

# 10 Days Bhutan Tour with Thimphu Tshechhu (Festival)

Valid till 31 Dec 2013

## Day 1, Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Arrive Paro:

On your journey to Paro, the panoramic views of the Himalayas are sensational, including the Everest and other famous Himalayan Peaks. The approach through the Bhutanese foothills and the landing, including a few steep turns to land at the tiny airstrip of Paro becomes more exciting as you enter Bhutan.

On arrival received by Bhutanese guide from Ideal Travel Creations.

After lunch, visit,

Rinpung Dzong: Meaning "fortress of the heap of jewels". The dzong now serves as the administrative and judicial seat of Paro district and residence for around 200 monks of Paro and was built at the same time of Drukgyel Dzong. The famous Paro tshechhu ( festival) is held here in spring.

Ta Dzong: It overlooks the Rinpung Dzong and was built in 1951 as a watch tower. This dzong is Round, more like parts of an European castle. The Dzong was established as the National Museum of Bhutan since 1967 and holds fascinating collection of arts, relics, religious thangka, etc.

Overnight in Hotel

## Day 2, Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013 , Paro:

After breakfast, excursion to Taktshang Monastery.

**Taktshang Monastery;** The primary lhakhang was built surrounding Guru Rimpoche's Meditation cave in the 1684 by Gyaltsen Tenzin Rabgay. his incredible monastery clings to the edge of a sheer Rock cliff that plunges 900 meters into the valley below. Legend has it that Guru Padmasambhava flew here on the back of a tigress. It is a two to three hours excursion uphill; however, one feels truly blessed reaching the monastery.

After lunch sightseeing includes;

**Ruins of the Drukgyal Dzong.** It was here that the Bhutanese finally defeated the invading Tibetans and drove them back. Peak of Jumolhari 'Mountain of the Goddess' can be seen on a clear day from here (Alt. 7,329 m /24,029 ft.).

Kyichu Lhakhang: This temple is one of the oldest buddhist temple in Bhutan. The Tibetan King, Songtsen Gompo, to consecrate the entire region of Himalaya, in the 7th century miraculously built 108 temples. Kyichu Lhakhang is considered to be one of them.

Over night in Hotel.

## Day 3, Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 , Paro – Thimphu: (65 Kms, 1.5-2 Hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to thimphu, sightseeing in Thimphu includes;

**Sangaygang view point** (2685 meters) to have view of whole Thimphu valley and walk through hundreds of colorful prayer flags that dot the hill overlooking the Thimphu valley.

**Takin Reserve Centre.** The takin, the national animal of Bhutan can be seen here. This particular animal is found only in the Himalayan region.

**Changangkha Monastery:** This monastery is built on a hill over looking the Thimphu valley. It was built in 15<sup>th</sup> Century by Lama Phajo Drugom Zhipo. Many parents of Thimphu take their their new born babies to this monastery to be blessed by a high lama.

After lunch, sightseeing includes;

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**Kuenselphodrang: A place for refreshing with a huge statue of Buddha on the top of the Kuenselphodrang. The area also gives a very good view of the Thimphu valley from the west.**

**National Memorial Chorten:** Built in 1974 in the honour of our late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck.

After dusk, drive to Zilukha to view the night view of **Tashichho Dzong**

Over Night in Hotel.

#### **Day 4, Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013, Thimphu:**

After breakfast, Witness festival (whole day)

This is one of the biggest festivals in Bhutan. It is held in Tashichhodzong in the capital city, from 10th day of the 8th month of Bhutanese calendar.

Dinner and over night in hotel.

#### **Day 5, Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Thimphu:**

After breakfast, witness festival (whole day)

Dinner and over night in hotel.

#### **Day 6, Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Thimphu – Wangdue/Punakha (76 Kms, 2- 2.5 Hrs drive)**

After breakfast, drive to Punakha, On the way, visit

**Dochula pass:** The most known pass in Bhutan, about 30 km drive from the Capital City Thimphu on the way to Wangduephodrang. It is at around 3150 mt height. On a clear day, spectacular view of the mighty Himalayas mountain ranges can be seen. The pass also has 108 Druk Wangyal Khangzang Chhortens which is believed brings multi fold merit to all sentient beings and which make the pass a must visit place.

**Chhimi Lhakhang:** This temple is located on the way to Punakha. This temple is also known as the temple of fertility and was built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley in the 15 century. Lama drukpa Kuenley is also known as the Devine Madman.

