

Western & Central Bhutan Explorer – 11 Days / 10 Nights

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival at Paro – Drive to Thimphu

Arrive in Paro, drive to Thimphu (1.5 hrs) with a stop at Tamchog Lhakhang, followed by an evening city walk.

Day 2: Thimphu Sightseeing

Thimphu sightseeing: Memorial Chorten, Buddha Dordenma, Motithang Takin Preserve and Tashichho Dzong and local market. Overnight in Thimphu.

Day 3: Thimphu to Punakha

Drive to Punakha via the scenic Dochula Pass. Visit Chimi Lhakhang (Fertility Temple) and Punakha Dzong. Overnight in Punakha.

Day 4: Punakha via Wangdue to Phobjikha valley

Travel via Wangdue Phodrang to Phobjikha Valley, visiting Gangtey Monastery and walking the Gangtey Nature Trail.

Day 5: Phobjikha to Bumthang via (Trongsa Dzong -enroute)

Drive to Bumthang via scenic mountain journey Pele La Pass and Trongsa. Visit Trongsa Dzong and Ta Dzong Museum. Overnight Bumthang.

Day 6: Bumthang –Culture Exploration

Bumthang cultural tour: Visit Jambay Lhakhang, Kurjey Lhakhang and Tamshing Lhakhang. Explore traditional villages and experience local life.

Day 7: Bumthang -Tang Valley Excursion

Excursion to Tang Valley visiting Mebar Tsho and Ogyen Choling Palace for history and sacred landscapes.

Day 8: Bumthang to Thimphu

Drive back to Thimphu with stops at traditional Yathra weaving centers and scenic mountain viewpoints.

Day 9: Thimphu to Paro

Drive to Paro. Visit National Museum and Rinpung Dzong. Explore Paro town and Kyichu Lhakhang (Optional)

Day 10: Taktsang (Tiger’s Nest Monastery) Hike

Hike to Taktsang (Tiger’s Nest Monastery), one of Bhutan’s most revered sites. Later, enjoy a traditional hot stone bath (Optional).

Day 11: Departure

Transfer to Paro International Airport for departure.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival at Paro – Drive to Thimphu

Arrival at Paro International Airport and begin your journey with a scenic drive to Thimphu (approx. 1.5 hr.). En route, visit Iron Bridge (Tamchog Lhakhang). Enjoy an evening Thimphu City walk.

Day 2: Thimphu Sightseeing

Visit the massive golden Buddha overlooking the valley which is highest stupa in world. Watch locals of all ages perform "Kora" (walking clockwise) around this iconic white stupa. Visit this fortress-monastery after office hours (usually 5:00 PM) to see the seat of the government and the King's throne room (Tashichho Dzong).

Day 3: Thimphu to Punakha

Drive to Punakha via the scenic Dochula Pass (25Km) from Capital at high of 3,100M above sea level. Stop for views of the high Himalayas Mountains and the 108 memorial stupas (chortens). When you enter Punakha visit Chimi Lhakhang (20-minute) walk through rice fields leads to the "Temple of Fertility."

When you are at the right place visit Punakha Dzong the most beautiful building in Bhutan, located at the junction of two rivers (Pho chhu & Mo chhu). Don't miss the Punakha Suspension Bridge nearby.

Day 4: Punakha via Wangdue to Phobjikha valley

Drive to Wangdue Phodrang and continue to Phobjikha Valley. Visit Gangtey Monastery and enjoy a peaceful nature trail walk through the valley. Overnight at Phobjikha at Hotel or Homestay (Optional)

Day 5: Phobjikha to Bumthang via (Trongsa Dzong -enroute)

Drive to Bumthang via scenic mountain journey Pele La Pass and Trongsa. Visit Trongsa Dzong and Ta Dzong Museum. Overnight Bumthang.

Day 6: Bumthang -Culture Exploration

Visit Jambay Lhakhang, Kurjey Lhakhang and Tamshing Lhakhang. Explore traditional villages and experience local life.

Day 7: Bumthang -Tang Valley Excursion

Explore Mebar Tsho (Burning Lake) and visit Ogyen Choling Palace & Museum to immerse yourself in Bhutanese history and sacred landscapes.

Day 8: Bumthang to Thimphu

Drive back to Thimphu stop at local Yathra (wool) weaving centers along the way. Stop at Scenic Mountain along the way and continue drive to Thimphu.

Day 9: Thimphu to Paro

Drive to Paro. Visit National Museum housed in an ancient watchtower, it offers a deep dive into Bhutanese history and natural flora/fauna also drop by Rinpung Dzong to experience walk through the cantilever bridge from this "Fortress on a Heap of Jewels." It's a prime example of traditional architecture.

Day 10: Taktsang (Tiger's Nest Monastery) Hike

Hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Nest Monastery), this is the highlight of any Bhutan trip. It's a 4–5 hour round-trip hike. *Tip:* Start early (7:00 AM) to avoid the midday sun and the bulk of the hikers.

In the evening, I highly recommend adding a Traditional Hot Stone Bath (Optional) at a local farmhouse to relax your muscles after the steep climb.

Day 11: Departure

Transfer to Paro International Airport for departure.

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), Train Fare 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.