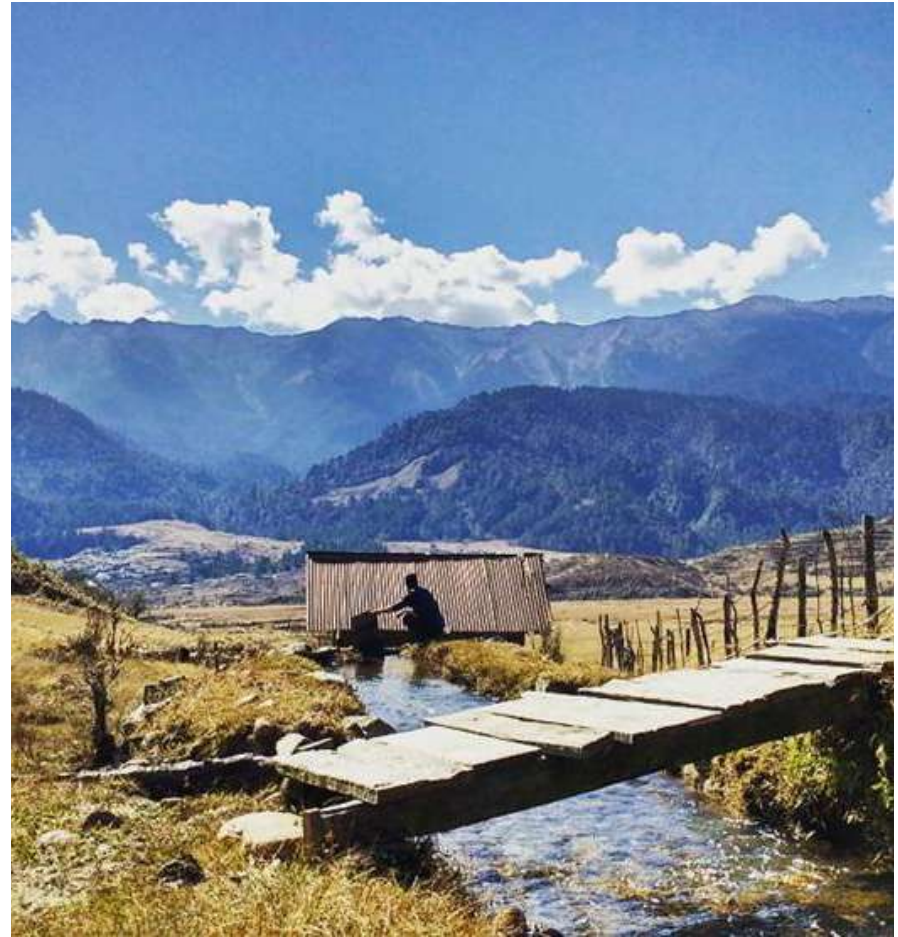
Day 3 A day of transitions and end of long drives, for now

The view is stunning from the porch of this traditional and modern cross of a house. Acres of paddy fields. Rows of orange trees. A couple of ponds that appear like beauty spots on the lush vista. The constant gurgling sound of a stream running along the length of the house.

Yes, you want to take time to take all these in. But time is less. Only for those whose bodies haven't adjusted to the new clock. The Northeast India clock is a different deal altogether. More details on this once you are on the trip. For now, the tea is getting cold, we need to make a move.

If we manage to leave by 7 am then we would have had a decent start. *After a 2 hour drive, its time for the actual breakfast and loads of stops, keeping in mind that the drive with only 2 stipulated pitstops takes about 8 hours.*

Overnight at Homestay.

