

HIMALAYAS ON WHEELS

7 DAYS BHUTAN HAPPINESS KINGDOM - Part 11

Valid Till: 28 Feb 17

Tour code: E6N-WESTBHUTAN

Departure Days: Every Thu & Sun only

ABOUT BHUTAN: The Kingdom of Bhutan, a gem in the eastern Himalayas, 38,394 square km is populated with just little above 750,000. Art and paintings are important aspects of Bhutanese culture and they bear testimony to the spiritual depth of Bhutanese life. Patterns of rich colours adorn walls, beams, pillars and doors in traditional splendour. Looking from a natural side, Bhutan is a gem in the Himalayas. One of the most striking physical features of Bhutan is its architecture. The characteristic style and colour of every building and house in the kingdom is a distinct source of aesthetic pleasure.

THIMPHU is situated in Wang Chuu valley. The river is also known as the Thimphu Chuu (Chuu meaning is river). As the capital of Bhutan, Thimphu contains most of the important political buildings in Bhutan, Tashichho dzong which is the largest and also the office of the King of Bhutan. It is also unique that it has no traffic lights, but adopted its own version of the British – Indian colonial times. The traffic policemen who can startle you.

PARO – TIGER'S NEST dates back to the 8th century and you will get an opportunity to follow the trails of Guru Padmasambhava's legendary travel through Bhutan. Legend had it that he flew to the cliffs of Taktsang on the back of a tigress. Taktsang (Tiger's Nest), built on the cliffs is one of the highest holy Buddhist spots in the world.

ITINERARY

Day 01 : ARRIVE PARO– THIMPU (60 km, 1.5 hrs) L D
DRUK AIR (AIRBUS-319) - KB 501, DEP SIN 0630 - KOLKATA – ARR PARO 1030

On arrival, meet your Odyssey Manager and proceed to Thimpu, capital of Bhutan. First have a taste of Bhutanese traditional lunch at **Folk Heritage Museum**, then visit the museum and have a glance of the life in the past of Bhutan. Afternoon check-in hotel, in the evening visit the impressive **Thimphu Dzong**, also known as **Tashichho dzong** which is the largest and also the office of the King of Bhutan, therefore only can be visited after office hours. *O/n at Thimphu.*

Day 02 : THIMPHU B L D

Today you will explore the unique capital which has no traffic lights but adopted its own version of the British – Indian colonial times where traffic policemen startle you and mesmerize others with his elaborate hand gestures. Sightseeing includes visit to the **National Memorial Chorten**, a stupa dedicated to the third king of Bhutan, **Buddha Dordenma Statue**, **Changangkha Lhakhang**, **Textile Museum**, **Paper making factory and Handicraft Bazaar** to view the traditional arts and shopping for souvenirs. *O/n at Thimphu.*

Day 03 : THIMPU – PUNAKHA (77 km, 2.5 hrs) B L D

Drive to **Dochula** (*'la' means mountain pass*), a historical significance pass was the ancient route connecting western and central Bhutan. The leisure drive from Thimpu to Dochula is fascinating, take about 45 minutes uphill to the first mountain pass, Dochula, in the western part of Bhutan. As you reach the pass, you find the **108 Druk Wangyal Chortens** on the top of the pass where the ridges, draped in colorful prayer flags greet you. You could walk 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 (24,836 ft), is one of the highest unclimbed peaks in the world. Arrive Punakha drive to **Metshina Village** and visit **Chimi Lhakhang**, a monastery especially for pilgrimage, particularly women seeking blessings to beget children. Continue to visit **Punakha Dzong** which was built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the religious and administrative seat of the region. It is built strategically at the intersection of the Mo Chhu and Pho Chhu rivers. *O/n at Punakha.*

Day 04 : PUNAKHA – PARO (133km, 4 hrs) B L D

After breakfast drive back to Paro, on the way enjoy breathe taking view of the Himalayan ranges on **Dochula** once again, arrive Paro visit **Paro Dzong** a fortress-monastery overlooking the Paro valley has a long history began in 1644 and **Ta Dzong** the National Museum housed in a round fortress considered to be one of the best natural history museums in Asia where it has a fine collection of natural and historic artifacts.. Free time for shopping. *O/n at Paro.*

