

Singye
Trip Manager

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11 Days Bhutan Tour

Prepare yourself for something entirely different from what you may have seen in Asia, or elsewhere. Located high in the Himalayan mountains between India and Tibet, perched high in the Himalayas, Drukyul, the Land of the Thunder Dragon, existed almost undisturbed for centuries, allowing unique traditions and ways of life to flourish. Bhutan is the only country in the world that measures it's progress by Gross National Happiness! On this 14-day journey through mystical mountains, sacred temples and this richly preserved culture, we will explore Spirituality in Bhutan alongside the local people, discovering their unique perspectives and enjoying the light of their inspiring spirits!

Information & Documents

Bhutan Weather information

Average Temperatures in Bhutan

It should be noted that average temperatures are recorded from valley floors. There can be considerable divergences from the recorded figures depending upon elevation. All temperatures are recoded in Degree Centigrade.

Average Temperature

Figures in Centigrade	Paro	Thimphu	Punakha	Wangdue	Trongsa	Bumthang	Mongar	Trashigang
MAX	9.4	12.3	16.1	17.0	13.0	10.8	15.5	21
MIN	-5.8	-2.6	4.2	4.3	-0.2	-5.1	8.2	16
MAX	13.4	14.4	19.6	19.0	13.9	10.0	15.9	21
MIN	1.5	0.6	5.3	7.8	0.4	-1.4	8.3	11
MAX	14.5	16.4	21.12	22.8	16.7	16.2	20.0	24
MIN	0.6	3.9	9.2	10.4	4.4	3.5	11.6	14
MAX	17.6	20.0	24.4	26.2	20.1	18.7	2.8	28
MIN	4.6	7.1	11.2	12.9	6.6	3.9	14.0	17
MAX	23.5	22.5	27.2	29.1	21.0	21.3	25.1	30
MIN	10.6	13.1	14.2	17.7	11.6	9.5	17.4	20
MAX	25.4	24.4	31.2	29.2	22.2	22.5	26.1	30
MIN	14.1	15.2	19.5	20.1	13.6	3.5	19.5	21
MAX	26.8	18.9	32.0	18.4	25.3	14.1	16.1	30
MIN	14.9	13.4	21.6	16.2	15.3	10.9	15.8	23
MAX	25.3	25.0	31.4	29.1	23.8	23.0	25.4	30
MIN	14.7	15.8	19.8	20.0	15.0	13.7	19.6	21
MAX	23.4	23.1	29.9	27.5	22.6	21.6	24.7	30
MIN	11.7	15.0	20.4	19.1	14.2	12.1	19.4	23
MAX	18.7	21.9	27.8	26.1	21.8	19.5	22.7	26
MIN	7.4	12.4	18.9	14.7	11.7	5.9	15.8	17
MAX	13.9	17.9	22.3	22.6	19.8	16.1	19.9	26
MIN	1.4	5.0	13.0	9.6	6.4	-0.5	11.2	13
MAX	11.2	14.5	15.0	19.1	18.2	12.3	15.7	23
MIN	-1.7	-1.1	7.9	6.3	2.5	-2.3	9.5	11

Customs Regulation

You will receive a baggage declaration form to complete when you arrive in Bhutan. For tourists, the main purpose of this form is to ensure that you re-export anything you bring into the country. List any expensive equipment that you are carrying, such as cameras and laptops. Don't lose the form as you must return it when you leave the country.

Duty-free allowances include 1L of liquor. You can bring in only one carton (200) of cigarettes and these attract a 200% duty upon arrival. A packet or two is normally allowed in gratis. There are no restrictions on other personal effects, including trekking gear, brought into the country.

Departure formalities are straightforward, but you'll need to produce the form that you completed on arrival and may need to show all of the items listed on it. A lost form means complications and delays. If you lose the form, let your guide know as soon as possible so that special arrangements can be made to avoid any inconvenience.

"The export of antiques and wildlife products is prohibited. If you wish to purchase a souvenir that looks old, have your guide clear it as a nonantique item with the Division of Cultural Properties (02-322694), part of the Department of Culture inside the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. Customs authorities pay special attention to religious statues. It would be prudent to have any such statue cleared, old or not."

