



North East India Horizons (Incorporating Hornbill Festival)



26 day escorted tour departing 15 November 2019

About Far Horizons

Since 1976 Far Horizons has escorted more than 180 tours to over 170 countries on all seven continents.

We have an established clientele of devoted followers who appreciate our uncompromising policy of providing high quality accommodation and services, with meticulous attention to detail in some of the world's most exotic and stimulating regions.

Our tours are fully escorted and inclusive of all transportation, accommodation, meals, sightseeing, cultural events and gratuities.

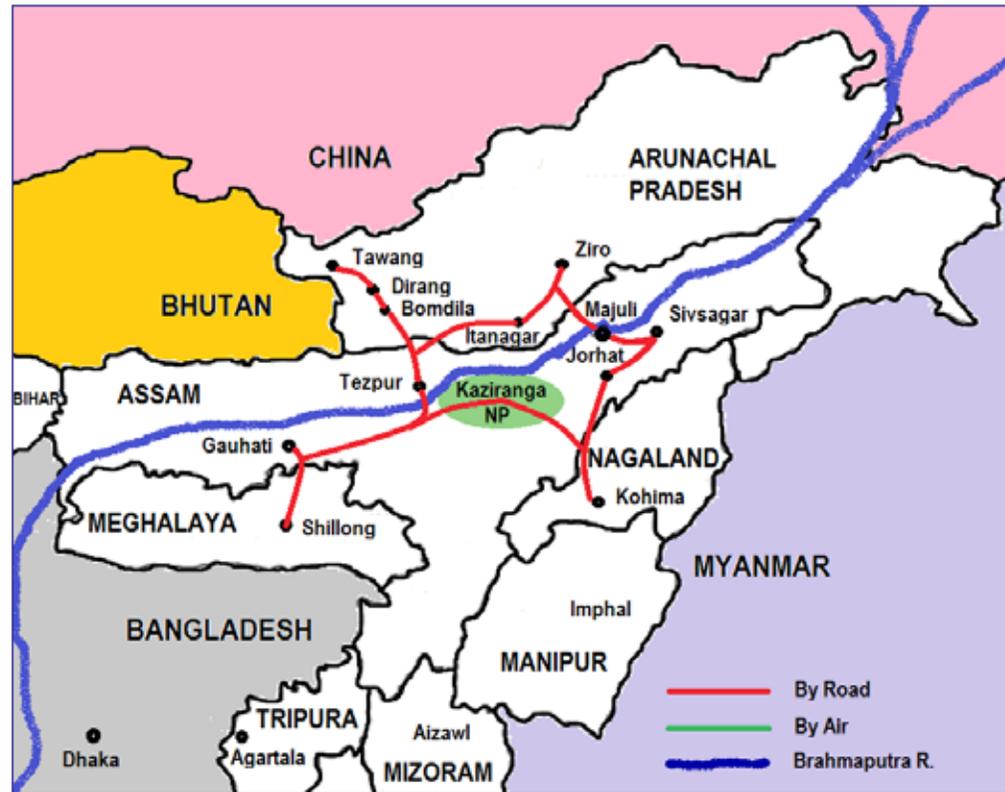
Capacity is limited to fifteen, which we feel is the ideal maximum to achieve the degree of personal attention and 'camaraderie' which is the hallmark of Far Horizons.



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Route Map



Less visited, still developing and requiring special permits, India's remote north east is rich in tribal culture and of historical significance due to its proximity to the Chinese, Bhutanese, Myanmar and Bangladesh borders.

In November 2017 our scouting trip through all seven states of North East India identified the highlights of this remarkable region, and encouraged us to offer this fascinating journey to four of the 'seven sisters' – Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

Our journey starts in Gauhati (Assam) then visits neighboring Meghalaya before heading north,

crossing the Brahmaputra River and navigating the world's 2nd highest motorable road over the Sela Pass (13,700') to Tawang, where we visit the 2nd largest Buddhist monastery in the world (after the Potala in Lhasa, Tibet).

To the east we visit the scenically beautiful and culturally significant Ziro Valley; Majuli – the world's largest river island; visit the ancient capital of the Ahom kingdom at Sivasagar, and stay three nights at Kohima, with two days at the annual Hornbill Festival which draws people from the sixteen indigenous tribes of Nagaland over a ten day period, showcasing their song and dance, food and handicrafts.

