

6 Days Paro - Thimpu - Punakha – Paro

Valid Till: 30 Dec 2020

DAY 01 ARRIVAL PARO- DRIVE TO THIMPU

Breakfast at hotel, the flight into Bhutan takes you over the great Himalayas, offering the scintillating scenery of the world's highest glacial peaks.

As you enter Paro valley, you will see the silvery Pa Chu (Paro River) meandering down the valley, the Paro Dzong (fortress) and Ta Dzong (watch tower).

On arrival in Paro you will be received by our representative

Drive to Thimpu (55 Kms/ 01 Hr.). En route visit **Simtokha Dzong**, the oldest fortress of the Kingdom which now houses the School for religious and cultural studies. Evening free. Overnight Thimpu

DAY 02 THIMPU

There are a good many things to see in the capital which has a very relaxed, laid-back feel about it. Thimpu is relatively small having a population of approximately 90,000 people and the streets are wide and tree lined. In the morning visit the Buddha Point, the National Library,

Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang)

Located at a short drive from Thimpu city centre, visitors can get a good overview of the Thimpu valley from the Buddha point (Kuensel Phodrang). You can pay your obeisance and offer prayers to the Buddha, the largest statue in the country and then walk around and take a glimpse of the valley.



Visit National Memorial Chorten:

The building of this landmark was envisaged by the third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, as a monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it is both a memorial to the Late King ("the Father of modern Bhutan") and a monument to world peace. The paintings and statues inside the monument provide a deep insight into Buddhist philosophy. Overnight at hotel

DAY 03 THIMPU - PUNAKHA 2 & 1/2 Hrs. DEPARTURE

In the morning after early breakfast we drive to Punakha VIA Dochula. Leaving Thimpu the road climbs via a series of zigzags over the Dochu La Pass, 10,000ft/3,048m. On a clear day panoramic views can be had of the eastern Himalaya, including Bhutan's highest mountain, Gangkar Punsum, 24,770ft/7,550m.

Punakha the old winter capital is 3 Hrs. drive from Thimpu. After Dochula the road drops down through varied forest finally emerging into the highly-cultivated Punakha valley. In the afternoon hike to Chimi Lhakhang, the divine mad monk's temple. It is a beautiful walk through a lovely village. The temple can be visited and there is a tree outside which is supposed to have sprouted up after Drukpa Kunley sent a thunderbolt from an adjoining valley to kill some evil spirits who had gathered at the site. Also visit the courtyard of Punakha Dzong. Overnight in Punakha.



DAY 04

PUNAKHA - PARO 3 & ½ HRS.



After breakfast drive back to Paro VIA Thimpu Upon arrival check in at the Hotel. Afternoon City Tour

Ta Dzong (Sun, Mon Govt holiday closed): once a watchtower, built to defend Rinpung Dzong during inter-valley wars of the 17th century, Ta Dzong was inaugurated as Bhutan's National Museum in 1968. It holds a fascinating collection of art, relics, religious thangka paintings and Bhutan's exquisite postage stamps. The museum's circular shape augments its varied collection displayed over several floors.

Afterwards, walk down a hillside trail to visit

Rinpung Dzong, which has a long and fascinating history. Built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the first spiritual and temporal ruler of Bhutan, the Dzong houses the monastic body of Paro, the office of the Dzongda (district administrative head) and Thrimpon (judge) of Paro district. The approach to the Dzong is through a traditional covered bridge called Nemi Zam. A walk through the bridge, over a stone inlaid path, offers a good view of the architectural wonder of the Dzong as well as life around it. It is also the venue of Paro Tshechu, held once a year in the spring.



