

DISCOVERING DARAP-Cherry Village in West Sikkim.

Cherry Village Resort & many Home stays tucked away in a Sikkim nook –at DARAP in West Sikkim



Darap Cherry Village is one of the few places waiting to be discovered and that is why Darap is idyllic with travelers looking for a taste of bucolic life.

The word Darap is originated from the limbo word 'Tan-lop' which literally means a plain or even land. A Limbu tribal outpost, Darap towering by guardian deity Khan-chen-dzongna – the 3rd highest summit in the world benefited by the almightiest and engulfed and well blended by holy places



WHERE TO STAY:

Today, there are more than 20 home stays are registered with Darap Eco-Tourism Committee.

The rustic look belies the perfect stays in Cherry Village Resorts & home stay with local families complete with the daily comforts of life that the residents of the picturesque village near Pelling in Skkim have put up. The initiative to develop the village as a tourist destination by using local resources was taken up by Sushil Tamang, the President of the Darap Eco Tourism Committee, in 2005. Sushil organized the families and helped develop

home stays in the village houses. He also identified potential destinations for visitors and created an infrastructure to develop the tourist spots. Each family in the village are somehow or other reaping the benefit with this initiative.

THINGS TO DO & PLACES TO VISIT :





There are several offbeat and new attractions and have managed to pull more visitors each passing days. The unique USP is the activities which tourists enjoy a lot. Milk a cow, pull out a few radishes and drain the honeycombs. Then reward yourself with a glass of *tongba* and watch the grass grow. Visitors can pick and choose from an array of products ranging from trekking to picnic to meditation and swimming, have arrangements for mountain biking, learning the local language and cooking, riverside barbeque, Visit Limboo Village Chieftain (Mondal-) traditional house built in the year 1810, evening traditional cultural programme spot variety of birds in and around.

This is your chance to try your hand at carpet-weaving and to eat and cook traditional Limbu food. Riverside walks and low altitude (upto 8000 ft) or high altitude (upto 16000 ft) treks are the other inducements surrounded by *bari*

elaichi forests. Here, you can also trek to Rani Dhunga Trek, Neydham Trek, Dzongri and Goechala Trek and visit wish fulfilling- Khechupalri Lake, Pemayangtse Monastery, Yuksam-the 1st Capital of Sikkim, Rabdentse Palace Ruins, Sangacheoling Monastery, Limboo Manghim, Dechenphu"- The Cave of Happiness", Singshore Bridge, Sai Mandir, Varsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Tashiding and Pemayangtse monasteries and angle for 'Asala' in the Rangeet river.

Awards & Recognition.



The initiative has also been appreciated by the Tourism Department, Government of Sikkim with Chief Minister Dr. Pawan Chamling handing over the State Award of Excellence for Best Tourism Development Committee 2011 on the occasion of World Tourism Day- 27th September 2010 at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok

Office of District Collectorate, West has recommended DEC as a pioneer organization involved in promotion of Village Tourism in West Sikkim. Further, letter goes on to explain that DEC is sincere and diligent in our effort and has already done a commendable work in the field of Tourism Sector.

HOW TO REACH:

Easily accessible by road from every corners of Sikkim and North Bengal and at an average of about 155 km. from the nearest stations like Bagdogra, NJP, Siliguri, Darjeeling, and capital city Gangtok. Darap can be reached by shared jeep or by reserved taxi from every corners of the state. It is located mid way between Pelling-Yuksom (an ancient capital of Sikkim)-Khechupalri Lake (wish fulfilling lake) and of course world famous Singhalila Himalayan trek from Nambu and Dzongri Trek from Yuksom, the mystique of Tashiding and other mountaineering routes in West Sikkim.

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