

Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.



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**TOURISM SPHERES IN NORTH EAST INDIA – WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO AREA SPECIFIC CIRCUIT TOURISM
PROPOSAL**

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<i>Keywords</i>	<i>Abstract</i>
Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Circuit Tourism, Tourist's Perception, Traveler.	Tourism is an important socio-economic activity which is now treated as an industry. It includes tourists and related services. Sustainable tourism provides equity, development and environmental protection. Tourism in North East India has high flavour of natural, cultural, historical, religious, rural and ethnic importance. There are beautiful mountains, rivers, waterfalls, forests, national parks, lakes, towns, temples, palaces, caves, monasteries which attract a lot of domestic and foreign tourist per year. The socio-economic life in North East is highly depended on tourism. In this paper a detail sketch of some tourism activities like – adventure, heritage, wildlife, folk, urban, Eco-tourism, etc. have been analyzed. Some of the important tourism characteristics of North East like – pattern of tourist visits, accommodation conditions, tourism services, purpose of visit, mode of transport, seasonality of visits and tourist perception have been pointed out. Special attention has been given on circuit tourism development. Besides problems and prospects behind tourism development have been discuss in this paper. The paper is based on secondary and primary data. Simple statistical and cartographic techniques have been used to prepare this paper.



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Introduction

Tourism is man's one of the important socio-economic activities. It has huge scope for socio-economic development of an area. Tourism is now treated as an industry which promotes national integration, international understanding, helps to improve infrastructure, generates employment and helps to earn foreign money (Khullar, D. R. 2000). Tourism is the travelling to a natural area for a particular object of studying, enjoying, admiring of scenic beauty and cultural aspects of the area (Ziffer, 1989). According to Smith (1990) tourism is an interrelated system which includes tourists and related services that are given and used at the time of movement. Sustainable tourism develops greater awareness and understanding regarding environment and economy, it promotes equity and development, it improves quality of life of host people, provides high quality experience to the tourists and it maintains environmental quality (Chawla, Romila, 2003). In India tourism has greater relevance in -Economic growth, cultural development and national integration. India has greater beauty and diversity in tourist potential. The roof of the tourism in India belongs to pilgrimage. Organized tourism in India was started in fifties. But with the arrival of foreign tourists Indian tourism has grown significantly. Important factors responsible for tourism development in India are environmental, social, cultural, historical, economical, religious etc. Generally tourism are of two types domestic (national) and international. Besides these tourism may be of different types like – recreational, environmental, cultural, historical, ethnic, adventure, health, religious, Eco-tourism, rural tourism etc. Tourism in North East India is based on Himalaya and heritage culture. North East India consists of eight states like – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. There are beautiful national parks, rivers, hills, mountains, waterfalls, forests, forts, lakes, monasteries, temples, palaces, caves, cities etc. which act as the growing factors for tourism development here. In this paper, different types of tourism including circuit tourism development in North East India have been analyzed.

Location of the study area & rationale behind the selection of it

North East India is situated in the extreme North East corner of India from 21.57° N to 29.30° N latitudes and from 88° E to 97.30° E longitude. It is consisted of eight states. They share 7.8% land of the country. North East is hilly. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Sikkim are full of mountains and hills. Besides 50% of Tripura, 20% of Assam and 90% of Manipur are covered with mountains and hills. Weather and climatic condition is suitable for health. These areas are rugged and inaccessible. Plain lands are little. But there is huge flora and fauna resources. Agriculture, industry and other economic activities are not so well developed. There are many waterfalls, lakes, forests, rivers etc. So there is tremendous scope for tourism development in those states. It will must bring prosperity in the region. So the selection of the study area has been justified from tourism development point of view.



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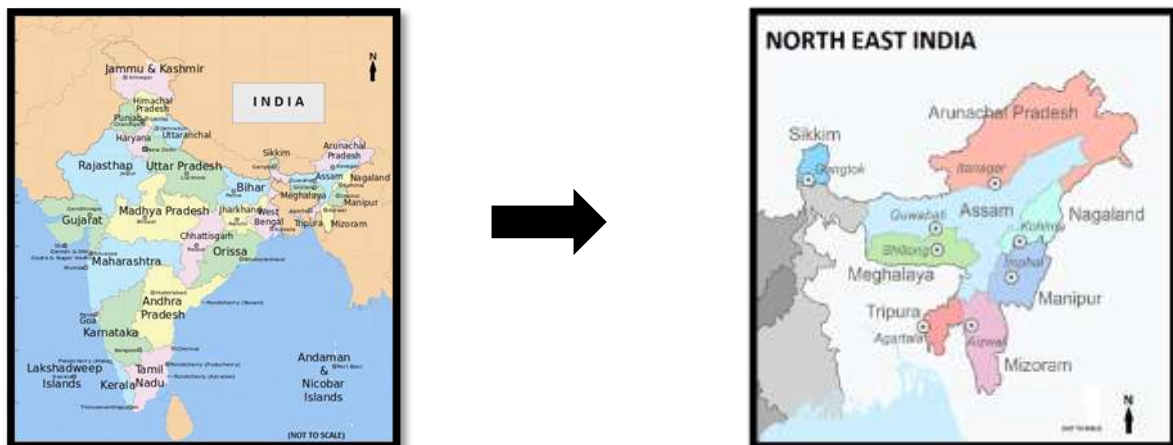


Fig: 1 Location of the study area

Objectives of the study

1. To know various types of tourism in N-E India.
2. To study the circuit tourism pattern in N-E Indian states.
3. To identify major tourism characteristics in N-E India.
4. To find out various problems and to suggest measures.

