



LUXE INDIA  
TOURS AND TRAVELS PVT. LTD.

# The Himalayan Mountain tour of Bhutan

PARO – THIMPHU – PUNAKHA – GANGTEY – PUNAKHA – WANGDUE PHODRANG – PARO

09 days trip starting from \$1232 per person

With its pristine and picturesque landscapes, peace-loving Buddhist culture and unwavering dedication to the pursuit of overall happiness, this Himalayan wonderland is fast emerging as a favoured destination of the globe trotters. What better place to find your Zen than in a land where productivity is measured in Gross National Happiness?

You would visit Punakha valley (Alt 1300 Metres / 4265 Feet), one of Bhutan's most scenic destinations, is the perfect place to awaken the nature lover in you.

Visit Fascinating Gangtey Village and heavenly Phobjikha Valley (Alt 3000 Metre / 9840 Feet).

Explore the untouched landscapes and time-honoured traditions of the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, also known as The Last Shangri-La.

## **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**

After breakfast, drive to 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 Lhakhang (Lhakhang = Temple) and Handicrafts Emporium. Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **DAY 03: THIMPHU – GANGTEY (150 KMS – 4 HRS)**

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Gangtey Valley by surface. Enroute, take a short stop at Dochula Pass (3,080m) that heralds the most enchanting views of Bhutan.

Upon arrival at Gangtey, visit Gangtey Monastery — an important bastion of the Nyingmapa school of Buddhism, a tradition traced to eighth-century Indian master Guru Rinpoche (also known as Padmasambhava).

Check in at the hotel and time to relax. Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **DAY 04: GANGTEY**

After breakfast, set out on a scenic hike or mountain-biking excursion along the Gangtey Nature Trail, traversing a pine forest and revelling in spectacular views of the valley. Next, visit the Black-Necked Crane Centre, which is devoted to protecting and rehabilitating the endangered species that migrates annually from the Tibetan Plateau, and learn why local farmers consider them good luck. For the best opportunity to see the striking, four-foot-tall birds in person, plan to visit from November to February.

Evening at leisure. Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **DAY 05: GANGTEY – PUNAKHA (80 KMS – 2½ HRS)**

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave (by surface) for Punakha – former capital of Bhutan, set in a fertile, picturesque valley at the confluence of the Mo Chhu (Mother River) and Pho Chhu (Father River). Enroute, take a short hike to Chimi Lhakhang – perched on a round hillock flanked by prayer flags, this Buddhist monastery is dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kunley, a 15th-century Tibetan Buddhist saint, also called “the Divine Madman,”

Arrive at Punakha and check in at the hotel. Afternoon, visit Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten (chorten - stupa).

Evening free to enjoy fascinating Punakha valley. Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **DAY 06: PUNAKHA – WANGDUE PHODRANG (15 KMS – ½ HR) – PUNAKHA (15 KMS – ½ HR)**

After Breakfast, visit Wangdue Phodrang for its majestic, 17th-century Punakha Dzong, also called “the palace of great happiness,”. It was once the seat of the government of Bhutan. The district of Wangdue Phodrang is also famous for its bamboo products, slate and stone carvings.

Return to Punakha and rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay at the hotel.

### **DAY 07: PUNAKHA – PARO (125 KMS – 3½ HRS)**

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 08: 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.

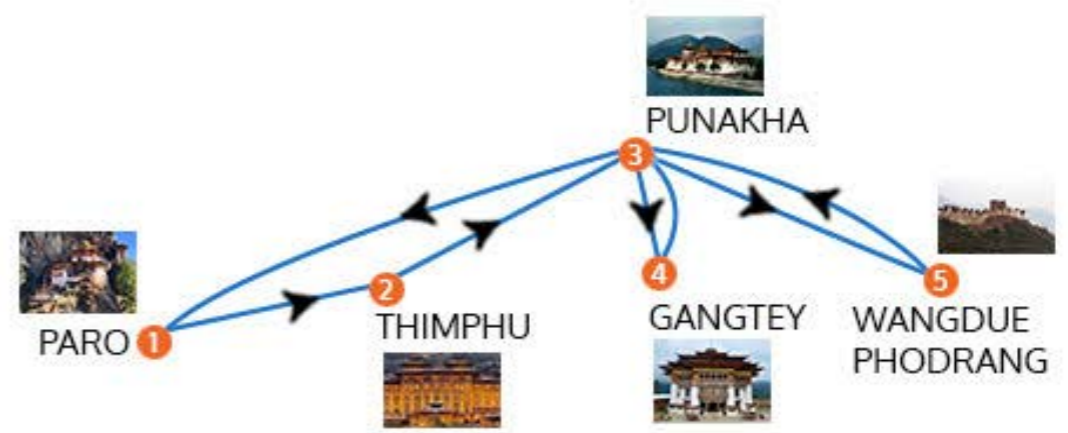
This is the famous and sacred site, where the great tantric mystic Guru Rinpoche is believed to have flown on the back of the tiger to bring the teachings of the Buddhist Dharma to Bhutan. Evening, visit quiet, peaceful Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred shrines. Overnight stay at the hotel.

## **DAY 09: 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.



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WANGDUE PHODRANG – PARO



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