

# Sikkim Packing List

Everything to pack for Sikkim's Himalayan altitude, fast-changing mountain weather, and permit-controlled travel zones — built to pair with Indroam's Sikkim itinerary templates.

## WHY SIKKIM PACKING IS DIFFERENT

Sikkim is a small Himalayan state with dramatic elevation changes packed into short distances — Gangtok sits at a moderate hill-town altitude, while spots like Nathula Pass and parts of North Sikkim climb much higher and colder. Weather shifts quickly here: clear mornings can turn misty or rainy by afternoon, and the monsoon (June–September) brings landslide risk that can close roads with little warning. Several areas also require special permits for non-residents, and many monasteries expect quiet, modest behavior — so this list leans toward warmth, flexibility, and paperwork as much as clothing.

## CLOTHING

- Layered clothing: thermal base layer, a warm fleece, and a waterproof/windproof outer shell
- Warm hat, gloves, and a scarf — needed even outside winter at higher elevations like Nathula or Yumthang
- A reliable rain jacket — sudden showers are common, especially June–September
- Comfortable, quick-dry trekking clothes if visiting valleys or doing short hikes
- Modest clothing for monastery visits — covered shoulders and knees are expected
- A warm change of clothes for evenings, since temperatures drop quickly after sunset

## FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES

- Sturdy, waterproof trekking shoes — trails and roads can be muddy or icy depending on season and altitude
- Warm, moisture-wicking socks
- Sunglasses for glare at higher altitude and near snow
- A daypack for monastery visits and short nature walks
- Reusable water bottle
- Trekking poles if planning any of the longer valley or pass hikes

## HEALTH, DOCUMENTS & TECH

- Inner Line Permit / Protected Area Permit documents required for several Sikkim regions — arrange these in advance through approved channels
- Multiple passport-size photos and ID copies, often needed for permit applications
- Personal medication and basic altitude-sickness precautions for higher routes
- Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF for high-altitude UV exposure
- Hand sanitizer and wet wipes
- Portable charger and a universal plug adapter (India: Type C/D/M) — useful given patchy connectivity in remote valleys

Permit requirements and approved routes for North Sikkim and border-adjacent areas change periodically, so confirm current rules before finalizing your itinerary.