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1. Geographical location

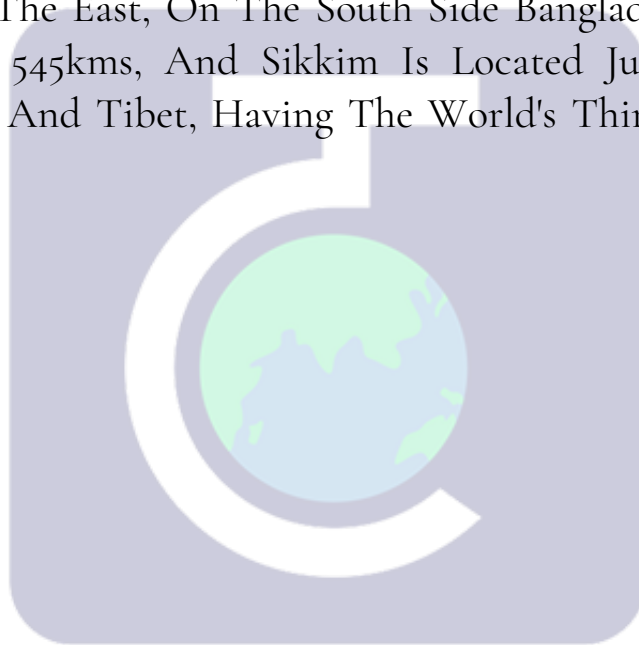
Darjeeling, located in North East India in the state of west Bengal, is the foothills of Himalayas with an elevation of 6,700ft (2,042.2m) and 3,149 Square km. Kanchenjunga, located in the north with an elevation of 8,586 is located north to Darjeeling. Darjeeling is the headquarters of Darjeeling district. It is one of the popular tourist parts of India. From south of ghum the Darjeeling-Jalapahar range is originated. The range is 'Y' shaped with its base locating at Katapahara.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Darjeeling Is Located On The Northern Side Of The West Bengal State. Siliguri Is Located 48 Miles Away From Darjeeling The Spiritual Calm Of Monasteries To Tracing The Scientific Development In A Science Museum, Malls And Wildlife Sanctuary And From Natural Beauty To Man-made Beauty. Bhutan Is Located On The Eastern Side Of Darjeeling Which Is Nearly 500kms Away, Nepal Is 434kms In The East, On The South Side Bangladesh Is Located At A Distance Of About 545kms, And Sikkim Is Located Just Above Darjeeling Bordered By Bhutan And Tibet, Having The World's Third Highest Mountain Kanchenjunga.



3. Significance

A hill station with a colonial hangover, Darjeeling is a medley of cultures. While the buildings, roads, and other structures are essentially British in style, the people inhabiting this land are a diverse mix of indigenous communities, Anglo-Indians, and people from the neighboring states. Three things in Darjeeling make this town a noteworthy place - tea, train, and tourism. The town is famous for its tea plantations and the aromatic Darjeeling Tea. The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway with its Toy Train is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This Queen of Hills with its mesmerizing views of the Mount Kanchenjunga rates top in many tourist destination searches and surveys.



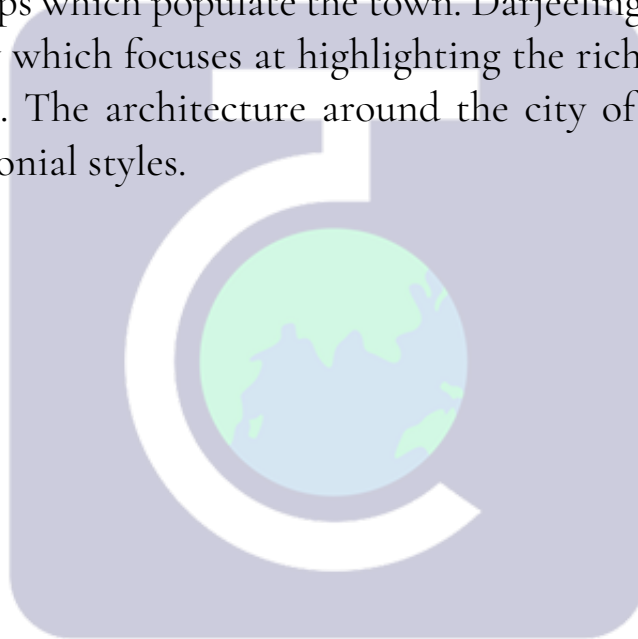
4. History

One of the well-known hilly locations of West Bengal, the history of Darjeeling however is interspersed with that of Sikkim, Nepal, British India and Bhutan. The Kingdom of Sikkim was in control of the hilly areas around Darjeeling, till the early part of the 1900s. The British East India Company came to Darjeeling en route to Nepal-Sikkim border in 1828. In Darjeeling, the British collectively opined and decided that Darjeeling was a well-suited location for the solders. After a number of historic incidents, British signed a treaty and annexed the area east of the Teesta River in 1865. In the following year, Darjeeling district became the size and shape that it is today. It must be noted that Darjeeling thrived immensely as a hill station after it witnessed a growth in the incoming of British residents who were seeking respite from the summers of the plains. The British were quick and proactive in setting up a infrastructural framework in Darjeeling.



