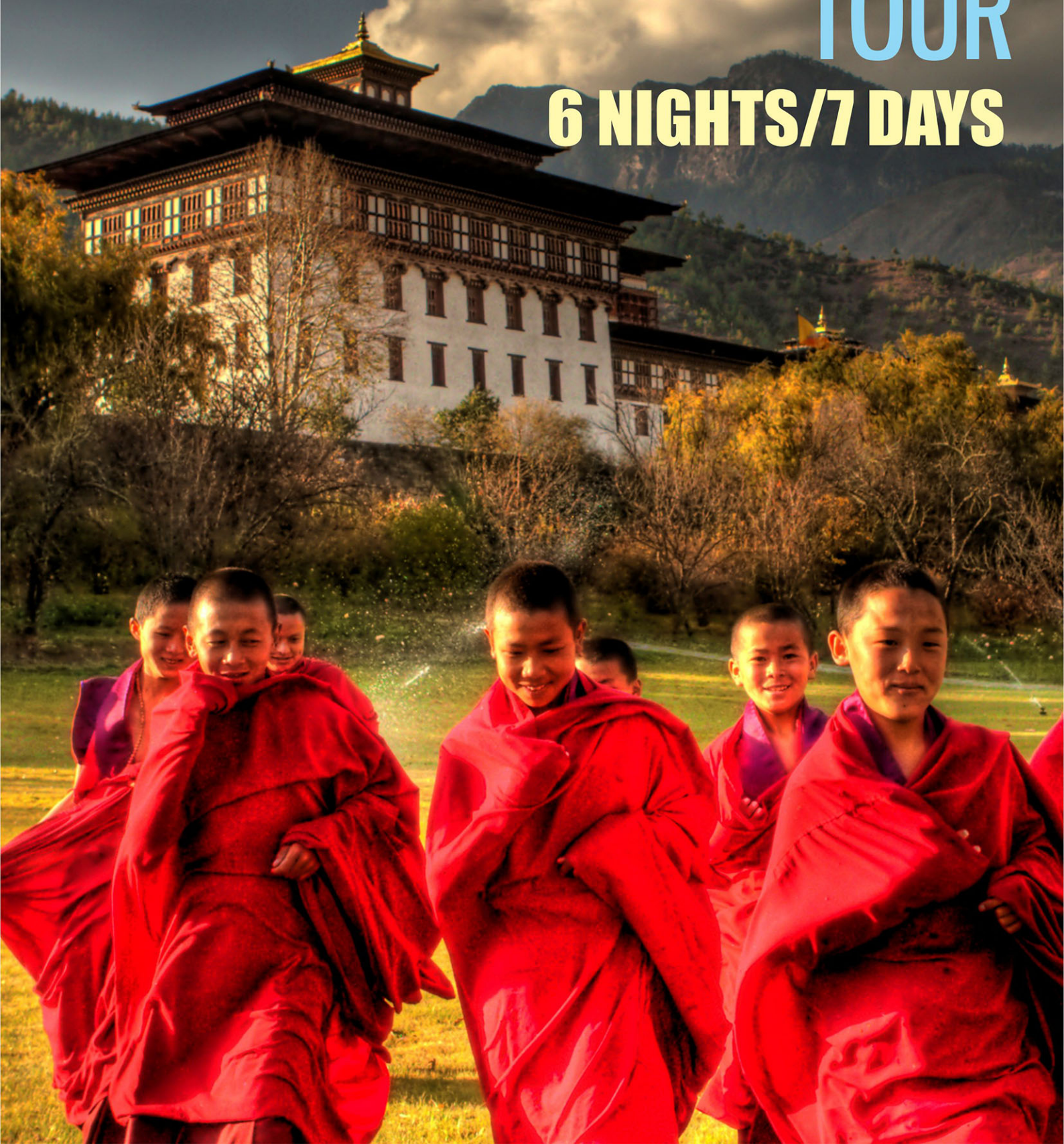


BHUTAN



TOUR

6 NIGHTS/7 DAYS





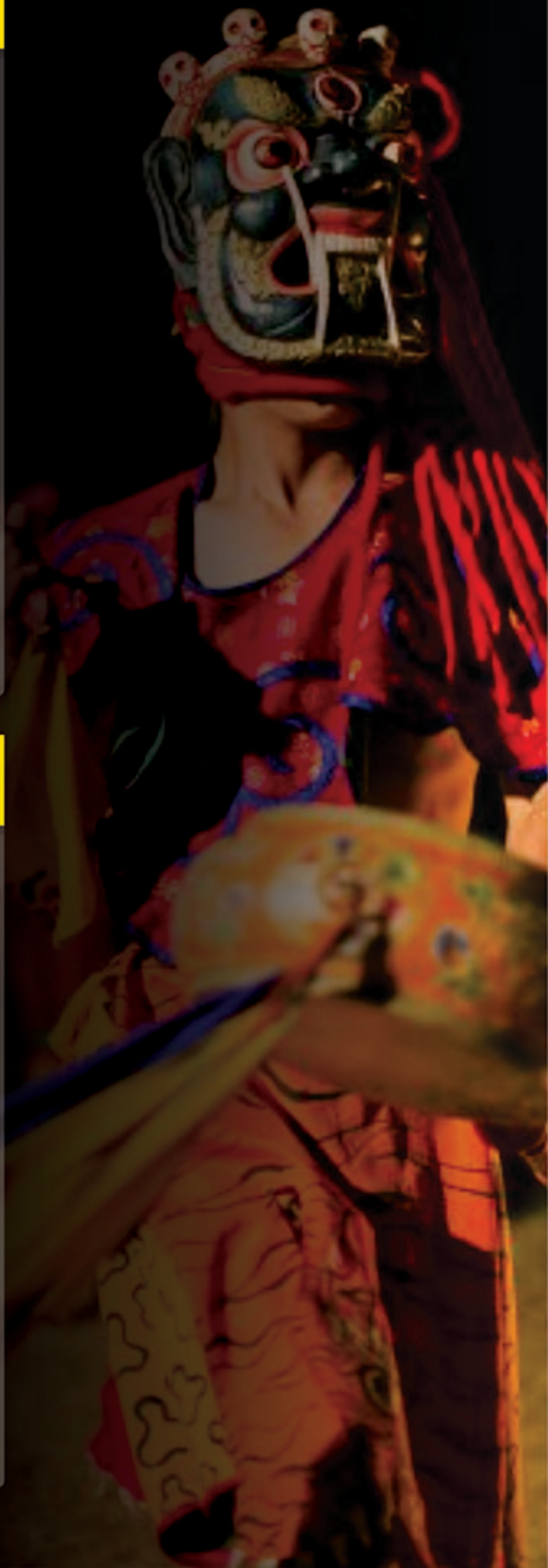
PHUENTSHOLING

- Arrival at Phuentsholing, check into the Hotel and evening time free to walk around the town. A Border town in southern Bhutan and is the administrative seat (Dzongkhag Thromde) of Chukaha District. Tourists from India, Bangladesh and Maldives do not need visa to enter Bhutan but have to show proof of identity such as passport or voter ID card and apply for a permit at Phuentsholing to enter Bhutan. Other foreigners need a visa presented by a hired registered travel agents/guides. The entry gate into the town is manned by the Indian Army and the Bhutanese Army guards. The terrain inclines soon after the gate.
- Process for route permit by the local Travel Agents/Guides.
- Overnight stay at the Hotel in Phuentsholing.



PHUENTSHOLING-THIMPU (168 KMS/5-6 HRS)

- After breakfast, drive to Thimpu, the capital city of Bhutan. Upon arrival, check into the Hotel, refresh and relax.
- Situated in the western central part of Bhutan. The city is spread out laterally in a north-south direction on the west bank of the valley formed by the Raidak River, which is known as the Wang Chuu or Thimphu Chuu in Bhutan. Thimphu is spread over an altitudinal range between 2,248 metres (7,375 ft) and 2,648 metres (8,688 ft). The Culture of Bhutan is fully reflected in Thimphu in respect of literature, religion, customs, and national dress code, the monastic practices of the monasteries, music, dance, literature and in the media.
- Overnight at the Hotel in Thimpu.





THIMPU SIGHTSEEING & EXCURSION

- After breakfast, the schedule for the day is to go for a sightseeing to various good and historic places i.e. : the National Library, housing an extensive collection of priceless Buddhist manuscripts; the Institute for Zorig Chusum (commonly known as the Painting School) where students undergo a 6-year training course in Bhutan's 13 traditional arts and crafts. Later visit Textile and Folk Heritage Museum, a fascinating testimony of the Bhutanese material culture and living traditions. Back to Hotel for Lunch.