Public Holidays in Bhutan

Public holidays follow both the Gregorian and lunar calendars and are decided by the Royal Civil Service Commission (www.rcsc.gov.bt).

- Birthday of Fifth King 21, 22 & 23 February
- Birthday of Third King 2 May
- Coronation of Fourth King 2 June; also marked as 'Social Forest Day'
- Coronation of Druk Gyalpo 1 November
- Constitution Day/Fourth King's Birthday 11 November
- National Day 17 December; the date of the establishment of the monarchy in 1907
- The following holidays are set by the traditional lunar calendar and so vary in Gregorian dates:
- Losar January/February, New Year
- Zhabdrung Kuchoe April/May; death of Zhabdrung
- Buddha Parinirvana/Saga Dawa May/June; enlightenment and death of Buddha
- Birthday of Guru Rinpoche June/July

- First sermon of Buddha July
- Dashain October; Hindu celebration

In the Bhutanese lunar system, months have 30 days, with the full moon on the 15th. The eighth, 15th and 30th days of the month are auspicious and you'll notice increased activity and prayers in monasteries across the country.

Travel Tips

Embassies & Consulates

Visas are not available from Bhutanese embassies abroad. All tourist visas must be channelled through a tour company and the TCB in Thimphu, and from there through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Only a handful of foreign countries have an official presence in Bhutan. Bhutan's relations with other countries are handled through its embassies in Delhi and Dhaka.

Bangladeshi Embassy (02-222362; fax 02-322629; Thori Lam, Thimphu)

Indian Embassy (02-322162; www.eoithimphu.org; India House, Zhung Lam; 9.30am-1pm & 2-5.30pm Mon-Fri, closed Indian holidays) ; Consulate (05-252101)

Thai Embassy (02-323978; royalthaiconsulate@druknet.bt; Changangkha, Thimphu)"

Food

Since most travel in Bhutan is via an all-inclusive package, most of your meals will be in the shape of a hotel or trekking-camp buffet, with a mix of continental, Indian, Chinese and Bhutanese dishes, plus vegetarian options and rice. The food is fine but is specifically created to not offend anyone, so it can be bland. Small groups can often order from the menu, though the buffet meals offer a wider selection. If you find the tourist food bland, request some of what your guide is eating. It will be much tastier, if you can take the heat.

On long day drives or hikes you will not return to your hotel for lunch, and most tour operators arrange either uninspiring packed lunches or a much better hot lunch packed inside a series of metal containers.

"The food in hotels is often the best in town, but if you want to sample local restaurants, especially in Thimphu or Paro, your guide can arrange it. Your tour operator should pay for your restaurant meals, with the exception of a few upper-end restaurants in Thimphu. In almost all restaurants it's a good idea to order an hour or more in advance, or expect to wait forever. If you are ordering from a menu, don't be surprised if many of the offerings are not available.

Due to the unique nature of travel in Bhutan, restaurant opening hours have little meaning. Almost all tourists will have breakfast in their hotel and guides will pre-arrange lunch and dinner in restaurants or hotels, which will normally offer a buffet or set meal at whatever time your guide determines. We have listed opening hours where they are fixed, or useful, as in the case of bakeries and private restaurants, but for the most part this guide assumes that restaurants are open for lunch and dinner, with exceptions noted.

Staples & Specialities

The Bhutanese love chillies, so much in fact that some dishes consist entirely of chillies, accompanied by chilli-infused condiments. The mouth-scorching meals will bring tears of joy to the eyes of chilli lovers, and tears of pain to everyone else! Although chillies are ubiquitous, don't expect the aromatically spiced dishes typical of the subcontinent. These can only be found in the Nepali-influenced south of Bhutan or in an Indian restaurant.

Gay & Lesbian Travellers

Like most Asians, the Bhutanese believe that what one does in private is strictly a personal matter, and they would prefer not to discuss such issues. Public displays of affection are not appreciated, though, and everyone, regardless of orientation, should exercise discretion. Officially, male homosexuality is illegal.

