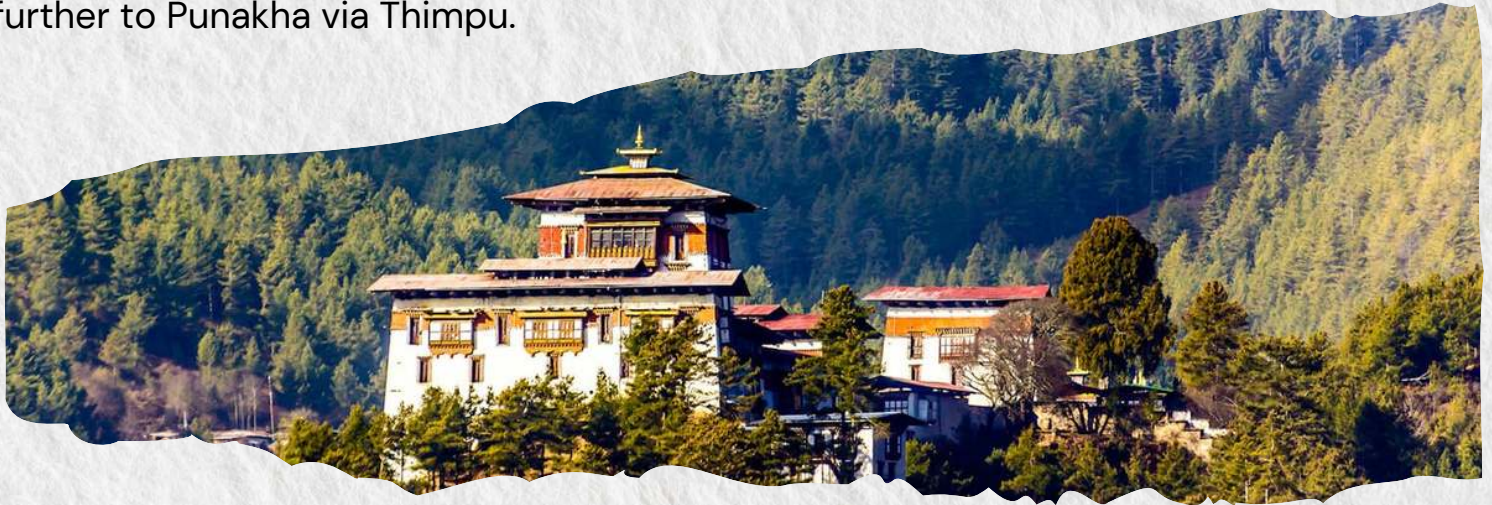




Exclusive Bhutan

Get to know the real Bhutanese culture and lifestyle. This tour gives you the unique experiences of staying in homes with locals and to get to know their lifestyles. This trip is designed in such a way that you will get everything what Bhutan could offer including the must-see places, staying overnight with locals and trekking in Himalayas.

The tour starts in paro with must see places in paro including the most popular Taktsang Monastery and takes you high in the Himalaya at the altitude of 3770 m and further to Punakha via Thimpu.



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Paro

After a short spectacular flight, we land at paro. Our representative will greet you on arrival, and then drive you the short distance to the hotel. Visit Ta Dzong (built in 1656 and renovated in 1968), an ancient watchtower. Rimpung Dzong (literally meaning "Heap of Jewels", built in 1646. Dinner and overnight in Home stay.

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 Gyaltsen Tenzin Rabgay, this incredible monastery clings to the edge of a sheer rock cliff that plunges 900 meters into the valley below.

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 over night



Day 3: After breakfast, drive to 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: Thimphu Sightseeing – Punakha

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 Painting School where traditional art is still kept alive through instructions in the art of painting Thangkas (sacred Buddhist religious scrolls), Folk Heritage and Buddha Point.

After Lunch, 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, view 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”.



Day 7: Punakha – Paro

After breakfast, 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. We then hike to Khamsum Yule Lhakhang.

After lunch, drive to Paro. On the way, view Tamchog Lhakhang built by Thangthong Gyalpo (Popularly known as Lama Chazampa, which literally means, the Iron Bridge builder) in the 15th century.

Day 8: Paro: Departure

Early morning, drive to the airport and farewell.



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