

# 7 Days Essence of BHUTAN with Haa Valley

(Valid Till : Dec 2018)

## Ticket Fare

- SIN-PARO-SIN SGD\$1280.00 per passenger inclusive taxes. Subject to change upon ticketing on Druk Air(KB)

## Land Cost

- **USD1420.00** per passengers. (GV2)

## Day 1: Thimphu

Welcome to Bhutan, the Land of the Thunder Dragon. Touching down at Paro International Airport, you will be greeted by your guide upon exiting the arrival hall. Today, we will take it easy to acclimatise to the altitude. Drive to Thimphu, check in to the hotel and let's have your first taste of Bhutanese cuisine.

**National Memorial Chorten** [1 hrs] - Meet the elderly generation in circumambulation at the National Memorial Chorten. Chorten means 'Seat of Faith' and Buddhists often call such monuments, the 'Mind of Buddha'. Treat yourself with the fantastic depiction of Buddhist teachings in the form of paintings and sculptures at this temple. As the name denotes this National Memorial Chorten was consecrated on July 28, 1974, in memory of the Third King.

**Tashichhodzong (Thimphu Dzong)** [1 hrs] - The "fortress of the glorious religion" was initially constructed in 1641 and restored by the Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in the 1960s. Tashichhodzong houses some ministries, His Majesty's secretariat, and the central monk body.

Opening hour:

Weekday 05:00 PM - 06:00 PM

Weekend 09:00 AM - 06:00 PM

Winter 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM

**Centenary Farmers' Market** [1.5 hrs] - Most of the Thimphu population congregate on the banks of Wangchhu River where the weekend market is held. Villagers from the Valley and other nearby places come to sell their wide range of agriculture products in the market. The market is by far the largest domestic market in Bhutan. A visit to the market provides great photo opportunities, as well as the chance to mingle with local people and perhaps buy souvenirs. [Operating hour: Every Fridays to Sundays 07:00 AM - 07:00 PM]

**Walk Around Thimphu Town** [1 hrs] - Shop and walk around Thimphu town.

**Craft Gallery** [0 hrs] - The Craft Gallery is a global platform for authentic Bhutanese craft. Find original works by skillful Bhutanese women who put their hearts in the process (weaving for as long as 7 hours a day) and discover Bhutan through "textile" sensory. Similar to the five elements, the spirit of Bhutan is manifested in these works, namely needlework, papermaking, wood and metal making and painting. Craft Gallery advocates and supports the empowerment of women with RENEW and the continued sustainability of the arts in Bhutan.

Witness the finest products by the Kingdom of Bhutan here at the Craft Gallery

## Day 2: Thimphu

Situated at an altitude of 2400m, Thimphu is the centre of government, religion and commerce. The capital has an interesting combination of tradition and modernity, and includes some of the most advanced and remotest parts of the kingdom. It is home to the Kings and the Royal family members, civil servants, expatriates, politicians, business persons and monks. Enjoy this cultural mix based on livelihood. Of culture we will take you through temples, dzongs, chortens, museums, handicraft stores, nunneries, parks and many more. Allow yourself to meet both traditional and contemporary artist.

**Buddha Point** [1 hrs] - Located at Kuenselphodrang Nature Park, the 169 feet bronze statue of Buddha Dordenma, Vajra Throne Buddha makes it one of the largest statue of Buddha in the world. The Buddha Dordenma symbolizes indestructibility, and it is said to emanate an aura of peace and happiness to the entire world. The Buddha statue will be completed soon, currently awaiting for the completed paintings but visitors can drive up to the Buddha point and view the tallest statue of Lord Buddha. The view of Thimphu valley from the Buddha point is spectacular and beautiful,, especially at night.

**Changangkha Monastery** [3 hrs] - Built in the 12th century, Changangkha Lhakhang is the oldest temple in Thimphu. It is hovering over a ridge above Thimphu, near Motithang. Lama Phajo Drukgom Zhigpo, who came to Bhutan from Ralung in Tibet, chose this site to build this Lhakhang. The Lhakhang houses Chenrizig: an 11-headed, thousand-armed manifestation of Avolokitesawara as the central statue.

**Sangaygang (BBS Tower)** [2 hrs] - Drive about 15 minutes from the main city to a hillock where the Bhutan Broad Casting Tower is stationed. From there you can relish the beautiful scene of the whole of Thimphu City. On the way up or down from the hillock, you can also see Takin the national animal of Bhutan. It is also possible to request for the early morning walk up to this viewpoint.