Data base & Methodology

This paper is based on various primary and secondary data base. Many journals, magazines, books, websites, reports have been consulted to prepare it. Questionnaire survey was also done. Various simple statistical and cartographic techniques have been applied to represent information.

Discussion

Some of the tourism activities in North East India

North East India is world's one of the richest bio-geographical area which is blessed by nature. So tourism has highest potentiality to be the alternative source of income of people (Dixit, Saurabh Kumar, 2016). Various type of tourism are found in North East Indian states. These are discussed below –

1) Adventure tourism: Adventure tourism is a riskful job which includes boating, rafting, rock climbing, paragliding, jeep safari, trekking, mountaineering etc.

Table: 1 Adventure Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Pashighat, Jengging, Yinkiong, Tezu etc.
Assam	North Kachar hill, Simhasana hill, Brahmaputra River etc. Kaziranga
Manipur	Phubala, Tamenglong etc.



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Meghalaya	Umiam lake, Ranikor, Jowai, Siju, Cherrapunji etc.
Mizoram	Dampa Tiger reserve, Blue Mountain, Ngengpui etc.
Nagaland	Intangki National Park, Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary, Dzukou Valley etc.
Sikkim	Gangtok, Pellig, Yuksam, Dzongai, Shoka, Zemu Zero Point etc.
Tripura	Jampuri hill, Gumati river, Betlingshib etc.

2) Nature tourism: Nature tourism is the tourism to enjoy the natural beauty of an area. It includes bird watching, hunting, fishing, camping etc. It conserves the environment and improves local people's life.

Table: 2 Nature Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Ganga lake, Talley valley, Sangetsar lake, Nuraneng Waterfalls
Assam	Bhairabkunda, Kaziranga, Manas, Jatinga, Chandubi, Bhalukpong, Potasoli etc.
Manipur	Loktak lake, Ukhrul, Tamenglong, Djuko, Siroihill etc.
Meghalaya	Cherrapunji, Mawsynram, Tura, Umiam lake, Garo hill Khasis hill, Jaintia hill etc.
Mizoram	Phawngpuri National Park, Ngengpuri Wildlife Sanctuary, Dampa Tiger reserve, Lunglei etc.
Nagaland	Kohima Orchid Sanctuary, Pubiebadze Wildlife Sanctuary, Chantonya Bird Sanctuaries
Sikkim	Gurudangmar lake, Yumthang Valley, Yumesamdong, LacheN-Etc.
Tripura	Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Jampui Biospheric reserve, Gumati Wildlife Sanctuary, Dumboor lake etc.

3) Religious / Pilgrimage tourism: When tourism is developed due to any religious matter then it is called religious tourism (Bera, Debasish, 2011). It may be due to any monastery, temple, church, mosque, religious fair, festival etc. Pilgrimage tourists have a religious attitude and practice.

Table: 3 Pilgrimage Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Parsuramkund, Malinithan, Twang
Assam	Kamakhya temple, Navagraha temple, Basisthasharam, Umananda temple, Hajo, Majuli, Surya Pahar, Barperta etc.
Manipur	Govindajee temple, Langthabal, Bishnupur, Kina, KoubuKeikha
Meghalaya	Bhaitbari, KremMawjymbuin Cave
Mizoram	Lunglei, Aizawl etc.



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Nagaland	Kohima, Dimapur, Mount Tiyi
Sikkim	Enchey Monastery, Stupa, Rumtek, Pemayangtse Monastery, Khechepari lake, Phensang Monastery etc.
Tripura	Kamalsagar, Udaipur, Brahmakunda, Agartala, Benuban Bihar

4) Heritage / Archeological / Historical tourism: It is a travelling to get the experience of past. Living culture, lifestyle, arts and crafts, traditional and spiritual practices and other cultural landscapes are the elements of this kind of tourism.

Table: 4 Historical Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Vijaynagar, Bhismaknagar, Chidu-Chimiri, Borgong, Dikkalmukh etc.
Assam	Gargaon palace, Rang Ghar, Digboi, Tezpur, Guwahati, Shibsagar etc.
Manipur	Langthabal, Imphal, Ukhrul, Tamengiong etc.
Meghalaya	Bhaitbari, ShilongMairang, Tura, Siju etc.
Mizoram	Rengdil, Lunglei, Vantawng etc.
Nagaland	Kohima, Dimapur, Khonoma, Naganimora, Mon, Molung, Kisama etc.
Sikkim	Samdruptse, TathagathaTsal, Rumtek, Ralang, Phodong, Rabdentse Ruins, Yuksam etc.
Tripura	Ujjyanta palace of Agartala, Udaipur, Kamalasagar, Unakoti, Pilok etc.

5) Eco-Tourism: Eco-tourism is eco-friendly tourism. It is useful for conservation of environment as well as tourism development (Trivedi & Ojha, 2013). According to Epler Wood (1996) eco-tourism is a responsible travel to natural places which conserves environment and sustains local people's welfare. Eco-tourism must be environmentally, socially, culturally and economically sustainable (Bhattacharya, A. K. 2005). North East India has greater eco-tourism potentialities.

