

North East- A Paradise

By

Ms. Manisha Amol

manisha_amol1211@yahoo.co.in

Abstract

This article explores the vibrant tourism potential of Assam and Meghalaya, highlighting iconic destinations like Kaziranga National Park, Maa Kamakhya Temple, Laitlum Canyon, and the Living Root Bridges. It showcases their unique natural beauty, cultural significance, and adventure opportunities.

Keywords

Assam, Meghalaya, Kaziranga, Kamakhya, Root Bridges

Introduction

It has rich natural landscapes, tribal cultures are followed, there are numerous breathtaking tourist destinations- Kaziranga National park, monasteries of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh are also popular. There are lots of activities like trekking, river rafting etc.

In this article, the main focus is on Assam and Meghalaya with brief descriptions on few prominent destinations in these two states.

Assam

Kaziranga National Park

It is a recognised UNESCO World Heritage Site well known for its one horned rhinos in the world's largest natural habitat.

It is widely spread over forests, wetlands, grasslands and other harbours many other wildlife species including tigers, elephants, water buffaloes and swamp deers.

The park offers jeep safaris and elephant rides to view the diverse wildlife in its natural habitat.

The huge landscape has vast stretches of elephant grass, reeds, marshes, small pools fed by Brahmaputra river.

The park is open during October- April months avoiding the monsoon season as it gets heavy rains flooding the area from Brahmaputra river.



Image 1: Rhinoceros in Kaziranga National Park

Maa Kamakhya Temple

It is located on Nilachal Hill in Guwahati- a well known centre for tantric worship. A key pilgrimage site for Hindus, sacred Shakti Peeth where the womb and reproductive organ of Mata Sati fell, symbolising goddess's power of creation.

The main deity is not an idol but a yoni shaped stone, representing the creative feminine energy, worshipping Goddess Kamakhya, which is always kept moist by an underground spring.

The temple is also famous for the Ambubachi mela, an annual festival celebrating the Goddess's menstruation during which the water of Brahmaputra river is said to turn red. Also known as the 'Bleeding Goddess.' During this period men are prohibited from entering the inner sanctum.



Image 2: Maa Kamakhya Temple

Maha Mritunjaya Temple

It is a unique temple built in the architectural form of a Shivling in Nagaon, Assam. The world's largest Shivling at a height of 126 feet. The location for this temple was chosen as Guru Shankaracharya performed 'Mahamritunjaya Mantra, hence it is named after it. An epitome of engineering feat, a very attractive temple for the devotees.



Image 3: Maha Mritunjaya Temple

Meghalaya

Laitlum Canyon

It is located near Shillong, offers a breathtaking view of the serene landscape, surrounded by lush green mountain ranges, spectacular sunrise, sunset moments. Best time to visit is during dry winter months in the afternoon as it gets foggy many at times in the mornings and evenings.



Image 4: Laitlum Canyon

Mawsmai Cave

It is located near Cherrapunji, that is famous for heavy rainfall in the east Khasi Hills. A big tourist attraction due to its accessibility and ease of walking through it. A cave that is known for its fossils and the intriguing formations on the walls. It is about 150 metres in length, but might get suffocating for people with claustrophobic symptoms. A well known limestone cave.



Image 5: Mawsmai Cave

Nohkalikai Falls

More popularly known as Seven Sisters. It is India's highest plunge waterfall from a height of 335 metres. Best time to visit is during monsoon as the waterfall is most powerful. It is believed that they symbolise the seven spiritual sisters that fled a suitor by transforming into water spilling over the cliff. The falls never intermingle with each other signifying eternal sisterhood and unity in love.



Image 6: Nohkalikai Falls

Living Root Bridges

It took years for this beautiful Botanical architecture to develop. There are many such natural bridges weaved from the giant roots of trees that last for generations. A spectacular bridge which is worth visiting.



Image 7: Living Root Bridges

Mawlynnong

Mawlynnong is famous for being Asia's cleanest village, a title it earned in 2003, but it's also known for its pristine natural beauty, sustainable eco-friendly practices, unique living root bridges, and peaceful atmosphere.

It is recognised for its communal commitment to waste management. Residents use bamboo dustbins and composting is done by every household. They happily participate in regular cleaning activities.

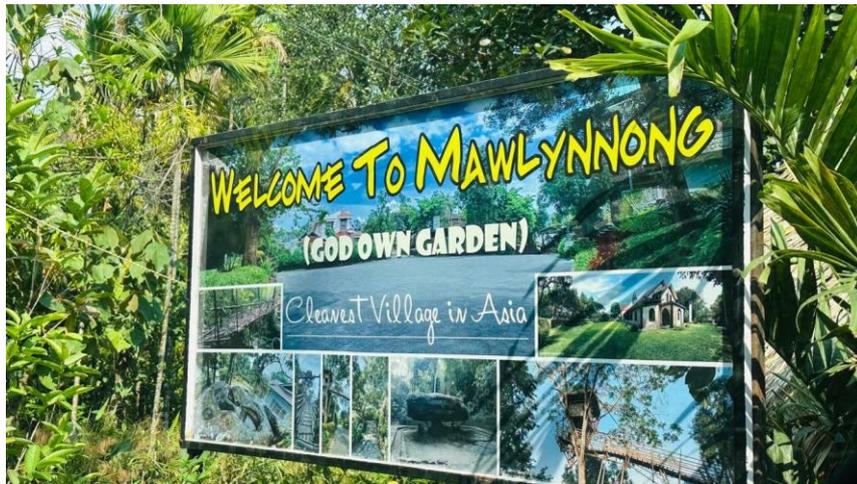


Image 8: Mawlynnong Village

Dawki River

Also known as Umngot river which is originating from Khasi Hills. It flows between India and Bangladesh forming a natural border. It is renowned for its crystal clear emerald green waters, wherein the riverbed is clearly visible. During rains the water gets muddy hence the best time to go is during winters or early summer. The Bangladesh border is clearly demarcated when you go boating. A very popular tourist destination.



Image 9: Dawki River

Conclusion

There are umpteen such tourist attractions in the land of seven states of North East. Though next to each other but quite unique in their language, landscape, flora, fauna, hills, grassland, rivers, tourist areas and so on. A must visit by enthusiastic tourists who wish to indulge in the nature's beauty.

About the Author

Ms. Manisha Amol, a science graduate from Hindu College, Delhi University, pursued an MBA in Marketing from IMT, Ghaziabad. She has worked with numerous corporations at various levels, earning several accolades for her achievements. Currently, she serves as a Director at a startup.

She embarked on her literary journey few years ago, focusing on English poetry, Hindi poetry, short stories, and ghazals. Manisha is actively involved with various online portals that promote English and Hindi literature. She has participated in numerous online talk shows, conducted live shows, and engaged in poetry sessions, receiving widespread appreciation for her work.

