

Itinerary: The Glimpse of Bhutan

Duration: 5 Days / 4 Nights Destinations: Thimphu and Paro

Package Type – Fly In/Fly Out

Overview

Snuggled in the arms of Eastern Himalayas, Bhutan is the only country in the world where Vajrayana Buddhism is a way of every day life. For the Government of Bhutan Gross National Happiness is more important than the Gross National Product. To the local people traditional values, environmental preservation and good governance takes precedence over material things. Bhutan is the travel world's best kept secret. It is nestled between the two of the world's most populated countries, China and India. Bhutan can be best described as Beautiful, friendly and Nature. The Kingdom of Bhutan will mesmerize you with its beautiful landscapes, lonely monasteries and warm smiles in everyone's faces. The **Glimpse of Bhutan Tour** showcases two of the most important cities of the Country – Thimphu and Paro.

Thimphu: Capital and the largest city of Bhutan - Only capital city in the world that does not have traffic lights - Main center of Commerce, Religion and Government in the country - Most modern city of Bhutan and has abundance of restaurants, internet cafes, nightclubs and shopping center. It is one of the few cities of Bhutan having ATM facilities.

Paro: Small town in the western part of Bhutan - Also home to Paro Airport, Bhutan's only International Airport - The valley has many isolated small villages and is known for red rice - Also home to most of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries.

Highlights of the tour:

- Visit old Monasteries and majestic fortresses including Tashichhodzong
- First had experience of untouched Nature and unique Culture
- Untouched Buddhist Culture.
- Hike through pine forests to visit "Tiger's Nest"
- Village houses and rural life

Day Wise Itinerary

Day 1. Paro – Thimphu:

Driving Distance: 65 Km, Driving time: 1.5 – 2 Hr., Altitude of Thimphu: 2,350 m

Your flight to Paro on a clear day, is marked with the panoramic views of the Himalayas including the Everest and other famous Peaks. The approach through the foothills and the landing (including few steep turns) at the tiny airstrip of Paro has been termed as adventurous by many travelers. After the completion of immigration formalities at the Paro Airport exit

door, you will be received by your Bhutanese guide with traditional “**Tashi Khadar**”. Afterwards drive to Thimphu following the Pa Chhu (River). Check-In to the hotel and have your first experience with Bhutanese Cuisine. Rest of the day is at leisure. You can explore the Thimphu valley and town or shop till your heart’s content. **A private traditional Cultural Show would be organized especially for you in the evening.**

Meals – Lunch and Dinner; Overnight at the Hotel in Thimphu

Day 2. Thimphu Sightseeing:

Today you would be driven in and around Thimphu covering key places of interest. After breakfast you would visit

- **Kuensel Phodrang**, the gigantic Buddha Dordenma Statue located atop a hill in Kuensel Phodrang Nature Park.
- **National Memorial Chhorten**, a Stupa built in 1974 to honor the third Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Every morning till night old people and young people circumambulate the Chhorten. **You may choose to light butter lamps and also circumbulate around the Chorten.**
- **Zorig Chusum**, Premier institute of traditional arts and crafts in Thimphu established with an objective of preserving “thirteen arts and crafts of Bhutan”.
- **Folk Heritage**, traditional house giving an insight to the Bhutanese lifestyle, and artifacts from the rural households

Thereafter, you would be taken to a local restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon you would be taken to

- **Sangaygang View Point**, also known as BBS Tower offering panoramic view of Thimphu Town situated at an elevation of 2,685 m.
- **Changangkha Monastery**, popular temple perched on a ridge above Central Thimphu built in 15th Century by Lama Phajo Drugom Zhipo.
- **Takin Preserve Centre**, see Takin here (National animal of Bhutan) It is a unique combination of Goat and an Antelope
- **Tashichhodzong**, or ‘the fortress of the glorious religion’. Initially erected in 1641 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, it was rebuilt in the 1960s during the reign of Bhutan’s third king in the traditional style, without plans or nails. It houses some ministries, His Majesty’s secretariat, and the central monk body and opens after 5 PM.

On the completion of sightseeing, you are driven back to your hotel. After relaxing for sometime you shall be served with dinner.

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner; Overnight at the Hotel in Thimphu.

Day 3. Thimphu – Paro:

Driving Distance: 65 Km, Driving time: 1.5 – 2 Hr., Altitude of Paro: 2,280 m

After breakfast, you would be driven to Paro, for your second leg of the tour. On the way to Paro, you would have following options

- Visit **Tamchog Lhakhang**, located along Paro-Thimphu highway on the base of a mountain across the Pa Chhu river built in the early 15th century by the great iron bridge builder Thangtong Gyalpo.
- **Spend time by the side of river**, to enjoy the natural & non polluted beauty.