Table: 5 Eco-Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Mouling, Kane, Mehao, Dibang, Gorichen lake etc.
Assam	Chandubi, Majuli, Dibrugarh, Jaipur, Namori, Doomdooma, Manas, Kaziranga etc.
Manipur	Loktak lake, KeibualLamjao National Park, Zailed lake, LandlilySiroi hill, Tamenglong-Tharon caves etc.
Meghalaya	Balpakram National Park, Nokrek Biospheric reserve, Ward lake, Umiam lake etc.
Mizoram	Dampa, Phawngpuri National Park, Ngengpuri Sanctuary, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Aizawl etc.
Nagaland	Mt. Saramati, Zungki river valley, Intangki National Park, Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary, Dzukon valley etc.
Sikkim	Postanga, Dzongu, Lachung, Yumthang valley, Tsomgo lake, Namchi,



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	Gurudongmar lake, Saramsa Garden Etc.
Tripura	Dumboor lake, Gumati Wildlife Sanctuary, Jampui hill biospheric reserve, Dampa Tiger reserve, Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Dharmnagar, Sepahijala etc.

6) Rural tourism and Agri-tourism: Village based tourism is called rural tourism. Rural tourism is a prominent and primary form of tourism which is treated as important factors of rural economic growth, alternative livelihood and employment generation in rural areas (Shrivastava, 2019). Agri-tourism is a form of rural tourism. Agri-tourism brings visitors to the agricultural farms or fields to entertain them by learning and leisuring (Gopal, 2019).

Table: 6 Rural Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Rengo, Nampong, Deke, Ligu, Ego-Nikte village etc.
Assam	Durgapur, Sulkuchi, Asharikandi, Dehing Patakai Kshetra village etc.
Manipur	Khongion, Liyai, Andro, Noney village etc.
Meghalaya	Sasatgre, lalong, Mawlynnong village etc.
Mizoram	Thenzawl, Reiek etc.
Nagaland	Avachekha, Lashumi, Longsa, Longjam, Mitikhru, Changtongia, Longidang village etc.
Sikkim	Chumbung, Lachen, Darap, Tumin, RongTingchim, SrijungaMartam village etc.
Tripura	Devipur, Durgabari, Malayanagar, Harijula, Kalapani, Sarsima, Banabithi village etc.

7) Wildlife Tourism: Forest and wildlife have greater tourism potential. Generally forest safari, bird watching, elephant safari etc. are done in wildlife tourism.

Table: 7 Wildlife Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary, Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kane Wildlife Sanctuary, Namdhapa National Park, Mouling National Park etc.
Assam	Kaziranga, Manas, Bhalukpong, Pabitora, Holongpar reserve forest, Burachaperi Wildlife Sanctuary.
Manipur	KeibualLamjao National Park, Waithou lake, Loktak lake, Ukhrul
Meghalaya	Nokrekbiospheric reserve, Umiam lake, Lum Nehru park, Ward's lake, Balpakram National Park etc.
Mizoram	Dampa Tiger reserve, Blue Mountain, Ngengpuri Wildlife Sanctuary, Lunglei etc.
Nagaland	Intangki National Park, Rangapahar Wildlife Sanctuary, Puliebadze Wildlife Sanctuary, Dzukon Valley etc.



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Sikkim	Gurudangmar lake, Lachen, Yumthang valley etc.
Tripura	Trisha Wildlife Sanctuary, Gumati Wildlife Sanctuary, Jampui hill biosphere reserve, Rowa Wildlife Sanctuary etc.

8) Urban Tourism: It is an old form of tourism which takes place in urban space. Side seeing, shopping, entertainment, business, medical treatment, educational activities are the main purpose urban tourism.

Table: 8 Urban Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Tawang, West Kameng, Lohit, Papum Pare, Tirap etc.
Assam	Guwahati, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Tinsukia, Barpeta, Darrang, Cachar etc.
Manipur	Tamenglong, Imphal, Moreh, Mao etc.
Meghalaya	Dawki, Shilling, Mairang, Jowai, Tura, Noongphoo etc.
Mizoram	Aizawl, Saiha, Rengdil etc.
Nagaland	Kohima, Dimapur etc.
Sikkim	Gantok, Pelling, Yuksam, Robong etc.
Tripura	Agartala, Dharmnagar, Kamalasagar Udaipur etc.

9) Cultural / Folk Tourism: Cultural tourism is performed to get one countries cultural information particularly the lifestyle of the people, history of the area, art, architecture, religion, folk culture and other elements of life.

Table: 9 Cultural / Folk Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	Tanang, Dibang Valley, Upper Siang District etc.
Assam	Guwahati, Sibsagar, Tezpur, Digboi, Dubri, Suryapahar etc.
Manipur	Imphal, Churchandpur, Tengenoupal etc.
Meghalaya	Syndai cave, Bhaitbari, MirangSisobjbra etc.
Mizoram	Rengdil, Lunglei, Thenzawl etc.
Nagaland	Mon-Tuensang, Zunheboto, Chumukedima, Chuchuyimlang, Konyaks etc.
Sikkim	Lachen, Darap, Rong etc.
Tripura	Udaipur, Kamalasagar, Unakoti, Pilak etc.

10) Community / Ethnic / Ethno-Tourism: Ethnic tourism is a practice to experience the culture and performances of isolated indigenous communities. North East India is the living place of a number of tribal communities. Their distinguishing social-cultural activities gives the opportunities of ethno-tourism.



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Table: 10 Ethno-Tourism in N-E India.

States	Places
Arunachal Pradesh	West Kameng District, Tanang, Tezu, Ziro, Anini etc.
Assam	Bhuban hill, Tizipur, Cachar, Srisuryapahar, Pancharatna, Haflong, Chandrapur etc.
Manipur	Moirang, Khongion, Kaina, Lokpaching etc.
Meghalaya	Mirang, Sisobibra, Jowai, Garo hill, Khasi hill, Jaiyantia hill etc.
Mizoram	Thenzawl, Reiek etc.
Nagaland	Konyaks, Tonime, Naganimora, Molung etc.
Sikkim	Yumthang valley, Tingchim, Chumbung etc.
Tripura	Devipur, Harijula, Sarsima etc.

