

Local Points of Interest

Karma Rabten Choeling or the Old Ralang Monastery

Situated 4 Kilometres from Borong, the old Ralang monastery, *Karma Rabten Choeling*, was built in 1730 and is the first Kagyupa Monastery in Sikkim. The monastery is known for its annual “*Pang Lhabso*” (worship of Mt Khangchendzonga) and “*Kagyad*” Chaam (religious mask dance)

Palchen Choeling Monastic Institute or the New Ralang Monastery

Situated 5 Kilometres from Borong, The New Ralang Monastery (*Palchen Choeling Monastic Institute*) was built by the XIIth Gyaltsab Rinpoche, one of the four regents of the Karma Kagyu lineage in 1995. One of the biggest monasteries in Sikkim, its architecture and paintings retains the authenticity of the Kagyupa monasteries from Tibet. The *Black Hat* dance and the display of *Magen Garsum* takes place in February while the *Tsechu Chaam* and *Vajra Kilaya Chaam* are performed in alternate years on the 4th Buddhist month (May-June). The sacred *Mahakala* Dance is also held annually in November.

Tathagata Tsal

Situated 12 kms from Borong, Tathagata Tsal is a beautiful 20-acre size Buddha Park that features a giant statue of *Sakyamuni Buddha* (130 ft high). The park is beautifully landscaped, creating ample walkway, gardens and space for visitors to enjoy the serene surroundings. The park has a meditation centre which is used for Buddhist conclaves.

Silver Falls and Barmeley Bridge

Perfect for those seeking for splendid isolation, *Silver Falls* and *Barmeley Bridge* (hanging suspension bridge) about 5 kms from Wild Flower Retreat present picturesque views of the surrounding mountains, accompanied with the chirping sounds of colourful birds. Both are easily accessible by car or on foot and are known to be popular stop-overs for trekkers heading to *Phamtam* village.

Lasooney

Located 12 Kilometres from Wild Flower Retreat, locals claim it is Sikkim's best viewpoint of Mount Kanchenjunga.

Samdruptse

This is a place near Namchi in South Sikkim in Samdruptse which means in Bhutia language “The Wish Fulfilling Hill”. A 135 ft unique statue of Guru Padmasambhava is installed at the top of Samdruptse. His Holiness the Dalai Lama laid the foundation stone of the statue. It is said to be the highest statue of Guru Padmasambhava in the world.

Tendong Hill

At an altitude of 8530 ft. this prominent landmark of South Sikkim, Tendong is immersed in myths and lore passed down through generations of the ethnic Lepchas. It gets its name, meaning “the upraised horn” from the Lepcha lore that when their land was submerged in water, Tendong supported a boat containing some people and rose up like a horn above the flood waters. When the water subsided, so did Tendong. To this day, a monk leaves for the Tendong hilltop with the arrival of monsoons. He stays there throughout the rains, praying that the calamity does not repeat.

Temi Tea Garden

The one and only tea garden in Sikkim produces top quality tea for the international market. The garden spreads out on a gentle hill slope and provides a panoramic view

Sikip

Sikip, located in South District of Sikkim is a very famous destination for its beautiful atmosphere. Situated on the banks of Rangeet River, the place boasts splendid natural surroundings and excellent opportunities for camping and angling. Besides, the turbulent waters of Rangeet River offer perfect opportunities for rafting. With lot of angling, camping and rafting, Sikip is the paradise for adventure lovers.

Treks and Hikes

Borong Tsachu

Hot water spring on the bank of River Rangit. One has to travel 7 Kms by car and then 30 minutes of moderate hiking. High in sulphur content, its waters are believed to have great medicinal properties with average temperature close to 50 degrees

Maenam Hill Trek

The Hill towers over South Sikkim with Tendong on one side and Ravangla Bazaar on the other. On a clear day, it is even possible to see the plains of West Bengal and a Himalayan span of the Indo-China border towards the North. A short distance away is the legendary Bhaley Dunga, a kind of rocky spur which juts out from the ridge top and remains suspended in the air above Yangang Village. The trek to Maenam from Ravangla takes about 4 hours and from Maenam hilltop one has the option to take the gentle walk down to Borong village or the more treacherous trails taken by the famous British Botanist, Sir Joseph Hooker, down to Yangang village.

Dhappar Lake

This lake is about 15 kms of moderate trekking from Borong. A visit to the beautiful Dhappar lake will require a one night halt. Camping stuff needs to be carried and can be arranged by Wild Flower Retreat upon prior request.

Kalapokhri Lake

This is a one day trek from Dhappar Lake. It will require camping which can be arranged by Wild Flower Retreat upon prior request.

Namchi to Borong Trek

This is a trekking route that starts from Namchi and ends in Borong which takes about 6 days to complete.
