

# Highlights of Bhutan

PARO – THIMPHU – PUNAKHA – PARO

o5 days trip starting from \$685 per person

Bhutan is as much known for its scenic, dramatic land architecture and fabulous biodiversity as for its rich and colourful cultural heritage The kingdom of Bhutan remains one of the last unspoiled gems of the Himalayas. Closed to foreign visitors until the 1970s, Bhutan's past and present are firmly grounded in traditional Buddhist culture. On this quick journey around the country, visit quiet monasteries, explore ancient fortresses, and enjoy stunning views of the mountains as you hike through peaceful valleys. No doubt, this Himalayan wonderland is fast emerging as a favoured destination of the globe trotters

### DAY 01: ARRIVE PARO – THIMPHU (55 KMS – 02 HRS)

Arrive at Paro International Airport. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to Thimphu by surface. Enroute visit Simtokha Dzong – the oldest fortress of the Kingdom which now houses the school for religious and cultural studies. Upon arrival at Thimphu, check in at the hotel. Time to relax. In evening, take a stroll around Thimphu market and town. Overnight stay at the hotel.

# DAY 02: THIMPHU - PUNAKHA (80 KMS – 02 HRS)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and half day sightseeing of Thimphu.

Visit Buddha Dordenma – one of the largest Buddha statues in the world, the Buddha Dordenma was built in 2015 on the merry occasion of 60th birthday of the fourth king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck. Later, visit, Anim Dratshang (nunnery), National Library, Handmade Paper factory & Memorial Chorten (stupa). Visit to School of Arts & Crafts, Textile & Folk Heritage Museum, Zangtho Pelri Lhakahng (Lhakhang = Temple) and Handicrafts Emporium. Later, proceed to Punakha and drive through a dense forest as the road climbs gently up to the Dochu La Pass at an elevation of 10,000 feet (3,050 meters). Take in the spectacular mountain vistas to the north before continuing down to the sub-tropical Punakha Valley. Here you'll visit the impressive Punakha Dzong, an architectural masterpiece located at the intersection of two

rivers. Arrive at Punakha and check in at the hotel. Late afternoon, visit the market in town. Overnight stay at hotel.

# DAY 03: PUNAKHA – PARO (125 KMS – 4 HRS 3 MINUTES)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Paro by surface. Arrive at Paro and check in at the hotel.

Afternoon, visit the National Museum of Bhutan, seeing its collection of relics, religious thangka (scroll) paintings and natural history artifacts. Continue to architecturally impressive, 17th-century Rinpung Dzong, a former meeting hall that now houses both the district monastic body and government offices, including the local courts. Visit Drukgyel Dzong (Dzong = Fortress / Monastery), the ruined fortress from where Bhutanese repelled several invasions by Tibetan armies. On a clear day, view majestic Mt. Chomolhari from the approach road to this Dzong. Overnight stay at the hotel.

#### DAY 04: PARO

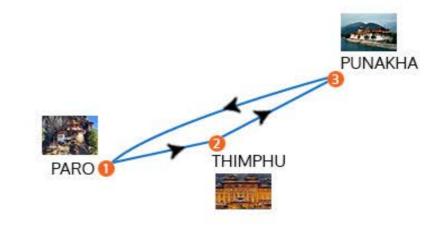
After breakfast, visit on a challenging hike to one of Bhutan's most revered icons, Taktsang Monastery ("Tiger's Nest"), which clings to a cliff 3,000 feet above the valley floor. This is the famous and sacred site, where the great tantric mystic Guru Rinpoche is believed to have flown on the back of the tiger to bring the teachings of the Buddhist Dharma to Bhutan. Evening, visit quiet, peaceful Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred shrines. Overnight stay at the hotel.

#### DAY 05: DEPART PARO

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and transfer to the airport to take the flight back to home or to the onward destination.

PARO - THIMPHU - PUNAKHA - PARO





# **Contact Our Destination Specialist**

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