



SIKKIM

An Educational Tourism Destination
Where Exploration meets Learning

SIKKIM

*An Educational Tourism Destination
Where Exploration Meets Learning*

January 2021

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any manner without written permission of invocations.in

Text and concept: Inspired Publications

Design: Shubham Pradhan

Printed by: 24 Hours Inspired

SIKKIM

*An Educational Tourism Destination
Where Exploration Meets Learning*



Preface

Sikkim has always been a preferred destination for travel seekers. From the beautiful ranges of Mount Khangchendzonga to the blue waters mingling into green to the lush green forests to the terraced lands where farmers cultivate their organic produce to the joy and happiness of uninterrupted evening conversations... Sikkim delights a visitor like no one else. In this serene paradise that Sikkim is, there are millions of visitors who have graced their presence, taking back with them the enchanting beauty of the land and its people.

Over the years, there have been several visitors from across the world, profiling from royalty to the common individual seeking nirvana on earth. In all of this, if Sikkim has seen a spurt in its audiences, it certainly is of the younger generation of travellers, pleasure seekers and the adventurous individuals who have made Sikkim as their bucket list of travel places.

Amongst these young travellers are segments which are looking for learning coupled with pleasure. These are young minds who are seeking a sense of learning through the platform of travel. And these young minds come from distinguished institutions who are today heralding and championing the cause of learning beyond textbooks by inculcating the habit of educational travels to their students.

Sikkim as a state could be the flag bearer of educational travels for institutions across the country. From learning engagements of rural tourism to organic farming to cleanliness to avian tourism, the beautiful geography of Sikkim has much to showcase for young minds to immerse into.

We present to you, a bird eye view of Sikkim as a preferred educational destination for educational institutions to explore and learn. This Coffee Table Book, highlighting some of the aspects of Sikkim is a ready reckoner for educational institutions to explore and plan their educational trip.

We look forward to welcoming your educational institution to Sikkim so that young minds could explore and learn the beauty that Sikkim as a state could provide.

Warm regards
Dewaker Basnet
Travel Learning Partner
www.invacations.com



Message

FROM THE HON'BLE MINISTER, TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION
DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Sikkim, a breath-taking destination lures its visitors with majestic mountains, stunning waterfalls, high-altitude lakes, gorgeous greens, beautiful monasteries, lofty mountain peaks and panoramic landscapes. Sikkim has truly emerged as one of the most sought after tourist destinations in India with its treasure trove of natural, ethnic and cultural diversity.

Inhabited by one of the most hospitable and friendly people in the country with peace and tranquility serving as its hallmark, and now the first fully organic state of India, a need is always felt to further promote the beauty of this tiny Himalayan state to capitalize on its true potential.

Sikkim is an excellent destination for all things literary; one could be looking at Sikkim as a hallmark for agricultural learning, a place with fascinating cultural traditions, rich heritage and bio-diversity. Sikkim offers all the perks to travelers which are unmatched.

The concept of educational travel can be immersed with Sikkim's natural aesthetic ecosystem through a varied curriculum of fun games and exciting activities immersing learning with pleasure. A visit to Sikkim would undoubtedly enable students to learn the ins and outs of many things unique beyond the four walls of their classroom.



I am glad that a coffee table book highlighting Sikkim as an educational travel destination is being released covering broad categories to explore such as Avian tourism, Camping tourism, Sanitation and Cleanliness tourism and many more.

I hope that this book would serve as a window to the outside world, showcasing Sikkim's true credential as a sought after educational travel hub.

I congratulate the team of Invocations behind this effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Singh Panth'.

Bedu Singh Panth
Minister

Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation
Government of Sikkim

Sikkim

AN EDUCATIONAL TOURISM DESTINATION

At 17,800 ft, Gurudongmar Lake situated in Sikkim is one of the highest lakes in the world. This is one of the many splendid trivia that one could know about the second smallest state in the country, in terms of geography and the first smallest in terms of population.

The state of Sikkim is also India's only organically certified state where the people have been traditionally cultivating crops in their lands without the use of artificial fertilizers for the past one and half decade. This also could be another trivia to explore. Coupled with the fact that Sikkim to a large extent has been accelerating towards the Sustainable Development Goals in many a parameters prescribed by the United Nations under its SDG Goals 2030.

For a young mind looking at exploring India and its North Eastern part, what better to start the journey from one of the most pristine places and one of the safest places for travellers. Sikkim has over the years engaged successfully in attracting global and national travellers and it is time now that the state invites educational institutions and their young minds to travel and unravel this part of the country.

Sikkim has all that it takes to become a flag bearer for educational tourism of the North East of India and the endeavour is to ensure that learning engagement enhance the understanding and affinity of young minds from schools and colleges across India about Sikkim and the North East of India.





