

BHUTAN JOURNEY.....

08 NIGHTS/ 09 DAYS



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

Highlights. Paro – Thimpu – Gangtey – Bumthang – Punakha – Paro – Departure

Day 01: Arrive Paro and to Thimpu

Upon arrival at Paro airport, you will be greeted with a traditional welcome. Departure by road to Thimphu (2400 meters), the capital of the Himalayan country and the largest city. The road to Thimphu first follows the Pa-chu (river) to the confluence where Thimphu joins. In the afternoon visit the Chorten Memorial (Stupa) built in memory of the deceased King and walk on the main street of Thimphu. Overnight Thimphu.

Day 02: Thimphu (Phajoding hike)

After your early breakfast, our guide and driver will pick you up to begin your hike above the motithang. The hike to Phajoding monasteries is not only historical and religious; it's also amazingly picturesque, since you can have dramatic view of Bhutan's capital and its development. Upon reaching at the clustered monastery, you will eat hot picnic lunch in one of the monasteries or outside in the beautiful meadows. After your nice lunch you will hike another 45 minutes uphill to Thujidra Monastery which is built on a cliff on top of all the monasteries at Phajoding. From the monastery you will have a stunning view of the entire Thimphu valley. Visit the monastery, which was founded by a great saint or Lama, Phajo Drugom in the 12 century, and enjoy the views and tranquility for a while before you start hiking back downhill. Your can will be waiting at the BBS tower and then drive back to your hotel or place. Overnight Thimphu.

Day 03: Thimphu - Gangtey

The drive from Thimphu to Gangtey takes a bit more than 5 hrs, covering a total distance of 125 km. From Thimphu the road ascends to Dochu la pass (3,050m), where you have opportunity to view the peaks of the eastern Himalayas. From the pass it descends into Wangdi and Punakha Valley, after passing through the town of Wangdi Phodrang, the road climbs up the black mountains national parks and passes through some roadside villages. At Nobding, the road turn-off from the main east-west highway and once you cross the pass, almost suddenly, a wide and spectacular Phobjikha valley with Gangtey Monastery atop a hill appears, overlooking the valley. Visit Gangtey Gompa (one of Bhutan's oldest monasteries). Overnight in Gangtey village where the villagers continue to live a traditional Bhutanese rural lifestyle.

Day 04: Gangtey - Bumthang

Today transfer to Bumthang, crossing 3 passes over 3000 meters. The route offers magnificent views of the Himalayas and beautiful landscape through scattered hamlets and forest of rhododendrons and pine. Picnic lunch will be served at the 18 century Chendebji Chorten. After one and half hour arrive at a small town known as Trongsa meaning new village, the town mainly consists of fresh Tibetan refugees but the most impressive of all is the Trongsa Dzong. The whole of eastern Bhutan was controlled from this fortress during the mid-17th century. Visitors are not allowed inside the building. Precede another 2 hours to Bumthang visiting the Chume weaving center.

Day 05: In Bumthang

Bumthang altitude 2600m has an individuality that charms its visitors and separates it from other regions. Comprised of four smaller valleys, the deeply spiritual region of Bumthang is shrouded in religious legend. Here tales of Guru Padmasambhava and his re-incarnation known as Tertons still linger in most nooks and corners. It is also known for its woolen material (Yathra) which can be seen hung outside of houses for sale. Sightseeing - Visit the Jakar Dzong, 7th century Jambay Lhakhang, Kurjey monastery, Tamshing and Kunchosum monastery.



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Day 06: Bumthang - Punakha

The drive to Punakha via Wangdue takes about 7 hours over the Pelela pass and Youtongla pass. Lunch served at Chendebji Chorten. Dinner and stay overnight at hotel in Punakha.

Day 07: Punakha- Paro

After breakfast visit Punakha Dzong or 'Palace of Great Happiness or Bliss, built at the junction of the Phochu and Mochu rivers in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. This majestic dzong served as both the religious and the administrative center of Bhutan in the past. It measures some 600 by 240 feet and has a six-story, gold-domed tower. Inside are courtyards and religious statuary that hint at the depth of history and spiritual tradition embodied here. Your guide will illuminate your understanding of this intricate culture that is exotic, though long established here in Bhutan. After exploring Punakha city center, embark on a short walking excursion to Chimi Lhakhang, located on a ridge surrounded by beautiful paddy fields. From road point, it takes about 10-15 minutes' walk through Sobsukha village to reach the monastery. Also known as Fertility temple, it is associated with Lama Drukpa Kuenley, popularly known as 'Divine Madman'. It is widely believed that couples who do not have children and wanting one, if they pray at this temple, they are usually blessed with a child very soon. Later drive back to Paro descending back down from Dochu La, follow the way back up the dramatic Wang Chhu and Paro Chhu river valleys, before crossing through Paro town towards the north end of the valley. Check in your hotel on arrival at Paro.

Day 08: Paro Taktsang Hike

After breakfast excursion to Taktsang Monastery (approx. 5 hours round trip walk): It is one of the most famous of Bhutan's monasteries, perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley floor. It is said that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at this monastery and hence it is called 'Tiger's Nest'. This site has been recognized as a most sacred place and visited by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1646 and now visited by all Bhutanese at least once in their lifetime. The hike to the monastery makes a splendid half day excursion. Later in the day after checking into hotel, proceed to visit Ta Dzong, originally built as Watchtower, which now houses National Museum. The extensive collection includes antique thangka paintings, textiles, weapons & armour, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts. Then walk down the trail to visit Rinpung Dzong, meaning ("fortress of the heap of jewels"), which has a long and fascinating history. Along the wooden galleries lining the inner courtyard are fine wall paintings illustrating Buddhist lore such as four friends, the old man of long life, the wheel of life, scenes from the life of Milarepa, Mount. Sumeru and another cosmic Mandala. Evening take a stroll around interesting city center of Paro.

Day 09: Departure

Day free till final departure. In time transfer at Paro airport for onward journey.

End of our services....

Note:

1. This tour can be modified as per your requirements.
2. You can combine Bhutan Tour with India as well as with Tibet and Nepal.