Visiting

Kolkata	1 night
Gauhati (Assam)	2 nights
Shillong (Meghalaya)	2 nights
Tezpur (Assam)	1 night
Dirang (Arunachal Pradesh)	2 nights
Thembang, Sela Pass (4170m)	
Tawang	2 nights
Bomdila	1 night
Itanagar	1 night
Ziro	2 nights
Majuli Island (Assam)	2 nights
Sivasagar	
Jorhat	1 night
Kohima (Nagaland)	3 nights
Hornbill Festival	
Kaziranga National Park	2 nights
Gauhati	1 night
Kolkata	1.5 nights

Along the way we encounter numerous tribal groups still living in traditional villages and practicing their ancient beliefs; drive through stunning mountain scenery; stroll through bustling markets; and traverse the expansive agricultural plains along the course of the mighty Brahmaputra river.

We conclude with two days at Kaziranga National Park where we take elephant and jeep safaris, with multiple sightings of the Asiatic one-horned rhino assured, before returning home via Kolkata, where we visit the grand monuments of a bygone era.

North East India Horizons



Kamakhya Temple, Gauhati

Our journey begins with daylight services on Singapore Airlines from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth to Singapore, where we connect with our onward flight to Kolkata. We stay overnight at the Swissotel located close to Kolkata airport.

We take the morning flight to Gauhati, the bustling commercial capital of the state of Assam. In the afternoon we explore the city and visit Kamakhya temple on Nilachal Hill, the main landmark of the city. We also visit the unique 17th century Navagraha temple which is dedicated to nine planets. We stay two nights at Radisson Blu.

We take a full day excursion to the historic town of Hajo to explore the 16th century Hayagriv Madhav temple, an ancient Shiva temple and the hilltop Poa Mecca mosque overlooking the scenic countryside. A short distance away we visit the village of Sualkuchi which is famous for fine Muga silk textiles. On our return to Gauhati we take a sunset cruise on the Brahmaputra river.

Leaving Gauhati we drive to Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya, which is popularly known as 'Scotland of the east'. Enroute we pause at Barapani for a boat cruise on Umiam Lake. In Shillong we visit the impressive Don Bosco Centre, the largest indigenous cultural museum in India, and our introduction to the many different tribes of the region. We visit Wards Lake and may also witness a game of traditional Siat Kham archery. We stay two nights at Tripura Castle



Don Bosco Centre, Shillong

We take a full day excursion towards the Bangladesh border to visit Dawki, where we enjoy a boat ride on the beautiful Umngot River which is well known for its emerald coloured crystal clear waters. Beyond Dawki we explore the laneways and beautiful gardens, and interact with the villagers of Mawlynnong, considered as Asia's cleanest village. Panoramic views of the Bangladesh plains are seen from a skywalk before we continue to Riwai village to see the incredible 'living root' bridge made from the roots of two trees that span the local stream.



Church of the Epiphany, Mawlynnong

The next day we head north, skirting Gauhati on our drive to the Brahmaputra River and the city of Tezpur where we can see the ancient temple, or stroll along the river bank at sunset. We stay overnight at Wild Mahseer Bungalows situated in the grounds of the Adabari tea estate.

From Tezpur we drive north into the Himalayan foothills, ascending through a forested river valley where small trading posts and occasional villages are seen. To assist with acclimatisation we stay two nights in Dirang at the Norphel Retreat overlooking the Kameng River.



Dirang Dzong

We visit the old Dirang Dzong (fortress) and walk the narrow lanes of Thembang, a historic fortified village of the Monpa tribe dating back to the 18th Century. During the day we will see farmers herding yak, tending their orchards and see hot springs. We explore the beautiful Sangti valley, visit a local village, and may be lucky to see rare Black necked cranes.

Our journey north continues, ascending constantly, with photo stops at Jung Waterfall and the Jaswant Garh war memorial to the 1962 Sino Indian war. We cross the Sela Pass (4170m / 13,700ft) - the second highest motorable road in the world - and descend back below the treeline to Tawang, where we arrive in the early evening for a two night stay at Hotel Yangzom.

The next day is spent exploring Tawang monastery, the largest in India, and second largest in the world after the Potala; Ani Gompa nunnery; Ugyeling monastery (birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama), the Tawang war memorial and a local handicraft centre and emporium.