EDUCATIONAL TOURISM: BROAD CATEGORIES TO EXPLORE

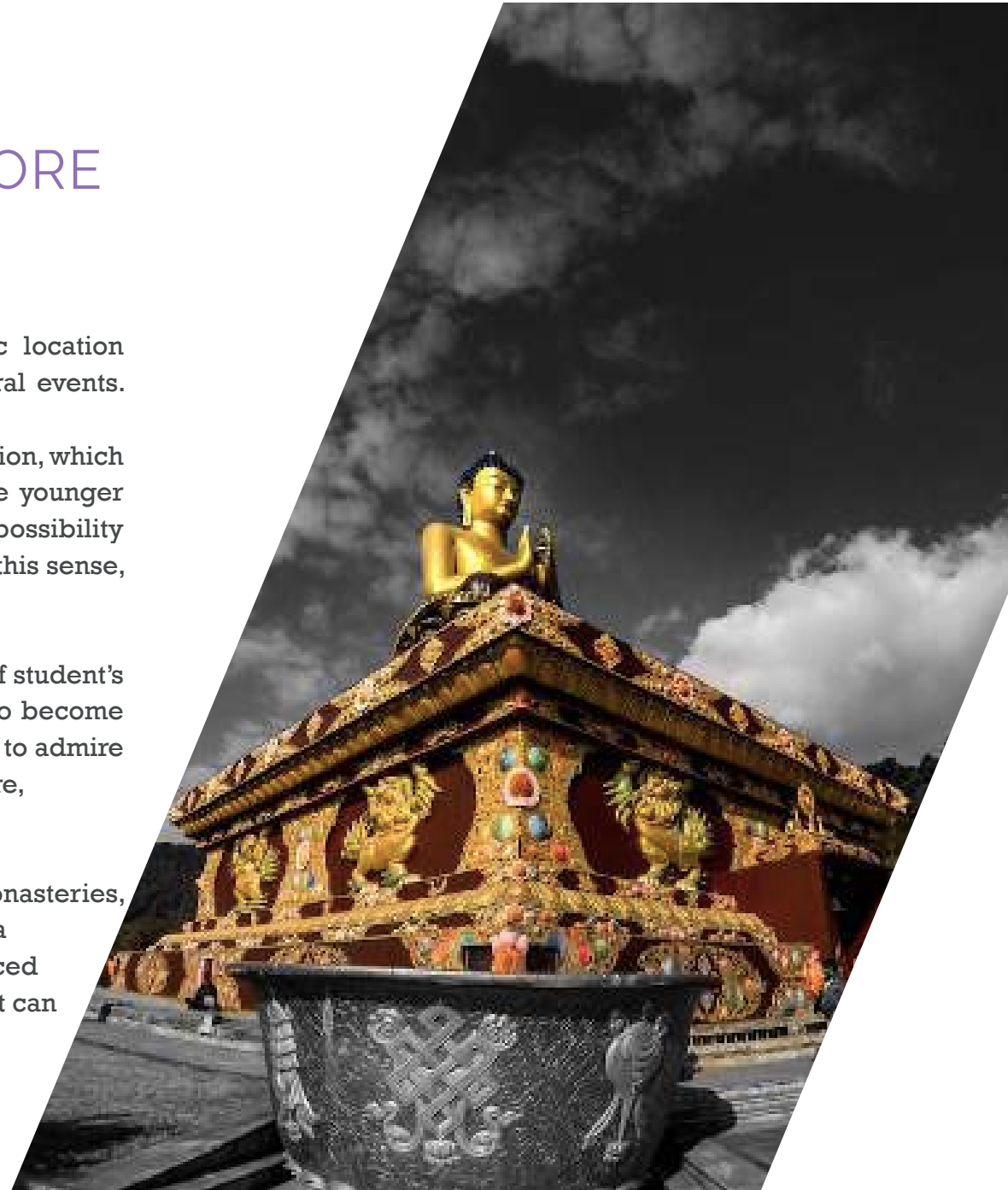
CULTURAL TOURISM

It is the kind of journey in which people travel to a specific location offering cultural attraction, historical sites and showcasing cultural events.

Tourism has always stood as a unique vehicle for cultural propagation, which is essential for a deeper understanding of people, especially the younger minds. Tourism with its basic elements of movements stands for the possibility of communication between differing cultures and it has served in this sense, since its first emergence.

Cultural tourism is a very good source for broadening the limits of student's knowledge and understanding of social cohesion. It helps them to become acquainted with the usages and customs, to visit the museums and to admire works of art. The focus of cultural tourism is on culture, art, literature, history and architecture, etc.

