

## Bhutan Tour - 5 Days

Bhutan is a one-of-a-kind and captivating tourism destination that provides you with a rich cultural experience as well as spectacular natural beauty. The country's well-preserved cultural history, which is largely entrenched in Buddhism, allows for an intriguing investigation of historic monasteries, Dzongs (fortresses), and sacred places. Bhutan is known for its breathtaking scenery, which include towering mountains, verdant valleys, and virgin forests. Several national parks and protected areas surrounds the country, providing great chances for trekking, animal viewing, and birding.



## PRICE INCLUDES

- Foods during Bhutan Tour.
- Transport with A/c car
- Kathmandu to paro/ Kathmandu flight tickets
- Hotel 3 night in kathmandu
- Flight ticket (kathmandu to Paro to kathmandu)
- Accommodation during tour in Bhutan(4star Hotel-4N)
- Guide (foods, salary and insurance)
- Kathmandu sightseeing.
- Permits Bhutan.
- Daily Government Royalties and Taxes (\$100 per person per night).
- Entrance Fees/Monuments Fee
- All transfer vehicles and sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- English-speaking accompanying guide.
- Accommodation as per the below 4 stars mentioned hotels.
- Breakfast and dinner at the hotel and lunch at the local tourist restaurant. A Bottle of water per day during the tour.
- Bhutan visa fee is US\$40.
- Farewell Dinner.

## PRICE EXCLUDES

- Bar bills all kinds of drinks
- Personal expenses
- Tips for guide porter
- Foods in kathmandu
- Temple entry fee in kathmandu

## ITINERARY IN DETAIL

### Day 1: Arrive Paro, Paro - Thimphu (Distance: 54 km, estimated travel time: 1 hr)

In clear weather, Druk Air's flight to Bhutan provides a wonderful view of Himalayan scenery. Whether flying along the Himalayan range from Kathmandu or over the foothills from Kolkata, it is a breathtaking journey, culminating in an exciting descent past forested hills into the kingdom.

On arrival at Paro airport and after completing your Bhutan visa formalities, you will be met by a representative from Access Bhutan Tours-local Bhutan tour operator. Then travel to Thimphu, the modern capital town of Bhutan.

On arrival at Thimphu check into your hotel and after refreshments or lunch visit the following:

Takin Preserve, which houses the national animal the Takin that is only found in Bhutan. This is an extremely rare member of the goat family. Found in herds in the very high altitudes (13,125ft and over). They live on a diet of grass and bamboo. It can weigh as much as 550 pounds.

Centenary Farmers' market (if your tour coincides with Thu-Sun) where farmers would be selling their wide range of farm produces (vegetables from farms and wild ferns or bamboo shoots collected from forest, flour, rice, roasted rice, rice flakes, spices, yams both cultivated and wild ones collected from forests, fruits, etc) and livestock products (mainly cheese and butter). Free interaction with people from town as well as from villages come to this weekend market. Weekend market is from Thursday-Sunday (4 days).

Tashichhoedzong, a fortress of the glorious religion. It was built in 1641 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel and was reconstructed into present structure by the late King, His majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in the year 1962-1969. It houses the secretariat building, the throne room and the office of the king, and the central monk body.

Craft Bazaar -A one stop place to witness Bhutanese culture and buy Bhutan made art and craft product. The Bazaar in its 80 stalls covers all aspects of the traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan. At this Bazaar craftsmen and artisans from across the country display and sell their handicrafts. And also visit other handicraft stores.

In the evening you may visit local handicraft stores.

Overnight at the hotel in Thimphu.

### Day 2: Thimphu - Punakha & Wangduephodrang

Distance: 71 km, estimated travel time: 2 1/2 hrs

After breakfast, travel to Punakha through Dochula Pass (3,088m/10,130ft). In the clear spring sky; enjoy the panoramic view of the Himalayan Mountain ranges. Then pass by the beautiful 108 chortens built on a hillock by Her Majesty Ashi Dorji Wangmo (Queen Mother of Bhutan) for the security and well being of His Majesty, the King of Bhutan. You may visit Druk Wangyal Lhakhang .The Druk Wangyal Lhakhang (temple) was built to honor His Majesty the fourth DrukGyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck. The past and future appear to merge in the details of the lhakhang (temple) that tells the story of a supreme warrior figure whose vision pierces the distant future.

