

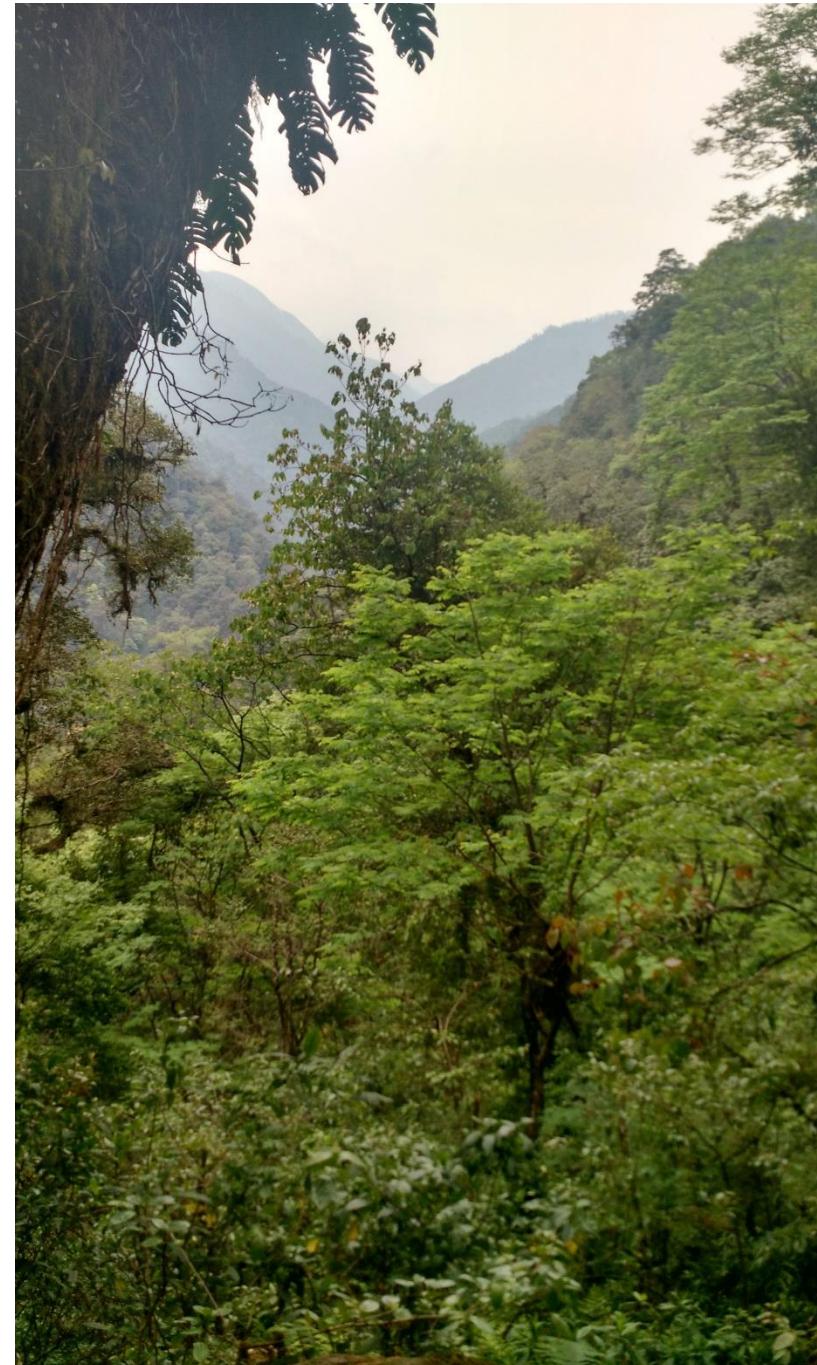
Goecha La!

16000ft , 10 days, Eastern Himalayas, North West Sikkim





Trek begins through the dense jungle route from Yuksom.



A scenic view of a turquoise blue stream flowing through a lush green forest in a mountainous valley. The river, with its vibrant blue-green water, winds its way through a bed of smooth, light-colored stones and larger, mossy boulders. The banks of the stream are densely covered with a variety of green foliage, including tall trees, smaller shrubs, and hanging vines. The surrounding mountains are steep and rocky, with patches of green vegetation clinging to their slopes. The overall atmosphere is one of natural beauty and tranquility.

