

Glimpse of Bhutan Tour

Trip code	
Package name	Glimpse of Bhutan Tour
Duration	5
Max. elevation	3150 m
Level	EASY
Transportation	Private vehicals for all round trip.
Accomodation	3***hotel twin sharing bed basis during the tour.
Starts at	Paro
Ends at	Paro
Trip route	Paro - Thimphu - TigerNest - paro
Cost	USD 1,300 per person

Highlights

Overview

A quick glance at highlights of Bhutan will make you amazed through its culture and tradition which is yet not touched by modernization. This 5 days tour will be an ideal introduction to the Dragon Kingdom. You can experience a warm hospitality and familiar smile while you visit this place. Bhutan is the ideal place for individuals who are looking for a recluse in their travel. Dense forests, colorful wildlife, glorious mountains and a pure environment are some of the features that separate Bhutan from other countries of the world.

Bhutan is a culturally rich country that has been the home to many scholars, artists and noted craftsmen. Residing in the lap of the Eastern Himalayan range, Bhutan is a small country with Himalayan Mountains in the north and Himalayan foothills in the south. The country is world famous for its breathtaking views of the gigantic peaks of Mt. Jitchu Drake and Chomolhari range. Being called the Dragon Kingdom, Bhutan is a peaceful and picturesque territory vying to be explored by the tourists. With its picturesque and untouched natural beauty, Himalayan terrain, rich flora and fauna and vivacious Buddhist culture, Bhutan is increasingly emerging as a tourist destination, especially for people who prefer to spend their holidays in the lap of pure natural settings. Bhutan for centuries has placed a special emphasis on environmental preservation and this is the reason that even after so many years, 65% of the country is still under forest cover. Lush valleys, perennially flowing rivers, verdant hillsides, artistic hamlets and colorful monasteries make traveling to Bhutan a surreal experience. Although Buddhism is the prime religion in Bhutan, the people of Bhutan embrace every religion as their own and are more than happy to treat their guests with their unmatched hospitality. Visiting Bhutan is like revisiting an ancient book and its timeless beauty and serenity is sure to intoxicate its visitors. The grand Dzong, primeval temples, stupas and monasteries dotting the countryside, along with a rich wildlife, bubbly waterfalls, serenading rivers and treacherous paths will transform you to some another universe.

This Bhutan tour possesses some of country's most important historical, cultural and religious sites. Our shortest glimpse of Bhutan tour is designed to introduce you to the timeless wonders of the Dragon Kingdom. By taking this tour you will also have an opportunity to see and learn the daily life of the Bhutanese people. If weather permits you can have wonderful view of Mt. Jomolhari (7,316 m) revered by Bhutanese people as a powerful goddess. Experience Bhutanese hospitality, admire the ever-changing landscapes, and immerse yourself in Bhutan's rich Buddhist culture. You encounter the ancient Dzong (fortresses) and monasteries, relish the idyllic Bhutanese countryside, and visit Thimphu, the quaint capital city. Highlights include Ta Dzong Museum, Rim pong Dzong with its wooden cantilevered bridge and the infamous Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest) in the beautiful Paro Valley, The National Memorial Chorten, 12th century Changangkha Temple and the National Library exhibiting ancient scriptures in Bhutan's capital Thimphu. The watch tower of Ta Dzong now houses the National Museum, highlighting aspects of Bhutanese history and culture. The Rinpung Dzong is the administrative center and a school for monks. This is a fascinating introduction to this magical Himalayan kingdom.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 : Arrival at Paro (2,250m / 7,382ft) and drive to Thimphu (2,320m/7,610ft) – 2 hrs. drive.