After arriving at Paro, you would be transferred to you Hotel for Check In. Post lunch, you would be taken around to visit

- **Paro Rimpung Dzong**, also known as Fortress of the heap of jewels, built during the time of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1646
- **Ta Dzong**, an ancient watch tower overlooking Rimpung Dzong built in 1951 now converted into national museum.

Evening is free for **leisure activities such as Archery experience, National Dress wearing experience** and shopping around the Paro Town.

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner; Overnight at the Hotel in Paro.

Day 4. Paro:

After breakfast, start your day with a hike to

- **Taksang Monastery (Tiger's nest)**, the abode of gods and monks situated at an altitude of 3100m on the Upper Paro Valley, Bhutan. As per the legend, Guru Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche), the tantrum mystic who brought Buddhism to Bhutan, came in the form of Dorje Droloe riding a flying tigress to subdue the demon that was obstructing the spread of Buddhism in the Himalayas.

After the completion of the hike, you would be served picnic lunch among the woods. Post lunch, visit

- **Kyichu Lhakhang**, one of the oldest monasteries in Bhutan built in the 7th century by the Tibetan Emperor Songtsen Gampo

Later in the day, you would then drive to village house to witness the traditional rural life in a Bhutanese village. Also you have an option of experiencing a Traditional Hot Stone bath in the village house. You can also choose to have your dinner in the house with the Family or also spend your overnight in the village house (needed to be confirmed at the time of confirmation of the Tour) or be driven back to your hotel.

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner; Overnight at the Hotel in Paro.

Day 5. Departure:

Today we will bid farewell to this beautiful country and take an early flight back. We hope by now you must have made some good friends and also have taken photographs and beautiful memories of Bhutan. We certainly hope of serving you again on your next visit to this great country or the Last Shangri-La. Tashi Delek

Footnotes

- Except for the overnight destinations, we keep the itinerary flexible in order to give the travelers the best opportunities to capture and experience Bhutan as per the situation, interest and convenience during the time of travel. The Day 1 itinerary is subject to early arrival of the flight in Paro.
- Please note that some of the sightseeing may be closed on government holidays and certain occasions. In such cases you shall be given options for other sightseeing or opportunities to capture and experience Bhutan.
- All the itineraries can be customized as per the requirements of the travelers for any duration or within any destination and can be combined with any kind of activities such as trekking, rafting, walking tour, cycling , etc. Extra Cost may be applicable for some of the activities.

BHUTAN TOUR PACKAGE 2016
(3 Star Standard Hotels only)

Season	1 Pax	2 Pax	3 Pax and above
Low Season	1100	980	840
High Season	1140	1020	880

Tariff is based on US Dollars / Per Pax

Low Season: December, January, February, June, July & August

High Season: March, April, May, September, October & November

Included in the minimum daily tariff package:

- Visa process and arrangement
- Royalty to the government and all other taxes
- Government surcharge for individual groups travelling as one or two pax
- All accommodations in 3 Star standard hotels
- Standard room on twin sharing basis only
- Meals on fixed buffet (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)
- Full time English speaking guide
- Private transportation for airport pick up/ drop and all sightseeing
- Entrance fees to events, historic sites, museums and parks as indicated in the itinerary

Not included in the minimum daily tariff package:

- Visa fee for single entry (US\$ 50)
- Refreshment, water and any alcoholic/ non-alcoholic beverages
- Travel Insurance (Must for Trekking) applicable
- Single room supplement charges (US\$ 40/Night) applicable
- Luxury star hotels and resorts available at an additional cost
- Luxury camping/ trekking can be arranged at an additional cost
- Gratuities to guide, driver, trekking staff, etc.
- Specialized guides (Foreign Language, Photography, Bird Watching, Buddhism or any specialized guide) available at an additional cost
- Any personal expense
- **Extra services like Cultural Show, Hot Stone Bath, Archery Session and National Dress Wearing Experience. For these services supplemental charges would be applicable as below.**
- **Special Group Discounts available**

Supplemental Costs:

- Cultural Show - \$ 95 Per Show
- Hot Stone Bath at Rural House - \$ 25 Per Person Per Bath
- Archery Session and National Dress Wearing Experience - \$ 15 per person per session.

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