

Happiness on a Horizon Tour

Trip code	
Package name	Happiness on a Horizon Tour
Duration	6
Max. elevation	3150 m
Level	MODERATE
Transportation	Private vehicals for all round trip.
Accomodation	3***hotel twin sharing bed basis during the tour.
Starts at	Paro
Ends at	Paro
Trip route	Phuntsholing - Paro - thimphu - Punakha - Tigernest - paro
Cost	USD 1,550 per person

Highlights

Overview

Tour. While flying to/from Paro, you will feel like you are on a horizon tour as you will be flying over the world's highest mountains.

Driving from Nepal or North East India's Sikkim/ Darjeeling will provide you with an ample of opportunity to witness the natural scenario of three South Asian Countries: Nepal, India and Bhutan, all of which are full of wide range of Mountain views, lush green hills and forest, beautiful valleys and rivers, waterfalls, wildlife and many more. We will be traveling through an overland journey from Nepal to North-East of India' Sikkim and Darjeeling. Further, we drive to Phuntsholing which is

located next to the town of Jaigoan on the Indian border. This town is second largest town in Bhutan. After clearance of permits and visa's we stay overnight at this town. This town offers a clean, pleasant and safe environment and is a main commercial hub in south-west Bhutan, popularly known as the 'Gateway to Bhutan'. On the next day, we drive towards Thimphu for about six hours. We will stay at Thimphu for two overnight as there are a lot of sightseeing spot and market which can visited by the tourist. Thimphu is the capital of Bhutan so it is a popular place for the visitors. On the fourth day of our tour, we drive for about three hours from Thimphu to reach Punakha via incredible Do Chula Pass. Punakha is located 4,100 feet above sea level. While you are here, you can visit the second largest and oldest Dzong as well as Chimi Lhakhang, a fertility temple. Then we continue ahead and drive to Paro the next day. On this tour, we will be having a short hike to the breathtaking Tiger's Nest Monastery situated at 10,400 feet above sea level and perched on the edge of a steep cliff about 3,000 feet above the Paro Valley. We'll walk in open meadows and in virgin pine, spruce, and hemlock forests with enormous trees. We take the inconvenience of travel planning off the travellers. With our customizable packages, we endeavor to cater to any desire, from a private sojourn to a great adventure. Your ideal Bhutan experience can be a truly exciting and memorable. We aspire to be the most innovative travel company in Bhutan and committed to deliver excellent and professional services with a personal touch.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 : Arrival in Phuntsholing (300m/985ft).

Unlike in other Bhutan Tours, we won't be flying directly to the city of Paro but instead we will drive overland to Phuntsholing, which is located next to the town of Jaigoan on the Indian border. Though driving to Phuntsholing might take few more days to reach Bhutan than flying directly to Paro but this journey would be worth travelling as you will be able to know about the culture and lifestyle of peoples of three different South Asian countries. Upon your arrival at Phuntsholing, one of the Nature Trail travels & tours representative will assist you with the Visa and Permit formalities and will meet you at the check point of India-Bhutan border. After clearance of all the paper works, you will be escorted to your respective hotels. At evening, you can stroll the town and feel the fresh air and cool climate.

Day 2 : Phuntsholing to Thimphu (2350m/7710ft) – 6 hrs. drive.

On the following day, we commence our journey with a drive from Phuntsholing to the capital of Bhutan, Thimphu. On the way, you can click some shots of the amazing landscapes and waterfalls. While driving, you will come across Chuzzom, a confluence of the rivers Paro Chhu and Thimphu. Enroute you will also get to see the three stupas representing three different styles of stupa architecture – Tibetan, Nepalese and Bhutanese. You can also visit Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress of the Kingdom. Overnight stay at Thimphu.

Day 3 : Full day Thimphu sightseeing.

Today, we will be visiting some sightseeing spot of Thimphu. Thimphu is unlike any otherworld capital. Small and secluded the city is quiet and there are never the traffic jams familiar in other Asian Capitals. It is often said that Thimphu is the only world capital without traffic lights. After appetizing breakfast, we visit

