

THE FORGOTTEN WAR TOUR

WITH DR ROBERT LYMAN

—
Kolkata, Kohima, Shillong

5 - 16 April 2024

SAMPAN

T R A V E L

Sampan creates journeys in Myanmar and India. Our journeys are for those seeking something different. They are journeys on the edge of adventure with authentic, unexpected experiences.

Our purpose is to create bridges between our guests and local people. To help travellers make a connection through unexpected encounters, to open their eyes to the possible and dive deep into remote destinations. All our journeys attempt to have a positive impact on local communities.

Our journeys are handcrafted. We offer full customization through an intimate service and personal recommendations. Sampan's team is based on-the-ground. This means that we are able to greet most of our guests in person upon arrival. It also ensures that we are in rhythm with the beat of the region, abreast of developments and intimately familiar with our partners. We try everything before we recommend it to our guests.



MEET BERTIE

Bertie moved from Berlin to Yangon in 2015. Since then he has worked to develop Sampan Travel as the best and most authentic conduit for travellers wishing to explore and learn about Myanmar.

Bertie remained in Myanmar throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the military coup which followed at the beginning of 2021. Bertie believes that responsible travellers have a vital role to play in Myanmar's future.

Bertie expanded Sampan to eastern India in 2022 and when not travelling either there or in Myanmar, is most likely to be found on his mountain bike or watching Liverpool FC.



THE FORGOTTEN WAR TOUR

The Burma Campaign of WW2 is often described as 'The Forgotten War'. However the stories of courage and audacity that come from it are as remarkable as in any of the other theatres of war.

In Sampan's Forgotten War Tour, historian Dr Robert Lyman takes us to Kohima, capital of modern-day Nagaland. Here in 1944, the Japanese attempted to knock out the Allied forces and march on Delhi. Instead, General Bill Slim's Fourteenth Army repelled the Japanese back into Burma.

Sampan's Forgotten War Tour is not a hop-on hop-off coach trip. Our itinerary incorporates staying overnight in Jessami, remote in the Naga Hills, and site of a crucial last stand battle in 1944. We will also be granted entry to the Assam Regiment barracks in Shillong. The tour is top-and-tailed by Kolkata, where we will explore revolutionary Bengal and the build up to war.

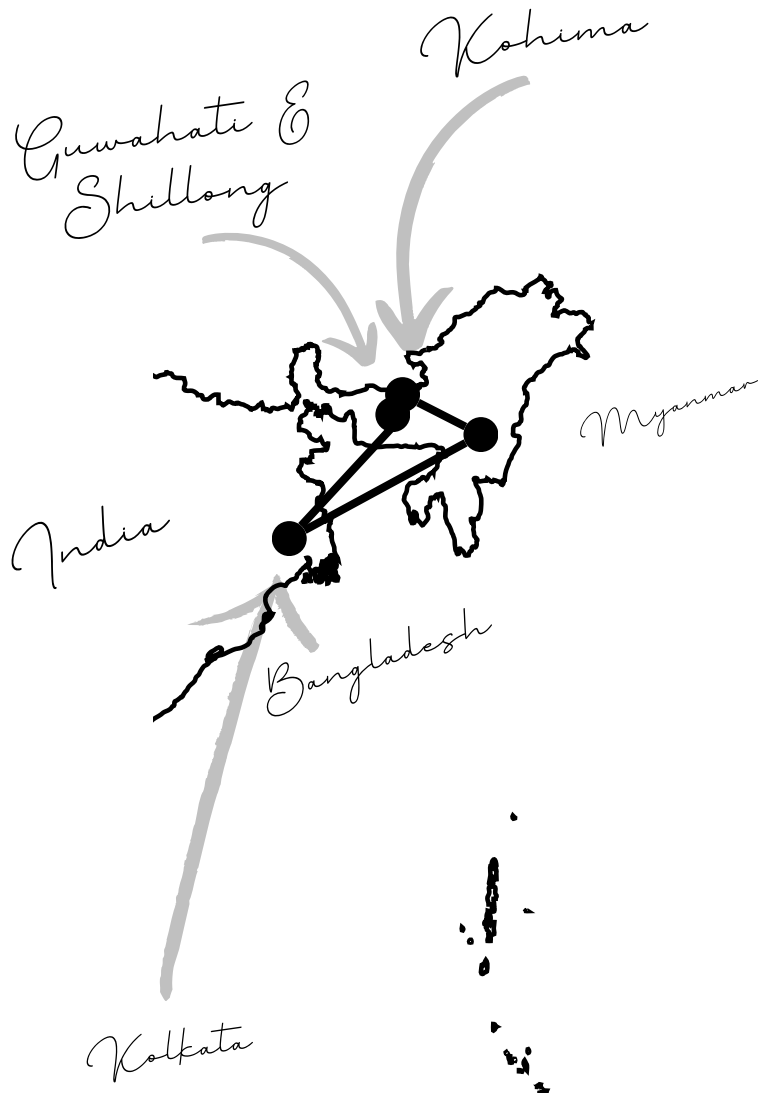
HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr Robert Lyman as guide and expert historian
- Expert local guides in Kohima & Kolkata
- Welcome & Farewell Dinner, including Bengali-tasting menu and wine pairing at The Glenburn Penthouse
- 2 nights in Jessami, remote in the Naga Hills
- Exclusive entry to the Assam Regimental barracks in Shillong
- Numbers capped for an intimate, hands-on tour.

