

Sikkim, state in India, is located in the northeastern part of the country, in the eastern Himalayas. It's one of the smallest states in India. Sikkim is bordered by the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north & northeast, by Bhutan to the southeast, by the Indian state of West Bengal to the south, and by Nepal to the west. The capital is Gangtok in the southeastern part of the state.

The people of Sikkim consists of three ethnic groups, i.e Lepcha, Bhutia & Nepali. Communities of different hues intermingle freely in Sikkim to constitute a homogenous blend. Hindu temples coexist with Buddhist Monasteries, Churches, Mosque and Gurudwara. The predominant communities are Lepchas, Bhutias & Nepalese. These myriad cultures has produced a quintessential Sikkimese Culture that encompasses all ways & walk of life, but has also managed to preserve their own identity. These can also be seen in the various places of worship, festivals & cultural dances that are celebrated through the year.

The official languages of the state are English, Nepali, Sikkimese (Bhutia) & Lepcha. Additional official languages include Gurung, Limbu, Magar, Mukhia, Newari, Rai, Sherpa & Tamang for the purpose of preservation of culture & tradition in the state. Nepali is the lingua franca of Sikkim, while Sikkimese & Lepcha are spoken in certain areas. English is also spoken & understood in most of the Sikkim. Other languages include Dzongkha, Giroma, Hindi, Majhi, Majhuwar, Thelung, Tibetan & Yakha.

Sikkim's Nepalese majority celebrate all major Hindu festivals, including Tihar and Dashain. Traditional local festivals such as Maghe Sankranti, Sakela, Chasok Tangnam & Bhimsen Puja are popular. Losar, Saga Dawa, Lhabab Duechen, Drupka Teshi and Bhumchu are among the Buddhist festivals celebrated in Sikkim. During the Losar most offices & educational institutions are closed for a week. Sikkimese Muslims celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr & Muharram. Christmas has been promoted in Gangtok to attract tourists during off-season.