

Classic Journeys **ADVENTURE TRAVEL**

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- ◆ **A SUPERB INTRODUCTION TO THE STUNNING EASTERN HIMALAYA**
- ◆ **SPECTACULAR MOUNTAINS, TROPICAL VALLEYS, ABUNDANT FLORA & FAUNA**
- ◆ **DISCOVER THE FASCINATING HILL STATIONS OF DARJEELING & KALIMPONG AND EXPERIENCE CHARMING CHARACTER HOTELS**

For dates and prices check our website: www.classicjourneys.co.uk

Introduction

This trip to the eastern corner of India visits a mountainous area of West Bengal nestled in between Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Much of the region was once part of an independent nation called Sikkim. Here Kangchenjunga the world's third highest mountain straddles the India-Nepal border, our route along the Singalila Ridge allows us spectacular access to a panorama of mighty Kangchenjunga and many other high Himalayan peaks.

The state of Bengal was split after Partition into East and West Bengal. East Bengal is now Bangladesh. West Bengal remains a part of India. The local language and culture in this area is Bengali and it is considered an important cultural centre for Bengali artists, writers and spiritualists. The state is egg timer shaped, squeezed at its middle between Nepal and Bangladesh, spreading outwards in the north to encompass the West Bengal Hills and outwards in the south to form a delta at the Bay of Bengal.

In the south there is the state capital Kolkata (Calcutta) and Sunderbans, a delta area where the elusive royal bengal tiger roams estuarine forests in the Sunderbans Wildlife Sanctuary. In the north are the peaks of the high Himalaya, the quaint "British town" of Darjeeling, and our access point Bagdogra airport 12km outside the chaotic trade centre of Siliguri. The West Bengal Hills house another of India's reserves, Jaldhapa Wildlife Sanctuary.

This rarely visited sanctuary has an area of 141 km² and is a haven for the endangered one horned rhinoceros, wild elephants, wild pig, bison, various deer species including sambar deer, barking deer, spotted deer and hog deer, and even the tiger. It is a paradise for bird watchers with sightings including crested eagle, pallas's fishing eagle and shikra, jungle fowl, peafowl, partridges and the oriental pied hornbill. It is also one of the very few places in India where the bengal florican is sighted.

Our journey starts with a flight to Bagdogra in far eastern India followed by a 3 hour drive to the famous British Raj hill station, Darjeeling. Darjeeling (2134m) straddles a ridge surrounded by tea plantations and holds a commanding position for trade routes to Nepal, Tibet, India and Bhutan. Many Nepalese live in Darjeeling and work on the tea plantations, or as mountain guides and traders. Nepali is the first language of many in Darjeeling. The area has fine views of the mountains, including Kangchenjunga (the world's third highest mountain), which are best seen between mid September through to mid December and mid March through to mid June although haze starts to build in late spring. Monsoon starts in late June. The temperatures are cool and the British used Darjeeling to escape the heat and humidity of India's summers. At dawn, Tiger Hill (2590m) offers the very best place to view Kangchenjunga and the Eastern Himalaya including Lhotse (8501m), Everest (8848m) and Makalu (8475m). Sightseeing in Darjeeling will include a visit to the fascinating Himalayan Mountaineering Institute.

Ancient Sikkim was once an independent nation ruled since the 15th century by a Chogyal (King) belonging to the Namgyal (Lepchas) clan. This region was once much larger than it is today but over the 18th century Sikkim lost much of its land to Nepal, Bhutan and the British. The British defeated the Nepali army in 1817 and gave southern Sikkim back to the Chogyal. However this was in exchange for the resort of Darjeeling (now situated in West Bengal). Sikkim continued to struggle to maintain its independence but after losing more and more of its powers (due to repeatedly relying on India to maintain its stability) the region finally became the 22nd state of India in 1975.

Our trek start point is a short drive from Darjeeling and will take us on to the delightful Singalila ridge. The ridge is the main spur running south from the huge Kangchenjunga massif, separating West Bengal, Nepal and Sikkim. The ridge is the main focus of our trek and provides tremendous views of many well-known peaks in Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. The walking is easy, through oak, magnolia and rhododendron forests, which in the spring turn the entire slopes into a blanket of red and pink flowers.

