

KOLKATA
on

WHEELS

your autoventuring guide around the city

IN ASSOCIATION WITH AAEL

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LET'S GO FOR A DRIVE

TURNS	DISTANCE (km)	DIRECTIONS	ROAD NAME	ROUTE DESCRIPTION
0	0.0	→	Kazi Nazrul Islam Sarani (V.I.P. Road)	Set car's Trip Meter to "0" opposite the entrance to Airport on right. Proceed forward to meet Jessore Road
1	0.1	↘	National Highway- 34 (Jessore Road)	Meet Jessore Road and turn right
	10.1	↙	NH - 34	BARASAT - Dakbangla Crossing. Take left fork and proceed
	23.7	→	NH - 34	Amdanga- Proceed straight
	38.6	→	NH - 34	Barajaguli Crossing- Proceed straight
	44.1	↘	NH - 34	Birohi Crossing- take right fork
	54.8	→	NH - 34	Chakdaha Crossing- proceed straight
	65.0	↘	NH - 34	Ranaghat Crossing- proceed straight
	67.1	↙	NH - 34	Take left fork
	75.7	→	NH - 34	Fulia- proceed straight
	101.3	→	NH - 34	KRISHNANAGAR- proceed straight restaurant on left
	109.3	→	NH - 34	Hansdanga Junction- proceed straight (Road on left goes to Mayapur)
	113.2	↘	NH - 34	Dhubulia Crossing- proceed straight
	127.1	→	NH - 34	Bethuadahori Sanctuary on left -proceed straight
	152.5	→	NH - 34	Plassey- proceed straight
	171.9	→	NH - 34	Beldanga Crossing- proceed straight
	188.6	↙	NH - 34	Cossimbazar- take left bend
	189.8	↘	NH - 34	Take right from "Y" fork
	191.3	↙	NH - 34	BAHARAMPORE (MURSHIDABAD) -Take left bend
	192.6	→	NH - 34	Go straight from traffic island at Baharampore
	193.5	→	NH - 34	Baharampore Tourist Lodge on left- proceed straight
	209.0	→	NH - 34	PALSUNDA- proceed straight
	226.7	↘	NH - 34	Morgram- Take right bend and proceed
	274.1	→	NH - 34	DHULIAN- Go Straight



Locals returning with wood



On the way to Chalsa



A tea plucker returning from work



The local transport at Chalsa



On the way to Samsing



A view of the valley as seen from Sinclairs

CHALSA:

Set in the midst of endless tea gardens, with only chirping birds and rustling tree leaves to give you company- a drive to the Dooars is incomplete without a stay at Chalsa. It offers a picturesque view of the valley below- the unending greenery of tea gardens, the azure blue sky, the hills around - all seem to be straight out of an artist's palette.

Chalsa is the perfect place to unwind in solitude. Nature herself is the chief attraction and so go exploring with all your gusto. Take long walks or cycle around the tea estates or go for short treks through the streams or the hill around. You will really enjoy the play between sunshine and mist which time and again covers everything around under its white veil. Strike up conversations with the locals at the tea stalls and seep in the charm of simple lives.

Chalsa is also quite well known for the property of Sinclairs Hotels and Resorts. One of the finest tourist resorts in and around the Dooars- the Sinclairs Retreat at Chalsa is spread over 20 acres of sprawling greenery. Located at the Chalsa hill top overlooking the valley in North Bengal this is a major tourist attraction which provides an ideal break from the fast pace of our urban cosmopolitan deadline-bound life. The Sinclairs Retreat offers 66 cottage-styled air conditioned rooms and three suites with beautiful décor and equipped with all modern amenities. But the contemporary elegance and functional conveniences do not look out of place in the natural surroundings. The sprawling greens are so vast that the distance between the first and last cottage is almost 750 metres interceded by an undulating lawn and landscaped gardens.

In Chalsa, the options of food and drinks are limited to the facilities offered by Sinclairs Retreat only. The multi-cuisine restaurant and the bar inside the property offer an exciting choice of oriental, continental and Indian food along with a fantastic view of the Gorumara valley over the well maintained lawn. The Olympic sized swimming pool amidst the palm trees and the health club at the retreat are big attractions for the guests.

The wisest decision while visiting Dooars would be to take your car along since you would save a lot of expenses on local conveyance and your movements would be far more uninhibited.

Chalsa can be visited at any time of the year since it is never too cold or hot out there. In winters it varies between 11^o-16^o where as in summers the temperature lingers between 32^o-35^o at the most. However, keep in mind that the forests here are all closed during the monsoon between July 15 and September 15 every year.

Exploring Dooars would take you a minimum of 4-5 days within which you can visit Gorumara National Park, Murti and Chalsa. You may put up at Lataguri which has the maximum number of budget hotels and go around all these places or you may change base with every location. As we have said in our last two issues, the Waxpol property the Riverwood Forest Retreat at Gorumara is a class apart from all the other local properties in that area. However, in our opinion the Sinclairs Retreat at Chalsa is only 22 km away from Gorumara National Park and is the finest among all in the Dooars region.