5. Cultural identity

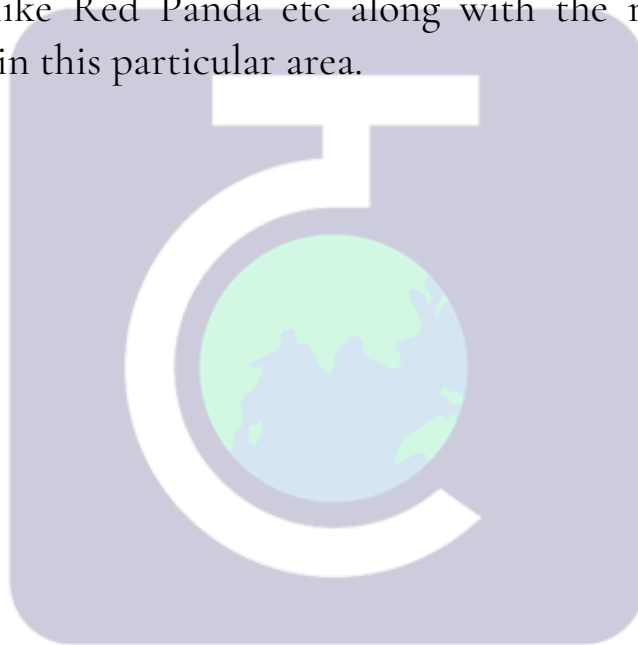
The culture of Darjeeling is mainly a blend of traditions and rituals of the Hinduism and Vajrayana Buddhism – they are the dominant faiths practiced in Darjeeling. Festivals of Dashain, Tihar, Buddha Jayanti, Christmas, Holi, Ram Navami and local festivals are celebrated with much fanfare. The Darjeeling culture is largely distinctive because of the practices followed by the several Buddhist ethnic groups which populate the town. Darjeeling Carnival is a ten-day festival held annually which focuses at highlighting the rich musical and cultural heritage of the town. The architecture around the city of Darjeeling is mainly influenced by the colonial styles.



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6. Natural resources

It is a mountainous region and these mountains or hills serve as the source of the natural resources. The timber and the other forest produces, and that of mining and agriculture are taken in account. The amount of rainfall plays a vital role in causing instability of slopes, that's why the tea is produced in abundance. The soil is chiefly composed of sandstone and that of conglomerate formations. The endangered animal like Red Panda etc along with the medicinal plants and orchids are available in this particular area.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)**7.1. Paid****7.1.1. Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park**

Address : Jawahar Parbat, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.0585367, 88.25397950000001

Contact : +91-3542253709

Website : <http://www.pnhzp.gov.in/>

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station (NR)

Entry Fee : Indian and SAARC – INR 20 Foreign – INR 50 Camera – INR 10

Open & Close Timing : Friday-Tuesday 08:30hrs-16:30hrs; Thursday Closed

Time Required : 5

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. Rock Garden

Address : Bloomfield Tea Garden, WB 734102

Zipcode : 734102

Location : 27.025427, 88.23798720000002

Contact : 0354-7278038031

Nearest Public Transport : Ghoom Railway Station (NR)

Entry Fee : Indians – INR 10 Foreign – INR 50

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Bengal Natural History Museum

Address : Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.0586797, 88.25407270000005

Contact : 0354 225 7314

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station

Entry Fee : INR 10

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-16:30hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Senchal Lake

Address : Senchal Lake, West Bengal 734102

Zipcode : 734102

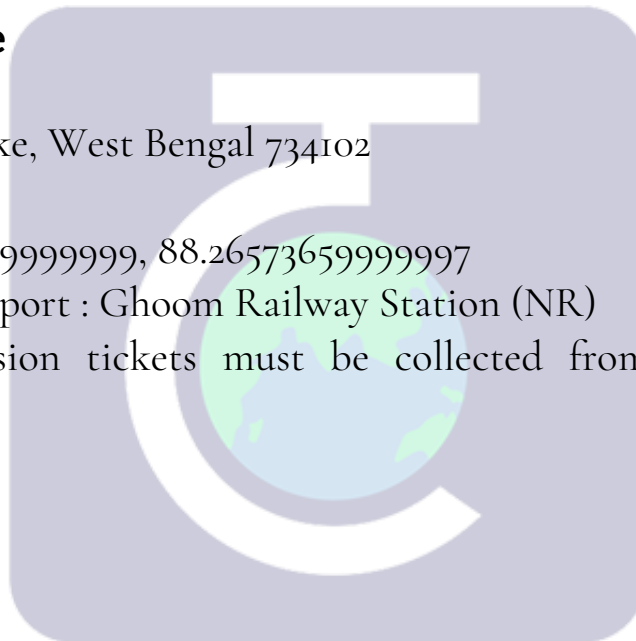
Location : 26.99320299999999, 88.26573659999997

Nearest Public Transport : Ghoom Railway Station (NR)

Entry Fee : Admission tickets must be collected from Ranger's office at Jorebunglow

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No



7.2. Free

7.2.1. Ghoom Monastery

Address : Hill Cart Rd, Ghoom, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734102

Zipcode : 734102

Location : 27.01167, 88.25030400000003

Contact : +91-9832424705

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Peace Pagoda

Address : West Point, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734102

Zipcode : 734102

Location : 27.0276061, 88.25902099999996

Contact : +91-9007995888

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 4:30hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Chowrasta

Address : Mal Rd, Manbari Basti, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.044641, 88.267759

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Batasia Loop

Address : West Point, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734102

Zipcode : 734102

Location : 27.0166973, 88.24709460000008

Contact : +91-9007995888

Nearest Public Transport : Ghoom Railway Station (NR)

Open & Close Timing : Daily 04:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Happy Valley Tea Estate

Address : Lebong Cart Rd, Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.0514013, 88.25858979999998

Contact : 0354-8089070752

Website : <http://www.ambootia.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station (NR)

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Mahakal Mandir

Address : Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.0478184, 88.26798099999996

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station (NR)

Open & Close Timing : Daily 04:00hrs-23:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Japanese Temple

Address : Darjeeling, West Bengal, Jalapahar, Darjeeling, WB 734102

Zipcode : 734102

Location : 27.0276548, 88.25902670000005

Contact : +91-3542254102

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 04:30hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Suntalekhola Mayjhor Homestay