Sikkim state is rich in cultural tourism having numerous monasteries, temples, holy lakes, historical sites that would provide students a different picture of cultural diversity that they had never experienced before and also enhance their perspective of cultural harmony that can exist despite numerous distinctiveness.





FLORA TOURISM

The tiny Himalayan state of Sikkim has a varied species of flora. The state falls under diverse biodiversity hotspot of Eastern Himalayas. The vegetation cover in Sikkim shows variety of trees and plants located at various heights. Due to variation in climatic condition, plants of unique varieties are found in this region.

Since time immemorial, the ancient people inhabiting hills and mountains have been known for healing and treating diseases with herbal plant. In Sikkim, practice of such traditional herbal medicine is prevalent still now in most parts of the state.

Sikkim is synonymous to rhododendrons and a land of Orchids. The Sikkim International Flower Festival is one magnanimous flower festival organized in the month of May, and this is a great time to visit the state. A beautiful summer getaway, Sikkim is charming by all standards. Here at the festival students will get a chance to get close to nature, and appreciate her offerings.





AVIAN TOURISM

Sikkim for its biodiversity is nature's blessed space. In Sikkim, there is a harmonious existence of people and birds and this makes Sikkim a unique place to explore avian tourism through the process of trekking, hiking and traveling between the small dense forests around the state. Sikkim is home to some of the most exquisite varieties of birds and a study of these beautiful species itself makes it compelling for young minds to explore the state.





RURAL TOURISM

Sikkim is much beyond its capital city of Gangtok. The heart of Sikkim lies in its villages where the people are more receptive, more smiling, have better rootedness and nature is also at its pristine best.

Rural areas have been a gift to the people of Sikkim, its scenic beauty, the environment can attract anybody towards it as in the period of climate change everybody wants a peace and happy environment and tourism is the best activity by which people can enjoy their monotonous life in peace and harmony.

Many rural areas have been explored and many villages are still to be explored. There are many villages in Sikkim in which the local community is trying to boost the economy and standard of living through tourism.

For students and teachers traveling to rural Sikkim, it would be a wonderful experience by itself to be a part of rural culture, understand the varieties of what makes Sikkim and its rural landscape unique and enchanting.





CAMPING TOURISM

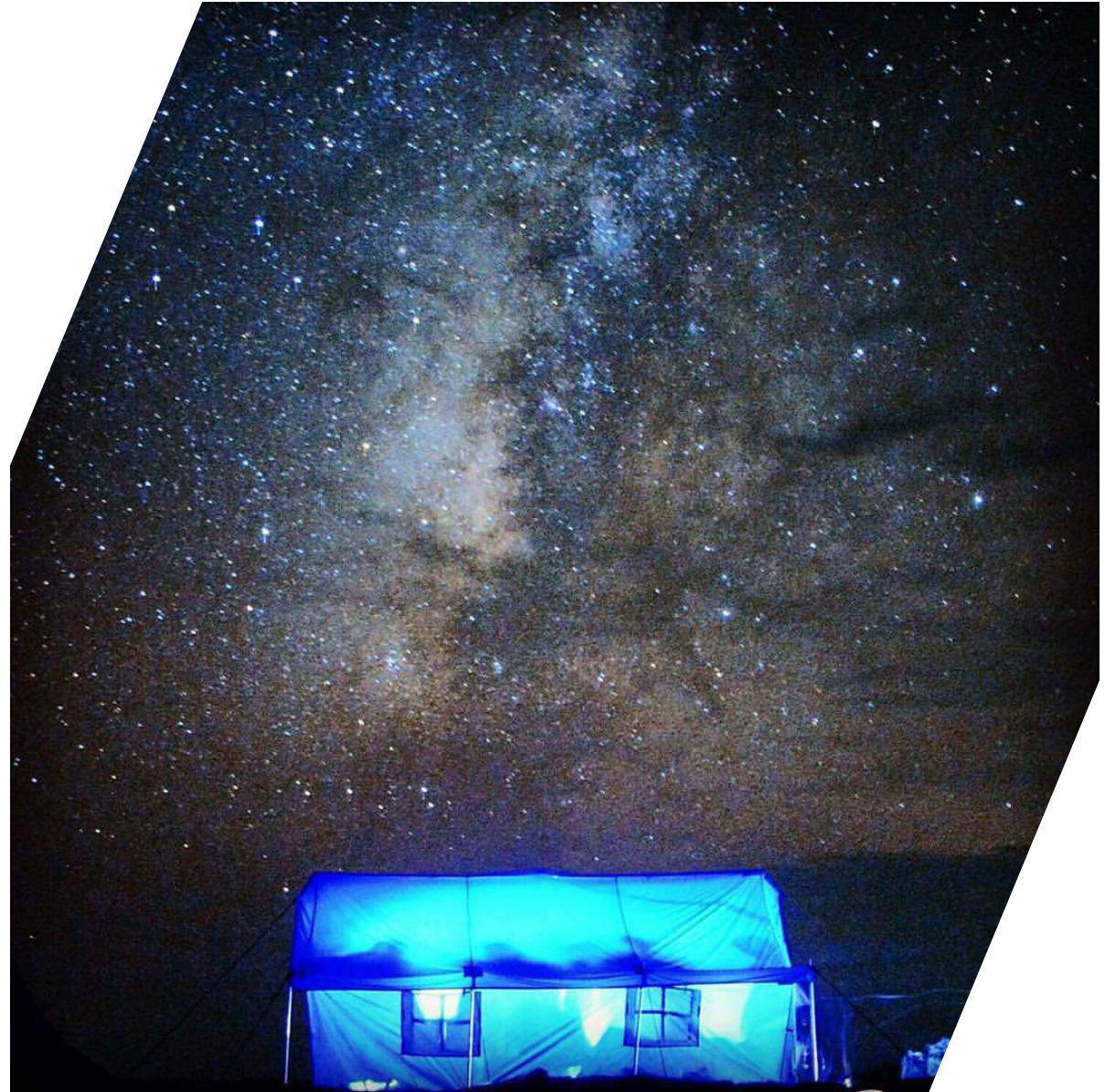
Trekking is a type of tourism activity in which the main purpose of exploring and enjoying the scenery is through walking.

