



Le Passage  
to India

Local experts for

destination  
services



## Best of Bhutan

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### BHUTAN | 07 DAY /06 NIGHTS

Route: Circuit to and from Paro

Type of tour: Mix of nature, historical excursion and Culture

Departure day: Sunday

Validity: From January 01, 2018 to December 31, 2019



## TOUR OVERVIEW

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In the middle of the Himalayas there is a country known as the "Kingdom of the Thunder Dragon" that has lived a long life isolated from the rest of the world. Thus it has managed to maintain the cultural and spiritual heritage of its old traditions reflected in an ancestral religion, art and architecture that flood its golden peaks surrounded by deep valleys.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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**Thimphu:** Unique city with strange mixture of 21st century with ancient traditions. The capital city of the Kingdom & center of government, commercial and religious of the country

**Punakha:** Blessed with a temperate climate, Punakha has been inextricably linked to momentous events in the history of Bhutan. One of the most majestic structures in the country is located here.

**Paro:** It is one of the most beautiful valleys of Bhutan with many sacred sites and historic buildings scattered throughout the area

**Haa Valley:** This valley is unique due to the diversity of popular culture, its legends and its local traditions.  
Dochula pass (3,080m): From where you can see the most enchanting views of the eastern Himalayas.

**Taktshang Lhakhang (Tiger's Nest):** The most famous of the monasteries of Bhutan, perched on a cliff 900m above the Paro Valley

## NOT TO BE MISSED

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**THIMPHU:** Try the Ema Datshi - the national dish of Bhutan based chilis and cheese. Test your skill with the traditional arch at the Museum "Simply Bhutan"

**PUNAKHA:** Visit the Chimi Lhakhang, the temple of fertility. Stand at the Dochula Pass, on the way to Punakha, for a perfect picture of the Himalayas.

**PARO:** Relax with a traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath. River rocks heated at maximum temperature are placed in the water where they are cracked, releasing key minerals as natural therapy.

## DAY BY DAY

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### D1 ARRIVE PARO & TRANSFER TO THIMPHU

The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular in the entire Himalayas. Flying along the Himalayas, the flight offers fascinating views and an exciting descent to the Kingdom. The first gift from Bhutan when leaving the plane will be the clean fresh air of the mountain.

Arrival at Paro airport meet & greet by LPTI representative and drive to Thimphu, capital of Bhutan. The path runs for 68 km (approx 2 h) along the courses of Paro Chhu (Paro River) and Wang Chhu (Thimphu River). Stop en route at Chuzom, at the confluence of these two rivers, which is adorned with stupas in three different styles, Tibetan, Nepali and Bhutanese. Thimphu is a unique city with an unusual mix of modern development along with ancient traditions. With a population of approximately 90,000 people, it is perhaps the only capital city in the world without traffic lights. Arrive and check in at the hotel.

Later we will take a short walk to the Thimphu Craft Bazaar. Established recently under the patronage of the government, this market offers genuine arts and crafts from Bhutan thus contributing to the promotion, protection and preservation of traditional arts.

**Overnight at Thimphu on half board basis.**

## D2 THIMPHU

Breakfast at the hotel and full day of visits in Thimphu, capital of Bhutan and government, commercial and religious center of the country. In the morning we will visit the National Library which houses a large collection of invaluable Buddhist manuscripts, some of which are several centuries old, as well as modern academic books, mainly on the Himalayan culture and religion. Visit the Institute for **Zorig Chusum**, commonly known as Arts and Crafts School or Painting School. It offers courses on the 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan. On a visit, one can see students learning various skills. (**Zorig Chusum is periodically closed for exams, summer and winter holidays**). Later we will visit the **Textile Museum** which is worth a



visit to get to know the living national art of weaving. Exhibitions introduce the major weaving techniques, styles of local dress and textiles made by women and men. We will end the morning tour at **Bhutan Museum**, a living museum and a unique project that safeguards the conservation of Bhutan culture and tradition. The infrastructure portrays the ancient architecture of Bhutan that is being lost through modernization. The uniqueness of the structure lies in the composition of the materials used. The structure is built with the reuse of old wood, window and door frames and other elements of traditional and old demolished houses. The best part is the representation of the historical lifestyles of the people of Bhutan.

Later visit to **Takin reserve**. The Takin is the national animal of Bhutan. The legend says that the animal was created by the great Buddhist yogi, drupa Kunley, and that it can be only found in Bhutan and nearby areas. This animal has own breed, since it is not similar to any other animal to adapt to the established categories.

