

# Bhutan Odyssey

11D10N

**Departure: October 24 – September 25 (Every Sunday)**

A soulful journey through Bhutan's culture and nature! Stay in eco-friendly lodgings, visit iconic sites like Tiger's Nest, and enjoy scenic drives through the Himalayas. Immerse yourself in local experiences and embrace wellness with options like a Hot Stone Bath or mindful shopping.

# SIGNATURE HIGHLIGHTS

BTIIBOG

- 1 Unique stay with local eco-friendly deluxe accommodation throughout and Bhutanese-style lodging in Punakha, Bumthang and Gangtey
- 2 Meals With 4 Different Cuisines: Bhutanese, Indian, Thai & Chinese
- 3 Cultural Immersion, visit iconic monasteries, dzongs, and stupas, including Tiger's Nest Monastery, Punakha Dzong, and Jakar Dzong
- 4 Scenic drives through stunning landscapes, crossing Dochula Pass and Pelela Pass with views of the Himalayas and explore Phobjikha Valley
- 5 Wildlife & Nature with trek through Gangtey Nature Trail and visit the Black-Necked Crane Information Centre
- 6 Authentic experiences, shop for local handicrafts, create personalized stamps, and visit a Swiss farm for cheese and beer tasting
- 7 Me time with options for a Hot Stone Bath or souvenir shopping



## THIMPHU

- Tashichho Dzong
- Buddha Dordenma
- Kuenselphodrang Nature Park
- Zorig Chusum
- Folk Heritage Museum
- Royal Textile Academy
- National Memorial Chorten
- Changangkha Lhakhang
- Bhutanese crafts bazaar

## PUNAKHA

- Punakha Dzong
- Dochula Pass
- Druk Wangyal Chortens

## TRONGSA

- Trongsa Dzong
- Yotongla Pass
- Pelela Pass

## BUMTHANG

- Jakar Dzong
- Jambay Lhakhang
- Kurjey Lhakhang

## GANGTEY

- Phobjikha Valley
- Black-Necked Crane Information Centre

## WANGDUE PHODRANG

- Sopsokha village
- Chimi Lhakhang

## PARO

- Ta Dzong
- Rinpung Dzong
- Kyichu Lhakhang

## DAY 01

### SINGAPORE > PARO > THIMPHU ( MEALS ON BOARD / LUNCH / DINNER )

Assemble at Singapore Changi Airport for your flight to Paro. upon arrival, head straight to **Thimphu**, Bhutan's capital. Enjoy your first authentic Bhutanese meal before visiting the majestic **Tashichho Dzong**, home to the King's throne. Then, marvel at the **169-foot bronze Buddha Dordenma in Kuenselphodrang Nature Park**, with panoramic views of Thimphu Valley.



Buddha Dordhenma Statue



Paro Taktsang Monastery

## DAY 02

### THIMPHU ( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

Start the day at the **National Institute for Zorig Chusum**, watching artisans perfect Bhutan's 13 traditional crafts. Visit the **Folk Heritage Museum** to dive into Bhutanese culture, followed by a stop at the **Post Office** for personalized stamps. Explore the **Royal Textile Academy**, and visit the **National Memorial Chorten**. End the day at **Changangkha Lhakhang**, one of Thimphu's oldest temples, and stroll through the **Bhutanese crafts bazaar**.

**Accommodation :** Hotel Druk or Similar



Paro Tsechu Festival

## DAY 03

### THIMPHU > PUNAKHA > WANGDUE PHODRANG ( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

After breakfast, depart Thimphu and embark on a scenic drive to **Punakha**, once the capital of Bhutan. As you journey through the stunning landscapes, cross the **Dochula Pass** at 3,100 meters above sea level, offering spectacular views of the **Himalayas**, especially on clear days. Along the way, stop to admire the 108 memorial **Druk Wangyal Chortens**, built to honor Bhutanese soldiers. Continue on to **Sopsokha village**, where you'll enjoy a peaceful walk through rice paddies leading to the **Chimi Lhakhang**, a revered fertility temple, known for blessings of children. In Punakha, visit the magnificent **Punakha Dzong**, a fortress situated at the confluence of the **Mo Chhu** and **Pho Chhu** rivers. This dzong is renowned for its stunning architecture and historical significance as the winter residence of the Central Monastic Body. In the evening, head to **Wangdue Phodrang** for your overnight stay, the last major town before central Bhutan.

**Accommodation :** Hotel Bhutanic or Similar



Cham Dance Paro

## DAY 04

### WANGDUE PHODRANG > TRONGSA > BUMTHANG ( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

Begin the day with an early departure as you venture into the heart of Bhutan. Drive across the picturesque **Pelela Pass**, at 3,300 meters, marking the boundary between western and central Bhutan. Along the way, stop at the **Chendebji Chorten**, an 18th-century stupa modeled after Nepal's Swayambhunath Stupa, built to subdue an evil spirit that once haunted the valley. Continue to **Trongsa**, home to the majestic **Trongsa Dzong**, the largest fortress in Bhutan and the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family. After visiting the dzong, proceed through the **Yotongla Pass** to **Bumthang**, the cultural heartland of Bhutan. Arrive at **Chhume Gewog**, a village famous for its production of handwoven woollen textiles known as **Yathra**. Explore a **Yathra textile shop**, where you can purchase beautifully crafted bags, jackets, and fabrics. End the day in **Bumthang** with its serene mountain views.

