

## TOURISM IN NAGALAND – A BRIEF STUDY

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### INTRODUCTION

With the opening of the state to the international tourist by relaxation of Restricted Area Permit (RAP), a good number of foreign tourists, as well as domestic tourists visit Nagaland every year. By whatever name people have called this realm, hidden among the mountains of India's northeast, Nagaland has always evoked a sense of mysticism and awe, intensified by the remoteness of its geographical location.

Spirits that roam the jungles & villages, the fertility of mother earth, social bonding among communities, rejuvenation etc are the main elements that form the souls of the Naga people. Although by virtue of her natural beauty, the whole of Nagaland is a tourist hotspot, yet certain exceptionally charming places have been identified and developed by the Government to promote tourism in Nagaland e.g. wild life sanctuaries and national parks, namely, Intanki and Puliebadze in Kohima District, Fakim in Tuensang and Rangapahar in Dimapur.

### Tourism in Nagaland

**Tourism** is one of the fast growing sectors in Nagaland. The breathtaking natural beauty and rich culture of **Nagaland tourism** draws thousands of domestic and international travellers every year. Dotted with undulating mountains, thundering rivers, and lush green forests, Nagaland tourism has lot to offer to adventure enthusiasts and nature lovers. One can indulge in trekking, rock climbing, camping, and river rafting, angling and other exhilarating adventure activities. **Nagaland tourism** Department conducts exciting long treks and tours with in and outside **Nagaland**. **Nagaland tourism** also provides various adventure equipments on loan on nominal payment. The **Nagaland Tourism Guide** available at Nagaland tourism reception center has all details about **Nagaland travel destinations**, famous treks, and many other important travel related information about **Nagaland**.

The best time to visit **Nagaland** is between the months of October to May.

**Travel to Nagaland by Air:** Dimapur, the capital city of **Nagaland** has a domestic airport, which is regularly serviced by major airlines. The city is connected to the important cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati and Imphal by air.

**Travel to Nagaland by Rail:** Dimapur Railway Station is well linked to Guwahati, which is in turn connected to all major cities of India by important trains.

**Travel to Nagaland by Road:** A good network of roads connect Kohima to Shillong and Guwahati, which are important cities in Northeastern India. Other cities and towns of **Nagaland** are linked to Kohima by road. **Nagaland** State Transport operates regular buses from Dimapur, to Kohima. Many private travel agencies run luxury buses connecting all the state capitals of North Eastern region. Mini Coaches, Jeeps, and unmetered taxis are also available at negotiable rates depending on the distances traveled.

Nagaland, the land of tribes, is one of the North-Eastern states or the Seven Sister States of India. Located in the extreme north-eastern part of India at an altitude of 1444.12 meters above sea level, Nagaland is

noted for its rich cultural and traditional heritage. Nagaland is bordered by Myanmar in its east, Assam in its west, by Arunachal Pradesh and a territory of Assam in its north and by Manipur in its south. This state has 11 administrative districts, which are Kohima, Dimapur, Mokokchung, Mon, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha, Zunheboto, Peren, Kephire and Longleng. Kohima is the capital of Nagaland and Dimapur is its largest city. The early history of Nagaland can only be deducted from the tribal folklore. As per recorded history, Nagaland, along with Assam, was seized by Burma in 1816. By 1892, the British East India Company gradually gained control over most parts of Nagaland and brought it under the province of Assam. With the formation of the Naga Nationalist Movement in 1918, the individual tribes of Nagaland were united.