Overnight at hotel

DAY 05

PARO

Day excursion to Tiger's Nest

Taktshang or 'Tiger's Nest' as it is often referred to for Taktshang Pelphung monastery, is one of the most venerated and famous of Bhutan's monasteries. It is located on the face of a 900m sheer cliff. It is an impressive and unmissable site, but accessible only by walk or to ride mules/pony. From the trail head at Rumtokto (2600m), the walk till the Cafeteria is a steep one hour uphill (about 350m ascent). From the Cafeteria (2940m), one can get a good close-up view of Taktshang. Savor views of the monastery over a well-deserved cup of tea and biscuits at the cafeteria and continue uphill for another 45 minutes to a high observation point (3140m) where there is a Chorten. From this vantage point, the lookout to the monastery



is a very spectacular and seems almost close enough to touch. It is now on the other side of a deep chasm, only around 150m away as a bird flies, but takes half an hour or even more to reach. Continue down the flight of cliff-hanging steps on the narrow trail to a beautiful waterfall that plunges down the deep chasm and alongside is a retreat hermitage, jammed dramatically into a rock crevice. Then climb up the flight of steep steps to the monastery. At any point on this walk, you can always return if you find it too difficult. Once inside the monastery, there are several shrines or temples with few monks in residence. After visiting Taktshang monastery's many shrines, most tours schedule lunch at the Cafeteria upon return. After lunch, retrace back to the road-head where you started in the morning. The return from Cafeteria is all downhill and takes just over half an hour. Further, if you have more time, energy and are ready for a more challenging day, you can start early and trek beyond Takstang to see several monasteries, temples, retreat houses in the surrounding area. The most notable among them are Zangdopelri and Ugyen Tsemo. Pony/horse can be hired for a ride up till the Cafeteria. However, you cannot ride beyond the cafeteria or come down hill on the horse. According to the legend, Guru

Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche, who spread the Buddhism across the entire Himalayas is said to have flown here in the 8th century on the back of a Tigress, in order to subdue negative spiritual forces that were hostile to spread of Buddhism. In 853, one of his students, Pelgyi Senge mediated here in the main cave. The stupa inside one of the temples contains his mortal remains and therefore the cave is known as 'Pelphung or Pelgi's cave'. Subsequently many great spiritual masters such as Milarepa, Thangthong Gyalpo, Phajo Dugom Zhigpo, Shadrung and many others, passed periods here in profound meditation. In 1692, Tenzin Rabgye built a two storey temple around what little may have existed previously. This was expanded and refurbished many times over the period of time. Taktshang and several temples in the area were burnt down in 1951 by fire accident but much of them remained intact and most of the relics were saved. Soon after, the, Taktshang was rebuilt by population of Tsento village. Again in April of 1998, a major fire destroyed the main structure of the building and its contents (some believe it to be arson). Reconstruction began in 2000 and was completed and consecrated after extensive efforts and financial support of Governments as well as donors.

DAY 06 PARO- DEPARTURE FLIGHT

After breakfast in time transfer to Paro Airport to connect departure flight.

NETT COST: PER PERSON

OPTION	SEASON	02 PAX	03 PAX TO 05 PAX	06 PAX - 09 PAX	S.R.S.
STANDARD	Low Season	US\$1265	US\$1093	US\$1047	US\$225
	High Season	US\$1490	US\$1265	US\$1237	US\$225
SUPERIOR	Low Season	US\$1426	US\$1237	US\$1202	US\$317
	High Season	US\$1645	US\$1426	US\$1392	US\$317

Low Season - June/July/August

High Season Apr/May

Hotels Envisaged:

CATEGORY	PARO	THIMPU	PUNAKHA
STANDARD	Tashi Phuntshok / Rema/ Penchu Boutique/Khamsum	Amodhara/Gakyil/Om Tara/Peaceful/Riverside	Dragon Nest / Pema Karpo/Zangtopelri
SUPERIOR	Tiger Nest / Udumwara / Metta / Tenzinling	Osel Hotel / Ramada / Tara Phendeyleing	Drubchhu Resort / Zhingkhram Resort

INCLUSIONS:

- Two Nights Stay at Hotel in Paro in base category room on MAPAI
- Two Nights stay at Hotel in Thimpu on base category room on MAPAI
- One Night stay at Hotel in Punakha on MAPAI
- Lunch at local restaurants during S/s tours
- All Transportation as per itinerary by deluxe Non A/c vehicle
- English speaking local guide cum escort throughout the program
- Bhutan VISA Fee (US\$45 P.P.)
- Bhutan Royalty, Taxes and Permits