Address : Samsing district, Darjeeling

Location : 27.0103774, 88.79104789999997

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Magdhog Monastery

Address : Alubari, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734102

Zipcode : 734102

Location : 27.024393, 88.26267789999997

Nearest Public Transport : Ghoom Railway Station, Darjeeling Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-15:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. St Andrews Church

Address : Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.0480253, 88.26700329999994

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Neora Valley National Park

Address : Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.0360066, 88.26267519999999

Contact : 098320 10512

Website : <http://www.rupasibangla.in/lava.html>

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 06:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 3

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Darjeeling Old Cemetery

Address : Leborg Cart Road, Darjeeling 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.05212, 88.25938300000007

Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Nehru Road

Address : Khalpara Siliguri, West Bengal 734001

Zipcode : 734001

Location : 26.7074843, 88.42041649999999

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Rink Mall

Address : Laden La Rd, Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Zipcode : 734101

Location : 27.0395453, 88.26482869999995

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. Chauk Bazaar

Address : Chauk Bazaar Darjeeling, West Bengal

Location : 27.0466625, 88.2619353

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



8. Key sites sports & adventure

Darjeeling may seem a laid back town but it actually has an array of exiting indoor and outdoor sporting activities. Para gliding offers an Adrenaline gushing experience with wonderful views of beautiful scenery of mountains including Mount Everest .Water Rafting in Teesta is one of a kind experience that will be hard to forget. Trekking is an adventures sport that will offer you a sense of peace as you enjoy majestic scenes of Darjeeling. Canoeing (kayaking) is another water sport done in River Rammam that is full of Adventures. Lastly camping is another sport that is good for the entire family.

- **Trekking at Five Treasures of Snow -**

Address : Kanchenjunga View Point, ChhotaMungwa, West Bengal 734222

Location : 27.044637,88.383453

Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2.00

- **Trekking at tiger hill -**

Address : Tiger Hill, Senchal Forest, Senchal Rd, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734123

Location : 26.99497,88.2854061

Nearest Public Transport : Ghoom Railway Station (NR)

Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2.00

- **Mountaineering at Sandakphu -**

Address : Sandakphu, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734222

Location : 27.1056716,88.0021851
Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours
Time Required : 6.00

- **Darjeeling Rangeet Valley Passenger Ropeway -**

Address : Rangeet Valley Passenger Ropeway, Darjeeling Rangeet Valley, Darjeeling, West Bengal, 734101
Location : 27.0614776,88.2537178
Nearest Public Transport : Darjeeling Railway Station (NR)
Entry Fees : Adult – INR 150 Children (3 – 8 years) – INR 75
Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-14:00hrs
Time Required : 2.00
Wait Time : 10 minutes

- **Trekking at Lava -**

Address : Lava, West Bengal 734319
Location : 27.0863078,88.6615125
Open / Close Time : Open 24 hours
Time Required : 0.00

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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Darjeeling has several sports that include India's favorite sport Cricket, football, sumo basketball, street football, etc. there are no world-class stadiums in Darjeeling because it is just a small town but there are few playing grounds.

- **Gorkha Football Stadium:**

Address : Darjeeling, West Bengal 734010

Location : 27.0516396,88.27805050000006



10. Spas and relaxation

- **Summit Grace Hotel & Spa:**

Address : Dr. Zakir Hussain Road, Near St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.0334979,88.26307659999998

Contact No : 0354 225 2507

Website : <http://www.summithotels.in/>

- **Central Heritage Resort and Spa:**

Address : Robertson Road, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.0434583,88.26657920000002

Contact No : 090079 95888

Website : <http://www.centralhotels.in/central-heritage-resort-and-spa-darjeeling/>

- **Pine Tree Spa Resort:**

Address : Adjacent to Darjeeling Gymkhana Club, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.0395315,88.2801786

Contact No : 0354 225 9000

Website : <http://www.pinetreesparesort.com/>

- **MAYFAIR Darjeeling:**

Address : The Mall, Opposite Governor House, Richmond Hill,

Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.051042,88.262240000000002

Contact No : 0354 225 6376

Website : <http://mayfairhotels.com/mayfair-darjeeling/>



11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Republican day @ Darjeeling

A day to celebrate the adoption of the current Indian constitution in the year 1950

Losar Festival @ Darjeeling

Losar festival is held for 15 days in February of each year. The festival peaks on the day of Tibetan new year when locals prepare local appetizing cuisines and wear new clothes marking the beginning of a new year

Holi @ Darjeeling

Holi is a festival that welcomes the spring season with display of different array of colors. People from all walks of life celebrate together splashing colors on one other with dancing and singing

Dzongri Goechala Trek @ Dzongori Goechala

A nice trekking event that is continuously done for 9 days. A good way to have fun while exercising

Van Mohastav @ Darjeeling

**Also known as forest day Van Mahostav is an event held in a week to plant trees all over Darjeeling. This event was first held in 1950 and it has being held annually ever since
Nag Panchami Fair @ Darjeeling**

**This fair honors the serpent king inform of a cobra. Participants come from the surrounding communities. Nag Panchami features serpent charmers.
Ganesh Chaturthi Festival @ Darjeeling**

**Faithful's of lord ganesha make clay or metal idol of him. The community organizes in to groups and worship him
Rotary Darjeeling Half Maratho @ Chowrasta Darjeeling, Darjeeling, West Bengal**

**Enjoy an iconic Darjeeling while participating in the half marathon
Teesta Tea and Tourism @ Cultural Centre**

This is an event organized by the West Bengal Tourism board, Hill Council and Sikkim Tourism and Darjeeling Gorkha to promote the Darjeeling tea and tourism

Kagyed Dance @ All over Darjeeling

Kagyed is a Dance festival that is held on the tenth month of Tibatean Calendar. Kagyed dance is a symbol of destruction of all evil forces.

