

CE-008 A WELCOMING HOMESTAY IN RURAL SIKKIM



ABOUT US

Chalamthang literally means "Orange Farm" in Lepcha language. A traditional homestay, surrounded by breath-taking views in South Sikkim, it offers the best hospitality and insight into the life of the Sikkimese people.

Located just 42 kms from Gangtok and 98 kms from Siliguri, this small village of ours is a true traveller's paradise. An ideal place to relax and enjoy goodness of home.

This homestay in Chalamthang is located on the edge of a hilltop with a panoramic view of the Himalayan foothill, the meandering Teesta River and the snowy peaks of Nathula and beyond.

We have 3 ethnic rooms and have also made a Machaan (watch tower) for our guests from where they can enjoy these mesmerizing views.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

- Extra-large beds
- Attached Western Bathrooms
- Hot water arrangements
- Wardrobes
- In room sitting arrangements
- Machaan (Traditional Gazebo) in the lawn

- Home cooked organic food
- Complimentary Wi-Fi (3G)

ACCOMODATION IN THE HOMESTAY

Please note that from the common parking areas, travellers have to walk about 5 minutes to reach the Homestay, including climbing about 50 steps. Porter services are available to carry all your baggage to the Homestay.

There are three rooms available at this homestay, one is a bamboo room and other 2 are regular rooms.

The tariff includes all three times meals and bed tea complimentary.

Banks etc. are over 10 Kms away, so you are advised to go to the ATM if you have to, before reaching this homestay.

FOOD:

We are pure vegetarian so we are serving only local traditional organic foods to our guests. Non veg is not allowed into homestay premises but u can go for commons activities like barbeque and bonfire etc. arranged outside the premises at an extra cost. No food delivery from outside is allowed into the homestay.

ACTIVITIES FROM THE HOMESTAY (There would be extra charges for arrangements):

Forest picnics

We have selected some secluded spots within the surrounding forests of Chalamthang, where we pitch the tents for the forest picnics. Our local cooks and helpers would reach the spot in the early hours and keep everything ready for you. Your group can enjoy the village walk and reach the spot to find everything arranged. You can do some river fishing and then ask your cook to fry up the catch.

Trekking

Chalamthang is ideal for forest trekking. The two most popular treks – **Maenam la** and **Tendong Hill trek** – are arranged from Chalamthang. Guides, porters, tents, permit and everything is arranged by us. Tendong Hill is an extinct volcano and the trail passes through deep forests teeming with local birds and animals. There is a watch tower at the top from where you can catch a panoramic view of Mt. Kanchenjunga and parts of West and South Sikkim. Both these treks can be done in a day but it is advisable to stay overnight at the respective hilltops for the heavenly early-morning view of the mountains. We can arrange for tents or you can stay in the trekker's huts located on the hill top.

Nature Walk

Chalamthang is surrounded by forests on one side and farmlands on the other. You can take long village walks through the surrounding villages and see the traditional village life unfolding before you. Our local guide can also take you through the forests to some caves or the riverside.

Bird watching

Located at an altitude of 3500 feet at the foothills of the Maenam Hills, Chalamthang falls on the seasonal migratory route of the Himalayan birds. The usual birds to be spotted are Woodpeckers, Warblers, Magpies, Finches, Sunbirds, Flycatchers, Robins, Eagles, Partridges and many more.

Cultural programs

The residents of Chalamthang and its surrounding villages come from different communities like Chettris, Bharmans, Karmis and Subbas. This makes Chalamthang a melting-pot for indigenous cultures and guests can surely enjoy the cultural programs organised by these different communities like Chaburny dance and Maruni dance.

SIGHTSEEING AROUND THIS HOMESTAY



At Chalamthang village – time runs slow. Most of the sightseeing options can be covered on foot. Transport arrangements for local sightseeing is also done by us. Here are few places, where you can visit during your stay:

Heritage House

The 160-year-old local heritage house at Chalamthang is truly a wonder. Made completely with locally available materials like wood, bamboo and Siru, this wonder house is standing strong after countless earthquakes and natural hazards. Tucked within a small valley, the present owners show their house to the guests proudly. Cultural programs are usually held at the backdrop of this house.

Ban Jakhri Cave

Jakhris or witch doctors of Sikkim are known to cure many ailments of the villagers and control the natural elements. They are said to dwell in caves far from the human settlements and come down to meet the commoners during crisis. One such cave can still be seen a few kms. from Chalamthang after a short trek. Traditional antics like sticks and musical instruments can be found in the caves too.

Daras of Chalamthang

Dara refers to the highest point of a hill and surrounding Chalamthang are various such Daras like the Harray Dara, which is very sacred to newly married couples who come here to seek blessings for a successful conjugal life, then there is the Deorali Dara from where you can catch a panoramic view of the surrounding villages and mountain ranges.

Green Beach

A couple of kms. by car and another short hike through farmlands and forests and mountain streams would take you to one of the best kept secret of our village – the Green Beach. It is a verdant green valley, which is crisscrossed by the mighty River Teesta. Here, you can bask in the sun savouring the sweet river breeze or

catch some fish using the local fishing rods. The local villagers would get the fish cooked for you.