YOUR JOURNEY IN A NUTSHELL

Friday 5	Kolkata <i>The Oberoi Grand</i>	Friday 12	Kohima - Dimapur - Guwahati <i>The Guwahati Address</i>
Saturday 6	Kolkata - Dimapur - Kohima <i>Hotel Vivor</i>	Saturday 13	Guwahati - Shillong <i>Courtyard Shillong</i>
Sunday 7	Kohima <i>Hotel Vivor</i>	Sunday 14	Shillong - Guwahati - Kolkata <i>The Glenburn Penthouse</i>
Monday 8	Kohima <i>Hotel Vivor</i>	Monday 15	Kolkata <i>The Glenburn Penthouse</i>
Tuesday 9	Kohima - Jessami <i>Jessami Tourist Lodge</i>	Tuesday 16	Kolkata
Wednesday 10	Jessami - Kharasom - Jessami <i>Jessami Tourist Lodge</i>		
Thursday 11	Jessami - Kohima <i>Hotel Vivor</i>		

ROUTE



FLIGHTS & TRAINS

Date	Reference	Sector	ETD	ETA	Remarks
6-Apr-24		Kolkata - Dimapur	TBC	TBC	
12-Apr-24		Dimapur - Guwahati	TBC	TBC	
14-Apr-24		Guwahati - Kolkata	TBC	TBC	



YOUR
JOURNEY
— IN FULL —

FRIDAY 5

KOLKATA

Kolkata Airport Transfer

Vehicle & driver

Supper at Bomti's

OVERNIGHT

The Oberoi Grand, *Premier Room*

You will be greeted at Kolkata Airport (Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport) and transferred into the city.

You will check-into the Oberoi Grand, Kolkata, the city's most famous hotel, known simply as "The Grand" during the British Raj, and today affectionately nicknamed "The Grand Old Dame of Chowringhee". This evening we will congregate in the bar and, with a glass in hand, toast our first evening together in India!

We will then walk the short distance to the apartment of Bomti Iyengar. Bomti, socialite and art-dealer, is a life-long resident of Kolkata and lives in the same glorious apartment that his parents owned directly on Chowringhee with views out over the Maidan. Once capital of the British Raj, Kolkata has since been outstripped in development by nippier and more business-orientated metropolises such as Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. However, where Kolkata does continue excel is in its heritage, art and cuisine. All can be savoured at Bomti's.

Here you will have the chance to view (and, if you wish, purchase) contemporary Bengali artwork and eat an assortment of Bengali delicacies.

INTRODUCTION TO **KOLKATA**

Maps pinpoint the centre of Kolkata as Dalhousie Square: site of the General Post Office and Writers Building, where once a hundred million Indians were administered. Revolutionary Bengalis pushed the British administration to Delhi in 1911 and they were completely out by 1947. Today Writers is empty. The General Post Office groans.

But the soul of the city lives on: in small alleyways leading to the former dens of freedom fighters; in the century-old sweet shops which still attract crowds; in Kumartuli, where images of Kali the Destroyer are crafted ... Kali ... Black as night, eyes bloodshot, garland of skulls round her throat and her tongue lolling out in an ecstasy of violence. It is believed that the city takes its name from her. Beneath this metropolis built by merchants and bankers, beats the black heart of the goddess of destruction.

This, perhaps, is the true centre of Kolkata.



