

Arunachal Pradesh — Option 2

With Tawang · Via Assam (Guwahati gateway) · Bhalukpong → Dirang → Tawang → back



Traveller origin: Kolkata (CCU) · **Dates:** 25 May 2026 → 30 May 2026 (5 nights / 6 days)

Route: Kolkata → Guwahati (GAU) by flight → Bhalukpong → Dirang → **Tawang** → Dirang/Bomdila → Guwahati → Kolkata

Costing basis: 2 pax sharing · mid-range (3★ hotels / guesthouses) · mid-May shoulder season

Why via Assam, not direct? There is no airport anywhere close to Tawang inside Arunachal. The nearest usable airport is Guwahati (GAU) or Tezpur in Assam — Tawang is a 2-day mountain road trip (≈ 530 km, 12+ driving hrs) from Guwahati via Sela Pass (13,700 ft).

1. Why this option

- Tawang Monastery (largest in India, 2nd-largest in the world), Sela Pass, Madhuri / Shonga-tser Lake, Bumla Pass (India–China border, 15,200 ft).
- Dramatic Himalayan drives & 1962 war history (Jaswant Garh, Tawang War Memorial).
- Best if you are OK with long mountain drives & altitude.

2. Flight plan

Leg	Date	Airline (indicative)	Route	Duration	Fare (₹, est.)
Outbound	25 May	IndiGo 6E (early AM)	CCU → GAU	1h 05m non-stop	4,000 – 5,500
Return	30 May	IndiGo 6E (evening)	GAU → CCU	1h 05m non-stop	4,000 – 5,500
Round-trip per person (book 3–6 weeks ahead)					≈ ₹8,000 – 11,000

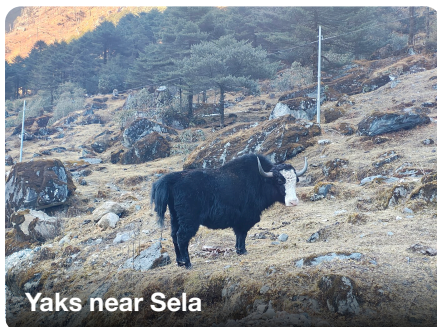
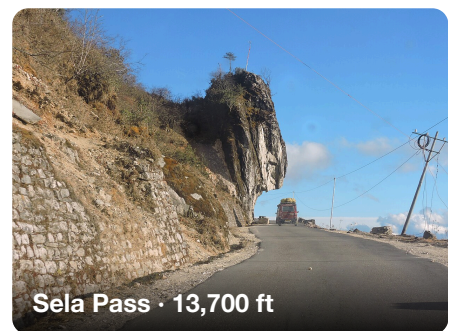
IndiGo runs 5+ daily CCU↔GAU flights. Air India / Akasa also operate — compare on Google Flights. Take **earliest** outbound (before 8 am) to start the mountain drive the same day.

3. Permits (mandatory)

Permit	Who needs it	Where	Cost
Inner Line Permit (e-ILP)	All Indian citizens	https://eilp.arunachal.gov.in	₹500 (4–14 days)
Bumla Pass Protected Area Permit	Only if visiting Bumla / Shongatser	DC office Tawang (your hotel / operator arranges)	≈ ₹1,000 + ₹4,000–5,000 vehicle hire

ILP is checked at Bhalukpong gate — no permit = no entry. Bumla permit is issued in Tawang one day in advance; bring 4 passport photos + ID.

4. Day-by-day itinerary (tight — 5 nights)



Day 1 · Mon 25 May **Kolkata → Guwahati → Bhalukpong**

- Earliest CCU → GAU flight (target landing ≤ 09:00).
- Meet pre-booked SUV at Guwahati airport. Drive GAU → Tezpur → Bhalukpong (≈ 230 km / 6 hrs).
- ILP check at Bhalukpong gate (carry printed e-ILP + ID).
- Overnight: Bhalukpong (Hotel Doi Mel / Prashanti Cottage).

Day 2 · Tue 26 May **Bhalukpong → Bomdila → Dirang**

- Drive Bhalukpong → Bomdila (≈ 160 km / 6 hrs). Bomdila monastery, craft centre, view of eastern Himalayas.
- Continue Bomdila → Dirang (≈ 45 km / 1.5 hrs). Dirang Dzong, hot springs, apple orchards.
- Overnight: Dirang (Pemaling Hotel / Awoo Resort).

Day 3 · Wed 27 May **Dirang → Sela Pass → Tawang**

- Early start. Drive Dirang → Sela Pass (13,700 ft) → Jaswant Garh → Jung Falls → Tawang (≈ 140 km / 6–7 hrs).
- Short stops for photos & acclimatisation.
- Evening at leisure in Tawang town (3,050 m). Drink plenty of water.
- Overnight: Tawang (Hotel Tawang View / Yak Residency / Dondrub).