## TOURIST ATTRACTION IN NAGALAND

Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung, Mon, Tuensang, Zunheboto are **Nagaland travel destinations** which are replete with numerous places of interest. **Nagaland State Museum**, Sales Emporium, Zoological park, Khonoma, Dzukou Valley, Japfu Peak, Dimapur, Shilloi Lake, Mount Totsu, Liphanyan Governor's Camp, Satoi Range are the major **tourist attractions in Nagaland**. Some of the notable tourist destinations of Nagaland are:

**Japfu Peak**- Situated at an altitude of 130 ft, Japfu Peak offers the tourists with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the natural splendor of the region

**World War II Cemetery**- The World War II Cemetery of Nagaland reminds one of the valiant Indian and British soldier who fought with the Japanese troops during the Second World War

**Kohima Village**- Kohima Village offers the tourist with a unique scope to experience the rich traditional legacy of the state of Nagaland.

Nagaland, the land of the hospitable and warm Nagas, lies in the corner of India's North-East-bordering Myanmar. It has always evoked a sense of awe and wonder in the minds of people including the visitors. Although most of the Nagas have now become Christians, they still preserve the remnants of their early animist culture and ancient traditions. Historically, the Nagas have always been brave warriors. They consider the safety and security of their guests as an honour and prestige and will never allow any harm to be done to any of their guests/visitors.

Topographically, Nagaland is mostly a hilly region with a pleasant and salubrious climate throughout the year, except for a small region in the foothills. Nagas are by race of the Mongoloid stock and speak Tibeto-Burman group of languages. But English and Hindi are widely spoken and language is no problem in Nagaland. Colourful life and culture are an integral part of the 16 officially recognized Naga tribes of Nagaland. These 16 tribes are different and unique in their customs and traditions. These customs and traditions are further translated into festivals which revolve around their agricultural cycle. Songs and dances form the soul of these festivals through which their oral history has been passed down the generations. Nature has been kind to the Nagas and their land. Though by virtue of her natural beauty, the whole of Nagaland is a tourist hotspot, yet certain exceptionally charming places have been identified and developed by the Government to promote tourism in the state, some of which are highlighted in the website.

This focused approach helps in providing easy access to travelers of all categories-tourists, researchers, backpackers, ecologists etc. Since this little explored state is still developing and many more places remain 'un-marked'-making them even more exclusive and fascinating to explore.....

The undulating state of Nagaland India is extremely charming and lovingly beautiful. A home to as many

as sixteen tribes, the state has much to explore. The virgin terrains of the state are breathtakingly enchanting. You must visit Naga City to experience the panorama of nature, the warmth and hospitality of people, lavish blossoms and coy rivers making their way through the rugged terrains. If you are the victim of hectic monotonous lifestyle and then Nagaland tourism is for you.

### **Cities of Nagaland**

**Dimapur:** This “City of River People”, is the biggest and most advanced industrialized city of the state. The District derives its name from a dialect of Kachari in which ‘di’ - means river, ‘ma’ - means great or big, and ‘pur’ - means city, together denotative as ‘the city near the great river’. You can enjoy sightseeing in Dimapur at Chumukedima (the first headquarters of the erstwhile Naga Hills District of Assam State when there was reign of British in early 19th century), Ruzaphema (for frolic and shopping of handicrafts), Triple Falls (a three tier waterfall), Governor's Camp (picnickers, rafters, anglers and campers delight) and Itankagi Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Kohima:** The capital city of Nagaland India is a home to Angami, Rengma, Kuki and Zeliang Naga tribes. The city is remarkable for the history of World War II. For tourists it has religious, monumental, museums and village attractions. Must visit places are The Cathedral of Reconciliation (a modern church), War Cemetery, State Museum, Zoological Park and two beautiful villages of Bara Basti and Khonoma.

The Dzukou Valley in Kohima is extremely beautiful. The hills, the cliffs, the landscape, the brooks, are ultimately vibrant. The valley is all the more beautiful and fragrant in the season of spring with blossoms all around. The herbs, the flowers like white, red, yellow and pink rhododendrons, yellow Caltha Palustris and white anemones. Different flowers dominate different seasons. Surprisingly 360 varieties of orchids grow in the hillsides.