**Post Office** [0 hrs] - Visit the post office in Thimphu to get customized stamps or to mail cards to your friends and relatives

**Simtokha Dzong** [0 hrs] - Five miles from Thimphu, on a lofty ridge, stroll through the very first dzong, built in 1627 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. The Institute for Language and Cultural Studies is located here now. Enthral yourself with the most noteworthy artistic feature in from of over 300 finely worked slate carvings behind the prayer wheels in the courtyard.

**Simply Bhutan** [1 hrs] - A living museum and a photo studio with a mission to engage and empower youth entrepreneurs through preservation, promotion and showcasing of Bhutanese tradition and cultural diversity. [Opening hour Summer 09.00 AM - 17.00 PM, Winter 10.00 AM - 16.00 PM]

## Day 3: Thimphu to Punakha

We will set off early from Thimphu after breakfast. Then proceed to Punakha, the ancient capital of Bhutan, about 2 1/2 hours drive from Thimphu across Dochu-la pass. Once you cross the pass, you wind down into a warm fertile valley and meander along a gently flowing aquamarine river that leads you to the Punakha Dzong, the second dzong to be built in Bhutan.

**Dochula Pass** [2 hrs] - At 3,050 meter, this beautiful pass located on the way to Punakha from Thimphu offers a stunning 360-degree panoramic view of Himalayas mountain range with its 108 chortens that was built by Her Majesty The Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. The pass is also a popular spiritual destination for both locals and tourists.

**Chhimi Lhakhang** [2 hrs] - The Divine Madman, Drukpa Kinley is a famous teacher with whom the phallic symbol is associated. Tales told by your guide would have excited you to visit Chhimi Lhakhang. The Divine Madman sits there though a statue this time. Do not miss the master's deeds painted on the walls. Japanese and several American couples visited this temple and were blessed miraculously with children. Ask yourself, do I need this Fertility Tour or not?

**Punakha Dzong** [2 hrs] - Placed strategically at the junction of the Pho Chu and Mo Chu rivers, the Dzong was built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the religious and administrative seat of the region. It was here that the dual system of government was introduced in the 17th century and in 1907, enthroned the first King Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck. Damaged over the centuries by four catastrophic fires and an earthquake, the Dzong has been fully restored in the recent years by the 4th King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

At the Dzong enriches your trip with the opportunity to see the highest standards in woodwork. Do not miss the massive Kuenray, the Coronation Hall of all Bhutanese kings, the Dzongchung at the entrance to the Dzong and the cantilever bridge over the Mochu that has been recently renovated.

**Pho Chhu Suspension Bridge** [1 hrs] - The 160 metres Pho Chhu Suspension Bridge is known for the longest suspension bridge in Bhutan, which gives you spectacular views of Punakha Dzong and the Pho Chhu Valley.

## Day 4: Punakha to Paro

The beautiful valley of Paro is home to many of Bhutan's old monasteries and temples. The country's only Airport is in Paro. The valley is also home to mount Chomolhari (7,300 meters) situated at the northern end of the valley whose glacier water forms the Pachu flowing through the valley

**Paro Dzong (aka Rinpung Dzong)** [2 hrs] - Explore the Rinpung Dzong, which the locals call the 'fortress of a heap of jewels'. Built in 1646 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the dzong stands on a hill above Paro Township. It is linked by the traditional cantilever bridge (called the Nemi Zam) over the Pa Chu where one may pose a photograph. Experience a walk up a stone paved path running alongside the imposing outer walls. Once inside the Dzong, you will be welcomed by the monks, architecture and the ancient frescoes.

**National Museum (Ta Dzong)** [1 hrs] - On a ridge immediately above Rinpung Dzong is Ta Dzong, originally built as a watchtower. In 1968, Ta Dzong was inaugurated as the first National Museum, and now holds a fascinating collection of art, relics, religious thangka paintings, Bhutan's exquisite postage stamps, coins and handicrafts, together with a small natural history collection. Start or end your trip with a visit to this marvellous museum.

**Kyichu Lhakhang** [1 hrs] - Also known as Kyerchu Temple or Lho Kyerchu, is the oldest temple in Bhutan. Just like Jambhay Lhakhang in Bumthang, it is one of the 108 temples built by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo to subdue and pin down an ogress that was obstructing the spread of Buddhism. According to legend, all 108 temples were built in a single night.

Go back in time and history and visit the 7th century Kyichhu temple. As the name suggests, the temple is a reservoir of peace, where you will feel at peace here. Next to the temple is the house that is turned into a museum dedicated to the late Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. One can come across photographs and other artifacts belonging to Rinpoche.

