



Northeast States

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Why Go?

Thrown across the farthest reaches of India, obscured from the greater world by ageless forests and formidable mountain ranges, the Northeast States are one of Asia's last great natural and anthropological sanctuaries. Sharing borders with Bhutan, Tibet, Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh, these remote frontiers are a region of rugged beauty, and a collision zone of tribal cultures, climates, landscapes and peoples. In this wonderland for adventurers, glacial Himalayan rivers spill onto Assam's vast floodplains, faith moves mountains on the perilous pilgrimage to Tawang, rhinos graze in Kaziranga's swampy grasslands and former headhunters slowly embrace modernity in their ancestral longhouses in Nagaland.

Of course, it's not all smooth sailing in these faraway states, and there's a horde of obstacles to battle along the way (bad roads, poor infrastructure and rebel armies, to name a few). Only those with a taste for raw adventure need apply.

Best Places to Eat

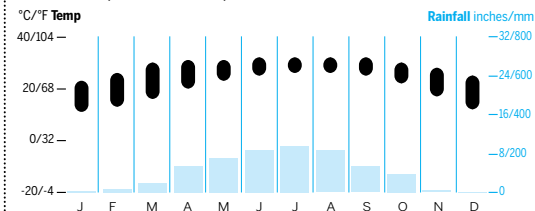
- Paradise (p563)
- Luxmi Kitchen (p584)
- Moti Mahal (p571)
- Maihang (p568)
- Trattoria (p591)

Best Places to Sleep

- Diphlu River Lodge (p568)
- Purni Bheti (p569)
- Ri Kynjai (p591)
- Prabhakar Homestay (p563)

When to Go

Assam (Guwahati)



Mar The best season for rhino-spotting in Kaziranga.

Oct A time for dazzling Himalayan vistas and trips to remote outposts.

Dec Fierce Naga warriors in ethnic regalia assemble for Kohima's spectacular Hornbill Festival.



Northeast States Highlights

1 Kaziranga National Park (p567) Roaming the expansive grasslands in search of rhinos.

2 Tawang Valley (p578) Touching the clouds at the 4176m Se La pass before descending to the Tawang Valley, a Tibetan Buddhist hot spot.

3 Ziro Valley (p574) Visiting scenic villages where you can meet and learn about the intriguing Apatani tribe.

4 Cherrapunjee (p592) Gazing down on the plains of Bangladesh from a lofty escarpment.

5 Unakoti (p588) Staring in awe at massive rock-cut

sculptures of gods amid the wilderness.

6 Kohima (p579) Visiting a quaint WWII cemetery and sampling traditional Naga hospitality.

7 Loktak Lake (p584) Exploring the lake's unique ecosystem and floating islands.