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Meghalaya

Meghalaya is a northeast Indian state. The word "Meghalaya" literally means 'the Abode of Clouds' in Sanskrit and other Indo-Iranian languages. As of 2011 the state has a population of 2,964,007 and is the 23rd most populous.

Meghalaya covers an area of approximately 300 kilometers in length and about 100 kilometers in breadth. The state is bounded on the north by Assam and by Bangladesh on the south. The capital is Shillong is known as the

'Scotland of the East'.



Famous For : State / Province

Shillong has a population of 143,007. About one third of the state is forested. The Meghalaya subtropical forests eco region encompasses the state; its mountain forests are distinct from the lowland tropical forests to the north and south. The forests of Meghalaya are notable for their biodiversity of mammals, birds, and plants. It was previously part of Assam, but on January 21, 1972, the districts of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia hills became the new state of Meghalaya.

Meghalaya has predominantly an agrarian economy. The important crops are potatoes, rice, maize, pineapples, bananas, etc. The service sector is made up of real estate and insurance companies. The state has become a hub of illegal mining activity.

Meghalaya's gross state domestic product for 2004 was estimated at \$1.6 billion in current prices. Shillong, the capital of the state, is a popular hill station. There are several falls in and around Shillong. Shillong Peak is highest in the state and is good for trekking. It is also known as the

"abode of the gods" and has excellent views. The state offers many good hotels and lodging facilities.

What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-meghalaya-ip-1273347>

1 Cherrapunjee

No visit to Shillong can be complete without a trip to Cherrapunjee (officially rechristened to its old name 'Sohra'), known to every school child for receiving the highest rainfall in the world — a title now taken over by nearby Mawsynram, though. Cherrapunjee falls directly in the path of the south-west monsoon, and the shape of the hills helps to funnel and converge monsoon clouds of a wide area to a relatively small area.

The standard day-tour circuit here is: Mawsmai Caves, Mawkdok Viewpoint, Nohkalikai Viewpoint, Eco Park, Seven Sisters' Viewpoint, Thankharang Park and Khoh Ramhah.

Mawsmai Caves are Meghalaya's only limestone system open for tourists, studded with imaginative lime formations crafted over years by the slow dripping of water. Visit the Dainthlen Falls (11/2 km before Cherra, it's a

7-km stretch to the right leading to the falls);

Nongsawlia Church with the distinction of being the first Christian church in this area built around the 1850s by Welsh missionaries; and

Mawlong Peak which is a small hillock in Cherra town, a popular picnic spot. The Cherra Market is a local haat, held every eight days.

Unmarred landscape, striking waterfalls and the vibrancy of this place arrests you with its charm. The divine seven sisters waterfalls or Noh Kalikai Falls depicting the seven states of the North East is a picturesque site. For the adventurous, the unexplored caves around town are certainly a treat along with the various scenic trekking trails and walking paths. Unfurl the subtle yet astounding beauty of the wet town.

2 Ward's Lake



Police Bazar, Shillong, Meghalaya

793001, India

If you are in Shillong you cannot and should not miss out on the Ward's Lake. Located in the heart of the city, this horse-shoe shaped lake is a popular spot to take a lazy walk or admire the green lawn dotted with multi-coloured flowers. Named after Sir William Ward, the then Chief Commissioner of Assam, who initiated the plan for the construction of this lake, which was later constructed by Colonel Hopkins in the year 1894, this lake is nature at its very best.

It is also said that the area around this place was made by a Khasi prisoner, who requested to let him work to bring a change to his monotonous daily routine. Thus, his role in beautifying the place is something which is remembered even today. There is also a Botanical Garden near the lake which has various orchids, apart from the several other varieties of flora that adorn it. The bridge in the midst of the lake is the perfect place to enjoy a view of the whole lake, and maybe even feed the fish!

3 Bara Bazaar



Iewduh Bara Bazar, Shillong, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, 793002, India

One of the most popular markets in Shillong, Bara Bazaar should be at the top of your itinerary! From betel nuts and betel leaves (a favourite among the Khasis) to local handicrafts, you will find it all here. Also known as Lewduh Market, this place seems like a colourful collection of everything that you get in Shillong.

The crowded market is thronged by women from villages, selling local seasonal vegetables and fruits. Chances are that you will have the opportunity to witness some varieties of vegetables, which are indigenous to this part of the country only.

4 Shillong Peak



East Khasi Hills District, Shillong,

Meghalaya, 793001, India

If you want a panoramic view of the beauty of Shillong, just take the trekking trail to Shillong Peak and you will get to witness a spectacular sight, unique and exquisitely charming. Experience a completely different high here! Approximately 1966 m above sea level, this peak enjoys the tag of being the highest point in the state of Meghalaya. Make sure you pack some snacks before you head for this peak. Once you reach here, you can feast your eyes on the hills that dot the city and the pretty houses clustered together in groups. At the peak, you will also find a sacred spot dedicated to the U Shulong and at this particular spot, every spring, a ritual is held, in honour of U Shulong. A paradise for avid photographers, the view is clear and amazing during the day, and at night, you can stare up the sky and soak in the aura of the enchanting starlit sky.