EXTRAS PAYABLE:

- Services of an English Speaking local guide cum escort
- Travel & Medical insurance coverage.
- Table Drink/Beverage.
- Drinks/ beverages during sightseeing / drives.
- Communication charges, laundry, tips, porters at hotels.
- Other expenses of personal nature.
- Pony for hike to Tiger's Nest @ US\$27 P.P. till midway cafeteria

- Airfare as per sector

IMPORTANT POINTS TO BE NOTED

SPECIAL NOTE:

Quote based upon BASE category rooms at respective hotels, in case base category is NOT available then next available category supplement would be applicable
 Deluxe & Luxury hotels require 30% advance as soon as booking is confirmed & balance 60 days before arrival

We will require clear coloured scanned copy of valid passports of guest to get VISA
 Payment must be sent by US\$ bank transfer inclusive of all applicable bank transfer charges
 Bhutan is a Tobacco Free country and hence Tobacco is not legally available. One can carry up to 300 cigarettes for personal use by declaring at customs upon arrival and paying appropriate duty @ 100% on Indian Cigarette and 200% on Foreign made Cigarettes.

Most of the hotels have both smoking as well non-smoking rooms however hoteliers prefer no smoking in the rooms because most of the hotels are made of wood.

Most of the hotels in Bhutan have twin rooms instead of double rooms (majority) though a limited number of double bedded rooms are also available. Rooms booked for your guests are double bedded.

One bottle of liquor per person is allowed to be imported Duty Free into Bhutan.

Dinner time in Bhutan is usually at 7 pm. Hotels / restaurants can have buffet only in case they have an in house group who would be taking dinner with them else it would be on fixed menu basis. A-la-carte orders are usually very slow as such if you would like to dine in your hotel, it is advised to place your order at least before 5 pm for the dinner and by 1100 hrs. For lunch.

Bhutanese driver and guides are sincere, hardworking, honest and punctual however as they have their breakfast very early in the morning (usually before 7 am, they are used to have their lunch between 11-12 am as such pls. keep this in mind specially while you are on long driver as your driver might ask for a lunch break for himself, they dine at the same restaurant (inside the restaurant at most of the places instead of sitting at a different area).

Vehicle shall be with you strictly as per the itinerary and it shall not be on disposal.

Average Temperature: - (in degree Celsius)

(Source: Meteorology Unit, Department of Power, Ministry of Trade & Industries, Thimphu)

PLACES	JAN Max Min	FEB Max Min	MAR Max Min	APR Max Min	MAY Max Min	JUN Max Min	JUL Max Min	AUG Max Min	SEP Max Min	OCT Max Min	NOV Max Min	DEC Max Min
PARO	9.4 (-)5.8	13.4 1.5	14.5 0.6	17.6 4.6	23.5 10.6	25.4 14.1	26.8 14.9	25.3 14.7	23.4 11.7	18.7 7.4	13.9 1.4	11.2 (-)) 1.7

THIMPHU	12.3 (-)2.6	14.4 0.6	16.4 3.9	20.0 7.1	22.5 13.1	14.4 15.2	18.9 13.4	25.0 15.8	23.1 15.0	21.9 10.4	17.9 5.0	14.5 (-) 1.1
PUNAKHA / WANGDUE- PHODRANG	17.0 4.3	19.0 7.8	22.8 10.4	26.2 12.9	29.1 17.7	29.2 20.1	18.4 16.2	29.1 20.0	27.5 19.1	26.1 14.7	22.6 9.6	19.1 6.3
TRONGSA	13.0 (-)0.2	13.9 0.4	16.7 4.4	20.1 6.6	21.0 11.6	22.2 13.6	25.3 15.3	23.8 15.0	22.6 14.2	21.8 11.7	19.8 6.4	18.2 2.5
BUMTHANG	10.8 (-)5.1	10.0 (-)1.4	16.2 3.5	18.7 3.9	21.3 9.5	22.5 13.5	14.1 10.9	23.0 13.7	21.6 12.1	19.5 5.9	16.1 (-) 0.5	12.3 (-) 2.3

