



11D10N Best of Bhutan

DAY 01 : SINGAPORE → BANGKOK

[-/-]

Check-in at Changi International Airport for Thai Airways International flight to Bangkok city.
Upon arrival, meet and greet by our local representative and transfer to the hotel for check-in and overnight.
Overnight at Novotel Siam Square or Pathumwan Princess Hotel or similar class.

DAY 02 : BANGKOK → PARO – THIMPU

[-/L/D]

Rise early and check-out of hotel and transfer to Bangkok Int'l Airport to check-in for Druk Air flight to Paro city of Bhutan.
During the flight one will experience breathtaking views of some of the highest mountain peaks on earth, including Mt. Everest, Kan Cheng Junga, Mt. Jumolhari and Jitchu Drake in Bhutan. Flight through the mountainous region is exciting, and short, but provides an experience that will remain with you for years and landing is even more exciting. At the Paro International Airport after immigration and custom clearance, our tour representative will greet you dressed in Traditional Kho (Male dress) or Kira (Women dress). Welcome you with traditional ceremonial Khadhar (White scarf for Good luck). Board a car and drive towards Thimpu – the capital of Bhutan, a small city with about 90,000 inhabitants probably the only capital city known for being without modern traffic lights. On arrival Thimpu, check-in to the hotel and in the evening your guide will take for a walking tour of the city. **Overnight at Thimpu city.**

DAY 03 : THIMPU EXCURSION

[B/L/D]

After breakfast, commence sightseeing in Thimpu Valley includes visit to the Dzong, **The National Memorial Chorten**, located off Jangchub Lam. **The Institute of Zorig Chusum** – consists of 13 traditional arts and crafts. **The Institute of Traditional Medicine** – the complex has the traditional medicine production unit, the treatment hospital and the school. The National Library contains Bhutan's history in the form of religious and historical literatures. The Folk Heritage Museum founded by the Queen Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck the museum is one of a kind that portrays the lifestyle of a genteel family in the Thimpu Valley in the olden days. **Overnight at Thimpu city.**

DAY 04 : THIMPU – PUNAKHA

[B/L/D]

Drive to Punakha across Dochu-la pass (3,088m/10,130ft), from which there is a breathtaking view of the high peaks on a clear day. Until 1951 Punakha served as the winter capital of State and religious affairs of Bhutan. It is still the winter seat of the Je khenpo (chief Abbot). Hike to Temple. Visit village house in Metsina and further hike up to 15th century temple where you can seek blessing from lord of fertility. This temple was initiated by Devine Madman or Erotic Lama. This lama framed Bhutanese version of erotic stories or Kamasutra in 15th Century. Here replica of Poo or Dorji, which symbolizes Listen to unceasing rotation of prayer wheels making repeated sound of bells in the temple. Next visit the Punakha Dzong built during first quarter of 17th century at the junction of Pho Chu and Mo Chu rivers. Originally the town was situated on the riverbank and dominated by the towering walls of Punakha Dzong, the township was relocated to a safer site a few kilometers down the valley, consequent upon extensive flooding in the early 1994. Punakha Dzong still houses many sacred and historic artifacts and also the embalmed body of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. **Overnight at Punakha.**

DAY 05 : PUNAKHA – BUMTHANG

[B/L/D]

After breakfast, drive to Bumthang valley across the Pelela Pass (3300m) – the passes are marked by a large numbers of prayer flag. Stop at Chenbi Choten which was built in the 18th century by a Lama named Shida. Lunch in a local restaurant. If there is time you may wish to walk along the road in Trongsa Town. Board a bus to Bumthang across the Yolong-La pass at an altitude of 11,685/3404m. Bumthang is one of the most spectacular valleys in Bhutan and also the heartland of Buddhism. **Overnight in Bumthang Valley.**

DAY 06 : BUMTHANG – EXCURSION

[B/L/D]

Today, enjoy Bumthang sightseeing – beauty again overwhelms our senses. We will visit the Wangdicholing – formerly the Palace of the Royal Family. Next visit the Jambay Lhakhang – is one of the 108 monasteries built by King Songtsen Goenpo in the 18th century to subdue evil spirits in the Himalayan Region. Next visit the Kurjey Monastery – dedicated to the Saint Guru Padmasambhaya, visit Jakar Dzong built as monastery in 1549 by the great grandfather of the zhabdrung, and the Tamshing Lhakhang built in 1501 by Terton Pema Lingpa a re-incarnation of Guru Padmasambhava and whose lineage the Royal Family. **Overnight at Bumthang Valley.**

DAY 07 : BUMTHANG – GANGTEY

[B/L/D]

After breakfast, drive to Gantey Valley via Trongsa. Gantey is situated in Phubjikka Valley which is the winter home of the endangered Black-Neck Cranes that migrate to this valley from Central Asia in Winter. This is a scenic drive through dense forests of oak trees and rhododendrons. Arrived gantey check-in and enjoy the beautiful surrounding. **Overnight at Gantey.**

DAY 08 : GANGTEY – WANGDUE

[B/L/D]

After breakfast, enjoy a excursion to the famous Gangtey Gompa valley, situated at an altitude of 2,800 meters. The place is famous for the only Nyingmapa Monastery, located in western Bhutan. Also known for its unique wildlife population, this beautiful valley is home to the rare Black Necked Cranes, who migrate from the Tibetan Plateau to escape the harsh winters. According to estimates, there are around 200-300 cranes, residing in this valley, under the strict supervision of the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN). Drive back to Wangduephodrang and visit the Wangdue Phodrang Dzong from outside and the market area. Wangdue Phodrang Festival is an added attraction of this beautiful town. **Overnight at Wangdue Valley.**

DAY 09 : WANGDUE – PARO VIA THIMPU

[B/L/D]

After breakfast, drive back to Paro city via Thimpu enroute a short tea break at Cafeteria.
Arrived Paro, visit Ta Dzong built as a watch tower which is now convert into the National Museum and the Rinpung Dzong known as the "Fortress Of The Heap Of Jewels" is the venue of the annual Paro Tshechu held every spring. Walk down and pass through a wooden bridge constructed over Pachu flowing through the valley. Return to hotel and **overnight in Paro city.**

DAY 10 : PARO – TAKTSANG EXCURSION & ACCLIMITIZATION

[B/L/D]

Today's highlight enjoy a day hike up to the view-point of the famous Taktsang Monastery. The hike, which is uphill all the way, takes about 2-3 hours through unique villages and beautiful pine forests. Horses can also be arranged with an extra payment. The monastery, which stands majestically on a huge granite cliff at an altitude of 800 meters from the Paro Valley, was devastated by fire in 1998 but the Royal Government took immediate steps to restore the monastery to its original structure. It is believed that the great saint Padmasambhava visited the place in the 7th century on a flying tigress and meditated in a cave for 3 months. The demons were subdued who were trying to stop the spread of Buddhism and converted the Paro valley into Buddhism. Around the end of the 17th century, a monastery (Taktsang Monastery) was built on the spot where the saint mediated and it is a pilgrimage site for every Bhutanese to visit at least once in their lifetime. **Overnight at Paro city.**

DAY 11 : PARO → BANGKOK → SINGAPORE

[B]

After breakfast, drive to the Paro International airport to check-in Druk Air flight to Bangkok.
Upon arrival Bangkok city, check-in for Thai Airways International flight back to Singapore.
Arrived Singapore, your holiday ends with wonderful memories.