

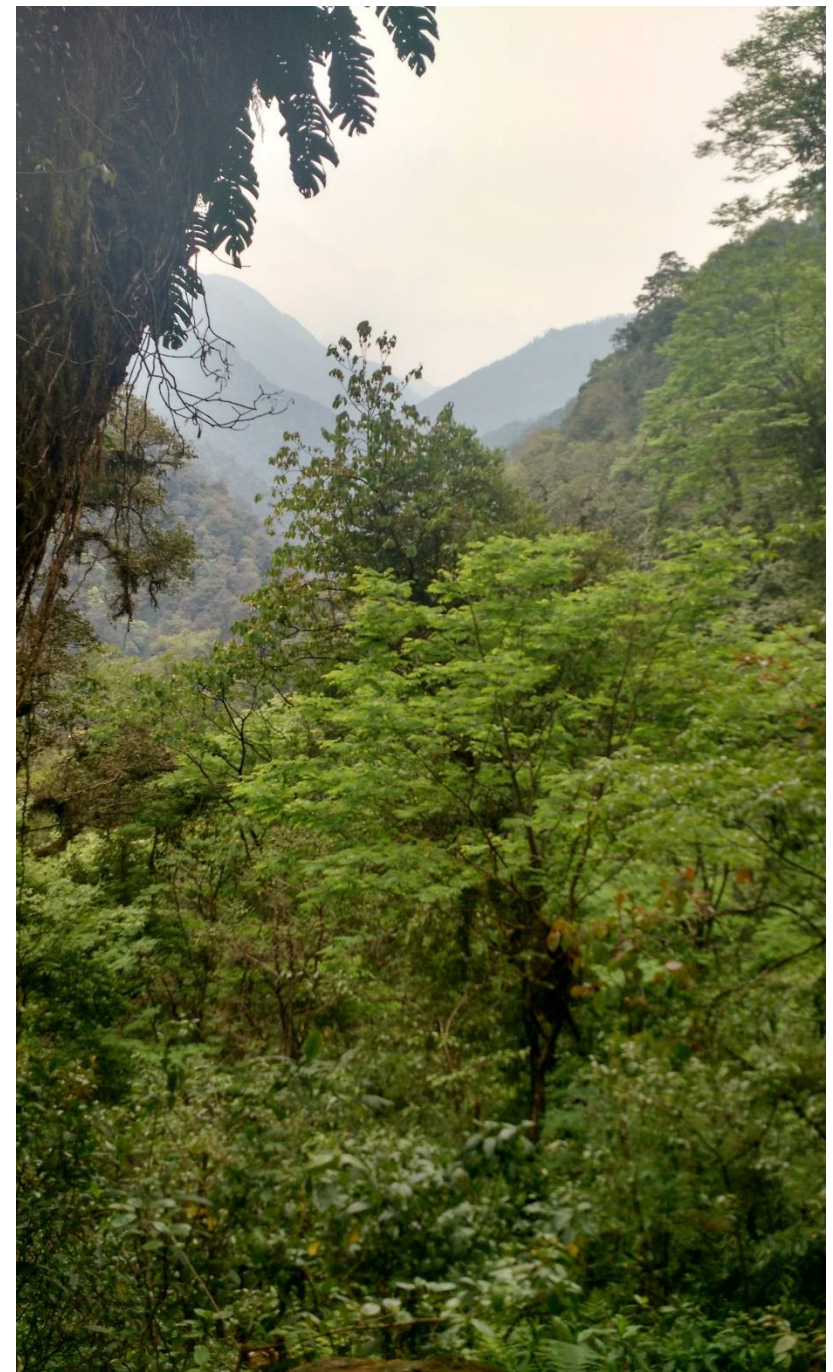
Goecha La!

16000ft , 10 days, Eastern Himalayas, North West Sikkim





Trek begins through the dense jungle route from Yuksom.





Followed
along the
turquoise
blue stream
through the
lush green
forest.
(Khangchen
dzonga
National
Park)



First camp site Bhakim. Kitchen tents on the left and sleeping tents on the right.



Probably the most dense forest I've experienced till date.



First view of the snow clad peaks. Excitement builds up when we realize we'll be trekking to those peaks!



Next camp site at Tsoka. Refreshed & relaxed for a day to acclimatize for higher altitude.



This was the view from our tent flaps. Picture postcard perfect scenes !



5 am. A
magnificent
sunrise.



Several hours pass by just admiring the immense beauty surrounding you.



Top view of
Tsoka.
The last
village on
our trek.

A
monastery, a
lake, about 6
huts with
spots for
horses &
dzos.

Dzo/zo/zho
= hybrid
between the
yak & cow.



Trees
gradually
reduced as
we climbed
higher.
It started to
get more
rocky with
boulders &
streams



And soon,
there was
snow fall !!

The whole
place
turned
white in a
matter of
minutes.



But it didn't
stop us from
having fun.

Dressed as
dementors
😊



Although freezing outside, the night sky was glorious with a million sparkles.



As the sun came up and cleared the clouds next morning, the valley opened up to show us its breath taking beauty.



Our camp at Thansing.

With horses grazing freely in the open, the clear blue skies, eagles gliding high, snow peaks on either sides and a huge valley in between, it was like those discovery & Nat geo documentaries.



Indescribable
beauty. Part 1



Indescribable
beauty. Part 2



Oh and we
saw some
wildlife too !

Mountain
goats. A
bunch of
them.



Indescribable
beauty. Part 3.

Did you notice a
sleeping person ?

We called him
the sleeping
Buddha 😊



Camp site at
Lamuney.

Highest camp in
our trek before
the summit
climb.



After exploring the surroundings for the rest of the day, we stopped to sit, relax and soak in the peacefulness.

In the background, our camp at Lamuney.



Even more clear sky, and a lot more stars.

We spotted several constellations.



Indescribable
beauty. Part 4



Soon, we
could see the
summits. It
felt so close !



Samiti Lake.
Our first glacial
lake.

The water was
soo serene!



We climbed
along.

Samiti lake in
the background.



Mount
Pandim.

We were
definitely
getting close!



Glaciers shining
on mount
Pandim. A closer
view.



Mount Thansing.

Pandim's
neighbor.



Summit day. The Kanchenjunga range



Summit day. Sunrise on Kanchenjunga range.



Indescribable
beauty. Part 5



The Kanchenjunga Range. Enough said!



Goecha Lake.

Second glacial
lake in our trek
and the source of
several rivers.





And the prize for our efforts...

the view of Mt. Kanchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world and the highest peak in India. 28169 ft.

Goechala Pass at 16000 ft. we accomplished our goal !

In the backdrop, the south east face of Mt. Kanchenjunga.





And we
returned back to
the beautiful
town of Yuksom.

Our base camp



Goecha la Trekking expedition team with India Hikes. Apr 30 – May 10, 2016.