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Tawang Monastery

We retrace our steps over the Sela Pass south through Dirang to the town of Bomdilla, where we visit the large GRL (Gentse Gaden Rabgyel Ling) monastery which is modeled after the Tsona Gontse Monastery of southern Tibet. We stay overnight at the centrally located Tsepel Yangzom Hotel.

We depart for another full day drive, leaving the Himalayan valleys and returning to the heavily cultivated Brahmaputra river plains, arriving at the Arunachal Pradesh state capital of Itanagar where we stay overnight at the Waii International Hotel.



Meeting a lady of the Apatani tribe, Ziro

Heading east, we following the Brahmaputra river to the scenically beautiful Ziro valley, which is well known for the indigenous culture of the Apatani tribe who are famous for their facial tattoos and nose plugs. We stay two nights at the Ziro Palace Inn.

We spend the next day exploring the valley, walking through Hari, Hong and Bamin villages of the Apatani people, visiting their homes and interacting with the community. We learn about their tattoo culture, stroll through rice farms and see their scientific fish farming practices. We also visit Hapoli village for panoramic views of the valley and to stroll through the local market to see the interesting edibles and ingredients used by the Apatani.

The next day we drive to Dhunaguri Ghat and cross the Subansiri River on a ferry to Majuli, the largest river island in the world. We stay two nights at the basic La Maison de Ananda in traditional Mishing styled huts built on bamboo stilts.

During our time on Majuli Island we visit nearby villages of the Mishing tribe, the native islanders and visit 16th century monasteries such as Auniati and Kamalabari built by the Vaishnav followers of Saint Srimanta Sankardev.

At Samuguri Sattrra the monks make traditional masks for Bhaona dance dramas. We also visit Salmara potters village where traditional Tekeli pots are made from riverine clay. We have time in the afternoon to relax, take a stroll in the village, swim or go fishing.

We take a morning ferry from Majuli to Nimati Ghat and drive to Sivasagar, the historic capital of the medieval Ahom dynasty. We will see ancient monuments, temples, the Royal pavilion and Tai Ahom museum. In the afternoon we continue by road to Jorhat and stay overnight Banyan Grove in heritage bungalows that reflect a bygone era of colonial luxury.



Beautiful Ziro Valley



Hornbill Festival, Kohima

We drive south, crossing the state border into Nagaland and arrive at the capital Kohima where, during World War II, Commonwealth forces resisted and ultimately repelled the invading Japanese Imperial Army. In the evening we stroll along the main street of Kohima to see the Carnival night market. We stay three nights at de Oriental Grand Hotel.



Hornbill Festival, Kohima

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Hornbill Festival, Kohima

We spend two days at the Hornbill Festival, held every year over ten days at the Kisama Heritage village. We see the cultural programs, traditional dances, indigenous sports and food festival of the sixteen different tribes of Nagaland, see the traditional architecture of their Morungs (dormitories) and visit the excellent World War II Museum within the complex. Our afternoon will be spent exploring Kohima town to visit Reconciliation Cathedral, State Museum and World War II cemetery, or, visiting nearby villages of Visama and Jakhama (sub-groups of the Angami tribe).

We leave Kohima and return to the Brahmaputra plains, driving to Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO Natural Heritage site famous for the Asiatic one-horned rhino. Enroute, time permitting, we stop at Dimapur to see the ruins of the Dimasa Kachari dynasty. We stay two nights at the comfortable Iora Retreat just outside the Park

Early the next morning we take an elephant ride in the Central Range of Kaziranga to see rhinos at close range. Returning to our hotel for breakfast, we will then visit the Orchid Park to see the variety of flora of the region.



Elephant ride, Kaziranga National Park

In the afternoon we take a guided jeep safari in the Eastern Range to see more rhino and some of the many migratory birds that pass through the region. In the evening we enjoy a cultural program and folk dance.

We take a morning guided jeep safari, this time into the grasslands of the Western Range, then after a late breakfast drive back to Gauhati to visit the Sankardev Kalakhetra cultural centre and perhaps stay for the sound-and-light show. We stay overnight at Radisson Blu

We have a relaxed morning then take the midday flight from Gauhati back to Kolkata and stay two nights at the Oberoi Grand.

The next morning we take a walking tour of Dalhousie Square, which is surrounded by some of Kolkata's most enduring monuments dating from the times of the British Raj, such as the magnificent GPO (General Post Office), the regal Raj Bhawan, St. John's Church and the Gothic style Writer's Building. A walk through one of its crowded thoroughfares is a historical journey where little has changed.