Day 4 · Thu 28 May **Tawang — Bumla Pass & Madhuri Lake**

- Full-day excursion (permit day, booked Day 3): Bumla Pass (15,200 ft, India-China border), Shonga-tser / Madhuri Lake, P.T. Tso Lake.
- Return afternoon. Visit Tawang Monastery (Galden Namgye Lhatse), War Memorial, Craft Centre.
- Overnight: Tawang.

Bumla is open to civilians only Mon–Sat; road condition subject to Army clearance.

Day 5 · Fri 29 May **Tawang → Dirang → Bhalukpong / Nameri**

- Long drive day: Tawang → Sela → Dirang → Bomdila → Bhalukpong (≈ 320 km / 10 hrs).
- Alternative: stop at Dirang if tired and push to Guwahati next morning (adds pressure on Day 6).
- Overnight: Bhalukpong / Nameri (recommended for lighter Day 6).

Day 6 · Sat 30 May **Bhalukpong → Guwahati → Kolkata**

- Drive Bhalukpong → GAU airport (≈ 230 km / 5.5 hrs). Leave by 06:00.
- Evening flight GAU → CCU. **Trip ends.**

5. Hotel / stay plan (indicative)

Night	City	Suggested property	Category	Rate / night (₹)
25 May	Bhalukpong	Prashanti Cottage / Hotel Tipi	Budget-mid	2,500 – 3,500
26 May	Dirang	Pemaling / Awoo Resort	3★	3,500 – 5,000
27–28 May	Tawang	Hotel Tawang View / Dondrub / Yak Residency	3★	3,000 – 4,500
29 May	Bhalukpong / Nameri	Eco Camp / Prashanti	Budget-mid	2,500 – 3,500
5 nights total (per double room)				= ₹14,500 – 21,000

6. Estimated expenses (per person, 2 pax sharing)

Head	Notes	Low (₹)	Comfortable (₹)
Return flight CCU ↔ GAU	IndiGo / Akasa, advance fare	8,000	11,000
Inner Line Permit	e-ILP, 4–14 day slab	500	500
Bumla Pass permit + vehicle share	1,000 permit + 5,000 vehicle ÷ 2	3,500	4,000
Hotels (5 nights, share of dbl)	½ of room rate	7,500	10,500
Private SUV (6 days, GAU ↔ Tawang)	Innova/Scorpio ₹40,000–50,000 incl fuel & driver; ÷ 2 pax	20,000	25,000
Meals (6 days)	₹900–1,400/day	5,500	8,000
Sightseeing / entries / guide	Monastery, war memorial, monasteries	1,500	2,000
Misc / tips / warm gear rental	Jackets at Tawang, snacks, tips	2,500	4,000
Estimated total per person		= ₹49,000	= ₹65,000

7. Booking checklist

- Book CCU↔GAU flights now — earliest outbound, latest return.

- Apply e-ILP around 20 May at eilp.arunachal.gov.in.
- Finalise SUV operator (One Northeast Cabs, Huryup Cabs, Holiday Scout) — lock price in writing incl. fuel, toll, parking, driver bata.
- Pre-book all 5 hotels — Tawang fills up on weekends.
- Inform operator you want Bumla on Day 4 (permit needs 1-day processing in Tawang).
- Pack: heavy jacket, gloves, cap (Sela & Bumla < 0 °C even in May), Diamox (altitude), sunglasses.

8. Risks & notes

- **Altitude:** Sela Pass 13,700 ft, Bumla 15,200 ft. Acclimatise at Dirang. Consult doctor about Diamox.
- **Weather:** Late May = occasional rain, Sela pass can close after landslides. Keep a buffer plan.
- **Tight schedule:** 5 nights is the bare minimum. If flight cancels on Day 1, the whole Tawang leg is at risk. Consider adding 1 buffer day if possible.
- **Road condition:** Balipara–Bomdila stretch is under widening in 2026 — expect delays.
- **Mobile:** Only BSNL & Jio work reliably beyond Bomdila; no signal on Sela & Bumla routes.
- **Cash:** ATMs unreliable above Bomdila — carry ₹20–25k cash per couple.

9. Comparison vs Option 1 (without Tawang)

Factor	Option 1 (Ziro)	Option 2 (Tawang)
Total cost / person	₹35,500 – 48,500	₹49,000 – 65,000
Driving hours total	~18 hrs	~38 hrs
Max altitude	1,600 m (Ziro)	4,600 m (Bumla)
Highlight	Apatani culture, rice-fish fields	Tawang Monastery, Sela, Bumla, Madhuri Lake
Buffer if flight cancels	Medium risk	High risk (derails full Tawang leg)
Recommended for	First-timers, comfort travellers	Adventure travellers, history buffs

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