



It was Lord Irwin who described Manipur as the 'Switzerland of India'. And with good reason. This tiny northeastern state has an exotic landscape marked by undulating hills, shallow valleys, tranquil blue lakes and lush green forests. It is its sheer tranquility that sets it apart from its neighbouring states — and makes it the ideal getaway. Literally meaning the land of jewels, is a paradise where Mother Nature has been extra generous. And from the very inception, this princely state has been a shining outpost of the country in the sparseness of the eastern Himalayas. And truly it has been a brave outpost. It was in this state, during World War II, at a place called Moirang, that the revolutionary Subhash Chandra Bose and his Indian National Army (INA) hoisted the national flag in 1944.

Other attractions

Imphal — Memories of the World War: Located almost in the middle of the state, Imphal, the capital, bustles with cultural and commercial activity. Located in an oval valley amidst picturesque surroundings, Imphal makes an excellent base to explore the attractions of this beautiful state. Its Khwairamband Bazaar (Mother's Market) is the



hoolock gibbon, the sloe loris, the clouded leopard, etc., attract tourists.

Keibul Lamjao National Park: Unleash yourself in the deep forests of Keibul Lamjao National Park, the famous 'floating sanctuary' sprawled over an area of 40 sq. km. Nestling on 1.5 m deep floating vegetation on lake Loktak, the park is home to many exotic species of plants and animals. Trek amidst the woods and you may encounter dancing deer darting along the floating wetlands.

Check Your Entry

Indian tourists require an Inner Line Permit to travel by road from Dimapur through Nagaland. These permits can be obtained from liaison officers of the Government of Nagaland in New Delhi, Kolkata or Guwahati or Shillong. The Deputy Commissioner of Imphal can also issue these permits. Foreigners require a permit from the Home Ministry in New Delhi. These permits can also be obtained Indian missions abroad.

Courtesy: India Digest



country's largest women traders' market. Here you won't come across any male trader. You may also visit the World War II cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Kangla Fort: The Kangla fort is considered one of the important sites of historical and archaeological value in the region. The fort came under British occupation in 1891 when they conquered Manipur. Assam Rifles occupied it in

1947. On November 20, 2004, the Assam Rifles handed over the Kangla Fort back to the people of Manipur.

Flora and Fauna: Almost 70 percent of the geographical area of Manipur is covered by forests and the state is naturally blessed with an amazing variety of flora and fauna. There are about 500 varieties of orchids which grow in Manipur of which 472 have been identified so far. In addition, the Siroi lily, the only terrestrial lily in the region, the

TOURIST INFORMATION

How to reach

By Air: Imphal airport is 7 km. from the city centre. Indian Airlines/Alliance Air and Jet Airways connect Imphal with Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati and Silchar.

By Rail: Dimapur in Nagaland, 215 km from Imphal, is the nearest rail station.

By Road: Imphal is well connected with Guwahati and Silchar in Assam by road.

Best time to visit: You may visit Manipur from October to April.

Where to stay

There are modern hotels and restaurants in Imphal. Hotel Imphal run by the Tourism Department offers AC and non-AC rooms with modern facilities.

For more on India Tourism, visit:
www.indiatourism.com
www.manipur.nic.in
www.hcilondon.net