SATURDAY 6

KOLKATA - DIMAPUR - KOHIMA

Kolkata Airport Transfer

Vehicles & driver

Kolkata – Dimapur

Flight

Dimapur to Kohima

Private vehicle, driver & English-speaking guide

Lunch

traditional Naga cuisine

Supper

Today we will be transferred from the Oberoi to Kolkata Domestic Airport to catch our flight to Dimapur in Nagaland.

In Dimapur we will be greeted by Yai. Hailing from Imphal, Manipur, Yai will be our local guide and on-the-ground historian for the rest of the journey.

From Dimapur we will travel uphill towards Kohima, capital of Nagaland, and enjoy lunch on the way. Before entering Kohima, we will stop off at Zubza (where the 2 Division broke the Japanese roadblock during the Battle of Kohima).

After checking into our hotel and freshening up, this evening we will have dinner together in a restaurant in Kohima.

Dr Robert Lyman will join us at dinner. Rob, world expert on the Battle of Kohima and the Burma Campaign of WW2, will be with us throughout the tour until we return to Kolkata, narrating the history and the grand sweep of events alongside Yai. Pepper him with questions as much as you wish!

OVERNIGHT

Hotel Vivor, *Deluxe Room*

INTRODUCTION TO KOHIMA

The Nagas remained isolated from the world until the 1800s. After a series of battles with the British, the latter took control of the hills. Relationships between the two improved and by the time of WW2 the Allies were able to lean heavily on the Nagas as staunch allies. In the 1940s Kohima was made up of 'Naga Village' and opposite that Kohima Ridge where was the cottage of the District Commissioner Charles Pawsey. It was partly due to affection for Pawsey that the Kohima Nagas fought so staunchly. Pawsey's tennis court now sits within the Commonwealth Cemetery. Naga Village is under the sprawl of modern Kohima. When the British left the Nagas within the new India, the Nagas felt greatly let down. A long-running insurgency led to peace talks, now deadlocked over the issues of the Naga flag and constitution.

More: <https://apnews.com/article/asia-india-south-government-and-politics-a38bd8d29ef6dd5030638b177a23d7da>



SUNDAY 7

KOHIMA

Kohima Full Day Exploration

Private car, driver; & English-speaking guide

Lunch

traditional Naga cuisine

Supper & Talks

The Heritage

OVERNIGHT

Hotel Vivor, *Deluxe Room*

This morning, Rob & Yai will lead us on a walking tour of Kohima Ridge as we are taken through the remarkable battle of Kohima - successfully argued by Rob in a National Army Museum debate in 2013 to be Britain's greatest ever battle.

First we will be taken up to the viewpoint at the old 'Kohima Village' so to give us a good impression of the town and the lay of the land. The walking tour then begins. We will see an abandoned tank and some of the old British positions, including Jail Hill, DIS, Kuki Piquet and Garrison Hill. Although a largely built-up area today, the walk on the ridge allows one to get a feel of one of the most iconic battlefields of the Burma Campaign. This walk will culminate at the Kohima War Cemetery where one can still see the outline of the famous tennis court around which fierce fighting raged in 1944.

Enjoy lunch in Kohima.

In the evening, drinks and supper will be hosted at The Heritage Hotel in the company of the directors of the Kohima Educational Society. This is an opportunity to learn about the Naga experience since the end of WW2 - and ways to support the education of Naga youth.

SUPPORTING NAGA YOUTH

Kohima, a town set high among jungle-covered hills in Nagaland in North East India, was the site of an epic battle in WW2. The town was completely destroyed, but this did not prevent the local inhabitants from supporting the British and Indian troops. Without the help of the Naga people, it is doubtful if the battle could have been won.

The Kohima Educational Trust (KET) was founded 60 years later by veterans of the battle as a debt of honour to the Nagas in order to provide educational assistance to the young people of today, many of them descendants of those who had so ably assisted the British and Indian forces.

In collaboration with the Kohima Educational Society (KES), a charity formed in response to the formation of the Kohima Educational Trust, many projects are achieved, principally the making of several hundred scholarship awards every year.



