

Travel Time
All Round
the Year

7 Days Western Bhutan

Himalayas on Wheels Part II

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

11 Aug: SINGAPORE – PARO – THIMPU 960 KM 1.30 hour drive LD
DRUK AIR (AIRBUS-319) - KB 541, DEP SIN 0630 - GUWAHATI – 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 BLD

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) BLD

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) BLD

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.*

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Thimphu

- The Centenary Farmer's Market
- Folk Heritage Museum
- Thimphu Dzong
- National Institute for Zorig Chusum
- National Post Office
 - ❖ Gifted with Personal stamp
- Textile Museum
- National Memorial Chorten
- Buddha statue
- Handicraft Bazaar
- Changangkha Lhakhang

Dochula

- 108 Druk Wangyal chortens
- View of Himalayas Mountain

Punakha

- Metshina Village
- Chimi Lhakang
- Punakha Dzong

Haa Valley

- Chele La
- Wangchulo Dzong

Paro

- Paro Dzong
- Ta Dzong
- Tiger's Nest Monastery

Day 05 : PARO – HAA VALLEY (65km, 2hrs) – PARO**BLD**

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 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)**BLD**

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 540, DEP PARO 08:20 - GUWAHATI – ARR SIN 1615

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

Hotels Subject to availability**COST IN SGD between 1st Mar – 31st May, 2020 & 1 Sep – 31 Nov, 2020**

Hotels	3 Pax & Above		2 Pax		1 Pax	SRS	CWB	CNB
	Adult	Student*	Adult	Student*	Adult		5yrs+	(2-5yrs)
Economy (3Star)	3495	3195	3795	3495	4195	270	2395	1695
Standard (4Star)	4095	3795	4395	4095	5295	970	2695	1995
Superior	5095	4795	5395	4195	7295	1980	3195	2095

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

COST IN SGD 1 Dec – 28 Feb, 2020 & 1 June – 31st Aug, 2020

Hotels	3 Pax & Above		2 Pax		1 Pax	SRS	CWB	CNB
	Adult	Student*	Adult	Student*	Adult		5yrs+	(2-5yrs)
Economy (3Star)	3095	2795	3395	3095	3895	270	2195	1695
Standard (4Star)	3695	3395	3995	3695	4895	770	2695	1995
Superior	4695	4395	4995	4695	6895	1785	3095	2095

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

Airfare Inclusive Cost Includes**Cost Excludes**

1. International flight ticket Singapore – Paro - Singapore by Druk Air.
2. Airport transfers and all transport costs in chartered transport as per the itinerary.
3. Hotels as indicated in the itinerary with all meals provided in hotels and restaurants.
4. TCB Royalty charges of USD 65/- Per Night and all relevant taxes by Bhutan Govt.
5. 1000 ml of bottled water per person per day.
6. One local phone with local SIM with Bhutanese 100 Ngultrum (local currency) mobile with all important numbers feed in phone for emergency use.
7. Monument entrance charges as mentioned in itinerary.
8. Tourism Council of Bhutan Licensed guide from Paro airport to Paro airport.

1. Personal Travel Insurance.
2. Tipping and all expenses of personal nature like alcoholic beverages, drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc.
3. And any other expenses paid due to any change in dates and itinerary.
4. Fuel Surcharge and taxes (S\$ 130/-)
5. Bhutan Visa Fee (US\$ 40/-).

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(10 – 03/01/2020)