



## **ITINERARY - India - Vanishing Tribes November 2025 (DRAFT)**

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### **Day 1: November 23**

#### **Arrive Delhi**

We will arrange for you to be picked up from the airport. There will be a pre-tour meet 'n' greet with Nathan at the hotel starting at around 6pm.

### **Day 2: November 24**

#### **Delhi — Itanagar**

After breakfast, we head to the airport for our noon departure to Itanagar, the capital of the northeast Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. On arrival, we will be collected from the airport then we check in at our hotel.

After lunch, we pay a visit to a Buddhist Gumpa, a serene and spiritually significant monastery that stands as a testament to the rich Buddhist heritage of the region. We admire the intricate architecture, colourful murals and sacred relics that make this place a peaceful retreat for meditation and reflection.

Later in the afternoon, we visit the vibrant local market in Itanagar, where the culture and daily life of the locals come alive. The market buzzes with activity, offering a mix of traditional handicrafts, tribal textiles, bamboo products, and locally produced spices. We can interact with the local vendors to get a deeper understanding of their crafts and livelihoods.

### **Day 3: November 25**

#### **Itanagar — Ziro**

Today after breakfast we visit Ganga Lake which is renowned for its reflections on the water together with an array of local flora. Later this morning we visit a tribal market to capture shots of local culture and daily life.

Early in the afternoon, we set off on the 4-5 hour drive to the picturesque town of Ziro, which is inhabited mainly by the Apatani people. The area is renowned for its terraced paddy fields where the unique system of poly-culture and water management is practiced by the local people.

Ziro is almost a level valley enclosed on all sides by pine-clad low-stooping hills. The area, also known as the Apatani Plateau, is famous for Paddy-cum-Fish culture. Here we discover the local culture of the Apatani tribe, whose old ladies still practicing the unique tradition of nose plugs piercing and facial tattooing. The tribe practices Doniy Polo animism and believe in Sun and Moon.

We arrive in Ziro in the evening, where we check in at our hotel and enjoy dinner with the group.

**Day 4: November 26****Ziro**

Early this morning, we set off for the whole day to explore the local Apatani villages, where we witness the old ladies with their unique nose plugs and facial tattoos. We also make an excursion to the interior of the Ziro valley and visit Hong, the largest village of the Apatani community, as well as some other Apatani villages such as Bulla, Hari, and Hija. We eat lunch at a local village, and later return to our hotel for dinner.

**Day 5: November 27****Ziro — Majuli (5-6 hour drive)**

This morning, we visit Old Ziro view point where we have a panoramic view of Ziro valley. Later we visit the paddy fields to see the villagers working on fields (step farming). Later we drive down to Majuli, famously known as the world's largest (or, arguably, second largest) river island. It is formed by the Brahmaputra River to the south and east, the Subansiri River to the west, and a branch of the Brahmaputra River called Kherkutia Xuti to the north.

En route to the island, we stop at the Assam Tea Gardens to shot tea workers. If time permits, we make stopovers on roadside paddy fields and villages as any photo opportunities present themselves. On arrival in Majuli Island we settle down in our guest house for our overnight stay.

**Day 6: November 28****Majuli**

We spend a full day exploring Majuli, which offers rich photographic opportunities at ancient Vaishnavite temples (satras) where monks perform traditional rituals. The Chamaguri Satra is renowned for its mask-making artisans, while the nearby Salmora village showcases traditional pottery-making. We visit the Mishing tribal villages, which present intimate glimpses of daily life, with traditional stilt houses and women weaving on handlooms along the Brahmaputra's banks.

Majuli is the cultural capital of the state of Assam. Shrimant Sankardeva established this practice of Vaishnavism in 16th century. Vaishnavism is a sect of Hinduism where they worship Lord Vishnu, The Protector, and his re-incarnation. The major population of this island is made up of the Mishing tribe, who are believed to be migrated from present Arunachal Pradesh.

**Day 7: November 29****Majuli — Mon Village (5-6 hour drive)**

We set off early this morning to drive to Mon Village in Nagaland. We start our journey with a river cruise of around one and half hours, to reach the head of the road that connects to Mon Village. Along the way, we visit a few historical Ahom monuments, including the towering Shiva Dol temple in Sivasagar and the seven-story Kareng Ghar palace, showcasing the dynasty's architectural grandeur.

Mon Village is home to the Konyak Nagas, once feared headhunters who now welcome visitors to witness their distinct culture, including traditional face tattoos and ornate headdresses. They are famous for their accomplished craftsmanship in making woodcarvings, headgears, necklaces etc.

Upon arrival in Mon Village, we check in to our retreat. After lunch, we set off on a walking tour of Mon market and later we need to visit the police station for foreigners' registration.

**Day 8: November 30****Mon Village — Hongphoi — Mon Village**

After breakfast, we drive to Hongphoi Village, another Konyak settlement, which features a traditional morung (community hall) adorned with ancient wood carvings and animal skulls. The main attractions of the village are the colourful traditional attire and the beating of log drums in the morung. The village's centerpiece is the local king's house, decorated with ceremonial wooden pillars and relics from headhunting days. Here, Konyak elders share stories of their warrior past while wearing traditional brass ornaments. We return to our retreat in Mon Village for the night.

**Day 9: December 1****Mon Village — Longwa — Mon Village**

Longwa is situated in the eastern most tip of Nagaland and the village itself is right on the border in between India and Myanmar. The villages are ruled by the hereditary chief the 'Angh' (king). The house of the Angh of Longwa is situated half in India and half in Myanmar.

Today, we explore the village to meet and interact with the Angh, who oversees 16 villages in Myanmar and four villages in Indian territory under his sovereignty. We also meet some of the few last surviving head hunters in the village. We return to our retreat in Mon Village for the night.

**Day 10: December 2****Mon Village — Dibrugarh**

After an early breakfast, we drive down to Dibrugarh, a town in upper Assam surrounded by sprawling tea gardens. On arrival in Dibrugarh, we visit Jagannath temple, constructed in 2014 as a replica of the Shri Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha, which is one of the four major shrines of Hinduism. Later we visit the Brahmaputra riverside for sunset with its riverscapes and scenes of river life. We spend the night at our hotel in Dibrugarh.

**Day 11: December 3****Dibrugarh**

This morning, we visit one of the many tea gardens to take sunrise shots of the workers plucking tea leaves against the misty morning landscape. Later, we visit Graham Bazaar, a vibrant local marketplace bustling with activity, where we can capture authentic scenes of daily life as shopkeepers and sellers interact with their customers.

We can also visit a weaver's society in Dibrugarh, which showcases traditional Assamese textile craftsmanship. Here the local artisans demonstrate their skills in creating intricate handwoven fabrics using traditional techniques. We spend the night again at our hotel in Dibrugarh.

**Day 12: December 4****Dibrugarh — Delhi**

This morning, Nathan will run a picture review and post-processing session. We then check out from our hotel and head to the airport for our 14:20 departure to Delhi. We arrive at 17:45 then transfer to our hotel in Delhi Aerocity for dinner with the group and a well-deserved rest.

**Day 13: December 5****Departure from Delhi**

You have the day free at your leisure until our driver transfers you to the airport for your flight back home. We hope you have had an enjoyable and memorable experience!