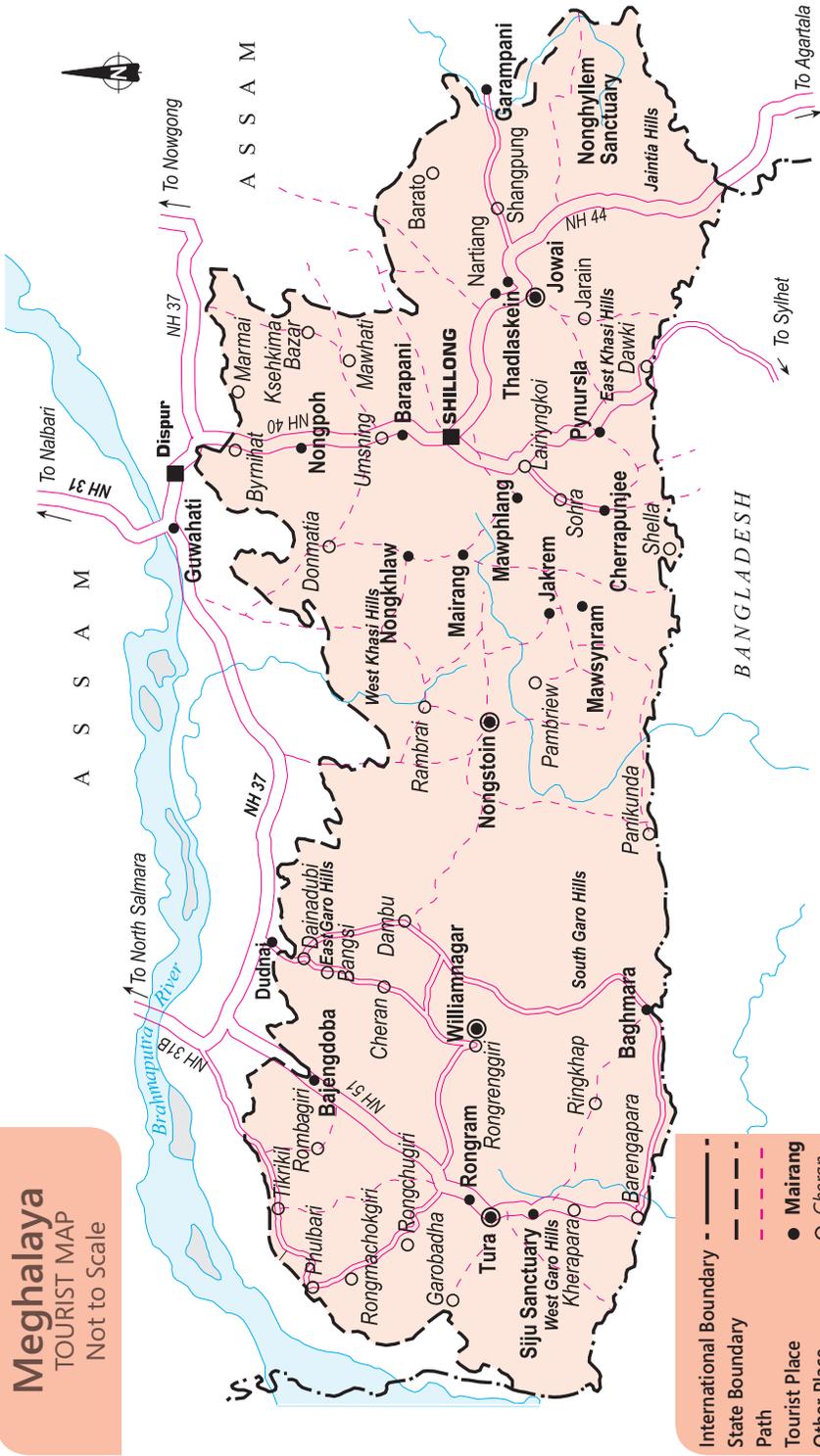
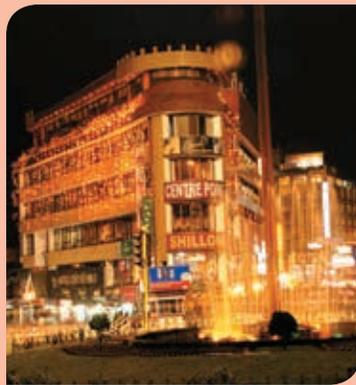
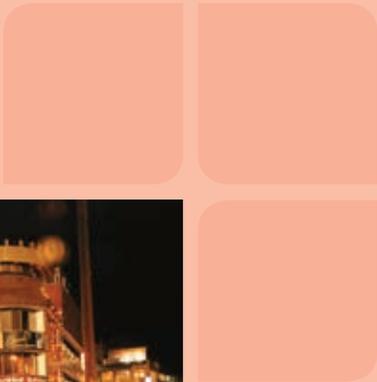