We then visit the Victoria Memorial, one of India's most beautiful monuments



One-horned rhino, Kaziranga National Park

built in the early 20th century; St. Paul's Cathedral - built in 1847; and South Park Street Cemetery, a fascinating history of the British colonials who worked for the East India Company and died in India.

We depart Kolkata on the late night Singapore Airlines flight to Singapore, arriving early the next morning for connecting flights to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.



Victoria Monument, Kolkata

Itinerary & Prices

Day 1 Friday 15 November: By air to Kolkata Morning Singapore Airlines flight from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth to Singapore, connecting in the early evening to Kolkata. Overnight stay at Swissotel located close to the airport.

Day 2 Saturday: By air to Gauhati Morning flight to Gauhati. Afternoon sightseeing. Two nights at Radisson Blu.

Day 3 Sunday: In Gauhati Morning and afternoon sightseeing

Day 4 Monday: By road to Shillong Morning drive to Shillong. Afternoon sightseeing. Two nights at Tripura Castle

Day 5 Tuesday: Excursion to Mawlynong Full day excursion to Dawki, Mawlynong and the living root bridge at Riwai

Day 6 Wednesday: By road to Tezpur Full day drive to Tezpur. Overnight Wild Mahseer at Adabari

Day 7 Thursday: By road to Dirang Full day drive to Dirang. Two nights at Norphel Retreat

Day 8 Friday: In Dirang Morning and afternoon sightseeing

Day 9 Saturday: By road to Tawang Full day drive to Tawang via Sela Pass. Two nights at Hotel Yangzom

Day 10 Sunday: In Tawang Morning and afternoon sightseeing

Day 11 Monday: By road to Bomdilla Full day drive to Bomdilla. Overnight Tepal Yangzom Hotel

Day 12 Tuesday: By road to Itanagar Full day drive to Itanagar. Overnight Waii International Hotel

Day 13 Wednesday: By road to Ziro Drive to Ziro Valley. Two nights at Ziro Palace Inn

Day 14 Thursday: In Ziro Valley Morning and afternoon sightseeing

Day 15 Friday: By road to Majuli Full day drive via Dhunaguri Ghat to Majuli Island. Two nights at La Maison de Anand

Day 16 Saturday: On Majuli Island Morning and afternoon sightseeing

Day 17 Sunday: By road to Jorhat Full day drive via Nimati Ghat to Sivasagar for tour then continue to Jorhat. Overnight Banyan Grove Bungalows

Day 18 Monday: By road to Kohima Full day drive to Kohima. Three nights at de Oriental Hotel

Day 19 Tuesday: At Hornbill Festival Morning at Hornbill Festival. Afternoon sightseeing

Day 20 Wednesday: At Hornbill Festival Morning at Hornbill Festival. Afternoon sightseeing

Day 21 Thursday: By road to Kaziranga Full day drive via Dimapur to Kaziranga National Park. Two nights at Iora Retreat

Day 22 Friday: In Kaziranga National Park Morning elephant safari then sightseeing and afternoon jeep safari

Day 23 Saturday: By road to Gauhati Morning jeep safari then drive to Gauhati. Overnight Radisson Blu

Day 24 Sunday: By air to Kolkata Late morning flight to Kolkata. Afternoon sightseeing. Two nights at Oberoi Grand

Day 25 Monday: By air to Singapore Morning and afternoon sightseeing then late evening Singapore Airlines flight to Singapore

Day 26 Tuesday 10 December: Arrive Australia Early morning arrive Singapore for connecting flights to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth, arriving the same afternoon.



Climatic Conditions

Average temperatures at time of visit:

	Max	Min
Kolkata (1st visit)	29	19
Gauhati	27	16
Shillong	19	9
Tawang	20	8
Ziro	22	9
Jorhat	22	10
Kohima	18	9
Kaziranga (Tezpur)	23	12
Kolkata (2nd visit)	26	15

Tariffs per person [share twin]

from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth \$18,810

Supplements

Single room \$ 2,000
Business Class air travel on Singapore Airlines \$ 4,970

Hotels

It is our policy to use the highest quality accommodation available throughout each stage of every tour. In large cities we also select hotels which offer a special ambience, history or favorable location. Outside major cities and towns hotel choices are limited and the 'best available' may be the 'only available' hotel. On this particular tour passengers should be aware that we are not always able to provide fully international standards of accommodation.

