



(Bhutan Heartland Tour)

Duration: 6 days

Included features

- Accommodations: Twin sharing occupancy in some of the best accommodation available in each location.
- All tours, transfers, special excursions, entry fees, government taxes and visa fees.
- Local English speaking guide
- Meals as shown in the itinerary. Meals will be of the best quality with a variety of Western and Indian dishes. Most breakfasts are at the hotels. Vegetarians can be accommodated.
- Tea , coffees
- Bottled water in the vehicles
- Visas on arrival in Bhutan
- Airport departure taxes
- Sightseeing

Excluded features

Any expenses of a personal nature including:

- Laundry services, Phone call, fax, emails, minibar and other sundries.
- All alcoholic beverages and all personal beverages other than those included at group meals and in vehicle.
- Drukair flight ticket
- International air to/ from
- Trip cancellation and baggage insurance
- Tips and gratuities to the local staffs
- Travel and medical insurance.
- Excess baggage fees

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Paro-Thimphu

Meals Provided: B(aloft) L D

Upon arrival in Paro Airport, clear immigration and customs formalities and meet your Guide and driver outside the terminal. You will be transfer to the hotel through fascinating valley of Paro. Visit to Museum and Paro Dzong. After that proceed to Thimphu - A one hour drive brings one to Thimphu, the modern capital of Bhutan, made up of just three main streets. It is the only capital in the world without traffic lights.

Paro: is one of the most beautiful valleys in the country with Bhutan's only airport located here, among the terraced fields, and elegant farm houses. Willow trees line roads, contrasting with bright colors of the fields and the most popular and important sites are also found within paro district. Paro town(2280m), locally call Tshongdu is still a small with one main street and less than one hundred small family run shops.

Rinpung Dzong: was built and consecrated in 1645 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal on the site of five storey castle built in 17th century. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, it served as a bastion against invasion from the north. It is regarded as one of finest Bhutanese architecture- with intricate wood work, large beams slotted into each other and held together without nails. In it houses the giant 30m x 45m Thangka(Thongdrol), commissioned in mid 18th century, displayed on the last day of Paro Tsechu festival. Nowadays, it functions as the administrative and judicial headquarters of paro district, and residence for the 200 monks of paro Rabdey.

National Musuem: Established in 1967, the museum is housed inside a circular Ta Dzong, an ancient watchtower. It has fascinating collection of arts, relics, religious Thangkha paintings, household stuffs, arms, handicrafts, stuffed animals and Bhutan's famous stamps among other(open10-4pm-closed on Sunday & Monday)

Road from Paro to Thimphu: The distance of about 56kms from town takes about an hour with recently widened road. Drive south following pachu river to the river confluence at Chuzom, which is also the hub of road network going to Paro, Haa, Thimphu and Phuentsoling. From Chuzom, the road follows Wangchu river upstream as you pass through villages and suburbs to the capital, Thimphu. En-route, you can stop to view Tachogang temple.

Thimphu: (2400m) is Bhutan's capital city and center of government, religion and commerce. About one hour drive east from Paro is a unique city with unusual mixture of modern

development alongside ancient traditions. Home to civil servants, expatriates and monk body, Thimphu maintains a strong national character in its architectural style. It was a wooded farming valley until 1961, when it became Bhutan's official national capital. The Massive Tashi Choe Dzong, about 500 years old, was carefully revamped in the 1960s by the late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk to house the royal and main government offices. Even today, it still only has a few streets and no traffic lights with estimated population of 100,000 people.

Thimphu has many places and sights to visit, in addition to several day excursion possibilities. It has relatively more choice in terms of the accommodations.

Check in the hotel and overnight in Thimphu.

Day 02 Thimphu-Thimphu

Meals Provided: B L D

After the break fast, full day sightseeing in Thimphu. Visit National memorial chorten, Gigantic Meditation Buddha statue over looking whole Thimphu valley, Changangkha Lhakhang one of the oldest temples in the valley, Textile museum, 13 Arts and Crafts school, Nunnary monastery, Takin zoo(National animal of Bhutan), Traditional paper making factory and end the beautiful day by visiting Gigantic Trashi Choedzong .

Tashi Choe Dzong: This fortress serves as the office of the king, ministers and various government organizations. It is also the headquarter for the central monastic body of Bhutan. Bhutan's spiritual leader Je-khenpo and the monks of both Thimphu and Punakha reside here during summer. It is also the venue for Thimphu festival in the fall season.

Overnight in Thimphu.