Home to one of the highest peaks in the world, Sikkim is diverse in nature. The lush greenery, mighty peaks, tricky topography, beautiful lakes, misty clouds, picturesque valleys and oh-so-dense forests make Sikkim one of the best places to test your trekking skills.

In other words, it can be said that this petite state is bestowed with all the ingredients to cater to all type of visitors and their distinctive tastes.

This mesmerizing state unveils its secrets in folds; you need to explore it to experience it. Nicely cuddled by Himalayan Mountains, Sikkim finds itself landlocked by regions of Tibet, West Bengal, Bhutan and Nepal. So, it has all the more reason to boast of scenic places and offers numerous trekking options.

The joyful memories created and the natural learning the students would experience during the treks and camps shall last a lifetime!





HOMESTAY TOURISM

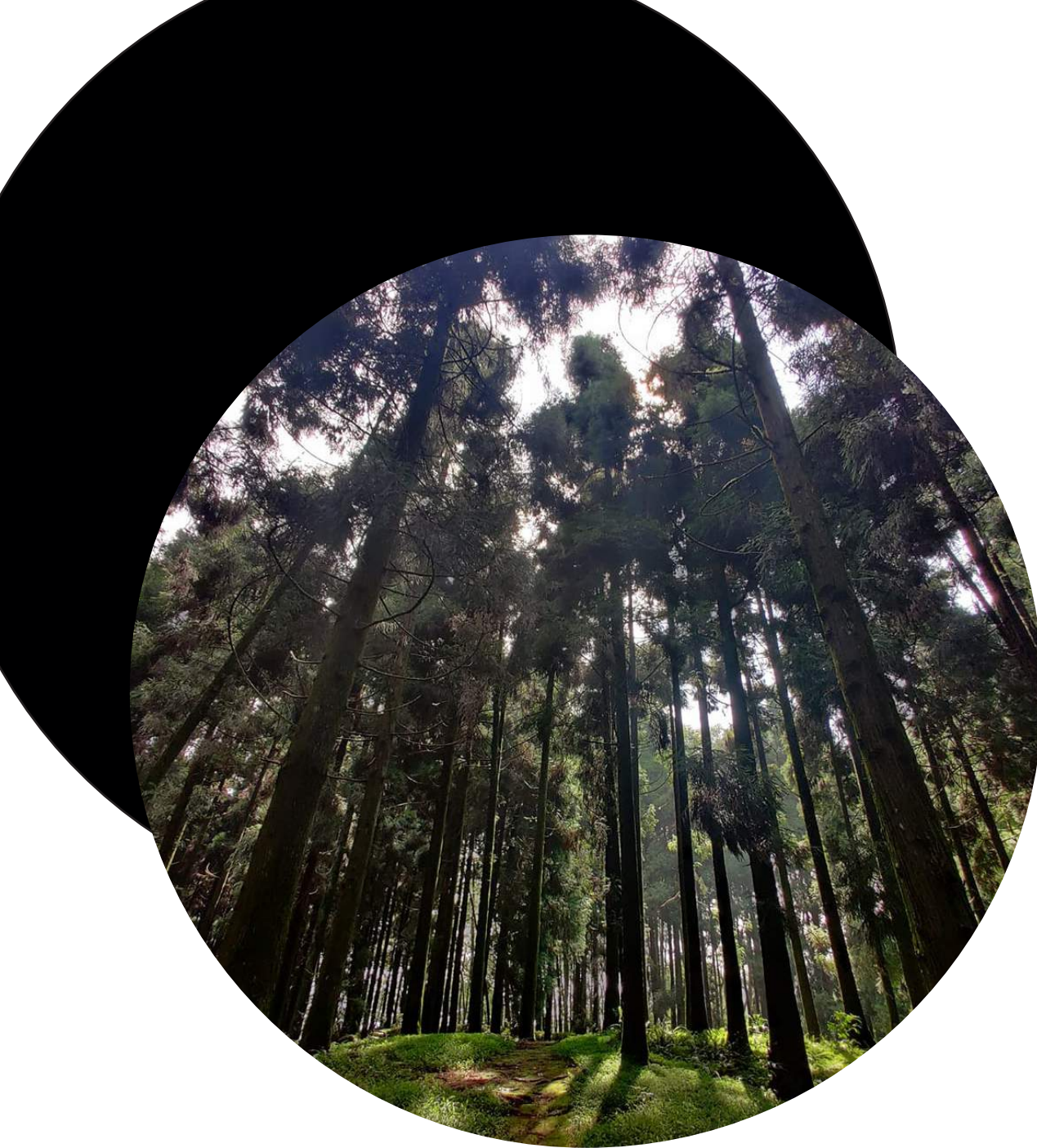
Sikkim is known for its hospitality and management all over the world and presently there has been a paradigm shift from the big hotels to home stays for recreational and eco-friendly purposes.