Meghalaya

TOURIST MAP
Not to Scale



- International Boundary - - - - -
- State Boundary - - - - -
- Path - - - - -
- Tourist Place ● Mairang
- Other Place ○ Cheran
- District Headquarter ● Tura



Meghalaya



Meghalaya

Many Hues of Nature

Meghalaya's natural beauty is most conducive for extended holidays with the hill station of Shillong continuing to be a hot favourite. Three hundred varieties of orchids are found in the state which is also rich in wildlife. Meghalaya has two national parks which are home to some rare species of flora and fauna. The gentle hills of Meghalaya are interspersed with rich meadows and pine forests.

Amongst these is that intriguing phenomenon — the traditional sacred forests



Orchid

that are steeped in spiritual belief and held in great veneration. They also represent some of the earliest representations of preserving the ancient eco-systems. Just 24 km from Shillong you will find the Mawphlang Sacred Forest in all its pristine wonder. Meghalaya is also home to that unique carnivorous plant, the Pitcher Plant. From the Jaintia Hills, Sir Joseph Hooker, the renowned botanist, took the blue vanda (*vanda coerulea*) to propagate it in London's famous Kew Gardens. You will discover the blue vanda, lady's slipper and other rare orchid varieties in the flower gardens of Shillong.

Recommended Tourist Circuits

1. Byrnihat-Nongpoh-Sumer-Shillong-Mawjrong-Cherrapunjee
2. Williamnagar-Jakrem-Nartiang-Jowai
3. Cherrapunjee
4. Mawphlang-Mawsynram-Lawbah-Balat-Ranikor
5. Laitlyngkot-Pynursla-Pongtung-Mawlynnong-Pomshutia-Dawki
6. Barengapara-Gasuapara-Rongara-Mahadeo-Balpakram
7. Tura- Garobadha-Salsella-Bhaitbari-Phulbari-Tikrikilla
8. Shillong-Mawryngkneng-Jowai-Khliehriat-Lumshnong-Sonapur-Ratacherra

ACCESS

Shillong, the capital, is a good tourist base. Umroi Airport (35 km) offers connections to Kolkata. There's another nearby airport at Guwahati. Guwahati is also the nearest railhead. Shillong is connected by road to Guwahati, Darjeeling, Imphal, Kaziranga, Kohima and Kolkata.

TEMPERATURE

In summer, ranges from 15°C to 25°C , in winter, it is much colder, with temperature ranging between 4°C and 16°C. The hills are also often covered by fog during this season.

BEST TIME TO VISIT

From October to April. The monsoon from May to September offers an exhilarating experience of getting drenched in the "wettest place on earth" – Cherrapunjee.

Nongknum River Island, Nongstoin, W. Khasi Hills



Shillong



Golf Course, Shillong - 18 hole Natural Golf Course

Shillong, Meghalaya's capital, is set amidst smoky blue hills thick with pine and orchids, singing brooks and crashing waterfalls... for the English, this garrison town was home during the British Raj. Those scenic Khasi Hills reminded them of the Scottish Highlands — just perfect for those summer holidays away from the heat and the dust of India's plains. They set up schools amidst those heather covered slopes — the air rang with the sound of the young growing up amidst these unpolluted, pine scented environs.

Leisurely days can be spent boating at the serene **Ward's Lake** and the landscaped **Lady Hydari Park**, which also has a mini-zoo (**Timing:** 8am-5pm). **Shillong Peak** (1,965 m), about 10 km from town, offers breathtaking views of the city spread out against its glorious hill slopes. **Sohpetbneng Peak**, 20 km away, is also a great place to catch those spectacular view of the Uiam Lake. Amongst the popular waterfalls close to town, there is



Ward's lake, Shillong



Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians

also the **Bishop Falls**, **Beadon Falls** and the **Elephant Falls** (12 km) to explore if you have time. The **Iewduh Market**, the biggest in the North East, is wonderful for a bit of local flavour.

