

## Timetable and Travel Information

Since mid-2010 the DHR has been breached by a major landslip near Pagla Jhora. In September 2011 another major landslip breached the line at Tindharia followed by a further landslip in July 2012. **Road repairs near Pagla Jhora are due to be completed in mid-2013: however the gradients and curvature of the road differ significantly from the original DHR alignment and require further work before the tracks can be put back. At Tindharia extensive and very costly reconstruction of the road and rail route is due to start in May 2013, but it is too early to predict exactly how long those repairs will take. (Meanwhile work on correction of drainage and relaying of track through part of the railway workshop site was due to start in early April). Additional locos and carriages were moved by road to Darjeeling in July 2012 and an enhanced service introduced on the upper section of the line from 6 August 2012.**

### TIMETABLE INFORMATION 28 March 2013

#### New Jalpaiguri – Siliguri- Kurseong

No scheduled services operate at present except 'The Jungle Safari' (see below).

#### Kurseong – Darjeeling

A daily three carriage diesel-hauled service (52544) operates, leaving Darjeeling at 1015hrs, arriving Kurseong at 1310hrs. The return service (52545) leaves Kurseong at 1500hrs, arriving Darjeeling at 1750hrs.

A new three carriage diesel-hauled service (52587) leaves Kurseong at 0700hrs arriving Darjeeling at 0945hrs. The return service (52588) departs Darjeeling at 1600hrs arriving Kurseong at 1840hrs.

Each service has one first class and two second class carriages. Just occasionally a steam loco will be used if the diesel is undergoing maintenance.

#### The Joy Trains

This steam-hauled tourist service runs daily on a return trip from Darjeeling to Ghum (India's second highest station at 2257m). Trains leave Darjeeling at:

|         |             |   |
|---------|-------------|---|
| 0800hrs | Train 52546 | (Occasionally diesel-hauled if steam unavailable)   |
| 1040hrs | Train 52548 |   |
| 1320hrs | Train 52549 |   |
| 1600hrs | Train 52547 | (Temporarily diesel and combined with 52588/52545). |

Each train has two first class carriages. The train stops at the impressive viewpoint of Batasia Loop for 10 minutes and arrives at Ghum 50 minutes after departure from Darjeeling. At Ghum there is a break for 30 minutes and an opportunity to visit the railway museum. Admission to the museum is included in the fare. Only return tickets are sold.

At peak times the trains get booked up quickly, so early booking is advisable. You may be 'wait-listed' i.e. put on a waiting list with allocation of any unoccupied seats near to departure time.

### **'The Jungle Safari'**

This daily diesel-hauled service is the only regular service on the lower section of the line. **The train leaves Siliguri Junction at 1000hrs arriving Chunbhatti at 1140hrs. The return service leaves Chunbhatti at 1205hrs; arriving Rangtong at 1240hrs. It departs Rangtong at 1435hrs arriving Siliguri Junction at 1548hrs. Chunbhatti and Rangtong have only basic facilities so it is worth considering being met by taxi there for your return trip.**

## **TRAVEL INFORMATION**

### **Identifying your Train**

The five digit train number is the unique identifier for each service and needs to be quoted when booking. When searching for/booking trains the following codes should be used – New Jalpaiguri (NJP), Siliguri Junction (SGUJ), Kurseong (KGN) and Darjeeling (DJ). The destination code for the Joy Trains is Darjeeling Round (DJR).

The Jungle Safari service has no train identifier. Tickets can be purchased only locally at the time. The trains tend to be lightly loaded so this is normally no problem.

### **Booking Information**

For India residents, booking can be made via the nationwide passenger reservation network (PRN). You can also book tickets online at [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in).

For non-residents, the above facilities are currently unavailable whilst additional measures are put in place to combat international credit card fraud. However, booking can be made on-line by credit card at [www.cleartrip.com](http://www.cleartrip.com)

### **Train Running – Telephone Information Helplines**

Day of travel train running information is available between 0900hrs-1700hrs from:

Darjeeling (+91 354 2252555)

Kurseong (+91 354 2344700)

Sukna (+91 353 2573364)

DHR Control (+91 354 2005734)

### **Charter Services**

For information about chartering a special train – steam or diesel hauled – send an e-mail to the Director DHR at [dhroffice.kurseong@gmail.com](mailto:dhroffice.kurseong@gmail.com) for more details.

## **Tour Groups**

Several tour groups organise visits to the DHR, chartering their own special trains. Trains are normally 'shadowed' by road vehicles giving excellent opportunities for photography of the trains.

Darjeeling Tours Ltd is the DHRS's associated travel firm and can provide advice/information for group or individual itineraries. Its web site is at [www.darjeelingtours.co.uk](http://www.darjeelingtours.co.uk). or e-mail [tours@darjeelingtours.co.uk](mailto:tours@darjeelingtours.co.uk)

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Photography**

Aside from the stunning scenery, there are good opportunities to photo the world famous B Class steam locomotives at work. The loco depots at Kurseong and Darjeeling are readily visible from the adjacent public roads and permission for photography is not required. At Siliguri Junction, the depot is surrounded by a perimeter wall and visits require prior request.

(It should be noted that in the present security situation, photography on the Indian Railways main-line system is not permitted. Do not photograph on stations or trains without specific prior approval.)

### **DHR Museums**

#### **Siliguri Town Station**

This historic building, the original southern **terminus**, is scheduled for renovation as a heritage and museum centre.

#### **Sukna**

This attractive gabled and half-timbered building has a good photographic display. Ask the Stationmaster for admission.

#### **Kurseong**

There is a well-preserved museum/artefacts room on the station platform. Admission is Rs10 – tickets available at the booking office.

Also now open on the northern edge of town is The Elysia Place Museum located in the DHR HQ, a well-restored heritage building and former residence of the General Manager in colonial times. The museum includes multi-media displays, photographs, films and a replica station master's office. Open to the public 1000-1700hrs Tuesday to Sunday.

#### **Ghum**

The external display includes carriages, wagons and the 'Baby Sivok' locomotive. Above the station is an exhibition of photographs and other display material – due for renovation shortly. Museum admission is included in Joy Train tickets or can be obtained from the Stationmaster for a nominal sum.

## **Road Travel to Darjeeling**

The normal direct route from Siliguri to Darjeeling on the Hill Cart Road NH55 is severed between Siliguri and Kurseong by the landslips at Tindharia and PaglaJhora. Alternative routes are available via Mirik or the Teesta Valley/Jorbungalow route. Kurseong can be reached from Siliguri on the Pankabari or Rohini roads.

However, road conditions can change unexpectedly due to weather, road repairs, accidents and the occasional political protest. Before travelling it is advisable to seek advice from your tour operator or hotelier on the latest situation.

## **Feedback/Comment**

The above information is provided in good faith for intending travellers by the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society (DHRS) because there is currently no official Indian Railways web site providing it. The DHRS cannot be held responsible for any loss or inconvenience caused by reliance on this information. Feedback/comment is always welcome and should be sent to [pro@dhrs.org](mailto:pro@dhrs.org) for the attention of Paul Whittle, Public Relations Officer (++44 (0) 1932 346549).

28 March 2013