11 Days Bhutan Tour
with Kurjey Tshechhu (Festival)

Valid till 31 Dec 2013

Day 1, Wednesday, 12th June 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: **M**eaning "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 Rimpung 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 thangkha,etc.

Overnight in Hotel

Day 2, Thursday, 13th June 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 Gyaltse 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, 14th June 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 15th 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.

The Folk Heritage Museum: Founded by Her Majesty the Queen Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck the museum is one of a kind that portrays the lifestyle of a family in the Thimphu valley in the olden days.

After lunch, sightseeing includes;

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.

Tashichho Dzong: Seat of the National Government and the Central Monastic Body, including the summer residence of the Je Khenpo, The Chief Abbot of Bhutan.
Over Night in Hotel.

Day 4, Saturday, 15th June 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 5, Sunday, 16th June 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 clusterd 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 6, Monday, 17th June 2013, Gangtey – Trongsa- Bumthang (188 Kms, 6 - 7 Hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to trongsa, while in Trongsa, visit,

Trongsa Dzong;The most impressive Dzong in Bhutan. The Dzong was built by Chogyal Minjur Tempa, the official who was sent by Zhabdrung to unify Eastern Bhutan and enlarged at the end of the 17th century by Desi Tenzin Rabgay. Trongsa Dzong is the ancestral home of the present Royal Family. The first two hereditary kings ruled Bhutan from this Dzong.

Ta Dzong; An ancient watch tower. The chapel inside the is said to be dedicated to the Trongsa Penlop Jigme Namgyal.

After lunch, drive to Bumthang.

Overnight in Hotel

Day 7, Tuesday, 18th June 2013, Bumthang:

After breakfast, drive to Chumey and **witness Kurjey Tshechhu (whole day)**

This festival is held in one of the oldest temples in Bhutan, the Kurjey Lhakhang. It is named after the body print of Guru Rinpochhe.

Dinner and over night in hotel.

Day 8, Wednesday, 19th June 2013 , Bumthang:

After breakfast, sightseeing includes;
Jakar Dzong : Literally meaning the Castle of White Bird. The current structure was built in 1667.

Lamey Goemba **:** A large palace and monastery built in 18th century by Dasho Phuntsho Wangdi.

Jambay Lhakhang : built by King Srongsen Gampo of Tibet. In October one of the most spectacular festival, "Jambay Lhakhang Drup" is staged here.

Chakhar Lhakhang: Literally meaning the Iron Castle, the original palace was made of Iron and hence the name "Chakhar".

Kurjey Lhakhang: Named after body print of Guru Rimpoche.

After lunch, signtseeing includes:

Tamshing Lhakhang: Literally meaning the Temple of the good message, established in 1501 by Pema Lingpa .

Membarstho : Literally meaning, "The burning Lake".

The evening ends with a walk around the Bumthang town and valley.

Over Night in Hotel.

Day 9, Thursday, 20th June 2013 , Bumthang – Wangdue: (Approx 197 kms, 6-7 hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to Wangdue.

Dinner and over night in hotel.

Day 10, Friday, 21st June 2013, Wangdue – Paro: (Approx 136 kms, 4-5 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.
Dinner and over night in hotel.

Day 11, Saturday, 22nd June 2013 , Departure:

After breakfast, drive to Paro Airport and farewell.

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

1 pax	**– USD**	**2490**
2 pax	**– USD**	**2390 per pax**
3 – 10 pax	**- USD**	**2090 per pax**
11 – 15 pax	**- USD**	**2013 per pax**
16 pax and above	**- USD**	**1981per 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.**

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