



West - Central Bhutan Paro Festival Tour 14 Days/ 13 Nights

- Day 01| Arrival in Paro – Thimphu (1.5 Hr)
- Day 02| Thimphu
- Day 03| Thimphu – Phobjikha (4 Hrs)
- Day 04| Phobjikha – Trongsa (2.5 Hrs)
- Day 05| Trongsa – Tang (4.5 Hrs)
- Day 06| Tang – Jakar (1.5 Hrs)
- Day 07| Jakar Sightseeing
- Day 08| Jakar – Punakha (6 Hrs)
- Day 09| Punakha
- Day 10| Punakha – Haa (5.5 Hrs)
- Day 11| Haa – Paro (2 Hrs) (festival start from 20th to 24th)
- Day 12| Paro
- Day 13| Paro
- Day 14| Departure

Day 01| Arrival in Paro – Thimphu (1.5 Hr) 13 March 2025

Early morning/ afternoon flight to Paro, Bhutan (Please check the flight timing). The flight from Delhi is considered as one of the most scenic flight offering the view of the world's top ten highest peaks. Upon your arrival in Paro airport our guide will be there to welcome you and transfer to Thimphu and relax in the hotel

Visit the Memorial Chorten (temple) built in memory of the late 3rd King. This place now happens to be a get together point for the elderly people, who spend their whole day chanting prayers and meeting their friends. Visit Changangkha Lhakhang, the oldest temple in the valley offering a beautiful view of the valley. Enclosure where the national animal, Takins are kept and drive to visit the largest and the newly built statue of Buddha offering magnificent view of entire Thimphu valley. After 5 PM, visit the fortress of Thimphu, Tashichho Dzong, which houses the throne of the king. Evening walk around the happening town, the largest and the most crowded town in Bhutan.

Overnight: Thimphu| Altitude: 2300m

Day 02| Thimphu Sightseeing 14 March 2025

Morning visit the happening weekend market (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) where the locals from the surrounding villages come to sell their produce. They sell their goods and in return they buy their basic necessities. In olden days, bata system was practiced by everyone. Visit the traditional Hand Made Paper Mill. Visit the School of Arts and Crafts where students learn 13 different arts used predominantly in Bhutan. Visit Folk Heritage Museum which explains how a traditional house used to be like in the olden days. Later visit the National Library which houses the collection of Bhutanese rich religious text and the contemporary Buddhism teachings from master all around the world. Drive further up to visit the Dechenphodrang monastic school and meet the young monks. Later continue to Zilukha nunnery to meet the nuns and interact with them.

Overnight: Thimphu

Day 03| Thimphu – Phobjikha (Hrs) 15 March 2025

Morning drive to the remote isolated Phobjikha valley crossing over Dochula pass (3200 mts). If the weather permits one can enjoy a spectacular breath taking view of the highest mountain peaks of Bhutan at a sight that stretches almost 180 degrees. Take a break and walk around the newly built 108 stupas and continue to the sub-tropical valley of Punakha offering different vegetation.

This valley is protected being winter home for the endangered Black Necked Cranes migrating to Bhutan every end of Oct to end of Feb. This valley is a paradise for the nature lovers and hikers. Upon your arrival could go for a short walk in the valley. Or if you are too tired after the long drive, could relax in the hotel and enjoy the breathtaking view of the valley. This is a very remote village and the hotel standard is very basic. Being protected, this valley got electricity recently only

Go for Phobjikha Nature trail hike (2.5 Hrs), which offers beautiful view of the valley. It starts from the valley and end with Gangtey Goempa temple at the hilltop overlooking the valley. Gangtey Goempa temple is a beautiful temple, richly renovated with many monks living. Could also visit the Crane Canter supported by the RSPN. Can have an option to visit a village and a farmhouse for lunch/dinner.

Overnight: Phobjikha

Day 04| Phobjikha – Trongsa (2.5 Hrs) 16 March 2025

After breakfast start your drive for Trongsa. Cross over the Pelela Pass at 3,300m which forms the part of Black mountain range that divides the country into east and west. Enroute could take a short break and go for short hike to the remote village of Rukubji or Chendibji. The drive is picturesque and worth. Later drive or walk through the single lane town of Trongsa and visit the majestic Trongsa Dzong (Fortress), the home of the royals. Historically Trongsa Dzong is the most important Dzong and the largest as well. After lunch must visit the Ta Dzong, an ancient watchtower, which houses a unique museum On arrival relax in the hotel.

Overnight: Trongsa| Altitude: 2200m

Day 05| Trongsa – Tang (4.5 Hrs) 17 March 2025

After breakfast start driving for the remote village of Tang, crossing over Yotong La passes at 3,400m. After a short descend en route just before arriving Jakar, stop in Chumi valley, the weaving place, by the roadside where “Yatha” (wool weaving) is woven here which Bumthang is famous for. Continue your drive crossing over Kiki La pass stopping in Jakar for a short while. After Jakar, most of the drive is through the dirt road, Tang being a remote village. The road might be bumpy but the landscape is beautiful crossing through many small villages. Just before reaching Tang village, if you want to avoid driving, you have an option to take a shortcut by crossing the bridge and walking for about half an hour to the guesthouse, O’Chholing palace, the ancestral home to the royal family of Tang region which is converted into a museum and a very basic guesthouse. Very few tourists get to visit this village. Enjoy the calmness and the beautiful view of the Tang valley. It’s a quiet little village, which got electricity recently.