Looking into Nepal we have a superb panorama of five of the world's highest mountains, Everest (8848m), Lhotse (8516m), Makalu (8462m), Chamlang (7319m) and Kangchenjunga (8586m). In Sikkim are the peaks of Kokthang (6147m), Kabru (7338m), Kangchenjunga Pandim (6691m) and Narsing (5825m) and in Bhutan we can see Chomolhari (7314m). The highlight of our trek will be the changing colours on these great peaks at sunrise and sunset, which are particularly spectacular. As we leave the mountains behind our trail weaves through tiny settlements on either side of the India-Nepal border before descending through dense mixed forests of the Singalila National Park to the orderly villages inhabited by Nepalese settlers.

Now time to relax after our trek we drive through tea gardens to the quiet hill resort of Kalimpong. This is a wonderfully peaceful location, and we can take our time to visit the Buddhist monasteries, tea gardens and orchid nurseries. This is a superb tour, offering a varied itinerary with beautiful scenery, enchanting old world hotels, and a gentle introduction to the charms of the Eastern Himalaya.

Outline Itinerary

Day 1 – Depart UK

Depart UK on a flight to Delhi.

Day 2 – Delhi

Arrive Delhi. Met and transferred to our hotel. Rest of the day to relax. Overnight hotel.

Day 3 – Darjeeling (2134 metres)

Morning drive to the domestic airport from where we fly to Bagdogra at the bottom of the Darjeeling hills. The flight provides stunning views of the Himalayan range and weather permitting; we see many of the Himalayan giants including Cho Oyu, Everest, Lhotse, Makalu and then the massive bulk of Kangchenjunga, before we descend into Bagdogra.

The 4 to 5 hour long drive is along a road that soon leaves the rice fields and coconut palms of the plains for the tea garden covered slopes of the lower hills running close beside the Siliguri-Darjeeling mountain railway. We stop for a break half way up at Kurseong before climbing up to Ghoom at 2438 metres and then descending 300 metres to Darjeeling. There are fine views of the Kangchenjunga range on a clear day. Evening free to explore. Overnight hotel. (BLD)

Day 4 - Darjeeling - Tiger Hill

We are woken early for a cup of tea before driving 11 km in jeeps to Tiger Hill to see the amazing colours of a sunrise over Kangchenjunga. On the way back, we visit Ghoom monastery before returning to our Hotel for breakfast. After breakfast we visit the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and the small zoo beside it with interesting Himalayan animal species including red panda and snow leopard. The rest of the day is free to relax and explore the interesting and colourful bazaars or to take a brief ride from Darjeeling to Ghoom and back (optional extra) on the steam engine drawn narrow gauge railway. Overnight Hotel. (BLD)

Day 5 - Tonglu (3070 metres)

Our trek starts with a drive (1 hour) by jeep to the border town of Maneybhanjang (2130m) that lies on the India-Nepal border. We meet our trekking crew and porters who would have reached here earlier in the day before starting up a steep, broken jeep track that zigzags up some 600 metres to a tea shack where we stop for lunch. The gradient eases somewhat as the track enters patches of oak and rhododendron forest leading to Maghma and a further kilometre up to Tonglu. From here there are particularly good views of Darjeeling town spread over the ridge immediately opposite and 1000 metres below us on one hand and wide views of the entire Kangchenjunga range on the other. (5 hours walking). Overnight Camp. (BLD)

Day 6 - Gairibans (3206 metres)

After a relaxed breakfast and time for photographs, we have a short, easy walk to Gairibans, which translates as the village amongst the bamboo thickets. The initial level walk takes us past a long Mani wall to the Nepalese border post in the large village of Jaubari - one of the few border crossings in this part of the world where we are actually waved on without any formalities. After a tea break, we take a downhill trail back into the Indian side reaching Gairibans not long after midday. (4 hours walking). Overnight Camp. (BLD)

Day 7 - Sandakphu (3690 metres)

Gairibans and the walk to Sandakphu is particularly interesting for bird enthusiasts with minivets, flycatchers, finches, redstarts, falconets and a number of other varieties seen from the trail. Following the jeep trail with frequent shortcuts, we walk through rhododendrons, some of the large tree variety, to Kalpokhri - a fair sized village beside a dark, prayer flag lined pond that gives the village its name.