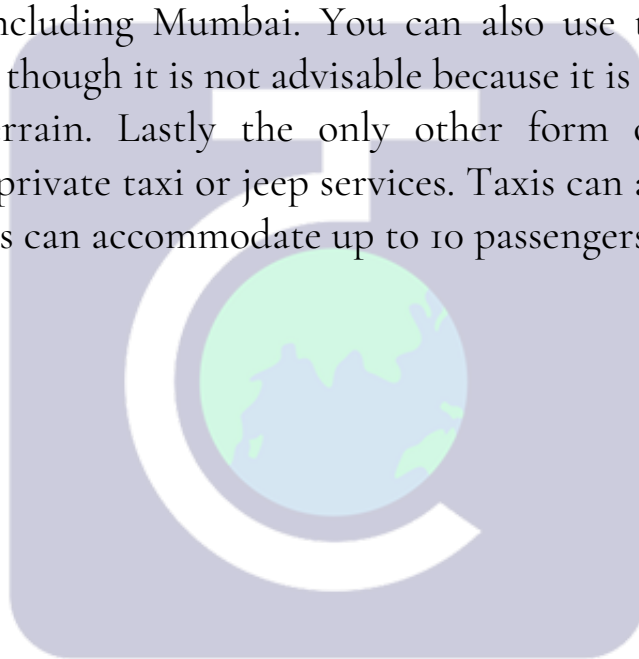


12. Key local guides and tours

There are plenty of local tour operators and guides in Darjeeling. This is because one of the main economic activities in Darjeeling is tourism. The most common tours in Darjeeling include: 3-Point tour which covers Tiger hill, Ghoom Monastery and Batista loop. The charges vary from Rs.1200 to Rs.1500 for a private taxi or jeep a minimum Rs.150 if you share a jeep. Another tour is the 5-point tour which takes you to five places in Darjeeling and lastly the 7-point tour which covers more destinations compared to 5 and 3 point tours. The minimum amount paid is Rs.1500 for a private taxi or a minimum Rs.150 per person if you share a jeep. There are various walking tours in Darjeeling that include Heritage walk in which you find the ultimate heritage of the city in your tour with various historical spots. You even enjoy the rural tour where you get to know the rural side of the city and the tradition and culture they still follow. You should try the tea garden tours or hiking through the lush nature tours.

13. Transportation hubs

The nearest airport to Darjeeling is Bagdogra Airport which is 96 km away in Siliguri. The drive from Darjeeling airport to Bagdogra takes 2 and half hours. Main airlines to this airport include; government owned Air India, privately owned Jet Airways, Spice jet and Go air. You can also get Darjeeling using the train. The nearest station is New Jaigpuri station which connects Darjeeling with other major cities including Mumbai. You can also use the bus service from Siliguri to Darjeeling though it is not advisable because it is a very slow mode due to the landscape terrain. Lastly the only other form of transportation to Darjeeling is using a private taxi or jeep services. Taxis can accommodate up to 4 passengers while jeeps can accommodate up to 10 passengers.



14. Transportation cost

Getting around in Darjeeling is quite easy because it is a small town. Walking is the best preferred mode of transport because you get to explore the town without spending any money for transport. You can use the local taxis which charge 10 rupees to 20 rupees for short distances if you want to explore the town. You can also contact the local tour operators which charge from 1200 rupees private taxi or 1500 rupees for a private jeep. If sharing the jeep you pay as low as 150 rupees per person for a 3-point tour.



Index**15. Baggage allowance**

There are no clear guidelines concerning baggage in Darjeeling town. If your baggage is too big you can hire a private jeep or private taxi of which they will not charge extra money for the luggage. If you do not have a lot of baggage you can share a jeep. The train does not charge extra fee for the baggage.



16. Restaurant & Nightlife

There is an array of restaurants at Chauk Bazaar.

Food -

There is an array of restaurants at Chauk Bazaar.

- **Penang:**

Address : 11 Ladenla Road | Opposite to Inox, Darjeeling 734101

Location : 27.039607,88.264969999

Contact No : 3542253044

- **Boneys:**

Address : capital market, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.0419734,88.265709499

Contact No : 0354 225 9372

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-21:00hrs

- **Kunga Restaurant:**

Address : 51 Ghandi Road, Near City Centre, Darjeeling 734101

Location : 27.0416962,88.266695499

Contact No : +91-96798-89365

- **Glenary's Bakery:**

Address : Nehru Road, Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.0431822,88.267003100

Contact No : 0354 225 4315

Open / Close Time : Daily 06:30hrs-20:30hrs

- **Keventers:**

Address : Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.0420591,88.266578100

Contact No : 0354 225 6542

Website : <http://www.keventers.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 08:00hrs-19:00hrs; Sunday Closed

- **Joey's Pub:**

Address : 2 Dr S M Das Road | Opposite Rink Mall And Post Office -
734101

Location : 27.038785,88.264762000

Contact No : +91 354 225 8216

- **The Buzz Bar:**

Address : Nehru Road, Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Location : 27.0431822,88.267003100

