



Best of Darjeeling Recommended by Indian travellers

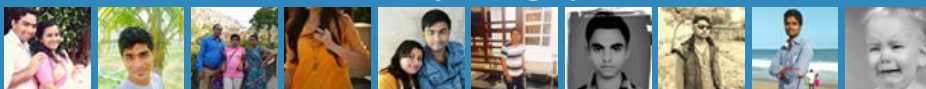


Anup

Summer vacation...

“ It was the best summer vacation for us as family, loved this place Darjeeling. Superb mini train journey, nice food, people here are very sweet and...”

442 travel stories about Darjeeling by Indian travellers



Guide includes: About destination | Top things to do | Best accommodations | Travelling tips | Best time to visit

About Darjeeling

Darjeeling is a popular hill station in the state of West Bengal. At an average elevation of 2050 meters, it is located in the Lesser Himalayan range and provides beautiful views of the mighty Himalayas, especially Kanchenjunga – the world's third highest mountain peak. Known for its scenic beauty, snow-clad Himalayas, and tea gardens, Darjeeling is frequented by tourists from all over the country as well as from around the world. Especially during the summers, the place is a preferred destination due to its pleasant weather.

History of Darjeeling

The history of modern Darjeeling dates back to the 19th century. Till then, the town was under the reign of the kings of the kingdom of Sikkim. During the British Raj, Darjeeling was a favoured destination due to its cool and temperate climate. It soon became popular among the British, who later, established schools and built buildings in the region. It became the summer capital of the Bengal Presidency in 1864. Tea was introduced in Darjeeling in 1856 and due to this, many British people settled here.

People & Culture of Darjeeling

Darjeeling tea, which is known all over the world for its unique flavour, is one of the main contributors to the town's economy along with tourism. The scenic tea gardens add to the beauty and popularity of the quaint town. Tourists can choose to stay at some of the tea estates for a unique experience and to see how tea is manufactured.

The population of Darjeeling is quite diverse. The town is home to people from different communities like Gorkhas, Tibetans, Bengali, Chinese, Anglo-Indians, Biharis, and many indigenous ethnic groups. Darjeeling enjoys a languid lifestyle, which is why it attracts many tourists.

Things to do in Darjeeling

The **Toy Train** is famous in Darjeeling and carries travellers from New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri to Darjeeling across the scenic landscape. A popular tourist attraction in Darjeeling is a jeep ride up to Tiger Hill to view the sun rising from the mighty Himalayas. The **Ghoom Monastery**, dating back to 1875, is the oldest monastery in Darjeeling and houses many rare and well preserved books. The Tibetan Refugee Centre set up by the Dalai Lama is ideal for purchasing Tibetan handicrafts. Hiking and trekking in Darjeeling are also popular attractions among tourists, which are also covered in **Darjeeling holiday packages**, which can be bought by tourists visiting the hill station.

The Japanese **Peace Pagoda**, which is part of a grid of around 30 pagodas, is known for its unique architecture. There are many old colonial buildings in Darjeeling, which add to the charm of the hill town. This, with the pagoda style architecture that defines Buddhist monasteries, gives Darjeeling a completely unique look.

Food & Shopping

The diversity of the locals has had quite an influence on the cuisine of the city. Darjeeling is famous for offering steamed dumplings called momos and Tibetan noodles known as thukpa. The diverse demography also leads to the celebration of various festivals feted by different communities living here.

Darjeeling is also known for its bakeries that serve freshly baked biscuits and a variety of breads. Visitors can try some delicacies and shop for more to take them back home. For more shopping tourists can visit hotspots such as Mall Road and Chowrasta to buy Tibetan woolens, local handicrafts, books, jewellery and tea.

Travelling to Darjeeling

Darjeeling is well connected to Siliguri, 96 km away, by air, rail and road. Tourists can also [reach Darjeeling](#) by booking private taxis or jeeps, which is one of the fastest ways to reach the town.

Travelling within Darjeeling

The best way to get around Darjeeling is on foot. Tourists can take leisurely walks in the bazaars and experience the vibrant street life and also savour some local food and tea. Taxis are also available that can take tourists around Darjeeling.