We stop for lunch at a comfortable teashop in Kalpokhri. We resume our reasonably level walk to another teashop from where the path climbs steeply to Sandakphu on the Singalila Ridge itself. At an altitude of over 3600 metres, Sandakphu commands views of Kangchenjunga, Jannu, Makalu, Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse and a number of high peaks in Sikkim and Bhutan like Chomolhari. (7 hours walking). Overnight Camp. (BLD)

Day 8 – Phalut (3420 metres)

We wake up early to walk to a platform overlooking Sandakphu with grand views all around. Today is quite a long day but is generally easy walking on the most spectacular section of the Singalila ridge. The undulating ridge trail runs north to the junction of Sikkim, Nepal and India. There are superb views of the Himalaya throughout the day and a walk along the Singalila Ridge is hard to beat for the sheer grandness of its views and the vastness of the surrounding landscapes with a series of ridges fading away to the Arun Valley in the west, the mountains of Sikkim and Bhutan to the north and east and the enormous bulk of Kangchenjunga directly ahead. We camp at Phalut. (7 hours walking). Overnight Camp. (BLD)

Day 9 – Sasamden

We stay on the ridge for the first part of today's walk but then descend through rhododendron and magnolia forest to reach our campsite at Sasamden, a beautiful campsite near a very small village in front of forest. (5 hours walking). Overnight Camp. (BLD)

Day 10 - Rimbick (2300 metres)

A downhill trail takes us to the floor of the Sri Khola valley before climbing through thick forests of the Singalila National Park to the roadhead of Rimbick. A fascinating day as it offers another opportunity to experience a walk through untouched parts of the eastern Himalayas followed by a section through a couple of orderly hillside villages allowing us to see the local lifestyle from close hand. We will stay at the Hotel Sherpa, as there is no proper campsite available. This lodge is run by a friendly Sherpa family and has the bonus of plenty of chilled beer. (6 to 7 hours walking). Overnight Hotel Sherpa. (BLD)

Days 11 & 12 – Kalimpong (1250 metres)

There is time for a relaxed breakfast before setting off for the 7 hour-long drive through tea gardens to Kalimpong. Kalimpong has long been an important market town and a meeting place for traders from Tibet, Bhutan, Nepal and the lowlands of Bengal. The temperate climate, fine mountain views, gardens; a number of gompas and a busy bazaar make this an attractive place to relax.

We stay at the delightful Himalayan Hotel, which still captures the romance of colonial times. In the early years of the century the hotel was the family home of David Macdonald who accompanied Francis Younghusband to Tibet in 1904 and served as British Political Officer in Sikkim in charge of Britain's relations with Tibet. After he retired he turned the large family home into a hotel and it has remained in the Macdonald family ever since. It is a hotel of real charm and character and has been home to Everest expeditions from Mallory and Irvine in the 1920's to Hillary & Tenzing. Overnight Himalayan Hotel, Kalimpong. (BLD)

Day 13 – Delhi

An early start for the 5 to 6 hour drive to Bagdogra in time to catch the afternoon flight back to Delhi. Transfer to our hotel, rest of the day free. Overnight hotel. (B)

Day 14 – Depart Delhi

Transfer to international airport for the flight to UK. (B)

The day-to-day schedule should be taken only as a general guide. A variety of factors, including adverse weather conditions, difficulty with transportation and politics can lead to enforced changes. Because of this it is not possible to guarantee that any of our holidays will run exactly according to the planned itinerary. The trip leader will make any changes, which are necessary.

INDIA EXTENSIONS

There are many interesting destinations, which offer an enjoyable variation to your holiday. The programmes can be tailored to suit individual requirements and we will be happy to suggest destinations and itineraries to compliment your own ideas.

Here are a few suggestions.