Embarking our tour, we fly over to the dragon kingdom Paro. We fly over passing by Mountains of 5500 meters to Paro, first valley to receive the imprint of Buddhism. The first thing you will notice as you disembark is the transparent purity of air and the absence of noise. Paro is a beautiful valley and is home to many of Bhutan's oldest monasteries and temples, and the country's only international airport. Fields, brown or green depending on the season, cover most of the valley floor, while hamlets and isolated farms dot the countryside. The houses of Paro valley are considered to be among the most beautiful in the

country. The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular mountain flights in the world, with a constantly changing panorama of some of the highest mountains on earth including Chomolhari and Jitchu Drake peak. Paro Airport has been described as “the most difficult commercial airport in the world”. 1980meter runway length presents a double challenge, due to the extremely low density altitude at the site. So, only a handful of well experienced pilots are certified to operate commercial airplanes here thus, making least number of flights in a day.

After immigration and custom formalities, check out from the departure lounge. There you will meet one of the representatives of Nature Trail Travels & Tours, Trekking & Expedition who will greet you and then escort you to Thimphu. En route you can visit the Rinpung Dzong, meaning ‘fortress of the heap of jewels’ to see the painting of the great saint Milarepa, considered as the master of meditation by the Bhutanese and believed to have attained enlightenment in a lifetime. The Dzong is now used as an administration center and school for monks. Dzong’s are large monasteries and district administrative centers, which were once strategic forts. Afterwards, we’ll go to Takin Sanctuary and Zilukha Nunnery. The Takin (a goat-antelope) was declared the national animal of Bhutan because it is strongly associated with the country’s religious history and mythology. Today’s last destination is Thimphu Dzong (Tashichho Dzong), a Buddhist monastery and fortress. It also houses Bhutan’s central government. Then drive to Thimphu following the Pachu River. Once a rustic village sitting in a broad, fertile river valley, Thimphu is today the nation’s bustling capital. Before dinner at the hotel there will be an orientation on Bhutanese etiquette by your guide. Stay overnight at Thimphu.

Day 2 : Drive Thimphu to Punakha (1,250m/4,100ft) – approx. 3 hrs. drive.

On the following day, we will be driving to Punakha via Dochu La Pass (3,100m). Dochu la pass is situated 10,000 feet above sea level. You can have magnificent view of eastern Himalayas from this pass which includes Bhutan’s highest mountain Mount Gangkhar Puensum (7550 m). From the pass, we drive downhill through the rhododendron, fir and hemlock forests. We then pass through rice fields along river banks and reach Punakha. In Punakha, we visit Punakha Dzong which was built between 1637/1638 and is the second oldest and the second largest Dzong in Bhutan. Overnight in Punakha.

Day 3 : Drive Punakha to Wangdue Phodrang and after sightseeing further drive to Thimphu – approx. 3 hrs. drive.

Today, we drive for about half an hour in order to reach Wangdue. Wangdue Phodrang Dzong is perched on a spur at the confluence of two rivers. Wangdue Phodrang represents an important gateway to Eastern Bhutan. High on a promontory overlooking the river, this Dzong, founded in 1639, controlled the routes to Trongsa, Punakha, Dagana, and Thimphu. The position of the Dzong is remarkable as it completely covers the spur and commands an impressive view over both the north-south and east-west roads. Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang are administrative centers of their respective Dzongkhag or districts. Compared to Thimphu or Paro, the valley is at much lower elevation at about 1250meter above sea level. Therefore it enjoys subtropical climate with warm summers and pleasant winters. The valley boasts at least two crops a year and subtropical plants like Cactuses, Manadrian, and Bananas grow here. The town of Punakha was relocated recently to Khuruthang from its location near Punakha Dzong. Punakha was former winter capital of Bhutan, the tradition that is still kept by the monastic body, who moves their capital to Thimphu in the summer and return to Punakha Dzong in the winter. It is around half hour drive between Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang. The small township of Wangdue with clusters of small shops tightly packed together, surrounding a truck stop is quite interesting to visit. Across the

river, on the opposite ridge is the village of Richen gang, known for cluster of houses connected to one another. After sightseeing tour, we drive to Thimphu for our overnight stay.

Day 4 : Full day Thimphu sightseeing.