Accommodation options in Darjeeling

Many [hotels in Darjeeling](#), for instance the ones located on Mall Road or near the Governor's House, provide great views of the mountains, especially of the Kanchenjunga Peak. Many of these are affordable staying options. For all those tourists who want to spend a little more, there are a few hotels located near the tea plantations, which were colonial buildings and have been converted into hotels.

The best time to visit Darjeeling is between March to May and from September to November.

Information

State:	West Bengal
Famous for/as:	Hill
Altitude:	2050 M
Pincode:	734101
District:	Darjeeling
Language:	Bengali,Nepali
STD code:	0354
Weather:	Summer 9 To 17°C, Winter 2 To 15°C

Featured review about Darjeeling

Sunrise from Observatory Hills

"Darjeeling, the most popular hill station of North Bengal also gives dynamic views of Mt Kanchenjunga. I have written a review of viewing sunrise over the mountain from Tiger Hill. This time I will write something about viewing sunrise over Mt Kanchenjunga from Observatory Hill, Darjeeling.

Mall or Chowrasta is called to be the place in Darjeeling where major activities are carried out. Any events held in Darjeeling starts from Mall. As said earlier, Mall is also named as Chowrasta. Chowrasta, meaning 'Chow' as four and 'Rasta' meaning roads. So to keep it simple Chowrasta is the place where four roads meet. I don't go into much details about this place in this review.

From Chowrasta, the Mall roads starts from right side when you face the statue of the great poet. It goes round and ends in the other side of the statue. This road circles the Observatory Hill. There are three points on this road from where you can watch sunrise on Mt Kanchenjunga. Among the three locations the last one near to Raj Bhawan is the best. You have well decorated chairs for sitting and relaxing while watching the mesmerising sunrise. You will also get some small snacks and tea while watching the sunrise. I have been there several times and this was the first time when I even saw sunset over Mt Kanchenjunga from that location. I would strongly insist upon viewing sun rise from that location." - **Suvobroto Ray chaudhuri**, *Kolkata, 4 days ago*

You will just fall in love with Darjeeling

"We in a group of 4 visited Darjeeling at the end of June 2015. What to say the scenic beauty says everything about it, visited all the main attractions of Darjeeling as I already been there with family too. Batasia loop, ghoom monestry, tiger Hill, rock garden, Tenzing rock are must watch-able places. Many famous Bollywood movies like Burfi, Main Hu Na, Yaariaan shooted out there at Chowrasta, boarding school campus and at other locations. The best part I like about Darjeeling which makes it different from other tourist attractions is the behaviour of localites, they r so decent nd polite to tourists that u will nt forget them entire life. My cab driver Avinay Gurung is still my friend after the visit. If someone visit Darjeeling then do visit Glenary's Bakery, without this you will surely miss the deliciousness of Darjeeling Tea as well as the mouth watering pastries n other bakery products. If lucky grab the last table at Glenary's & you will be mesmerized the see the whole enchanting Darjeeling view at your behind, best season to visit is round the year except in rains as rains can ruin the plan also land slides could occur. So at last just visit it to feel the joy." - **Nagendra Kushwah**, *Gwalior, 5 days ago*

Darjeeling - queen of hills

"We visited Darjeeling by the end of November. The road from kalimpong to Darjeeling was very beautiful. Mountains and trees on both the sides and tea gardens and the view of two rivers meeting each other, river teestha and rangeet was the awesome start of our Darjeeling tourism. Our hotel was located at chow rasta area which is also called the mall of Darjeeling. The weather was really chilling. Mall road is a very happening place in Darjeeling with many shops, small restaurants, horse rides, beautiful view of mountains with a hot cup of famous Darjeeling tea. We visited the zoo, shanti stupa, tea gardens, refugee camps, mirik lake. All

were truly worth seeing. And then the view of Kanchenjunga from tiger hills at the time of sun rise was very awesome view though it was freezing cold. Don't forget to buy Darjeeling tea packs from happy valley tea garden." - **Prajakta Baikar**, Thane, 4 weeks ago

An amazing experience!

