

# Red Earth. Open Skies. Slow Bengal Days Together.

4 Days / 3 Nights

**Route:** Kolkata -> Dankuni -> Bardhaman -> Panagarh -> Ilambazar -> Bolpur -> Shantiniketan -> Kolkata

## WHY SHANTINIKETAN WORKS FOR PETS

Shantiniketan is best experienced as a slow, relaxed countryside escape rather than a sightseeing-heavy holiday.
The red-soil landscape of Sonajhuri Khoai, open spaces around the Kopai River, quiet rural roads and spacious properties create plenty of opportunities for your pet to walk, explore and simply enjoy being outdoors.
For travelling with a pet, the Sonajhuri–Khoai–Kopai belt is the heart of the experience.

## PET-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCES

• Sonajhuri Khoai — Red-soil landscapes, forest trails and open spaces
• Sonajhuri Haat — Local handicrafts, music and a lively weekend atmosphere
• Kopai River — Peaceful countryside and scenic walks
• Amar Kutir — Handicrafts and a rural Bengal experience

• Prakriti Bhavan — Nature-focused experience
• Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary — Forest surroundings; pet access should be confirmed before entering
• Visva-Bharati / Santiniketan campus area — Outdoor surroundings, where permitted
• Kankalitala — Short scenic excursion; pets should remain outside restricted temple areas
• Countryside drives
• Leisure time in the garden or outdoor spaces of your stay

## GETTING THERE WITH YOUR PET

From Kolkata: Approx. 160–170 km
Suggested Route:
Kolkata Dankuni Bardhaman Panagarh Ilambazar Bolpur Shantiniketan
The journey is relatively easy, with a comfortable highway drive for most of the route.

Our suggestion:
Take a breakfast or refreshment break around Bardhaman or Panagarh, giving your pet time to stretch, drink water and take a proper walking break before continuing towards Bolpur.

## PET NOTES

• Shantiniketan is particularly suited to pets who enjoy open spaces, leisurely walks and quiet countryside surroundings.
• The Sonajhuri–Khoai area can have uneven red-soil terrain, so keep your pet under supervision during walks.
• Keep your pet leashed around crowded areas, roads, markets and tourist attractions.
• Sonajhuri Haat can become lively and crowded, particularly on weekends. Choose quieter times if your pet is uncomfortable around crowds.
• During warmer months, the red-soil landscape and exposed pathways can become hot. Early morning and late afternoon are better for longer walks.
• Carry sufficient drinking water during outdoor excursions.
• Avoid allowing your pet to wander freely through forested areas or unfamiliar countryside.
• Ballavpur Wildlife Sanctuary and other nature areas may have specific entry rules for pets. Confirm access before visiting.
• Pets should remain outside restricted areas at temples and religious sites such as Kankalitala.
• Access to the Visva-Bharati campus and individual attractions may vary. Check current rules before entering with a pet.
• After walks through the Khoai or countryside areas, check your pet for dust, ticks, thorns or other outdoor irritants.
• Carry your pet's regular food, water bowl, leash, waste bags, towel, bedding, basic first-aid supplies and any regular medication.

## SUGGESTED PET-PACED ITINERARY

DAY 1 | KOLKATA  SHANTINIKETAN

Drive from Kolkata towards Shantiniketan via Bardhaman, Panagarh, Ilambazar and Bolpur.

Check in and allow your pet some time to settle in.

In the evening, head towards Sonajhuri Khoai for a leisurely walk through the red-soil landscape and enjoy the sunset.

Return to the property for a relaxed evening.

The perfect first evening: red earth, open skies and nowhere to hurry.

DAY 2 | SONAJHURI, AMAR KUTIR & KOPAI

Start the morning with a relaxed walk through the Sonajhuri Khoai area.

Later, explore Sonajhuri Haat and Amar Kutir, taking your time to enjoy the local crafts and rural atmosphere.

Continue towards the Kopai River and surrounding countryside for a quieter afternoon walk.

Return to the property for some downtime.

Spend the evening relaxing in the garden or enjoying an outdoor meal, where pets are permitted.

A day of walks, crafts, countryside and slow Bengal living.

DAY 3 | QUIET SANTINIKETAN & DEPARTURE

After breakfast, explore Prakriti Bhavan and the quieter outdoor areas around Santiniketan, where pet access is permitted.

If desired, take a short excursion towards Kankalitala, keeping your pet outside restricted temple areas.

Begin the return journey to Kolkata after a relaxed morning.

Take a comfortable break en route for your pet to stretch, drink water and rest.

OPTIONAL DAY 4 | THE SLOW COUNTRYSIDE DAY

For the extended 3N / 4D version, resist the temptation to add too much sightseeing.

Enjoy a slow morning at the property, followed by another walk through Sonajhuri or a leisurely countryside drive around Bolpur.

Spend some time relaxing at the resort before beginning the return journey to Kolkata.

One more day to simply enjoy being away.

## STAY OPTIONS

Premium / Resort Stay

The Cristallo Resort, Shantiniketan

Located at Khoai Haat, Sonajhuri.

• Excellent location for a pet-friendly holiday

• Garden, swimming pool, restaurant and outdoor spaces

• Particularly convenient for Sonajhuri Khoai and Sonajhuri Haat

Boutique / Premium Homestay

Raj Kuthir Homestays

• Private bungalow-style accommodation

• Specifically positioned as a pet-friendly bungalow

• Good option for families travelling with a dog

• More intimate and relaxed than a conventional hotel

Best for: Families looking for a private, homely stay with their pet.

Pet acceptance and applicable conditions should be reconfirmed before booking.

Resort / Pet-Friendly Bungalow

The Pearl Club Resort

• Resort-style property with rooms and spacious bungalows

• Swimming pool, restaurant, garden and recreational facilities

• Pet-friendly bungalows listed by the property

• Booking-platform information may vary, so pet accommodation should be confirmed directly before booking

Best for: Families wanting a larger resort environment and bungalow-style accommodation.

Note: Pet acceptance, additional charges, room restrictions and access to common areas vary by property and should be reconfirmed with the agent before booking.

## PAPERBOAT PET TIP

Shantiniketan is not about ticking off attractions.

Wake up early. Walk through the red earth of Sonajhuri. Stop at a haat. Wander towards the Kopai. Come back to the property, rest, and head out again when the afternoon cools.

Let your pet discover the smells, sounds and open spaces of rural Bengal at its own pace.

Red earth.

Open skies.

Quiet walks.

A little bit of Bengal — together.

## Terms & Conditions

All kind of personal expenses such as tips, laundry, telephone bills, beverages are not included unless specified.

It also does not include any meals unless and otherwise specifically mentioned.

Domestic or International Airfare are not included unless and otherwise specifically mentioned.

Guide, porter or any other similar assistance are on special request only.

Optional, suggested or unspecified activities are on request only.

Camera fee (still or movie) are to be paid at actual.

Additional sightseeing charges or extra usage of vehicle has to be paid directly to driver or call us for support.

Any additional charges arising due to natural calamities, political disturbances, VIP movement, etc. are beyond our control.