5 Living Root Bridges



Cherrapunji, Meghalaya, India

Living Root Bridges are built especially using the secondary root systems that grow higher up on the trunk. To prevent these roots from flaring out on all directions and guiding them the right way, hollowed out betel nut trunks are used. Once the roots extend over to the other side of the river, they are allowed to take root. A good sturdy bridge may take anywhere from 10 to 15 years to be completely built and can easily carry the weight of more than 50 people.

On the slopes of the Jaintia and the Khasi hills in Cherrapunji, grows a species of the Indian rubber tree. This species has a particularly strong root system and thrives very well in these parts. The war Khasi tribes had noticed this property of the tree long ago, and decided to use it as a way to cross over treacherous rivers. Once they mastered the art, they started building more and more such bridges whenever there arose a need.

Since the roots continue to grow, over time this living bridge continues to strengthen as well. Some bridges in this area are more than 500 years old. A special mention goes to the "Umshiang Double-Decker Root Bridge", which are two bridges stacked up on each other - one of its kind in the whole world, for sure.

Where To Eat

5 Places

<http://www.ixigo.com/foods-in-of-meghalaya-lp-1273347>

1 Ginger Restaurant



Hotel Polo Towers, Polo Grounds, Shillong, Meghalaya, 793001, India
 +91-364-2222341

Located inside one of the most popular hotels in Shillong, The Polo Towers, Ginger Restaurant is undoubtedly the trendiest eating-out place in Shillong. The soothing interiors are done in wood and cream colour and the soft couches will instantly make you feel at home. Take a break from the usual Indian cuisine and try out Italian and Continental dishes like pasta, crepes, cannelloni, stroganoff or just a fruit sundae. Located adjacent to the restaurant is the bar called Platinum where you can go for your favourite drink after that perfect meal.

2 Pinecone Restaurant



European Ward, Rita Road, Shillong, Meghalaya 793001, India
 +91-364-2223116

If you are tired of the same old run-of-the-mill Chinese and Indian dishes, head over to Pinecone Restaurant for a filling and delicious continental fare. The ambience is quite reminiscent of the British times and the decor is very pleasant. As far as the service is concerned, you will not be disappointed. The staff is very well trained and will even guide you around the menu if you need assistance. You can enjoy your meal with the great views of the picturesque town of Shillong. Overall, a great place to relax and chill out with family and friends.

3 City Hut Family Dhaba



Earle Holiday Home, Oakland Road, Police Bazar, Shillong, Meghalaya 793001, India



+91-9863063494

One of the best restaurants in town, the food at City Hut Family Dhaba is finger-licking good. A harmonious blend of a charming rustic touch with a contemporary dining experience, this restaurant (no, its not a Dhaba) is quite popular amongst the locals and tourists alike. With a wide array of dishes belonging to the Tandoori, South Indian, Chinese, Mexican and continental cuisines, the variety here is quite impressive and will leave you spoilt for choice.

Vegetarians can go for Tawa Sabzi with paratha or some delicious Tandoori dishes, while non vegetarians have an open field to experiment with Thai, Mexican and Italian fares. Good food, good service and an overall value for money experience, City Hut is a must for all foodies. Try to make it during lunch as by dinner, the place gets quite packed.

Bread Cafe



Above Barbeque Restaurant, Opposite Hotel Broadway, G.S. Road, Police Bazar, East Khasi Hills District, Shillong, Meghalaya, 793001, India



+91-8974066549

A part of the Hotel Broadway in Shillong, Bread Cafe is a restaurant, cafe and a bakery, all rolled into one. Quite popular with the locals, especially the youth, the place has a nice spread from regular meals (both Indian and Continental) to the choicest confectionery items. The staff claims that all the products are freshly prepared everyday, which accounts for both the taste and quality. The place is usually a bit cramped with so many locals flocking in. Try the Barbecue Pasta or the variety of sandwiches available here. A top class confectionery, the pastries and cakes are the freshest, softest and one of the best that you'll get in town. The owner and the staff are quite friendly and deliver efficient service. As far as its location is concerned, this little gem sits smack dab in the middle of the town, so spotting it wont be a bother.

5 Munchies



 Rani Villa, Near Don Bosco Square,
Laitumkhrah Main Road,
Laitumkhrah, Shillong, Meghalaya
793003, India

 +91-8974087724

A multi-cuisine restaurant that serves amazing food, Munchies is a famous hub for the locals of Shillong. Select from a variety of cuisines - American, Lebanese, Continental or Italian - and enjoy the view of the bustling street of Shillong. The best part about this restaurant is the fact that it is one of those places where music and food go hand in hand. Yes, Shillong is popular for its Western music culture and you can experience it right here at the Munchies.