"If you are looking for a heaven, then your search ends here. The mercury is always low here. One can see the cultures unseen and explore the unexplored. Amazing Place with even amazing people. We went there by train and got down at New Jalpaiguri, from there we took a taxi(The driver of the cab was a Real Madrid fan, like me). The best season to travel is summers as all places are accessible. So, we got down from the train at New Jalpaiguri and then we started our journey to Darjeeling. It was an amazing sight, when you see the downside area from the hillside road from your cab. The local people were very helpful. I would request you to not miss travelling by toy train, as it is going to be one of the best experience.

The place is so scenic that you then and there decide that you are going to come here again and this is not the last time you are visiting this place. Must visit places include: Sunrise point, Tiger Hill, Peace Pagoda, Batasia Loop(The toy train takes a loop here, hence the name), Tea gardens, Barbotey Rock Garden and a lot more. I would advise you to travel by train as the landscape to New Jalpaiguri in itself is quite scenic. You can also get down at Siliguri and get a cab from there.

For shopping there is a whole roadside market present and your lady is going to love it. Food available is amazing, don't forget to try Momos. Activities that kept me busy were trekking, sightseeing and relaxing, just letting the place sink in me. Advice to travellers will be to take warm clothes with them, Umbrellas and torch. It is a pretty amazing place to visit. Enjoy to the core and happy journey." - **Sakshi Paliwal**, Patna, 1 month ago

Awesome place & best for a road trip

"I reached there from NPJ station by taxi. On the way many tea gardens were present along the road. Toy train was also moving along the road and sometimes crossing the road. From my hotel Kanchanjangha mountain range was visible. Snow mountains gave beautiful view. Clouds sometimes came down to touch earth. I enjoyed toy train tour to Ghoom where war memorial was nice place to visit. Zoo was good & my children enjoyed it. Nearby was mountain museum which was quite interesting. Other attractions are tea garden, roadway, rock garden, sunrise point, ghoom monastery. Overall Darjeeling is paradise on earth for nature lover." - **Girish Tiwari**, Allahabad, 1 month ago

[Read 442 Darjeeling reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

Top attractions in Darjeeling recommended by HolidayIQ.com travellers

1 Tiger Hill

Type: Hill

Entry: Free

Ranked: 1 Of 75

Ratings: 6.02/7 (188 Reviews)

"at the time of sunrise it seen like god is removing the curtain of black color from the kanchanjanga hill and sun is making a rainbow at tiger hill....." - **Shubham Goyal**, Jind, 3 days ago

2 Toy Train

Type: Offbeat Attraction

Entry: Paid

Ranked: 2 Of 75

Ratings: 5.74/7 (116 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 05:00 To 15:00 , Saturday - 05:00 To 15:00 , Sunday - 05:00 To 15:00 , Public Holidays - 05:00 To 15:00

"Himalayan Railway stands as pillars of Indian Railways history. Locally it is called as Toy Train ride. The ride starts from New Jalpaiguri Station and is up to Darjeeling. In between there are several major stations like Kurseong, Sonada Ghoom..." - **Suvobroto Ray chaudhuri**, Kolkata, 4 days ago

3 Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

Type: Zoo

Entry: Free

Ranked: 3 Of 75

Ratings: 6.02/7 (57 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 09:00 To 16:30 , Saturday - 09:00 To 16:30 , Sunday - 09:00 To 16:30 , Public Holidays - 09:00 To 16:30

"I have been to this zoo a number of times. It is one of the well maintained zoo that I have visited till date. Walking uphill and down hill while watching animals in the open gives a different experience." - **Suvobroto Ray chaudhuri**, Kolkata, 3 days ago

4 Himalayan Mountaineering Institute

Type: Offbeat Attraction

Entry: Free

Ranked: 4 Of 75

Ratings: 5.96/7 (41 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 09:00 To 16:00 , Saturday - 09:00 To 16:00 , Sunday - 09:00 To 16:00 , Public Holidays - 09:00 To 16:00

