

Bhutan Highlights

7 Day Tour to Thimphu, Punakha, Wangdue & Paro



Day 1 Arrival Thimphu

Meal: D

The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular in entire Himalayas. Upon arrival, you will be met by our representative and drive to Thimphu, the capital town of Bhutan with en-route stop at Chuzom, the confluence of Thimphu and Paro rivers. On arrival Thimphu check into the hotel. Evening an exploratory walk around Thimphu city centre. Overnight at the hotel in Thimphu.

Day 2 Day in Thimphu

Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, drive to visit Memorial Chorten. Afterwards visit to Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang). It holds one of the largest Buddha's statue in the country & Changangkha Lhakhang, built in 12th century by Lama Phajo Drukgom Shigpo. Later drive to upper Motithang in Thimphu to visit Takin Preserve. The Takin is the national animal of Bhutan, and looks like a cross between a cow and a goat. Post lunch, sightseeing in Thimphu valley including visit to the following : the National Library, the Institute for Zorig Chusum (commonly known as the Painting School), Textile Museum, Folk Heritage Museum & Trashichoedzong, or 'the fortress of the glorious religion'.

Evening at leisure in Thimphu city centre. Also explore the Local Crafts Bazaar, to browse through example of Bhutan's fine traditional arts. Overnight at the hotel in Thimphu.

Day 3 Drive Thimphu – Punakha & Wangdue (approx 3 hours drive) Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, drive up to Dochu-la pass stopping briefly here to take in the view and admire the chorten, mani wall, and prayer flags. Punakha was former capital of Bhutan and seat of the Government until 1955 when the capital was moved to Thimphu. On arrival check into the hotel. Afternoon visit Punakha Dzong or 'Palace of Great Happiness or Bliss, built at the junction of the Phochu and Mochu rivers in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. Your guide will illuminate your understanding of this intricate culture that is exotic, though long established here. After exploring Punakha city centre, embark on a short walking excursion to Chimi Lhakhang. Evening drive pass Wangdue town and its market. Overnight at the hotel in Punakha & Wangdue.

Day 4 Day in Punakha & Wangdue Meal: B/L/D

A beautiful hike takes one to the regal Khamsum Yuelley Namgel Chorten (approx 2 hours round trip walk). After lunch, visit Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang (Nunnery). Perched on a ridge amid pine trees and overlooking valleys of Punakha and Wangdu gleams Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup temple. Then drive on to Talo village. The beautiful farm houses of the village have its own flower gardens and on the hill slope corns and sweet peas are grown in abundance. Also visit Talo Sangnacholing, built on a plateau and has majestic view of surrounding villages. Overnight at the hotel in Punakha & Wangdue.

Day 5 Drive Punakha & Wangdue – Paro (125km, 2H drive) Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast drive back to Paro descending back down from Dochu La, follow the way back up the dramatic Wang Chhu and Paro Chhu river valleys, before crossing through Paro town towards the north end of the valley. En route visit Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress of the country constructed by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in 1629. Later in the day after checking into hotel, proceed to visit Ta Dzong, originally built as Watchtower, which now houses National Museum. Then walk down the trail to visit Rinpung Dzong, meaning (“fortress of the heap of jewels”), which has a long and fascinating history. Evening take a stroll around interesting city centre of Paro. Overnight at the hotel in Paro.

Day 6 Day in Paro Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast excursion to Taktshang Monastery (approx. 5 hours round trip walk): It is one of the most famous of Bhutan’s monasteries, perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley floor. The hike to the monastery makes a splendid half day excursion. While return to the hotel, along the way, visit the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples built in the Himalayas by Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo. Overnight at the hotel in Paro.

Day 7 Paro Departure Meal: B

Free time until in time transferred to the airport for your flight exit.

Price: \$2450 per person Single supplement: \$535

Inclusions:

Twin share at 4* hotel total 6 nights; fully inclusive tour with English speaking guide, all transfers, entrance fees and meals (breakfast and dinner at hotel; lunch at local restaurant) as per itinerary, Bhutan visa fee; 2 bottles of water every day.

Exclusions:

Any air tickets; personal expenses, insurance, tipping etc.

Remarks: A minimum of 2 participants requested for guaranteed departure.

4* hotel for your references:

Thimpu: Ariya/ Osel/ Namgay Heritage/ Migmar
Punakha: Drubchhu/ Zhingkhram/ Khuru Resort
Paro: Tashi Namgay/ Drukchen