

## Tourist Attractions of Assam



Assam is the second largest State in the northeastern region. It represents 2.39 per cent of the Indian landmass and 29.92 percent of the Northeast. Seven Indian states and two foreign countries, Bhutan and Bangladesh surround it. The State is also strategically close to India's international borders with China and Myanmar. Assam is surrounded by highlands and plateaus on three sides except the western one where the Brahmaputra Valley merges with the Gangetic Plain. The long lines of hills and mountains divide Assam into two major valleys: the Brahmaputra and the Barak valley, which is also known as Surma valley.

The economy of Assam is overwhelmingly agricultural. Assam produces nearly half of the country's total Tea. Assam is very rich in natural resources. The abundant water resources in the State form the potential for irrigation and generation of hydroelectricity. Its forests too are the storehouses for quality timber. However, much of the natural resources still lie unused and explain the economic backwardness of the State. Assam is a land of fairs and festivals. Most of the festivals celebrated in Assam have their roots in the diverse faith and belief of the inhabitants, but a spirit of accommodation and togetherness characterizes the celebration of all festivals. The perfect fusion of heritage of numerous races has made Assam, the home of the most colorful festivals which are passionate, compelling and mesmerizing reflecting the true spirit, tradition and lifestyle of the people of Assam. Famous festivals are Brahmaputra beach festivals, Dehing Patkai , Bihu, Baishagu, Elephant festival, Ali Ai Ligang, Ronkar, Me-Dum-Me-Phi, Rajini Gabra & Hami Gabra, Baikho, Jonbeel Mela, Ambubashi Mela & Tea festival.

### How to reach

#### **Air**

The Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport of Guwahati is well connected by air to most of the metros in the country. There are regular flights to Guwahati running all year long on daily basis. All



the major carriers of the country like Jet Airways, Kingfisher Red, SpiceJet, Go Air Business, JetLite and IndiGo airlines connect Guwahati to most of the major cities of India. Druk Air operates a weekly flight to Bangkok. Most of the carriers also operate flights connecting the other towns of Assam like Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Silchar to Guwahati and to the other major cities in India.

### **Rail**

A convenient Indian Railways network runs throughout the state connecting major Indian cities with Assam. There are train services connecting Assam to all corners of the country such as Kolkata, New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Cochin and Trivandrum.

### **Road**

Guwahati, the largest city in Northeast India, is the hub of the road network to the north eastern region. A good network of National Highways and other roads connect Assam to all the prime cities of India.

## **Tourist Attraction Assam**

### **Guwahati**

Guwahati is the gateway to the enchanting North Eastern India. The Light of the East, Pragjyotishpura, as it was known once upon a time, is said to have been a vast kingdom during the epic period of the Mahabharata. Today, Guwahati is the hub of the region and also its largest city.

**Kamakhya Temple**, which is situated at the top of the Nilachal Hill at about 800 feet above the sea level. The entire temple complex not only comprises of many other temples but also a whole set of people connected with them. Apart from the main devi temple, it also comprises of some other major temples of devi Kali, Tara, Bagala, Chinnamasta, Bhuvaneshvari, Bhairavi and Dhumavati. There are some other temples of various goddess can be seen in the complex. They are the Sitala Temple, the Lalita Kanta Temple, The jaya Durga Temple, the Vana Durga Temple, the Rajarajesvari Temple, the Smanakali temple, the kail temple of Abhayananda dharmashala and the Sankhesvari temple. There are five temples of Lord Shiva in the Kamakhya complex. They belongs to different forms of Lord Shiva like Kamesvara (Umananda), Siddhesvara, Amratokesvara (Heruka), Aghpra, and kotilinga (Tatpurlusa). The complex also contains three temples of Lord Visnu. They are as the Kedara (Kamalesvara), situated near the northern side of the main temple, as the Gadadhara, situated in the north-western direction of the Kamakhya temple, and as Pandunath, which is situated in the eastern foothills of Nilachal also known as Pandu.



**Assam State Museum** is 10 minutes walk from the Railway Station. Opening hours: 10:00 - 17:00 hrs. during Summer 10:00 - 16:30 hrs. during Winter (Monday closed).

**State Zoo:** Situated 5 Kms. from the Guwahati Railway Station. Opening hours: 07:00 hrs. - 17:00 hrs. in Summer 08:00 hrs. - 16:30 hrs. in Winter (Friday closed).

### **Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra**

The Srimanta Sankardeva kalakshetra has been set up as a grand exposition of the life and culture of the people of Assam. Named after the greatest Vaishnava saint and the greatest integrator of the Assamese society Srimanta Sankardeva, the Kalakshetra is a multi-Arts complex. It houses a Central Museum where cultural objects and day-to-day articles used by different ethnic groups will be preserved and exhibited, an Open Air Theatre with 2000 capacity to hold folk festivals and to present traditional dance and drama of the State, an Artists' Village which offers the visitors and the residents an atmosphere of the village of Assam, the Sahitya Bhavan which is a library of rare books and manuscripts, the Lalit-Kala Bhavan which has sufficient space for exhibition, art and sculpture workshops, and a Heritage Park. The Kalakshetra has been chosen as the venue for many cultural activities.

### **Dighalipukhuri:**

A water body in the heart of the city with boating facilities, cruises on the river Brahmaputra in the 'Jolporee', the famous Balaji Temple of Tirupati, Planetarium, the Saraighat Bridge over the Brahmaputra, the Guwahati Oil Refinery, Lachit Barphukan Park and the Guwahati University are places worth visiting.