

Tawang Expedition

Planning

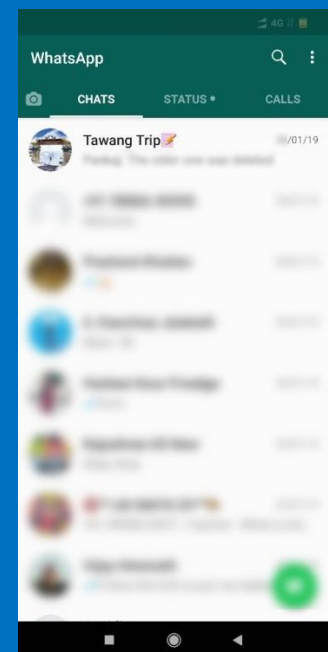
Saturday, February 02, 2019

Today 2nd Feb 2019, I am writing this post. This should be an incremental post, hopefully I will update as days come closer to our trip and after trip...

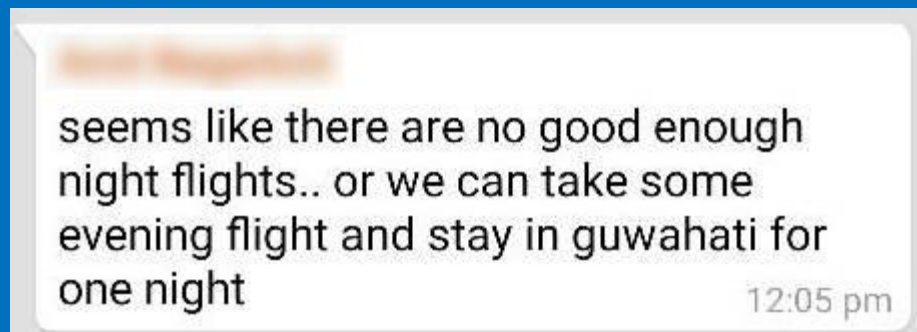
Arunachal Pradesh is famous for Buddhist monasteries and its quite a must-go place for nature-lovers.

We are few bunch of techies decided to go for a vacation to this place, most specifically Tawang, the birth place of Dalai Lama, though that's not the reason why we are going there. Also it is border district to Bhutan and China.

Discussion and Planning started 3½ months before from the actual travel date, may be December 10th to 15th. If travelling to such places, You must start planning still ahead of it; Reason being, you need to do reservation for flights, hotels, cab and of course get your permits. You must be knowing about flight fares and hotel charges, how these varies w.r.t. time... We created a WhatsApp group for common discussion.



We had two options to select for starting from Bangalore, those are 29th March evening or 30th March morning. 29th March being a working day, it was difficult for us to travel afternoon or early evening. Few suggested to start by evening and stay one night at Guwahati, as we are not aware of night travel in mountainous places, might not be safe. We explored and learnt that people suggest not to travel at night.



After a long discussion, we decided to start on 30th March 2019 6:55AM flight from Bangalore. Still at that point, we were not clear about what are the places we are going to visit and where are we going to stay, where we will be taking stop or stay-at-night.

We started exploring places and with help of google Maps we found some stop-places where we can stay-at-night and start for the next day travel from there.

Initially discussed, From Guwahati whether to go to Tezpur or Bhalukpong or Dirang, or some more options. It will be easy to understand if I show some directions as per our discussion,

- ✓ Guwahati -> Tezpur -> Dirang
- ✓ Guwahati -> Bhalukpong -> Dirang

We also checked the travel duration from Guwahati to Bhalukpong to Dirang to Tawang on google maps. (I will share it somewhere below)

Finally with help a member's relative, we decided to stay at Bhalukpong and travel from Guwahati to Bhalukpong.

Meanwhile we also discussed about local travel like whether to take public transport or car or 7-seater or rented own driven vehicle etc... Public transport timings were not convenient (or may be even it was, few might not have liked) and Someone suggested it's not safe for own driven vehicle in hilly roads, so we are left with no other option than book and travel by car or 7-seater.

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Initially it was not decided who all are travelling for this expedition, we just tossed the message among family and friends to pull out interested people. Few interested people dropped off from the group stating reason of cannot-travel.

Finally we 6 people were ready to go for the exploration. One of us collected the basic information from all of us like names, phone numbers, mail-id etc.

Then we started exploring various places to visit and started preparing the itinerary. Discussed with friends who have already been to those places and collected information like where to-go or not-to-go, what are the things to take care, suggestions to cover in-and-around places if time permits, how to apply for permit, what to choose for local transport, etc etc...