Money

The unit of currency is the ngultrum (Nu), which is pegged to the Indian rupee. The ngultrum is further divided into 100 chetrum. There are coins to the value of 25 and 50 chetrum and Nu 1, and notes of Nu 1, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000. The Nu 1 coin depicts the eight auspicious symbols called Tashi Tagye, while each note depicts a different dzong.

Indian rupees may be used freely anywhere in Bhutan (don't be surprised if you get change in rupees). Officially 500 and 1000 Indian rupee notes are not accepted due to large amounts of counterfeit notes; however, in practice 500s are usually accepted. Ngultrums cannot be used in India.

It is OK with the Bhutanese if you bring a reasonable amount of Indian currency into Bhutan, though Indian regulations prohibit currency export.

ATMs

At the time of research, only Bank of Bhutan (BoB) and Druk PNB Bank ATMs accepted foreign credit cards. Not all BoB ATMs outside Thimphu and Paro were accepting foreign cards, so get your cash in these centres before heading off east.

Bargaining

Bargaining is not a Bhutanese tradition, and you won't get very far with your haggling skills here, except with trailside vendors on the hike to Taktshang and in the local handicrafts section of the Thimphu Weekend Market.

Cash

If you plan to make a major purchase, for example textiles or art, consider bringing US dollars in cash. Most shops will accept this, and it can save you the hassle of exchanging a large quantity of money in advance and then attempting to change it back if you don't find the exact piece you were looking for.

Credit Cards

Cards are accepted at major handicraft stores and some of the larger hotels in Thimphu, but you will often be charged a surcharge of up to 5% to cover the fees levied by the credit-card companies.

Moneychangers

Tourist trips are fully prepaid, so you could in theory manage in Bhutan without any local money at all, though you'll probably want to change at least US\$50 to pay for laundry and drinks, plus whatever you need for souvenirs and tips.

The exchange counters at the airport, larger hotels and the banks in Thimphu and Phuentsholing can change all major currencies, and sometimes Scandinavian currencies. If you are heading to central and eastern Bhutan, you will do better sticking to US dollars. In smaller towns foreign-currency exchange may be an unusual transaction so be prepared for delays. You'll often get a slightly lower rate if changing US\$ bills in denominations of US\$20 or less.

You may change your unused ngultrums back to foreign currency (though usually only into US dollars) on departure from Thimphu or Paro. Travellers departing via Samdrup Jongkhar didn't have this facility at the time of research. You may need to produce your original exchange receipts. Ngultrums are useless outside of Bhutan (except as a curiosity).

Bhutan has two major banks, the Bank of Bhutan (www.bob.bt) and the Bhutan National Bank (www.bnbbt), each with branches throughout the country. Both change cash with no commission and charge 1% for travellers' cheques. The Bank of Bhutan's main branches are generally open 9am to 1pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 11am on Saturday, though the branches in Trongsa, Trashigang and Mongar are open on Sunday and closed Tuesday. It also has a branch in Thimphu that stays open later. New banks with forex include the Tashi Group's T-Bank and Druk PNB with limited but expanding branches.

Tipping & Tax

You will usually be accompanied throughout your visit to Bhutan by the same tour guide and probably the same driver. Though it's against the official TCB policy, these people expect a tip at the end of the trip. Many leaders on group tours take up a collection at the conclusion of the trip and hand it over in one packet. With a large group this can be a substantial amount and the practice has created high expectations on the part of Bhutanese guides.

If you've been trekking, it's appropriate to tip the guide, cook and waiter. Horsemen also expect tips, but this can be minimal if they are the owners of the horses or yaks and are making money by hiring out their animals. The stakes go up, however, if they have been especially helpful with camp chores and on the trail.

If arranging tips yourself, hand them over in individual envelopes the evening before you leave, as things get rushed and easily forgotten on the day of departure.

For those paying their own way, most hotels charge 10% Bhutan Sales Tax (BST) and either 5% or 10% service charge, which are included in the rates shown. Most restaurants will charge the same, especially if you want a receipt.