Today, Shillong's popular 18-hole golf course (referred to as the Gleneagles of the East), is the second oldest in India. The town is dotted with fine old churches of which the **Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians** is most famed for its stained glass windows and lofty arch. Opposite the State Central Library, is the **All Saints Church**.

Shillong has regular pop and rock concerts, which are welcomed with great enthusiasm by the local youth.

The **Don Bosco Museum**, which is a part of the Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Culture (DBCIC) is an enlightening experience. Located at Mawlai, it showcases the multi-cultural magic of the North East. The museum, spread over seven floors, offers the visitor an unforgettable experience of the North East through the 14 aesthetically pleasing and informative galleries. A visit to the **Capt. Williamson Sangma State Museum** should also be on the visitor's must-see agenda. For those interested in ethnic tribal culture and tradition, this state run museum which falls under the Art and Culture Department offers insights into the lifestyle of the colourful people of Meghalaya.

Elephant Falls, Shillong



EXCURSIONS



Umiam lake

Umiam Lake

Located about 17 km from Shillong, Umiam Lake is highly popular for a relaxing time. The Orchid Lake Resort here has some water sports facilities such as row-boats, paddle-boats, cruise-boats, sailing-boats, water scooters and speed boats. There is also a Swimming Pool and Health Spa. Adjacent to the resort is the Lum Nehru Park - a popular picnic spot and has a nice Orchidarium which offers picturesque walk.

Cherrapunjee

World-renowned for being the wettest place on earth, Cherrapunjee is just 56 km from Shillong. The road is good and the drive scenic. Cherrapunjee is impressive with its gushing waterfalls and deep gorges. You'll also get stunning views of the plains of Bangladesh. Cherrapunjee's oranges and honey are famous and you can pick-up fine hand-woven baskets from the Sohra market. Cherrapunjee's other star attractions are the **waterfalls** – particularly the glorious **Nohsngithiang Falls** and the **Nohkalikai Falls**, the **Khoh Ramhah** which is a unique conical rocky formation overlooking scenic



*Nohsngithiang falls,
Cherrapunjee*

vistas, **several parks** – amongst them the best being the beautiful **Thangkharang Park**, the unique **Eco Park** and the **Sa-I-Mika Park**. Also visit the famous **Mawmai Cave** and the tranquil **Ramakrishna Mission**.

Mawsynram - Mawjyngbuin Cave

About 56 km from Shillong. It is reputed for its stalagmite and stalactite caves. The Mawjyngbuin Cave is shaped like a Shivalinga revered by Hindus who make annual pilgrimages to this place.

Jakrem

Located around 64 km from Shillong, this pretty countryside enclave has gained popularity for its hot water springs, believed to have curative medicinal properties. Jakrem has been developed as a health resort. People from all parts of the region throng here to take a dip in the hot waters.

Mawlynnong

A 90-km drive out of Shillong. The picturesque village of Mawlynnong has earned the distinction of being the “one of the cleanest villages in India.” The pretty little village offers many interesting sights such as the living root bridge and another strange natural phenomenon of a boulder balancing on another rock. Mawlynnong’s fame is now drawing an endless stream of tourists from across the country and abroad. Mawlynnong is particularly an



Jakrem, Hot Water Springs



Cleanest village of Meghalaya, Mawlynnong



Wangala Dance of the Garos

artist's delight and the sort of getaway that would inspire writers, painters and poets.

Mawphlang

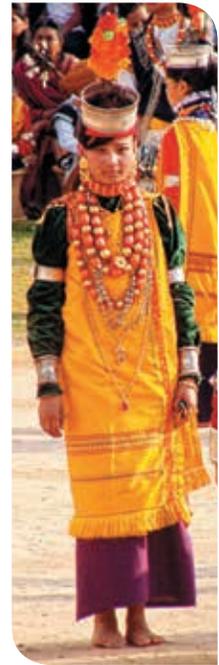
One of the most remarkable features of the Khasi Hills is the sacred forests, which have been preserved by traditional religious sanction since the ancient days. One of the most famous sacred forests is the Mawphlang Sacred Forest. The sacred grove has an amazing wealth of plants, flowering trees, orchids and butterflies making it a great attraction for nature lovers. Mawphlang is just 24 km from Shillong.

Dawki

About 96 km from Shillong, Dawki offers gorgeous views and continues to be a popular picnic point.

