

# **ARRIVE PARO**

- > Fly into Bhutan by Druk Air, Bhutan's National Air Carrier. Upo arrival, meet our representative and drive to the Hotel. Check into the Hotel, refresh and relax.
- Paro is a historic town with many sacred sites and historical buildings scattered through the area. In addition, the Paro Valley is wide and verdant and is recognized as one of the most beautiful in all Bhutan. Prefer to stay in Paro if you are someone who is fond of nature and would like to spend quiet and peaceful time.
- Evevning time free to walk around.
- > Overnight stay at the Hotel.

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### **EXCURSION & SIGHTSEEING**

- After breakfast visit Ta Dzong, originally built as Watchtower, which now houses National Museum which houses a extensive collection includes antique thangkha paintings, textiles, weapons & armour, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts. Rinpung Dzong, meaning ("fortress of the heap of jewels"), which has a long and fascinating history. Along the wooden galleries lining the inner courtyard are fine wall paintings illustrating Buddhist lore such as four friends, the old man of long life, the wheel of life, scenes from the life of Milarepa, Mount. Sumeru and other cosmic Mandala. Back to Hotel for Lunch.
- After lunch, drive to Drukgyel Dzong, a ruined fortress where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. The snowy dome of sacred Chomolhari, "mountain of goddess" can be seen in all her glory from the approach road to the Dzong. En route take a short stop at Satsam Chorten for a view of famous Taktsang Monastery.
- > Along the way, visit the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples built in the Himalayas by Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo. The building of this temple marks the introduction of Buddhism in Bhutan.
- > Overnight at the hotel in Paro.



### **EXCURSION & SIGHTSEEING**

- After breakfast take an excursion to Ttaktsang Monastery, the most famous of Bhutanese monasteries precariously perched on the edge of a 1,200 meter cliff, this monastery creates an impressive sight, and is the unofficial symbol of Bhutan. Taktsang was established as a sacred place for meditation by Guru Rinpoche who visited the site on his second visit to Bhutan in 747 CE, though the first monastery was not constructed until 1694. In 1998 a tragic fire destroyed most of the original buildings, but these have since been painstakingly restored to their former glory. The excursion to monastery takes about 5 hours for round trip.
- Overnight at the Hotel in Paro.



## **EXCURSION TO HAA VALLEY**

- Start the day early for drive to Haa via Chele-la pass. 4 Km away at Bondey village the road to Haa diverts towards the right hand side and ascends towards the chele-la pass starts. After driving through blue pine & rhododendron forest for 45 km, reach Chele-la pass ( 4200 meters). From this point one can have a superb views of Mt. Chomolhari & Jichu Drakey. This is a very good place to walk around for few minutes enjoying the view. Drive on to Haa, descending all the way for another 22 km (under an hours drive), finally reaching Haa. Adjoining the districts of Paro, Chhukha and Samtse, Haa valley is one of the most picturesque places in the Kingdom, spread over an area of 1706 sq. km. During pre-Buddhist era, Haa valley was known for its animist tradition. It is culturally rich valley and some of famous sites in this region are: 7th century Lhakhang Karpo (White temple) and Lhakhang Nagpo (Black temple) at the foothills of a venerated three brotherly mountains known as Meri Puensum. The valley is also unparalleled in Bhutan in terms of the diversity of the folk culture, legends and shamanistic rituals. The shamanistic traditions is vividly practiced in almost all the communities. The valley is also a paradise for nature lovers and travelling there is a very rewarding experience.
- > Back to Paro.
- > Overnight at Hotel in Paro.



## DEPARTURE

> After breakfast transfer to the airport for flight to onward destination or opt to drive to Phuentsholing (160 kms/5 hrs) to reach India and head for onward destinations.