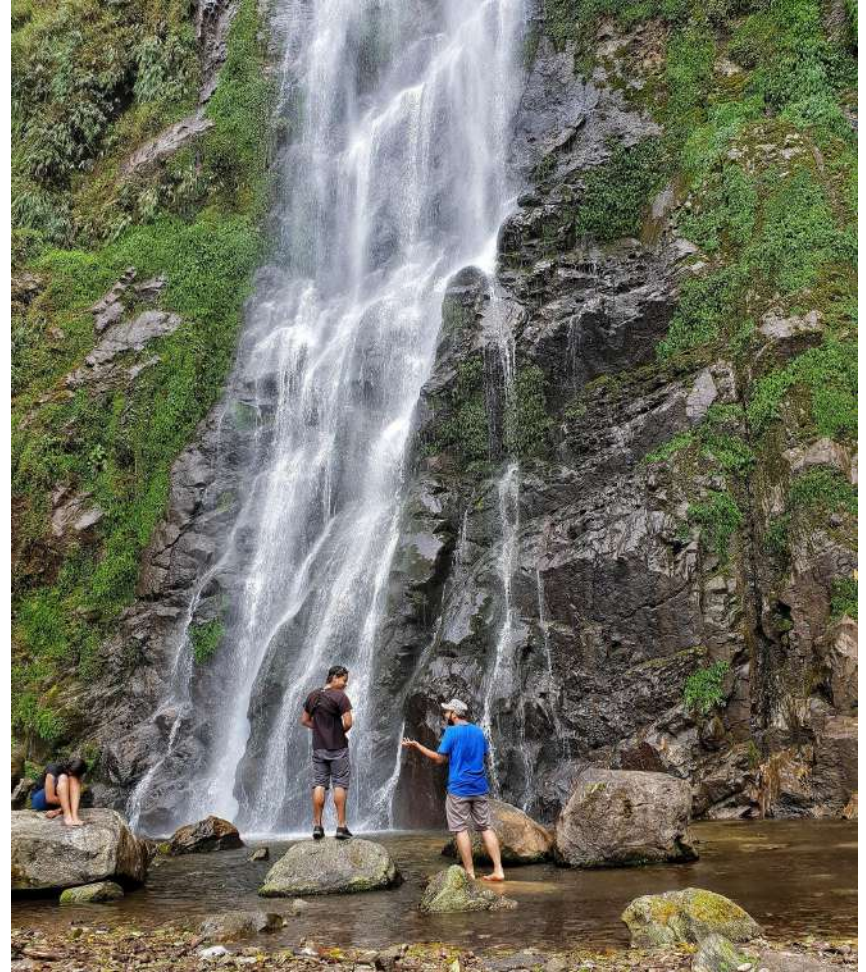


Day 4 The day you sigh from atop the 'Mechuka La

If you liked last night's butter tea then the same shall be had now for breakfast. You met the hosts of the homestay last night remember? We sat around the kitchen fire greeted the family members before we broke into our rooms and some pulled out a few cans of beer. As discussed yesterday today we hike! Yay! We will almost walk the length of Mechuka town but at a higher elevation which will give us almost bird-like views of the inhabited land. It will be long, hence lunch will be had when we find the best viewpoint to aid in building an appetite.

Specific brief about how to prepare for this day hike will be shared when you sign up. Don't worry. By evening we should be back at the homestay or just loiter around Mechuka town. Perhaps pay Abdul's restaurant a visit? Who is Abdul now? You will find out.

Overnight at Homestay.



Day 5 The day we use the car more than our legs

Today's agenda is to have the langar at the Gurudwara because it is lovely. This will take us about an hour's drive from town. From an elevation of about 6600 feet, we will be driving up to 7600 feet and eventually to the last civilian point at the Yarlung military camp.

Wait but why does Mechuka in one corner of Arunachal Pradesh have a Gurudwara? This and more such intriguing stories will grapple us when we visit the Taposthan opposite to the location of the Gurudwara.

Apart from a lovely riverside location, the Taposthan has a giant rock which has a split and we try and pass through that. Sinners obviously get stuck. Says the legend. At the Yarlung check-post, we can chit chat with the jawans and the junior officers of the Indian army who have a few interesting stories of their own.

Overnight at Homestay.



Day 6 The day we hike bearing gifts for the shepherd

Another hike today! How's the body and the mind feeling now, eh? It better be good because Dorjeeling which is our first village pitstop before hiking to the shepherd's hut in Rinjinling is a beauty. We should definitely pull over by the riverside and dip our feet in the waters. It would be a good time to invest some energy in wild berry plucking and put it straight in your mouth. After this distraction, we again set out on our path to hike up the trail. Only then do we get to see a different side of the hill. We shall obviously handover the gifts we brought for Doge Philley, the shepherd. It would be nice if he is free to sit with us for a cup of his special ghee chai. His hut in this obscurely lush grazing paradise is like travelling in a time machine and visiting a place at the confluence of the changing times, changing governments and flexible identities.