"The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute or the HMI as its popularly known is repository for India's great mountaineering history. Complete with facts and figures, it takes you through a thrilling experience of showcasing mountaineering both as a..." - **Rahul Sidharthan**, Cochin, 4 weeks ago

5 The Mall and Chowrasta

Type: Mall

Entry: Paid

Ranked: 5 Of 75

Ratings: 5.82/7 (37 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 06:00 To 21:30 , Saturday - 06:00 To 21:30 , Sunday - 06:00 To 21:30 , Public Holidays - 06:00 To 21:30

"Needs more of exotic Food joints . Most of the available options are average. Exotic restaurant missing. Service time till 9 pm or so. To be extended till 11 pm. More quality shopping mall / outlets to come as available in other..." - **Puneet Khurana, Delhi, 1 week ago**

6 Ghoom Monastery

Type: Monastery

Entry: Free

Ranked: 6 Of 75

Ratings: 5.42/7 (30 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Saturday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Sunday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Public Holidays - 09:00 To 18:00

"The Ghoom Monastery is an extremely sacred place to the locales. Pay a visit to the monastery to experience the amazing Buddhist culture. The vibrancy of the monastery will also amaze you." - **Amit Ghosh, Bangalore, 1 month ago**

7 Peace Pagoda

Type: Monument

Entry: Paid

Ranked: 7 Of 75

Ratings: 6.15/7 (30 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Saturday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Sunday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Public Holidays - 09:00 To 18:00

"Loved the peaceful ambience of the place. The place is so calm and quiet. You get a different feel of being in the clouds on a cloudy day. Location wise I loved the place. It is located on top of the hill and in between the forest. So overall it..." - **Suvobroto Ray chaudhuri, Kolkata, 3 days ago**

8 Happy Valley Tea Gardens

Type: Tea Estate

Entry: Free

Ranked: 8 Of 75

Ratings: 5.99/7 (25 Reviews)

"About 3 km away from Chowk Market, I would request to walk along Lebong Road. Walking experience would be lovely and gradually you will reach Happy Valley. The valley will make you feel happy seeing the beauty of nature and tea garden. The tea..." - **Suvobroto Ray chaudhuri, Kolkata, 3 days ago**

9 Rangit Valley Passenger Cable Car

Type: Offbeat Attraction

Entry: Free

Ranked: 9 Of 75

Ratings: 6.22/7 (22 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Saturday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Sunday - 09:00 To 18:00 , Public Holidays - 09:00 To 18:00

"this tourist place is one of the hottest attraction among tourists. Here you can enjoy the ride of ropeway. This ride will take about an hour where you can enjoy the scenic beauty of the surrounding nature. So this is a must place to visit if you are..." - **Ratul Mukherjee**, Kolkata, 2 weeks ago

10 Kanchunjunga

Type: View Point

Entry: Free

Ranked: 10 Of 75

Ratings: 6.53/7 (21 Reviews)

Timings: Monday - Friday - 07:00 To 19:00 , Saturday - 07:00 To 19:00 , Sunday - 07:00 To 19:00 , Public Holidays - 07:00 To 19:00

"To see the sunrise behind the Kanchanjunga was the amazing scenario. We visited the place a very early morning and saw the beautiful & memorable scenario that we never saw before. The weather was very cold and airy, needed some warm-able..." - **Sushanta Shit**, Durgapur, 1 week ago

Popular hotels in Darjeeling recommended by HolidayIQ.com travellers

1 Mayfair Hill Resort Hotel



Price: Rs. 10,000 - 18,000

Ranked: 1 Of 235

Ratings: 5.93/7 (148 Reviews)

Address: The Mall

Opposite Governor House

Phone: 3542256376

Website: www.mayfairhotels.com

"I stayed for 3 nights in the hotel in March with my wife and grandson. It is on the hill slope. A 4 star property having perfect maintenance. Rooms are cosy and warm. Most importantly I must mention the help that was extended to us during odd..." - **Basab Ray Chaudhuri**, Kolkata, 3 weeks ago

[Read 148 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

2 Viceroy Hotel



Price: Rs. 7,000 - 9,000

Ranked: 2 Of 235

Ratings: 5.64/7 (52 Reviews)

