



## **Bhutan Discovery Tour**

**Duration: 10 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

### **Tentative Itinerary**

#### **10 Days Bhutan DiscoveryTours**

Your Druk Air flight departs from the Delhi sector. You should be at the Druk Air check-counter in the given time.

**Day 01: Thimphu Bhutan**

*Meals Provided: B (aloft) L D*

Fly Delhi to Paro. Welcome to Bhutan. Upon arrival we'll meet our local guide then drive to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan. Thimphu, with a population composed mainly of monks, the royal family, and government employees, has a distinctive Bhutanese character. After checking into the hotel, visit some highlights. The School of Arts and Crafts actively promotes traditional local skills. Nearby, the National Library holds many fascinating ancient sacred texts. There will also be a visit to the Folk Heritage Museum.

Overnight in Thimphu.

**Day 02: Thimphu**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Transfer to scenic Sangay Gang. Visit the Takin Sanctuary, home to the national animal. The famous biologist George Schaller called it a "bee stung moose," referring to its bulbous nose. Taxonomists have put it into a class of its own, *Budorcas taxicolori*. After lunch, visit the excellent Textile Museum.

To finish this extraordinary day, visit the Tashichhodzong. This dzong is the capitol and palace of King Jigme Khasar Namgyel Wanchuck, newly coronated in 2008. Here, the king and the Je Khenpo (supreme religious leader) rule side-by-side. They are both equally venerated by the Bhutanese. This evening, enjoy a traditional dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Overnight in Thimphu.

**Day 03: Punakha/Wangdue**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

This morning, transfer to Punakha, the old capital of Bhutan, crossing Dochula Pass at an altitude of 10,300 feet amidst majestic Himalayan peaks. This afternoon, visit the Punakha Dzong, the winter residence of the Chief Abbot and the Central Monastic Body. The dzong, damaged by fire in 1986, was recently renovated using traditional building techniques that eschew the use of nails, plans, or power tools. Hike to Chimi Lhakhang (temple) a famous divine mad man's temple built in 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Next, transfer to the hotel for dinner.

*Overnight in Punakha/Wangdue*

**Day 04: Trongsa/Jakar**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Today drive to Jakar, via Trongsa. Proceed across the Pele La Pass (11,300 feet). This afternoon, visit Trongsa Dzong, the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family and perhaps the most impressive dzong in the kingdom. The landscape around Trongsa is spectacular and the dzong can be seen for miles. Upon arrival at the hotel, relax and dine.

*Overnight in Bumthang*

**Day 05: Jakar**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Today visit Kurjey Lhakhang, a monument to the Bhutanese saint Guru Rimpoche. Then explore Tamshing Goemba, founded by the great “revealer of treasures” Pema Lingpa. The Bhutanese believe that terma (treasures of spiritual or social significance) may be found by a “revealer” and bestow good tidings upon the land. Next, visit the 7th-century Jambay Lhakhang complex, then unwind at the Swiss Dairy project, to sample some fine fresh bread, cheese, and wheat beer.

*Overnight in Bumthang*

**Day 06: Ura/Jakar**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Early this morning, depart on a 90-minute drive to the last of the Bumthang valleys, Ura. The day will be spent in this picturesque agrarian village, set in a high valley (10,200 ft.). This farming village is renowned for its good harvest, despite harsh climatic conditions, owing to the hard work of the locals who inhabit the area. Learn of their traditional agricultural techniques and rural customs.

*Overnight in Bumthang*

**Day 07: Wangdue/Punakha**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Return to the Wangdue Punakha area today. The drive, with various stops, takes about eight hours. In late afternoon, arrive at a comfortable resort for time to relax, dine and enjoy the surroundings.

*Overnight Wangdue/Punakha*

**Day 08 : Wangdue/Thimphu/Paro**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

After a leisurely morning, drive back to Thimphu in time for lunch. This afternoon, visit Simtokha Dzong built in 1627. It now houses the school of Language and Cultural Studies. Arriving in Paro, encounter picturesque houses, built in traditional style and painted with colored designs lining the main streets. The bustling main street hosts no traffic lights, as is the case throughout this startling land. Check into our hotel for time to relax before dinner.

*Overnight in Paro*

**Day 09 : Paro**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

After early breakfast transfer to Satsam Chorten for the steep hike to Taktsang (Tiger’s Nest) Monastery, icon of Bhutan. This magical monastery clings to a vertical granite cliff 3,000 feet above the valley floor. Legend has it that Guru Rinpoche, who first brought Buddhism to Bhutan in the 8th century, had a cliff-side café. (This morning a less strenuous option will also be offered; a drive to the remote and picturesque Haa Valley, only recently opened to tourists. It affords wonderful views of mountains and pastoral scenes.) Reconvene and visit the Drugyel Dzong. This fortress, sitting on a strategic route to Tibet, enjoys expansive views of the picturesque Paro valley below and sacred Jhomolhari Mountain above. Tonight, enjoy a wonderful Bhutanese farewell dinner

at our hotel. After lunch, visit the sacred temple of Kyichu Lhakhang. Bhutanese lore says that this temple was one of 108 temples built in a single day in 659 AD by Songtsen Gampo of Tibet to pin down an ogress who, covering all of Bhutan and Tibet, was impeding the spread of Buddhism. Farewell dinner either in the hotel or in the local restaurant in the town.

*Overnight in Paro*

**Day 10 : Departure.**

**TASHI DELEK(Good Luck)**

**FOR ENQUIRY OR BOOKING, PLEASE CONTACT**

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