

Land of Thunder Dragon

05 Nights/ 06 Days

Thimphu-2, Punakha-1, Paro-2

Day 1

Paro >> Thimphu



Fly onboard Druk Air to Paro, Bhutan. On a clear day the panoramic views of the Himalaya are sensational, including Everest, but particularly exciting is the approach through the Bhutanese foothills and the landing, including a few steep turns to land at the tiny airstrip of Paro. In Paro you will be received by your Bhutanese guide and transferred to the capital town of Thimphu (1 hr. drive). Overnight in Thimphu hotel

Day 2

Thimphu



There are a good many things to see in the capital which has a very relaxed, laid-back feel about it. Thimphu is relatively small having a population of approximately 90,000 people and the streets are wide and tree lined. You will almost certainly visit the Late King's Memorial Chorten, the National Library, Drubthob Nunnery, Folk Heritage Museum, Takin Preserve, the handmade paper factory, the school of arts and crafts where young students learn the traditional arts and crafts (Zo Rig Chusum – the thirteen crafts), Tashichho Dzong which houses office of King & Minsters and also living place of monks; Zangdopelri Lhakhang, and the Handicraft Emporium and the local handicraft centers to see the weavers at work and also varieties of textiles, thangka paintings, masks, jewelers etc. Overnight in hotel

Day 3

Thimphu>> Punakha



In the morning we drive to Punakha (3 hrs. drive), the old winter capital. Leaving Thimphu the road climbs via a series of zigzags over the Dochu La Pass, 10,000ft/3,048m. On a clear day panoramic views can be had of the eastern Himalaya, including Bhutan's highest mountain, Gangkar Punsum, 24,770ft/7,550m. The road drops down through varied forest finally emerging into the highly-cultivated Punakha valley. In the afternoon visit the courtyard of Punakha Dzong and drive to Wangdue to view Wangdi Phodrang Dzong. Overnight in hotel.

Day 4

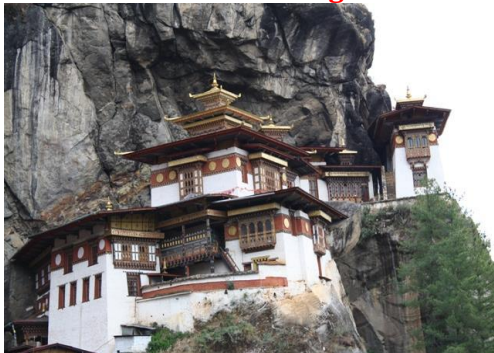
Punakha>>Paro



Drive to Paro, which takes about an hour and visit Bhutan's national museum, a fascinating place housed in an old watchtower above the huge Paro Dzong. You will also visit Rinpung Dzong (a Dzong is a fortress-monastery). In Paro, take an hour long tour of the National Museum. Late afternoon at leisure in Paro mini town. Overnight in Paro hotel

Day 5

Paro >> Hike to Taktsang



In the morning hike to the Tiger's Nest: PM Kitchu Lhakhang

Taktsang - Tiger's Nest: Tiger's Lair or Tiger's Nest as it often referred to for Taktsang Pelphung monastery, is one of the most venerated and famous of Bhutan's monasteries. It is located on the

face of a sheer 900m cliff above the floor of Paro valley. It is an impressive and un-miss-able sight but accessible only by walk or to ride mules/pony. If you need the riding horse, you must ask your local guide to arrange it on the previous day. From the trail head (2600m), the walk till the Cafeteria is a steep one hour uphill (about 350m ascent). From the Cafeteria (2940m) and areas around it, one can get a good close-up view of Taktsang. Savor views of the monastery over a well-deserved cup of tea and biscuits at the cafeteria.

According to the legend, Guru Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche, who spread the Buddhism across the entire Himalayas is said to have flown here in the 8th century on the back of a Tigress, in order to subdue negative spiritual forces that were hostile to spread of Buddhism.

Kitchu Lhakhang: Kyichu is one of the oldest temples in Bhutan built in the 7th century by Tibetan King Songtsen Gempo. The story goes that a giant demon lay across Tibet and the Himalayas, which was preventing the spread of Buddhism. To overcome her, King Songtsen Gempo decided to build 108 temples in a single day to pin the ogress to the earth forever in 659AD. Of these 108 temples, 12 were built in accordance with precise plans at key points. The temple of Jokhang in Lhasa was built over the very heart of the demons and Kitchu is said to have been built on the left foot.

Evening you can shop around small handicrafts in Paro town. Overnight in Paro hotel

Day 6

Paro >> Airport drop



After breakfast, drive to Paro International airport for onward destination.