

# 5 MUST-DOS IN GUWAHATI

GUWAHATI IS THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION TO THE NORTH-EAST AND WITH ITS MYRIAD SIGHTS, A DESTINATION IN ITSELF. **BY BINDU GOPAL RAO**

**T**he capital city of Assam, Guwahati is usually used as a transit point to see the rest of the North-East but the city has several sights and sounds that are worth seeing on their own. These sights are a mix of history, culture, spirituality and leisure which add to the charm of the destination. So on your next trip to the ‘City of Temples’, the moniker the city is often known by, make sure you explore its other dimensions as well.

## **MAKE A SPIRITUAL SOJOURN AT KAMAKHYA**

One of the most important iconic sights here is the famed Kamakhya Temple. Said to be among the oldest of the 51 Shakti

Peeths, it is located on Nilachal Hill and is best visited in the early hours of the morning. The temple is very crowded throughout the day and typically you will need to wait for several hours in long queues and hence the morning hours are ideal. The temple premises are extensive. Photography is strictly prohibited and it is advised that you do not carry your phone when you are here. The main sanctum is located below the ground. You could take the services of a priest to guide you through the temple – he will also do a small pooja on your behalf. The streets leading up to the temple have tiny stores that sell flowers and pooja items. You can also sample local food at one of the restaurants outside.



## **CRUISE ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER**

Guwahati is where the mighty Brahmaputra River flows in all its majesty and the best way to enjoy the river is to take a cruise on it. There are



options for lunch and dinner cruises here that make for enjoyable experiences as well. While there are several longer cruises that take you to other parts of Assam, like Jorhat and Silghat, the sunset cruise is a great way to see a magnificent sunset on the river. If you are doing a day cruise, make sure you carry sun screen and a hat as the days here are very warm and can become quite hot as the day progresses. The riverfront itself has been developed well and a park runs along one end which is popular with locals and tourists alike.

## **MUSINGS IN THE ASSAM STATE MUSEUM**

To get your fix on all things related to local history and culture, a visit to the Assam State Museum is a must. The museum is spread over three levels with the ground floor housing an Arms & Ammunition Gallery, Numismatics and Metallic Sculpture Gallery, Pre & Proto History, Terracotta Gallery and Textile Gallery. The first floor has a North East

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