Day 03: Thimphu-Wangdue/Punakha

Meals Provided: B L D

After breakfast, drive to Dochula Pass(3100m). It takes about 45mins drive to reach on the top. You will see beautifully built 108 stupas on the hillock. Visit Drugwangyel chorten as well. On clear day, the pass offers the most spectacular view over the greater eastern Himalayas including highest peak of Bhutan. Visit the Druk Wangyal Chorten built in 2005.

Stop at the Dochula Cafeteria for tea/coffee.

Road from Thimphu to Punakha: The drive from Thimphu to Punakha or Wangdue(74kms) takes about 2 and half hours. The road climbs from Thimphu to Dochula pass and descends through ever changing forests in to the semi tropical valley of punakha and wangdue at about 1200m.

Dochula pass(3100m) enroute, provides spectacular snow mountains views of eastern Himalayas, including Bhutan's highest mountain(Gangkhar Puensum 7550m) on a clear day.

Punakha & Wangdue: (sometimes Wangdue) are two separate districts, but they are located in one valley (20km-1/2hr drive apart). The accommodations may be in either one of these two towns but sightseeing generally include visit to both places. Punakha and Wangdue are located at a lower elevation (1200m above sea level) and they have pleasant winters. Cactuses, Oranges, bananas and sub-tropical plants are found here. Farmers are able to grow more than one crop in a year. Punakha was once the winter capital of Bhutan, the tradition that is still held by the central monastic body and Jekhenpo, who reside here in Punakha Dzong during the winters and return to Thimphu, which is their summer capital. In Wangdue, there is a small town on the ridge and large Wangdue Phodrang dzong.

Chimi Lhakhang: a fertility temple/monastery dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kuenley a Tibetan Buddhist saint known popularly as “divine madman” and considered a folk hero in Bhutan for his unconventional ways. Drukpa Kuenley originally built a chorten on the site in the 14th century, on which a temple was later built in 15th Century. The temple, flanked by nearly 100 tall prayer flags, sits atop a picturesque hill. It has long been a pilgrimage site for childless couples.

Punakha Dzong: or Pungthang Dechen Phodrang “ Palace of Great Happiness” is located on the confluence of two rivers(Pho and Mo Chu). It was built in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyel and following the ancient traditions, It serves as winter residence for chief abbot (Je-Khenpo) and the monks of Central Monastic body, who returns to Thimphu in the summer. The

building was damaged and rebuilt several times, due to flooding, fire and earth quake. It is one exemplary masterpiece of Bhutanese architecture.

Overnight in Wangdue/Punakha

Day 04: Punakha/Wangdue/Thimphu-Paro.

Meals Provided: B L D

After the breakfast do sightseeing in Wandue dzong and then drive to Paro via Thimphu across Dochula pass. On clear day, the pass offers the most spectacular view over the greater eastern Himalayas including highest peak of Bhutan. Lunch in Thimphu. Towards evening drive to Paro.

Overnight in Paro

Wangdue Dzong

Wangdue dzong was founded by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in 1638. It sits atop a high ridge between the Punak Tsangchu and the Dangchu.

Overnight in Paro.

Day 05: Paro-Paro

Meals Provided: B L D

Full day sightseeing in Paro. This include hike to Taktsang, visit to Kichu Monastery and Ruined Drugyel Dzong.

After breakfast, hike to Taktsang Monastery, the most popular site in Bhutan. The hike to Taktsang takes about an hour uphill to the viewpoint and another hour to monastery. Guru Rinpoche meditated here in 8th century. The Desi Tenzin Rabgye extended temple in the 17th century to present structure.

After hike and lunch visit to Kichu Monastery and Drugyel Dzong. Evening leisure walk in Paro town.

Kichu Monastery: Tibetan king Songtsen Gompo in the 7th century miraculously built 108 temples, along with Jokhang in Lhasa. Kichu considered to be one of them and is one of the oldest temples in Bhutan.

Overnight in Paro.

Drukgyel Dzong: 14kms from paro town, at the end of paved road stands the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong (Victories fortress) built in 1644-49 to commemorate the Bhutanese victory over the

Tibetan-Mongol forces. It was later ruined by fire in 1951. On clear day, Mt. Jomolhari(7314mts), Bhutan's holy peak is seen.
Overnight in Paro.

Day 6: Drive to Paro airport for departure.

Meals Provided: B

TASHI DELEK(GOOD LUCK)

FOR ENQUIRY OR BOOKING, PLEASE CONTACT

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