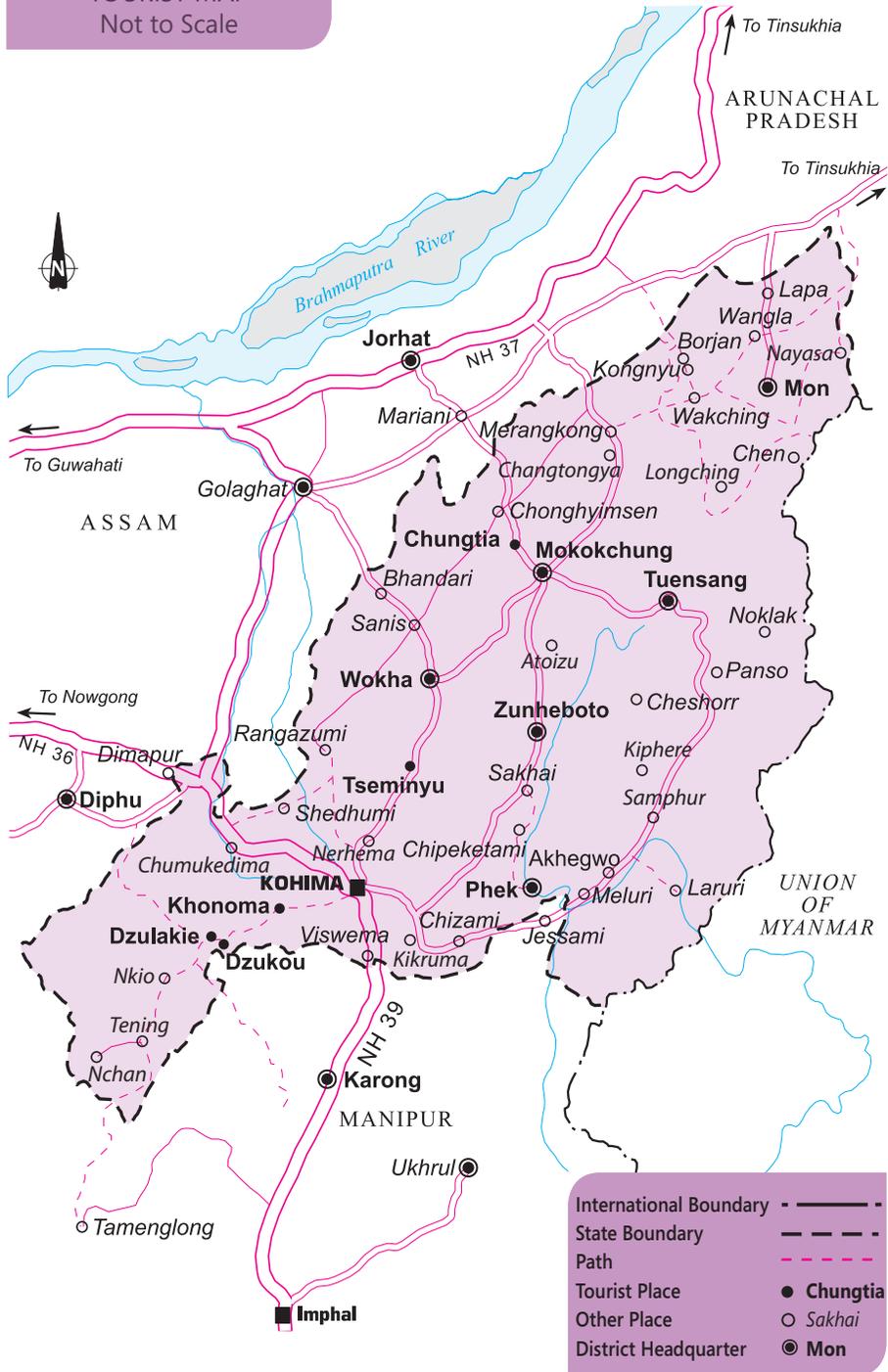


# Nagaland

## TOURIST MAP

Not to Scale





# Nagaland



# Nagaland

Vibrant Traditions - the land of festivals

Sharing borderlines with Myanmar in the east, Assam in its western and northern periphery, the Tirap district of NEFA in Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast and Manipur in the south, Nagaland's blue-hued mountains and emerald expanses comprise an intriguing world of ancient rituals and a proud people. This verdant homeland of the Nagas was formally inaugurated as the state of Nagaland in 1963, the 16th State of the Indian Union.

