

STUDY TOUR TO SIKKIM FROM 24TH TO 28TH MARCH 2019

On the 25th of March, 2019 the Department of Economics (6th Semester) went for an excursion trip to Sikkim. Our team of 16 members which include 14 students and 2 teachers left from Shillong at 7am in the morning and reached Guwahati railway station at around 9am. We travelled from Guwahati to Siliguri by train for 8 hours. Then on reaching Siliguri we took a tourist cab to Gangtok for about 4 hours and finally reached Gangtok.

On the next day we started exploring Sikkim. We went to Tashi View Point which is situated in Gangtok only. From the view we could get a peak of the beautiful Mountain in the other side with all the beautiful and picturesque scenery. On the spot the Sikkim traditional attire were also displayed in which we got a chance to try it out.

On the next day, we visited the Ridge Flower Park where they display varieties of flowers including orchids which is famous in this place. Then on the same day, we also visited Ban Jharki Falls Park. On that way evening, we finally made a visit to the Directorate of Handicraft and Handloom displaying the various organic like tea leaves grown in the hills of Sikkim. We could also get bamboo shoot pickle and other food items display by the Directorate.

On the 28th we then made a visit to the famous Rumtek Monastery situated on East Sikkim. It is home to the communities of monks and where they perform the rituals and practices. A golden stupa contains the relics of the 16th Karmapa. Opposite the Rumtek Monastery is a college, Karma ShriNalanda Institute for higher Buddhist studies. While entering the monastery, we have to keep quiet because it's the religious place and we also did a prayer jointly with the monks.

Our last visit was to the famous lake i.e., Tsongolake which is 40 kms from Gangtok. A part from the beautiful lake which is frozen in winter, we also found other activities enjoyed by tourists. They include Yak riding and zip lining. This is a place where all our friends had the most wonderful time. On our way back from Tsongolake we also visited one of the famous market in Sikkim, M.G Morg. Here we bought some of the Sikkim souvenirs.

On our way back, we also made a stop in one factory called Sikkim Supreme. In this factory they deal with the processing of various fruit juices water, jams, pickles etc. We also got a sneak peek inside the factory during the process of making these items.

To conclude, it was a memorable experience. As tourism economics is an important area of study of how tourism plays a major role in promoting the development and the economy of the state.



