

## Tourist Attractions Sikkim Old Silk Route



**Old Silk Route** in Eastern part of the country is mainly unique and one of the best tourist attractions of the country. The nature near the Zuluk area is a biker's enjoyment and the entire feeling greatest joy and satisfaction. It is a must ride for each biker. The China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) could be the reason for the cheering of recent Silk Route. Padamchen is a small village at a distance of 5.5 kilometers from Nimachen that houses 60 families and a small school. The entire population of this village is 300 by 2014. Zuluk is a small little village with a small bunch of homes on the Silk Route valley. Not so long time ago Chinese traders used to travel to the Asian country through India crossing the border to sell silk and thereby the area has been named Silk Route. This place is so attractive for every biker since the location offers extremely beautiful scenic beauty at the side of the road. For persons who're feeling adventurous, that cannot be compared to an outing across the Old Silk route. There's only one wire barrier that divides India & China border. Small cities and rapidly increasing villages cover the old Silk Route near the Chinese border has become a famous place for visitors.

**Kupup** is located at the height of 13,025 from the sea level. It is famous for a Golf Course which is also featured in the Guinness Book of World Records on 10th of October, 2006. Another tourist attraction is the Hati Lake or Elephant Lake which is located near Kupup. It is called so because of its shape like an Elephant or Hati.

**Gnathang** is one of the most attractive villages in east Sikkim. It is located at the height of 12700 feet from the ocean level. It takes approximately 3 hours to reach Gnathang by roads from the capital of Sikkim i.e Gangtok via Tshongo Lake. One can take another way to reach Gnathang via Rongil however that takes nearly 7 hours. Besides natural beauty, it has some historical importance as well since there is a Century old British War Memorial at Gnathang. There are around fifteen graveyards in the War Memorial of those troopers who represented the British military that fought a war against the Tibetan Army in 1888 at Gnathang.



**Tukla Valley** is another very well known place to go on the way to the Old-Silk-Route. Tukla Valley is located at a height of 12500 foot. It is one of the best snow falling zones during the winter. Tukla valley houses the famous war memorial, which was built to commemorate the death of British troopers who died in the Battle of Tukla.

### **Lungthung**

The place is famous for its great scenic beauty. The view from Lungthung is extremely picturesque. On one side there is the beautiful Kanchendzonga and on the other side, there is the curved road which overall makes it a beautiful landscape. Lungthung is located at a height of 3000 foot from the ocean level and it takes around 1 hour from Zuluk to reach Lungthung. The view of the sunrise from Lungthung is extremely beautiful. The beauty of the place is totally different throughout different seasons. During the monsoon season, the entire stretch is lush green with clouds floating everywhere. In winters, the entire area is filled with snow and during the month of October and November, the view is the best and fabulous. It is the habitat of rare species i.e the Red Panda, which is the National Animal of Sikkim. If fortune is favorable the visitors might probably be able to get a glimpse of these rare species. The place is the habitat of several rare species like khaleez pheasant, monal pheasant and blood pheasant. Along with this, tourists can also spot red panda, the national animal of Sikkim. Tourists can also visit the famous Laxmi Chowk, which is located near Lungthung.

**Old Baba Mandir** or Adi baba Mandir is a very popular tourist spot on the way to Old Silk Route. The mandir is built in memory of Baba Harbhajan Singh a Sepoy within the twenty-third Regiment, who died a martyr's death while fighting for the nation during the Indo – China war in 1962. This temple was built and is maintained by the Indian Army. It is reported that Indian troopers receive favour and blessings from the baba while guarding the nation residing in this inhospitable terrain. Legend has it that he appeared in a dream a couple of days after he went missing and expressed his desire that a monument is inbuilt his memory. His fellow soldiers then built a temple which is now commonly known as the baba mandir. A bed is kept for him and his boots are polished and uniform kept prepared every night. It is believed that he still protects all the soldiers here from all types of adversaries. The Major continues to draw a salary and takes his annual leave. Indian Army offers Tea / Coffee and Prasad to the guests whoever visits the Harbhajan Singh Mandir.





**Padamchen** is a small village on the old silk route located at a distance of 5.5 km from Nimachen that houses 60 families and a small school. The total population of this village is near about 300 by 2014.

#### **Nimachen:**

Nimachen is a beautiful village located near Nimachen sanctuary and surrounded by hills and greenery.

**Menmecho Lake** is located in between Tukla valley and Kupup. Menmecho Lake is the primary source of water which feeds the Rongpo Chu (in native language chu which means river), one of the branches of river Teesta. It is a gorgeously beautiful lake which is filled up with snow during the winter season. It is surrounded by a dense forest and some rather interesting rock formations. Going near to Menmecho Lake is strictly prohibited for tourists. It can be viewed only from a distance.



**Aritar Lake** (Ghati-Tso) is a local attraction besides the ancient villages and monasteries such as Lingsay. Tourist might also choose to stay in the British-built house of 1895 placed half kilometer below the lake.





**Lingtam** is a very tiny village placed at the eastern part of the Historical Silk Route. It is located at the mountain top and enclosed by a lot of mountains. The altitude of Lingtam is 5000 ft. Here the climate always remains cold however not chilled. The temperature always remains in between 5 degrees to 25 Degree Centigrade. The weather always remains pleasant here. One can get a wonderful view of the beautiful surroundings from the hotel itself. There is Small River & waterfalls named Keu Khola. It is the main entrance of Silk Route.

**Thambi View point** is located towards the north of Zuluk. Journey to Thambi View is a unique experience for every tourist since they have to pass by a very differently curved zigzag road which encompasses 95 twists and turns through the 3 level winding road. This type of curved road is one of its kinds in the entire Himalayan region. After sunrise, the tourist may begin their journey from Lungthung through the Silk Route path and do the sight seeing in the places like Nathang valley, Tukla valley, Laxmi Chowk, Old baba Mandir, Kalapokhri, Jeelep-La Pass and reach Kupup. Thambi View is located at an altitude of 600 ft. above ocean level and it makes one of the best sunrise view point. The entire Eastern Himalayan region is distinctly visible from this viewpoint. From here tourists may also watch the unique zigzag road which they have to pass on their way.





## Home stay type in Old Silk Route

### Mercury Aritar Home stay



### Mercury Nimachen Home stay



### Mercury Agamllok Home stay





Mercury Padamchen Home stay



Mercury Zuluk Home stay



Mercury Sillery Home stay

