

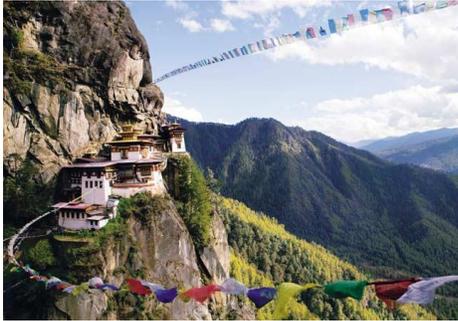
FANTASTIC BHUTAN

09 Nights/ 10 Days

Thimphu-2, Punakha-1, Bumthang-2, Trongsa-1, Punakha-1, Paro-2

Day 1

Airport >> Thimphu



The flight to Bhutan takes you over the great Himalayas, offering the most scintillating scenery of the world's highest glacial peaks. Upon your arrival representative from Wind Horse Tours & Treks will receive you and drive to Thimphu about 1hr. Check in Hotel.

Day2

Thimphu



Morning sightseeing includes – 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; Textile museum, the artistic hand works of Bhutanese women. 12th century changangkha temple, Takin, Bhutan's national animals. National emporium etc.

Day 3

Thimphu >> Punakha



Morning proceeds to Dochula pass (3,100m). On clear day, the pass offers the most spectacular view over the greater eastern Himalayas including highest peak of Bhutan. Make gradual hike to Lungchuzekha Temple located at 3500m altitude. Normally it takes about 2hrs to the temple and 1hr back to the car. You will walk through dense temperate forest. View from the temple would be amazing in winter. Afternoon drive to Wangdue, visit Dzong and mini town. Overnight in Hotel.

Day 4

Punakha>>Bumthang



Drive to Trongsa about four and half hours. Continue your journey crossing Pele la Pass (3,300m), the traditional boundary between east and west. Stop for picnic lunch at Chendebji Chorten built in 18th century by a Lama named Shida; it is Nepalese in style with eyes painted at four cardinal points. Visit Trongsa Dzong, largest in Bhutan and built in 1647, which houses the local administration and the Monastic body. Tower Museum, dedicated to the monarchs of Bhutan. Continue to Bumthang about three hours. On the way stop at Chume weaving centre, typical woolen product from Bumthang valley. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5

Bumthang



Morning - visit Jambay Lhakhang built in 7th century by Tibetan King Songtsen Gempo as per the geometrical sketch drawn by his Chinese consort. Hike about hour to Kurjey Lhakhang, Guru

Rimpoche meditated here in 8th century and subdued demon Shelging Karpo and made him the protector of dharma thereafter. Another 45 minutes walk to Tamshing Lhakhang founded in 15th century by Pema Lingpa, the treasure reveler. Short stop at Konchog Sum Lhakhang. Take a stroll through Bumthang market area.

Day 6

Bumthang >> Ura/Trongsa



The journey continues eastwards over Ura Sheltangla Pass (3250m), on clear day one can see Mt. Gangar Puem Sum (altd. 25,000 ft.), the highest peak of Bhutan. From there you will make easy hike about one hour descending following the old mule tracks to Ura. Visit Ura temple located at the heart of the crowded village. En route stop at Member Tso (the Burning Lake) from which the saint Pema Lingpa has discovered the treasure in the 15th century hidden by Guru Rimpoche in the 8th century. Late afternoon drive to Trongsa for overnight in hotel.

Day 7

Trongsa >> Punakha via Gangtey



Start early route back to Pelela Pass (altd. 3,300 m) via Trongsa. Phobjikha is one of the few glacial valleys in Bhutan and chosen home of black necked crane, which migrate from the central Asiatic Plateau to escape its harsh winters. About one hour hike in Gangtey valley. Visit to Gangtey Monastery, the only Nyingmapa Monastery in Bhutan. Late afternoon drive back to Punakha.

Day 8

Punakha >> Paro



Morning short excursion to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyel Chorten. This chorten is dedicated to our present crown prince and for the world peace. Hike will take you around 45 minutes each way. Visit Punakha Dzong the capital city of Bhutan till 1955 and still the Je Khenpo, the Chief of Abbot resides there during the winter season Enroute make short excursion about an hour to the temple of divine madman, also well known as the temple of fertility. It is fascinating to walk through villages and the rice fields. After lunch proceed to Paro for overnight.

Day 9

Paro



Morning visit Ta Dzong (national Museum); Then walk down the trail to see Rinpung Dzong (the fortress of the heap of Jewels built in the 17th century), traditionally this is the office of district governor's and the living place for monks. Afternoon hike to Taktsang Monastery, the hike takes about an hour uphill till the viewpoint and another hour to the main complex. Guru Rinpoche visited and meditated in 8th century at this particular site. The Desi Tenzin Rabgye later built the temple in the 17th century. If time permits you can also visit ruined Drukgyel Dzong, the place of historic war between Tibet and Bhutan in 17th century; Kyichu Lhakhang, built in 7th century during the reign of first Buddhist Tibetan king.

Day 10

Paro >> Airport drop



After early breakfast in the hotel drive to the airport for flight to onward destination.