MONDAY 8

KOHIMA - KIGWEMA - KOHIMA

Mount Puliebadze Exploration with Breakfast

Private car, driver; & English-speaking guide

Aradura Spur Exploration

Private car, driver; & English-speaking guide

Kigwema Exploration

Private car, driver; & English-speaking guide

Alfresco lunch at Kigwema

OVERNIGHT

Hotel Vivor, *Deluxe Room*

This morning we will be transferred from the hotel to the base of Mt. Puliebadze, also known as Pt. 7522, during the battle of Kohima. From the base to the summit of Mt. Puliebadze it is a trek of about an hour. While walking up Mt. Puliebadze, you can imagine the much harder climb embarked upon by some of Grover's men looking to rout the Japanese upon Aradura Spur. Enjoy the spectacular views over Kohima from the peak. A light breakfast will be waiting for us at the base of the mountain in a traditional Naga morung house.

Briefly visit Jotsoma - where there is a memorial to General Grover, commander of the 2 Division, erected by the local townspeople.

Proceed to Aradura Spur (the second of Grover's three prongs in his attempt to lift the siege of Kohima) and then to the village of Kigwema. We will be taken to the house where it is believed General Sato of the Japanese 31st Division resided during the Battle of Kohima.

Lunch will be served alfresco in the village of Kigwema.

You will be left at your leisure this evening.

TUESDAY 9

KOHIMA - JESSAMI

Kohima - Jessami

Private vehicles, driver & English-speaking guide

Lunch
en route

Morong Supper

Naga traditional supper

This morning we will depart from Kohima, high into the Naga Hills to the village of Jessami. Lunch will be enjoyed on the way.

Jessami was the site of a dramatic last stand battle when young and inexperienced soldiers of the Assam Regiment battled against the onslaught of the Japanese Imperial Army as they approached Kohima on their 'march on Delhi'.

Very few international tourists make it as far as Jessami, let alone stay overnight. In addition to exploring the site of the Battle of Jessami, here we will be able to meet the local Naga people of Jessami and hear about the experience of the villagers in a war that was not of their own making.

Dinner will be served in the village in a traditional morung constructions. After an evening with the villagers, overnight will be spent in the simple Jessami Tourist Lodge.

OVERNIGHT

Jessami Tourist Lodge

WEDNESDAY 10
JESSAMI - KHARASOM -
JESSAMI

Kharasom Exploration

Private vehicles, driver & English speaking guide

Morung Lunch

Naga traditional lunch

Morung Supper

Naga traditional supper

Today we will travel along a road through the Naga Hills, roughly adjacent to the old British jeep tracks built in the run-up to the Battle of Kohima. In the nearby village of Kharasom we will visit the exact location of the dramatic last stand by Captain Jock Young and the Assam Regiment who fought the Japanese here, just before the Battle of Jessami.

We will return to Jessami for dinner.