Opening Hours

- Government offices 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm in summer, until 4pm in winter, Monday to Friday
- Banks 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 11am Saturday
- Shops 8am to 8pm or 9pm
- Clubs Generally close at midnight on weekdays and at 5am Friday and Saturday.
- Bars Close at 11pm on weekdays and midnight on Friday and Saturday. Closed Tuesday – the national ‘dry’ day.’

Photography

Accessories & Printing

Memory cards are available in Thimphu and you will have no problem finding an internet cafe in Thimphu or Paro that can burn digital images to a CD. There are colour-printing facilities in Thimphu and Phuentsholing.

Many of the dzongs and mountain peaks are best photographed at a distance with a telephoto lens. Bear in mind also that there will be little or no opportunity for photography inside buildings, therefore you don't need to organise a flash attachment and tripod for that purpose. Be sure to carry spare batteries, as these are hard to find when in rural Bhutan.

Restrictions

Bhutan is generally liberal about photography by tourists. There are a few places, though, with signs prohibiting photography, such as the telecommunication tower above Thimphu, and it would also be prudent to refrain from taking pictures of military installations.

There are no restrictions on photographing the outside of dzongs and goembas, but photography is strictly prohibited inside goembas and lhakhangs. There are several reasons for this. One is that in the past tourists have completely disrupted holy places with their picture taking. Another is the fear that photos of treasured statues will become a catalogue of items for art thieves to steal. And thirdly, some early tourists made photographs of religious statues into postcards that were then sold, which is unacceptable to the Bhutanese religious community.

During festivals you can photograph from the dzong courtyard where the dances take place. Remember, however, that this is a religious observance and that you should behave accordingly. Don't photograph a member of the royal family, even if you happen to be at a festival or gathering where they are present.

There is an extensive set of rules and restrictions, including payment of additional royalties, for commercial movie-making within Bhutan. The TCB publishes a booklet that details all these rules.

Safe Travel

Bhutan is a remarkably safe destination, almost completely devoid of the scams, begging and theft that affects its neighbours. There are couple of things to look out for, though.

Altitude

It's unlikely you will have any problems with altitude unless you are trekking. Most of the places tourists visit lie below 3000m and the maximum elevation you can reach by road is around 3800m.

Dogs

Those cute dogs that wag their tails for you during the day turn into barking monsters at night. Bring earplugs. There is little danger of dog bites, but occasional rabies outbreaks occur in rural Bhutan, so be wary of big dogs guarding properties, especially if trekking.

Weather

Inclement weather can obscure the mountain views that you made such an effort to see and can affect Druk Air flights. In the monsoon heavy rain can turn trails into a sea of mud and can wash away bridges, while leeches can be a real irritation in the lower valleys.

Carsickness

If you venture east of Thimphu, you will spend hours driving on rough, winding roads and carsickness is common. Antimotion medication such as Dramamine can help, but bring the antidrowsy versions or you'll spend most of the spectacular drives snoring in the back seat.

Crime

Theft is still minimal in Bhutan, but as elsewhere it is growing along with the population.

Mobile Phones

A B-Mobile SIM card is available at any telecom shop in Thimphu for Nu 100 (which includes talk time worth Nu 50); proof of your passport must be shown at the time of purchase. Further top-ups are available in multiples of Nu 100. Apart from B-Mobile (www.druknet.bt), there's also Tashi Cell (www.tashicell.com), with similar rates but more limited coverage.

Local call charges vary from Nu 0.40 to Nu 0.70 per 15 seconds, depending on the time of day and network called. Text messages are Nu 0.70. ISD charges are Nu 5 per minute for India and from Nu 18 to Nu 45 per minute for the rest of the world.

Time

Bhutan time is GMT/UTC plus six hours; there is only one time zone throughout the country. The time in Bhutan is 30 minutes later than in India, 15 minutes later than Nepal and one hour earlier than Thailand. When it is noon in Bhutan, standard time is 6am in London, 4pm in Sydney, 1am in New York and 10pm the previous day in San Francisco.

Toilets

Most hotels provide Western toilets and toilet paper, though there are some exceptions, particularly in eastern Bhutan. There are very few public toilets, so take full advantage of hotel and restaurant facilities before that long drive. Most public toilets are of the Asian squat variety and toilet paper isn't available, though a container of water should be present.