Living in a home stay can teach students a lot about different cultures and will allow them to gain some important life skills. The opportunity to observe how others live, think and interact with their environment exerts a powerful attraction. Students may seek to experience examples of a locale's arts, music, painting, sculpture, architecture, celebrations and festivals, or the cultural attraction may be food, drink, entertainment or some other form of hospitality.

Apart from accommodation hWWWome stays in Sikkim offer a range of activities which will give students a unique opportunity to experience the specific culture of the area. Home stays have will provide valuable and rich experience to the students. The Students can enjoy the natural and cultural resources in the company of family members and thus a unique stay experience. Also the Home stay owners will get to know a world outside their miniscule world through the visitors and also get an additional income and recognition from them.







ADVENTURE TOURISM

The undulating topography of Sikkim offers lots of adventure in it which attracts people from across the world to experience the adventure and make life more thrilling and exciting.

The thrill that Sikkim offers is beyond comparison; marked with 28 mountain peaks, 80+ glaciers, 227 high-altitude lakes, five major hot springs, 100+ rivers and streams, this Northeastern State has enough challenges to quench the thirst for adventure that the students would be wanting to experience in an excursion tour.

Sikkim is also an adventure abode brimming with exotic trekking trails; some being short and mesmerizing, and some just worth all the efforts. Passing through rustic hamlets, lesser known places and spots with breathtaking views; the trekking trails here are too good to be resisted by any nature or adventure lover.

Adventure in Sikkim is limitless, in fact it is a fresh way and an opportunity for students to observe and explore the beauty of this surreal Northeastern State. Amongst such surprises is included Mountain Biking, an Eco-friendly sport which is perhaps the best way to explore the state. Other not to miss adventure activities in Sikkim is Paragliding/Hang Gliding; offering a bird's eye view of the villages, rivers, temples and forests, this aerial sport can certainly leave one wanting for more.

