



## Meghalaya

- \* **Capital:** Shillong
- \* **Date of formation:** January 21, 1972
- \* **Languages:** Khasi, Garo, Jaintia, Bengali, Assamese, Pnar
- \* **Size:** 22,429, sq km
- \* **Population:** 29,64,007
- \* **Sex Ratio:** 989F/1000M
- \* **Literacy:** 75.48%
- \* **Density:** 132 per sq km
- \* **Rivers:** Simsang, Manda, Darming, Ringge, Gamol, Bugi
- \* **Major crops:** Potato, Cotton, Pineapple, Orange
- \* **Minerals:** Coal, Limestone, Clay, Granite
- \* **Highest Peak:** Shillong Peak (1965m)
- \* **Forests and reserved forest:** Nokrek, Balpakram, Nongkhylliem, Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Siju Bird Sanctuary
- \* **Fairs and festivals:** Tiger festival, Bam Khana Wangala (Harvest festival), Shad Nongkrem, Ka Shad Suk Mynsiem, KaPom-Blang Nongkrem, Durga Puja, Seng Kut Snem, Christmas
- \* **Major dance and music forms:** Shad Sukmynsiem, Shad Nongkrem and Doregata dances
- \* **Arts and crafts:** Endi silk is used to make colourful wraps and shawls; baskets known as khok and thugis are commonly woven; cone shaped bamboo rain shields known as knup are also popular
- \* **Museum:** Butterfly Museum, Williamson Sangma State Museum, Shillong
- \* **Cuisine:** Jadoh, Ki kpu, Tung-rymbai
- \* **State animal:** Clouded Leopard
- \* **State bird:** Hill Myna
- \* **State flower:** Lady Slipper Orchid
- \* **State tree:** Gamhar
- \* **Tourist attractions:** Cherrapunji Garo Hills, Tura, Butterfly, Museum, Central Museum, Lady Hydari Park, Words Lake

### Factoids:

- \* Nartiang in Jaintia Hills has a cluster of megaliths and monoliths.
- \* Garos celebrate a good harvest with wangala, or the dance of hundred drums, in November.