Tiger, leopard, elephant, sambar, wild buffalo and bear people its deep jungles, while its vast expanses of paddy fields, fed by an elaborate indigenous irrigation system, are a veritable feast for the eyes. Known for its salubrious climate, Nagaland has considerable rainfall during the monsoons that run from June to September.

Spread over an area of 16,579 sq km, its population resides mainly in the rural area. Kohima, its capital, Dimapur and Mokokchung are its most important towns. Nagas have evolved into a generic term for many tribal communities in the North East. Of the 32 such tribes, 16 major and numerous sub-tribes spread over Nagaland's eleven districts; primary amongst them are the Angami, Sumi, Konyak, Lotha, Ao, Chakhesang, Phom, Sangtam, Phom, Chang, Yimchunger, Khamniungan, Zeliang, Pochury and Rengma, each with their own distinct culture and lifestyle.

Though they were animist by tradition, almost 98% of the population embraced Christianity under the influence of American missionaries. The Nagas were also exposed to western culture when the English recruited them as a labour corps to serve in France during the Second World War. They were highly commended for their loyalty and bravery.

Naga society is a well-knit and cohesive unit, living by ancient tenets that play an important role in contemporary life. One of its most interesting features is the tradition of the Morung, a dormitory exclusively for men, which is the focal point of the village.



*A Naga woman*

*Dzukou valley*



## Recommended Tourist Circuits

1. Dimapur-Kohima-Wokha-Mokokchung-Tuensang-Mokokchung-Zunheboto-Kohima
2. Mon – Tuensang, Kohima – Phek – Kiphire, Dimapur, Peren, Kohima

### ACCESS

There is an airport at Dimapur receiving flights from Delhi and Guwahati. Dimapur is also the nearest railhead. Kohima, the capital, is connected by road to Dimapur, Imphal, Guwahati, Shillong and Kolkata.

### TEMPERATURE

In summer it ranges from 31°C to 16°C. and in winter from 24°C to 4°C.

### BEST TIME TO VISIT

The monsoons are from May to September. Hence the ideal time to visit is from November to March.

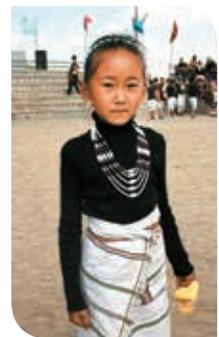
## Kohima

Located at a height of 1495 m is **Kohima**, the state capital. A pretty town it is endearingly unspoiled, tranquil and immersed in history. The **World War II Memorial**, listing the brave allied forces who laid down their lives, is one of the biggest attractions here. The **State Museum** showcases in dioramas, some of the most fascinating aspects of Naga tribal life in all its variety and wealth of tradition. Housed here is ancestral weaponry, carved gateposts, status pillars that record Feasts of Merit and traditional Naga costumes and jewellery. *Open : 10 am to 3 pm. Closed on Sundays and holidays.*

The picturesque **Kohima War Cemetery**, a memorial commemorating the officers and men who sacrificed their lives (regardless of race, nationality or religion) during World War II, is a must-visit. Well-maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and steeped in tranquility, it is embellished by two tall crosses against the backdrop of seasonal roses and lush grass. The gentle hill where the cemetery is located is embellished



*Angami Tribe*



*An Angami in traditional dress*



*Kohima War Cemetery*

by stone markers with shining bronze plaques, each one commemorating the name of the men who sacrificed their lives. *Open: 10 am to 3 pm. Closed on Sundays and holidays.* For a slice of local colour, head for the local bazaar that springs up near the supermarket. Village women in their bright, tribal costumes sell farm produce, fish, rice, mushrooms, fruit and other local delicacies.

**Kohima Village**, called **Bara Basti** (Big Village), is where Kohima began, according to Naga legend. Said to be the second biggest village in Asia, it has one of the finest ceremonial gates, common to all Naga villages. The beautiful carvings of warriors and guns, and the symbols of prosperity, the *mithun*, heighten the importance of the Naga gateway.



*Khonoma green village*

## EXCURSIONS

### Khonoma Village

The picturesque village of **Khonoma** (20 km) offers delightful views of Nagaland's natural beauty and ecological diversity. En route look out for the memorial stones erected to commemorate **Feasts of Merit**, and the intricate system of bamboo pipes, which carry water for long distances. The unique variety of soil conditions and elevations of its fields have resulted in about 20 different types of rice being grown here.

Passing through the traditional carved ceremonial gate, steep stone steps lead you to the highest point in the village.