Contact No : 0354 225 4315

Open / Close Time : Daily 16:00hrs-23:00hrs

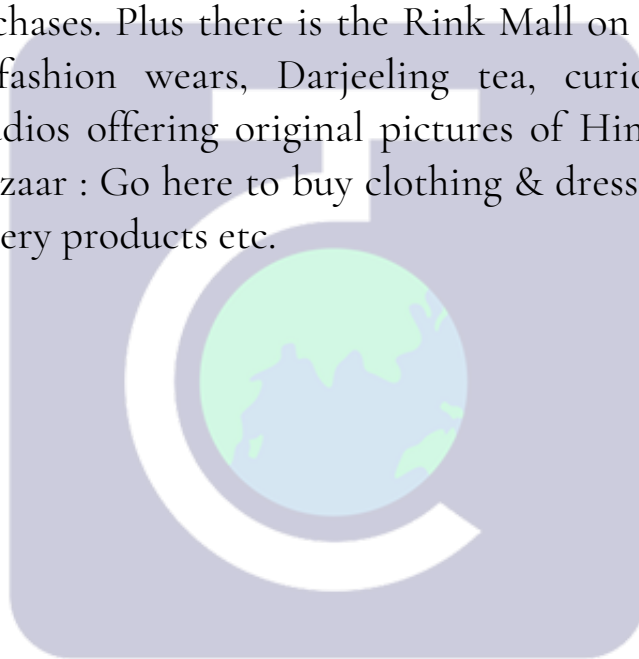
Index**17. Average meal cost**

If you want a normal meal in an inexpensive restaurant then it costs 170.00 rupees and that of a three-course meal at a mid-range restaurant will cost you 600.00 rupees. A combo meal at McDonald's will cost you 230 rupees. You can have a fresh cappuccino at 98.00 Rs. 11.2 oz small bottle of water can be purchased at 17.68 rupees. 1 pint draught of domestic beer is available at 120.00 rupees and 11.2 oz small bottle of imported beer can be purchased at 150.00 rupees. A mid-range bottle of wine can be purchased at 510.00 rupees.



18. Shopping

Darjeeling is particularly well-known for its prowess in handicrafts. There are many other amazing shoppable goods and items which Darjeeling is famous for. Being a small town, Darjeeling may not have any malls to speak about; however its roadside markets are no less in proving the best shopping experience. **Nehru Road** : There is a stream of shops lined up along the Nehru Road where one can make affordable purchases. Plus there is the Rink Mall on the same road where you can purchase fashion wears, Darjeeling tea, curios, woollens, books, handicraft items, studios offering original pictures of Himalayas, artifacts and lots more. **Chowk Bazaar** : Go here to buy clothing & dress materials, household products, food & bakery products etc.



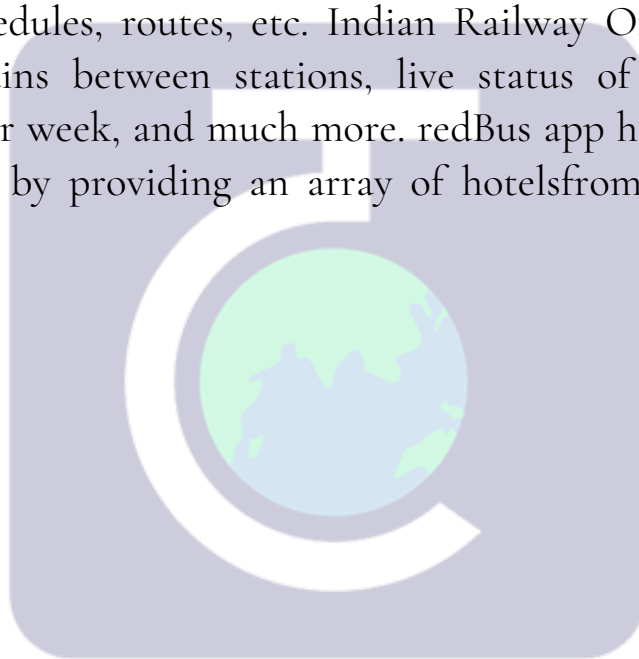
19. Tourist benefits

If the new tax regime is implemented by the end of this year (2016) foreigners buying goods in India will be able to claim tax rebate. This is according to the proposals of empowered committee of state finance. But for now tourist can get huge discount from hotels, shops, bars, tours and other various activities if they use the Tourism card. A tourism card is an exclusive family discount card which enables a person to get discounts in various places in Darjeeling. The card goes for Rs.590 and you get a discount everywhere you use it.



20. Essential local apps

For visitors in Darjeeling, some travel apps can be quite handy to find the places and attractions on their own without depending on guides. Darjeeling Tourism is compatible with all devices and the features include list of hotels, description of tourist spot with image, maps with navigation facilities, sharing of pictures, and much more. IRCTC Connect is an Indian Railway app to book train tickets, find facilities, trains, schedules, routes, etc. Indian Railway Offline Timetable is a complete list of trains between stations, live status of trains, PNR status, timetable for a day or week, and much more. redBus app helps in booking hotel rooms in Darjeeling by providing an array of hotels from which the user can choose.



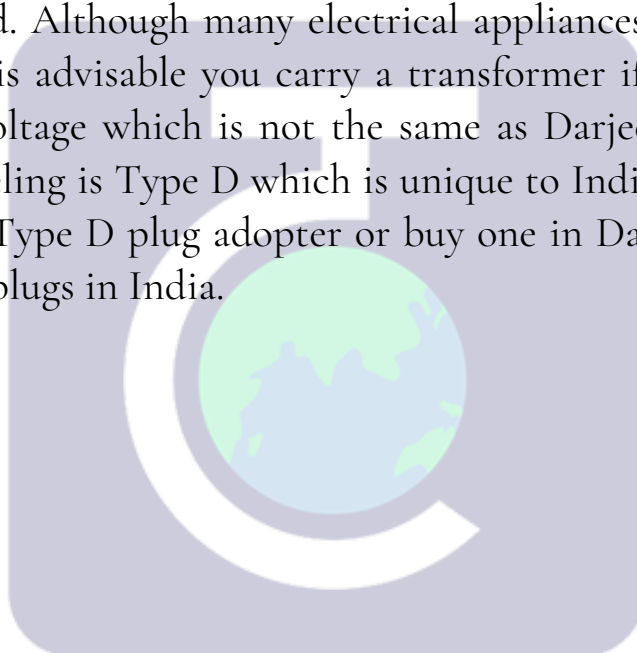
21. Driving

It is not advisable to drive to Darjeeling not unless you are an experienced high altitude driver. The mountainous and slippery roads make it hard for foreign drivers to drive. The requirements for a foreigner to drive include a valid international driving license and another form of identification like visa or passport. Darjeeling uses left hand side of the road this means the driver seats at the right hand side of the car.



