Pemayangtse Monastery Perched on a hilltop near Pelling, Pemayangtse Monastery is one of the **oldest and most prestigious monasteries in Sikkim**. Its name means “Perfect Sublime Lotus”, symbolizing purity and spiritual growth. Founded in the **17th century by Lama Lhatsun Chenpo**, it belongs to the **Nyingma sect of Tibetan Buddhism**, the oldest Buddhist tradition. Just 2 km from Pelling, it offers stunning views, especially in spring and summer when the Himalayas are clearly visible.

Pemayangtse was built with the vision of spreading Buddhism across Sikkim. Traditionally, only monks of pure Tibetan lineage were allowed to join here, which added to its exclusivity . The monastery houses **magnificent statues, murals, and ancient scriptures**. Its most striking treasure is the **seven-tiered wooden model of Sangtok Palri**, the celestial palace of Guru Padmasambhava, crafted by a single monk over years of dedication. From the monastery, visitors are greeted with breathtaking views of the **Kanchenjunga range** and lush valleys below.

The sound of monks’ chants in the morning adds to its divine atmosphere. Nearby, tourists can also explore the **Rabdentse Ruins**, the second capital of Sikkim, located within walking distance.

**Travel Information**

* **Location**: 2 km from Pelling, 110 km from Gangtok
* **Timings**: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
* **Best Time to Visit**: March–June and September–November
* **Entry Fee**: Usually free or minimal
* **Tip**: Visit early morning to experience the monks’ prayers and enjoy clear views of Kanchenjunga.