Here, the Naga warriors made their last stand against the British in 1879. A simple white pillar commemorates G H Damant, Maj. C R Cock, Lt. H H Forbes and Sub. Maj. Nurbir Sai who died fighting the Nagas in Khonoma.

## Dimapur

**Dimapur**, Nagaland's gateway town, is an important trade and commercial centre, located on NH 39. It used to be the capital of the old Kachari rulers and one can still see the medieval remains of this ancient kingdom in the heart of the old town.

The Archaeological Department protects the relics, contemporaries of the neighbouring Ahom Kingdom. Stop by at the Ruth's and Haralu emporia where one can see women weaving exquisite Naga shawls on traditional looms. You can also pick up some traditional handicrafts here.



*Orchid*

*An Ao girl weaving*





*Doyang Lake*

## Wokha

The **Wokha** region is home to the Lotha tribe. Hilltop villages studded with monoliths (Longsu) erected by rich ancestors depicting their high status surround it. The Lothas are known for their colourful dances and folk songs. The women wear the 'Opvuram', the prestigious social shawl and the men the *Longpensu*. Wokha district is reputed for its excellent oranges and pineapples.

## Mokokchung

**Mokokchung** (160 km) is one of the great centres of Ao Naga tradition. The prowess of the Ao warriors is reflected in gorgeous red and black shawls with the white decorated band that signified their victory over their enemies. The two main festivals celebrated here are connected with sowing, *Moatsu* in early May, and harvesting, *Tsungremmong* in August. The highlight of *Tsungremmong* is the tug-of-war between the men's and women's teams.

*An Ao beauty*



## Phek

**Phek** is the district headquarter and home of the Chakhesang (a combination of three tribes : 'Cha' of Chokri, 'Khe' of Khezha and 'Sang' of Sangtam). The culture and customs of the Chakhesang is very different from other Nagas. Phek is famous for its colourful *Tsukhenyie* festival which takes place in March-April. Blythe Tragopan pheasants are found in abundance here as are exotic varieties of orchids.

## Zunheboto

The Semas live in homes strung along a cluster of hillocks in **Zunheboto** (150 km). The martial race among the Naga tribes are renowned for their dazzling war dance, folk songs, and ceremonial war dresses. *Tuluni* is one of the most important festivals observed in the second week of July every year.

*Sema Tribe in traditional attire*



*Flora*



*Paragliding*



*Mountain biking*

## Adventure Sports

### Trekking

Rising 3048 m high above the verdure of the valley floor, **Japfu Peak**, 15 km south of Kohima, makes for a great trek especially from November to March.

Behind it lies the **Dzukou Valley** (2462 m), watered by a meandering stream which often freezes in winter. In spring, the valley is rich with wildflowers and pink and white rhododendrons.

### Paragliding

Paragliding in most districts has also been introduced recently in the state.

For other adventure sports like mountain climbing, biking, gliding, off-road racing and motorcross etc., adventure enthusiasts can approach Nagaland Adventure Club, Midland Kohima, Nagaland.

## Wildlife

### Intanki Wildlife Sanctuary

Located about 37 km from Dimapur and 111 km from Kohima, **Intanki Wildlife Sanctuary** is the home to the Hoolock Baboon, the only gibbon found in India. The sanctuary also has a sizeable number of elephant, tiger, *mithun*, sambhar, wild dog and sloth bear.

*Khleej pheasant*



## Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary

Spread over an area of 642 hectares, the Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the eastern hills close to the Myanmar border near Fakim Village in Kiphire district.



*Morung (dormitory)*

## Cultural Mosaic

### Morung Traditions

The pride of the village, the *Morung* is embellished with hunting trophies and fine wood carving in its doorway. This all-male dormitory, where a young lad of 6 enters and leaves when he weds, is where the village's sacred hunting trophies, *daos*, spears and shields of the village are kept for safe keeping. It is in the *Morung* where the boys learn the ancestral folksongs and folktales, where decisions of war and peace are taken, but it is also a refuge for the village culprits. Yet the *Morung* is not common to all tribes. You will not find it amongst the Angamis, but it is central to all villages of the Ao, Lotha, Konyak and

Phom. Some tribes also have an exclusive dormitory for girls where they too imbibe the tribe's cultural traditions.

Of central importance in village ceremonies too are the log drums made from hollowed tree trunks with a carved *mithun* head, positioned close to the *Morung*. Amongst some tribals, it is regarded as a deity.

