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Picture : Tea Estate in Assam

India's

North East

Home to pristine beauty untouched by the greed of humans, endangered species of wildlife and vegetation and spirituality, Northeast can easily be called heaven on earth. Comprising of 8 states – Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura, the northeast is a perfect destination for adventure lovers, nature lovers, wildlife enthusiasts, music connoisseurs, and spiritual seekers. Which should immediately tell you that given the right canvas and backdrop, such diversity would result in spellbound visages when seen through film cameras on the large screen. Utterly mesmerising visuals whose dewdrop freshness adds a rare charisma to one's thought and imagination

Be it the indigenous culture or its amazing lifestyle, Northeast India is totally divergent from rest of India. While it is almost impossible to point out striking scenic beauty as the entire landscape itself is a kaleidoscope of vibrancy, let us try to analyse this paradise from a shooting perspective.

As a destination for film shooting, these Northeastern states can provide you lot of exotic virgin location. Be it a beautiful valleys like Yumthang Valley of Sikkim or Dzukou Valley of Nagaland or natural lakes like Tsomgo Lake of Sikkim, Loktak Lake of Manipur, jungle area like Kaziranga National Park or Manas National Park etc, you get almost all varieties here. There are still places which have not been exposed yet as a destination to the film world.

Darjeeling



Darjeeling

Popularly known as the Queen of hills, situated at an altitude of 6380 ft. Darjeeling has already become quite a popular destination for film shooting in both Bollywood as well as the South Indian film industry. Specially after Parineeta, Burfi, Kahani-2, etc. directors & producers think of Darjeeling as a good option whenever they have a hill station requirement. The superstar Rajnikanth just shot for over 30 days recently for his new Tamil movie. The Tiger Hill, Chowraasta, lush green tea gardens, view points from where you can get exotic shots of the snow covered peaks of Mt. Kanchanjunga are just a few plus points of shooting in Darjeeling. There are also grand boarding schools of the British Era which are excellent for shooting. The St. Pauls school of 'Main Hoon Na' fame is worth mentioning. Another great thing

of this place is the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways' Toy train, which chuggs its way from Siliguri all the way to Darjeeling through winding tracks. It is available for shoot once you get permission from N.F. Railway, Maligaon after fulfilling the permission criteria. There are also jungles for trekking and mountainous rivers, where rafting scenes can be shot.

The Sandakphu region is also a film makers paradise, though very few have yet ventured to shoot over there. Since it comes under the Singalila National park there are few restrictions and also the accommodation for the unit will be very basic, mostly like home stays. But from there you can get a clear view of the Himalayan range of Kanchanjunga and Mt. Everest at a 180 degree view in front of you from Sandakphu and Phalut.

Assam

Gift-wrapped with rolling fields of aromatic tea, canoes sailing down the Brahmaputra river, or thick jungles with the most bizarre wildlife, Assam is the most charming state in North East India. The Kaziranga National Park is home to two-thirds of the planet's population of the one-horned rhinoceros. Apart from that, this national park is also a World Heritage Site. It's vibrant, well preserved with sustained ecology and bio diversity.

Other famed jungles of Assam include Manas National Park, Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary and Nameri National Park. Any film with jungle as a backdrop will do well to choose Assam. Other bewitching places include Majuli Island, India's largest riverine island formed by the turbulent Brahmaputra, which sprawls over an area of 452 sq km. Most of the islands in Majuli get submerged in water during monsoon; however, the bigger islands like Kamalabari, Auniati and Garamur remain in a better condition. Majuli is a bird watcher's paradise and the camera wielders are simply going to get hooked to this place.

Established in 1911, the Tocklai Tea Research Centre is among the largest and oldest tea research stations in the world. All the scientific knowledge that the world holds about tea, has come from this centre in Assam. A documentary or short film on tea has to shoot here.