Address: 17, Gandhi Road

Darjeeling

Phone: 354-2256165

Website: [Www.viceroyhoteldrj.com](http://www.viceroyhoteldrj.com)

"we went for a tour and going to the place was a bit horrible in those roads. And the area didnt seem promising. So i thought it would be a below average hotel. Even the from view of the hotel was not that good. But after reaching there the..." - **Joel Jose**, , 3 months ago

[Read 52 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

3 Sinclairs Darjeeling Hotel



Price: Rs. 5,400 - 5,950

Ranked: 3 Of 235

Ratings: 5.37/7 (102 Reviews)

Address: 181/1

Gandhi Road

Darjeeling

Phone: 3542256432

Website: [Www.sinclairshotels.com](http://www.sinclairshotels.com)

"I have never come across such a wonderful staff and amazing restaurant in single hotel.amazing kanchenjunga view n great rooms.perfect location.everything makes it the perfect destination hotel.ppl dont giv it a second thought.just go fr it and..." - **Apoorva singh** , , 3 days ago

[Read 102 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

4 Krishna Residency



Price: Rs. Upto 4,800

Ranked: 4 Of 235

Ratings: 5.31/7 (83 Reviews)

Address: 51/1, Lebong Cart Road

Darjeeling

Phone: 91-3542259270

Website: [Www.krishnadarjeeling.com](http://www.krishnadarjeeling.com)

"Food is served in time particularly complimentary breakfast. Nice staffs particularly Mr.Rajeev who is a really taking care of guests in getting a cab..information about sight seeing ..etc.. The only remark is the room can be kept still clean by..." - **P n ponnuswamy** , Bangalore, 2 weeks ago

[Read 83 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

5 The Elgin



Price: Rs. Upto 11,950

Ranked: 5 Of 235



Ratings: 5.38/7 (32 Reviews)

Address: Darjeeling

Phone: 354-2257227

Website: [Www.elginhotels.com](http://www.elginhotels.com)

"My wife and I stayed for three nights at this lovely lodge. We really enjoyed the tea service (come on, it's Darjeeling). We were a 5-10 minute walk from most of the interesting sites in town (the market is 5 minutes away, the botanical garden..." - **Gaurav**, Delhi, 2 months ago

[Read 32 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

6 Central Nirvana



Price: Rs. 4,000 - 7,000

Ranked: 6 Of 235

Ratings: 5.33/7 (128 Reviews)

Address: CR Das Road

Below Chowrasta (The Mall)

Darjeeling

Phone: 9832346012

"Hotel is located at excellent location from where Mt. Kanchanjunga is visible. Hotel staff is very nice & cordial. Good Breakfast served with various options. Garden is beautiful. Rooms with proper amenities. Timing of restaurant..." - **Puneet Khurana**, Delhi, 1 week ago

[Read 128 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

7 Central Heritage



Price: Rs. 7,700 - 8,800

Ranked: 7 Of 235

Ratings: 5.31/7 (136 Reviews)

Address: Robertson Road

Darjeeling

Phone: 0354-2258721

Website: [Www.centralhotels.in/Central-Heritage](http://www.centralhotels.in/Central-Heritage)

"great place to stay in darjeeling, it has been a long time to have a vacation with family and to stay with family you need a place where needs of everyone can be cater under one roof and we had found this as solution , it was a real pleasure to..." - **Abhishak joshi**, Ajmer, 2 weeks ago

[Read 136 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

8 Summit Yashshree Suites & Spa



Price: Rs. Upto 5,000

Ranked: 8 Of 235



Ratings: 5.47/7 (69 Reviews)

Address: H.D Lama Road
Daroga Bazaar
Darjeeling

Phone: 354-2252128

Website: [Www.summithotels.in](http://www.summithotels.in)

"Good in all respect . Good hospitality , well maintained room , good food and services. Well behaved staff punctual in their works. Traditional welcoming of guest with warm welcome drinks. Great location of religious surrounding of Mosque ,..." - **Imran Ali**, Kolkata, 4 days ago

