

**ARUNCHAL PRADESH, MANIPUR, KAZIRANGA, AND  
SEKRENYI IN NAGALAND  
February 13 – March 1, 2012**

First to Manipur, then through some of the more beautiful and interesting parts of remote Arunchal Pradesh. Then to Kaziranga National Park for rhinos and a wide range of other mammals and birds. To Nagaland for the memorable Sekrenyi festival in Kohima and Toupheema.

<u>February</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Night</u>
13 M	Meet at the Amari Boulevard Hotel in the lobby at 6 PM. Orientation, group dinner option.	Bangkok
14 T	Fly to Kolkata and on to Imphal in Manipur. Transfer to hotel, walking tour of area, market, or relax.	Imphal (B)
15 W	Begin with Govindajee Temple and then to other Vaishnavite centers. Manipuris are mostly Vaishnavites and those in the Diaspora return here on pilgrimages. The village pottery making, other villages, Kangla Fort.	Imphal (B,L,D)
16 Th	AM: Visit Khwairamband Bazar of Ima (mothers) Market. Women run the market. Handicrafts and beautiful weaving. Then the WWII cemetery. Afternoon: To Ukrul, check in at hotel, walking tour of town.	Ukrul (B,L,D)
17 F	Visit very traditional villages, see collections of skulls from the old days. Village gardens, farming. Afternoon back to Imphal, free for individual activity. I or the guide can escort you.	Imphal (B,L,D)
18 S	Fly to Guwahati in Assam, cross the Bramaputra and eastward to Tezpur. City tour and Cole Park.	Tezpur (B,L,D)
19 S	Drive to Ziro in Arunchal Pradesh. Visit Nishi tribal villages. The Ziro area is home to the Apatani tribal people; they are heavily tattooed and the women have the wooden nose plugs. The latter are no longer common.	Ziro (B,L,D)
20 M	Entire day visiting Apatani villages. Very traditional. Paddy and hill rice. A very intricate sustainable agriculture.	Ziro (B,L,D)
21 T	Down to Itanagar in Assam. Drive through heavy forest. Visit Buddhist temple, markets.	Itanagar (B,L,D)
22 W	Cross the Bramaputra and to Kaziranga National Park. A World Heritage Site and a paradise for bird watchers. Rhinos, wild buffalo and elephant, several deer species, wild hogs, about 100 tigers. Afternoon: Jeep safari in the park.	Kaziranga (B,L,D)
23 Th	Early: Elephant ride in the park. Rhinos, deer, wild buffalo, wild pigs, lots of bird species, possibly a tiger. Later: Visit Mishing village on the floodplain. Interesting weaving. Odd fish in their catch; I saw one that would flip up, land on four fins, and walk away. Afternoon: Jeep safari in the park. In addition to the mammals we will see dozens of bird species. I have seen several raptors, hornbills, and pied kingfisher.	Kaziranga (B,L,D)

24 F	AM: To Kohima in Nagaland. Check in at hotel. Then watch Sekrenyi preparations, walk to shops or markets.	Kohima (B,L,D)
25 S	All day at Sekrenyi Festival: music, traditional dance, muzzleloaders fired into the sky, various contests, a feast. Late afternoon to the State Museum.	Kohima (B,L,D)
26 S	To ToupHEMA, an Angami Naga village. We stay in chalets, each built by a khel (clan) of the village. A lovely place. More of the Sekrenyi Festival. Dancing and singing competitions. Two years ago I encountered about 20 women in circle who were singing in parts as they spun cotton. Singing for themselves. It was a very moving experience.	ToupHEMA (B,L,D)
27 M	Drive to Tsimenyu Village of the Rengma Naga. Interesting village and great weaving. Later: Walk through Old ToupHEMA village. Evening: Traditional dinner and dance around campfire.	ToupHEMA (B,L,D)
28 S	To Khonoma (Google it), a town with a valorous and often tragic history. The town has garnered international attention for aspects of its agriculture, particularly the use of alder trees. Beyond Khonoma into the mountains to see the mithun ( <i>Bos frontalis</i> ). Back to Kohima, visit the large WWII cemetery. The Battle of Kohima lasted from early April to early July 1944 and marked the high point of Japanese expansion.	Kohima (B,L,D)
29 W	Travel down to Dimapur, fly to Kolkata and then Bangkok. Transfer to Amari, group dinner an option.	Bangkok (B,L)

### March

1 Th	Tour ends after breakfast.	(B)
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The cost of \$4,155 (beginning at the Amari) covers all air, hotels, vans, guides, airport transfers, all admits, Restricted Area Permits, and food as inticated. Single supplement is \$866. It does not include laundry, any tips, private taxi, a possible camera fee at Kaziranga, and the visa to India.

The tour is organized and escorted by Dr. Robert Phillips, who has led six previous tours to this area.

Days should be clear and sunny, with day temperatures of around 70 degrees and nites of 50-60.

A deposit of \$500 will hold a place. Final payment by December 20.

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It is best to communicate by email as I am away from home a lot of the time.