Beautiful and historical places like Jorhat, Sivasagar, Tezpur or the mesmerizing hills of Haflong, North Cachar will leave one gasping. Truly, Assam is a bounty waiting to be discovered. Assam also boasts of its capital Guwahati, the largest cosmopolitan city in the North East which is often referred to as 'the Gateway of North East India'. Hence a quick city shoot amidst all the natural beauty is also possible in Assam.



Rang Ghar, Sivasagar



Majuli Island



Manas National Park

Arunachal Pradesh

If you have not thought of Arunachal Pradesh as a shooting location, you have done yourself a disservice. Yes, it is time consuming as there is no airport in AP and most of the places has to be reached by road. But if you want exotic locations, a little time does not matter. The total journey from Tezpur airport to Tawang is a treat to the eyes. Dirang Valley and Sela Top, where you can see the zigzag road carved on the mountain is just awesome.

Encompassed by blue lapis flowers, Peng Teng Tso Lake is one of the most beautiful places in Tawang. The place boasts of picturesque natural beauty and makes a surreal landscape with the flowers and snow. The calm waters of this serene lake offer a splendid view of the Himalayas that adorn the background. Maintained by the Indian army, this lake is located 17 km away from the main town replete with a charming landscape comprising of snow-clad Himalayas, a breathtaking trail of rhododendrons and tranquil waters. Peng Teng Tso Lake is a beautiful destination for film shooting in Arunachal Pradesh that must not be missed.

Often reckoned as one of the most fascinating waterfalls in India, Nuranang Falls is one of the hidden gems of Tawang. Originating in Sela Pass, Nuranang Falls is a serene place where you can behold a stunning landscape. Located at 6000 ft. above sea level, Nuranang Falls takes you in the middle of untouched forests as you enjoy the wonder of nature.

Encompassed by pristine hills, verdant greenery and a thick cover of mist, Nuranang Falls is one of the must-visit places for song shooting in Tawang.

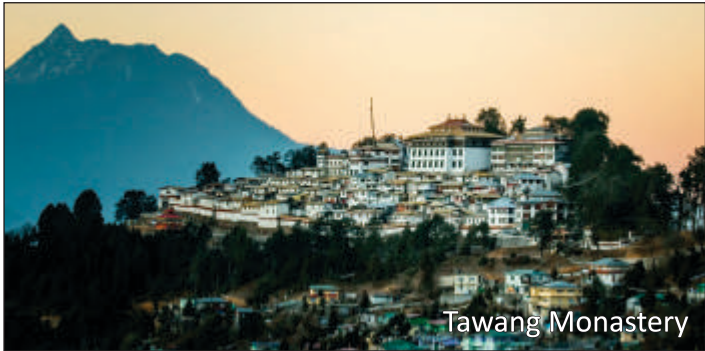
One of the most picturesque places to visit in Tawang, Nagula Lake is a high altitude lake that is a delight for nature lovers. With some alluring reflections of the mountain in its serene waters, Nagula Lake is a captivating tourist attraction in Tawang. The scenic landscape of the lake will leave you spellbound and one can spot a number of Brahminy ducks around the lake. Although the lake is known for heavy military presence owing to its location near the border, the place can be a good destination for film shooting in Arunachal Pradesh.

Shonger Tsher Lake, popularly known as Madhuri Lake is known to be the place where the famous Bollywood song from the movie 'Koyla' was shot. The lake is known for offering panoramic views of the landscape and has been quite a popular spot for film shooting in Arunachal Pradesh with wonderful scenic beauty.

The Tawang monastery is very picturesque. It is said that this is the biggest Buddhist monastery in the world outside of Lhasa. The Ziro valley of Arunachal Pradesh is also very beautiful if you are looking for huge stretches of paddy fields surrounded by mountains. The Apatani tribe with their unique traditions & attires are a very good subject for film shooting.



Pashuram Kund



Tawang Monastery



Sungester Lake (Madhuri Lake)



Pangateng Tso Lake, Tawang



Sela Pass