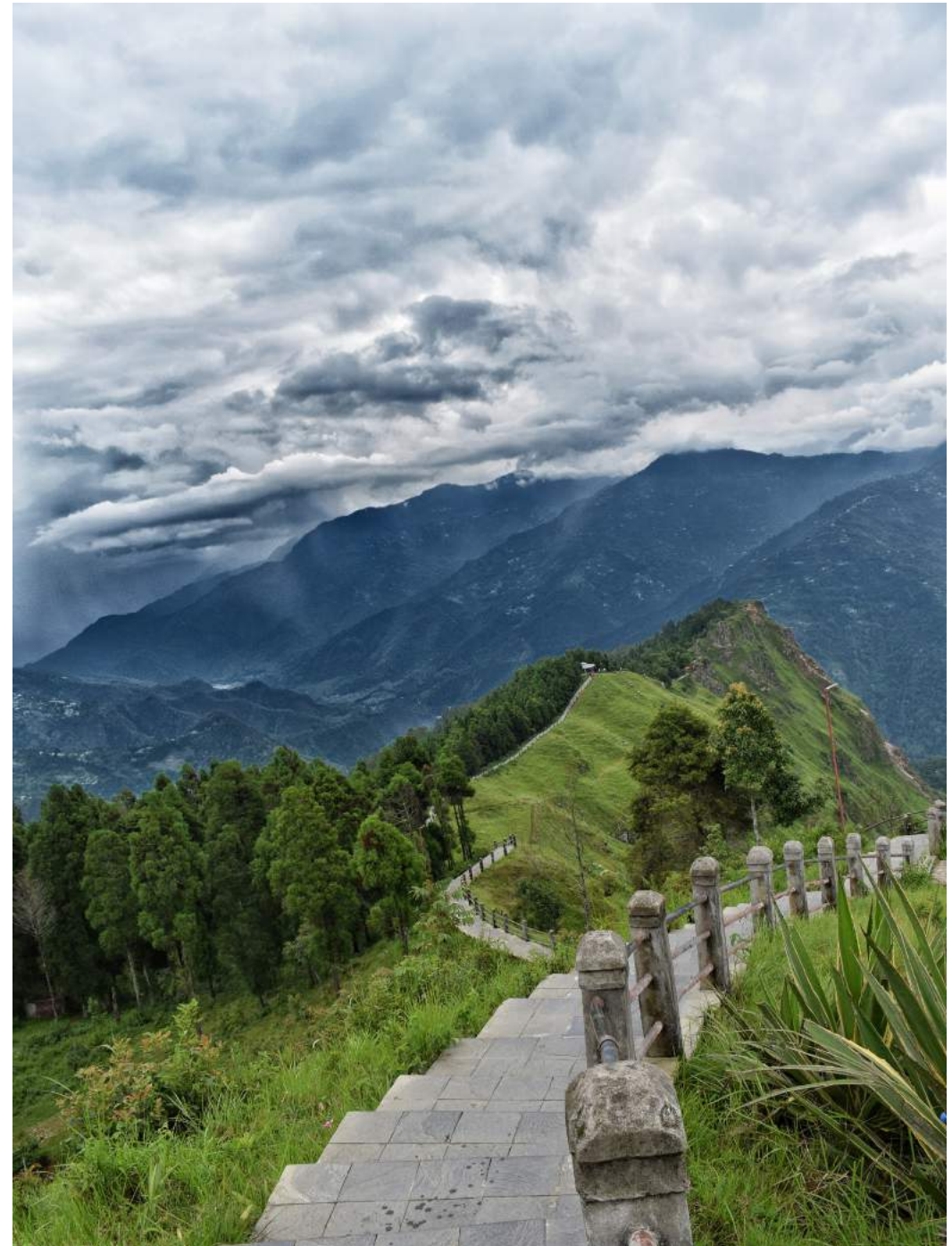


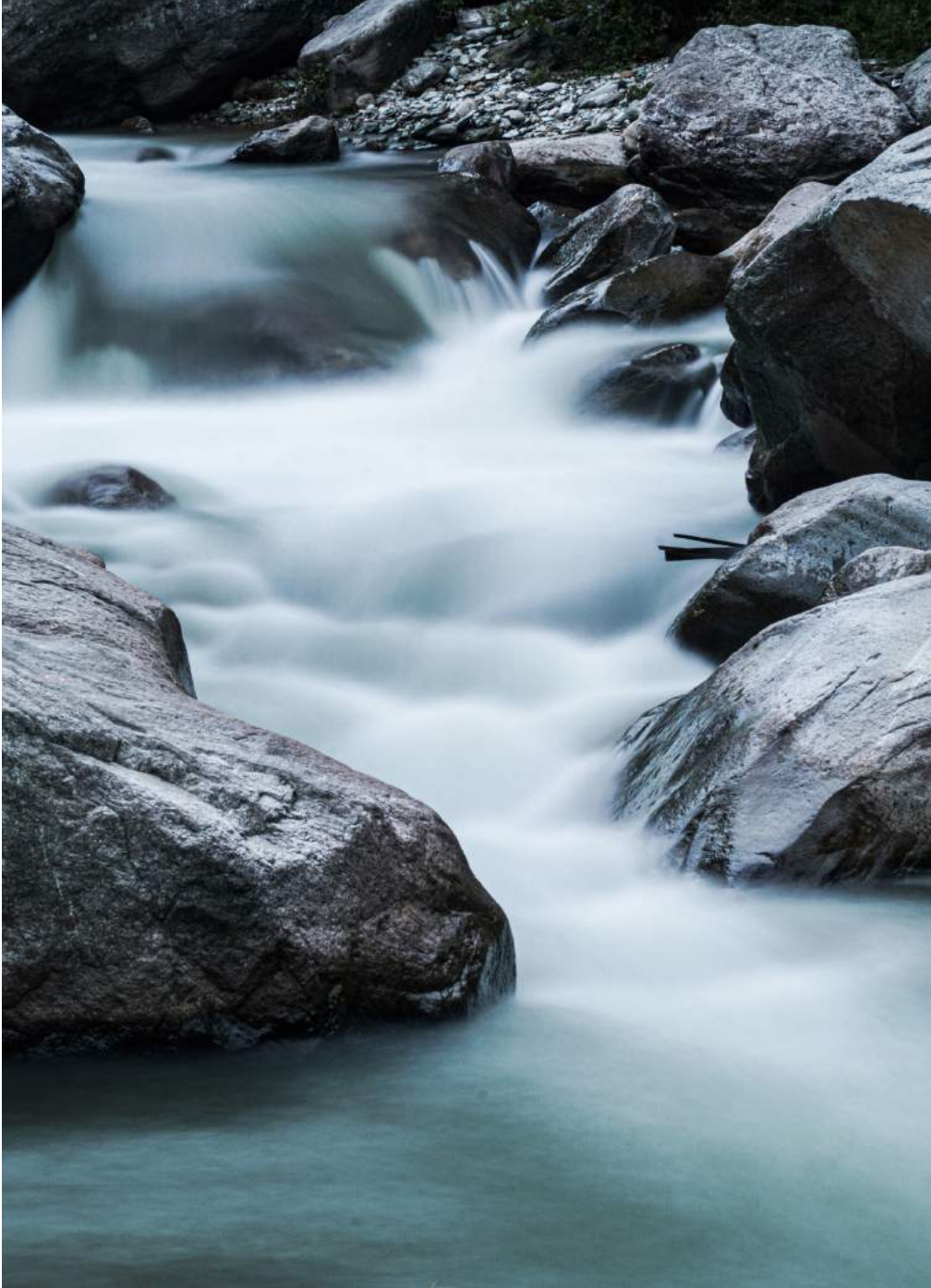
SANITATION & CLEANLINESS TOURISM

Sikkim is India's First Open Defecation Free State and also one of the cleanest states in the country. The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) ranked Sikkim as the cleanest state in the country in its 2015 survey. Cleanliness and sanitation are important hallmarks for the people of Sikkim and community level engagement to keep their places cleaner, especially in rural areas is taken up with great gusto. For students traveling to Sikkim to learn and engage in the process of a cleaner India would be learning by itself.

Students will get an opportunity to visit some of the cleanest village in Sikkim and understand how they work towards their sanitation. Also they would be able to engage themselves with village community of the area and officials who work in tandem to keep their village clean.

The will also be able to get an idea on the practice of composting and how many people in Sikkim undertake organic composting.





ORGANIC FARMING TOURISM

Sikkim is India's only organic certified state. The state has not been using chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides for the past 15 years and this has ensured that the organic fertility of the state is maintained. People in rural Sikkim are committed to protect and preserve the organic way of growing vegetables, fruits and related edibles and this is a case study for educators as well as students to understand and explore.

While on their trip students would be able to visit organic farms and interact with the producers so as to learn the several processes of organic farming. They could commit half a day in the field sowing, growing or harvesting organic produce wherever possible. An interaction with the Horticulture Department officials, producers and manufacturers of organic produce could further take the students through the journey of Sikkim's organic mission and add more value to their understanding on the process of how organic farming is sustained in Sikkim.