Agra & the Taj Mahal: It is possible to visit Agra and the Taj Mahal and return to Delhi in a day. We will organise transport to and from Agra (by train or road) and provide an English-speaking guide for sightseeing in Agra. This is a long day and if you have the time you may prefer to overnight in Agra.

The Golden Triangle: This is one of the most popular extensions for adding on to your holiday in India. The Golden Triangle itinerary allows you to take in three of the best known sights of northern India, the incredible Taj Mahal in Agra, the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri and the 'pink city' of Jaipur in the colourful and romantic state of Rajasthan.

The Tiger Trail: Ranthambhore, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Kanha & Corbett Tiger Reserves need little introduction and are amongst the best places to see Tigers anywhere.

Kaziranga National Park: lies to the south of the mighty Brahmaputra river in the heart of Assam and is without doubt one of the most beautiful and unspoilt national parks in the whole of Asia.

Bhutan: A five-day cultural visit to include Paro, Thimpu and Punakha.

Please contact the Classic Journeys office if you plan to extend your stay in India.

Please ask for our India extension sheet for some suggestions.

Please Note: If you plan to extend you stay in India it is essential we are informed at the time of booking so that alternative international flight dates can be booked.

TREKKING IN INDIA WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS

- With over 25 years experience we believe the quality of our India treks is second to none.
- We operate fully supported, environmentally sustainable group treks.
- Our itineraries are carefully planned to provide extra rest and acclimatisation days and as a reserve against bad weather.
- Our Indian leaders are professionally trained and are among the most experienced in India. Who better to look after you than your professional local leader, who speaks the language and knows the culture, intimately?
- Our friendly trekking crews are dedicated to ensuring your holiday is the best it can be. They will accompany you along the trail, set up camp and prepare your meals.
- Porters or pack animals carry your main baggage for you.
- Sleeping bags, cotton liners, mattresses, kit bags and basic first aid kits are provided on all of our India treks.
- We provide insurance, equipment and gear for our crew and porters and aim to keep our impact on the environment to a minimum.

The International Porter Protection Group (IPPG) works to improve the conditions of the mountain porters in the tourism industry worldwide. Classic Journeys supports the International Porter Protection Group (IPPG) and are the first UK trekking company to make a commitment of donating on an annual basis. For more information about the IPPG check out their website: www.ipg.net

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

If you would like Classic Journeys to book your international flights, please tick the flight inclusive package box on the booking form. Please advise if you have a preferred airline you would like to travel with or if you have a preferred airport you would like to travel from. Classic Journeys will then book your international flights and advise you of the actual cost.

There is a wide choice of airlines flying to and from India from the UK including Jet Airways, Virgin Atlantic, British Airways, Emirates, KLM, Qatar Airways and Gulf Air. Depending on flight arrival times, you may require an additional nights hotel accommodation to allow you immediate access to your hotel room.

To discuss your international flight options, please give the Classic Journeys office a call and we will advise on up to date flight prices and timings for your chosen trip.

Baggage Allowance: For hold luggage this is normally around 20kg and you should aim to keep to this weight. For internal flights the weight limit may be 15kg. Classic Journeys is not responsible for any excess baggage charges incurred.

Land Only Clients: Land only clients who are making their own flight arrangements should meet up with the group at the hotel in Delhi. We can arrange airport transfers if needed and will provide hotel contact details.

If you have booked on a land only basis and are making your own flight arrangements, you must check with the Classic Journeys office that your chosen holiday has reached the minimum numbers required and is **guaranteed to operate** before paying for your air tickets. We cannot be held liable, in cases where we cancel your trip, for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made.

PRICING

If you choose the Land Only plus international flights package Classic Journeys will book your international flight and advise you of the cost. The price of the tour will be the Land Price plus the cost of international flights on your chosen airline. Depending on the airline flights are booked with, you will pay for these flights with your final balance, 8 weeks before the trip departure. With some airlines, flights have to be paid for on making the flight booking and we will require full payment for the air tickets in order to purchase the tickets. In this situation we advise paying for your air tickets as soon as possible to secure the lowest fare.

