

DZONGRI - GOECHA LA

The Riffle Alp of Sikkim



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INTRODUCTION

The 4940 meter (16,207ft) Goecha La may be a tougher option than the basic Singalila route. The trek offers you an incredible experience that is both challenging and ultimately rewarding. View of Kangchenjunga are perhaps more spectacular in terms of scenic grandeur.

A nine- to ten-day loop trek from the road head at Yuksom, which was the first capital of Sikkim established in 1642 AD. From the very first day trek makes through dense, semi-tropical forest of rhododendron, azalea, pine, and giant oak trees wrapped in moss that clothes the Rothong valley and ends at Tsoka, the last permanently inhabited village on this route. At the end of the third day – another climb with rhododendron – the trek reaches the yek pasture of Dzongri.

From the vantage points Kanchenjunga range, Mt. Pandim, Mt. Rathong, Kabru range, Goecha peak and other mountain giants are visible. “To watch a sunset from Dzongri,” wrote D. W. Freshfield in 1899, “is a thing worth living for.” He also predicted that it was destined to become what he called “the Riffle Alp of Sikkim.”

Leaving Dzongri the trail follows the moorland-like ridge for a while before descending through forest into the valley of the Prek Chu, across which you climb again to camp at Thangsing. The route continues gently up to the Samite lake via Lamuly.

The Goecha La is gained directly from Lamuly. It's a long, toughish climb which leads at first up moraine ridges overlooking the Oglathang Glacier, and usually tackled by head torch in order to capture the magic of dawn breaking over the mountains.

BASE CAMP DIRECTION

The Base Camp for Dzongri – Goecha La Trek is Yuksum, Sikkim.

Yuksum is accessible from all parts of the world by the following modes of Transportation :

By Air : Nearest Airport is Bagdogra. Regular flights are available from Kolkata. From Bagdogra you have to take a seven hour drive depending on the traffic condition to Yuksum. One has to book full Vehicle to reach Yuksum which is easily available from Bagdogra.

By Train : Nearest Railhead are New Jalpaiguri / Siliguri Junction. From New Jalpaiguri / Siliguri Junction you have to take a seven and half hour / seven hour drive depending on the traffic condition to Darjeeling. One has to book full Vehicle to reach Yuksum which is easily available from both the Railway Stations.

By Road : Regular A.C. / Non A.C. buses including Sleeper Coaches ply from Kolkata to Siliguri Bus Terminus regularly. From Siliguri one has to book full Vehicle to reach Yuksum which may take seven hour drive depending on the traffic condition.

PARTICIPATION FEES

Full amount has to be paid before joining the programme. The Participation Fees includes Guide Charges, Entry Fees, Camping Charges and Tent Hire Charges. Charges like Camera Fees, etc has to be borne by the participants. Simple Nutritious Non Vegetarian Food will be served in the Base Camp and Vegetarian Food will be served in the higher camps.

CANCELLATION

50% of Participation Fees will be refunded if the request is received 15 days in advance excluding the day of Reporting at our office in writing by e-mail or by post.

If the cancellation request is received less than 15 days from the day of Reporting, no refund will be made.

PROGRAMME CANCELLATION

Due to unforeseen circumstances if the whole of the programme or a particular date is cancelled then the Participant will get Refund after deducting the incidental charges through direct credit into bank from which the amount has been paid.

REGISTRATION & MEDICAL

Each participant has to fill up the Registration Form for the particular Programme which has to be done online to participate in that particular programme. Hard Copy of Medical Form which can be downloaded, duly filled in has to send to the Registered Office before the Reporting Date. Participants are requested to carry a copy of the Medical Form.

REPORTING

All the participants have to carry the Confirmation Letter for Reporting at Base Camp. Participants are requested to Report at the Base Camp on the date and time mentioned in the Confirmation Letter.

THINGS YOU SHOULD BRING

Rucksack of good quality, Sleeping Bag, Mattress, Wind Proof, Inner Garments, Winter clothing, Sun Cap, Towel, Torch, Sun Glass, Water Bottle, Plate, Mug & Spoon, Toilet Paper, Vaseline/Sun Cream/Winter lotion, Soap/Soap Paper, Pen & Note Book.

Medicine's taken by you regularly.

Please note that no utensils will be available in the Camps.

ACCOMODATION

All the accommodation in the entire trek is in tent. You are requested to carry sleeping Bag, Mattress and your personal belongings.

CAUTION

Please note that this is an environmental friendly trek. Do not litter any wrapper, plastic or spoil the trail.

Burning of Woods during Camp fire is not admissible.