- After lunch, visit King's Memorial Chorten continuously circumambulated by people, murmuring mantras and spinning their prayer wheels. Construction of this landmark was the idea of Bhutan's third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuk ("the father of modern Bhutan") who has wished to erect monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it serves both as a memorial to the Late King and as a monument to peace. The other places to be seen are the government-run Handicrafts Emporium and local crafts shops, Trashichoedzong, "fortress of the glorious religion". This is the center of government and religion, site of monarch's throne room and seat of Je Khenpo or Chief Abbot. Built in 1641 by the political and religious unifier of Bhutan, Shabdrung Ngawang Namgya
- Overnight at the Hotel in Thimpu.



THIMPU-PUNAKHA (77 kms/3 hrs)

- After early breakfast, drive up to Dochu-la pass (3,088m/ 10,130 ft) stopping briefly here to take in the view and admire the chorten, mani wall, and prayer flags which decorate the highest point on the road. If skies are clear, the following peaks can be seen from this pass (left to right): Masagang (7,158m), Tsendagang (6,960m), Terigang (7,060m), Jejegangphugang (7,158 m), Kangphugang (7,170 m), Zongphugang (7, 060 m), a table mountain that dominates the isolated region of Lunana - finally Gangkar puensum, the highest peak in Bhutan at 7,497m.
- Later visit to Punakha Dzong, Built strategically at the junction of Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the religious and administrative centre of the region, Punakha Dzong has played an important role in Bhutan's history. Damaged by four catastrophic fires and an earthquake, the dzong is fully restored in the recent times.
- Evening time free to explore around.
- Overnight at the hotel at Punakha.





PUNAKHA-PARO (145 kms/5 hrs)

- After breakfast drive to Paro en route visit Simtokha Dzong. This dzong, built in 1627 is the oldest in Bhutan and houses the institute for language & cultural studies. Afternoon in Paro, visit Ta Dzong, once a watchtower, built to defend Rinpung Dzong during inter-valley wars of 17th century. Afterwards, walk down a hillside trail to visit Rinpung Dzong. Built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the first spiritual and temporal ruler of Bhutan, the Dzong houses the monastic body of Paro, the office of the Dzongda (district administrative head) and Thrimpon (judge) of Paro district.
- Overnight stay at the Hotel in Paro.



PARO EXCURSION & SIGHTSEEING

- After breakfast take an excursion to Taksang 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. Taksang was established as a sacred place for meditation by Guru Rimpoche 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.



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.