Ranikor

Pretty as Kashmir's holiday resort village Pahalgam, Ranikor is located on the banks of the blue-hued of Jadukata River close to Bangladesh, about 140 km from Shillong. This area is famous for abundance of the golden Mahseer. The feisty Mahseer continues to challenge anglers from home and abroad. The dark blue waters of Jadukata also offer ample scope for water sports. Every autumn Ranikor rings to the festivities of the river-beach festival held in January/February.



Khasi Female Dancer during Shad Suk Mynsiem

Tura

Headquarters of West Garo Hills district, Tura is reputed for its picturesque environs and equable climate. It lies 324 km away from Shillong via Guwahati. Named after a powerful goddess Durama-Imbama, Tura town lies at the base of Tura Peak (1400 m). The view from atop of the peak gives you the sweeping vistas of the hills set against a backdrop of low lying plains and majestic curve of the mighty Brahmaputra. Tura and its surroundings are a window to the ethnic lifestyle of the Garo people. The region is famous for its **Wangala Festival** that takes place annually in October/November.



Jaintia Stone Memorials (Monoliths)

Nartiang

The ancient seat of the Jaintia kings **Nartiang** (65 km from Shillong)) still has a number of the famous Jaintia stone memorials (monoliths) which have survived the passage of time. The tallest (27 ft high) is said to have been the walking stick of U Mar Phalyngki, the giant of Jaintia legend. A temple dedicated to the goddess Durga, is very popular. Legend has it that **Thadlaskein Lake** (56 km from Shillong) was dug with arrow-heads by subjects of Sajar Nangli, one of the foremost war leaders of the Jaintias. The lake is a popular picnic place and recreational centre.

Thadlaskein Lake



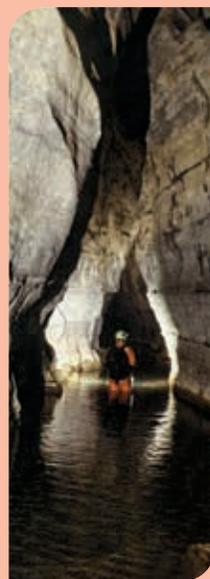
Nature's Bounty

The Caves of Meghalaya

For those who enjoy caving, Meghalaya is the right place, many of them unmapped and unexplored. Of the ones surveyed, five are amongst the longest in the Indian sub-continent.



Krem Lymput



Krem Um-Lawan

The important caves include:

EAST KHASI HILLS

Krem Mawmluh, Krem Phylutt, Krem Dam, Krem Mawjymbuin, Krem Lymput.

JAIINTIA HILLS

Krem Kotsati, Krem Um-Lawan, Krem Lashing, Krem Liat Prah.

SOUTH GARO HILLS

Siju-Dobakkol, Mahadeo River Cave, Telengkol-Balwakol.

For more information on Special Cave Tour Packages call Meghalaya Tourism or Meghalaya Adventures Association, Shillong Tel: 0364-2545621
91- 98 5600 6945



Orchids

Orchid World

Meghalaya is orchid country. It has about 300 of the world's species growing in its rich forestland, gardens and nurseries. These rare specimens include the insect-eating Pitcher Plant, Wild Citrus and Pygmy Lily.

The Wealth of Meghalaya's exotic butterflies and moth species found in its forests and meadows have been showcased in the delightful Butterfly Museum.

Wildlife

Two of Meghalaya's national parks, the **Nokrek** and **Balpakram**, are home to some of its rare wildlife species such as the golden cat. Approachable from Tura, **Balpakram National Park**, set in the spectacular Balpakram Plateau is famous for its mighty gorge, often compared to Grand Canyon in the USA. The **Nokrek Biosphere Reserve** is just 2 km away from Tura Peak.

Siju and **Nongkhyllem** are two more wildlife sanctuaries, which are fast becoming popular with visitors. Siju is famous for Dobakkol or the bats, cave with impressive stalagmites and stalactites. It is one of the longest caves in the Indian sub-continent and contains some of the finest river passages to be found any where in the world.

Pitcher plant



Shopping

lewduh (Bara Bazaar) in Shillong, is the oldest and largest traditional market and trade centre in the entire North East. The hub of trade and commerce, where most of the shopkeepers are women, it comes under the direct management of the Syiem of Myllem. The market is not just a shopping paradise but also a huge tourist attraction. Good buys include hand-woven shawls, orange, honey, wild mushrooms, Khasi dresses for women, pineapples, oranges and other products. Other places for shopping are GS Road, Police Bazaar and Laitumkhrah.