Women working in the tea garden



The path way leading to the cottages at Sinclairs



The railway track which passes through Dooars



The olympic-size swimming pool at Sinclairs



Passing through the tea gardens at Chalsa

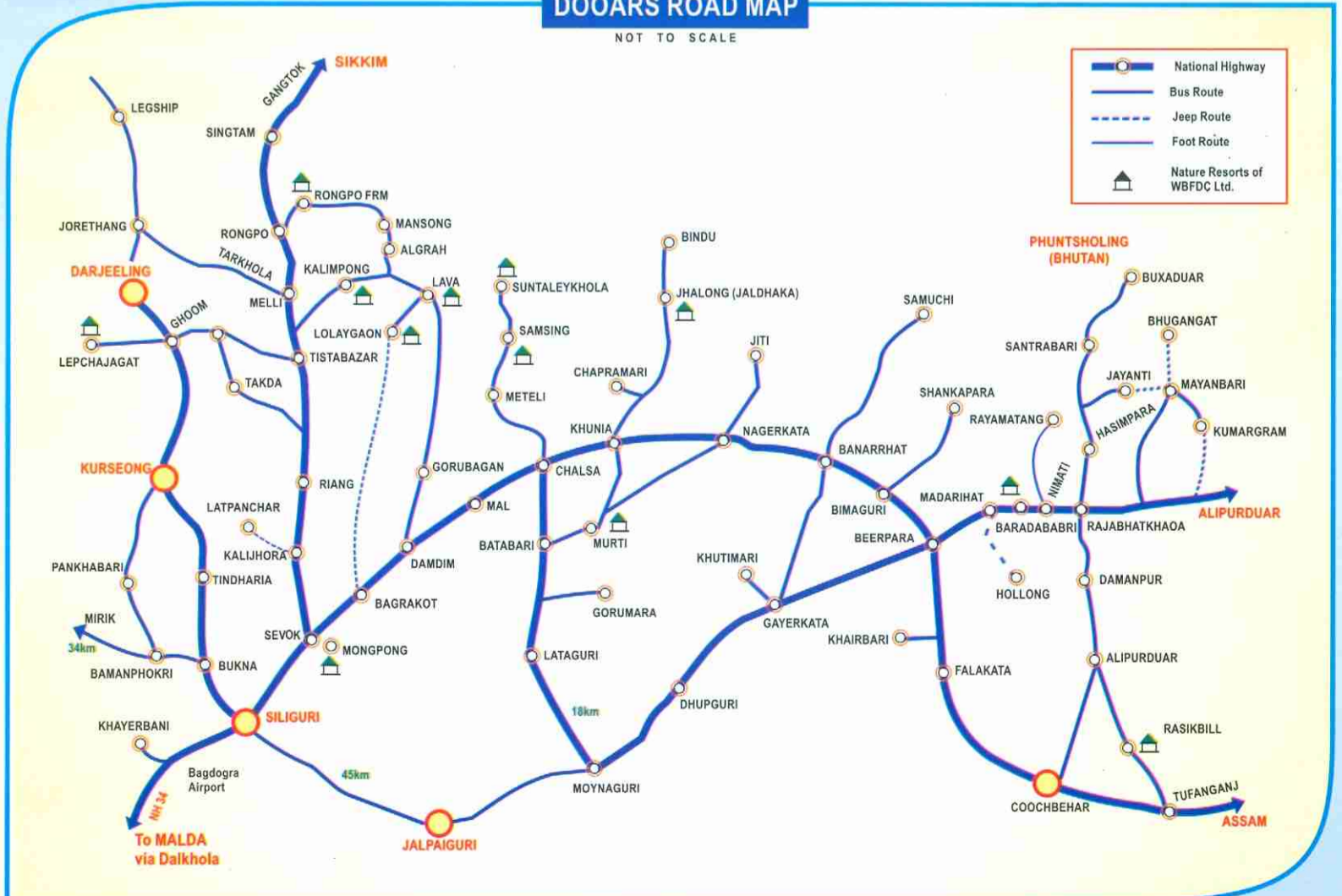


The restaurant at Sinclairs over looking the valley

TURNS	DISTANCE	DIRECTIONS	ROAD NAME	ROUTE DESCRIPTION
	291.2		NH - 34	New Farakka town- proceed straight
	292.0		NH - 34	Go over Farakka Bridge- proceed straight
	304.7		NH - 34	Kaliachowk- proceed straight
	326.8		NH - 34	MALDA- WB Tourist Lodge on right at Rathbari Junction. Proceed straight
	339.0		NH - 34	Take right from "Y" Fork
	352.7		NH - 34	GAJOL- take left from "Y" Fork
	382.4		NH - 34	ITAHAR- proceed straight
	406.1		NH - 34	RAIGUNJ- Kulik Bird Sanctuary on right and WB Tourist Lodge on left
	407.5		NH - 34	Take right bend
	437.2		NH - 34	Karandighi- Karandighi P.S. on left
	451.0		NH - 34	DALKOLA- Market area
2	453.8		NH - 31	Go under the flyover at Dalkola and take right into NH-31
	482.0		NH - 31	Go under the bridge
	512.6		NH - 31	ISLAMPUR- Islampur Bus Depot proceed straight

