

Bhutan Package Tour
Paro, Thimpu and Phunakha
By Bhutan Airlines (4 NIGHTS / 5 DAYS)

ITINERARY:

DAY01

ARRIVE PARO BY AIR & TRANSFER TO THIMPHU (55 KMS / 1½ HRS DRIVE)

The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular in entire Himalayas. Flying along the Himalayan range from Kathmandu, the journey offers fascinating views and an exciting descent into the Kingdom. Bhutan's first gift to you as you disembark from the aircraft will be cool, clean fresh mountain air. After immigration formalities and baggage collection, you will be met by our representative, and afterwards drive to Thimphu, the capital town of



Bhutan with enroute stop at **Chuzom**, the confluence of Thimphu and Paro rivers. Three different style of stupas; Tibetan, Nepalese and Bhutanese adorn this confluence. Shortly before reaching Chuzom, you will see on your left **TschogangLhakhang**, "the temple of the excellent horse". It is a private temple, built in 15th century, as the result of visitation from Balaha, the excellent horse, a manifestation of Chenrezig, the compassionate Buddha.

On arrival in Thimphu; Check-into the hotel. The capital town of Bhutan and the centre of Government, religion and commerce, Thimphu is a unique city with unusual mixture of modern development alongside ancient traditions. With the population of about 90,000 it is perhaps still the world's only capital city without a traffic light.

Evening an exploratory walk around Thimphu Main Street and market area. Also visit the **Local Crafts Bazaar**, to browse through example of Bhutan's fine traditional arts. Here you can buy hand-woven textiles, Thangka paintings, masks, ceramics, slate and wood carvings, jewellery, interesting items made from local materials.

Overnight at the hotel in Thimphu (Altitude 2320M)

DAY02

THIMPHU-Phunakha

Start your journey from Thimphu to Punakha (90km./ 3 hrs). Enroute visit Dochu la Pass & Druk Wangyal Lhakhang. Punakha is the administrative headquarter of Punakha Dzongkhag district of Central Bhutan. Afternoon visit Punakha Dzong & Wangdue Phodrang.

Dinner and O/N stay

DAY 03 PHUNAKHA– THIMPHU - PARO (55 KMS / 1½ HRS DRIVE)

After breakfast check out to Thimphu, sightseeing in Thimphu valley including visit to the following: The **National Library**, housing an extensive collection of priceless Buddhist manuscripts; the **Institute for ZorigChusum** (commonly known as the Painting School) where students undergo a 6-year training course in Bhutan's 13 traditional arts and crafts. Later visit **Textile Museum**, which provides insight into Bhutan's one of the most distinct art form. Also visit **Simply Bhutan**, a living museum and studio encapsulating the cultural heritage of the Bhutanese people.



After lunch drive to Paro along scenic highway. Enroute visit **SimtokhaDzong**, the oldest fortress of the country built in 1627 which now houses the School for Buddhist studies.

In Paro visit **Ta Dzong**, originally built as Watchtower, which now houses National Museum. The extensive collection includes antique Thangkha paintings, textiles, weapons & armour, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts.

Ta Dzong visit immediately followed by a short walk down the trail to visit **RinpungDzong (ParoDzong)**, meaning (“fortress of the heap of jewels”), which has a long and fascinating history. Along the wooden galleries lining the inner courtyard are fine wall paintings illustrating Buddhist lore such as four friends, the old man of long life, the wheel of life, scenes from the life of Milarepa, Mount. Sumeru and other cosmic Mandala.

Overnight at the hotel in Paro (Altitude 2200M)

DAY04

PARO

After breakfast excursion to **Taktshang Monastery or Tiger's Nest (approx. 5 hours walk)**: It is one of the most famous of Bhutan's monasteries, perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley floor. It is said that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at this monastery and hence it is called 'Tiger's Nest'. This site has been recognised as a most sacred place and visited by ShabdrungNgawangNamgyal in 1646 and now visited by all Bhutanese at least once in their lifetime. On 19 April,



1998, a fire severely damaged the main structure of building but now this Bhutanese jewel has been restored to its original splendour.

Afternoon drive to **DrukgyelDzong**, a ruined fortress where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. The snowy dome of sacred Chomolhari, "mountain of goddess" can be seen in all her glory from the approach road to the Dzong.

Evening, visit the 7th century **KyichuLhakhang**, one of the 108 temples built in the Himalayas by Tibetan King, SongtsenGampo. The building of this temple marks the introduction of Buddhism in Bhutan.

Overnight at the hotel in Paro.

DAY05

DEPART

PARO

BY

AIR

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to the airport for flight to your onward destination. Our representative will help you with exit formalities and then bid you farewell.

CLOSING DAYS OF SOME OF MONUMENTS MENTIONED IN ITINERARY:

- Ta Dzong – Paro (national museum):*** Closed on Government Holidays
- National Library – Thimphu:*** Closed on Sat, Sun & on Government Holidays
- Textile Museum – Thimphu:*** Closed on Government Holidays & on Sun. On Sat open from 9.00 AM to 4 PM
- Institute of ZorigChusum (Arts & Crafts School) - Thimphu:*** Closed on Sun & Government Holidays. On Sat open from 10 AM to 12 o'clock. Also closed in winter (Dec-early March).
- Simply Bhutan – Thimphu:*** Closed on Sun & on Government Holidays
- Tiger's Nest Monastery:*** Closed on all Tuesdays
- Folk Heritage Museum:*** Closed on all Sunday and on government holidays

Vehicle Envisaged:

- 01 – 02 Pax: NAC SUV Hyundai Tucson / Santa Fe
- 03 – 06 Pax: NAC Toyota Hiace

07 Pax& above: NAC Toyota Coaster Bus (18 Seater)

******* RETURN HOME WITH SWEET MEMORIES OF BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY *******