

SELIMBONG TEA GARDEN

Selimbong Tea Garden, otherwise known to the locals who speak the Lepcha language as 'Sulbung', is located on the Indo-Nepal border. Sulbung means land of the orange trees and as the name suggests this tea garden has orange trees interspersed across the 300 hectares of the tea garden. Tea planting in Selimbong started in the year 1866, when the tea garden was first leased by a British person named William Lloyd. Tea Promoters India took over the management of the tea garden in the year 1995.

Located at an altitude ranging from 1200-1600 meters, the upper edges of the tea garden skirt the Sukhia forest reserve and the lowest point of the garden meets the Balasun river. The presence of a variety of shade trees provide a welcoming habitat for a number of birds such as Parrots, Peacocks, Woodpeckers, Minivets, Bul-Buls, Thrushes and Barbets. Selimbong is also known for the cultivation of orchids and there are many rare orchid varieties growing here. Animals such as Wild Boars, Barking Deers and the rare and endangered Pangolin are found here. The tea garden also has a pangolin breeding and conservancy program in partnership with WWF.

The altitude, in addition to the rainfall, rich soil and evergreen shade have helped nurture the Original Darjeeling tea plants that grow here. Tea connoisseurs worldwide eagerly await Selimbong's second flush teas every year. We have identified certain sections in the garden which were planted by the British owners. Teas from these sections are segregated and processed separately using special techniques which result in the special Second Flush flavour of Selimbong teas.

It produces an average of 100,000 kilograms of tea each year. The second flush teas are known to have a strong rich aroma with a woody muscatel flavour. It also produces a delicately flavoured autumnal tea and speciality teas such as sun tea, moon tea, silver tips and oolong. Selimbong has been exporting tea since 1995 and has received multiple awards in recognition for their sustainability efforts and quality of teas produced.