Oranges

Popular Shopping Outlets

Meghalaya Handlooms & Handicrafts, Purbashree, Manipur Emporium, Tantuja, Assam Emporium, Khadi Gram Udyog, Nagaland Handloom & Handicrafts, Meghaloom. Also try GN Super Bazaar, The Right Shop, Centre Point Multi-national Brand, Style Craft, Motiram's Ladies Wear, G S Road, Glory Plaza, Didar Market, Police Bazaar.

Dried Bottle Gourds and Deer Horns at a typical Garo House



Fairs and Festivals

NONGKREM DANCE

The 5-day festival celebrated in November, the Nongkrem Dance is one of the most important festivals of the Khasi tribe. Held on October/November.

SHAD SUKMYNSIEM

The 3-day festival of Shad Sukmysiem is a joyous celebration of thanksgiving—usually held in April. People dress in their lavish traditional costumes during the days of the festivities.

BEH DEINKHLAM

One of the most colourful religious festivals Beh Deinkhlam is celebrated by the Jaintia community. The people invoke the gods for a good harvest after the sowing has been done . Rituals are also conducted to avert evil. The festival is held in July.

WANGALA DANCE

Held in November, the great harvest festival of the Garos is the Wangala Dance. It is a time for thanksgiving and celebration. Colourful costumes, dance and music are the highlights of all the festivities.



Wangala Dancer

Wangala dance



Shillong STD Code: 0364 Accommodation

Getting there

BY AIR

Nearest airport Umroi Airport (35 km). There are Alliance Air flights from Kolkata to Umroi on certain days of the week. You can also access it from LGB Airport Guwahati (128 km) served by daily flights. State-run bus and taxi services are available.

BY RAIL

Nearest railhead: Guwahati is 103 km. Transfers between Guwahati and Shillong are available by daily hourly bus services from 6.00 am – 5.00 pm. Taxis are also readily available.

For details contact: Meghalaya Transport Corporation, Police Bazaar, Shillong Tel: 0364-2223200, 2222864

BY ROAD

The road network in the state is quite efficient and covers the state conveniently. National Highway 40 is an all-weather road running through the state. The road connects Shillong via Dispur, Jorabat, Umiam, with Guwahati, which in turn is connected to other major cities of the country. State Transport Corporation (STC) and private transport operators have services to various places in Meghalaya and to neighbouring states. Frequent services are available from Guwahati. Taxis and shared taxis are also available. In Guwahati, the buses leave from the main bus stand near the railway station. The taxi stand is nearby. In Shillong, the bus stand is located near Centre Point, the heart of town.