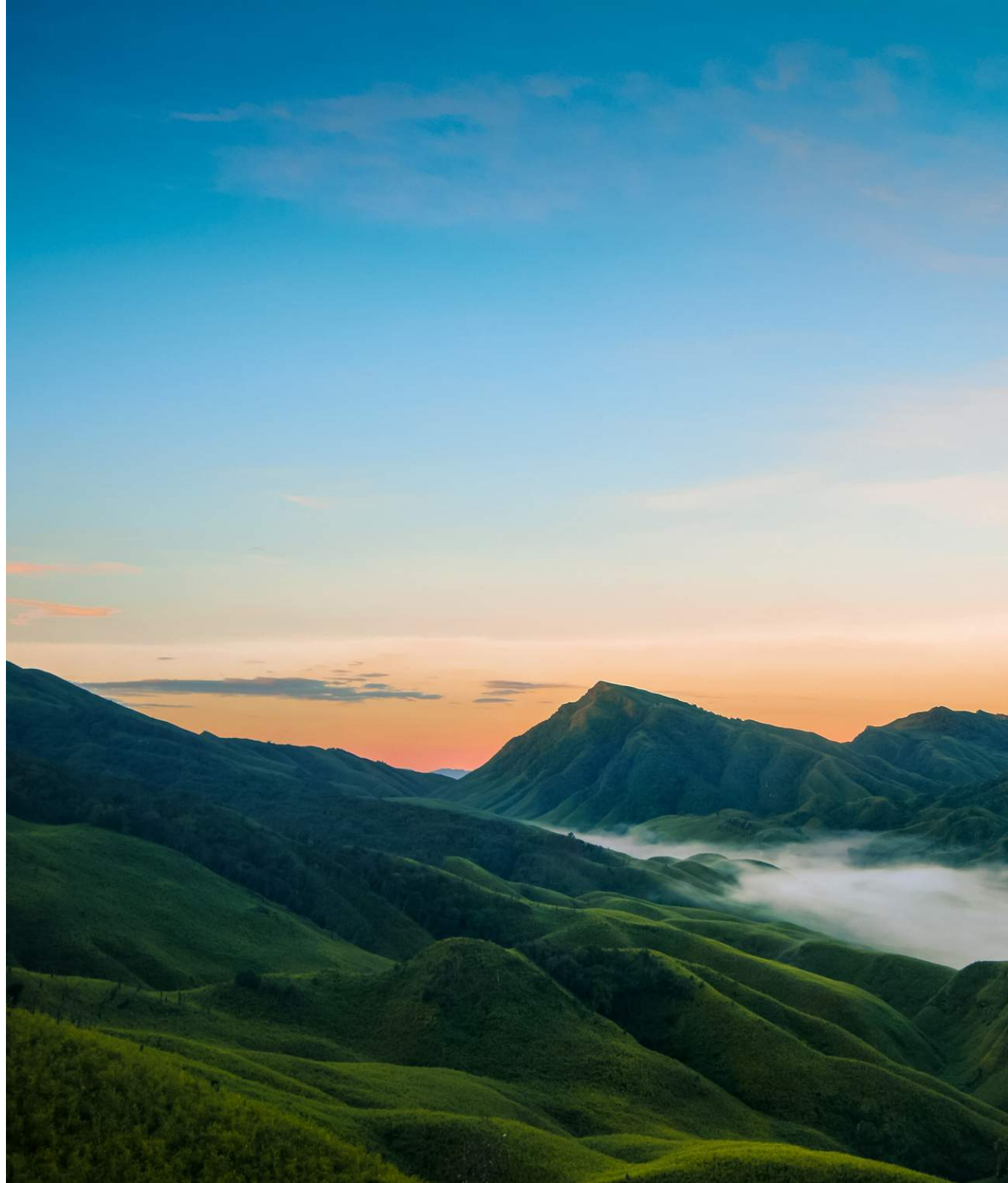
OVERNIGHT

Jessami Tourist Lodge

THE BATTLE OF **KHARASOM**

At Kharasom, Captain Jock Young, a youthful British officer attached to the locally raised Assam Regiment, made a valiant last stand in March 1944. Japan's swift invasion of Myanmar in 1942 had pushed British forces over the border into Manipur and the Naga Hills. As the Allied troops regrouped, Nagas were drafted to build jeep tracks and act as scouts. They were also enlisted in the Assam Regiment, units of which were sent in early 1944 to the supposedly quiet postings of Kharasom and Jessami. Instead, on 27 March, these inexperienced soldiers faced the full thrust of the Japanese advance into India. At Kharasom, Young led his soldiers in a four-day defense of the local garrison until 31st March, when he instructed his men to escape while he remained alone to face Japanese reinforcements. His bravery cost him his life.

Read about Sampan's recent visit to Kharasom here: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Life-Arts/Life/How-history-is-shaping-the-future-in-Nagaland>



THURSDAY 11

JESSAMI - KOHIMA

Jessami - Kohima

Private vehicles, drivers & English-speaking guide

Lunch

This morning we will wander down to the central Jessami bazaar for a local breakfast and then begin our exploration of the village.

Depending on our pace, lunch will be enjoyed either in Jessami or on the road back to Kohima.

This evening you will be left at leisure.

OVERNIGHT

Hotel Vivor, Deluxe Room

FRIDAY 12
KOHIMA - DIMAPUR -
GUWAHATI

Kohima to Dimapur

Private vehicles, drivers & English-speaking guide

Dimapur - Guwahati

Train

Packed Lunch

on the train

Guwahati Train Station Transfer

Private vehicles, drivers & English-speaking guide

This morning, we will drive to Dimapur.

At Dimapur train station, Rob and Yai will take you through the significance of this train station to the logistics of the Allies during the battles of Kohima & Imphal.

We will catch you train to Guwahati, capital of Assam, and enjoy a packed lunch on board.

We will be greeted at Guwahati Train Station and transferred to our hotel.

This evening you will be left at leisure.

