

MAGESTIC



BHUTAN



**11 NIGHTS/
12 DAYS**

Day
1

ARRIVE PARO

- Fly into Bhutan by Druk Air, Bhutan's National Air Carrier. Upon 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.
- Evening time free to walk around.
- Overnight stay at the Hotel.

Day
2

PARO EXCURSION & SIGHTSEEING

- After breakfast take an excursion to Taktasang 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. Taktasang 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.



Day

3

PARO-THIMPU (55 KMS/2 HRS)

- After breakfast, check out and drive to Thimpu, the capital city of Bhutan. Upon arrival, check into the Hotel, refresh & 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

Day

4

THIMPU EXCURSION & SIGHTSEEING

- 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 Namgyal.
- 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 – GANGTEY VALLEY (78 kms/4 hrs)

- After breakfast drive and Visit Gangtey village where you see the Gangtey Monastery and visit the monastery. Phobjikha valley is part of the beautiful Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park (formerly known as Black Mountains National Park), one of Bhutan's most important nature sanctuaries. Each winter it is home to a flock of 300 rare and endangered black-necked cranes. The surrounding hills and mountains are home to nomadic shepherds and yak-herders. This is one of the most remote and untouched regions in Bhutan and is only just opening its doors to the outside world.
- The Black necked cranes start migration to this area from November each year. You will have refreshment and lunch at a resort/restaurant in this valley. Afternoon you can visit the Black Necked Crane Center and explore this beautiful scenic valley.
- Overnight at the Hotel at Gangtey.





GANGTEY – BUMTHANG (120 KMS/5 HRS)

- After breakfast, we drive to Trongsa via Pele La Pass at an altitude of 3,300m. This pass is an important dividing range that separates the western from central and eastern Bhutan. En route stop off at the Chendebji Chorten located below the road. Continue the journey for a further distance of 68-km for about 2 hours to Bumthang at an altitude of 2,600m, the most beautiful valley and cultural heartland of Bhutan. En route we stop for a quick visit to the Yathra Weaving Centre at Chumey, where
- They use yak and sheep wools for yathra products with patterns unique to Bumthang. Bumthang valley is one of the most sacred in the kingdom and innumerable legends surround the area. It is here that the kings were cremated and the present royal families trace their ancestry back to a famous saint called Pemalingpa, who was also a smith in Jakar Township.
- Overnight stay in the Hotel at Bumthang.



BUMTHANG VALLEY SIGHTSEEING AND WALKS IN JAKAR

- This is one of the most spectacular valleys in Bhutan and also the heartland of Buddhism. The Guru and his lineage of Tertons (treasure finders), have led to the sprouting of many temples in the valley. In the morning we hike to visit the Tamshing Monastery (one of the oldest monastic schools built by Terton Pema Lingpa) and Kurjey Lhakhang (where the Guru Rinpoche subdued a local demon and left his body imprint on a rock). We also visit Jambay Lhakhang (one of the oldest temples in Bhutan built in 7th century) and Jakar Dzong (seat of the district administration). In the afternoon, hike to Thangbi valley across the suspension bridge and visit the Thangbi Lhakhang built in the 14th century.
- Overnight in the Hotel at Bumthang.





EXCURSION/HITCH-HIKING TO URA VALLEY

- After early breakfast, we drive to Ura Valley Southeast of Jakar, Ura is the highest of Bumthang's valleys and is believed by some to have been the home of the earliest inhabitants of Bhutan. With about 40 closely packed houses along cobblestone streets, and the main Ura Lhakhang dominates the town, giving it a medieval atmosphere. A few hundred metres towards Mongar is the start of the Ura–Geyzamchu Walking Trail, a 9km-long, five-hour hike crossing the Wangthang La pass and rejoining the main road at Geyzam Chhu. It's a demanding but rewarding walk through rhododendron, pine forests and alpine meadows along an old trade route. . Admire the diverse flora and fauna along the short trek. En route you'll visit the Mebar Tsho (flaming lake) located on the way to Tang village, where the renowned treasure reveller, Terton Pema Lingpa, discovered treasures from the lake in the late 15th century.
- Later in the evening drive back to Bumthang.
- Overnight in the Hotel in Bumthang.



BUMTHANG – WANGDUE PHODRANG (203 KMS/6 HRS) VIA TRONGSA

- This morning we drive to Trongsa at an altitude of 2,200m, the ancestral home of the present Royal Family of Bhutan. Sightseeing today includes a visit to the magnificent Trongsa Dzong where the first two Kings ruled from this dzong and also visit the Ta Dzong (ancient watch tower). Continue the journey for a distance of 129-km for about 4-5 hours travelling to Wangdue Phodrang at an altitude of 1,240m. The evening is at leisure to relax, enjoy & explore the delightful surroundings of Wangdue Phodrang.
- Overnight in the Hotel at Wangdue Phodrang.



Day
11

WANGDUE PHODRANG – PARO (150 KMS/5 HRS)

- Today is a long journey heading back to Paro via Thimphu. The journey passes through the awe inspiring mountains and lush vegetation along the highway and will photo stops during the journey. Enjoy some leisure time in Paro town in the evening, one of the beautiful valleys in Bhutan and home to the famous Paro Taktshang (also known as Tiger's Nest), National Museum and Drukair (Royal Bhutan Airlines).
- Overnight in the Hotel at Paro.

Day
12

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