Overnight at Homestay.



Day 7 The day it was about stopping over at Along

Did we sleep last night? It's time to bid goodbye. Your new family will miss you. You should ideally not want to leave but a family bound by blood waits back home. Perhaps a job as well that lets you fund the wanderlust waits too. But let's not get too soggy already. Remember we had driven into Mechuka in darkness? Now we drive out in broad daylight. Delaying this beyond 10 am won't be recommended.

We are on course to break the journey at the same homestay in Along. By now you know that Along is the district headquarter of the West Siang district. People of the Galo (tribe) inhabit the town and our homestay hosts are very keen on fitness. Let's look out and admire the landscapes on this drive. A rest day at Along is all this night is about. But don't forget that we need to conserve all this energy for the bidding farewell party that we need to rock our bodies to.

Overnight at Homestay.



Day 8 The day we felt like children returning to school after vacations

We repeat the process we did at Along. Wake up to great views. Have a more relaxed breakfast though. We only head by around 9 am today. Even though our main agenda tonight is to just have a good time on the train and have a party of sorts but if we get time then, it will be a great idea to have a walk through the Pasighat market. It should be fascinating. Considering the cities or lives you are coming from probably doesn't have silkworms, seasonal insects, wild edible leaves, fat chillies and variety of smells lingering in the air. topped off by the sheer pungency of the bamboo shoot, both dried and fermented.

We should gobble on those pani puris in Pasighat, after which we are ready for the night time gig.

Overnight in Train.



Day 9 The day we wanted the train to not reach its destination

Board your flight/ train back home, until you return.

In case you want to visit the Kamakhya temple, then flight tickets can be booked in the evening so that you get enough time for the visit.

You will reach Guwahati at 7 am if the train reaches on time.



Trip Inclusions

- Stay in comfortable, clean and hygienic accommodation, mostly homestays and traditional cottages
- All entries, parking, tolls
- Transport from Guwahati to Mechuka and back
- AC 3 tier Train tickets to and from Guwahati
- Guide wherever required
- 1 ChaloHoppo guy to lead the tour
- Inner line permits to enter Arunachal Pradesh
- Breakfast

Trip Exclusions

- Excess stay & meals due to bad weather conditions or strikes, resulting in a delay of flights or any other form of transport
- Soft drink charges, table drinks, bottled water, laundry, cigarettes, telephone expenses, beer and liquor charges
- Lunch and Dinner
- Any other item not mentioned in the “Cost Includes” section above
- Shopping
- Alcohol
- Your Personal Purchases
- Any insurances
- Protected Area Permit for Non-Indians (Additional cost of 100USD)

Review of Unknown Arunachal - Mechuka



Nafisa1989



Reviewed 13 May 2019 ·  via mobile

Magical Mechuka!

I haven't experienced or seen anything like Mechuka in all of India. This sleepy little town is magical and breathtakingly beautiful. The people are extremely warm, loving and caring and take extra efforts in giving you an all-encompassing experience.

ChaloHoppo did a fantastic job in curating this trip for me. From creating an impeccable itinerary to answering my calls at odd hours of the day and night, the vacation was nothing short of a dream come true. The team knows the in and out of Northeast and can answer pretty much anything thrown at them. They went out of their way to make me feel at ease all throughout.

I would HIGHLY RECOMMEND ChaloHoppo for all those who want to experience the beauty of the Northeast. I am already planning my next trip this very year!

Review of Unknown Arunachal - Mechuka



MonishaM95



Reviewed 3 June 2018 via mobile

Mechuka with Chalohoppo

So this was my first trip to the north east, and I was a bit skeptical about travelling so far to Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh. I remember asking Nishant (the Chalohoppo guy) whether they have anything else planned for the month of May, to which he replied that if he had it his way, he would travel to Mechuka every month!

So that was enough for me to make up my mind for this trip... And I do not regret it at all! Mechuka is a beautiful place, absolutely green in the month of May with lovely home stays and very warm and friendly people.