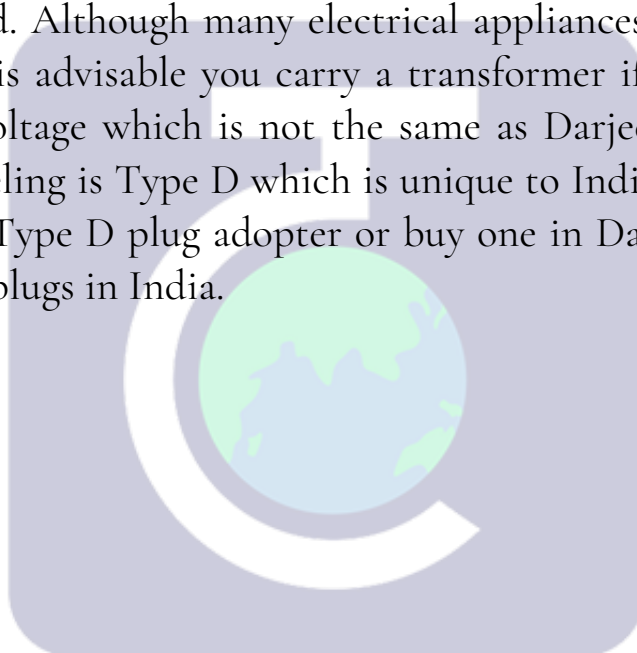
22. Travel essentials

There are two main standard voltages in the world I.e. 110-120 volt standard and 220-240 volt standard. Darjeeling is connected to a voltage of 230 volts which is categorized as a 220-240 volt standard at a frequency of 50Hz. Countries in North America (USA, Canada) and most of the countries in South America use a standard voltage of 110-120 while many of the countries in Europe and Africa use 220-240 volt standard. Although many electrical appliances like laptops have in built transformer it is advisable you carry a transformer if your country uses a different standard voltage which is not the same as Darjeeling's. The electrical socket used in Darjeeling is Type D which is unique to India and Nepal. Visitors should come with a Type D plug adopter or buy one in Darjeeling though most hotels provide these plugs in India.



23. Essential clothes

There are two main standard voltages in the world I.e. 110-120 volt standard and 220-240 volt standard. Darjeeling is connected to a voltage of 230 volts which is categorized as a 220-240 volt standard at a frequency of 50Hz. Countries in North America (USA, Canada) and most of the countries in South America use a standard voltage of 110-120 while many of the countries in Europe and Africa use 220-240 volt standard. Although many electrical appliances like laptops have in built transformer it is advisable you carry a transformer if your country uses a different standard voltage which is not the same as Darjeeling's. The electrical socket used in Darjeeling is Type D which is unique to India and Nepal. Visitors should come with a Type D plug adopter or buy one in Darjeeling though most hotels provide these plugs in India.



24. Local currency

The local currency of Darjeeling is Indian Rupee. It is denoted as INR. 1 USD = 66.77 INR



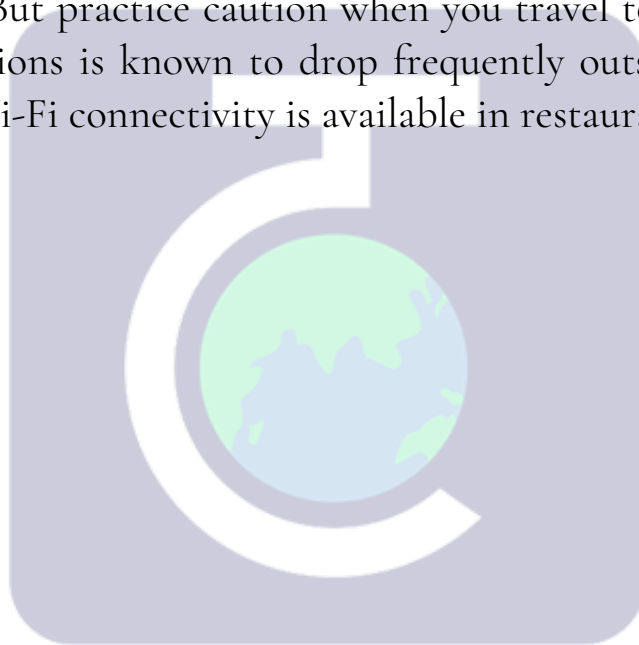
25. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

There are several banks found in Darjeeling which have 24 hour ATM services. These banks include State Bank of India (SBI) and corporation bank (CorpBank). ATM withdraw charges are free for a maximum of 5 ATMs transactions a month and maximum charge of Rs.20 any other transaction exceeding the five transaction. Most banks also charge a 3% for foreign exchange fee. The change vendors exchange the currency at the rate of 2.5% as their commission.



26. Staying connected

Although Darjeeling is a hill station city, mobile connectivity is very good here. One can easily procure prepaid and postpaid mobile SIM cards at nominal rates between INR 50 and INR 200. Tourists need to carry and show their ID-proof documentation and after the verification process is through, the SIM card will get activated within 24 hours. Tourists can get hold of local calling cards and make calls at cheap rates. But practice caution when you travel to the outskirts of the city, mobile connections is known to drop frequently outside of the main city area of Darjeeling. Wi-Fi connectivity is available in restaurants, pubs and cafes.



27. Time Zone

Darjeeling follows Indian Time Zone with UTC + 05:30 hours.