**Kiphire:** This tourist hot spot has many attractions like Saramati Peak (the highest peak of Nagaland), Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, Cave at Salomi, Cave at Mimi, Sukhayap (Lover's Paradise),

Wawade Waterfalls, Twin Stones, Village of Siphi, Mikhi (the river of salt) and Yingphi or Yingphire (absolutely rich in historical spots, legends and traditions).

**Longleng:** Mokokchung: If you visit Mokokchung, do check out these spots of interest Longkhum, caves of Fusen kei and Mongzu Ki, Longritzu Lenden and Tangkum Marok (springs), Ungma ( oldest and the largest Ao village) and Chuchuyimlang (festival village of Ao).

**Peren:** This tourist village is abound with ethnicity and traditions. The famous tourist attractions of the district are Benuru (rich in traditional values), Mt. Pauna Tourist Village and Mt. Pauna (the third highest peak of Nagaland).

### **Wildlife of Nagaland**

The state has two wildlife sanctuaries. Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary and Intanki Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### **Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Fakim Sanctuary in Nagaland India is nearby the border of Myanmar. It is full of numerous flora and fauna. You will find the trees of Bonsum, Bogipoma, Khasi Pine, Oaks, Amari, Gamari, Hollock, Nahor, Uriam, Alder, Kachnar, Sasi here. As the forests here receive plenty of rains, the woods are brimmed

with undergrowth shrubs, Dalchini and Tejpatta. If you will go in the months of March and April, you will get to see blooming Rhododendrons, varieties of Bamboo and Cane.

The fauna of the sanctuary is packed with Tiger, Hoolock gibbons, Panther, Jungle Cat, Himalayan Bear, Bison, Sambar, Barking Deer, Wild Boar, Slender Loris. Some beautiful birds that are found in this sanctuary are Indian Horn Bill, Tragopan Pheasant, Grey Pheasant, Jungle Fowl, Green Pigeon, Doves etc are the important birds of the region.

### **Intanki Wildlife Sanctuary**

The Intanki Wildlife Sanctuary in Nagaland India is preserved by the Forest Wildlife Department. It is a shelter to various animals including some rare species of birds. The sanctuary boasts of having rich and varied treasure of flora & fauna. This Sanctuary is a home to Hoolock Gibbon (the only Gibbon found in India), Elephant, Mithun, Sambar, Barking Deer, Goral, Flying Squirrel, Wild Dog, Tiger, Sloth Bear. The birds you can locate here are Kaleej and common pheasant, Hornbill and Black Stor.

### **Adventure in Nagaland**

Nagaland is a pleasantly charming land with avant garde trekking routes. Nagaland hills are archetypal ones where trekking and campaigning will be absolute fun. Adventure sports are extremely thrilling here because of azure hills and clichéd expanses. You can enjoy trekking in the state traversing through vestal and uninfluenced terrains. From the month of November to March Japfu Peak in Kohima is a trekkers delight. Another trek for you is Dzukou Valley. It is a marvelous valley for trekking expeditions. It has a roving rivulet and in the spring season you will see wildflowers and pink and white rhododendrons.

### **CONCLUSION**

The different tribal cultural traditions of Nagaland make the north eastern state of India more colorful and attractive to tourists. The unique social customs and religious ceremonies of the aboriginal tribes of Nagaland attract several tourists who are thrilled with the unique traditional heritage of the region that has percolated to the modern era from the ancient times. Nagaland is easily accessible by well developed roads, good network of railway tracks and by airways. The state has several categories of hotels that provide world class accommodation to tourists of different economic backgrounds.

An integral part of the economy of Nagaland, the tourism industry is endowed with immense potentialities that have helped in raising the general standard of living among the common masses of the state. Nagaland has many places of tourist interests that attract visitors through out the year. The tourism industry in Nagaland has immensely contributed to the economic strengthening of the north eastern state of India. Blessed with natural scenic beauty and unique cultural ancestry, Nagaland draws several tourists from far and wide. The tourism industry of Nagaland helps the state to earn huge revenues.

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