## Feasts of Merit

The Feasts of Merit are important features of Naga society. The performance of a series of these feasts (*genna*), one more costly than the last, distinguishes the host's position in society. Every feast given entitles the host to progressively improve his standing and position in the village. It won him the right to wear special garments and ornaments and decorate his home in a special way to mark his status in society, distinguishing him from others in the village.

The dragging of a huge monolith from a distance ceremony is the special privilege of those who have performed a series of feasts. Stone pulling entails the erection of a stone at the location of the feast to commemorate it. It is an occasion of great festivity.

## Woven Dreams

Naga shawls are not a mere wrap against the cold - they are highly symbolic. Each tribe has its own special patterns and motifs and even certain ceremonies are indicated in the weaving of these beautiful wraps. The weave and patternisation of a shawl identify tribes and also indicate the social status of a man.

Among the Angami tribals, the most common pattern in these social shawls is *Lohe*, red and yellow bands on black cloth. The Lotha community's shawls are woven into a graded pattern - a series of shawls indicating the *gennas* he has performed. A Naga who has performed the stone dragging ceremony wears the *Lungpensu* - five stripes of light blue on dark blue cloth. The Ao warrior shawl is embellished with the deeply symbolic *mithun*, tiger or elephant motif.



An Angami enjoying Zutho



A Chakhesang girl

# Shopping



*Handicraft items*



*Bamboo products*

Weaving is one of the most colourful and dynamic traditions of the Nagas. Its finest renditions are in the beautiful hand-woven shawls of the various tribes. The market outside the Supermarket is a delightful place where village women in tribal costumes sell products ranging from farm produce to trinkets.

## Popular Shopping Outlets

The sales emporium of Nagaland Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation in Kohima has woollen shawls, *mekhlas* (sarongs) and other Naga handicrafts, made of wood and bamboo at which they are experts. Sers Bazaar, opposite the War Cemetery in Kohima, is a good place to explore for souvenirs as is the Naga Shopping Arcade, near Saramati Hotel in Dimapur.

Check out Gurtell boutique for traditional and contemporary fabrics and designs.

*Jackets on sale*





*Konyak Men in traditional outfit*

## Fairs and Festivals

Nagaland is aptly called the “Land of Festivals”, since its people enjoy celebrating life in all its different aspects. Each month is marked by a festival organized by its various tribes.

### **SEKRENYI**

The Angami tribals celebrate **Sekrenyi** in the month of February. It normally falls on the 25th day of the Angami month of *Kezei*. The ten-day festival is also called *Phousanyi* by the Angamis.

### **AOLING MONGU**

Stretched over six days, the **Aoling Mongu** festival provides an excellent insight into the rich cultural heritage of the Konyak tribe. With the completion of the sowing season by March-end, the festival marks the end of the winter of the old year and heralds the New Year beginning with spring.

### **MOATSU**

The Aos observe **Moatsu** after the sowing is done. Stretching over a period of six days, the festival is marked by vigorous merry-making after the hard labour of *jhum* farming.

## TULUNI

Held in the month of July, the **Tuluni** is the most important festival of the Semas. Nobody is allowed inside the village on the first day of this five-day festival. The fourth day is the day of prayers and offerings to Litsaba—the deity of fruitfulness who gives life and protection to the crops.

## NAKNYULEM

The strong, hardy and handsome Chang Nagas celebrate **Naknyulem** during the first week of July for a period of six days. No marriage ceremonies are performed during the festival. The Chang decorate their houses with a special kind of tree, the Ngunam.

*Sekrenye festival of Angamis*





*Hornbill festival*

## **HORNBILL FESTIVAL**

The annual **Hornbill Festival**, called the “Festival of Festivals” is celebrated at the Kisama Heritage Complex about 20 km from Kohima, from the 1st to 7th of December. The week-long Hornbill Festival is envisaged by the state government to enable visitors to witness the dazzling variety and richness of Nagaland’s culture, at one venue. The highlights of the festivities are the showcasing of its glorious range of traditional songs, music, dance and indigenous games.

## **METEMNEO**

The Yimchangers celebrate the **Metemneo** festival after the millet crop is harvested. But the festival is also connected with praying for the souls of the departed. Young girls and boys also get engaged during this festival which is spread over five days. With its strong agricultural bias, it’s not surprising that agricultural implements are worshipped.

## **AMONGMONG**

The Sangtams celebrate **Amongmong** in the first week of September when the new crop is ready for harvesting. The

*Angami warrior*



main feature of the festival is the worship of the God of the house and the three cooking stones in the fireplace.

