

THOLUNG VALLEY TREK

22/10/2015 TO 26/10/2015

ORGANISED BY PHOTOGRAPHY AND TREKKING CLUB,

JIS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, KALYANI

REPORT



We started our journey from Kolkata on 22/10/2015. We were 10 students and 5 faculty members of our college. We have boarded the train to New Jalpaiguri Railway Station from Sealdah Railway Station at 1:40 p.m. We reached NJP on 23/10/2015 at 2:40 a.m. After getting down we have refreshed ourselves and hired cabs which took us to Singtham, Sikkim and it took around three hours from NJP. It was early dawn when we started our journey. As the Sun unfolded itself, we caught glimpses of the Himalaya. The view had us mesmerized. The road had random turns. We had stopped our cab in a few places to capture the beauty of the mountain when it got admixture with streams or falls. Singtham was a beautiful

town in the lap of the Himalayan mountain range. We had to change our car in Singtham to reach Dzongu valley. On the way to Dzongu we came across the beauty of The Himalayas through magnificent landscapes, streams and waterfalls. The freeway was more narrow than earlier. Moreover due to rain earlier that day, our cab was moving in a controlled speed. Which helped us feel the amazing surrounding better. It took around 5 hours to travel to Dzongu from Singtham. At Dzongu we stayed in a home stay in Tingvong village (1068 m) with 20-30 households, which was a large and decorated wooden house with our hosts welcoming us very warmly. The view from the balcony was truly amazing and soul filling. We had a quick refreshment after reaching the home stay and then started our trek to Kusong village. It was an afternoon trek of around two and a half hours. We came across an old Monastery on our way. Which housed a school for the young monks as well. Kusong is a small village. The interesting features of this village is traditional wooden huts and it's people and corn fields. As we returned to our home stay at Tingvong village the sun set down and we were left with the mixed sound from the greens and an awkward stillness, which made our soul connect to the place where we were. We took a halt for the night over there. The next day, 24/10/2015, we woke up early to capture the sunrise and the view of the Mt. Khangchendzonga by our eyes. We all were awestruck! Beautiful it was! We all were speechless. We were there to witness the white peak turning to orange slowly and then to gold. There are words yet to discover to justify to the moment we witnessed and still cherish. After having our breakfast, which was more of a lunch meal, comprised of Sikkimese cuisines bringing flood to our tongues, we left early to reach the Bay (1650 m) to start our trekking to Tholung valley. It took an hour to reach the Bay by car. The difficult road had our bones shaken. We started our trekking to Tholung (2550 m) through Himalayan landscapes and biodiversity jungles. We went through mystical mountain forests, over streams and past waterfalls to the Buddhist Monastery (2600 m) of Tholung. The cocktail of the mountain and the forest joined by the streams and waterfalls accompanied by the unexplainable rhythm of the sound of the water mixed with that from the jungle induced a feeling of solitary hikers in us, although we were hiking together, more of in a queue. We heard ourselves breathing, which was often heavily. We felt our heart, more than just an organ. It was around six and a

half hours long trek. After reaching we installed the tents and refreshed ourselves. We were a little tired. But more excited about spending a whole night in the tent, adventurous it was! We had campfire, we made a big circle around it, honored smoking mugs of teas with chills through our bones, had chats, we got ourselves into singing in groups as well! And then after the dinner we had a sound sleep at night inside the lukewarm sleeping bag in the tent. The next morning, 25/10/2015, we caught a glimpse of the awesome view of mountains from the Tholung valley. We captured ourselves there, in the camera. Then we started our journey back to the bay. This time it took around four and a half hours. We had a bath in River Tholung, the cold water had our flesh and bones chilled. But it was tremendously refreshing. We headed back to our home stay at Tingvong village. After refreshing ourselves we headed back to NJP. Halted at a lodge for the night. The next morning, 26/10/2015, we took our train back to Kolkata from NJP vowing to come back again.















Santanu Mandal, In-charge, Photography and trekking club, JISCE