Overnight: O’Chholing Guest House| Altitude: 2800m

Day 06| Tang – Jakar (1.5 Hrs) 18 March 2025

Morning walk around the tiny village, meeting the locals, the shy children and interacting with them. Witness their morning village activities. Later after breakfast, visit the unique museum of O’Chholing, which has very fine and unique collection of Bhutanese Arts and Artifacts. It covers and explains about all the history and details of Tang village activities during the olden days. Later after lunch bid farewell to the family of the museum and walk down the valley and catch your car to drive back to Jakar.

Overnight: Jakar| Altitude: 2650m

Day 07| Jakar Sightseeing 19 March 2025

Bumthang province consists of four different valleys known as Chumi, Jakar, Tang and Ura. This province is the most historical and one of the holiest place in Bhutan with so many temples and holy sites spread all around the province. Jakar is a beautiful valley and if you want to take a break and avoid driving, today’s activity can be entirely done on foot. Visit Jampay Lakhang, one of the first two Buddhist temples built in the country. Visit Kurjey lakhang temple, one of the holiest site in Bhutan, this is also the site where the royals are cremated. Cross the suspension bridge follow the dirt road and through the village of Parar and visit Tamshing lakhang temple. End your day with a walk passing by the Swiss farm. If time permits visit the Jakar Dzong offering beautiful view of the valley. Evening stroll in Jakar town and try some local pancake and noodles.

Overnight: Jakar

Day 08| Jakar - Punakha (6 Hrs) 20 March 2025

Morning start retracing your drive back to Punakha valley passing by Trongsa town and crossing over Pele La pass

En route just before arriving the hotel, take a nice hike through the paddy field and old village to visit Chimi Lakhang, the temple of fertility associated with religious art of phallus.

Overnight: Punakha| Altitude: 1350m

Day 09| Punakha Sightseeing 21 March 2025

Morning drive to visit Punakha Dzong (fortress), which houses the most elaborated temple in the country. This is a must to see fortress in Bhutan and a fine example of Bhutanese rich Art and Architecture. Punakha is also well known for river rafting, you can enjoy. After lunch go for an hour hike (uphill) to the temple of Khamsum Yuley Lakhang overlooking the paddy field and the snakelike river bends

Overnight: Punakha

Day 10| Punakha – Haa (5.5 Hrs) 22 March 2025

If you are staying in hotel Meri Puensum, hotel Zandopelri or hotel Dhensa, early morning it will be a treat to walk up to the hilltop to visit the nunnery and interact with the nuns and enjoy the magnificent view of Punakha and Wangdi valley

Start early and retrace the drive back to Paro crossing over Dochula La pass. After a quick toilet stop, continue the drive towards Haa valley. Upon arrival in Haa visit the small town of Haa and chat with the locals.

Day 11| Haa – Paro (2 Hrs) 23 March 2025

After breakfast visit Lhakhang Karpo. There are legends, of the Tibetan Emperor Songtsen Gampo setting out two birds (white and black) to locate auspicious sites for the construction of temples during the 7th century. The place where the white bird landed is where the Lhakhang Karpo (meaning the white temple) was built. It has been renovated and extends recently.

Stop at the Bhutan's highest route pass and during clear weaher one can see the second highest mountain (Jumolhari) of Bhutan. Chele La Pass is mid-way from Haa valley to Paro and in all ways, worth a visit. Weather will change drastically and dramatically as you will ascend up from Haa to Chele La (elev. 3899 m) with winds getting stronger and clouds giving way to rains

Upon arrival in Paro, visit Paro Dzong (Fortress) on foot and witness the beautiful Paro festival. During the festival you will get to see the rich cultural and tradition of Bhutan. Evening walk around the old Paro town and peep into some local handicrafts stores.

Overnight: Paro| Altitude: 2200m



Day 12| Paro Sightseeing 24 March 2025

Today you will have all the time to attend the festival again to witness the unveiling of the Thangka at the Paro Festival.

After lunch Later visit the watch tower also known as Ta Dzong where the army used to inspect the valley against the Tibetan invasion. Now the watch tower is converted in to the great museum of Bhutan. Evening walk around the old Paro town and peep into some local handicrafts stores. Today you will witness the unveiling of the Thangka at the Paro Festival.

Day 13| Paro Sightseeing 25 March 2025

Morning drive to the base for the hike (3 hrs uphill) to Tiger's Nest, the most revered temple in the country that literally hangs on a granite cliff overlooking the Paro valley. Most of the day will go on the hike. On the way back, if you have the energy and time visit the Kichu Lakhang, one of the oldest temples in Bhutan which marks the beginning of Buddhism in the country. **Hot stone bath available at an additional cost.** Farewell dinner with your guide.

Overnight: Paro

Day 14| Departure 26 March 2025

Morning transfer (15 mins) to the airport for your departure flight. Your guide will bid you farewell at the airport..

Some useful Bhutanese phrases

Hello: Ku-zu-zam-po-la (meaning good health)
Thank You: Ka din chey la
See you: Lok jey gay
Good bye: Lus la "or" Laso la

Cost \$8250 twin share

Inclusions:

- *International flight Bangkok/Paro/Bangko economy class
- * All accommodations in 3 star Deluxe hotels
- * Standard room on twin sharing basis only
- * 3 meals per day Meals as per meal plan (fixed buffet)
- * Full time English speaking guide
- * Private transportation for airport pick up/ drop and all sightseeing
- * Complimentary mineral water provided in the vehicle only
- *Museum/Monument fee
- *Sustainable Development Fee
- *Visa Fee

Not included in the daily tariff package:

- * Single room supplement charges (US\$ 40/Night) applicable
- * Flight fare

- * Bank transfer fees
- * Water or any alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages
- * Travel Insurance
- * Gratuities to guide, driver, trekking staff, etc
- * Any personal expense

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