[Read 69 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

9 The Bellevue Hotel



Price: Rs. 1,800 - 4,600

Ranked: 9 Of 235

Ratings: 5.16/7 (63 Reviews)

Address: PO Box 28

The Mall
Darjeeling

Phone: 354-2254075

Website: [Www.darjeeling-Bellevuehotel.com](http://www.darjeeling-Bellevuehotel.com)

"The Bellevue offers a great location, being right on Chowrasta, easily accessible from the club stand. It has an old-world charm; the rooms are large and comfortable overlooking a small garden, bright with flowers. The service is prompt and the..." - **Indraneel ghosh** , , 1 month ago

[Read 63 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

10 Sonar Bangla Hotel



Price: Rs. 1,800 - 3,000

Ranked: 10 Of 235

Ratings: 5.46/7 (185 Reviews)

Address: 1/1- Robertson Road

Next To Indian Bank
Darjeeling

Phone: 3333258369

Website: [Www.hotelsonarbangla.com](http://www.hotelsonarbangla.com)

"Good location near to mall ...big advantage is car goes to the hoteldoor..room size is small for standard room as I checked in standard room.food served hot.breakfast complimentary but not in buffet ...only purisabji ...or aloo paraantha they..." - **Debjyoti konar** , , 1 week ago

[Read 185 hotel reviews on HolidayIQ.com](#)

Popular Darjeeling packages

1 Hotel Anand Palace

Rs: 1900
No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night
Destination: Darjeeling
Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

2 The Retreat

Rs: 1900
No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night
Destination: Darjeeling
Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

3 Hotel Golden Height Enclave

Rs: 2000
No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night
Destination: Darjeeling
Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

4 Hotel Yuma

Rs: 1400
No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night
Destination: Darjeeling
Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

5 Hotel North Star

Rs: 1400
No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night
Destination: Darjeeling
Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

6 Hotel Mohit

Rs: 1450
No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night
Destination: Darjeeling
Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

7 Travellers Inn

Rs: 1350
No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night
Destination: Darjeeling

Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

8 Hotel Sunflower

Rs: 1500

No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night

Destination: Darjeeling

Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

9 Hotel Shambhu

Rs: 1100

No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night

Destination: Darjeeling

Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

10 Hotel Shanti Palaz

Rs: 900

No of days: 2 Days & 1 Night

Destination: Darjeeling

Travel Agent: Speed Holidays

Darjeeling weather

Best Season / Best Time to Visit Darjeeling



A picturesque hill station in the state of West Bengal, Darjeeling experiences five distinct seasons: summer which prevails from April to June, monsoons from July to August, autumn from September to November, winter from December to January, and spring from February to March. The average annual maximum temperature is 14.9° Celsius, while the average minimum temperature is 8.9° Celsius.

The summer in Darjeeling is quite comfortable with the temperature never crossing 25° Celsius. The mild weather attracts a lot of tourists to Darjeeling who throng the town to escape the summer heat.

The short monsoon that Darjeeling experiences is characterized by intense downpour which often leads to landslides and road blocks. The average annual rainfall here is about 3092 mm.

Autumn in Darjeeling is quite beautiful, though it is marked by the occasional showers.

Darjeeling experiences cold winters with the average temperature remaining within 5° Celsius to 7° Celsius, and an average minimum temperature of -2° Celsius. Snowfall is rare nowadays, but there it does get the occasional winter showers which further dips the temperature and also causes landslides.

Springtime in Darjeeling is beautiful with greenery and flowers all around. During this time the temperature remains between 10° Celsius to 20° Celsius and the weather is ideal for exploring the town.

The best season to visit Darjeeling is between March to May, and September to November. During this time, the weather remains pleasant with clear blue skies and bright days. Tourists can enjoy roaming around the scenic hill-station and can also catch a glimpse of the breathtaking view of the sunrise on the Kanchenjunga from the Tiger Hill.

About HolidayIQ.com

HolidayIQ.com is a premier holiday information portal powered by India's first & biggest travel community; enabling travellers to first discover numerous vacation choices, then plan holiday trips in full detail