### **TSOKUM**

The Khamgan tribesmen celebrate the **Tsokum** festival during the harvesting season which takes place in October.

### **TOKHU EMONG**

With the harvesting over and the granaries full, the Lotha community celebrates the **Tokhu Emong** festival with prayers and gaiety.

### **NGADA**

The Rengma Nagas' Ngada festival is observed towards the end of November/December. It is a popular belief of the ancient Rwegmas that the spirits of the dead visit their graves and the homes of their relatives once every year, particularly during this festival.

### **MONYU**

The Phoms community celebrate the Monyu festival with great energy after the sowing of paddy every year, from the first to third of April.



*Konyak Angh*

*Pochury Archers*



# Kohima STD Code: 0370

## Getting there

### BY AIR

**Nearest airport** Dimapur  
(74 km from Kohima)

Indian Airlines flights: Delhi-Guwahati-Dimapur (Tue, Thurs, Sat); Dimapur-Kolkata (daily)

### Booking enquiries:

**Tel:** 0386-229366,  
Airport: **Tel:** 242441.

### Indian Airlines

Flight Enquiries: Dimapur Airport:

**Tel:** 224441/42

**Reservations: Tel:** 03862-229366

**Taxi** the Dimapur-Kohima taxi takes about 2 hours.

### BY RAIL

**Nearest railhead:** Dimapur

### BY ROAD

Kohima can be reached by bus from Dimapur via NH 39. Buses leave from Dimapur (Transport Bus Stand) for Kohima hourly from 5.30 am. One can also go to Kohima from Imphal (145 km). Blue Hills Travels (Paltan Bazaar) and many others in Guwahati have deluxe buses, which take about 13 hours to reach Kohima.

Nagaland State Transport, Kohima.

**Tel:** 22265/404.

Taxis charge about ₹ 700. Share taxis are available. You can also hire private taxis.

## Accommodation

### HOTEL JAPFU ASHOK

P. R. Hills, 74 km from railway station

**Tel:** 0370-222722-23, 2243439

**Facilities:** 27 rooms, restaurant, conference hall (100 pax)

**Tariff:** Single ₹ 1600, Double ₹ 1800, Suites ₹ 5000.

### ARADURA INN

**Tel:** 0370 – 2241079

**Fax:** 2243203.

**Mobile:** 09436603007, 09436831287

**Facilities:** Standard rooms, cottages, deluxe rooms, suites

**Tariff:** Standard Room ₹ 1320-1500, Cottages ₹ 1520, Deluxe room ₹ 2120 – 2220, Suites, ₹ 2320.

### CIMORB HOTEL

**Mobile:** 09862694985 (Kenny)

**Facilities:** Single and double rooms

**Tariff:** ₹ 2000 to ₹ 3500.

*Tetseo Sisters (Traditional Folk Artistes)*



### **HOTEL AMBASSADOR**

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D Block

**Tel:** 221444

**Facilities:** 12 rooms

**Tariff:** Single ₹ 300 , Double ₹ 350

### **THE PINE HOTEL**

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Near Transport Commissioner's Office

**Tel:** 222234

**Facilities:** 7 rooms

**Tariff:** Single ₹ 350, Double ₹ 450

### **HOTEL VALLEY VIEW**

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Old N.S.T. Road

**Tel:** 2222738

**Facilities:** 16 rooms.

**Tariff:** Single ₹ 220, Double ₹ 275

### **TOURIST LODGE**

#### **(GOVT. OF NAGALAND)**

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New Minister's Hill

**Tel:** 2222417

**Facilities:** 16 rooms.

**Tariff:** Single ₹ 75, Double ₹150

## **Information Offices**

### **Government of Nagaland**

Tourism Department, Kohima

**Tel:** 0370-2270107 • **Fax:** 2222289

#### **Director**

Directorate of Tourism, Kohima

**Tel:** 0370-2243124 • **Fax:** 2243124

#### **Public Relations Officer**

Department of Tourism

29, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi

**Tel:** 011- 23016411, 23015638,  
23017878 Extn. 250



*Zealing women weaving*

### **Resident Commissioner**

Government of Nagaland

Nagaland House

29, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi

**Tel:** 011- 23012296 / 7878/ 6411

### **Deputy Resident Commissioner**

Nagaland House

11, Shakespeare Sarani, Kolkata

**Tel:** 033- 28220725

### **ROAD DISTANCES FROM KOHIMA**

ROAD	DISTANCES	FROM KOHIMA
Guwahati	-	390 km
Kolkata	-	1516 km