Travellers with Disabilities

A cultural tour in Bhutan is a challenge for a traveller with physical disabilities, but is possible with some planning. The Bhutanese are eager to help, and one could arrange a strong companion to assist with moving about and getting in and out of vehicles. The roads are rough and pavements, where they exist, often have holes and sometimes steps. Hotels and public buildings rarely have wheelchair access or lifts, and only the newest will have bathrooms designed to accommodate wheelchairs.

December 3 - Day 1 Arrival-Paro-Thimphu



Welcome to Bhutan, Land of Thunder Dagon. Your Journey begins flying on Druk Air. You will meet our representative from **Bhutan Trawang Tara Travel** at the Paro International Airport. Our team will receive you and usher you with a 'Tashi Khadar' good wishes. We then drive to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, passing through hills and some astounding countryside.

Thimphu is situated in a large valley traversed by the Wangchu River and overshadowed by high peaks. En-route- view **Tachogang monastery** "temple of excellent horse" built by Thangthong Gyalpo" the (Iron chain builder in Bhutan and visit the Iron Chain Bridge which is one of the most visible ancient craft work in the middle Ages.) before reaching to Chunzom. Afternoon, we visit some cultural sites and walk through the main street of Thimphu. Later we visit, the national **Memorial Chorten**, built in honor of the third King of Bhutan, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Elderly devotees flock throughout the day to circumambulate the stupa and turn the prayer wheels.

Towards evening, join us on a special meal with authentic and organic cuisines from Bhutan at a popular local restaurant. You can even try local 'ara' a local rice wine from Bhutan over dinner.



Accommodation in Thimphu

We offer the best 3* hotels in Bhutan however hotels are subject to availability at the time of booking.



Hotel Tashi Yoedling
Thimphu, Thimphu, Bhutan



Hotel Bhutan Home
Deki Lam, Thimphu, Thimphu, Bhutan

December 4 - Day 2 Thimphu-Punakha



Today we continue our trip further east to Punakha today after breakfast. We are headed to **Dochula Pass** – The 108 chortens was built by the present Queen Mother of Bhutan Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck to commemorate Bhutan's victory over Indian militants and to liberate the souls of the souls lost. After spending some leisure time at Dochula, we continue to Punakha valley which is approx. 1.5 hours driving downhill.

After lunch, enjoy a walk to **Chimi Lhakhang**, temple of the Drukpa Kuenly who is also known as the Divine Madman. He inherited the Divine Madman title since he revolted against the orthodox Buddhism in his time. He taught the people that religion is an inner feeling and it's not necessary that one should be an ordained monk. He is also considered a symbol of fertility and most childless couples go to his temple for blessing.

we will visit **Punakha** is to visit **Punakha Dzong** – Built in 1637, the dzong continues to be the winter home for the clergy, headed by the Chief Abbott, the Je Khenpo. It is a stunning example of Bhutanese architecture, sitting at the fork of two rivers, portraying the image of a medieval city from a distance. The dzong was destroyed by fire and glacial floods over the years but has been carefully restored and is, today, a fine example of Bhutanese craftsmanship.



Accommodation in Punakha

We offer the best 3* hotels in Bhutan however hotels are subject to availability on the time of booking.





Chimi Lhakang Village Homestay

Punakha, Punakha, Bhutan



Bhutanic Resort

Woolakha, Punakha, Bhutan, 13001

December 5 - Day 3 Punakha-Bumthang



Drive via the bustling market town of Wangduephodrang. Drive up a winding mountain road through oak and rhododendron forests and over the **Pele La pass** (3,420m) on the Black Mountain range towards Trongsa. This pass is traditionally considered the boundary between western and central Bhutan. Further down the road stop to visit beautiful **Chendebji Chorten**. It is built in a style unusual for Bhutan, with painted eyes facing the four directions. The imposing **Trongsa Dzong** can be viewed across a deep canyon to signal your approach to the town around a curving road. Afterwards, proceed to Bumthang (2.5 hrs), one the most spectacular valleys in Bhutan and also the spiritual and historical heartland of the country. The road winds steeply up to **Yutung La Pass** (3,400m) before descending down through dense coniferous forest to Chumney valley. From here it is about an hour to Jakar, Bumthang's main township. Bumthang is home to some of Bhutan's oldest Palaces, Buddhist temples and monasteries. The valley's barley fields, apple groves and meadows lay below huge hills which climb up towards the Himalayan mountain wall separating Bhutan from Tibet. The beautiful architecture unique to Bhutan is evident in the many large farmhouses and temples. Bumthang is associated with Guru Rimpoche (Padmasambhava) and with Terton Pema Lingpa.



