

GN Bordoloi (GNB) Rd, has a large sculpture collection, while the upper floors are devoted to informative Adivasi culture displays. You get to walk through reconstructed Adivasi homes.

### OLD GUWAHATI

The distinctive beehive dome of the **Courthouse** (MG Rd) rises above mildly attractive **Dighulipukhuri Park** (HB Rd; admission Rs5, boats per adult/child Rs25/15; ☎ 9.30am-8pm) tank. The nearby **Guwahati Planetarium** (☎ 2548962; MG Rd; shows Rs15; ☎ noon & 4pm, closed 1st & 15th of the month) looks somewhere between a mosque and a landed UFO.

The half-hidden **Urra Tara Temple** (Lamb Lane) is Guwahati's second holiest, backed by the gently attractive **Jorpulkuri ponds**.

### NABAGRAHA MANDIR

Several hilltops are crowned by minor curiosities. One such is **Nabagraha Mandir** (Temple of the Nine Planets; admission Rs80-100), northeast of Central Guwahati by autorickshaw, famed as a centre of astrology. Beyond its aggressive monkey guardians, a darkly atmospheric inner sanctum holds nine ancient stone Shiva lingams.

### Tours

**Traveller's Point** (☎ 2604018; www.assamtourism.org; Tourist Lodge, Station Rd) is Assam Tourism's commercial booth. It runs day excursions to Hajo via the silk-weaving centre of Sualkuchi (adult/child Rs450/375, minimum five people). It also offers two-day all-inclusive packages to Kaziranga National Park (Indian/foreigner from Rs1280/2280).

**Network Travels** (☎ 2605335; www.networktravelsindia.net; GS Rd; ☎ 5am-9pm) is a highly experienced agency whose operations cover the whole of the northeast with tailor-made and fixed itinerary tours. It operates the Eco-Camp (p213) in Nameri National Park. Organising permits is a speciality.

**Jungle Travels India** (☎ 2660890; www.jungletravelsindia.com; 1st fl, Mandovi Apt, GNB Rd) is another experienced agency covering the entire northeast with tailor-made tours and fixed-date departures for Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. It organises all the permits. With two boats, it runs Brahmaputra cruises (see www.assambengalnavigation.com) for four to 10 nights at US\$320 per person per night and also runs the Bansbari Lodge in Manas National Park (p211).

**Rhino Travels** (☎ 2540666), on M Nehru (MN) Rd, offers tours in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, from Rs52,000 for two for seven days/six nights. It also runs Mou Chapori River Resort (p215).

Forerunning what one day could be commonplace on the river, **Brahmaputra Cruises** (☎ 2600244; www.brahmaputrarivercruises.com; packages US\$780-910) run six- to seven-day cruises, sleeping on board and visiting Adivasi villages, Kaziranga National Park, Majuli Island and Tezpur.

**Travel the Unknown** (www.traveltheunknown.com) is an England-based company running specialised tours to the northeastern states.

### Sleeping

#### BUDGET

**Hotel Suradevi** (☎ 2545050; MN Rd; s/d Rs250/350, without bathroom Rs100/250) Well-organised warren of spartan rooms but check in early to get a room.

**Sundarban Guest House** (☎ 2730722; s/d from Rs200/300, d with AC Rs700-800; ☎) A cheery, colourful hotel that's the best budget option in town. Rooms are atypically clean and tidy, and management is helpful. Non-AC Rs500 rooms are the best value. It's off Manipuribasti East (ME) Rd, in the first side lane. Many nastier, cheap hotels line the surrounding lanes.

**Tourist Lodge** (☎ 2544475; Station Rd; s/d from Rs330/440; ☎) Convenient for the train station, the rooms are OK but the staff could do with a brush up in hospitality management. It's a genuine bargain, though, but be prepared for some train noise and up to five-storeys of stairs.

#### MIDRANGE & TOP END

All the hotels listed here offer cable TV and private bathrooms with hot water. Many add a 15% tax and 10% service charge.

**Hotel Siroy Lily** (☎ 2608492; Solapara Rd; s/d Rs700/900, with AC Rs1100/1300; ☎) Professionally run, well-maintained hotel with a lift, a pleasantly air-conditioned foyer, complimentary breakfast and free newspapers delivered to your door.

**Hotel Nova** (☎ 2511464; SS Rd; s/d from Rs750/1300, with AC Rs1350/1650; ☎) In the buzzing Fancy Bazaar area, this 15-room hotel is clean, functional and unglamorous. It's just a place to lay a weary head.

**Hotel Prag Continental** (☎ 2540850; MN Rd; s Rs850-1600, d Rs1200-2000; ☎) A pleasantly