Day 05 : PARO – HAA VALLEY (65km, 2hrs) – PARO B L D

After breakfast, drive to Haa valley, it was one of the main commercial gateways until roads opened through Phuentsholing in the earlier 1960s. The route via Haa was an important access for the Bhutanese just as the Silk Route was for many Himalayan countries. The Haa district is characterized by the picturesque Haa valley where wheat, barley, apples, potatoes and chillies are grown. You will be driving through picture square **Chele la** (3988m), a favourite place for many visitors which is one of highest motorable passes in the country. For the Buddhists, it is also a sacred place to festoon the pass with prayer flags. The great Buddhist master Guru Rinpoche, the 2nd Lord Buddha, visited Haa Valley in the 8th Century, imbuing the local population with his sacred Buddhist teachings. These Buddhist legends

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Thimphu

Buddha statue
Changangkha Lhakhang
National Memorial Chorten

Dochula

108 Druk Wangyal chortens

Punakha

Punakha Dzong

Haa Valley

Wangchulo Dzong

Paro

Paro Dzong
Ta Dzong
Tiger's Nest Monastery

and beliefs of the people are still preserved in a traditional way in the local festivals, rituals, myths, stories and traditional dances. The **Wangchulo Dzong** is one of Bhutan's newest, built in 1915 to replace a smaller structure. It is an impressive chorten that marks the entrance of several army offices, houses and a rations shop.

Day 06 : PARO – Tiger Nest Monastery Excursion (Optional) B L D

Morning - if you are adventurous and physically fit, you can hike to the world famous “**Tigers Nest**” or popularly known as “**Taktsang**” 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. The round trip hike takes 4 – 5 hrs. *O/n at Paro.*

Day 07 : PARO – SINGAPORE DRUK AIR (AIRBUS-319) - KB 501, DEP PARO 07:30 - KOLKATA – ARR SIN 1535 Packed Breakfast

Morning transfer to Paro Airport to board on your flight back home with lasting memories. (Check in 2 hrs prior to departure)

Hotel Envisaged:

Hotels	Thimphu	Punakha	Paro
Superior (5 Star Except Punakha)	Taj Tashi / Le Meridian	Dhensa Boutique Resort	Le Meridian River Front
Standard (4 Star Hotels)	Ariya Hotel / Osel Hotel	Green Resorts	Nak-Sel Boutique Hotel & Spa
Economy (3 Star Hotels)	Peaceful Resorts	Meri Puensum Resorts	Mandala Hotel

Hotels Subject to availability

ALL IN COST IN SGD between 1st Mar – 31st May, 2016 & 1 Sep – 30 Nov, 2016:

Hotels	3 Pax & Above		2 Pax		1 Pax	SRS	CWB	CNB
	Adult	Student*	Adult	Student*	Adult		5yrs+	(2-5yrs)
Superior	4478	3978	4978	4478	5978	1175	2778	1898
Standard (4Star)	3678	3178	4178	3678	4878	690	2278	1478
Economy (3Star)	3278	2778	3578	3078	3978	250	2178	1378

SRS: Single Room Supplement, CWB: Child With Bed, CNB: Child No Bed *Student must have student's pass and below 25 Year old.

ALL IN COST IN SGD between 1st June – 31 August, 2016 & 1 Nov – 28 Feb, 2017:

Hotels	3 Pax & Above		2 Pax		1 Pax	SRS	CWB	CNB
	Adult	Student*	Adult	Student*	Adult		5yrs+	(2-5yrs)
Superior	4098	3698	4398	3998	5398	1070	2578	1828
Standard (4Star)	3298	2898	3598	3198	4198	575	2178	1428
Economy (3Star)	2898	2498	3198	2798	3398	250	1998	1328

SRS: Single Room Supplement, CWB: Child With Bed, CNB: Child No Bed *Student must have student's pass and below 25 Year old.

Airfare Fuel Surcharge Taxes & Bhutan Visa Inclusive Cost Includes	Cost Excludes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Singapore – Paro - Singapore by Druk Air including fuel surcharge and taxes. Bhutan Visa Fee and Tourism Development Fee. All taxes and TCB Royalty charges. Airport transfers and all transport costs in chartered transport as per the itinerary. Hotels as indicated in the itinerary with all meals provided in hotels and restaurants. 1000 ml of bottled water per person per day. One local phone with local SIM with Bhutanese 100 Ngultrum (local currency) mobile with all important numbers feed in phone for emergency use. Monument entrance charges as mentioned in itinerary. Tourism Council of Bhutan Licensed guide from Paro airport to Paro airport. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Travel Insurance. Tipping and all expenses of personal nature like alcoholic beverages, drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc. And any other expenses paid due to any change in dates and itinerary.

(IO:22/04/16)

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