Accommodation in Bumthang

We offer the best 3* hotels in Bhutan however hotels are subject to availability on the time of booking.



Rinchenling Guest House

Jakar, Bumthang, Bhutan



Ogyen Choling Heritage House

December 6 - Day 4 Bumthang



Enjoy a day of sightseeing in Bumthang beginning with **Jampey Lhakhang**, one of 108 temples built by the Tibetan King Songtsen in the 7th Century. It was here that Guru Rimpoche conducted his first sermon on Tantric Buddhism for his host King Sendha, the local ruler, his family and subjects. Continue on to **Kurjey Lhakhang**, famous for a rock within one of the temples that features a body imprint of the great master Guru Rimpoche. The big cypress tree in the temple grounds is believed to be the walking stick of Guru Rimpoche.

Afterwards visit **Tamshing Lhakhang**, the seat of Bumthang's famous son, saint Pema Lingpa. He built it himself in 1501. A skilled tantric master and artist, he sculpted the main statues and painted the frescoes, some of Bhutan's oldest which can still be seen even today, mostly in their original state. There is also a chain mail made by Pema Lingpa that devotees carry and circumambulate the inner sanctum to cleanse sins. Overnight at your hotel in Bumthang



Accommodation in Bumthang

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Rinchenling Guest House

Jakar, Bumthang, Bhutan



ugyencholing guest house

December 7 - Day 5 Bumthang-Phobjikha Valley



Start early today for Gangtey, about 6 hrs from Bumthang. Farmhouses and temples dot the landscape and you will see local farmers wearing the traditional woven bamboo hats of central Bhutan. The wide and picturesque Phobjikha valley is one of Bhutan's few glacial valleys, and chosen winter home of black necked cranes (November – March) migrating from the Tibetan plateau. We then continue our drive towards Gangtey valley, a serene and beautiful valley surrounded by shrubs and baby bamboos, Gangtey valley is famous for its nesting grounds for the endangered Black Necked Crane. Towards the evening hours, we take a dip in **'Dotso' herbal healing bath** at a nearby tavern and enjoy herbal nourished waters which is believed to heal one from diseases and illnesses. The bath is prepared using stones burned in fire and the water boiled with herbs up to 20 varieties with medicinal properties.



Accommodation in Phobjikha

We offer the best 3* hotels in Bhutan however hotels are subject to availability on the time of booking.



ABC Lodge

Nubding, Wangdue Phodrang, Bhutan



Hotel Dewachen

Trashigang-Semtokha Hwy, Wangdue Phodrang, Bhutan

17 16 22 64

December 8 - Day 6 Phobjikha Valley-Thimphu



Early morning, we pay visit to **Gangtey Goenpa monastery** to experience and meditation on the lawns of this special monastery whos history dates back to 7th century. The monastery is believed to posses sacred relics and religious texts from ancient masters that has been preserved at the monastery.

After a relaxed morning session, we then continue our journey towards Thimphu.



Accommodation in Thimphu

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Hotel Tashi Yoedling

Thimphu, Thimphu, Bhutan

December 9 - Day 8 Thimphu Sightseeing or Hike



Drive to the Northern end of Thimphu valley passing through the countryside

Stop at **Buddhist School of astrology** before taking the hike to **Dodeydra**

The hike is beautiful, leading to the tranquil surrounding of the hilltop of Dodeydrai monastery .