Followed
along the
turquoise
blue stream
through the
lush green
forest.
(Khangchen
dzonga
National
Park)



First camp site Bhakim. Kitchen tents on the left and sleeping tents on the right.

A wide-angle photograph of a dense mountain forest. The foreground is dominated by dark green foliage and branches in the lower right. A narrow, light-colored stream or river flows from the bottom left through the center of the frame, winding its way through the forest. The background consists of numerous mountain peaks, their slopes covered in a thick layer of trees. The sky is overcast and hazy, creating a soft, diffused light over the scene.

Probably the
most dense
forest I've
experienced
till date.



First view of
the snow clad
peaks.
Excitement
builds up
when we
realize we'll
be trekking to
those peaks!



Next camp site at Tsoka. Refreshed & relaxed for a day to acclimatize for higher altitude.

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a majestic mountain range. In the foreground, dark green bushes and trees frame the scene. The middle ground is dominated by a range of mountains, their slopes covered in a dense forest of coniferous trees. Several peaks are partially obscured by a thick layer of white mist or low-hanging clouds, creating a sense of depth and mystery. The sky above is a clear, vibrant blue, transitioning into a soft orange and yellow near the horizon, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. The overall composition is a classic representation of natural beauty and tranquility.

This was the view
from our tent
flaps. Picture
postcard perfect
scenes !

A landscape photograph capturing a majestic mountain range at sunrise. The foreground is dominated by dark, silhouetted mountain ridges. Above them, the sky transitions from deep blue at the top to a vibrant orange and yellow near the horizon, where the sun is rising. Scattered clouds are illuminated by the early morning light, appearing as wispy, golden threads against the darker blues.

5 am. A
magnificent
sunrise.



Several hours pass by just admiring the immense beauty surrounding you.



Top view of
Tsoka.
The last
village on
our trek.

A
monastery, a
lake, about 6
huts with
spots for
horses &
dzos.

Dzo/zo/zho
= hybrid
between the
yak & cow.



Trees gradually reduced as we climbed higher.
It started to get more rocky with boulders & streams



And soon,
there was
snow fall !!

The whole
place
turned
white in a
matter of
minutes.

A group of four young men are standing in a snowy, open landscape under a cloudy sky. They are all wearing dark-colored rain ponchos over their clothing. The man on the far left is wearing a black poncho, the second from the left is in a bright blue one, the third is in a grey one, and the fourth is partially visible behind the others. They are all smiling and have their arms around each other's shoulders. The ground is covered in patches of snow and dark earth. In the background, there are some low hills or mountains and a small, simple building with a white roof.

But it didn't
stop us from
having fun.

Dressed as
dementors
😊

A photograph capturing a serene night campsite. In the foreground, a yellow tent with "Jannu PE FIBER 4" printed on its side is brightly illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. To its left, a red tent is partially visible. Further back, another yellow tent is lit up. The ground is dark and uneven. In the background, a range of mountains is silhouetted against a deep blue night sky, which is densely populated with stars.

Although
freezing
outside, the
night sky was
glorious with
a million
sparkles.



As the sun came up and cleared the clouds next morning, the valley opened up to show us its breath taking beauty.



Our camp at Thansing.

With horses grazing freely in the open, the clear blue skies, eagles gliding high, snow peaks on either sides and a huge valley in between, it was like those discovery & Nat geo documentaries.

A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a small stream flows over rocks and through patches of green moss and brown shrubs. The middle ground shows a rocky hillside with more vegetation. In the background, majestic mountains rise, their peaks partially obscured by thick, billowing clouds. The sky is a mix of light blue and grey.

Indescribable
beauty. Part 1

A wide-angle landscape photograph capturing a majestic mountain range. The peaks are heavily covered in snow and ice, with dark, rocky ridges visible through the clouds. In the foreground, a rocky slope descends towards the viewer, dotted with large boulders and patches of green vegetation. The lighting suggests either sunrise or sunset, casting a warm glow on the exposed rock faces and the base of the mountains.