Kolkata, West Bengal



Swissotel

Gauhati, Assam



Radisson Blu

Shillong, Meghalaya



Tripura Castle

Tezpur, Assam



Wild Mahseer at Adabari

Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh



Norphel Retreat

Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh



Hotel Yangzom

Bomdilla, Arunachal Pradesh



Tsepal Yangzom

Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh



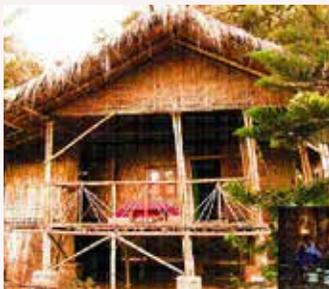
Waii International

Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh



Ziro Palace Inn

Majuli, Assam



La Maisson de Anand

Jorhat, Assam



Banyan Grove

Kohima, Nagaland



de Oriental Grand

Kaziranga NP, Assam



Iora Retreat

Kolkata, West Bengal



Oberoi Grand

General Information and Booking Conditions

To make a booking

Complete the Booking Form on page 9 and return it to Far Horizons Tours Pty Ltd (hereinafter referred to as Far Horizons) with a deposit of \$2,000 per person.

Items included in the tour cost

1. Scheduled air travel and taxes as indicated
2. Transfers, assistance and portage between airports and hotels
3. Accommodation in specified hotels or similar
4. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily whilst on tour
5. Bottled drinking water in vehicles and with meals
6. Gratuities to guides, drivers and tour escort
7. All service charges and local taxes
8. All transportation and sightseeing as indicated
9. All entrance fees, admission charges, entertainments and cultural events
10. Services of Far Horizons escort throughout
11. Services of experienced local guide/lecturers
12. Free baggage allowance of 20 kgs (30kgs on Business Class flights) - or as applied by airline

Items not included in the tour cost

1. Laundry, drinks, room service, mini bar and other items of a personal nature
2. Visa fees (costs will be added to tour invoice)
3. Travel Insurance

Balance of Payment

Fifty percent of the tour cost must be received by Far Horizons at least one hundred (100) days before departure, and the balance must be received no later than sixty (60) days prior to departure. About four weeks before departure we will send you historical notes and a general information booklet which contains information about climate, clothing, health requirements, visa procedures and other matters. Approximately two weeks prior to departure we will send your final joining instructions, detailed day by day itinerary, luggage labels and all other documentation pertinent to your journey. Please note we are not bound to issue any tickets or other travel documents until full payment is made. Failure to make payment when due may at our option be deemed a cancellation by you and we reserve the right to retain the deposit you have paid including any cancellation charges applicable. Late payment may cause the late delivery of travel documents and we accept no responsibility for such delivery or any consequence thereof.

Late Bookings

Bookings made within sixty days of departure will only be accepted if full payment is received at time of booking. Late booking fees may be charged in addition to any charges levied by operating suppliers.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made to Far Horizons in writing signed by the person who made the original booking. In the event of cancellation the following charges will be levied, depending upon the number of days prior to departure date when Far Horizons receives written notice of cancellation:

Up to 120 days prior	\$500*
119 - 90 days	loss of deposit*#
89 - 45 days	50% of tour price
Less than 45 days	100% of tour price

* plus any non-recoverable deposits paid on your behalf.

Balance of deposit may be transferrable to a future Far Horizons tour on request.

If you fail to avail yourself of any services comprised in the holiday, no refund will be available for services not provided.

Changes to the advertised itinerary or designated airline

Passengers wishing to make changes to the advertised itinerary may do so at an administrative charge of \$200 per booking, plus the cost of any additional flights, accommodation and/or services. The air fare on which this tour is based requires all passengers to travel out together, so any extensions or amendments to the itinerary should take place after the completion of the tour rather than before, otherwise additional charges may be incurred. Passengers wishing to travel on a 'land only' basis, or to travel by airlines other than those designated may be required to pay a supplementary charge of \$500 per person.

Changes in prices and itineraries

Prices are based on tariffs, air fares and exchange rates current at 20 October 2018. To reflect fluctuations in exchange rates or increases to the cost elements of the tour we reserve the right to adjust prices as may be necessary at any time.