I had a lovely time exploring the place, eating local food and spending time with my co-travellers.

Thankyou team Chalohoppo for this wonderful trip! :)

Review of Unknown Arunachal - Mechuka



ShambaD2



Reviewed 24 June 2018

Recent Arunachal Pradesh trip with ChaloHoppo

Menchuka trip

Food- outstanding, I ate many local dishes, different preparations of Pork and new types of vegetables that I didnt know of

Comfort and Hygiene- Got sound sleep, good beds, very clean toilets

Hospitality- ARP people are very loving and helpful, drivers and people managing home-stays are really welcoming and will guide you properly. Chalo Hoppo guys seemed very well-connected

Scenery- Out of the world natural beauty, feels like South Germany



Roads- Roads in the state are improving, better than before

Budget- very cheap

Shopping- I didnt carry sufficient cash, but decently priced clothes and apparel are available (one can bargain)

FAQ's

Q. Which airport do we have to come to and fly out from?

A: The tour begins from Gopinath Bordoloi International airport in Guwahati.

Q. What time should we land and what time should we book the return flights?

A: Ideally you should land on or before 5:30 pm. You can fly out anytime after 10 am.

Q. Do I need a Visa, inner line permit or any other kind of identity proof to enter Northeast India?

A: Entry to Arunachal Pradesh will require an inner line permit for domestic travellers. Foreigners visiting Arunachal Pradesh have to get a protected area permit or PAP.

Q. I am a solo traveller, can I come on this trip?

A: A most definite yes, as long as you are okay travelling in a mixed group of other solo travellers or small group of friends.

FAQ's

Q. Is it safe to travel to Northeast India? I have been warned about Naxalites, ULFA and other terrorist groups.

A: The sources of such warnings should be checked and speaking from the perspective of locals living in the region we can say that though some parts of Northeast India do have cases of groups clashing against government forces from time to time, it doesn't affect a tourist as long as the route is chosen wisely and hours of commute are decided smartly, much like travelling in any other part of the world.

If you have seen warnings in the advisory pages of governments, then we would like to remind you that governments (of different countries) will always take precaution and not be in sync with the real situation. Northeast India is absolutely safe with warm and welcoming locals. You should have no issues even going to the most interior places. As with any other tribal dominated region, respect the local culture and don't hurt their sentiments, and you will have a great time in a beautiful place.

Because so less is known about the region in general, it may be a wise idea to get in touch with some travel experts before you plan your trip.

FAQ's

Q. Can I book extra nights of hotel accommodation before or after my tour?

A: Extra nights can be booked based on availability. You can also visit our [Custom trip section](#) to plan a different trip.

Q. I am a vegetarian, I hear that people only consume meat there. How will I manage?

A: Though vegetarians may not have the luxury of tasting all the local foods as these are mostly meat-based. You have nothing to worry you will get all kinds of basic sabji, dal, rice, roti, papad, salad etc. Your cravings for butter paneer or mushroom Manchurian may not be fully satisfied but you will do just fine. You must ensure that you are trying out all the available seasonal fruits and local wild leaves.

Q. How are the roads going to be?

A: The roads in Arunachal Pradesh are like most mountain roads in India, i.e. not in a great shape. So your cup holders in the car may not really work. But the roads aren't risky to be driving on, just a little uncomfortable.

Things to take note of

Homestay: Please understand that you will be staying in homestays and not hotels, and hence you are requested to treat the host and the family not as professional staff but as a family that is hosting guests.

Avoid plastic: Please avoid buying mineral water, since it is a major cause of pollution in the delicate eco system of the places you are visiting. Carry a reusable water bottle and fill filtered water or spring water. The hosts and your guide can assist you in showing where the water can be found.

Respect local culture: You are travelling to remote parts of the country where people speak freely and sometimes it comes across as rude, but understand that their intention isn't to hurt your sentiments, just that they perhaps lack the skill of sugar coating and diplomacy. During your tour you may see things that may surprise you like a cat roaming around in the kitchen while you eat. But understand that many of these things are part of the way of life here and hence respect the same.

Cost of the experience per person

Rs 35,750/-



For further details email
experiences@chalohoppo.com

AND EXPECT A PROMPT
RESPONSE.

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