Some tourism characteristics of North East India

1) Tourist visits:

Table: 11 Pattern of Domestic & Foreign Tourist visit in N-E India

State	2011		2017		Difference & Percentage increase	
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
Arunachal Pradesh	233227 (3.66)	4753 (8.07)	444005 (4.65)	7147 (4.23)	210778 (90.37)	2394 (50.37)
Assam	4339485 (68.08)	16400 (27.83)	6052667 (63.40)	21760 (12.89)	1713182 (39.48)	5360 (32.68)
Manipur	134505 (2.11)	578 (0.98)	153454 (1.61)	3497 (2.07)	18949 (14.09)	2919 (505.01)
Meghalaya	667504 (10.47)	4803 (8.15)	990856 (10.38)	12051 (7.14)	323352 (48.44)	7248 (150.90)
Mizoram	62174 (0.98)	658 (1.12)	67772 (0.71)	1155 (0.68)	5598 (9.00)	497 (75.53)
Nagaland	25391 (0.40)	2080 (3.53)	63362 (0.66)	4166 (2.47)	21225 (83.59)	2086 (100.28)
Sikkim	552453 (8.67)	23602 (40.06)	1375854 (14.41)	49111 (29.10)	823401 (149.04)	25509 (108.08)
Tripura	359515 (5.64)	6046 (10.26)	398669 (4.18)	69899 (41.41)	39154 (10.89)	63853 (1056.12)
N-E India Total	6374254 (100)	58920 (100)	9546639 (100)	168789 (100)	3172385 (49.77)	109866 (186.47)



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India Total	864532718	19497126	1657546152	26886684	793013434	7389558
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(Brackets indicate Percentage) Source – Compiled from India Tourism Statistics 2012 & India Tourism Statistics 2019.

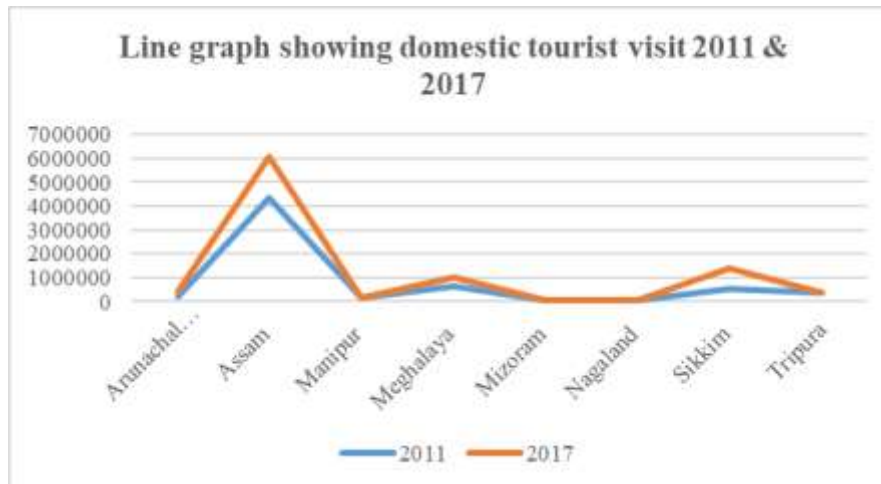


Fig: 2

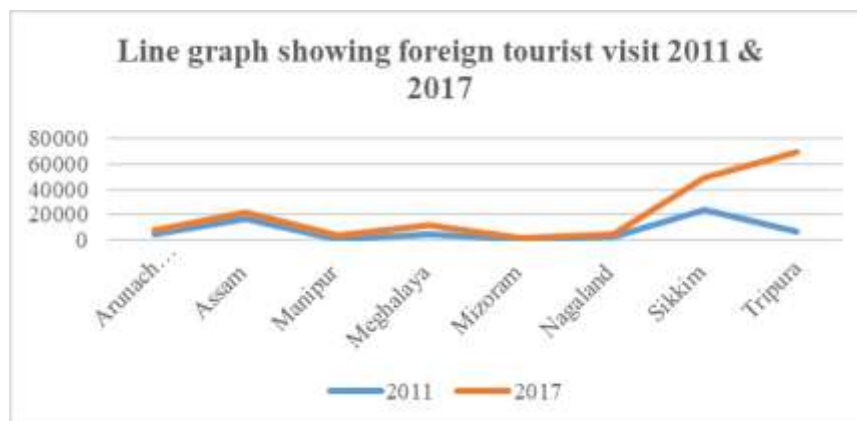


Fig: 3

There is overall 49.77% and 186.47% domestic and foreign tourist increase from year 2011 to 2017. In 2011, Assam had maximum domestic tourist visit i.e. 68.08% and Nagaland had minimum domestic tourist visits i.e. 0.98%. On the other hands in case of 2017, again Assam had the 1st position in case of domestic tourist visit i.e. 63.40%. But there was a fall than year 2011 and Nagaland had also lowest position i.e. 0.66% domestic tourist visits. In case of foreign tourist visit, Sikkim ranked top position i.e. 40.06% in 2011 and Manipur had last position i.e. 0.98% in 2011. But in case of 2017, Tripura got 1st position 41.41% and Mizoram got last position i.e. 0.68% in case of foreign tourist visits. From 2011 to 2017 there is maximum domestic tourist visit increase in case of Sikkim and minimum is in Mizoram where as in case of increase in foreign tourist visits Tripura has 1st position and Assam has last position.