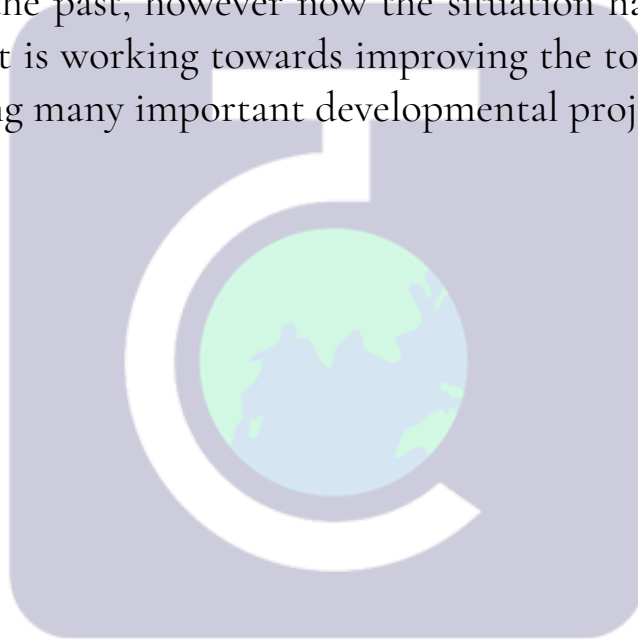
28. Languages

Bengali is the official language in Darjeeling. The following languages are English and Nepali.



29. Political Scenario

The administrative powers for Darjeeling are in the hands of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, a semi-autonomous governmental vertical under the state government of West Bengal. The Darjeeling district is divided into four subdivisions: Darjeeling Sadar subdivision, Kalimpong subdivision, Kurseong subdivision and Siliguri subdivision. The political circles of Darjeeling have witnessed unrest in the past, however now the situation has turned tide for the best. The government is working towards improving the tourism and tea sectors further by introducing many important developmental projects.



30. Economic Scenario

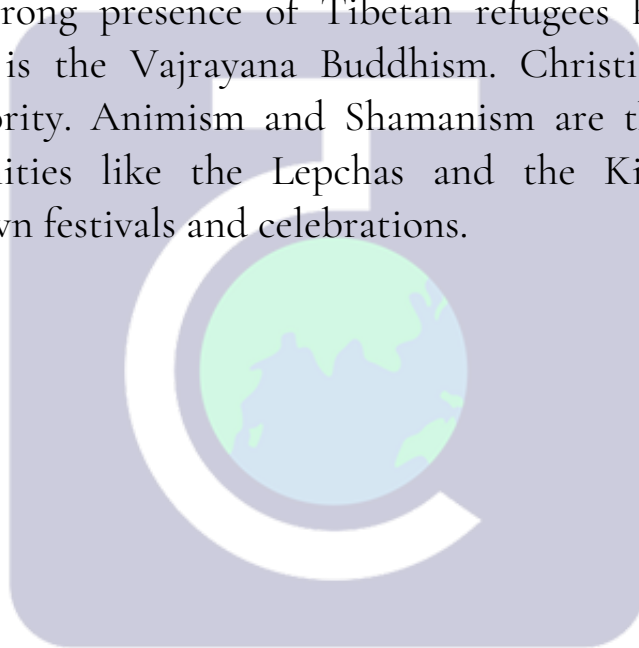
Although Darjeeling is a small hilly town, it still has got quite a flourishing economy. Widely-known as the 'Queen of the Hills', thanks to Darjeeling popularity as a tourist spot, tourism is the biggest revenue-generator. Tourism became big since as early as in 1860. Numerous Hindi and Bengali films have been shot in the green expanses of the town. Darjeeling's tea plantations have helped set up a tea industry which is another great source of revenue for Darjeeling. In the recent years, Darjeeling tea industry has thrived significantly. An indicator of this is the fact that Darjeeling produces 7% of India's tea output.



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31. Religious belief

Darjeeling is home to a large number of indigenous ethnic groups like Rai, Limbu, Gurung, Magars, Sherpas, Newars, Tamangs, Bhutias, Lepchas, and Khas, all forming the Gorkha community. Marwaris, Anglo-Indians, Chinese, Biharis, Tibetans, and Bengalis also inhabit this land. Hinduism is followed by a majority of the people. The next most important religion of the city is Buddhism as evident from the strong presence of Tibetan refugees here. The branch of Buddhism followed is the Vajrayana Buddhism. Christianity and Islam are practiced by a minority. Animism and Shamanism are the religions of some indigenous communities like the Lepchas and the Kiranti Limbus. Each community has its own festivals and celebrations.



32. Visa requirements

For foreigner to visit India he/she requires an Original passport and at least one photocopy of passport information with the signature page. The passport must be signed for a valid period of 6 months stay in India. The passport must have at least two blank pages for India's visa stamps. The visitor also requires a valid Indian visa with the signature of the visa matching the one on the passport. The visitor must also provide proof of address and this can be local driving license or the local identification card.



33. Essential vaccination

Before travelling to Darjeeling a number of vaccines are required. These vaccines are Rabies, Hepatitis B, Typhoid, Tetanus, Japanese Encephalitis, Hepatitis A and routine vaccination.



34. Theft and Safety

Before travelling to Darjeeling a number of vaccines are required. These vaccines are Rabies, Hepatitis B, Typhoid, Tetanus, Japanese Encephalitis, Hepatitis A and routine vaccination.



Index**35. Embassy/Consulate**

There are no foreign embassies and consulates in the city. However, you can have more information of the same of nearby places at <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/india>.



36. Accessibility

The Bagdogra Airport is wheelchair friendly. The mountain people are very helpful and provide assistance to people with disabilities. Many of the hotels also have wheelchair friendly ramps and lifts.



