

Bhutan Trip Itinerary

Day 01: Depart Kathmandu for Paro, Overnight at Thimphu

All the spirit of Nepal trip leave for home and the one who join Bhutan portion will fly Kathmandu to Paro Bhutan.

Prepare to shift gears as we leave the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu and fly east to the Kingdom of Bhutan. This is a country, apart of the silk road, that has endured independence for centuries like Nepal and never been colonized! After arrival at Paro driving to Thimphu, we'll visit Tashichho Dzong, a Buddhist monastery and fortress on the northern edge of the city. Next it's onto the Tarkin wildlife reserve, the Weaving Centre and the School of Thirteen Arts and Crafts. Over dinner this evening at a local Bhutanese restaurant you'll have a chance to soak in your first culturally-immersive day in Bhutan.

Nice A class Hotel, Thimphu

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Distance: Up to 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)

Elevation: Thimphu - 2334 metres (7657 feet)

Day 02: Journey to Buddha Dordenma, hike to Changangkha Lhakhang Temple

Making the most of our day, we'll take an early breakfast before departing for Buddha Dordenma, overlooking Thimphu valley. Dating back to the 8th century A.D, this statue is said to emanate an aura of peace and happiness to the entire world! Afterwards we'll hike a forest trail down to Changangkha Lhakhang, a temple perched like a fortress above central Thimphu. Give the resident astrologer your birth date and he'll consult divination charts to decide which kind of protective prayer flags will benefit you. After lunch we'll journey down to the lush district of Punakha, known for the Punakha Dzong, a 17th century fortress. We'll take some time to explore this majestic fortress, which is the administrative centre of Punakha District.

A class Hotel, Punakha

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Distance: Up to 5 kilometres (3 miles)

Elevation: Punakha - 1242 metres (4075 feet)

Day 03: Hike to Chimi Lhakhang Temple

We'll stretch our legs after breakfast with a short hike through picturesque terraced fields to Chimi Lhakhang, the Fertility Temple. This Buddhist temple is renowned throughout Bhutan as a fertility inducing magnet - thousands make the pilgrimage each year in the hopes of having a child, as well as receiving a blessing from the saint with the 'magic thunderbolt of wisdom'. After some divine intervention, we'll take a drive to Paro taking lunch at Dochula pass or can make all the way to Paro Valley for Lunch (Depends on time). When the weather is nice, this pass (3,100 m / 10,300 ft) offers tremendous views of the eastern Himalaya ranges. Along the pass there are an astonishing 108 memorial chortens and nearby is the country's very first Royal Botanical Park. In Paro you'll have the option to take a guided tour of Rinpung Dzong, though if you'd prefer to relax, you'll also have views of this Buddhist monastery from your hotel, as it's lit up in the evening.

A class Hotel, Paro

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Distance: Up to 2 kilometres (1.2 miles)

Elevation: Paro - 2200 metres (7218 feet)

Day 04: Hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Nest)

A trip to Bhutan is not complete until you've visited Paro Taktsang, Tiger's Nest. We'll take an early breakfast so that we can begin hiking whilst the trail is quiet - the trek is challenging - and thankfully this is what protects this extraordinary attraction from overcrowding. Once you've cleared the trees you'll get your first glimpse of the Tiger's Nest, somehow perched on the cliff high above the valley floor. Once at the monastery you'll take a fascinating tour of the buildings, with plenty of time to find a quiet spot and soak it all in. You'll be in awe, wondering how the buddhists established this area, first as a meditation cave in the 8th century and later as a monastery in the 17th century. Amazing! Because of our early start, beating the crowds, we'll be back in Paro in time for lunch.

(Note: if people wish to take horse one way up to Tiger nest it is possible at extra cost of USD 15 each)

This afternoon we'll savour our time in Bhutan with a visit to the Jowo Temple of Kyichu and then to the 'Farmhouse' for a Bhutanese Cultural performance and wait for it... Some hot stone baths!

A class Hotel, Paro

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Distance: Up to 7 kilometers (4 miles)

Elevation: Paro - 2200 metres (7218 feet)

Day 05: Paro - Kathmandu

Fly to Kathmandu - free in Kathmandu for shopping and bargain, chill in Kathmandu. B (If some one need to fly this day they can fly late after 5 PM or so if not on 19th of Oct.) - stay in Kathmandu. B

Day 06: Goodbye!

Final Departure, transfer to airport.

Meals: B