

6 Days Bhutanese Foothills to Himalayas

Valid till 31 Dec 2013

Entry, Exit:

Phuentsholing (Drive in Drive out)

Destination:

Phuentsholing, Paro, Thimphu, Punakha,

DAY 1, PHUENTSHOLING – PARO (175 kms, 6 – 7 hrs drive)

On arrival received by Bhutanese guide from Ideal Travel Creations and escort you for immigration formalities.

Then drive to Paro.

Overnight in Hotel

Day 2. PARO

After breakfast, excursion to Taktshang Monastery.

Taktshang Monastery; The primary lhakhang was built surrounding Guru Rimpoche's Meditation cave in the 1684 by Gyaltsé 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 temples in Bhutan. The Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo, 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: PARO - THIMPHU (65 Kms, 1.5-2 Hrs drive)

After breakfast, visit,

Ta Dzong; an ancient watchtower, which now houses the National Museum of Bhutan.
Paro 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.

Then, 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 overlooking the Thimphu valley. It was built in 15th Century by Lama Phajo Drugom Zhipo. Many parents of Thimphu take their newly 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.

Over Night in Hotel.

Day 4: THIMPHU- 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: PUNAKHA – THIMPHU (76 Kms, 2- 2.5 Hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to Wangdue. While in Wangdue view the ruins of the Wangdue phodrang 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.

Drive to Thimphu. While in Thimphu visit,

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.

Textile Museum: The museum showcases the living national art of Bhutanese weaving. Operated by the National Commission for Cultural Affairs in Bhutan, the Museum was established in 2001. Since its establishment the museum has a substantial collection of antique textile artifacts, exclusive to Bhutan and has generated national and international attention.

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.

Dinner and over night in Hotel.

Day 6: THIMPHU – PHUENTSHOLING (DEPARTURE) (176 Kms, 6-7 Hrs drive)

After breakfast, Drive to Phuentsholing and farewell.

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

High Season (March, April, May, September, October, November)

1 pax	- USD	1615
2 pax	- USD	1565 per pax
3 – 10 pax	- USD	1415 per pax
11 – 15 pax	- USD	1364 per pax
16 pax and above	- USD	1344 per pax

Low Season (January, February, June, July August, December)

1 pax	- USD	1390
2 pax	- USD	1340 per pax
3 – 10 pax	- USD	1190 per pax
11 – 15 pax	- USD	1150 per pax
16 pax and above	- USD	1134 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.**

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