The tours are based on an economic minimum number of passengers. Should this minimum not be reached, we reserve the right to cancel the tour before non-refundable supplier deposits fall due or at Far Horizons Tours discretion.

The right is reserved to refuse to accept any person, or to terminate any person's participation in the tour at our own discretion at any time during the course of the tour. We furthermore reserve the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it, or to make such alterations to the itinerary as we deem necessary or desirable in the event of delays or events beyond our control. In the event of any changes made we will give you or be caused to give you notice thereof including any consequent change in price. In the event any one change or series of changes to your itinerary demonstrates that your tour has thereby become materially different from that contemplated, you have the right to ask to rearrange or withdraw from the tour and monies already paid will be refunded less any charges levied by operating suppliers.

Insurance

We strongly advise passengers to take out travel insurance at the time of booking, covering medical, cancellation and emergency costs, cash in hospital, loss of baggage and documents, hijack compensation, death, disability and loss of income. Far Horizons can issue travel insurance on request.

Accommodation

The basis of accommodation provided is in a twin-share, double-share or single room with private bath or shower and w.c. in luxury, first class or (in remote regions or where infrastructure is limited) 'best available' hotels.

Single rooms and share-twin accommodation

At all hotels rooms are available for single occupancy at the appropriate supplement. These rooms are usually normal twin-bedded rooms, but occasionally they may be smaller. We will endeavour to match single persons wishing to book on a "share-twin" basis. However, such bookings are accepted on the understanding that the single supplement will be payable in the event of our being unable to find a suitable partner. Passengers wishing to book on this basis will be asked to complete a form to assist us in providing a compatible partner.

Immigration and Health

Each passenger must be in possession of a valid passport which should be valid for at least six months after completion of tour and have sufficient blank pages available to satisfy visa and arrival stamping procedure requirements. A visa is required for entry into India. Far Horizons will assist with obtaining this. Participation on this tour may involve walking over rough/uneven surfaces, embarking/disembarking from small boats or traditional forms of transport, travel at altitude and extremes of climatic conditions. Payment of your deposit confirms your understanding and acceptance of this and your ability to participate in all aspects of the tour.

Acts of God

We are unable to accept liability in contract or in tort for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expenses or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events over which we have no control including without limitation or rights, civil strife, terrorist activity, weather conditions, fire, flood, drought, industrial disputes, unusually severe weather, acts of God, acts of government, cancellation.

Independent Suppliers

Far Horizons purchases transportation, flights, hotel accommodation and other services from independent suppliers not affiliated with Far Horizons in any way. Far Horizons act solely as agents for the companies and/or persons supplying these services. Although we try to choose the best suppliers available we have no right to control their operations and accordingly cannot be responsible in any way for day to day problems resulting from the booking, or any loss, damage, delay, inconvenience or injury to persons or property or any loss howsoever arising, unless it is a direct result of negligence on our part or on the part of our employees, but any liability on our part shall be limited (except for death or personal injury) to a maximum of the tour cost subject to these conditions.

Jurisdiction

The passenger's contract is governed by the law of the State of New South Wales and any legal action arising pursuant to the contract shall be litigated in the appropriate court having jurisdiction in that State.



Booking Form

Please complete this form and mail to

Far Horizons Tours Pty Ltd

PO Box 555,

Cammeray NSW 2062 Australia

Telephone (02) 9955 0444

E-mail info@farhorizons.com.au

Web www.farhorizons.com.au

North East India Horizons: 26 days departing 15 November 2019

Full names of all passengers - as stated in passport

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Room type (please tick)

Twin 2 beds	Double 1 large bed	Single

Class of Air Travel (eg Business)

Airport of departure (eg Sydney)

Address for correspondence

Postcode _____

Telephone (Home) _____

Telephone (Mobile) _____

Email _____

Further Information

Star Alliance Frequent Flyer #

Aircraft Seating Preference

Special Dietary Requirements

Travel Insurance
 1. Your travel insurance policy number and provider _____

2. Please quote/assist (tick) _____

Remittance I enclose herewith a remittance of \$2,000 per person for each of the passengers named. I confirm that the relevant Conditions of Booking contained in the General Information section on page 8 have been read and accepted by me and all members of my party.

Signed _____

Date _____

Passport Details - in block capitals please

Title	Surname	Initials	Nationality	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Passport Number	Place of Issue	Date of Issue	Expiry Date