After Lunch, visit

**Punakha Dzong:** This Dzong was built by the Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1637. It is built at the junction the Pho Chu and Mo Chu Rivers. The annual Punakha Tsechhu (Festival) is held here. The monk body resides in this dzong in winter.

In the evening free time to walk around Punakha town and valley.

Dinner and over night in Hotel

#### **Day 7, Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 , Wangdue/Punakha – Gangtey (78 Kms, 2.5- 3 Hrs drive)**

After breakfast, drive to Wangdue. While in Wangdue view the ruins of the Wangduephodrang dzong from the base and then visit the

**Rinchengang Village** A small clustered village in Wangduephodrang, on a hill opposite to where Wangduephodrang Dzong was built before. It is about 20 minutes hike uphill from the nearest road.

Then drive to Gangtey. While in Gangtey, sightseeing includes;

**Gangtey Gompa** :Gyaltse Pema Thinley, the grandson and mind reincarnation of Pema Lingpa founded the Temple in 1613, and Tenzin Legpai Dhendup, the second re-incarnation, built the temple. The present Abbot, Kunzang Pema Namgyal is the ninth re-incarnation.

**Phobjikha Valley:** Explore the Phobjikha Valley, one of the most beautiful glacial valleys in the Himalayas and the winter place for the endangered Black Necked Cranes. Travelling in February shall give you the opportunity to see the black necked cranes.

While in Phobjikha you shall also have the opportunity to meet local villagers and interact with them to get an insight into the Bhutanese way of life. You shall also visit villages.

Over Night in Hotel.

### **Day 8, Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Gangtey – Thimphu:**

After breakfast, drive to Thimphu.

After lunch, free time for shopping for souvenirs.

Dinner and over night in hotel.

### **Day 9, Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013, THIMPHU- PARO. (65 Kms, 1.5 - 2 hrs drive)**

After breakfast, drive to paro, On the way visit;

**Tamchog lhakhang** ; built in the 13th century by Thangthong Gyalpo. He is also known as the Iron bridge builder. Situated on a hill top, we have to cross an ancient style bridge to reach the temple. It is owned by the descendants of Thangthong Gyalpo

While in Paro, visit,

**Dungtse Lhakhang:** This is a little three storied chorten-shaped temple. Built in 1421 by Thangtong Gyelpo on the top of head an ogress. The temple restored in 1841 by the 25th Head Abbot of Bhutan, Sherab Gyeltshen. This temple is unique in Bhutan and shows the progressive stages of tantric Buddhism.

**Ugyen Pelri palace:**Built by the then Paro penlop, Tshering Penjor, this palace is in a scheluded wooded compound on the west side of the Paro Rinpung Dzong. The palace is designed after the Guru Rinpoche's Celestial paradise, known as Zangtopelri.

**Druk Choeding Lhakhang:** This is the town temple built in 1525 by Ngwang Chhogyel, one of the prince abbots of Tibet. This temple is also known as the Tshongdue Naktshang.

The evening ends leisurely walking around the Paro town and valley.

Over Night in Hotel.

### **DAY 10, Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013, DEPARTURE:**

After breakfast, drive to Paro Airport and farewell.

## Package Cost for foreign Nationals other than Indian, Bangladeshi and Maldivians

1 pax	- USD 2693
2 pax	- USD 2603 per pax
3 - 10 pax	- USD 2333 per pax
11 - 15 pax	- USD 2244 per pax
16 pax and above	- USD 2209 per pax

The above cost covers 3 meals a day, driver, English speaking certified guide, Transportation within the country, accommodation on twin sharing basis, Government Royalty and taxes, sightseeing, visa fee and museums and monuments fees only.

**The cost does not include Druk Air fares, bar bills, laundry bills, Telephone bills and other bills of personal nature, any kinds of bottled drinks**

**Nature of Tour:** The Tour will be a private Tour with your own guide and a Driver (which means you will not join any other group).

**Vehicle:** We use imported Japanese Cars and buses for the Tour.

**Guide:** We use highly experienced, Government certified and licensed guide.

**Hotel:** We use Government approved Hotels for International Tourists. Hotels in Bhutan are categorized into Class A, B, C and D depending upon the services. Class A being the best and Class D being the lowest Category. **We use only Class A Hotels.**

Updated : ITCML - 26042013