

## Rail Trails

### Darjeeling Himalayan Rail Tour January-February 2013

#### Proposed Itinerary

- 25th.-JAN-2013: Day 1

Guests are received and checked in to Hotel Lindsay, Calcutta, on their arrival at Netaji Subhas International Airport, Calcutta.

In the evening they are driven in Air conditioned cabs to Howrah Station, one of India's oldest Railway stations, from where they also get a grand view of one of Calcutta's prominent landmarks the Howrah Bridge across the Hoogly River. Followed by a visit to the Eastern Railway Museum, adjacent the Howrah Station, which houses amongst other Steam exhibits, a DHR B Class locomotive.

Next would be an evening River Cruise on a chartered motor launch along the Hoogly River, the best way to enjoy what still remains of the old Calcutta River front from the days of the Raj.

Dinner would be served at the hotel.

- 26th.- JAN-2013: Day 2

After breakfast at the hotel Guests would be driven to the nearby Esplanade Terminus of the Calcutta Tramways, for a Tram ride to Khidderpore and back, through the Maidan, one of the very few green patches left intact, with majestic views of Calcutta's colonial structures like the Governor House, Afghan War tower, Grand Hotel, Natural history Museum, Fort William, Khidderpore Bridge, Vidyasagar Bridge (New Howrah Bridge), Victoria Memorial Hall, and the Race Course. Guests would get some free time to look around and shop for curios opposite the hotel at Calcutta's oldest Market, aptly named as "New Market" (aka S.S Hogg Market).

Later in the night Guests would be taken to the Sealdah Railway station in the heart of Calcutta to board the Darjeeling Mail (2-Tier Air Conditioned sleeper accommodations) in order to make the overnight journey to New Jalpaiguri.

- 27th.- JAN-2013: Day 3

On reaching New Jalpaiguri, Guests would be driven in pre-arranged cabs to the Siliguri, where they would be checked into a hotel. Breakfast would be served at the hotel. Later in the day Guests would be taken to Siliguri Railway station to take a Chartered Steam ride (First Class seating accommodations on a DHR train between Siliguri and Rongtong and back. This train would be headed by a DHR B Class Steam locomotive. Dinner would be served at the hotel in Siliguri.

- 28th.- JAN-2013: Day 4

Guests would be checked out of the hotel in Siliguri soon after breakfast and would be driven along the Hill Cart road to Darjeeling in pre-arranged air conditioned cabs. The Hill Cart road has the DHR tracks alongside all along the way to Darjeeling. At Darjeeling Guests would be checked in to Dekeling Hotel, at the mouth of the famous "Darjeeling Mall". In the evening Guests would be offered cups of refreshing Darjeeling Tea at one of the town's most reputed Tea houses. Dinner would be made available at the Dekeling hotel's restaurant.

- 29th.- JAN-2013: Day 5

Soon after breakfast there would be yet another DHR train ride, this time Guests would be taken to Kurseong from Darjeeling on a DHR passenger train (first class seating accommodations), headed by one of the new DHR NDM6 class diesel locomotives. Later in the afternoon Guests would again enjoy a similar DHR train ride on their return journey to Darjeeling from Kurseong. Tea would be served at a local café in Darjeeling and later dinner at the hotel.

- 30th.- JAN-2013: Day 6

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, there would be yet another DHR train ride, this time on a Steam train headed by a DHR B class loco, which would do a round trip from Darjeeling to Ghum and back, with a stopover at the breath taking "Batasia" loop. At Ghum Guests would get to visit the DHR museum adjacent to the station. The rest of the day at Darjeeling would be free time when our Guests would be able to stroll on their own and shop for mementos at the local bazaar. Dinner would be served at the hotel.

- 31st.- JAN-2013: Day 7

Soon after breakfast cabs would take our Guests on a site seeing tour in and around Darjeeling town to visit amongst others, The Governors Residence, Botanical Gardens, Mountaineering Institute, Tenzing Rock, Zoological Gardens, and Monasteries. After Tea at a local café, the rest of the evening would be free time for our Guests to stroll around "Darjeeling Mall". Dinner would be served at the hotel.

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- *1st.-FEB-2013: Day 8*

*Our Guests would be checked out of their hotel soon after breakfast and get one last chance to take a stroll around Darjeeling town before cabs would drive them back to the New Jalpaiguri station for their overnight journey on board Darjeeling Mail back to Calcutta. They would be served dinner before boarding the train at a local restaurant.*

- *2nd. - FEB-2013: Day 9*

*Guests would reach Calcutta in the morning and after breakfast at a café, they would be checked back at Hotel Lindsay. Later in the afternoon Guests would be taken on a Calcutta Metro rides, between Esplanade and Tollygunge stations and back. In the evening they would be driven to Paul Industrial Company's brass Garden Trains manufacturing facility in the city, where each Guest would be gifted each with 2 brass made 16mm scale Garden Railway NG coaches produced by the Company as the Rail Tour memento. Tea would be served to the Guests, and later they would be driven back to the hotel where they would be served dinner.*

- *3rd. - FEB-2013: Day 10*

*This would be the last day of the Rail Tour, Guests would be checked out of the hotel after a hearty breakfast, and cabs would drop them to the Netaji International Airport, Calcutta, from where they can board their return flights home.*

### **Price and Inclusions:**

The cost per person is INR140000/- and includes the following:

*Hotels:* All Hotel accommodations in Calcutta, Siliguri and Darjeeling

*Meals:* All selected breakfasts, Dinners and Teas during the tour. *Drinks are at cost and are to be borne by the Guests.*

*Train, Transfers and Transport:* All pickups and drops from Airports and Railway Stations. Relevant Transfers and transports between places in Air conditioned cabs/taxis. Overnight journeys (2 Tier Air Conditioned Sleeper accommodations), by Darjeeling Mail between Sealdah and New Jalpaiguri stations.

*Rides, Visits and Cruise:* DHR Steam and Diesel train rides (First Class Seating accommodations). Calcutta Tram and Metro rides. Hoogly River cruise and Zoological/Botanical Gardens/Museums visits.

### **Weather:**

*Calcutta/Siliguri:* Generally this time of the year it's winter in India and days are sunny and cool while nights are relatively chilly, with an average temperature of around 20 degree Centigrade.

*Darjeeling:* Being at the Himalayan foothills is cooler than the rest of the plains, with pleasant sunny days and pretty chilly nights with possibilities of light drizzles. With an average temperature of about 10 degree Centigrade.

Contact information:

Visit us at: <http://railtrails.yolasite.com>

### **Rail Trails,**

c/o, Paul Industrial Company, 30A, Kasundia Road, Howrah-711101, India.

Tel: +91-33-65551307; Fax: +91-33-26406248; e-mail: [tours.pline@gmail.com](mailto:tours.pline@gmail.com)

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