Today, we will be visiting some sightseeing spot of Thimphu. Thimphu is unlike any otherworld capital. Small and secluded the city is quiet and there are never the traffic jams familiar in other Asian Capitals. It is often said that Thimphu is the only world capital without traffic lights. After appetizing breakfast, we visit National Memorial Chorten. This temple was first initiated by the Third King as a protection from the negative elements of modernization, and as a monument to world peace. The Royal Queen Mother completed it as a memorial Stupa for the Third King who passed away in 1972. Then we will continue our visit to 12th century Changangkha Temple and Drubthob monastery housing the Zilukha Nunnery. If you want to see Takin, the national animal of Bhutan then you can proceed onto mini-zoo. The Takin (a goat-antelope) was declared the national animal of Bhutan because it is strongly associated with the country's religious history and mythology. After sightseeing of these sites, if you still have some time left then you can visit to National Library, the priceless collection of Buddhist manuscripts and few English version books; Folk and Heritage Museum, which displays day to day livelihood of typical Bhutanese farmers in medieval period and their accessories; Late King's Memorial Stupa, built for the world peace and Traditional Handmade Paper Factory; Painting School, which preserves our traditional paintings, sculpturing and wood curving and National Handicraft Emporium, the best place to look for souvenir from Bhutan. You can also visit the Rinpung Dzong, meaning 'fortress of the heap of jewels' to see the painting of the great saint Milarepa, considered as the master of meditation by the Bhutanese and believed to have attained enlightenment in a lifetime. The Dzong is now used as an administration center and school for monks. Dzong's are large monasteries and district administrative centers, which were once strategic forts. Some of the landmarks are closed on the weekend (Saturdays and Sundays). Therefore, if your visit to Thimphu coincides with the weekend, you can walk through the Thimphu Market to see the variety of food of Bhutan, including basket upon basket of fiery chilies, cheese and a variety of greens. (This market is open only from Friday-Sunday).

Day 5 : Drive Thimphu to Paro: Hike to Taktsang monastery (3180 m).

On this day, you will drive to Paro and have a short hike up to Taktsang monastery. Taktsang is a prominent sacred Buddhist site and temple complex perched on the edge of upper Paro Valley. It is also known as the Tiger's Nest. This magical monastery clings to a vertical granite cliff 300 meter above the valley. Legend has it that the great Guru Padmasambhava flew to this spot on back of a tigress and meditated in a cave during the 8th century. When the Guru finished his meditation, he instructed that the monastery to be built. The temple was built around the cave and is a hallowed shrine for Bhutanese pilgrims. The spectacular view along the way and the historical sites draw many tourists to this imposing monastery. There are also a number of temples scattered along the route. Later we'll turn to the Paro Dzong, a large Buddhist monastery and fortress, which is considered the best example of Bhutanese architecture. Now it also houses the district Monastic Body and government administrative offices. On the hill above the Dzong stands an ancient watchtower called Ta Dzong, which is the National Museum of Bhutan. Visit Ta Dzong Museum housing many religious relics, works of art and handicrafts offering a great orientation into Bhutan's historical, cultural, and religious past. This Dzong was converted into the National Museum in 1968. The museum boasts antique thangkas, textiles, weapons and armor, household objects and rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts. Here you can also learn about Bhutan's history. After this hike and a short sightseeing tour, we will be transferred to the hotel for our overnight stay.

Inclusions

What is included?

Airport pick up & drop by private vehicle as your require.

Private vehicals for round trip.

Standard accommodation twin sharing bed basis for the duration of tour.

All meals fixed breakfast, lunch & dinner with Tea and Coffee for whole duration of your stay in Bhutan.

Mineral water supply for the trip.

Local licensed English speaking Bhutan Tour Guides.

All sightseeing tours, Monument /Museum entrance Fees as per itinerary.

Country Presentation & Tour Briefing on arrival evening.

Bhutan Visa Fees and Visa Processing assistance.

The required number of trekking & touring staff.

All trekking access, route permits logistics & fees.

Government tax which goes to the country's health & education projects.

What isn't included?

Your travel insurance.

Bottled/alcoholic/cold drinks room service.

International airfares and airport departure tax.

Personal Equipment.

Tips to staffs-Tipping is expected.

Any others expenses which are not mentioned on Price Includes section.

Complimentary