OPTIONS AVAILABLE:

- Hot stone bath in standard tourist class hotel (3*) or at a farm house in Paro @ US\$35 per person as on date.
- Try on Gho and Kera @ US\$25 per person **(Traditional Bhutanese Dress)**
- Khada welcome (silk scarf) upon arrival - complimentary.
- Archery demonstration or Play it yourself on private basis @ US\$ 250 for the group.
- Day Rafting in Punakha (subject to water condition in the river) @ US\$ 270 per raft (1- 5 pax)
- Lecture by an expert on Gross National happiness (GNH) in Paro / Thimpu at a 3* Hotel @ US\$ 200 including tea/coffee, conference hall and professional charges.
- Visit to a traditional farm house - Complimentary and can be included in Paro or Punakha.
- Dinner at a Bhutanese Home in Thimpu instead of dinner at Taj Tashi at no additional supplement cost.
- Meeting with Monks and Nuns @ US\$ 150 for the group + charity
- Special prayer by Monks at the monastery in Paro / Thimpu / Punakha exclusively for the group @ US\$ 150 for the group + charity.
- Picnic lunch at Botanical Garden at Babasa in Thimpu

OPENING & CLOSING TIMINGS OF PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST:

Name	Place	Timings	Closed On
Taktsang / Tiger Nest Temple	Paro	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Weekdays & Weekends	-
Memorial Chorten	Thimphu	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays & Weekends	-
Punakha Dzong	Punakha	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Weekdays & Weekends	-
Paper Factory	Thimphu	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays & Weekends	Gov. Holidays
School of Arts & Crafts	Thimphu	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays & Weekends	Gov. Holidays
National Museum	Paro	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays & Weekends	Gov. Holidays
Royal Textile Museum	Thimphu	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays	Sundays & Gov. Holidays

		9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Saturdays	
Folk Heritage Museum	Thimphu	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Sundays	Gov. Holidays
Institute of Traditional Medicine Museum	Thimphu	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Saturday	Sundays & Gov. Holidays
Ta Dzong Museum	Trongsa	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Weekdays & Weekends	Gov. Holiday
Takin Zoo	Thimphu	9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Tuesdays - Sunday	Mondays
Tashi Chho Dzong	Thimphu	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Weekdays 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Weekends	-
Royal Botanical Garden	Serbithang	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Summer 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Winter	-
Royal Botanical Park	Lamperi	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Summer 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Winter	-
Black Necked Crane	Phobjikha	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Summer 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Winter	-
Ogyen Choling Museum	Bumthang	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Summer 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Winter	-

BHUTAN VISA:

Effective 1st August'2010, Tourism Council of Bhutan in association with Immigrations Department issues e-VISA notification. To process the VISA, we shall require scanned copy of guest's passport and information about entry / exit ports, duration of stay and hotels being used during entire stay in Bhutan. Present Bhutan VISA fee is US\$ 40 per person and is usually payable with Bhutan Package cost unless specified mentioned. Once e-VISA is being handed over to the guests, they must carry it along with to board the flight to Paro or to enter Bhutan by surface because based on this e-VISA, Immigration officer at respective entry point shall endorse VISA in guest's passport, the **passport MUST be valid for at least 6 months from the date of guest's final departure from the country.**

The Department of Immigration has put in place the biometric system for all foreigners flying into Bhutan. The passengers will enrol their finger prints through a biometric system along with a photograph which will be captured and recorded. The application of the new system started on 12th March'2014. The biometric system will soon be placed at the Border Immigration Check Points at Samdrup Jongkhar and Phuntsholing as well.

HOPE to find the details in order. For any further query/clarification get in touch with us.

[Click here to Submit Enquiry](#)

(TG – 07/01/2020)