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2) Tourist Accommodation:

Table: 12 Distribution of registered star category hotels and hotel rooms in N-E India 2017.

State	Hotels	Rooms
Arunachal Pradesh	3 (9.09)	86 (5.73)
Assam	13 (39.39)	664 (44.24)
Manipur	2 (6.06)	199 (13.26)
Meghalaya	2 (6.06)	101 (6.73)
Mizoram	1 (3.03)	45 (3.00)
Nagaland	1 (3.03)	19 (1.27)
Sikkim	10 (30.30)	351 (23.38)
Tripura	1 (3.03)	36 (2.40)
N-E India Total	33 (100)	1501 (100)
All India Total	1784	91197

(Brackets indicate percentage)

Source – India Tourism Statistics 2019.

Accommodation is one of the most important facilities for tourism development (Taraferder & Jana, 2012). Number of registered star category hotels are more in Assam (13) and lesser in Mizoram (1), Nagaland (1) and Tripura (1). Number of available rooms are more in Assam (44.24%) and lesser in Nagaland (1.27%) out of total rooms.

3) Tourism Service Provider:

Table: 13 Number of recognized travel service provider in N-E India (2018)

State	Total travel service provider
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Assam	16 (64)
Manipur	8 (32)
Meghalaya	-
Mizoram	-
Nagaland	-
Sikkim	1 (4)
Tripura	-
N-E India Total	25 (100)
All India Total	999

(Brackets indicate percentage)

Source – India Tourism Statistics 2019



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In 2018, only Assam (16), Manipur (8) and Sikkim (1) had registered travel service provider agencies in N-E India. Other five states had no such agencies.

4) Purpose of Visit of Traveler:

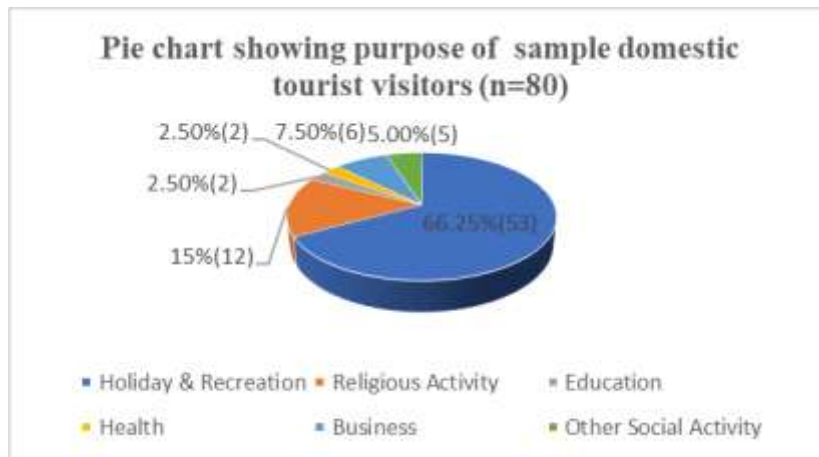


Fig: 4

North East Indian has a variety of tourist spots to visit. About 66.25% domestic visitors come here for holidays and recreation purpose. For religious purpose 15% travelers come here. About 7.5% visitors are for business and commercial purposes.

5) Mode of Transport:

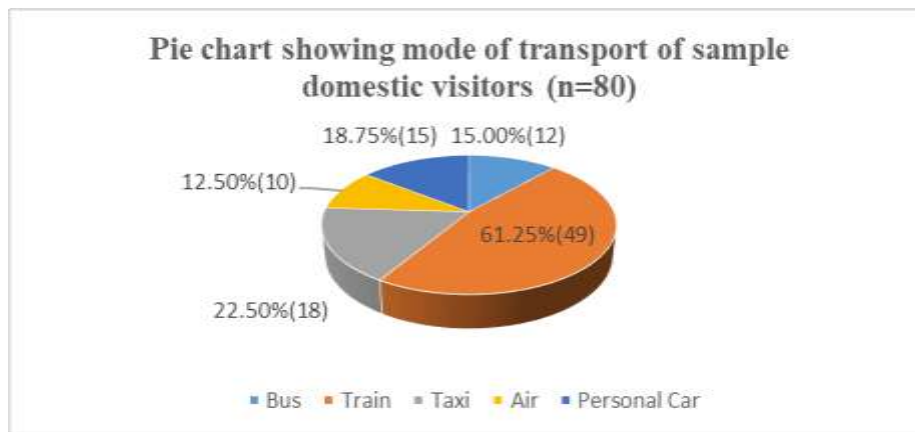


Fig: 5

Transportation is positively related with tourism development. North East India is not well developed in transport system. But its scenic beauty attracts a lot of tourists per year. Of the total sample domestic visitors, 61.25% come by taxi, 22.5% by train, 18.75% by personal car. Only 12.5% visitors come by air transport.