OVERNIGHT

The Guwahati Address, *Executive Classic*

SATURDAY 13

GUWAHATI - SHILLONG

Guwahati Commonwealth War Graves

Private car, driver & English-speaking guide

Guwahati to Shillong

Private car, driver & English-speaking guide

Shillong Half Day Exploration

Private car, driver & English-speaking guide

Assam Regiment Museum

within the Assam Regiment Barracks

Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Courtyard Shillong, *Superior Room*

This morning we will visit the Commonwealth War Graves in Guwahati before transferring up high into the hills to the hill station of Shillong - R&R base during the Second World War and the town where the Assam Regiment was raised.

After checking into our hotel and (after a chance to grab some lunch), Rob & Yai will lead an afternoon exploration of Shillong including a privileged visit to the Assam Regiment Museum within the Assam Regiment Barracks.

Dinner will be enjoyed together this evening.

SHILLONG AND THE ASSAM

In the 1820s, British civil servant David Scott was tasked with creating a route between Assam and Sylhet. This task took Scott up into the Khasi Hills and (predictably) brought the British to clash with the Khasi tribes. The Khasis were defeated and the British set up a hill-station at Cherrapunjee (Sohra). The incessant rain of Cherrapunjee led to many of the Brits committing suicide. Shillong, due-south, was chosen as a more temperate location, and became capital of Assam.

In 1941, the Assam Regiment was raised in Shillong to meet the threat of a Japanese invasion. The first draft was made up of Assamese, Nagas, Mizos, as well as Khasis. The Assam saw action (and proved their metal) at the battles of Kharasom and Jessami in 1944.

The Assam Regiment HQ remains in Shillong. Today, Shillong is capital of Meghalaya. Sixteen idyllic kilometres of the David Scott Trail remains.



SUNDAY 14
SHILLONG - GUWAHATI -
KOLKATA

Shillong to Guwahati

Private car, driver & English-speaking guide

Guwahati to Kolkata

Flight

Tea & Talks

*presentation on the Battle of Imphal at the Glenburn
Penthouse*

Today we will transfer from Shillong to Guwahati to catch our flight back to Kolkata.

Upon arrival in Kolkata we will transfer into the city and check into the Glenburn Penthouse.

After freshening up, this late afternoon, over high-tea courtesy of the Glenburn Tea Estate in Darjeeling, Rob and Yai will take us through the Battle of Imphal and the events of 1945 when Bill Slim's Fourteenth Army pursued the Japanese all the way until Rangoon.

Navpreet, our local expert Kolkata guide, will join us this afternoon.

This evening you will be left at leisure.

OVERNIGHT

The Glenburn Penthouse

THE BATTLE OF **IMPHAL**

The Battle of Imphal was a pivotal confrontation during World War II. It was a critical component of the larger Southeast Asian theatre of the war. Japanese forces, seeking to invade India and sever the Allied supply line to China, faced off against British and Indian troops.

The battle was a brutal and protracted affair, characterized by fierce combat in rugged, jungle-covered terrain and harsh weather conditions. British and Indian forces, under General William Slim's command, successfully defended the Imphal areas, withstanding relentless Japanese assaults.

The eventual Allied victory at Imphal marked a turning point in the Burma Campaign. It not only preserved the supply line to China but also weakened Japanese forces, facilitating their subsequent retreat. The Battle of Imphal is often overshadowed by more prominent World War II battles, but its significance in halting the Japanese advance and ultimately reversing their momentum cannot be overstated.



MONDAY 15

KOLKATA

Full Day Kolkata Exploration

Private vehicles, drivers & English-speaking guide

Lunch

Farewell Dinner

Bengali tasting menu with wine pairing

OVERNIGHT

The Glenburn Penthouse

Today you will embark on a specially curated exploration of Kolkata with Navpreet, exploring the British Raj, revolutionary Bengal and the build-up to war.

Our tour today will start at the colonial centre of the city at Dalhousie Square - Government House, Writers Building and the General Post Office. But this day's excursion will go deeper than that: we will travel to the north of the city and explore the role and influence of the leading figures of the Bengal Renaissance such as the revolutionary poet Rabindranath Tagore and radical philosopher Swami Vivekananda.

Lunch will be included on the excursion.

After lunch, we will travel to house of Subhas Chandra Bose, founder of the Indian National Army, today much revered in India. The tour will conclude at the glorious Victoria Memorial at dusk.

This evening you will be treated to a farewell dinner. The Penthouse, in conjunction with Sampan, will create a contemporary Bengali tasting menu. Wine will be paired with each course. Raise your glass to our last night together in India!