Airfares and taxes are subject to change and if the fare has increased before the final balance has been paid, the additional cost will be passed on and detailed on the invoice.

INCLUDED IN THE COST

- Hotel accommodation on a twin share basis (unless single has been requested) for the nights listed in the itinerary
- All meals as specified
- Airport Transfers when choosing land only plus international flight package.
- All internal transport as the itinerary
- Sightseeing tours where specified
- All trekking arrangements including trekking permits, National Park entrance fees, tents (2 people sharing unless single has been requested), sleeping bags, basic karri mat (mattress), guides, porters & cook
- Local Leader
- Cordura kit bag

NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST

- International flight from the UK
- Airport taxes
- Transfers for Land Only packages when choosing your own flight arrangements
- Visa fees
- Medical examination (if required) & vaccination costs
- Personal expenditure, bar bills, laundry, telephone calls, etc
- Porters, guides & other tips
- Meals not specified
- Personal clothing & equipment
- Travel insurance
- Optional trips
- Charges incurred as a result of delays beyond Classic Journeys control
- Anything not specified in the Cost Includes section

GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, Maximum 14

This holiday will operate once the minimum group size has been reached.

GUIDE / TOUR LEADER

On arrival in India you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The trek will be led by a local leader and supported by a trekking crew to look after the group. Your leader will be with you throughout the trip to guide you along the route, help organise and interpret in the villages and assist the group in any other way possible. Our leaders are fluent in English and Hindi or Punjabi as well as often another language, and have walked in the area many times. They will try and give you a real insight into the local way of life and, for those interested, will happily give some basic Hindi or Punjabi lessons while walking or over evening drinks. Although not specialists, they are interested in the area's mountains, flora and fauna. Please ask your guide/leader if you have any queries during your holiday e.g. rest breaks, type and quantity of food or any other specific requests, as they will do their best to adjust the trip accordingly and cater for your needs and tastes.

TREK GRADE

EASY TREKKING: The Singalila Ridge trek is a superb introduction to the Eastern Himalayas; in comparison to many India treks it is graded as easy but with up to 7 hours walking a day. There are no extremes of altitude to contend with and most of the trek follows well-trodden trails used by local villagers. Easy however doesn't mean never tired; anyone who enjoys regular exercise, weekend hill walking and is in good physical condition should easily cope with these treks. Easy is a relative term, there will be some exertion involved; trekking is rarely flat and includes ascents & descents.

A TYPICAL DAY TREKKING

The day normally starts with an early morning mug of tea (or coffee), enjoyed while still in our sleeping bags at around 6.00 am. During breakfast camp will be struck and the porters or ponies and pony men set off. We start walking after breakfast, between 7:30 and 8:30 am. Everyone is free to walk at the pace, which is comfortable for them, stopping along the way to explore villages and take photographs. You will have been given a lunch box at breakfast time and we will stop at around 11:00 am for lunch. Camp is usually reached at around 3 to 4 pm. Afternoon tea and biscuits or snacks are served, and at around 6:30 to 7:00 pm. the evening meal is ready.

When sightseeing we generally leave after breakfast. Some of the sightseeing involves easy walking although not always on paved level ground. There will be many photographic opportunities, although please respect local people and either ask permission or use a telephoto lens before taking their photograph. Remember many people do not like their photograph taken.

HEALTH & FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

The fitter you are before embarking on a trekking holiday the more enjoyment you are going to get out of it. You should be in good condition for the activity you are going to do - lots of walking. Once you decide you are going on a trek, it is wise to begin a fitness programme. The best way for you to prepare is to take a lot of walks, particularly up and down hills. Jogging, aerobics, cycling and fast swimming will also help but should be in addition to walking outdoors. We carry a basic first aid kit but recommend that each person also carry a personal first aid kit including any prescription medication they require; a suggested contents list will be provided on booking in the country information dossier. We also provide details of the recommended vaccinations needed however you will need to talk to your doctor, practice nurse or a travel clinic for the latest advice on health recommendations.