Take a light refreshment at Dochula Resort and then drive onto Wangdue and on the way visit the Divine Madman's Monastery-Chhimi Lhakhang, famously known for its fertility shrine, where one can receive a special fertility blessing.

After lunch visit the Punakha Dzong, located on the island of the Pho Chu (male river) and the Mo chu (female river). The dzong was built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the religious and administrative seat of the region. It was here that the dual system of government was introduced in the 17th century and in 1907, enthroned the first King Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck. Damaged over the centuries by four catastrophic fires and an earthquake, the dzong has been fully restored in the recent years by the 4th King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. At the dzong you can see the highest standards in woodwork. Also visit the massive Kuenray, the Coronation Hall of all Bhutanese kings, the Dzongchung at the entrance to the dzong and the cantilever bridge over the Mochu that has been recently renovated.

### **Day 3: Punakha / Wangduephodrang -Paro**

Distance: 125 km, estimated travel time: 3 1/2 hrs

After breakfast travel to Paro via Dochula pass and southern part of Thimphu. On arrival at Paro, check into your hotel in Paro and after lunch visit the following:

National Museum, housed in the Ta Dzong (watchtower). Here an intriguing collection of artifacts provide a wonderful introduction to the rich culture and heritage of the Kingdom.

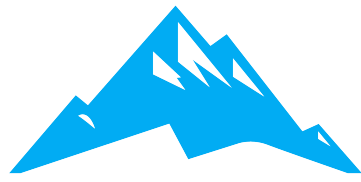
Paro Dzong, a fine example of Bhutanese historic architecture. It is also known as the Rinpung Dzong which means a "fortress that sits on a heap of jewels". This imposing dzong located above the Paro River is a fine example of Bhutanese architecture with its inward sloping walls that rise to an impressive height. The dzong was built in the 16th century on the foundation of a monastery built by Guru Rinpoche (who is regarded as the "second Buddha.") .From the dzong, walk further down to Nyamai Zampa, an oldest traditional cantilever bridge in Bhutan.

In the evening stroll through the Paro town and visit local handicraft stores.

Overnight at hotel in Paro.

### **Day 4: A Day Hike to Paro Taktsang Goempa (Tiger's Nest Monastery)**

After breakfast, hike up to Taktsang Monastery, also known as 'Tiger's Nest'. The climb up to the viewpoint will take around 1 ½ hours and from there you will enjoy a spectacular view of the monastery clinging to the side of the cliff. Stop for refreshment at the View Point Cafeteria. Then walk further up to the monastery which will take about 1 hour. It is said that in the 8th century Guru Rinpoche flew on the back of a tigress from eastern Bhutan to this place and meditated in a cave here for 3 months. The principal Lhakhang (monastery) of the present monastic complex dates from 1692. Taktsang was damaged severely by fire in 1998 but has now been fully restored to its former beauty. After visiting the monastery, walk back down to the road on the way stop for lunch at the view point cafeteria and then walk further down to the road point. Then drive back to hotel. On the way visit Kichu temple, one of the 108 temples built in the 7th century by the Tibetan King Songster Campo. The story goes that a giant demon lay across the whole area of Tibet and the Himalayas and was preventing the spread of Buddhism. To overcome her, King Songster Campo decided to build 108 temples, which would be placed on all the points of her body. Of these 108 temples, 12 were



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built in accordance with precise plans. Thus, it happened that in about the year AD 638 the temple of Jokhang in Lhasa was built over the very heart of the demon.

In the evening relax and overnight at hotel in Paro.

#### **Day 5: Departure from Paro to Kathmandu**

Since our trip has come to an end, we will now take a flight from Paro to Kathmandu.