REVOLUTIONARY BENGAL

"I always found it difficult to know how to deal with these Gandhi-inspired independence wallahs. They'd stand onstage and claim the British were little better than vampires, sucking the life blood of India, and we would respond with mass incarcerations and the cracking of a skull now and then. But away from the glare of the world, they were often the most pleasant of chaps, inviting you in for tea before you arrested them ..."

Aside from Gandhi, most of the leaders of revolutionary India came from Bengal. Aurobindo Ghosh, Chittaranjan "Deshbandhu" Das and Subhas Chandra Bose. Bose was the enfant terrible of the Indian National Congress. Martial in temperament, he split from Gandhi and Nehru during WW2 and founded the Indian National Army.

Bose died in an airplane crash towards the end of the war. In today's more right-wing, testosterone-fuelled India, Bose is much more popular than Gandhi.



TUESDAY 16
KOLKATA

Kolkata Airport Transfer

Private vehicles & drivers

Today you will be left at leisure until ready for your transfer to Kolkata International Airport.

END OF THIS JOURNEY

BEGINNING OF ANOTHER ...



DR ROBERT LYMAN

WW2 Historian

Dates of Service: 7-14 April 2024

Dr Robert Lyman FRHistS is a writer and historian. He is a Research Fellow at the Changing Character of War Centre, Pembroke College, University of Oxford.

After finishing a twenty-year career in the British Army in 2001 he has published widely on the Second World War in Europe, North Africa and Asia.

He is Field Marshal Bill Slim's military biographer. His presentation of the case for Slim won a National Army Museum debate in 2011 for Britain's Greatest General and his case for Kohima/Imphal won a National Army Museum debate in 2013 for Britain's Greatest Battle.

Rob is an elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and has been a trustee of the Kohima Educational Trust since 2004, and Chairman between 2008-2016. Rob has been working with Sampan since 2020.



YAIPHABA 'YAI' KANGJAM

WW2 Historian & Guide

Dates of Service: 6-15 April 2024

Yai is passionate about Manipur and its rich history. He has extensively researched the Battle of Imphal. It never ceases to fascinate him that the environs of his hometown, Imphal, were the setting for one of the greatest battles of all time. The more he learns, however, the more he realises how much more there is to discover – not just about Imphal, but also about its twin battle at Kohima in 1944 and indeed the entire Burma Campaign.

Yai holds a MA in Tourism Management. His master's thesis was on Battlefield Tourism, with special reference to Manipur. Yai speaks a little Burmese and is trying to further improve his proficiency of the language.

Yai lives in Imphal with his wife and children.



NAVPREET

Kolkata Guide

Dates of Service: 15 April 2024

Navpreet is by blood from Punjab but by heart from Kolkata. She loves this city to bits.

When we ask what her favourite part of Kolkata is she says to us: "Asking me a favourite place in Calcutta is like asking a mother who her favourite child is. Every nook and cranny in Calcutta is love." Favourite food? "Calcutta's street food." What must everyone visitor to Kolkata do? "Roam without any agenda or fixed itinerary in the maze of lanes and bylanes ... "

When Sampan first met Navpreet it was the scorching month of May. Perhaps no wonder then that when we asked her where she dreams about travelling to she told us: "Iceland." Even the most loving mother needs to get away now and then ...

THE OBEROI GRAND

Kolkata

The Oberoi Grand is not Kolkata's oldest hotel but it has established itself at the city's grandest – referred to today as the 'Grand Dame of Chowringhee.'

The entrance to the hotel is at the very belly of New Market – Kolkata's most bustling strip, apart from perhaps the Malik Ghat Flower Market and Howrah Station itself. Once through the gates of the Oberoi guests and visitors can be assured of proficient and obliging service, competent and tactful attention.

There is a pool in the central courtyard of the hotel meaning that it is possible to kick-back and soak up the sun while in the heart of the city.

FLASH POINT: *Enjoy a wide array of Indian and Bengali dishes at the ThreeSixtyThree restaurant, served with tip-top professionalism and plenty of white napkins.*



HOTEL VIVOR

Kohima

In a town where the tourism industry is still in its infancy, Vivor is commonly regarded as the gold standard of hospitality in Nagaland. Owned by Kohima's answer to the Kennedys, Vivor is a well-balanced blend of modernity with the rich traditional styles of Nagaland. The hotel offers all modern amenities which work most of the time. The obliging staff who speak word-perfect English are on hand to help. The rooms are tidy, clean and spacious.