**Accommodation :** Hotel Ugyen Ling or Similar

## DAY 05

### BUMTHANG ( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

Discover the spiritual and cultural treasures of Bumthang, starting with a visit to **Jakar Dzong**, also known as the "Fortress of the White Bird," perched on a ridge overlooking the valley. Next, visit the sacred **Jambay Lhakhang**, one of 108 temples built in the 7th century by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo to subdue evil spirits in the Himalayan region. According to legend, these temples were constructed in a single night. Continue to **Kurje Lhakhang**, a monastery that holds great significance as the resting place of the body imprint of Guru Rinpoche, who meditated here in the 8th century. After lunch, explore the charming **Swiss Farm**, established by a Swiss-Bhutanese entrepreneur, where you can visit the **cheese factory** and sample local products, including **Red Panda beer**, Bhutan's only native craft beer. The peaceful countryside of Bumthang provides the perfect backdrop for a day immersed in history and nature.

**Accommodation :** Hotel Ugyen Ling or Similar

## DAY 06

### BUMTHANG > PHOBJIKHA > GANGTEY ( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

After breakfast, begin your journey towards the stunning **Phobjikha Valley**, a glacial valley on the western slopes of the Black Mountains, and home to the endangered **black-necked cranes**. On the way, stop at the **Gangtey Gonpa**, the largest Nyingma monastery in Bhutan, located on a hilltop with beautiful views of the valley. After visiting the monastery, continue on to the **Phobjikha Valley**, one of Bhutan's most beautiful and peaceful regions. If you're traveling during the winter months, you may have the opportunity to spot the **black-necked cranes**, which migrate from the Tibetan plateau to Phobjikha for the winter. Visit the **Black-Necked Crane Information Centre** to learn more about these rare birds and the efforts to conserve their habitat. Spend the night in the serene valley, surrounded by natural beauty.

**Accommodation :** Hotel Deewachen or Similar

## DAY 07

### GANGTEY

( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

Spend the day exploring the breathtaking **Phobjikha Valley**. Begin with the **Gangtey Nature Trail**, a peaceful trek through the valley's lush green landscapes. Along the trail, pass through villages, forests, and meadows, all while soaking in the serene beauty of Bhutan's countryside. You may also encounter local wildlife, and if you're lucky, catch a glimpse of the rare **black-necked cranes** that migrate to the valley in winter. After the trek, take some time to visit nearby villages and interact with locals, gaining deeper insights into Bhutan's rural life. In the evening, relax and enjoy the tranquility of this stunning valley.

**Accommodation** : Hotel Deewachen or Similar

## DAY 10

### PARO

( BREAKFAST / VEGETARIAN LUNCH / DINNER )

Today is the highlight of your Bhutan journey as you hike to the iconic **Taktsang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest Monastery)**. The monastery is perched precariously on the side of a granite cliff, 800 meters above the Paro Valley. According to legend, Guru Rinpoche flew to this location on the back of a tigress to meditate in the 7th century, hence the name **Tiger's Nest**. The spiritual atmosphere and awe-inspiring location make this one of Bhutan's most famous and revered landmarks. After the hike, enjoy a well-deserved **vegetarian lunch** before spending the rest of the day at your leisure. You may opt for a Hot Stone Bath at own expenses, a traditional Bhutanese therapy, or wander the streets of Paro to shop for last-minute souvenirs.

**Accommodation** : Hotel Tim Dorji or Similar



Puna Mochhu Bridge

## DAY 08

### GANGTEY > PARO

( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

After breakfast, bid farewell to Gangtey and make your way back to **Paro**. Along the way, stop at **Wangdue Phodrang** for a brief visit to the town's local markets, where you can find traditional Bhutanese crafts and products. Once in Paro, visit the **Kyichu Lhakhang**, one of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred temples, believed to have been built in the 7th century. Then, proceed to **Drukgyel Dzong**, an ancient fortress built in 1647 to commemorate Bhutan's victory over Tibetan invaders. Although the dzong was partially destroyed by fire, it remains a historically significant site with spectacular views of the surrounding landscape.

**Accommodation** : Hotel Tim Dorji or Similar



Haa Valley



Bhutanese Young Woman wearing a Kira

## DAY 09

### PARO

( BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER )

Today, embark on an exhilarating drive to Chelela Pass, the highest motorable pass in Bhutan. From the top, you'll be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of Paro Valley on one side and Haa Valley on the other. If the weather is clear, you might also catch a glimpse of Mount Jomolhari, one of Bhutan's most sacred peaks. Afterward, visit Ta Dzong, originally a watchtower, now home to Bhutan's National Museum. The museum boasts an extensive collection of Bhutanese artifacts, religious paintings, traditional costumes, and handicrafts. Make a stop at Rinpung Dzong, a fortress built in 1645 to defend Paro Valley from invaders. Today, it serves as a monastery and an administrative center, and is the venue for the annual Paro Tshechu festival. In the evening, take a leisurely stroll through Paro's charming town center, visiting local shops and cafes.

**Accommodation** : Hotel Tim Dorji or Similar

## DAY 11

### PARO > SINGAPORE

( BREAKFAST / MEALS ON BOARD )

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

### Remarks

1. Deposit payment guideline
2. \$1,000 per person for tour fares under \$5,000
3. \$2,000 per person for tour fares over \$5,000.
4. Gratuity guideline: USD 10 per person, per day for both the tour guide and driver.
5. A minimum of 10 passengers is required for a guaranteed departure. Private tour options are available with an additional fee.
6. Tour is conducted in English unless otherwise specified.
7. Any changes to the itinerary will adhere to the Company's Terms and Conditions. Customers should take note of the following:
8. The itinerary may be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances beyond the Company's control.
9. Hotel accommodations in the specified cities are subject to availability.
10. The sequence of activities in the itinerary may be rearranged. Tour groups may be combined with others.
11. Any proposed changes that are not agreed upon will be subject to the refund policy outlined in the Terms and Conditions.



Punakha Suspension Bridge

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