National Memorial Chorten. This temple was first initiated by the Third King as a protection from the negative elements of modernization, and as a monument to world peace. The Royal Queen Mother completed it as a memorial Stupa for the Third King who passed away in 1972. Then we will continue our visit to 12th century Changangkha Temple and Drubthob monastery housing the Zilukha Nunnery. If you want to see Takin, the national animal of Bhutan then you can proceed onto mini-zoo. The Takin (a goat-antelope) was declared the national animal of Bhutan because it is strongly associated with the country's religious history and mythology. After sightseeing of these sites, if you still have some time left then you can visit to National Library, the priceless collection of Buddhist manuscripts and few English version books; Folk and Heritage Museum, which displays day to day livelihood of typical Bhutanese farmers in medieval period and their accessories; Late King's Memorial Stupa, built for the world peace and Traditional Handmade Paper Factory; Painting School, which preserves our traditional paintings, sculpturing and wood curving and National Handicraft Emporium, the best place to look for souvenir from Bhutan. Some of the landmarks are closed on the weekend (Saturdays and Sundays). Therefore, if your visit to Thimphu coincides with the weekend, you can walk through the Thimphu Market to see the variety of food of Bhutan, including basket upon basket of fiery chilies, cheese and a variety of greens. (This market is open only from Friday-Sunday).

Day 4 : Drive Thimphu to Punakha (1,250m/4,100ft) – approx. 3 hrs. drive.

On the following day, we will be driving to Punakha via Dochu La Pass (3,100m). Dochu la pass is situated 10,000 feet above sea level. You can have magnificent view of eastern Himalayas from this pass which includes Bhutan's highest mountain Mount Gangkhar Puensum (7550 m). From the pass, we drive downhill through the rhododendron, fir and hemlock forests. We then pass through rice fields along river banks and reach Punakha. In Punakha, we visit Punakha Dzong which was built between 1637/1638 and is the second oldest and the second largest Dzong in Bhutan. Overnight in Punakha.

Day 5 : Drive Punakha to Paro (2,250m/7,382ft) – 4 hrs. drive.

Today after breakfast at hotel, we drive to Paro. A drive for about four hours will take you to Paro. Paro is a small town where International Airport of Bhutan is located. Though being a small town, this place has a lot of cultural monument to be offered to its visitors. After arrival at the city, you can spend the rest day by self-exploration or you could also visit some remaining sightseeing spots. You can visit the Rinpung Dzong, meaning 'fortress of the heap of jewels' to see the painting of the great saint Milarepa, considered as the master of meditation by the Bhutanese and believed to have attained enlightenment in a lifetime. The Dzong is now used as an administration center and school for monks. Dzongs are large monasteries and district administrative centers, which were once strategic forts. Stay overnight at Paro.

Day 6 : Hike to Taktsang monastery (3180 m). Overnight stay at Paro.

Concluding our trip, today you will have a short hike up to Taktsang monastery. Taktsang is a prominent sacred Buddhist site and temple complex perched on the edge of upper Paro Valley. It is also known as the Tiger's Nest. This magical monastery clings to a vertical granite cliff 300 meter above the valley. Legend has it that the great Guru Padmasambhava flew to this spot on back of a tigress and meditated in a cave during the 8th century. When the Guru finished his meditation, he instructed that the monastery to be built. The temple was built around the cave and is a hallowed shrine for Bhutanese pilgrims. The spectacular view along the way and the historical sites draw many tourists to this imposing monastery. There are also a number of temples scattered along the route. Later we'll turn to the Paro Dzong, a large Buddhist monastery and fortress, which is considered the best example of Bhutanese architecture. Now it also houses the district Monastic Body and government administrative offices. On the

hill above the Dzong stands an ancient watchtower called Ta Dzong, which is the National Museum of Bhutan. Visit Ta Dzong Museum housing many religious relics, works of art and handicrafts offering a great orientation into Bhutan's historical, cultural, and religious past. This Dzong was converted into the National Museum in 1968. The museum boasts antique thangkas, textiles, weapons and armor, household objects and rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts. Here you can also learn about Bhutan's history. After this hike and a short sightseeing tour, we will be transferred to the hotel for our overnight stay.

Inclusions

What is included?

- Airport pick up & drop by private vehicle as your require.
- Private vehicals for round trip.
- Standard accommodation twin sharing bed basis for the duration of tour.
- All meals fixed breakfast, lunch & dinner with Tea and Coffee for whole duration of your stay in Bhutan.
- Mineral water supply for the trip.
- Local licensed English speaking Bhutan Tour Guides.
- All sightseeing tours, Monument /Museum entrance Fees as per itinerary.
- Country Presentation & Tour Briefing on arrival evening.
- Bhutan Visa Fees and Visa Processing assistance.
- The required number of trekking & touring staff.
- All trekking access, route permits logistics & fees.
- Government tax which goes to the country's health & education projects.

What isn't included?

- Your travel insurance.
- Bottled/alcoholic/cold drinks room service.
- International airfares and airport departure tax.
- Personal Equipment.
- Tips to staffs-Tipping is expected.
- Any others expenses which are not mentioned on Price Includes section.

Complimentary