Index**37. Emergencies**

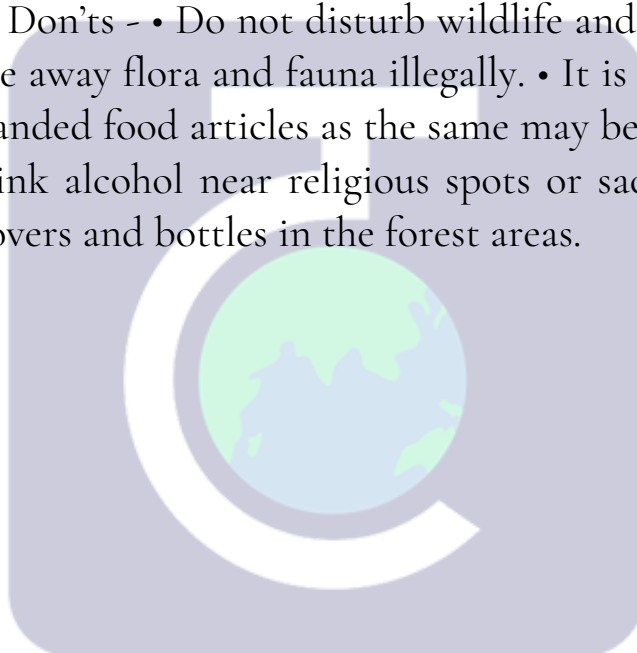
In case of emergencies you can call 100 for Police and for Ambulance you can call 102 and that of Fire, you can dial 101. You are provided with the top-notch facilities and also that of medical services even if you are a tourist. The hospitals that can help you with travel insurance are Fortis Hospital and Peerless Hospital and B.K Roy Research Center.



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38. Do's and Don'ts

Darjeeling is a heritage site and the visitors have to follow certain rules and regulations. Do's - • Keep copies of Passport or ID cards. • Use dust bins in public places. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • Leave donations in monasteries. • Keep pollutants like detergents away from water sources. • Be alert to weather warnings. Don'ts - • Do not disturb wildlife and plants. • Do not feed wildlife. • Do not take away flora and fauna illegally. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import. • Do not smoke or drink alcohol near religious spots or sacred places. • Do not throw away plastic covers and bottles in the forest areas.



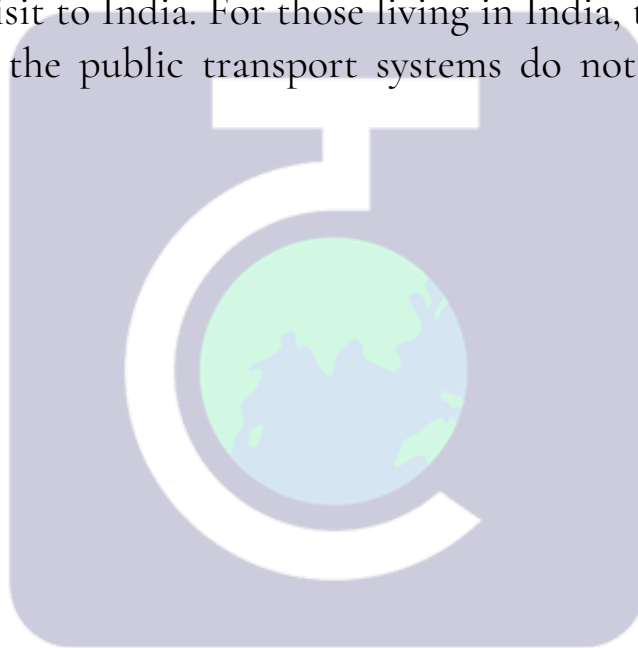
39.Tipping basics

Tipping is not compulsory. However, when the service is good then tipping is recommended based on the service given and the level of satisfaction achieved. When tipping is made, those accepting the tip are grateful and consider it a way to 'thank you'. Tips are accepted by guides and porters for work they have done. Tipping is meant for an individual or a group. After meals at a restaurant, when bill is between Rs.300/ and Rs.1000/- then 7% to 10% of bill amount is fine. If bill is above Rs.1000/- tip can be 5% - 7 % of bill amount.



Index**40.Pet info**

Currently India has imposed a ban on foreign tourists bringing their pets into the country. As per the regulations, only those who are relocating to India after two years of continuous stay abroad can bring two pets as baggage. While this is aimed at preventing illegal trafficking of foreign breeds into the country, many tourists find it extremely difficult to leave their pets at their home countries while they are on a visit to India. For those living in India, travelling with pets is not easy as most of the public transport systems do not allow pets with the passengers.



Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Why choose Darjeeling ? Nestled in the Himalayan foothills, this beautiful city is famous for its tea, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, and the view of the third highest mountain in the world, the Kanchenjunga. The climate is pleasant for sightseeing walks in this hill station that still has retained a Victorian charm in its old buildings and streets. The city is a haven for nature lovers. The spectacular views of Mt. Kanchenjunga, the golden mountain tops as the first rays of the sun light up the Himalayan ranges, the hills and rivers, the lush greenery, tall evergreen trees, and the sprawling tea plantations provide endless visions of nature's bounty. The tea estates are especially worth a visit during the harvesting season when the alluring aroma of fresh tea wafts through the air enticing even a non tea-drinker to take sip of the golden brew. There is no dearth of thrills in this small city. Mountain biking and trekking in the Himalayan Mountains can be an exhilarating experience for the adventure junkies. The city is also home to the Tibetan refugees whose presence lends this city a multi-cultural character. Their monasteries, settlements, food, and shops stand testimony to the pluralistic spirit of the people. The most exciting aspect of Darjeeling is undoubtedly the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. It is Listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the Toy Train winds through the hills making several loops and providing stunning views to the passengers. The food here is a slice of the varied culture this city possesses. It is a mix of ethnic, Tibetan, North Indian, Nepali, and Bengali cuisine with signature dishes like Momos, noodles, Thukpa, and the renowned Darjeeling Tea.

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