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6) Season of visit:

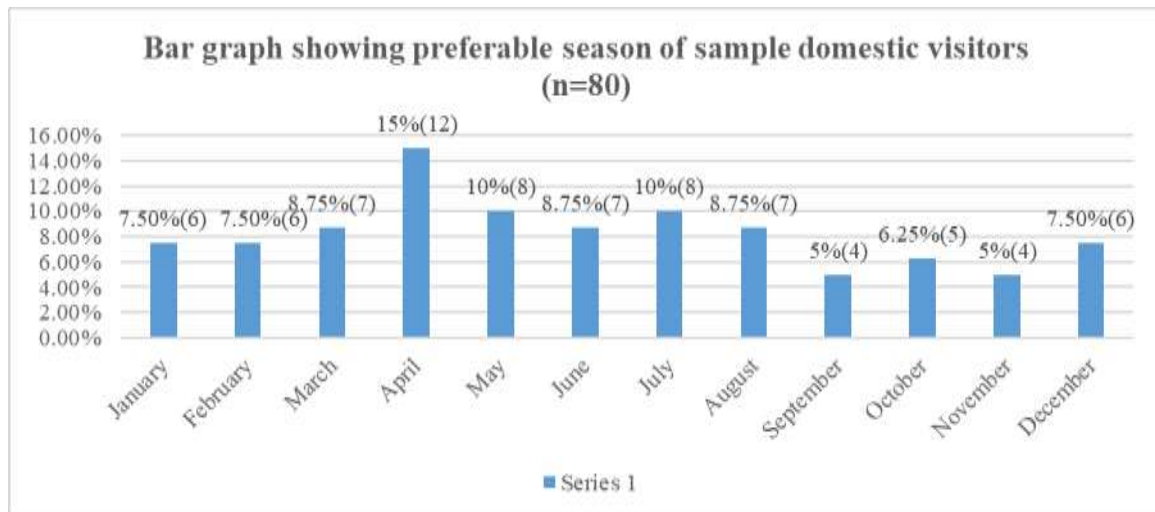


Fig: 6

Although throughout the year there is tourist visits but in summer time, its amount increases. April to July is the peak season because in summer domestic visitors prefer to visit relatively cold places of North East India.

7) Place of visit:

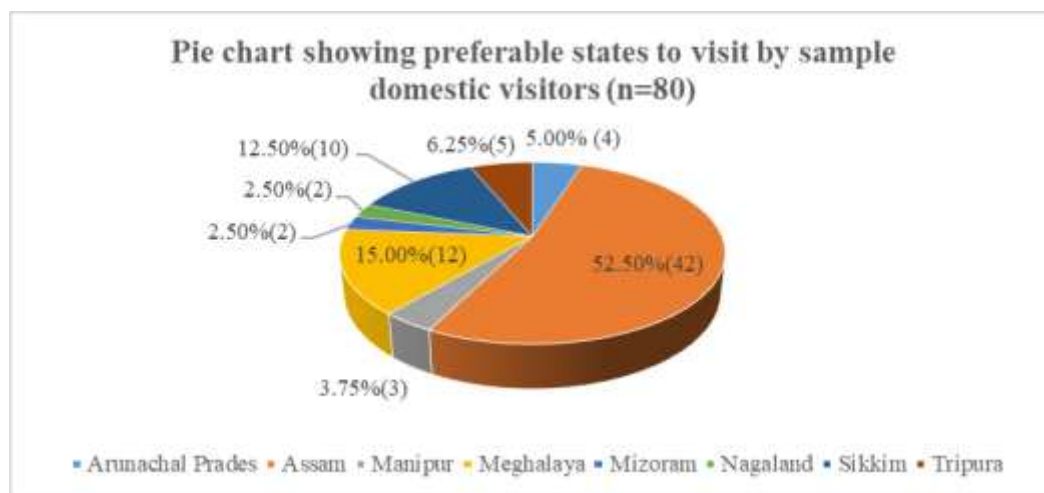


Fig: 7

India has vast tourism potentialities which is rich in heritage, ancient history, monuments, sculptures, cave painting, flora, fauna, traditions, festivals etc. (Purkayastha&Laskar, 2014). In North East India, almost each and every elements are found. Out of the total sample domestic visitors 52.5% come to

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Assam, 15% come to Meghalaya and 12.5% come to Sikkim. Only 2.5% visitors come to Mizoram and Nagaland. It is due to their much inaccessible nature.

8) Tourist Perception:

Table: 14 Satisfaction level of sample domestic visitors (n=80)

Existing services	Satisfaction level		
	Good	Moderate	Bad
1. Condition of roads	17 (21.25)	46 (57.5)	17 (21.25)
2. Transport network	6 (7.5)	60 (75)	14 (17.5)
3. Accommodations	38 (47.5)	32 (40)	10 (12.5)
4. Cleanliness & environmental quality	52 (65)	21 (26.25)	7 (8.75)
5. Parking facilities	33 (41.25)	30 (37.5)	17 (21.25)
6. Traffic system	27 (33.75)	40 (50)	13 (16.25)
7. Entertainment facilities	20 (25)	52 (65)	8 (10)
8. Security service	19 (23.75)	48 (60)	13 (16.25)
9. Fooding	14 (17.5)	39 (48.75)	27 (33.75)
10. Information systems	18 (22.5)	40 (50)	22 (27.5)
11. Local people's behaviours	18 (22.5)	57 (71.25)	5 (6.25)
12. Market & shopping conditions	17 (21.25)	53 (66.25)	10 (12.5)
13. Medical facilities	20 (25)	44 (55)	16 (20)
14. On spot event management	17 (21.25)	33 (41.25)	30 (37.5)
Average (%)	28.21	53.13	18.67

(Brackets indicate percentage)

(Field Survey)

Perception of tourist is an important matter in tourism development (Moyra, Subir Kumar, 2011). On an average 53.13% domestic tourists have moderate satisfaction level regarding their visit to North East India. Only 28.21% visitors have good level and 18.67% visitors have bad level of their



Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.

satisfaction. Good satisfaction levels are found in case of accommodation (47.5%) and parking facilities (41.25%). Remarkable bad satisfaction levels are found in case of on spot event management, fooding, conditions of roads, information system and in parking facilities.