Then visit **Trashichoedzong**, ". It is the administrative and religious center of the country, place of the monarch's throne room and the seat of "Je Khenpo" or Chief Abbot. Built in 1641 by the political and religious unifier of Bhutan, Ngawang Namgyal Shabdrung, it was rebuilt in 1960 in the traditional form of Bhutan, without nails or architectural plans. Return to the hotel in Thimphu. Free time to walk around the city center, or visit local shops and markets. Dinner at the hotel

**Overnight at Thimpu on full board basis.**

## D3 THIMPHU – PUNAKHA (75KM - 3HRS APROX.)

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Dochu La Pass (3,080 m) and on to Punakha Valley. In Bhutan, the passes are marked by a large Bhutanese Chorten and prayer flag. Dochu La Pass offers spectacular views over the high peaks of the eastern Himalayas on a clear day.

Arrival to Punakha and lunch.

After arriving, check in to the hotel and proceed to visit Punakha Dzong, built strategically at the junction of Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers in 1637 to serve as the religious and administrative centre of the region, Punakha Dzong has played an important role in Bhutan's history. The Dzong is open for visitors during Punakha festival and in summer months when the monk body moves to Thimphu.

We continue with an excursion to the Chimi Lakhang monastery, located on a hill in the center of the valley. A transfer of 15 min. By car it will take us to the point since we start a walking tour through rice fields and villages (approx 1.5h-2h between round trip). The monastery is also known as the temple of fertility. We will be surrounded by the numerous prayer flags, most of them white. It is a place of pilgrimage for women who do not get pregnant. In general, it is believed that couples who do not have children and want one, if they pray in this temple, will be blessed with a child very soon. The path takes us through rice fields to the small settlement of Pana, which means 'field'. A walk through the town will give us an insight into the daily life and lifestyle of the villagers.

Return to Punakha. Dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight at Punakha on full board basis.**

## D4 PUNAKHA – PARO (125 KMS - 4HRS)

After breakfast, drive back to Paro. Pass through Dochu La and follow the dramatic Wang Chhu and Paro Chhu river valleys, before crossing through Paro Town towards the north end of the valley.

On the way, we will visit Simtokha Dzong, a place of profound tantric teaching, this dzong now houses a school for the study of the Dzongkha language. Later in the day, after checking in to the hotel, proceed to visit Ta Dzong (Watchtower). It now houses the National Museum. The extensive collection here includes antique thangkha paintings, textiles, weapons, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts. Now, go on a short walk down the trail to Rinpung Dzong, meaning (fortress on a heap of jewels). Built on a steep hillside, the Dzong has a fascinating history. It repulsed many Tibetan attacks in the past. It also hosts Paro Tsechu, one of Bhutan's liveliest festivals. Overnight at the hotel in Paro.

**Overnight at Paro on full board basis.**



## D5 PARO

After breakfast, go on an excursion to **Taksang Monastery** (5 hrs hike). Perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley, it is one of the most famous of Bhutan's monasteries. Legend goes that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at the site. So, it is also called 'Tiger's Nest'. On our way back, we will stop at the **Kyichu Lhakhang**. It's one of the oldest temples in Bhutan and was originally built in the 7th century by the Tibetan Emperor Songtsen Gampo. Story goes that Padmasambhava concealed many spiritual treasures here in the 8th century. Lunch in the famous Taksang cafe overlooking the tiger nest hanging from the cliff.

Return to the city in the afternoon and rest of the day off to rest or explore Paro. Dinner at the hotel

**Overnight at Paro on full board basis**

## D6 HAA VALLY

(70 km approx 3 hours by car - each way)

After breakfast we will enjoy a day trip to the exotic Haa Valley, through paths of birch and rhododendron forests through the pass of Chele-la (4,200 m altitude).

We will enjoy the unparalleled views offered by the sacred snow dome of Chomolhari (Mountain of the Goddess) and Mount Jichu Drake. We will enjoy very diverse landscapes and we will be delighted with the great attractions that the numerous historic monuments, the shepherds taking care of their herds and the picturesque scattered villages will offer us. Located in the southwest of Paro, it covers an area of approximately 1706 square kilometers and is the smallest Dzongkhag in the country. This tiny region is one of the most beautiful and isolated areas of the kingdom, adorned with pristine alpine forests and quiet mountains. Haa is the ancestral home of the grandmother of the queen and the illustrious family of Dorji. This valley is still one of the least visited areas in the country and conserves the air of a virgin and primitive forest.

On the way back we will have the opportunity to admire the famous monasteries Lhakhang Karpo (white temple), current monastic school and Lhakhang Nagpo (black temple). Return to Paro, and dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight at Paro on full board basis**

## D7 PARO – DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to the airport to take departure flight

END OF THE SERVICE

## INCLUSION

- Accommodation as per the program, 6 nights in double / twin rooms with full board.
- All meals at hotels (some lunches en route)
- Private transfers and tourist visits according as per the program
- English speaking companion guide services.
- Tickets for all the visits indicated (valid for a single visit).

