

Western Bhutan Explorer Tour (10Days/9Nights)

Note: This 10 days western Bhutan Explorer itinerary provides a deep dive to explore the Culture, nature, Monasteries, Scenic drives, Pilgrimage and Tiger's Nest Hike (Day 9).

Itinerary

Day 1: Paro to Thimphu

Arrive in Paro and drive to Thimphu (1.5 hrs.) for acclimatization and light exploration.

Day 2: Thimphu - Landmarks & Icons

Explore Thimphu's highlights including National Memorial stupa, Buddha Dordenam statue, Simtokha Dzong and TashiChho Dzong (After 5:00PM)

Day 3: Thimphu - Culture & Nature

Discover culture and nature with visits to Motithang Takin Preserve, Sangaygang viewpoint, a handmade paper factory, and the National Institute for Zorig Chusum. (Painting institute)

Day 4: Punakha-Punakha via Dochula

Drive to Punakha via Dochula Pass (108 stupas) and visit Chimi Lhakhang after a short 20-minute walk.

Day 5: Punakha- The Golden Valley

Enjoy Punakha valley with a hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten, followed by Punakha Dzong and the suspension bridge.

Day 6: Punakha to Phobjikha

Travel to Phobjikha Valley (3 hrs.), visiting Gangtey Monastery and the Black-Necked Crane Information Centre (seasonal)

Day 7: Phobjikha - Nature's Serenity

Experience Phobjikha with a hike along Gangtey Nature Trail, farmhouse visit, and optional archery.

Day 8: Phobjikha to Paro

Drive back to Paro (5-6 hrs.) and visit Ta Dzong and Rinpung Dzong.

Day 9: Paro- The Ultimate Pilgrimage plus hike

Hike (4-5 hrs.) to Paro Taktsang, Bhutan's most iconic pilgrimage site, followed by a traditional hot stone bath (Optional)

Day 10: Paro- Departure

Transfer to Paro Airport for departure.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Paro to Thimphu

Your flight into Paro is one of the most scenic in the world. After clearing customs, meet your guide and drive to Thimphu (approx. 1.5 hours). Stop at Tachog Lhakhang Old Bridge to experience naturally handmade built 15th-century iron chain bridge. After you arrive in Thimphu take a gentle round walk around the town center and Clock Tower Square.

Day 2: Thimphu - Landmarks & Icons

Dedicate your first full day to the "must-see" cultural sites of the capital. Morning: Visit the National Memorial stupa where you can watch elderly locals circumambulating the stupa and Buddha Dordenma (statue). By afternoon explore the Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress in Bhutan & later visit Tashichho Dzong to see the impressive administrative and religious center.

Day 3: Thimphu - Culture & Nature

Focus on the unique wildlife and artisanal traditions of Bhutan. Head to the Royal Takin Preserve Motithang, the national animal and stop at the Sangaygang during morning hours. Visit the Jungshi Handmade Paper Factory and the National Institute for Zorig Chusum (Painting School).

Day 4: Punakha-Punakha via Dochula

A day of high-altitude passes and dramatic descents. After 25Km drive stop at Dochula Pass (3,100m) to see the 108 chortens. Then visit to Chimi Lhakhang upon entering Punakha valley, take a 20-minute walk through rice fields to the "Fertility Temple."

Day 5: Punakha- The Golden Valley

After 15minutes drive to the road point start hike up to the Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten, a stunning multi-story temple offering views of the Mo Chhu River. Afternoon visit the majestic Punakha Dzong followed by a walk across the Punakha Suspension Bridge, one of the longest in the country.

Day 6: Punakha to Phobjikha

A 3-hour drive takes you into the high-altitude glacial valley of Phobjikha. Upon arrival check into your lodge and visit the Gangtey Monastery. Visit the Black-Necked Crane Information Centre to learn about the rare birds that winter habilitation site (best seen Nov-Feb).

Day 7: Phobjikha - Nature's Serenity

Hike the Gangtey Nature Trail winds through blue pine forests and local villages. Afternoon you can visit local farmhouses to see the rural way of life or try your hand at archery, the national sport.

Day 8: Phobjikha to Paro

A longer drive (approx. 5-6 hours) back to Paro. Afternoon visit the Ta Dzong (National Museum of Bhutan), followed by the nearby Rinpung Dzong.

Day 9: Paro- The Ultimate Pilgrimage

Save the most iconic experience for your final full day. Hike to Tiger's Nest: An early start for the trek to Paro Taktsang. The hike takes roughly 4-5 hour's. After the successful hike, celebrate your journey with a traditional Bhutanese Hot Stone Bath to soothe your muscles (optional).

Day 10: Paro- Departure

Transfer to Paro Airport for your departure.

Key Tips (At a Glance)

Fitness: Moderate (Tiger's Nest hike is the toughest)

Pack: Layers (cold mornings, warm afternoons)

Best views: Dochula Pass & Phobjikha Valley

Wildlife timing: Winter for cranes

Dzong etiquette: Modest clothing required

The following **Terms & Conditions** are outlined to ensure a seamless experience and to prevent any misunderstandings. Please review them carefully before confirming your booking.

Package Includes

The rates quoted are per person, based on twin/double sharing are valid for individual Indian National/other.

- **Sustainable Development Fee (SDF)** - as per the government regulations.
- **Professional licensed Bhutanese** English speaking guide throughout the trip
- **Transportation** : Private transport Premium SUV- 1-2pax, 3-6pax -Hiace Bus and 7- 18pax (Coaster bus)
- **Accommodation**-Stays in Department of Tourism(DoT) certified 3 Star Hotels
- **Meal:** Dinner & Breakfast (Modified American Plan) at Hotel during the tour.
- Permit assistance/Visa processing and entry formalities

Package Excludes

- **Travel:** Any Airfare (Domestic or International) and travel insurance or Airport taxes.
- **Personal expenses** - (Lunch, Laundry, telephone calls, tips and beverages. (Not mentioned in itinerary)
- **Activity Fees-** Entrance fees for monuments, Museums, monasteries and charges for optional activities like hot Stone Baths, river rafting or hose riding.
- **Unforeseen Costs:** Any additional expenses arising from flight cancellations, roadblocks, weather calamities or personal medical emergencies.

- **Extra Services:** Any vehicle use outside the pre-agreed itinerary or for at-leisure evening use.

Booking and Payment Policy

To ensure a seamless booking experience, please follow our standardized process:

- **Initial Deposit:** A non-refundable advance of \$ 50.00 per person is required to initiate hotel and permit bookings.
- **Flight Confirmation:** Please share your confirmed flight/train tickets immediately upon booking to align your transport and permit timings.
- **Balance Payment:** The remaining balance must be cleared on the day of arrival in Bhutan. Payment can be made via (Bank Transfer/Cash).
- **Confirmation:** Official tour confirmation will be sent via Email or WhatsApp once the deposit is received.

A Few Helpful Details

We like to keep things transparent, here are some important notes to ensure everything runs smoothly for your trip.

- **ID Requirements:** Please ensure you carry a valid Voter ID (Indian) or a Passport (valid for at least 6 months) for entry permits. For children, a valid Health Card or Birth Certificate is required.
- **Itinerary Changes:** The Company reserves the right to modify the itinerary due to weather, road conditions or government restrictions.
- **Check-in/Check-out:** Standard hotel check-in is at **2:00 PM** and check-out is at **12:00 PM**. Early check-ins are subject to room availability.
- **Cancellation Policy:** The \$ 50.00 deposit is non-refundable.
- Cancellations made within 15 days of arrival may incur 50% hotel retention charges.