At Goenpa meet the monks, join the monks for evening prayer and later have dinner with monks. If you are not tired, we can arrange a session with Buddhist master for any Dharma discussion

The other Things we can do are:

- Hoist Prayer flags

- Smoke Offering/Wine offering/ Butter Lamp Offering
- Attending Dharma talk- Private Meeting with the abbot (Khenpo) of Shedra
- Spiritual cleansing bestows by Lama. This program will be supervised by authentic Buddhist master. Some of the Buddhist masters are not comfortable in English but there will be an English translator.

Walk back and overnight hotel in Thimphu

Accommodation in Thimphu

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Hotel Tashi Yoedling
Thimphu, Thimphu, Bhutan



Hotel Bhutan Home
Deki Lam, Thimphu, Thimphu, Bhutan

December 10 - Day 9 Thimphu sightseeing-Paro



After Breakfast walk back to Thimphu drive to **Kuensel Phodrang** to visit the Buddha Statue, 169ft, symbolising indestructibility and one of the most religious monuments built in recent times. The view of Thimphu valley from the Kuenselphodrang is spectacular.

After that visit **Thangka painting**, a traditional Bhutanese art form, is practiced in various locations, including the **National Institute of Zorig Chusum**.

And then you can witness the incense production process at the **Nado Poizokhang** Incense Factory, located near the Changangkha Lhakhang

Later in the evening drive to Paro and visit **CSI market in paro**.

Check to hotel in Paro



Accommodation in Paro

We offer the best 3* hotels in Bhutan however hotels are subject to availability on the time of booking.



Khangku Resort
Khangku Wangchang, Paro, Paro,
+975 8 272 393



Rema Resort
Paro, Bhutan

December 11 - Paro-Haa-Paro



Drive to Haa through Chele La (3,988 m). From the pass, you can see Paro valley on one side and then Haa valley on the other. You can also have a picnic at Chele La if you like to. In Haa, some sightseeing and then going to Katsho village and visiting the Katso Lhakhang. we will drive back to Paro



Accommodation in Paro

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Khangku Resort
Khangku Wangchang, Paro, Paro,
+975 8 272 393



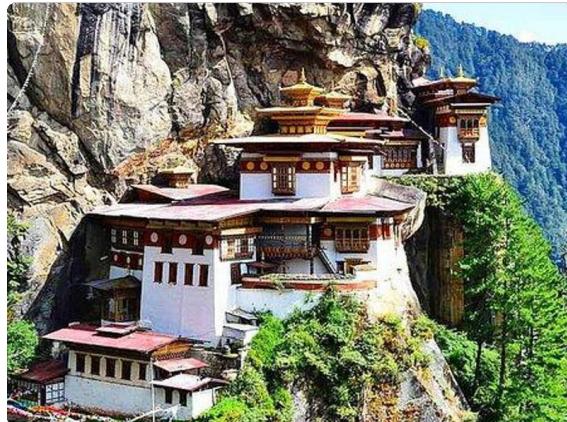
Rema Resort
Paro, Bhutan

December 12 - Day 11 Taktsang Monastery Hike



After breakfast hike to **Taktsang Monastery**. The walk of approximately 1.5 to 2 hours uphill takes you almost a kilometre above the Paro valley floor. The view of Taktsang Monastery built on a sheer cliff face 900 metres above the valley floor is a spectacular sight. The Monastery is also an important pilgrim site for the Buddhists. The great Guru Rimpoche is said to have flown here on the back of a tigress when he brought the teachings of the Buddhist Dharma to Bhutan in the 8th Century. After returning back have **lunch at Taksang Cafeteria**.

In the afternoon drive to **Ta Dzong** and **Rimpung Dzong** then visit 7th Century **Kyichu Lhakhang**, one of the 108 temples constructed by the Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo



Accommodation in Paro

We offer the best 3* hotels in Bhutan however hotels are subject to availability on the time of booking.



Khangku Resort
Khangku Wangchang, Paro, Paro,
+975 8 272 393



Rema Resort
Paro, Bhutan

December 13 - Day 12 Departure Paro



Breakfast in the hotel, then drive to the airport for flight to your onward destination. We bid farewell and wish ourselves in the hope to meet again. We hope you cherish this special trip in your life and nourish yourself with all the positive energy accumulated through the journey.

Tashi Delek.