DOOARS ROAD MAP

NOT TO SCALE





TURNS	DISTANCE (km)	DIRECTIONS	ROAD NAME	ROUTE DESCRIPTION
	559.9	○ ○	NH - 31	Toll Tax Point (under construction) - proceed straight
	574.1	↑	NH - 31	BAGDOGRA - Airport on right - proceed straight
3	576.7	↑	NH - 31	Bagdogra market place - proceed straight
	579.6	↑	NH - 31	University of North Bengal on left - proceed straight
	581.0	↘	NH - 31	Take left from the Y-Fork
	580.6	↘	NH - 31	Take right diversion onto the bridge
	587.8	↑	NH - 31	SILIGURI - Circuit House on left -proceed straight
	588.1	↑	NH - 31	Go onto Mahananda Bridge and proceed straight
	590.5	↑	NH - 34	Orbit Inox on left -proceed straight
	591.5	↑	NH - 34	Siliguri Radio Station on left. Proceed straight
	594.3	↑	NH - 34	Sevok Military Station on right. Proceed straight
	600.5	↑	NH - 31	Mahananda Wild Life Sanctuary on left. Proceed straight
4	609.0	↘	NH - 31	Turn right onto Coronation Bridge
	612.9	↑	NH - 31	MONGPONG
	628.0	↑	NH - 31	Odlabari Market -proceed straight
	633.9	↑	NH - 31	DAMDIM Proceed straight
	640.7	↑	NH - 31	MALBAZAR - Tourist Lodge on left - proceed straight
	642.8	↘	NH - 31	Take right from Y-Fork
	648.7	↑	NH - 31	Chalsa Railway Station on left - proceed straight
5	649.1	↘	NH - 31	CHALSA CROSSING Turn right
	649.5	↑	CHALSA METLEY ROAD	Railway-Crossing Proceed straight
	649.8	↑	CHALSA METLEY ROAD	Proceed straight
	650.4	↘	CHALSA METLEY ROAD	Take right bend from Inspection Bungalow
	651.0	○ ○	CHALSA METLEY ROAD	CHALSA Sinclairs Retreat On Left

SAMSING

Dotted with orange orchards and cardamom plantations, Samsing and Suntalekhola, both are situated close to each other. These are unspoilt mountain destinations growing in popularity among tourists. The serpentine road leading to Samsing offers a glimpse of the lush green Dooars and a bird's eye view of the Murti River which looks like a satin ribbon from above. Samsing is also the gateway to Neora Valley National Park. The park is a haven for birdwatchers. One can get stunning views of Kanchenjunga by trekking up to Rachel Pass, a popular point for adventure seekers and adrenalin charged tourists.



The hanging bridge at Suntalekhola



WBFDC cottages at Suntalekhola

SUNTALEKHOLA

The fairytale setting of Suntalekhola in a loving embrace of a gurgling brook and surrounded on all sides by towering mountains is a truly a unique experience. The orange laden trees, the gentle gurgle of flowing water, the rustling of dry conifer leaves as you step on them will surely charm you. The slanting rays of the sun render the whole setting truly magical. Suntalekhola's calm and unassuming beauty will leave visitors mesmerised.



The entrance to Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary



The cottage inside Chapramari forest

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary nestled in the Dooars is quite close to Chalsa. One of the oldest wildlife sanctuary in the state, it is located on the banks of Murti River. The great diversity of flora and fauna led it to be declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 1998.

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for its herbivores such as the elephant and the gaur (Indian bison). Along with these, animals like cheetal, sambar, barking deer, wildboar, pangolin are also found in the sanctuary.

Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary is popular for its scenic beauty - the forest bound landscape with its river rain ecosystem. This sanctuary is a paradise of birds; the most common water birds are the large and little cormorant, darter and egret. Migratory birds include the brahminy and teals.

There is a single observation tower just in the front of the glade in Chapramari. The tower provides a bird's eye view of the glade and sighting of wildlife - the elephants and the gaurs.

The other major tourists attraction in this part of Dooars are Gorumara National Park, Murti River-bank which are all within close vicinity of 15 - 20 km only details of which were published in the last two issues.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Name	Phone	Delux Double Bed (AC)	Double Bed (AC)	Double Bed (Non- AC)	Car Parking	Driver's Accommodation	Restau-rant	Generator	Bar	Rating
Sinclairs Retreat Chalsa Jalpaiguri 735206	22801317 - 20 3562-260282 0361-282033	₹ 10000-12000 (EP/AP)	₹ 5000-7000 (EP/AP)	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	A+
Suntalaykhola Wilderness Camp (WBFDC)	22370060/61	-	-	₹ 850	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	B