

## **CHERRY BRANDY FOR THE SOUL.**

**M**ount Kanchendzonga or not, a little rendezvous with Sikkim etches lasting impressions of **untouched lands**, vast trails of **alpine wilderness** and the guiltless young monks dutily turning the prayer wheels. This little **Shangri-La** dotted with ageless monasteries dishes out what it promises- **endless undulating hills of tea plantations**, tufts of **chiseled clouds** in no hurry, against the hazeless azure, and glaciated streams hung dearly to mountain crags. It is nothing less than **pure exhilaration** to watch the frozen mountain tops melt to form little rivulets forming the **gushing Teesta** conquered with an **experience to cherish**- white water rafting.

The **taste of salvation**, No! Not the Gautama- the Buddha type but more of an unwinding for the fuzzy urban mind is in **sipping the legendary Darjeeling tea**, while in the seemingly near distance **the rising sun** flames the thawed peaks of the Kanchendzonga in **crimsons and gold**. Sikkim is all about **Kanchendzonga**, the third highest peak in the world. Revered, it assumes the status of a deity for the locals. And as is said- **God is in the details**, little things matter here like **chasing the sunrise** at an unearthly hour of 4.30 am, or savoring those soft momos served with a **pinch of fiery sauce**, or then **reliving thy self** wafting in the scents of Tibetan incense.

For thrills **there is plenty** apart from rafting- trekking in the **rhododendron wilderness**, cooling away in those mammoth falls or shaking hands with the Red army at **Nathula pass**. For ones who can't leave the wheels, try **propping yourself on a Yak at Tsomgo lake**. And if you have nothing else, **take a walk** in the streets of Gangtok dunked in cherry brandy, surprisingly cheap, and **dance in the rains**.