

## **Bhutan Tour 07 Nights/ 8 Days**

### **Price**

1 Person: 1,717 USD

2 Persons: 1,531 USD per person

3 - 6 Persons: 1,416 USD per person

7 – 16 Persons: 1,315 USD per person

17 persons and more: 1,263 USD per person

### **Trip Dates:**

Private Journeys for independent travel with your own dates.

Tour is required to book at least 30 days before your arrival date.

### **Tour Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Arrive Paro.**

Arrival at Paro on national carrier; Druk Air. It is the most exciting mountain flights and befitting introduction to the spectacular beauty of our country. In a clear weather, there are magnificent views of the world's highest peaks. On arrival, you will be welcomed by our representative at the airport, assist you with your luggage and drive to hotel. If time permits we will take little sightseeing. Overnight at hotel in Paro.

#### **Day 2. Excursion to Taktsang Monastery, visit historical places.**

Following breakfast, drive 10km north through the beautiful valley of Paro and hike to Taktsang (tiger's Den) monastery hanging on a cliff 800m above the valley. In the 8th century Guru Rimpoche flew here on the back of a tigress in one of his eight forms called Guru Dorje Drolo and meditated for 3 months in a cave and converted Paro valley into Buddhism. Later in the 17th century, the 4th temporal ruler of Bhutan Tenzin Rabgye built this present temple and named it Taktsang meaning; tiger's nest/den in the same spot where Guru meditated. This temple is one of the most sacred and also a pilgrimage centre for Buddhists from all over the world.

It takes 2 hours ascend till the closest view point (we obtain special permit for you to enable you to visit even inside of the monastery if you are interested) and 1 hour descend to the valley. Stop at tourism café situated half way for refreshment. On your way back, you again stop at the café for lunch. After lunch, continue to walk down to the bottom of the valley where your vehicle is waiting. Drive further north and visit the Drukgyel Dzong (fortress of victorious Drukpas). It was burnt in 1951 by the tilting of butter lamp in the middle of the night so in present days it remains as ruins preserved as monument. It was built in 1647 after Bhutan stand victorious against Tibetan invasion. On your way back, visit Kichu Lhakhang, the oldest and the most sacred temple in Bhutan built in 7th century by Tibetan king Songtsen Gompo. The legend says that he built 108 temples throughout the Himalayan regions in a single day to subdue the demoness who was terrorizing the whole of Tibet, Nepal & Bhutan. Overnight at Hotel in Paro.

#### **Day 03 Paro-Thimphu**

Following breakfast, drive to visit Ta-dzong (national museum) an ancient tower, which served as watch tower to the Paro Rimping Dzong until 1968 when it was converted into museum. The museum collection includes displays of spectacular thankas (religious scroll painting), ancient artifacts dating from 7th century onwards, beautiful Bhutanese stamps, temple with tree of wisdom depicting the history of Buddhism, collection of animals, birds & butterflies and the good collection of ancient armors such as canons, guns, shield, bows & arrows, spears etc. Visit the Rimping dzong (fortress), the administrative & religious centre of Paro district. This dzong was built in 1646

by the order of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, the one who unified Bhutan in the 17th century. After lunch in one of the restaurants in the town, 2 hours drive to Thimphu, the capital through windy road, deep river gorges, villages, apple orchards and rice terraces on either side. On arrival check in to Hotel. Evening at leisure. Stroll in the town, visit Bhutanese handicraft shops and buy souvenirs etc. as you like. Overnight at Hotel in Thimphu.

#### **Day 4.Hike to Chari & Tango Monasteries**

Following breakfast, 15km drive north of Thimphu valley to Dodina, the dead-end of the road. Cross the cantilever/wooden bridge and hike for about an hour to Cheri monastery through the temperate forest of oak, rhododendrons and other species of hard wood trees. The view from monastery below is very photogenic. Chari Monastery was built on the mountain in 1619 and is the upper education level monastic school.

Climb down and after having your picnic lunch, drive little on the other side of the valley and walk to another monastery "Tango" This monastery dates back to 13th century but re-built in the 17th century by 4th temporal ruler of Bhutan, Tenzin Rabgye and is now the residence of his young incarnation. Evening, return to hotel. Overnight at Hotel in Thimphu

#### **Day 5.Thimphu sightseeing.**

Following breakfast, begin with a visit of memorial chorten (stupa) built in memory of third king of Bhutan Jigme Dorji Wangchuk by his mother, the late grand queen mother Ashi Phuntsho Choden in 1974. Visit Changangkhang lhakhang situated on top of a knoll overlooking the valley. This temple is one of the oldest in Thimphu dedicated to the god of compassion with 1000 arms, eyes and 11 heads. Drive to Sangaygang view point for photography. En route visit the mini zoo where golden takin (national animal of Bhutan) are kept. On way back stop at Dubthob nunnery; visit the temple and also take picture of the Bhutan secretariat building, the Trashichho Dzong (fortress of the glorious religion).

