

Sound Travels

MUSICAL EXPEDITIONS THROUGH INDIA

Assam musical adventure

Seven nights = Thursday 9th - Thursday 16th April 2015

During the Spring festival of Bihu, the luscious northeastern Indian state of Assam explodes into a carnival of music, dancing, hospitality and abundance: a celebration of the very best of Assamese culture.

On our journey through this unexplored landscape, we'll meet the monks who have developed and passed down Sattriya classical dance and Borgeet music, drummers who play all festival long in their neighbours' front yards, the girls who perform the graceful Bihu dance, and experts with a goldmine of stories to share with you. Our musical journey takes us to villages and homes, through vast tea estates and deep into the protected marshes and forests of Kaziranga.

DAYS 1-3 For the first three days we will be based out of the leafy town of Golaghat, where we can learn Bihu festival songs, try out local instruments and gain an understanding of Assam's music and broader culture. After all the swimming, fishing, tea-touring and sightseeing that's on offer, you'll deserve that evening cocktail next to the Gymkhana pool.

Day 1: Thursday 9th - Welcome dinner and musical programme in the evening
Overnight Gymkhana Club

Day 2: Friday 10th - Morning - visit Merapani to witness the traditional Bodo dance of Bagaramba
Afternoon/evening - See Jhumor music and dance and eat local food in the beautiful melamora village
Overnight Gymkhana Club

Day 3: Saturday 11th - Visit a beautiful tea garden and learn about the processes and history of tea making. Meet the owners of the plantation for... you guessed it... .afternoon tea!
Overnight at Gymkhana Club.

DAYS 4-5 Now we head to Sivasagar – the ancient capital of the Ahom kingdom, followed by a visit to the magical island of Majuli, where we will meet the monks who practice Sattriya dance, the teachers and students of Bihu dance, and the Mishing community who all share this enchanted world.

Day 4: Sunday 12th - Morning - visit the fascinating historic town of Sivasagar - the capital of the Ahom kings (who ruled Assam for 600 years before the British came)
Afternoon - cross the river Brahmaputra to the river island of Majuli
Overnight in Mé Po Okum Eco Camp.

Day 5: Monday 13th - An exciting day exploring Majuli with a member of its musical monastic community, taking in monasteries, performances of Sattriya dance and enjoying the island during the festive season of Bihu,
Overnight in Mé Po Okum Eco Camp.

DAY 6-8 –Back on the mainland, we head out on safari, followed by a hot shower in the luxurious and beautiful Diphlu River Lodge, in well-preserved calm of Kaziranga Nature Reserve. Then finally, we head back to Golaghat to finish the trip with Bihu celebrations!

Day 6: Tuesday 14th - Visit the Island's famous masked dancers before crossing the river back to the mainland and driving to the Kaziranga nature reserve. Check in to the sumptuous Diphlu river lodge as the fireflies start to appear!
Overnight at Diphlu River Lodge

Day 7: Wednesday 15th - Travel back to Golaghat to celebrate the main day of the Springtime festival of Bihu, joining the traditional hip-thrusting dance and upbeat songs that celebrate the coming of the Assamese new year.
Overnight in Golaghat

Day 8: Thursday 16th - All drive to Jorhat airport for onward flights home