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MEGHALAYA FAMILY PACKAGE

MEGHALAYA PACKAGE 5D/4N

Shillong: Arrival and sightseeing

DAY
1

Your Meghalaya 5 nights, 6 days tour package greets you today As soon as you reach Guwahati airport, you will be escorted to Shillong – the capital city of Meghalaya. En route, you will be treated to the exotic expanses. Halt at Umiam Lake, also known as Barapani. If time allows, you will also visit Ward's Lake and Cathedral Catholic Church. On reaching Shillong, check-in to the hotel and freshen up, Remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy just the way you want. You can go shopping and buy home souvenirs. Later, come back to the hotel for a restful sleep.

Cherrapunji: Off to breathtaking expanses

DAY
2

Savor a hearty breakfast and checkout from the hotel. Now, you will be moving to Cherrapunji. On the way, you will be visiting Shillong Peak, Elephanta Falls, Mawkdok Valley, Nohsngithiang Falls (Seven Sisters Falls), Mawsmai Cave, and Eco Park that offers view of Sylhet Plains of Bangladesh. Enjoying the sightseeing, you will reach Cherrapunji. Check-in to the hotel for a relaxing sleep

Shillong: A day trip to Mawlynnong Village

DAY
3

Wake up to a delectable breakfast and checkout from the hotel as you will be visiting Mawlynnong Village today. The village is considered the cleanest in Asia and is known as 'God's own garden'. You will also be visiting a the Living Root Bridge in the nearby village of Rawai, where natural balancing rock- a strange natural phenomenon of a boulder balancing on another rock greets you.

Guwahati: Off to another capital city

DAY
4

Arise to a wholesome breakfast and checkout from the hotel. Now, you will be moving to Guwahati. On the way, you will be visiting Ward's Lake and Cathedral Catholic Church (if not visited on Day 1). Thereafter, you will be heading to Don Bosco Museum for an insightful visit

Guwahati: Explore the marvels of Guwahati

DAY
5

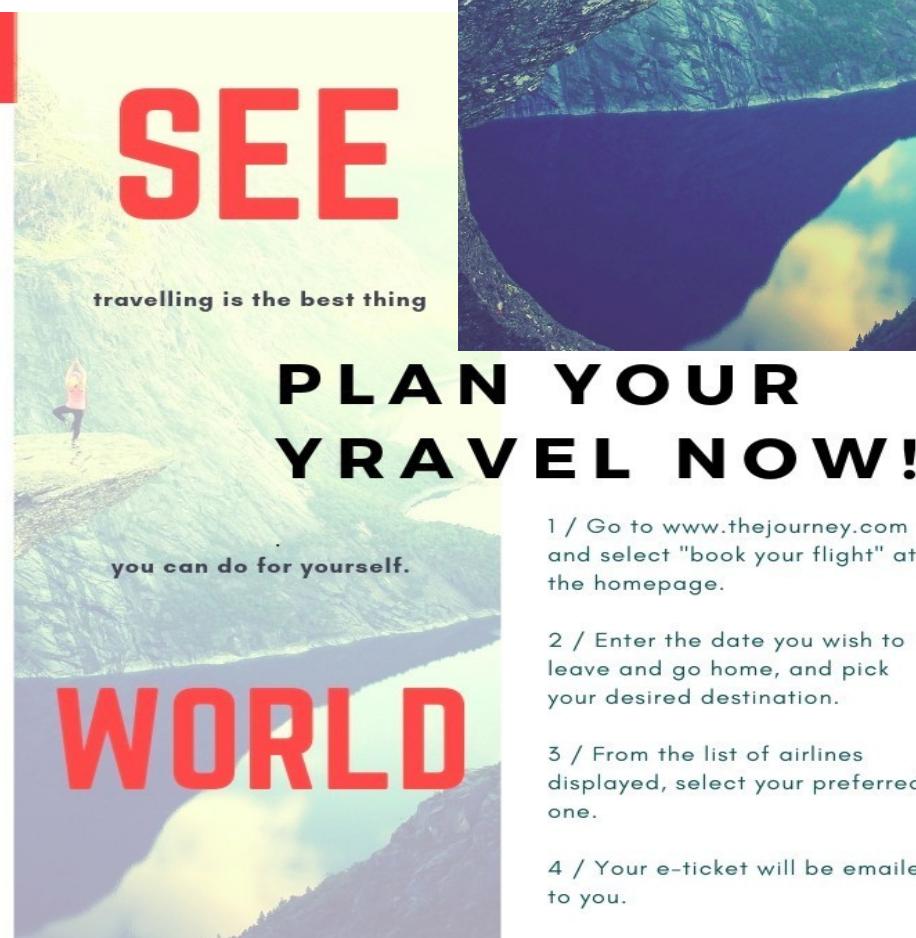
Seek blessings of the goddess early morning today at Kamakhya Temple, followed by offering prayers at Tirupati Balaji Temple and Umananda Temple. Thereafter, enjoy Alfresco Cruise ride that will take you to the heart of the Brahmaputra River. After an amazing day, come back to the hotel for a restful sleep.

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