

6 DAYS WESTERN BHUTAN

THIMPHU (3N) DAY EXCURSION TO PUNAKHA - PARO (2N)

Valid Till : Sep 2018

TOUR NO	:	15
NAME OF TOUR	:	WESTERN BHUTAN
PLACESTO VISIT	:	THIMPHU (3N) DAY EXCURSION TO PUNAKHA - PARO (2N)
TOURS HIGHLIGHTS	:	CULTURE – MONASTERIES– WAY OF LIFE – VALLEYS – VILLAGES - HIKES

Day 1 Arrive Paro from New Delhi / Kathmandu / Bagdogra & transfer to Thimphu 65 km 1hrs drive -- The most spectacular mountain flights you will ever experience in a life time. Flying in from the heat of the plains of India one can witness from the left side of the aircrafts window a series of the world's highest peaks. Your pilot will announce the names of the peaks if the weather is clear. You will descend into the high mountains and as the plane lowers you will not find any airstrip or any city but instead you will enjoy the view of the approaching valley of Paro, the alpine forests, little monasteries, temples and farm houses. Before the plane touches the runway you will get a glimpse of the fertile valley of Paro, the Paro Dzong and Paro chu(river). Our representative will be at the airport to assist you, meet and greet and transfer to the capital city Thimphu and rest of the day at leisure. O/n at Thimphu

Day 2 Thimphu – capital city -- When in Thimphu you got to prepare for surprises where this unique capital has no traffic lights but adopted its own version of the British – Indian colonial times traffic policemen who can startle you and memorize others with his elaborate hand gestures, sometimes he may be signaling stop when it looks like go but don't worry you can observe the flow and notice his smile as you stare at him. Sightseeing includes the Folk Heritage Museum, National Library, Handicrafts Center to view the traditional arts, the indigenous Medicine Hospital, the Painting School and from the road point take a glimpse of Trashichho Dzong. Further drive uphill and visit Takin Zoo where you will find national animal of Bhutan. Afternoon visit National Memorial Chorten a stupa dedicated to the third king of Bhutan and Buddha statue. Evening take a walk to the main city from Clock tower square. O/n at Thimphu.

Day 3 Punakha day excursion via Dochula pass 77 km 3 hours drive -- Morning drive to low lands of Punakha valley touching Dochula pass 10,000 ft and on the stop at Hongtsho village. Stop at the immigration check point to stamp in your permit. Next to the check point you will find small local stalls selling fresh juicy local apples available for sale in plastic bags you could try some. You will be driving through the first mountain pass in the western part of Bhutan. You will find the 108 Druk Wangyal chortens on the top of the pass where the ridges are draped in colorful prayer flags greet you. You could take three rounds and offer prayers, take some best photo shots. If the weather is clear you will be able to see the highest peaks towards the north, Gangar Punsum among others is the highest unclimbed peak (24,000 ft) in the world. Proceed down towards Punakha through Thinleygang village and upon reaching Lobesa turn left and drive down further. Stop and take a short walk through the villages to Chimmi Lhakhang - The divine madman also known, as Drukpa Kinley is a famous teacher with whom the phallic symbol is associated. Tales told by your guide would have excited you to visit Chimmi Lhakhang. 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. Afternoon visit majestic Punakha Dzong 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 Wangchuk. Late noon return to Thimphu. O/n at Thimphu.

Day 4 Paro valley 65 km 1.5 hrs -- Morning transfer to Paro and visit Paro Dzong, the National Museum housed in a round fortress called as the Ta Dzong considered to be one of the best natural history museums in Asia where it has a fine collection of natural and historic artifacts. Kyichu Lhakhang the monastery dates back to 7th century and is one of the oldest and most sacred. Afternoon visit the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong, a 17th century fortress that used to keep invaders from Tibet and in 1951 the fort was destroyed by fire. Evening at leisure. O/n at Paro.

Day 5 Paro -- Morning - if you are adventurous and physically fit to you could hike to the world famous "Tigers Nest" or popularly known as "Taksang" one of the popular spiritual heritage sites. It was here that the great tantric master Guru Padma Sambhava flew in from Tibet on a tiger to bring Buddhist teachings to Bhutan. (round hike take 7 hours). OR Hike to Dzongdrakha temple often called as mini Taksang, the temple is built in the cliffs above Bondey

village. The walk is not as strenuous as to Tigers Nest OR Hike to Kila Gompa – if you are fit as mountain goat Kila Gompa awaits you. These magnificent clustered temples are built on the cliffs and have been home for nuns for a longtime. Kila in Sanskrit means subjugating spiritual dagger that destroys the negativities. Hike up and subjugate all your negative energies within you and if it does not give you any spiritual satisfaction you will feel physically rejuvenated after the hike. OR If you want to spend some time near by the river side before reaching Tigers Nest base you will come across a small river where you could stop and walk down near the riverbed. Experience and feel close to nature and visit some Farm House where you will be able to see the lifestyle of the villagers of Paro. Afternoon if you are left with some energy you could visit the town for shopping or leisure/n at Paro.

Day 6 Departure -- Morning transfer to Paro International Airport for your next destination.

Tour Cost Per Person (Indian Rupee)

Per Pax in	Luxury			Deluxe			Standard		
	CP	MAP	AP	CP	MAP	AP	CP	MAP	AP
2pax	65290	81950	91750	28750	32950	37150	27350	30150	34700
4 pax	63750	80950	90400	27350	31550	35750	25950	28750	33400
6 pax	63500	79850	89650	29450	30850	35050	25250	28050	32680
Extra Bed	21730	35750	46950	12650	16570	20470	12370	16150	19790
Child without Extra Bed	9950	21150	29550	5030	7970	11330	4750	7150	11050
Child below 5 years	(No charges)								

Cost includes: Accommodation in twin sharing, meals as per plan, all airport transfers, all transportation within Bhutan, all internal permits, English speaking guide, entry fee to museum, internal taxes.

Cost excludes: Air fare, personal travel insurance, laundry, tipping, personal shopping, telephone calls, anything not specified in the “cost includes”.

Hotels & Resorts

Thimphu

Luxury : Hotel Druk <http://www.drukhotels.com>

Deluxe : Hotel Migmar www.hotelmigmar.bt / Hotel Kisa <http://www.hotelkisa.com>

Standard: Peaceful Resort www.bhutanpeacefulresort.com or Wangchuk Hotel www.wangchukhotel.com (inside the city)

Punakha

Luxury: Not Available (guests will be accommodated in best properties (3 star) available in Punakha / Wangdi.

Deluxe: Damchen Resort www.damchenresort.com or similar

Standard: Meri Puensum Resort or similar

Paro

Luxury: Udumwara <http://www.udumwara.com> or Nak Sel www.naksel.com

Deluxe: Tashi Namgay Resort www.tnr.bt or similar

Standard: Ugyen Phendeyling Resort www.upresortparo.com or similar

Transportation (Non AC vehicles)

1 – 2 pax	Hyundai Tucson / Santa Fe
3 – 8 pax	Toyota Hi-ace bus 9 seater
9 – 18 pax	Toyota Coaster bus 21 seater

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