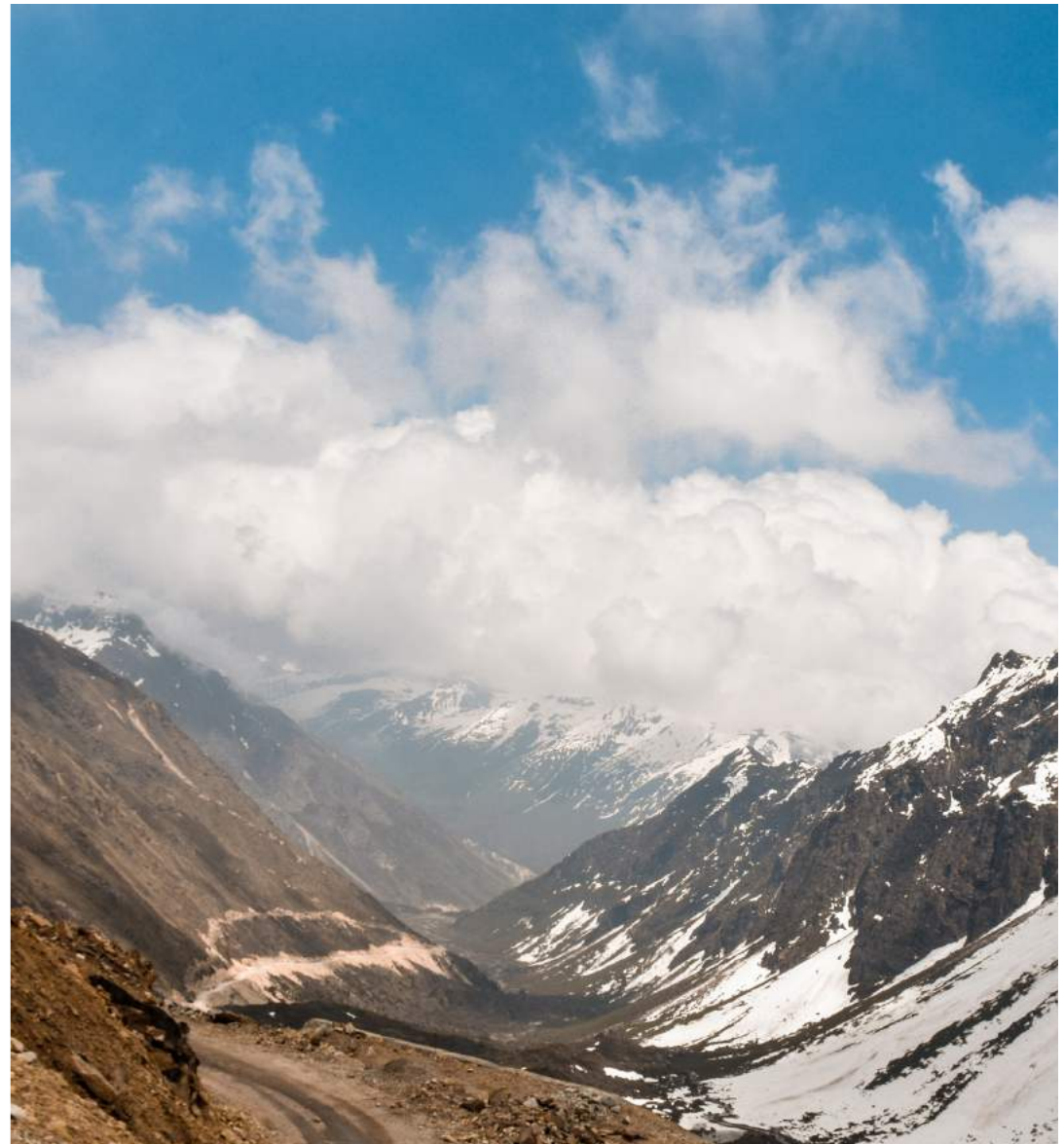


ECO TOURISM

Tourism more precisely eco-tourism is one of the most fascinating discoveries in Sikkim in recent times. Almost half the state is under forest cover, supporting many rare and indigenous species of flora and fauna, so it's no surprise that UNESCO recently recognized Sikkim's Khangchendzonga National Park as a world heritage site with tremendous natural and cultural importance.

The state's transition to a sustainable and ecologically responsible tourism destination is underway. The concept of ecotourism developed with a view to uniting conservation, communities and sustainable travel together and has gained full support from many governmental, non- governmental organizations as well as academic institutions.

Eco-tourism can enable students to move outside of self-perceived comfort zones and learn to think critically about real life issues that have global implications. Cooperative learning is increasingly utilized to facilitate this process. It is an experiential method of learning which enriches the educational process by engaging students in making a meaningful contribution to local communities for mutually beneficial results. In this context, students can apply academic skills to solve real-world issues, linking established learning objectives with genuine needs.





Picture Courtesy

Sangay T Lama

Labun Hang Limboo

Rudra Subba

Avisek Khatiwara

Shubham Pradhan

Shidhant Rai

Chewang Bonpo

Sandeep Aritar

Chandan Hazra

Mohsin Abrar

Dawa Sherpa



Sikkim

AN EDUCATIONAL TOURISM
DESTINATION PAR EXCELLENCE

The North East of India over the last half a decade has been in the highlight for all the right reasons, more specifically for its natural bounties, beauties that captivate, its people and a reason for the ones seeking for blissfulness. Every North Eastern state of India has its inspiring charm and a captivating appeal. Sikkim as a state has its beauty in its nature and nurture. Young minds traveling to Sikkim and taking a slice of the North East experience back with them will realize how much connected they could be with nature and with the people of this side of India. They will be inspired to come back for more and that's how the bonding of an inclusive India will grow.