

Sikkim Travel Permit Checklist and guide

(Easy Guide for Every Traveler!)

Planning to visit Sikkim? Some parts of Sikkim are close to borders, so you need special travel permits to enter. If you don't have the right papers, you may not be allowed to go ahead.

This is a simple checklist helps you get everything ready before your trip.

1. Places That Need Permits

- North Sikkim: Lachen, Lachung, Gurudongmar Lake, Yumthang Valley, Zero Point
- East Sikkim: Tsomgo Lake, Nathula Pass
- Old Silk Route: Zuluk, Gnathang Valley, Kupup
- Restricted Border Areas: Dzongu, Gurudongmar, Nathula

You don't need a permit for Gangtok, Namchi, Pelling, or Ravangla. These are all beautiful spots, Snows, mountains and lakes- but border areas are protected. That's why permits are needed for safety and record-keeping.

2. Documents You Must Have

- One valid photo ID (Passport, Voter ID, Driving License)
- Two passport-size color photos
- A photocopy of your ID
- A printout of your travel plan (itinerary helps!)
- Hotel booking receipt (some checkpoints ask for it)
- For foreigners: Passport, Indian visa, and Inner Line Permit (ILP)

Tip: Keep both soft copies and printouts with you- internet isn't always available in hilly areas.

3. If You Have Your Own Car or Bike

- Vehicle Registration Certificate (RC)
- Driver's License
- Pollution Certificate (PUC)
- Vehicle Insurance paper
- Owner's permission letter (if the vehicle is not yours)

Outside vehicles are sometimes not allowed in North Sikkim. You may need to hire a local vehicle beyond checkpoints.

4. How Long It Takes

If you do it through a local agency, it usually takes 1-2 hours. If you try on your own, be ready for:

- Standing in line at the Tourism Office
- Filling multiple forms manually
- Getting signatures and stamps from officers
- Sometimes visiting again the next day if offices are closed
- Confusion about which permit you actually need

It's not impossible- just time-consuming and tiring if you're new to Sikkim.

5. Where You Can Get Permits

- Tourism Office, Gangtok (MG Marg area)
- District Administrative Centers (for North or East Sikkim)
- Border check-post offices (for final stamping)
- Registered travel agencies (they handle it all for you)
-

6. Permit Office Time

- Open: 7: 00 AM - 4:00 PM | Closed: Sundays & Government Holidays. You can apply only during
- office hours- so plan early in the day!

7. Rules & Regulations You Must Follow

- Always carry your original ID proof
- Keep a photocopy of your permit- you'll show it at many checkpoints
- No drones allowed near army areas or lakes
- No littering or loud music in restricted zones
- Follow the army and police instructions- they keep you safe
- Foreigners are not allowed at Nathula Pass .
- Don't argue at check posts- officers are just following rules

8. What Happens If You Try to Do It All Alone

- You may waste a full day standing in line at the tourism office
- You might miss out on some destinations because you didn't know certain permits were needed.
- You could get rejected if your documents are incomplete
- You'll have to come back again the next day
- You might lose hotel or taxi bookings if your permit gets delayed

That's why local travel agencies are so helpful- they already know every form, office, and officer. They'll do it fast, legally, and safely, while you relax.

9. Final Checklist Before You Travel

- Valid Photo ID (Original + Copy)
- 2 Passport-size Photos
- Hotel Booking Printout
- Vehicle Papers (if driving)
- Permit Printout
- Local Contact or Agency Info
- Snacks & Water (for long checkpoints)

Bonus Tip from Locals

Always keep your permit in a ziplock or file- rain and snow can damage papers. Take a photo of your permit on your phone - in case you lose it.

For Further Queries you can contact

Galaxy Tours & Travels

+91 9832044536

Tourhimalayas.com