Organic Farm

Chalamthang has some of the best organic farms in Sikkim. Rice and Maize is cultivated in the usual step-cultivation process but we grow vegetables in our orchards throughout the year. The usual vegetables grown are bitter gourds, pumpkins, cabbages, cauliflowers, tomatoes and many more. The traditional methods of ploughing and sowing is still practiced. We take our guests for a tour of our farms. You can pluck some vegetables and bring them back to our kitchen to get it prepared.

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

TAREY BHIR

It is a 10000 feet long cliff edge with almost 3500 feet abrupt drop. A small pathway over the edge of the cliff would take you to the middle of the cliff from where you can catch a glimpse of the River Teesta and River Rangeet. The hilltop of Tarey Bhir is covered in pine forests and you can often spot the rare wild mountain goats – Bharals grazing on the steep cliff face. Its simply a natural wonder.

RAVANGLA

Located at 7000 feet, Ravangla is a small town with some of the best views of Mt. Kanchenjunga, Mt. Siniolchu, Mt. Pandim and Mt. Kabru. The golden glow over these mountains during sunrise is mesmerizing. There other major attraction of Ravangla include the famous Buddha Park, which hosts the 130-foot high statue of Buddha. This statue was consecrated by the 14th Dalai Lama in 2013. Other attractions of Ravangla include the Ravangla Monastery and the trek to Maenam Hill.

CHAARDHAM IN SOLOPHOK

Located just 4 kms from Namchi, Chaardham is a temple complex housing replicas of the 12 jyotirlingas of Hindu religion and four dhams or pilgrimage sites namely, Rameshwaram, Kedarnath, Dwarka and Puri. Replicas of all these temples is showcased around a 87-feet high sitting Shiva placed on a 107 feet high temple.

This huge temple complex on a hilltop overlooking Mt. Kanchenjunga is also guarded by a 16.5 feet high statue of Lord Kirteshwara.

SAMDRUPTSE MONASTERY

Around 30 kms from Chalamthang is the Samdruptse monastery located on a hilltop adjacent to Namchi town. A 45-meter high statue of Guru Padmasambhava adorns the hill top. This magnificent golden statue can be seen from as far as Darjeeling. Built in 1997, this statue and the monastery is an engineering marvel.

TEMI TEA GARDEN

Located just 14 kms from Chalamthang, the only tea garden of Sikkim – Temi Tea Garden is spread across an area of 453 hectares. There are viewpoints and tea houses built within the lush slopes of Temi from where you can catch the panoramic views of Mt. Kanchenjunga while sipping your fresh organic Temi Tea. We can also arrange for a visit to the Temi tea Factory, where you can witness tea processing.

TRAVEL TIPS

Temperature Summer : Max.28oc / Min.13oc

Winter-Max Max: 15oc / Min.3oc

Annual Rainfall: 3,894mm.

Best Season: April to Mid-June, Mid-September to November.

Clothing Summer: Light Woolens Winter-Heavy Woolens

Language: Hindi, English, Nepali, Tibetan, Sikkimese

GETTING HERE

The nearest Airport Pakyong 29kms & the Nearest Railway stations NJP 98km, The Bagdogra Airport, which has more flights, is 109kms from this homestay.

The hosts can arrange your can pick you from NJP/ Bagdogra/ Siliguri or other destinations. Standard pickup costs from NJP is around Rs.3500. Costs may vary during season time, but costs vary, so please inquire before booking.

ABOUT SIKKIM

Sikkim is a state in northeast India, bordered by Bhutan, Tibet and Nepal. Part of the Himalayas, the area has a dramatic landscape that includes India's highest mountain, 8,586m Kangchenjunga. Sikkim is also home to glaciers, alpine meadows and thousands of varieties of wildflowers. Steep paths lead to hilltop Buddhist monasteries such as Pemayangtse, which dates to the early 1700s.

It is one of the smallest states in India. Sikkim is bordered by the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north and northeast, by Bhutan to the southeast, by the Indian state of West Bengal to the south, and by Nepal to the west.

The capital is Gangtok, in the southeastern part of the state

A part of the Eastern Himalaya, Sikkim is notable for its biodiversity, including alpine and subtropical climates, as well as being a host to Kangchenjunga, the highest peak in India and third highest on Earth. Sikkim's capital and largest city is Gangtok. Almost 35% of the state is covered by the Khangchendzonga National Park.

Long a sovereign political entity, Sikkim became a protectorate of India in 1950 and an Indian state in 1975. Its small size notwithstanding, Sikkim is of great political and strategic importance for India because of its location along several international boundaries. Area 2,740 square miles (7,096 square km). Pop. (2011) 607,688.

IMPORTANT NOTE: that this property serves only **PURE VEGETARIAN** food. **NON-VEGETARIAN** food is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** inside the premises.

To send us a booking inquiry, please click on:

<https://www.etherealexperiences.com/connect-with-us>

For any other information:

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Call us: 95886 91011

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We wish you an Amazing stay.

Dipali & Atul

www.amazinghomestays.com

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