After lunch at one of the good restaurant in the town, visit national library stocked with ancient Buddhist manuscripts as well as modern book on history, culture, magazines etc. Walk up and visit the folk heritage museum one of the oldest house in Thimphu, having been restored and transformed into Folk Heritage Museum in the year 2001 under the patronage of Her Majesty the Queen Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk This museum is meant to serve an account of everyday rural life for the young urbanized generations and as a place for preserving objects related to this life, in case this way of life disappears as time passes. National Institute for Zorig Chusum (thirteen traditional arts & crafts). The Royal Government of Bhutan has sponsored and established this national institute in the year 1971 to preserve and promote culture and to contribute to the country's economy through quality products and services. In the course of history Bhutan has developed a unique artistic tradition, which has played a vital role in modeling its distinct cultural heritage and this tradition is reflected in thirteen traditional arts & crafts. Textile Museum: This museum was inaugurated under the patronage of Queen Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuk in June 2001. Many intricate designs of Bhutanese textiles are displayed here. It will also serve as center for conservation, restoration and documentation of Bhutanese textiles. We finally visit philatelic bureau for beautiful stamps and the handicraft emporium to witness the display of intricate designs of Bhutanese fabrics, jewelries and other crafted products. Overnight at Hotel in Thimphu.

#### **Day 06.Thimphu sightseeing**

Following breakfast, drive to Dochula pass (alt. 3150m) to view the eastern Himalayas. It is about 30 km and takes an hour drive. Weather providing you can enjoy the panoramic views of the snow-clad mountains. En-route visit Hontsho Lhakhang, which was founded in 1525 by the 14th Drukpa hierarch of Tibet, Ngawang Choegyel. After lunch at the Dochula cafeteria, drive slowly back to Thimphu. En route visit the oldest Dzong of Bhutan called Semtokha which was built by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in 1629. It now houses institute for language and cultural studies. After at leisure. You can stroll in the town, buy souvenirs as you wish. Overnight at Hotel in Thimphu.

#### **Day 07.Drive Thimphu – Paro**

Following breakfast, drive to Paro.Enroute visit one of the famous temples called Tachogang. This temple is located on the other side of Pachhu (Paro River). So you need to cross over the

suspension bridge and take a little hike to this monastery. It was built in 1421 by Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo who came to Bhutan in search of iron ore and built many iron chain bridges in Bhutan and one of them is the same leading to this monastery. After the temple, walk back and drive to Paro. Lunch will be served in one of the restaurants in Paro town. After lunch you can drive further and visit some of the oldest farm houses to better comprehend the Bhutanese way of lifestyle. Evening at leisure. Overnight at Hotel in Paro.

### **Day 08. Departure**

Following breakfast, drive to airport for onward destination. Our guide will assist you with your luggage, bid your farewell and wish you safe journey back home.

### **Inclusive in the rates:**

- Standard accommodation at tourist class hotels (twin sharing basis)
- All meals on full board basis (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner) with bottled mineral water during road drives
- All hotel tax and service charge
- Private transfers with driver (inclusive of airport transfers)
- Local sightseeing
- Services of an English speaking local guide
- Long road permits
- Entrance fees to museum & monuments
- Tour Leader discount (1 person): 50% off from 11-15 persons and 100% off from 16 persons & above.
- Surcharge is applicable for single person US\$ 40 per night and for 2 persons US\$ 30 per night.

### **Exclusive in the rates:**

- Single room supplement: US\$ 25 per person (applicable also for forced single room like 3 person in group)
- Visa Fee: US\$ 25 per person (one time only)
- Tourism Development Fee: US\$ 15 per person (one time only)
- Upgrade fee for superior hotels to US\$ 25 per person per night if you wish to do so.
- Above rates subject to change in the event of change of pricing policy by the Government.
- Flights (to and from Bhutan)
- Itinerary extension
- Travel and medical insurance coverage (Recommended)
- Laundry, telephone bill, bar bill, tips/gratitude to guide / driver

### **Tour Payment**

80% deposit of total amount is required upon making reservation.

20% of the total amount is required 3 weeks before tour date.

**Cancellation Policy**

Less than 32 days – Full refund after 3.7% Banking fee and US\$ 25 administration fee deduction.

Less than 21 days – 20% of total amount will be charged + 3% Banking fee.

Less than 15 days – 50% of total amount will be charged + 3% Banking fee.

Less than 8 days – Non refundable.

After arrival/no show – 100% non refundable.