



Druk Path Trek

The tour starts with visit to most popular places in Paro including the most famous Tiger Nest followed by five days beautiful trek and ending up with beautiful sightseeing in Punakha and Thimpu. The trek goes to High Altitude and is moderately strenuous passing through some beautiful high-altitude lakes and come across diverse flora as you pass through the ridge and great view of the Himalayas.



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Kathmandu – Paro

The flight into Paro, Druk Air, is a befitting introduction to the spectacular beauty of the country. In clear weather, magnificent views of the world's highest peaks, give way to the lush green Paro valley as you land. Your guide will greet you on arrival, and then drive you the short distance to the hotel.

After Lunch, visit Ta Dzong (built in 1656 and renovated in 1968), an ancient watchtower, which now houses the National Museum. Below the museum is the Paro Rimpung Dzong (literally meaning "Heap of Jewels", built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the centre of civil and religious authority in this valley. Dinner and overnight.

Day 2: Paro: Excursion to Taktsang Monastery

A very special day, with an excursion to view the spectacular Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) monastery – After early breakfast, a short drive takes us to Satsam Chorten, The trail climbs through beautiful pine forest, many of the trees festooned with Spanish moss, and an occasional grove of fluttering prayer flags. We stop for a rest and light refreshments at the Taktsang Jakhang (cafeteria) and then walk a short distance until we see, clearly and seemingly within reach, Taktsang monastery. The primary Lhakhang was built around Guru Rimpoche's meditation cave in the 1684 by the Penlop of Paro Gyaltse Tenzin Rabgay, this incredible monastery clings to the edge of a sheer rock cliff that plunges 900 meters into the valley below. Legend has it that Guru Padmasambhava, the tantric mystic who brought Buddhism to Bhutan, flew here on the back of a flying tiger, Dorji Drolo, said to be his favorite consort. Lunch will be served at the Paro town.

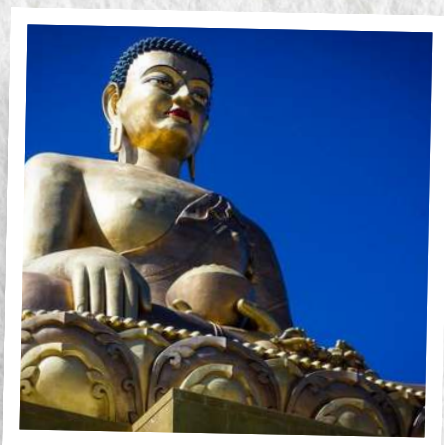
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Day 3: Paro – Jele Dzong (Start of Trek)

Today is a short trek. The trek begins above the National Museum; we climb till we reach camp. If the weather is clear the Paro valley and the snow-capped mountains can be seen. The campsite is near the old Jele Dzong. If the caretaker is there you can visit the Dzong.

Day 4: Jele Dzong – Jangchulakha

The trek starts with a short climb and then passes through a thick alpine forest of rhododendron and gradually climbs till we reach camp. You may see yak herders around your campsite.



Day 5: Jangchulakha – Chaluna

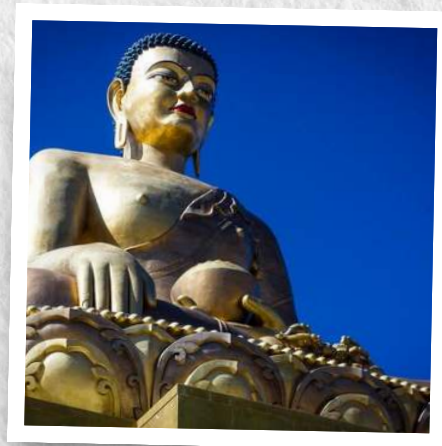
The trail follows the ridge and on a clear day the views of the mountains and valleys are beautiful. Then we walk down to Chaluna valley where the vehicle will pick you up and drive to the Hotel.

Day 6: Jimilangtso – Simkota

The trail takes you through dwarf rhododendron trees past the lake of Janetso. Overnight camp.

Day 7: Simkota – Phajoding – Thimphu

From here we slowly descend down to Phajoding Monastery from where Thimphu town is visible at the valley floor. In the evening, visit Takin Preserve Center and Sangay Gang View Point and the Largest Statue of Buddha. Dinner and overnight in Hotel.



Day 8: Thimphu Sightseeing

The day begins with a visit to the National Memorial Chorten (1974) built in honour of our late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk and the Dupthop Lhakhang one of the few surviving nunneries in Bhutan. We then visit the National Library, stocked with ancient Buddhist manuscripts, and the Painting School where traditional art is still kept alive through instructions in the art of painting Thangkas (sacred Buddhist religious scrolls). After Lunch, visit the Handicrafts Emporium followed by shopping for souvenirs in the shops of Thimphu. In the evening, visit to the Tashichho Dzong, seat of the national government and the Central Monastic Body, including the summer residence of the Je Khenpo (Chief Abbot of Bhutan). Dinner and overnight

Day 9: Thimphu – Punakha (72 Kms, 3 hours drive) – Thimphu

After breakfast, Drive to Punakha via Dochula pass. If the weather is clear, we stop for a while at Dochula pass to view Higher Himalayas. On the way, visit Chime Lhakhang, which was built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley. He subdued the demons with his “Magical Thunder bolt”. The Temple is also known as “the Temple of Fertility”.

After lunch, visit Punakha Dzong built in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and is situated between Pho Chu (Male river) and Mo Chu (Female river). For many years until the time of the second king, it served as the seat of the Government. The construction of the Dzong was foretold by Guru Rimpoche, who predicted, “...a person named Namgyal will arrive at a hill that looks like an elephant”. There was a smaller building here called Dzong Chu (Small Dzong) that housed a statue of Buddha. It is said that Shabdrung ordered the architect, Zowe Palep, to sleep in front of the statue, while Palep was sleeping; the Shabdrung took him in his dreams to Zangtopelri and showed him the palace of Guru Rimpoche. From his vision, the architect conceived the design for the new Dzong, which in keeping with the tradition, was never committed to paper. The Dzong was named Druk Pungthang Dechen Phodrang (Palace of Great Happiness). The war materials captured during the battle with Tibetans are preserved here. Punakha is still the winter residence of Je-Khenpo and King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk convened the new national Assembly here in 1952. In the evening, drive back to Thimphu. Dinner and overnight in Hotel

Day 10: Departure

Early morning, drive to the airport and farewell.



Thamel, Kathmandu

+977-01-4700563, +977-01-4700066

Whatsapp: +977 9851167070

info@highlandernepal.com

www.highlandernepal.com