ACCOMMODATION

Typically we stay at small friendly hotels, typically the hotel Thirty Three, hotel Connaught, or the Ashok Country Resort in Delhi. At Darjeeling typically we stay in the Cedar Inn, Mayfair or New Elgin Hotel. At Pemayangtse and Kalimpong we stay in comfortable and charming character hotels. On trek we will be camping; we use spacious 2 person, Vango Mk V tents (or similar), provide thick sleeping mattresses, chairs, tables, cutlery and toilet tents. Our trekking crews set up and break camp for you. Please note that sometimes the mentioned accommodation is fully booked in which case we will use similar standard accommodation.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

If you are a single person booking this holiday you do not have to pay single supplements, if you are happy to share. If you are travelling by yourself you will be paired with another single client of the same gender. However your booking is accepted only on the understanding that if no roommate is available then you accept a single supplement will be levied. Single supplements are payable if you specifically request to have a room/tent to yourself. If you have requested single accommodation we will do our best to secure this although this may not always be possible.

FOOD

Breakfast in Delhi and all meals elsewhere included.

Most hotel and lodge restaurants usually provide both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, continental, Indian and traditional cuisine. Please ask the staff if you have any specific request, especially regarding flavours and spices, as they will do their best to adjust menus accordingly and cater for your tastes.

Our cooks provide varied and delicious local and western food while on trek. There are continental menus as well as local cuisine such as tasty curries, chapattis, vegetables, samosas, lentils and variety of rice dishes and other nourishing meals. As much as possible, locally bought fresh vegetables are used although in some remote areas they are not available. Fresh fruit should always be peeled and avoid salads or raw vegetables. Our staff ensure a good levels of hygiene for all food preparations.

WEATHER

The West Bengal area experiences cold winters between November to February and monsoon affects Darjeeling from the end of May/June to the middle of September. Visiting these areas is therefore best between mid March through to mid June although haze starts to build in late spring and mid September through to mid December. March to early May is when sunshine is quite abundant. Temperatures on trek will range between daytime highs of 20 to 25°C with quite chilly evening temperatures (normally 5°C), but temperatures may drop to below freezing at higher altitude. The mornings are generally clear with clouds building up during the afternoon but these usually disappear at night to reveal a beautiful nights sky. At the lower altitudes, Darjeeling, the days and evenings are pleasantly warm (6-14°C).

EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

We will provide all camping equipment including roomy two man tents, a sleeping bag and mattress. You will need to provide personal equipment and clothing. You may also want to bring along a Thermarest for added comfort although we provide a basic mattress. You do not need any specialist equipment or clothing for this trek. Basically you need similar clothing to what you would take on a winter walk in the British hills. A detailed equipment list is provided on booking. We also provide a spacious Cordura kit bag, which will be given to you before your trek and is yours to keep. We provide a very comprehensive equipment list in the information dossier, which we send you on confirmation of booking.

PASSPORT & VISA REQUIREMENTS

You will require a passport valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry into India; British Nationals also require an Indian entry visa, which should be obtained prior to departure. In June 2008, the India High Commission outsourced their visa processing to a third party agency called VFS. For up-to-date information on how to apply for your India visa, please visit the VFS website: <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk>. You may also want to check the High Commission of India's website at www.hcilondon.net

INSURANCE

Insurance is essential and is a condition of booking with Classic Journeys that you have adequate travel insurance cover. It is very important that you obtain insurance cover against the usual risks associated with travel, from the time of booking your holiday until the time you return home. Please ensure that your insurance provides adequate protection against the two major concerns: medical/repatriation expenses while abroad and cancellation/curtailment charges in the event that you, a travelling companion or a close relative fall ill either before or during the tour. For trekking holidays your travel insurance must contain evidence of satisfactory cover for repatriation and helicopter rescue.

Classic Journeys do not provide any advice on travel insurance. Classic Journeys is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd. who are Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Campbell Irvine is a specialist travel insurance broker. The comprehensive policy they issue provides 24-hour medical emergency assistance and covers altitude and all adventurous activities undertaken on our holidays. For single-trip policies, the insurance provides cover for both UK and worldwide residents at very competitive rates. In addition an annual policy is available to United Kingdom residents.