Circuit Tourism in N-E India:

A tourist circuit is a route on which at least three tourist spots are located in different locations. It has well defined entry and exit points. A tourist get interest to visit all the places after entering into a circuit. The main aim of tourism circuit is to increase the total number of visits in all the tourist spots within the circuit and to increase the attractions towards the tourist spots. Circuit tourism is also termed as ‘route tourism’, ‘corridor tourism’, ‘cluster tourism’ etc. (Dam, Supriya 2016). India has a greater scope to develop tourist circuits on specific themes to attract huge tourists. In this aspect theme base circuit tourism like – eco, cultural, heritage, religious, wildlife, medical etc. are to be popularized. This will then provide huge employment, social integration, environmental improvement, economic strength and over all entertainment. In this connection Govt. of India’s Swadesh Darshan Scheme is very popular. At the time of a visit sometimes every sites are not fully developed so total side seeing is limited for one or two days. So there need to develop a model tourism for entire region by almost every important spots within it. This is called circuit tourism (Teja, MVR Krishna, 2017). Tourist circuit may be interstate and intrastate. It may be inter-district and intra district. It may be also major circuit and minor circuit.

Aim of circuit Tourism in N-E India

1. To develop tourist potential in a planned and prioritized way.
2. To promote cultural heritage and livelihood value of the region.
3. To create mass awareness of people regarding tourism development.
4. To offer employment opportunities to local people.
5. To generate economic development of the region.
6. To develop tourist facilitation services for their satisfaction.
7. To provide world class tourism infrastructure for the enhancement of sustainable tourist attractiveness.
8. To follow community based tourism approach.
9. To make full use of total tourism potentials by theme based circuits.

Factors affecting circuit tourism

The factors which are responsible for circuit tourism development are inter region cooperation, proper security arrangement, proper tourism planning, Government help, tourist’s interest, healthy environment, good market / shopping complex, sound infrastructural facilities, improved tour providing agencies and interesting tourism resource of the places



Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.

Some proposed important circuits with Tourism resources in N-E India

1) Arunachal Pradesh

- A) Roing → Mayudia → Anini
(Urban) (Nature) (Urban)
- B) Passighat → Jengging → Yenkiang → Tuting
(Adventure) (Nature) (Urban) (Nature & religious)
- C) Itanagar → Ziro → Daporijo → Aalo → Passighat
(Cultural & Eco Tourism) (Community) (Adventure & Urban) (Urban) (Adventure)
- D) Doimukh → Sagalee → Pakke kesang → Seppa
(Village) (Urban) (Administrative & Cultural) (Rural)
- E) Daporijo → Taliha → Nacho
(Cultural) (Rural & Ethnic) (Rural)

2) Assam

- A) Guwahati → Tezpur → Bhalukpong → Nameri National Park
(Urban / Cultural & Religion) (Historical) (Wildlife) (Eco-tourism)
- B) Guwahati → Sibsagar → Jorhat → Majuli
(Urban / Cultural & Religion) (Heritage) (Urban) (Nature)
- C) Guwahati → Hajo → Barpeta
(Urban / Cultural & Religion) (Historical & Religious) (Historical & Urban)
- D) Guwahati → Manas → Dubri
(Urban) (Nature & Wildlife) (Historical & Urban)
- E) Guwahati → Kaziranga → Majuli → Sibsagar



Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.

	(Urban)		(Wildlife)		(Nature & River)		(Heritage)
F)	Tezpur	→	Bhalukpong	→	Kaziranga		
	(Cultural)		(Wildlife)		(Wildlife & nature)		
G)	Jorhat	→	Sibsagar	→	Orang		
	(Urban)		(Urban)		(Wildlife)		
H)	Dibrugarh	→	Digboi	→	Sibsagar		
	(Industrial)		(Commercial)		(Heritage)		

3) Manipur

A)	Imphal	→	Thoubal	→	Pallel	→	Tengnoupal	→	Moreh
	(Urban)		(Urban & Nature)		(Cultural & Urban)		(Folk)		(Urban)
B)	Imphal	→	Luwangsangbam	→	Sekmai	→	Kanglatombi		
	(Urban)		(Rural)		(Rural & Community)		(Adventure & Historical)		
C)	Imphal	→	Mahadev	→	Lambui	→	Hundung		
	(Urban)		(Religious & Adventure)		(Rural)		(Rural & Adventure)		
D)	Leirenpat	→	Pruksoubi	→	Leisanghiden				
	(Eco-tourism)		(Religious)		(Nature & Village)				
E)	ChingphouMacha	→	CingphouAchouba	→	Khoriphaba				
	(Rural)		(Ethnic & Rural)		(Religious)				
F)	Karang	→	Chaobaching	→	Thanga	→	Bishnupur		
	(Nature & Adventure)		(Nature & Adventure)		(Rural & Nature)		(Religious)		

4) Meghalaya

A)	Byrnihat	→	Nongpoh	→	Sumer	→	Shillong	→	Cherrapunji
	(Urban)		(Nature)		(Rural)		(Urban & Heritage)		(Nature)



Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.

