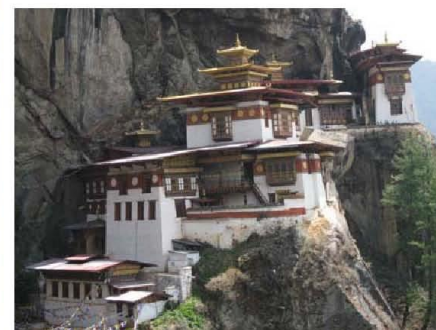


BHUTAN

Ex Paro 9 Day/8night



Day 1 Arrive Paro airport with Druk Air, Bhutan's National Air Carrier. The green wall of hills known as dooars, or gateways into Bhutan from the plains climbs continuously higher as the plane flies north towards the Tibet border. Silver rivers thread the valleys, waterfalls

plunge down the forested mountain side, and to the north, the great snowcapped peaks of the inner Himalayas rise up into the sky. As the aircraft enters the Paro valley, look down and you will see the Paro Dzong overlooking Paro Chu (river) with Ta Dzong, watch tower, now the national museum, above it. Your escort who will be accompanying you will greet you on arrival at the airport. After completion of airport formalities, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This morning you will see some of the natural culture of the country including Drugyel Dzong, a ruin fort, once strategically important to Bhutan's defense against Tibet. Mount Jomolhari can be viewed beyond the ruined fort on a clear day. While returning you will visit Kyichu lhakhang. Evening at leisure. **Overnight Hotel**

Day 2 PARO

After breakfast your guide will meet you and you will be taken on a tour of the National Museum and Paro Dzong. In the afternoon you will hike the 4 - 5 hour return hike to the Tiger's Nest Monastery where you will be granted access into the monastery. Return to your hotel for dinner **Overnight Hotel**

Day 3 PARO -THIMPU

This morning you will take the interesting drive to Thimpu the capital of Bhutan which is situated on the banks of the Thimchu Chu (Thimphu River). On the way to Thimpu you will visit Simtokha Dzong the oldest Dzong in Bhutan. Lunch in Thimpu and in the afternoon you will be taken on a tour of School of Fine Arts where you will see talented students at work. Visit the Handicraft Emporium and the local handicraft centers to see the weavers at work and experience the varieties of textiles, thangka paintings, masks, jewelry etc. on display. In the evening witness a spectacular cultural program of folk and masked dances. **Overnight in hotel**

Day 4 THIMPU - SIGHTSEEING

After breakfast you will be taken on short drive through the Thimpu valley, you will then take an approx. 2 hour return hike to the Cheri Monastery which most say is more beautiful than the Thaksing Monastery in Paro. There are many places of interest to visit in Thimphu and your Bhutanese guide will take you to those places, such as the Late King's Memorial Chorten, the paper factory and a visit to see Bhutan's national animal the Tarkin. **Overnight Hotel**

Day 05 THIMPU - GANTEY (5 hours drive)

After breakfast drive to Gangtey. On the way stop at Dochu La pass which is at an altitude of 3050 metres if the weather is clear we will see a magnificent view of the snow capped Himalayan mountains. Wangdi visit the Wangdi Dzong. Lunch in Wangdi. After lunch drive to Gangtey. Enjoy the beautiful scenery, fresh air and the silence of the Gangtey valley watch different altitude species of birds. Gangtey is a place where one can find black necked cranes, which migrate from Tibet in November and return in March every year. **Overnight Farmhouse House**

DAY 6 GANTEY - PUNARKA

After breakfast you will take a ½ day hike around the local villages . In the afternoon return to Punakha, the old winter capital. **Overnight Dragon Nest Hotel**

DAY 7 PUNARKA

After breakfast you will take an 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. Provided the head of the monastic order and his monks have not migrated from Thimphu. Afternoon hike in the valley (**Overnight Dragon's Nest Hotel**)

DAY 8 PUNAKHA – THIMPU -PARO

This morning you will visit the beautiful Punakha Dzong before your long return drive to Paro, lunch on the way at Thimphu (**Overnight Hotel Paro**)

DAY 09 PARO - After breakfast your vehicle will pick you from the hotel and drive you to Paro airport for your onward journey.

INCLUSIONS:

- *All Airport Transfers
- *Excellent ground transport in both Bhutan
- *Quality standard hotels and guest houses whilst in Bhutan
- *3 first class meals per day whilst in Bhutan
- *Bottled Mineral Water
- *Bhutan Visa
- *All Sightseeing
- *Entry into all Monasteries
- *English speaking Bhutanese Guide.
- *Comprehensive Trip Notes

Not Included:

Tips, Soft and Hard Drinks

Airport Taxes International US\$25 from Paro

Tips