



## Highlights of Bhutan Tour

<b>Trip code</b>	
<b>Package name</b>	Highlights of Bhutan Tour
<b>Duration</b>	3
<b>Max. elevation</b>	2320 m
<b>Level</b>	EASY
<b>Transportation</b>	Private vehicals for all round trip.
<b>Accomodation</b>	3***hotel twin sharing bed basis during the tour.
<b>Starts at</b>	Paro
<b>Ends at</b>	Paro
<b>Trip route</b>	Paro - Thimphu - Paro
<b>Cost</b>	USD 800 per person

## Highlights

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## Overview

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**Bhutan is no ordinary place. It is the last great Himalayan kingdom, enshrouded in mystery and magic, where a traditional Buddhist culture carefully embraces global developments. This is a country where the rice is red and where chilies aren't just a seasoning but the main dish. It's also a deeply Buddhist land, where monks check their smartphones after performing a divination, and where giant protective penises are painted beside the entrance to many houses. Yet while it visibly protects its Buddhist traditions, Bhutan is not a museum. You will find the Bhutanese well educated, fun loving and well informed about the world around them. It's this blending of the ancient and modern that makes Bhutan endlessly fascinating. In this short tour, we will be focusing on some of the highlights and must-visit sites of Bhutan.**

Bhutan's landscape is pristine, rivers are pure, and mountains are always beautiful. People are happy with their rich culture. This tour through the mystical Western valleys of Bhutan is an ideal introduction to the Dragon Kingdom. Experience Bhutanese hospitality, admire the ever-changing landscapes, and immerse yourself in Bhutan's rich Buddhist culture. While you are in Bhutan, you can extend your tour and discover some of the most sacred Buddhist monasteries and temples in the Himalaya. Bhutan is a rich mosaic of different cultures, traditions, life styles, ethnic groups, languages and belief systems. Many travellers try to attend at least one festival during their visit. 'Tshechu' is a festival to honor of Guru Rinpoche believed originated from a Lotus flower, also famous as "Padmasambhava", a Tantric guru. Tshechu festival is religious celebrations because people believe merits come with this celebration. Festival is also social gathering where the people all over Bhutan come to rejoice, dressed in finery together. These festivals help to understand the nation's vibrant religion & Culture. You get the chance to learn about Bhutanese way of life and enjoy unique hospitality. It is astounding that a country with a population of just over half a million speaks as many as nineteen different dialects and a few major languages. Diverse as it may seem, yet the Bhutanese socio-culture fabric is well interlaced and harmonized mainly due to the common thread of simple Buddhist values that the people share.

Highlights of Bhutan tour is a 3 days short tour which focuses on the main cities of Bhutan i.e. Paro and Thimphu. This tour covers a short hike at Taktsang monastery and visit to some of the popular sightseeing spots which includes: Ta Dzong Museum, Rinpung Dzong, The National Memorial Chorten, 12th century Changangkha Temple and many more. For those who wish to spare no expense in their experience of Bhutan, but have a limited amount of time, this is the trip for you. A great example of traditional way of living in this modern day is Bhutan with gross happiness. If you wish to explore spiritual and simple life in 21st century Bhutan is one of the countries. This Himalayan kingdom journey will be life changing experience.

## **Trip Itinerary**

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### **Day 1 : Fly to Paro and drive to Thimphu (2300 m) – 2 hrs. drive.**

Commencing our journey, we fly over passing by Mountains of 5500 meters to Paro. Paro is a beautiful valley and is home to many of Bhutan's oldest monasteries and temples, and the country's only international airport. The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular mountain flights in the world, with a constantly changing panorama of some of the highest mountains on earth including Chomolhari and Jitchu Drake peak. Paro Airport has been described as "the most difficult commercial airport in the world". 1980meter runway length presents a double challenge, due to the extremely low density altitude at the site. So, only a handful of well experienced pilots are certified to operate commercial airplanes here thus, making least number of flights in a day.

After immigration and custom formalities, check out from the departure lounge. There you will meet one of the representatives of Nature Trail Travels & Tours, Trekking & Expedition who will greet you and then

escort you to Thimphu. En route you can 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. Next, 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. Dzong's are large monasteries and district administrative centers, which were once strategic forts. Afterwards, we'll go to Takin Sanctuary and Zilukha Nunnery. 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. Today's last destination is Thimphu Dzong (Tashichho Dzong), a Buddhist monastery and fortress. It also houses Bhutan's central government. Then drive to Thimphu following the Pachu River. Once a rustic village sitting in a broad, fertile river valley, Thimphu is today the nation's bustling capital. Before dinner at the hotel there will be an orientation on Bhutanese etiquette by your guide. Stay overnight at Thimphu.

## **Day 2 : Thimphu sightseeing.**

As this program is designed especially for those travellers who have only limited period of time but also wants to explore the custom, traditional values and lifestyle of Bhutanese people, we have focus mainly on the highlights of Bhutan. If time permits, we can also proceed for the sightseeing of many other historical sights. On this second day of our tour, we will visit some of the must-visit places of Thimphu.

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. 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 3 : Thimphu – Paro tours.**

On the last day of Bhutan tour, you will be driven from Thimphu to Paro. Today we will have a short hike to Taktsang (Tiger's liar) monastery. The trail is broad and the walk of approximately 2 hours uphill takes you almost a kilometer above the Paro valley floor. If you don't like to trek much then our guide can arrange pony/horse for ride uphill till the Cafeteria, but one must be able to walk after that. This is one of the most famous sights of Bhutan. The view of Taktsang Monastery built on a sheer cliff face 900 meters above the valley floor is a spectacular sight. The Monastery is also an important pilgrim site for the Buddhists. The great Guru Rinpoche is said to have flown here on the back of a tigress when he brought the teachings of the Buddhist Dharma to Bhutan in the 8th Century. He then mediated in a cave there for

three months where the monastery was later built.

After the hike, you can visit some remaining sightseeing spots which you were unable to visit on the previous day. You can visit the Folk Heritage Museum. The Folk Heritage Museum is built to resemble an old Bhutanese farm house. Here, you can learn much about the rural life of the Bhutanese. You can also visit the National Painting School. At the National Painting School, you can see students paint and carve traditional Buddhist images. Next, we come to the Bhutan Post Office Headquarters. Here you can have stamps made with your own photo images. It is very popular with tourists. In the afternoon, we will transfer you to Paro, where a local farm house visit is scheduled for you.

## Inclusions

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### 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**