To obtain insurance cover visit the insurance section of the Classic Journeys website and follow the links to the Campbell Irvine Ltd. website. Alternatively contact the Classic Journeys office and we will send you details and an application form.

We require confirmation of your insurance, the policy number and 24-hour emergency telephone number who ever you take insurance with.

SUGGESTED READING

Into India: John Keay, John Murray.

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent: Grimmett, Inskipp & Inskipp.

Field Guide to the Birds of the Eastern Himalaya: Salim Ali, Oxford University Press.

Himalayan Flowers & Trees: Dorothy Mierow & Tirtha Bahadur Strestha, Shayogi Press 1978.

Kangchenjunga Adventure: Frank Smythe. An account of an attempt to climb Kangchenjunga in 1930 and exploration of the area. Out of print but an interesting book to get hold of.

Kangchenjunga Climbed: George Band. Details of the first successful expedition to climb Kangchenjunga. "The Mountain World" 1956/57 edition.

In Clive's Footsteps – Peter Holt (a direct descendent of Clive of India, the author retraces his ancestor's journeys around south-eastern India)

Kangchenjunga: Guardian of the Eastern Himalaya - Conger Beasley, Tim Hauf

MAPS

Sikkim Himalaya: Schneider 1:150,000

BOOKS & MAPS AVAILABLE FROM:

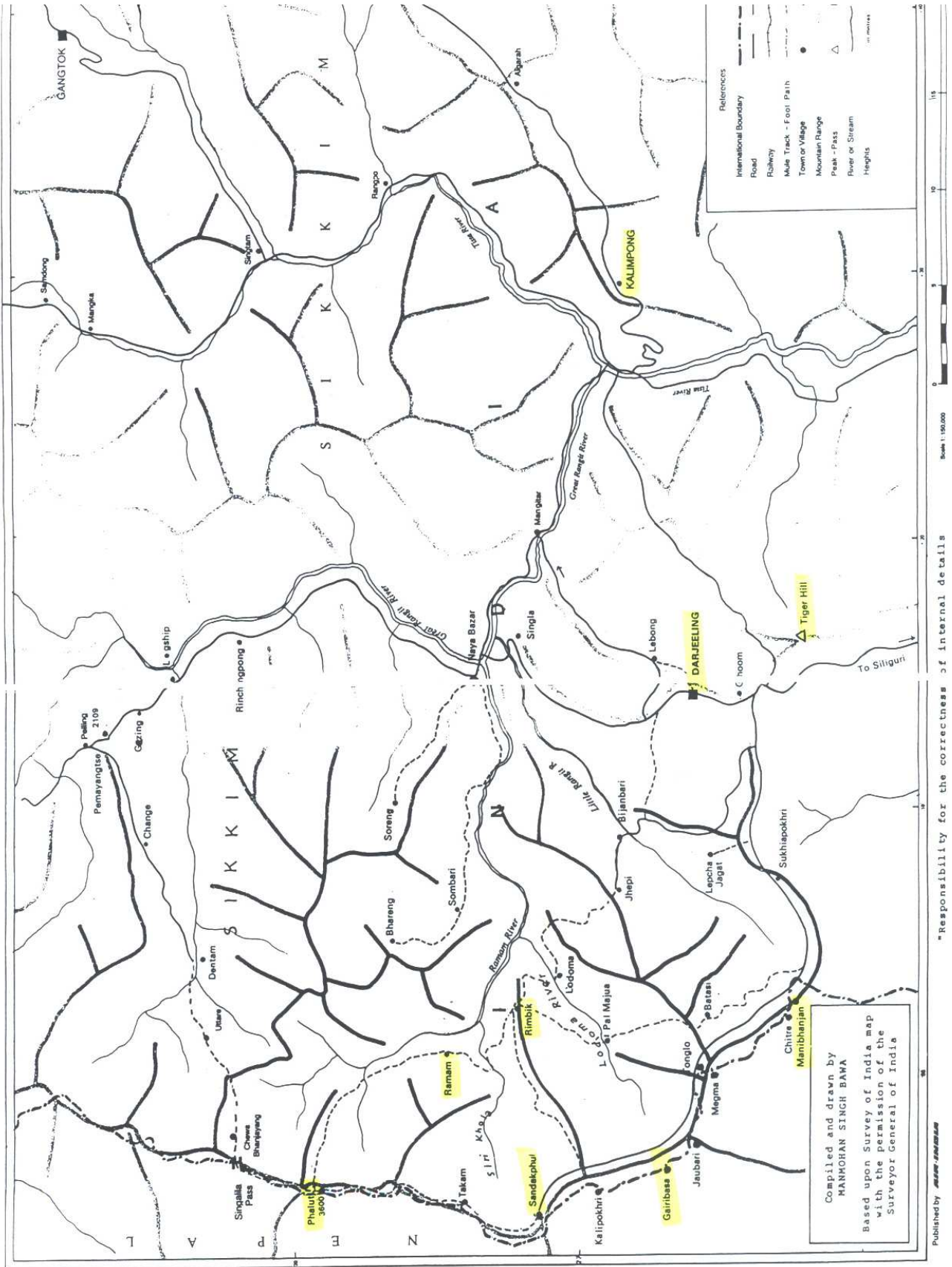
Stanfords, 12 Long Acre, London, WC2E 9LP 020 7836 1321