- Government taxes and fees
- Entry visa fee to Bhutan.
- Type of vehicle used for tourists in Bhutan (according to the government directive).
  - Hyundai Tucson / Santa Fe: 1-2 people
  - Toyota Hiace / Hyundai H1: 3-6 people
  - Toyota Coaster: 7-18 people

## EXCLUSION

- Expenses of a personal nature, drinks and meals not explicitly mentioned in the program
- International flight tickets to India and visa for the country. For visa information, [click here](#)
- Domestic and international airport taxes

## PRICES

Price per package sharing double / twin room with full board in US dollar (USD)

\* **High Season: March, April, May, September, October & November.**

\* **Low Season: January, February, June July, August & December**

Season	1 person	2 persona	3 person & more	Suplemento for single room
High season 2019				
Low Season 2019				

\* The same price applies to 3 people regardless of the size of the group, according to the Bhutan government policy.

## ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Day	City	Hotel/resort	Category
1-2	Thimpu	Hotel Kisa or similar	3*
3	Punakha	Dragon's Nest Resort or similar	3*
4-5-6	Paro	Hotel Tashi Phuntshok or similar	3*

\* Standard rooms (base category) will be provided at all hotels

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- All rates are per person
- A minimum of 2 pax is required for guaranteed departure tour
- Guests will be accompanied by other guests t from the different agency to complete the quota
- The reservation should be confirmed 30 days before departure (Release: 30 days)
- Kindly note that names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels and it is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey such confirmation to you. In the event of accommodation not becoming available at any of the above mentioned hotels we shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement/reduction whatever applicable) to you

## DEPARTURE DAYS

There are guaranteed departures on the dates marked in the calendar:

January '19							February '19							March '19							April '19						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31													

  

May '19							June '19							July '19							August '19						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1		1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31
							30																				

  

September '19							October '19							November '19							December '19						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

## CANCELLATION POLICY

- > 30 days before the departure date, there will be no penalty
- > 14 days before the departure date, 40% of the package price will be charged
- > 2 days before the departure date, 50% of the package price will be charged
- No-show, 60% of the package price will be charged

## EXTRAS

A wide range of excursions and optional pre and post-program extensions are available. Please consult with the designer of this tour, Aashish Gaur, for the prices and conditions

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Comfortable and light clothing is the most convenient way to travel around India. Passengers should not wear sleeveless shirts, shorts, short skirts or tight-fitting clothes when visiting temples, religious sites or official buildings. Shoes must be removed before entering a temple or private home. Sun protection, sunglasses, a hat or cap and mosquito repellent can also be a great help during the trip.

## \* PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING THE ENTRANCE VISA TO BHUTAN FOR ALL NATIONALITIES (except Indian / Bangladeshi / Maldivian)

- A color copy of the passport for the visa is required at least 20 days before the date of the trip (the earlier, the better).
- Scan in color or take a clear picture with your mobile phone / digital camera of the passport page with the image of the face and the passport number and send it to us in an email in JPEG / PDF format. It must be a clear copy and all data must be perfectly legible in its entirety.

- The validity of the passport must be a minimum of 6 months from the departure of Bhutan at the end of the trip. (Excluding the month of travel).
- No photograph or form is required, etc. for the Bhutan visa. The only requirement is a clear and legible copy of the passport in color.
- It is mandatory that all tourists (except Indian / Bangladeshi / Maldivian) hire a full travel package with a local Bhutan operator to obtain the Bhutan visa.
- The cost of the Bhutan visa is US \$ 40, which is included in the cost of the trip presented by us above.
- A multiple visa is required for India if you enter Bhutan from India and return to India after the tour in Bhutan.
- Passengers who have an electronic visa for India and enter Bhutan by air (staying in transit at the Delhi / Kolkata airport) and re-enter India via land after the tour in Bhutan (Phuentsholing, Samdrup Jonkhar and Gelephu) must travel with a visa stamped in the passport by the embassy / consulate of India in their country of origin, since there are no facilities in these border cities to verify the electronic visa.
- Holders of double passports must use the same passport to enter Bhutan, whose copy they previously sent for visa authorization.
- Passport copies are also required for air ticket issuance, to verify that the names are correct; it is possible that the same copy of the passport is not valid for the Bhutan visa if it does not meet all of the above conditions.

### **Closing day of the monuments included in the program in Bhutan:**

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- Ta Dzong - Paro (National Museum): closed on official holidays.
- National Library - Thimphu: closed on Saturday, Sunday and official holidays.
- Textile Museum - Thimphu: Closed on Sundays and official holidays. On Saturday, it opens from 9am to 4pm.
- Zorig Chusum Institute (Arts & Crafts School) - Thimphu: Closed on Sundays and official holidays. On Saturday, it opens from 10am to 12pm. It also closes during summer / winter (half of November until the beginning of March and from June to August.) The exact dates are announced only a few weeks before.
- Simply Bhutan - Thimphu: Closed on Sundays and official holidays.
- Taktsang Monastery - Paro: Consult

**(This is the information available at the time of editing this program, and is subject to change at any time, since it depends on the Government)**

In case some of the visits mentioned in the program were not available, they would be replaced by others or the order of the same would be altered