Vivor's Vüchü Restaurant offers a wide selection of dishes. Avoid the Western and stick with Indian and Naga. Note that the portions of curry are huge. Breakfast is served outside in a traditional Naga morung. There is also a bar.

FLASH POINT: *Situated outside of the main town and on the road to Ukhrul and the Tanghul Mountains, some of the rooms at Hotel Vivor offer superb views of the Naga mountain range.*



THE GUWAHATI ADDRESS

Guwahati

The Guwahati Address is by a country mile the best hotel in the centre of Guwahati. It describes itself as a "temple of hospitality" and although we would not go that far, it is an oasis of calm within one of the most manic cities of North East India.

High stone walls mark the entrance of the hotel. The lobby itself is grand with Sicilian marble underfoot and wooden columns either side. The concierge desk has been crafted in stone from Cherrapunji (Sohra) up in the Khasi Hills and behind is a painting of a traditional Bihar dancer. There is a restaurant and café on the ground floor and a bar on the first floor.

FLASH POINT: *The rooms are smart and functional with large bathrooms. They have accents of the old world drawn out by the use of Assam teak.*



COURTYARD SHILLONG

Shillong

Courtyard Shillong is located near the vibrant Police Bazar, the centre and heart of the city.

Breakfast can be enjoyed at Courtyard's Shillong Bakery Company with fresh bread and fresh coffee. The Tavern Club offers snacks, drinks and a constant stream of the Indian Premier League on the television.

There is a pool area outside which also doubles as an event space and gathering point for the young things of the city. There is a large gym looking over the pool area and the city. The rooms are well-equipped, smart and comfortable.

FLASH POINT: *The restaurant is not the fastest we know, but the Kolkata Roll is worth the wait. Follow it up with parfait and berries.*



THE GLENBURN PENTHOUSE

Kolkata

The Glenburn Penthouse has been a labour of love for owner Husna-Tara Prakash.

Around the turn of the millennium, Husna-Tara restored a planter's bungalow at the Glenburn Tea Estate near Darjeeling into a boutique hotel looking out over the rolling tea fields. A decade later, she turned her sights upon Kolkata, renovating an office warehouse in the centre of the city into The Glenburn Penthouse. It took her seven years to create – seven years to get just right.

Spread over three floors The Glenburn Penthouse is both an escape from the city and a love-letter to it. Each of the nine rooms has been immaculately designed. There is a small library, a spa and a glorious restaurant like the drawing room of your most fabulous acquaintance.

FLASH POINT: *Dip into the infinity pool upon the rooftop and look out over Kolkata's Maidan and the glorious Victoria Memorial at dusk.*



QUOTATION

per person in a shared twin / double room - **US\$ 6,999**
per person in their own twin / double room - **US\$ 7,999**

INCLUDED IN QUOTE

- Dr Robert Lyman as he accompanies the group from 7-14 April
- Yaiphaba Kangjam as he guides the group from 6-15 April
- A tour leader from Sampan Travel throughout the journey, ensuring smooth movements and on-hand to assist in any way
- Local expert guide Navpreet on 15 April 2024 in Kolkata
- Local assistant guides in Nagaland
- Accommodation with daily breakfast as per itinerary - as well as a picnic breakfast at the foot of Mt Puliebadze on 8 April 2024. Early check-in at the Oberoi in Kolkata is also included
- Lunch everyday except the 5, 14 and 16 April, including lunch al fresco in the Naga village of Kigwema
- Supper everyday except on the 8, 11, 12 and 14 April, including a Welcome Dinner in Kolkata, dinner & talks with the Kohima Educational Society in Kohima, high tea & talks in Kolkata, and a Farewell Dinner in Kolkata (a contemporary Bengali tasting menu with wine pairing)
- Full transfer service in private vehicles from start to end
- Domestic flights: Kolkata to Dimapur, Guwahati to Kolkata (with 25 kgs check-in baggage)
- Train from Dimapur to Guwahati 12 April 2024
- All zone and entrance fees and permits, including entrance to the Assam Regiment barracks in Shillong.

EXCLUDED FROM QUOTE

- Any services not explicitly mentioned in itinerary
- International flights
- Lunch on the 5, 14 and 16 April
- Supper on the 8, 11, 12 and 14 April 2024
- Tips to guide, driver and others
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees
- All personal expenses.



BERTIE@SAMPANTRAVEL.COM

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