Suggestions from friends and our group, helped us to finalize our itinerary.

As we discussed:

- ✓ Day 1: Bangalore to Guwahati by flight
- ✓ Day 1: Guwahati to Bhalukpong (by car or bigger vehicle which is suitable) – Stay night at Bhalukpong
- ✓ Day 2: Bhalukpong sight-seeing and start to Dirang – Stay night at Dirang
- ✓ Day 3: Sight-seeing at Dirang and start to Tawang – Stay at Tawang
- ✓ Day 4 ~ Day 5: Visit places in and around Tawang
- ✓ Day 6: Sight-seeing and start to Bomdila – Stay night at Bomdila
- ✓ Day 7: Sight-seeing and start to Guwahati – Stay night at Guwahati
- ✓ Day 8: Visit places in and around Guwahati - Stay night at Guwahati
- ✓ Day 9: Get ready to return :P – Flight to Bangalore

Once the main places (stop points) are finalized, we started exploring in and around places at each stop and finalized few places, though it all depends on time, when we really will be in that places and based on travelling time we have to decide to-cover or not-to-cover certain places. As it's mountainous places, roads will not be straight, there must be many bends, trails and passes, no doubt. We noted down the travel time from one place to another as per Google Maps, though we know it will be definitely more than that, so we added 1 hour extra to that.

Guwahati airport to bhalukpong – 6hr

Bhalukpong to Dirang – 5 hrs 30 mins

Dirang to Tawang – 6hrs

Tawang to Bomdila - 7 hrs 12:01 pm ✓✓

In Parallel to our above discussion, we started exploring flight options. As per our traveling date, there were multiple flights from Bangalore to Guwahati, we discussed and decided to take early morning flight, so it should not be too late to reach Bhalukpong (the place, where we are staying at night). We are out with flight details and timings, but we were seeking a good deal for fares.

For a week or two, we just monitored fares and deals/offers and decided to book individually to avail the offer. Started booking flights around 25th Dec 2018 and in 2-3 days almost everyone are done with booking.

We booked:

From Bangalore to Guwahati – Indigo 6:55AM flight 30th March 2019

From Guwahati to Bangalore – asdas

One among us is from Guwahati, so he decided to take care of cabs and local transport facilities.

Our itinerary looked like:

Days	Date	From	To	Time	Description	Places to Visit in Same Direction
Day 1	30.03.2019	Bangalore	Guwahti	3 Hrs	By Air Reach Guwahti By 10.00 AM Blr - Indigo 6:55AM to 9:55AM	
	30.03.2019	Guwahti	Bhalukpong	~6 Hrs	Start by 11AM by Cab, Reach by 5PM	Explore/Roam by walk/cab if anything nearby
Day 2	31.03.2019	Bhalukpong	Dirang	~5:30 Hrs	Start early morning to Dirang, On the way Sight Seeing.	Sangti Vally, Dirang Valley, Apple Orchads, Thupsung Dhargye Ling, Dirang Dzong Fort, Hot Water Spring
Day 3	01.04.2019	Dirang	Tawang -1	~6 Hrs	Start early morning to Tawang, On the way Sight Seeing.	Tawang War memorial, Tawang Monastery, Giant Buddha Statue, Tibetan Medical Dispensary
Day 4	02.04.2019		Tawang -2	Full Day	Visit places near Tawang	
Day 5	03.04.2019		Tawang -3	Full Day	Visit places near Tawang	Panga Teng Tso Lake, Madhuri Lake, Bumla Pass (China Border), Zemithang, Sela Pass and Lake, Nuranang/Jung Falls
Day 6	04.04.2019	Tawang	Bomdila - 1	~7 Hrs	Start early morning to Bomdila, On the way Sight Seeing.	Bomdila Monastery, Chilipam & Chilipam Monastery Bomdila, Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary
Day 7	05.04.2019	Bomdila	Guwahti	~9 Hrs	Sight Seeing and travel to Guwahati	
Day 8	06.04.2019	Guwahti			Guwahati Sight Seeing	
Day 9	07.04.2019	Guwahti			Guwahati Sight Seeing	Umananda Island, Kamakshya Temple, Assam State Zoo and Botanical Garden
	07.04.2019	Guwahti	Bangalore	Evening Flight	Evening flight to Bangalore	
Color codes are as per stay in a place						

More or less we have almost planned everything, but Still we have not planned what-to-visit in Guwahati, we left this for on-demand decision or on-the-spot decision.