**Paro Valley** [0 hrs] - The beautiful valley is home to many of Bhutan's old monasteries and temples. The valley is also home to Mount Chomolhari (7,300 meters) situated at the northern end of the valley whose glacier water forms the Pachu flowing through the valley.

## Day 5: Paro to Haa Via Chele La

Drive to Haa through Chele La (3,988m). From the pass you can see Paro valley on one side and then Haa valley on the other. You can also have a picnic at Chele La if you like to. In Haa, some sightseeing and then go to katsho village and visiting the Katso Lhakhang. Then you will head back to Paro.

**Chele La Pass** [7 hrs] - Start early for the drive to Chele La Pass, which, at 3,988 m, is the highest road pass in Bhutan, snaking upwards through blue pine and rhododendron (Etho Metho) forests for 35 kilometres. On a clear day the view sweeps away to the snow-dome of Bhutan's second highest peak, Mt Jhomolhari (7,314 m), and down to the Haa Valley, which only opened to foreigners in 2002 due to its proximity to the border with Sikkim and Tibet.

For those who rather have a leisure sightseeing day, there is the option to drive from Chele La Pass down the other side to the Haa Valley. In case Chele La Pass is not accessible during the winter months due to ice or snow, your guide will propose an alternative for this day excursion.

**Haa Valley** [4 hrs] - Drive to Haa through Chele La (3,988 m). From the pass, you can see Paro valley on one side and then Haa valley on the other. You can also have a picnic at Chele La if you like to. In Haa, some sightseeing and then going to katsho village and visiting the Katso Lhakhang.

The valley of Haa was only opened to Tourist in 2002 and Haa is the least visited valley in Bhutan due to the lack of Tourist infrastructure. This has helped in keeping Haa the way it has always been, with Bhutanese families living their traditional and simple life. There are no tourist standard hotels in Haa valley, so we return to Paro for the night.

**Lhakhang Karpo, White Temple** [0 hrs] - Established in the 7th century by Tibetan King, Songtsen Gempo in his mission to build 108 monasteries in one day. He built Lhakhang Karpo and Lhakhang Nagpo in the Haa Valley. According to a legend, he has sent two pigeons (one black and one white) to find a sacred place to build the temple.

## Day 6: Paro

Are you ready? We will be making the hike up to one of the key highlights in Bhutan today! Tiger's Nest aka Taktsang Monastery

**Taktsang Monastery** [6 hrs] - Often called the Tiger's Nest, perched on the cliffs, has awestruck many a visitor. "Trip to Bhutan is never complete without climbing to Taktsang", says one tourist. Indeed, it's true as the journey there fills you with spiritual bliss. For those not choosing the spiritual side, it is the dramatic, artistically built monument that becomes a hiker's delight. Take a trip to this dramatically set Buddhist relic hanging from a cliff. Experience the uphill climb as you ascend more than two thousand feet from the valley floor.

A prominent Himalayan Buddhist sacred site and temple complex located on the cliff side of Paro Valley. According to legends, it is believed that Guru Rinpoche flew to this location from Tibet on the back of a Tigress (his consort Yeshey Tshogyal) and meditated in one of the caves. Guru Rinpoche performed meditation and emerged in eight manifestations, and the place became holy, thus gaining the name Tiger's Nest.

## Day 7: Departure from Paro

Today we will bid fond farewell to this beautiful Himalayan country and take an early flight back to Singapore. We hope by now you would have made some friends and also kept many photos and beautiful memories of Bhutan! And we look forward to seeing you again in this beautiful land of endless Enchantments! Tashi Delek!

### The travel package includes:

1. Visas for Bhutan
2. A qualified & licensed English speaking guide
3. All transfers and ground transportation in a private vehicle with an experienced driver
4. All meals inclusive at designated restaurants (B/L/D)
5. Accommodation at 3-star hotels
6. All royalties & government taxes
7. Complimentary mineral water for the duration of stay
8. Museum fees and other special entry fees
9. Set of traditional costume (*to be returned at the end of your stay*)

### The travel package excludes:

1. Travel Insurance
2. Tips for guides and drivers
3. Personal expenditure such as phone calls, all soft/hard beverages, laundry services, etc.

### 3 Star Hotels

Thimphu: Khang Residency, Namgay Heritage Hotel, Hotel Osel or equivalent

Punakha: Hotel Lobesa, Zhingkhram Resort or equivalent

Paro : Metta Resort & Spa, Tenzinling Resort, Tashi Namgay Resort or equivalent

Rooms and Seats are subject to availability during booking and will revert once confirmation is received. For reservation, please email a clear colour copy of passengers' passport bio-page to us.

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

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