



Western Bhutan Cultural Tour

Trip code	
Package name	Western Bhutan Cultural Tour
Duration	4
Max. elevation	3150 m
Level	EASY
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	Paro - Thimphu - Paro
Cost	USD 800 per person

Highlights

Overview

Culture plays a vital role for every country to make it renowned to the whole world. The ancient culture, customs and tradition makes the country unique and rich in preservation of their ancestry. Culture shows the real face of their citizen, their daily life style, hospitality and it also plays a vital role to prospect their lifestyle back in the past years.

Each and every country has its own culture and tradition. Like in some parts of Nepal, Bhutan also has an extraordinary place hardly touched by the hands of time. Bhutan will bestow an opportunity to know the Bhutanese traditions and cultures jointly with the arresting natural beauties. Nestling in the

heart of the great Himalaya, it remained in self-imposed isolation for centuries, aloof from the rest of the world. Since its doors were cautiously opened in 1974, visitors have been mesmerized: the environment is pristine, the scenery and architecture awesome, the people hospitable and charming, and the culture unique in its purity. With one foot in the past and one in the future, it strolls confidently towards modernization, on its own terms, fiercely protecting its ancient culture, its natural resources and its deeply Buddhist way of life. Despite being a small country, it offers you different antique visits to different traditional and beautiful places which have historical significance.

Bhutan is a country rich in culture and its unique cultural heritage is famous worldwide. This Western Bhutan Cultural Tour covers major highlighted spots of Paro and Thimphu. The highlight of tour will be visits to Simtokha Dzong within the tiny capital township of Thimphu and the Taktsang Monastery that clings to a sheer 3,000 foot rock face cliffs. It is believed that Buddhism spread wide in Bhutan from this valley. Actually the hikers would enjoy the valley. Apart from exceptional art and architectures of monasteries, you will also spot Bhutan's national animal, Takin. This tour can also be termed as pilgrimage tour for people who devoted Buddhist. This tour is an ideal tour for the person who loves to see the Bhutanese Culture, society, glorious mountains scenery as well as low land with dense forest and you can click on main images of Bhutan while doing this tour.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 : Fly to Paro and drive to Thimphu.

Embarking our tour, we fly over to the dragon kingdom Paro. 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 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. 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 : Drive Thimphu to Paro.

Today we'll visit Simtokha Dzong, an important historical monument and former Buddhist monastery. It was built in 1629 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, who unified Bhutan. It is the first of its kind built in Bhutan. At present it serves as a language learning institute too. It is the oldest Dzong which has been able to survive its original form. Afterwards, we will visit the Folk Heritage Museum and the National Painting School. The Folk Heritage Museum is built to resemble an old Bhutanese farm house which gives one insight into the average household & lifestyle in the region during that era. The house replicates a traditional farmhouse and is furnished as it would have been about a century ago. Here, you can learn much about the rural life of the Bhutanese. 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 and it costs about USD4 for 12 stamps, which is at your expense. We suggest you store some photos on an SD card or USB device for stamp printing in case there is a long line for taking photos. In the afternoon, we will transfer you to Paro, where a local farm house visit is scheduled for you.

Day 3 : Trek Paro to Taktsang

You will have a short hike today up to Taktsang. 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 says that Guru Padmasambhava flew here on the back of a tigress for the purpose of his journey. When the Guru finished his meditation, he instructed that the monastery to be built. 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, return back to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 4 : Departure from Paro.

On the very last day of our tour, we depart from Paro. Your short but inclusive holiday package ends today. Depending upon your flight schedule, transfer to airport for departure.

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.a

Complimentary