

7 DAYS GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS - BHUTAN

Valid Till : Sep 2018

TOUR NO : 23
NAME OF TOUR : GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS - BHUTAN
PLACES TO VISIT : THIMPHU (2N) PUNAKHA (2N) PARO (2N)
TOURS HIGHLIGHTS : CULTURE – MONASTERIES– WAY OF LIFE – VALLEYS – VILLAGES

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 Tashichho 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 Thimphu - Punakha 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. Stop at Lamperi and visit the Royal Botanical Park for 30 minutes. If you are lucky you could see red pandas, different species of birds, you can take some photo shot close to the natural lake. You could watch a short documentary about the park. Proceed down towards Punakha through Thinleygang village and upon reaching Lobesa turn left and enter Punakha valley. Check in the hotel. 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. Evening at leisure. O/n at Punakha

Day 4. Punakha – Wangdi sightseeing -- Morning drive towards Wangdi before reaching Lobesa 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. Further drive towards Wangdiphodrang and visit Wangdi Dzong strategically located on a ridge 4,430 ft that overlooks the highway that fork to the east and south of the country. On the way to dzong the old town existed here with narrow street with single storied shops now present town shifted to Bajo. The road further is the gateway to central and eastern Bhutan. The legend Mahakala, the protective deity of Bhutan appeared to tell Shabdrung of prediction, saying "at top of rocky spur where two rivers meet, at the place where a flock of raven will fly off in four directions, you will build the Dzong". The Shabdrung built the Wangdi dzong in 1638 and Punakha/Wangdue valleys are also the winter home for many of the high altitude farmers who migrate with their cattle to the warm climate. Return to Punakha and day at leisure. O/n at Punakha.

Day 5 Punakha – Paro 145 km 4 hours drive -- Morning drive to Paro same road via Semtokha entering the Babesa express highway. Upon reaching Chuzom check post, stop for awhile at the bridge, stretch your legs and walk through the bridge. Proceed towards Paro and check in the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. O/n at Paro.

Day 6 Paro sightseeing -- Morning 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 ruins of Drukgyel Dzong and drive till the base of Tigers Nest. Evening at leisure. O/n at Paro.at leisure and evening visit the town for shopping. O/n at Paro.

Day 7 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	67050	86700	100250	40470	45250	50250	33470	37950	42850
4pax	65670	85270	98850	39070	43850	48970	32070	42850	41450
6pax	64970	84570	98150	38370	43150	48170	31370	35850	40750
Extra Bed	21450	35450	45250	15550	20450	25350	14850	19750	24250
Child without Extra Bed	10950	24370	33350	6050	8950	12350	5750	8150	12050
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

Note : Package no:21 & 23 is the same

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