



BHUTAN AT A GLANCE

Day: 1

Location: ARRIVE AT PARO - THIMPHU

Description: The flight into Bhutan takes you close to the great Himalayas, offering dazzling scenic views of some of world's highest glacial peaks. As you enter Paro valley, you will sweep past forested hills with the silvery Pa Chu (Paro river) meandering down the valley below. Paro Dzong (fortress) and Ta Dzong (watchtower) on the hills above the town will be a fine sight. The representative will receive you and will drive you to Thimphu with sightseeing en route and check into your hotel. After lunch, drive to Kuenselphodrang where world's tallest Buddha (Dhordenma) Statue (169 feet) sits overlooking the Thimphu Valley. Enjoy the spectacular view of Thimphu city. Visit the memorial chorten (Stupa) located in the center of the City which was built in the memory of our beloved Third King, Jigme Dorji Wangchuk. Evening free. Overnight at your hotel.

Day: 2

Location: THIMPHU

Description: Visit "Chang Gangkha Lhakhang" one of the oldest Monasteries in the country. Visit the zoo at Motithang to gaze upon Takin, the National animal of Bhutan. Drive upward towards BBS tower to view the Thimphu city opposite to Kuenselphodrang. Drive down to the view point of Tashichho Dzong, the impressive fortress which houses the secretariat building, the throne room of His Majesty the King and various government offices. Visit craft bazaar where one can find all kinds of authentic handmade Bhutanese handicrafts including the national dress of Bhutan, Gho and Kira. Dinner and overnight at your hotel. Evening visit Tashichho Dzong the impressive fortress which houses the secretariat building, the throne room of His Majesty the King and various government offices. It is also the summer residence of the Chief Abbot and central monk body. Witness the Flag lowering ceremony before you enter the Dzong. Overnight at your hotel.

Day: 3

Location: THIMPHU-PUNAKHA

Description: Drive up to Dochu-la pass (3,088m/10,130ft) stopping briefly here to take in the view and admire the 108 chortens, mani wall, and prayer flags which decorate the highest point on the road. If skies are clear, the high Himalayan peaks towards the north east will be revealed in all their glory. On a clear day, the following peaks can be seen from this pass (left to right): Masagang (7,158m), Tsendegang (6,960m), Terigang (7,060m), Jejegangphugang (7,158m), Kangphugang (7,170m), Zongaphugang (7,060m) a table mountain that dominates the isolated region of Lunana, and finally, Gangkar Puensum, the highest peak in Bhutan at 7,497m. En route to Punakha, visit Chhimi Lhakhang the temple of fertility located on a hillock in the beautiful village of Messina between Wangduephodrang and Punakha districts. Drive to Punakha Dzong, a massive structure built at the junction of two rivers. Punakha was Bhutan's capital until 1955, and Punakha Dzong still serves as the winter residence of the central monk body. Bhutan's first king, Ugyen Wangchuck, was crowned here in 1907. The fortress has withstood damage from fire, earthquake and flood over the centuries. The latest flood, in October, 1994, caused great damage to the fortress but miraculously spared its most holy statue. Go by the river side to feel the ice cold water as most of the rivers in Bhutan are glacial fed. Take beautiful pictures. Overnight at your Hotel.

Day: 4

Location: PUNAKHA - PARO

Description: Drive towards Paro. Have picnic lunch at Botanical Garden in Thimphu (Picnic lunch complimentary with 4 star and 5 star packages only, so not applicable for 3 star packages). Evening visit Ta Dzong, which in the past served as watchtower for Paro Dzong and now houses the National Museum. Paro Dzong (Rinpung Dzong) built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. Overnight at your Hotel in Paro.

Day: 5

Location: PARO TAKTSHANG HIKE

Description: Hike to Taktshang Monastery, one of the holiest and the most beautiful sites of Bhutan. Taktshang, the tiger's lair, acquires its name from the legend of its foundation, when in the 8th Century Guru Rimpoche, widely revered as the second Buddha, arrived from Tibet flying across the mountains on the back of a tigress. Evening free for shopping.

Day: 6

Location: DEPART PARO

Description: End of your travel to Bhutan. Our team will drive you to the Airport and bid farewell.