Indescribable
beauty. Part 2

A photograph of a steep hillside covered in sparse, greyish-brown vegetation. Seven mountain goats are scattered across the slope, grazing on the low-lying plants. The goats are various shades of brown and grey, with some showing white patches. They have long, curved horns and are positioned at different heights on the incline.

Oh and we
saw some
wildlife too !

Mountain
goats. A
bunch of
them.

A wide-angle photograph of a mountain range. In the background, two prominent peaks rise above the clouds, their summits partially obscured by white clouds. The middle ground shows rugged, rocky mountain slopes with patches of snow and sparse vegetation. The foreground is a rocky, uneven terrain with some low-lying green plants and moss-covered rocks.

Indescribable
beauty. Part 3.

Did you notice a
sleeping person ?

We called him
the sleeping
Buddha ☺



Camp site at
Lamuney.

Highest camp in
our trek before
the summit
climb.

A wide-angle photograph capturing a group of hikers from behind, sitting on a rocky ledge in a mountainous landscape. They are dressed in outdoor gear, including jackets and hats. In the foreground, a rocky path leads down towards a valley. A small stream winds its way through the valley floor, which is covered in patches of orange and brown vegetation. In the distance, several small tents are visible, indicating a campsite. The background features towering, misty mountains under a cloudy sky.

After exploring
the
surroundings
for the rest of
the day, we
stopped to sit,
relax and soak
in the
peacefulness.

In the
background,
out camp at
lamuney.



Even more clear
sky, and a lot
more stars.

We spotted
several
constellations.

A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a rocky stream bed flows through a field of dark, mossy rocks and low-lying vegetation. The middle ground features a vast valley with more rocky terrain and distant snow-capped mountains. The background is dominated by two large, rugged peaks, one on the left and a larger one on the right, both partially covered in snow and clouds. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with scattered white and grey clouds.

Indescribable
beauty. Part 4

A wide-angle photograph of a majestic mountain range. The left side of the image is dominated by a massive, snow-covered peak, its slopes steep and rugged. The snow is bright white, contrasting sharply with the dark, shadowed areas of the mountain's face. To the right, another range of mountains is visible, their peaks partially obscured by thick, dark clouds. A small patch of yellow light, possibly from the setting or rising sun, is visible through the clouds on the right side. The overall atmosphere is one of raw power and natural beauty.

Soon, we
could see the
summits. It
felt so close !



Samiti Lake.
Our first glacial
lake.

The water was
soo serene!

A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the center, a small, dark blue lake sits nestled between two rocky ridges. The mountains are covered in sparse vegetation, primarily yellowish-green shrubs and patches of brown grass. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a bright, overexposed area on the left side.

We climbed
along.

Samiti lake in
the background.

A wide-angle photograph of a majestic, snow-covered mountain peak. The mountain's slopes are steep and covered in thick white snow, with some dark, rocky outcrops visible. The peak rises sharply against a bright blue sky, which is partially obscured by wispy, white clouds. The overall scene is one of extreme altitude and natural beauty.

Mount
Pandim.

We were
definitely
getting close!

A close-up photograph of Mount Pandim's peak. The mountain is covered in thick, white snow, with deep crevasses and ridges visible. The lighting highlights the texture of the ice and snow against a clear, dark blue sky.

Glaciers shining
on mount
Pandim. A closer
view.



Mount Thansing.

Pandim's
neighbor.



Summit day. The Kanchenjunga range



Summit day. Sunrise on Kanchenjunga range.



Indescribable
beauty. Part 5



The Kanchenjunga Range. Enough said!



Goecha Lake.

Second glacial
lake in our trek
and the source of
several rivers.





And the prize for our efforts...

the view of Mt. Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world and the highest peak in India. 28169 ft.

Goechala Pass at 16000 ft. we accomplished our goal !

In the backdrop, the south east face of Mt. Kanchenjunga.





And we
returned back to
the beautiful
town of Yuksom.

Our base camp



Goecha la Trekking expedition team with India Hikes. Apr 30 – May 10, 2016.