



Bhutan Cultural Tour 10 nights and 11 days

Day 1 - Paro

Received by BTT representative and vehicle at the airport.

Check into hotel – Dechen Hill Resort

Sightseeing of Paro valley:

- Visit Rinpung Dzong was built in 1646 and now houses government offices and religious institutions, as do all the Dzongs (forts) currently. You'll cross a traditional wooden bridge, "Nemizampa" on the way to the Dzong.
- Ta Dzong, an ancient watchtower, which now houses the National Museum.
- Visit the ruins of Drukgyal Dzong meaning the "victorious fortress"
- Explore Paro town.

Day 2 – Paro to Thimphu

- Leave for Thimphu in the morning (1 hour drive)
- Check into hotel – Wangchuk Resort
- Visit National Memorial Chorten built in honour of our late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk
- Visit Changangkha Lhakgang – perched on a hill overlooking residential area of Thimphu town – mainly dedicated to the children
- Drive up the hilltop overlooking Thimphu to get a panoramic view of Valley
- Visit Takin Zoo – Takin is the national animal of Bhutan
- Visit Tashichodzong – the beautiful dzong that houses the King's Throne and the Central Monastic Body and the Government Offices.
- Walk around Thimphu town

Day 3 – Thimphu

- Visit the Textile Museum
- Visit the National Library



- Visit the Folk Heritage Museum
- The Institute for Traditional Arts and Crafts. Where you will see students in classes as they learn the 13 different arts and crafts of Bhutan.
- In the afternoon walk around Thimphu town – visit open handicraft markets (good time for shopping for souvenirs), and the Coronation and Centenary Park
- Dinner and overnight in the hotel

Day 4 – Thimphu

- Day hike to Tango & Cheri Goenpa (Monasteries):
Drive by the car to Doedena. From here walk up the Tango Monastery. You will also take pack lunch. The hike will take about 1hour 30minutes. Visit the monastery and walk back. We will take our lunch near the Doedena Bridge. After lunch we will hike to Cheri, which will take about 1hour up steep.
- Rest and dinner

Day 5 – Punakha

- Depart to Punakha (around 2.5 hours drive) via Dochula pass at 3050 metres. This pass offers panoramic views of Himalayan ranges if the weather is clear. It also has the beautiful 108 stupas
- Lunch at a local Bhutanese restaurant
- Walk a short distance through the rice fields to Chime Lhakgang a famous temple dedicated the renowned and unconventional saint in Bhutan – “The Divine Madman”. It is also known for its fertility blessings.
- Check into the hotel – Meri Puensum or Singye Lodge
- Visit Punakha Dzong, winter seat of Je Khenpo (chief abbot) of Bhutan and ancient capital of Bhutan, remarkably located between the rivers of Pho Chu (Male) and Mo Chu (female)
- Visit Kuruthang Town

Day 6 – Punakha/Wangdi/Trongsa



- Drive to Wangduephodrang. Wangdue is the next town around 25 mins away. Visit the Wangdi dzong constructed in the 17th century.
- Leave for Trongsa, the ancestral home of the royal family (about 3 hours drive). The route is along a spectacular winding road, crossing 3,300-meter-high Pele La, and at certain times of year it's possible to see yaks. You can browse through the Trongsa shops and town in the afternoon.
- Stop for lunch at Chendebji Cafeteria
- Check in at Yangkhil Resort in Trongsa
- Visit the Majestic Trongsa Dzong – built in 1644, it is one of the biggest Dzongs in Bhutan

Day 7 – Trongsa/Bumthang

- Visit the newly opened National Museum dedicated to the Bhutanese Monarchy
- Leave for Bumthang (about 2 hours drive). Bumthang is in central Bhutan and it one of the most beautiful valley with wide and green landscape and unique architecture. It is also the religious heartland of the nation,
- Along the way you will stop at a yathra (textile weaving) factory at Chumey, where the yathra are designed with patterns unique to Bumthang, and you can even watch some of the weavers at their looms. Yathra is a special textile woven from sheep or yak wool. There will be colourful and beautiful yathra on display and for sale.
- Check into Gongkhar Lodge, a family owned lodge with good food and great service
- Visit Mebar Tsho (Burning Lake), where some of Guru Rimpoche's treasures were found in the 15th century by the famous treasure discover Pema Lingpa.

Day 8 – Bumthang

- Visit Jakar Dzong built in 1667 and it's the seat of the district administration
- Woodcarving factory in Jakar



- Visit Kurjey Lhakgang, one of the most sacred monasteries in Bhutan, because Guru Rimpoche left his body imprint in the cave when he was meditating there. You will see the body imprint enshrined in the monastery.
- Visit Swiss Cheese Farm. The farm produces cheese, honey and fruit wine.
- Visit Tamshing Lhakhang; a treasure house of interesting religious Buddhist paintings
- In the evening you can visit local shops

Day 9 - Bumthang to Wangdi

- Long drive back to Paro along the same highway
- Check into hotel – Dechen Hill Resort
- Rest

Day 10 – Paro

- Early morning hike or have the option of riding on pony (on self expense) up to Taktsang – the Legendary Tiger’s nest monastery.
- Lunch at the Takstang Cafeteria
- Walking back will be on foot as it is not very safe to ride back downhill.
- Free evening. Packing for departure tomorrow

Day 11

Depart