- B) Mawphlang → Mawsynram → Lawbah → Balat → Raniker
 (Ethnic & Rural) (Nature) (Rural) (Cultural & Folk) (Adventure)
- C) Barengapara → Sibari → Rongara → Balpakram
 (Village) (Rural) (Nature) (Wildlife)
- D) Mairang → Mawthadnaishun → Nongstoin → Nongkhnum
 (Urban) (Adventure) (Nature) (Nature)
- E) Tura → Garobadha → Selsella → Phulbari → Tikrikilla
 (Nature & Heritage) (Rural) (Urban) (Mining & Urban) (Nature)

5) Mizoram

- A) Aizawl → Thenzawl → Reiek
 (Urban) (Rural) (Heritage village)
- B) Aizawl → Zokhawthar → Champhai
 (Urban & Cultural) (Rural) (Defensive)
- C) Aizawl → Durtlang → Hmuifang → Rawpuichhip
 (Urban) (Adventure) (Nature) (Rural)

6) Nagaland

- A) Dimapur → Kohima → Khonoma → Pfutsero
 (Urban) (Urban) (Historical & Rural) (Ethnic)
- B) Dimapur → Kohima → Wokha → Mokukchung
 (Urban) (Urban) (Urban) (Cultural)
- C) Pangsha → Mon → Chemsey → Wakching
 (Rural) (Heritage) (Village) (Rural)
- D) Changtongia → Ungma → Tuensang → Longra
 (Nature) (Village) (Wildlife & Nature) (Rural Tourism)



Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.

7) Sikkim

A)	Gangtok (Nature & Urban)	→	Changu (Nature)	→	Nathula (Heritage & Nature)		
B)	Rumtek (Religious)	→	Kabi (Rural)	→	Phodong (Religious & Heritage)	→	Mangan (Nature & Urban)
C)	Lachung (Nature & Rural)	→	Lachen (Urban)	→	Zema (Adventure)	→	Yumthang (Eco-tourism)
D)	Namchi (Nature & Religious)	→	Gayzing (Nature & Urban)	→	Pelling (Nature)	→	Yuksom (Heritage & Historical)
E)	Lachen (Urban)	→	Thangu (Nature & Rural)	→	Chopta Valley (Eco-tourism)	→	Gurudongmar Lake (Nature & Adventure)

8) Tripura

A)	Agartala (Urban & Heritage)	→	Udaipur (Historical & Cultural)	→	Pilak (Historical)		
B)	Udaipur (Cultural)	→	Melagarh (Rural)	→	Boxanagar (Archaeological)		
C)	Agartala (Urban)	→	Dhalai (Nature)	→	Pecharthal (Nature)	→	Jampui hill (Nature & Adventure)
D)	Tepania (Eco-tourism)	→	Bandaur (Nature)	→	Amarpur (Natural & Eco-tourism)	→	Tirthamukh (Nature & Folk Cultural)
E)	Neermahal (Heritage & Historical)	→	Chottakhola (Nature)	→	Avangcharra (Nature)		



Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.

Major findings

1. In North East India, there is the scope of almost each type of tourism development like – adventure, nature, religious, historical, rural, urban, cultural, and ethno tourism etc.
2. There is an increasing trend of tourist visits from year 2011.
3. Assam has good position in tourist accommodation and in tourism service providing.
4. The main cause behind the tourist visit is holiday and recreation purpose.
5. Travelers prefer taxi or hire car to visit the places.
6. April, May, June, July are the peak season of tourism here.
7. Travelers prefer Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim mostly to visit.
8. Maximum domestic tourists have moderate type of satisfaction level regarding their visit.
9. Difficult terrain and less transport accessibility are the main weakness behind the tourism development here.
10. Circuit tourism has greater potentiality in N-E India.
11. Almost in every state there is the opportunity of theme based circuit tourisms, like – nature, adventure etc.

Problems of tourism development in North-East India

1. Lack of tourism infrastructure is the main constraint.
2. Climate is not all time suitable.
3. Sometimes terrorism, ethnic clashes and political instability hamper tourism activities.
4. Lack of coordination among different agencies and governments.
5. Lack of coordination among different state governments of North-East India.
6. There is lack of publicity regarding tourist spots.
7. Restricted Area Permit (RAP) is another challenge behind the tourism development.
8. The transport and communication is not well developed.
9. Geographical isolation and hilly nature of terrain.
10. There is lack of fund, policy and proper planning.
11. Indifferent attitudes of both central and state governments.
12. Lack of people's consciousness and cooperation.
13. Natural disasters hamper tourism activities.
14. Lack of proper regulation and standards behind tourism development.
15. Lack of cooperation and planning among different state governments.
16. Lack of trained tourist guides and hospitality staffs.
17. Heavy tax burden of governments.

Prospects for tourism development in North-East India

1. State governments should adopt proper policy to increase accommodation facilities.
2. To give more emphasis on home staying near rural areas.
3. Theme based circuit tourism is to be popularized.
4. To increase trained and qualified manpower for tourism hospitality services.



Raj Kumar Samanta (2026). Tourism Spheres in North East India – with Special Reference to Area Specific Circuit Tourism Proposal. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews, 5(8),300-320.

5. Transport and communication system are to be modernized.
6. High class security services for tourists.
7. Tourism managers should be well trained with information technology.
8. Eco-friendly tourism planning is to be popularized.
9. Applied research and discussion to solve and to develop the tourism sphere.
10. Local communities are to be involved with tourism planning.
11. Positive attitude and awareness of local people are to be developed.
12. Cooperation, proper policy and planning among eight states of N-E India regarding holistic tourism development.
13. Huge fund allotments from central and state governments.
14. Basic infrastructures are to be developed immediately.
15. Cooperation among central-state governments and different agencies.
16. Level of advertisement is to be improved.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it is clear that North East India has greater tourism potentialities. Almost every type of tourism resource are present here. It is a place of natural abode. Circuit tourism has bright future here. Though N-E India faces many difficulties behind tourism development but these are to be controlled by proper tourism development policy and cooperation among different state governments. As tourism is basically a human Resource based industry so there need also the greater cooperation of private-public sectors and local people's participation.

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