Deluxe Hotels

HOTEL PINEWOOD

Rita Road, Shillong

Tel: 0364-2223116, 2223146

Fax: 91-364-2224176

ROYAL HERITAGE-TRIPURA CASTLE

Cleave Colony, Shillong

Tel: 0364-2501111, 2501149

Fax: 0364-2501111

Email: rh_tripuracastle@rediffmail.com

Website: www.tripuraroyalheritage.in

LAKKHOTAA LODGE

Mawpun, polo Hills, Shillong

Tel: 0364-2590523, 2590524

Fax: 0364-2590516

Email: info@lakkhotalodge.com

Website: www.lakkhotalodge.com

RI KYNJAI RESORT

Umniuh Khwan, U.C.C Road

Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya

Tel: +91 98624 20300 / 20301

Fax: 0364-2220100

Email: info@rikynjai.com

Website: www.rikynjai.com

HOTEL POLO TOWERS

Polo Ground, Shillong

Tel: 0364-2222341, 2222342

Fax: 0364-2220090

Email: enquiry@hotelpolotowers.com

website: www.hotelpolotowers.com

Standard Hotels

HOTEL ORCHID

Oakland Road,

Polo Grounds, Shillong

Tel: 0364-2224935, 2222664

Fax: 0364-2224176

Email: hpt@vsnl.com

HOTEL PEGASUS CROWN

Ward's Lake road, Police Bazaar
Shillong 793001

Tel: 0364-2220667, 2220668,
2220669, 2220665

Tel: 0364-2228835

Email: pegasuscrown@gmail.com

HOTEL ALPINE CONTINENTAL

Thana road/Quinton road, Shillong
793001

Tel: 0364-2220991, 2223617

Fax: 0364-2220996

Email: alpineshillong@hotmail.co

Website: www.alpinecontinetal.com

HOTEL CENTRE POINT

Police Bazaar, Shillong 793001

Tel: 0364-2225210, 2220480, 2229839

Fax: 0364-2220100

Email: center_point91@rediffmail.com

THE MAJESTIC HOTEL

ME-BA-AI PLAZA, Polo Hills, Shillong
793001

Tel: +91 364-2506597-99

Fax: +91.364-2227497

Email: info@majesticmonsoonshillong.com

Website: www.majesticmonsoonshillong.com

HOTEL YALANA

Laitumkhrah Main Road,
Shillong 793003

Tel: 0364-2211420, 2226059

HOTEL J.K. INTERNATIONAL

Police Bazar, jail Road, Opp. Vishal
Megamart, Shilling-793001

Tel: 0364-2501588/98624-57675

Email: jk@jkinternational.com

Website: www.hotejkinternational.com

HOTEL BOULEVARD

Thana Road, Police Bazar Shillong

Tel: 91 364-222 9823/9044/9039

Fax: +91 364-222 9058



Water Sports at Umiam

THE EEE CEE HOTEL

Khynadailad, Shillong – 793001

Tel: + 91 364-2500188, 9206043888

Fax: +91.364-2500258

Email: concierge@eschillong.com

Website: www.ecshillong.com

HOTEL BROADWAY

G.S. Road, Shillong 793001

Tel: +91 364-2226996, 2220815

Fax: +91 364-2501892

Email: hotelbroadway@live.in/
hotelbroadwayshillong@gmail.com

website: www.hotelbroadway.net

SHILLONG CLUB

Kachari Road, Shillong

Tel: 0364-2225497

Email: shillongclubltdresi@hotmail.com

CHERRAPUNJEE HOLIDAY RESORT

Village Laitkynsew, Cherrapunjee

Tel: 03637-244218, 244219, 244220.

Mobile: 94361-15925

Website: www.cherrapunjee.com

ORCHID LAKE RESORT

Umian, Barapani

Tel: 0364-2570258, 2570296

BREEZE-DALE TOURIST RESORT

Umran P.O. Umsning, Shillong-

Guwahati Road, NH-40,

Meghalaya-793105

Tel: +9198620-99039, +9198560-06376

ORCHID INN

Thadlaskien, Jaintia Hills

Tel: 9856003662/ 9863600078/
9863101231

Email: ctc_orchid_inn@indiatimes.com

ORCHIDE LODGE

Tura, Arai Mile, West Garo Hills

Tel: 0986-2202772

Fax: 03651-224176, 222731

HOTEL SUNDARE

Circular Road, Tura, West Garo Hills

Tel: 03651-224610

WILLIAMNAGAR TOURIST LODGE

Williamnagar, East Garo Hills

Tel: 03651-232394

BAGMARA TOURIST LODGE

Baghmara, South Garo Hills

Tel: 03651-232394, 03639-222141

SIJU TOURIST LODGE

South Garo Hills

Tel: 03651-232394, 03639-222141

Information Offices

The Directorate of Tourism

3rd Secretariat Nokrek Building, Lower
Lachumiere, Shillong 793001

Meghalaya, India

Telefax: +91-364-2226054,
364-2500736, 2502166

Website: www.megtourism.gov.in

Email: meghtourism@gmail.com

Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation

Polo Road, Shillong-793001

Tel: +91-364-2222731, 2224933,
2505012, 2224471

Website: www.meghalayatourism.com.in



A Garo Woman, pounding rice at her house

Indiatourism Shillong

Tirot Singh Sylem Road,
Shillong-793001

Tel: +91-364-2225632

Tourist Information Centre

Meghalaya House, 9 Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi-110001

Tel: +91-11-23014417

Fax: +91-11-23014417

Meghalaya House

120, Shanti Pally, Rash Behari
Connector, Kolkata-700107

Tel: +91-33-24412159

Fax: +91-33-24411930

Meghalaya House

A.K. Azad Road, Rehabari, Guwahati

Tel: +91-361-2632174

Office of the Tourist Officer

Tourist Compound Complex
Opp. Central School
Nazing Bazaar, New Tura-794001

Tel: 03651-232394

Mob: 09862084236

Meghalaya

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Traveller's Companion