Cicerone at Booksource, 50 Cambuslang Road, Cambuslang, Glasgow, G32 8NB

Amazon, www.amazon.co.uk

Cordee, 3A De Montfort Street, Leicester. Tel: 0116 2543579

If you have any questions or would like to know more about any aspect of this trek please do not hesitate to contact the Classic Journeys Office.



Classic Journeys **ADVENTURE TRAVEL**

Our Experience is Your Guarantee

Classic Journeys have a proven record of operating top quality, adventure holidays with over 21 years experience. Our ground agents and friends are the best in the business. They have an unsurpassed knowledge and ability for organising treks, expeditions, wildlife and adventure travel and all have excellent contacts, extremely important when dealing with local bureaucracy.

An important aspect of our success is our team of reliable and professional leaders, both western and local who ensure everything runs smoothly and efficiently. All our leaders are experienced, enthusiastic and have travelled widely. Working with our experienced and friendly staff, you can be sure of a high quality, personal service that many of our clients have come to expect.

Your Complete Financial Protection



Classic Journeys is a fully licensed and bonded tour operator with an Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL 3022). The purpose of the ATOL scheme is to provide financial protection for your holiday arrangements. An ATOL is a legal requirement for anyone selling air holidays to the public. In order to obtain this licence we have to continually satisfy the very rigorous standards and provide a bond, you can book your holiday with Classic Journeys in complete confidence that your payment is fully protected.

How To Book

Before making your booking please make sure that you have read the relevant tour itinerary. This can be downloaded from the tour page on our website, or you can request a copy to be posted to you from the Classic Journeys office. You should also read our General Information and Booking Conditions on our website. It is important that you choose a trip that is well suited to your experience and abilities. If you have any doubt or need to chat through any of our tours, please call the Classic Journeys office. Our advice is based on first hand experience and we are always happy to talk about our journeys.

Provisional Booking: It is sensible to check if places are still available on any Classic Journeys tour you are interested in before sending your booking form to us. We will be happy to hold open space for you for up to 7 days (up to 14 days if you live outside Europe) in order to give you sufficient time to send in your booking form and deposit.

Definite Bookings: To make a definite booking you must either complete and sign our standard booking form which can be printed off from our website at www.classicjourneys.co.uk and post or fax it to us, or complete the on-line booking form and transmit it to us electronically. You also need to pay us the required deposit as detailed on the booking form. If you are submitting an on-line booking form and decide you wish to pay the deposit by credit or debit card, you can, if you are concerned about security, telephone your card details to us.

Please note: We cannot confirm a booking until we receive your completed and signed booking form. Any delay in submitting your booking form may put at risk your place on your chosen trip, or flights.

If you would like further information, help with planning your holiday or details of extending your holiday, please don't hesitate to contact at the Classic Journeys office.