



# 5D GLIMPSE OF THE BHUTAN



(DAILY DEPARTURE, MIN 4 TO GO)

## DAY 1: PARO ARRIVAL - THIMPHU

(-/L/D)

When you first arrive at **Paro International Airport**, you will be met by one of our delightful tour guides just outside the arrival hall. At 7,333 feet above sea level, the first thing you will likely notice is the effect of the high altitudes, so we will give you time to acclimate as we take a short drive to Thimphu and check into your hotel.

**Thimphu** is the capital of Bhutan and the perfect location to transition from your familiar lifestyle to our unique country that is like no other place on earth. Here you will begin to appreciate our local customs as you get your first glimpse of monks dressed in traditional red robes, men in striped ghos, and women in brightly colored kiras. Once you settle into your hotel, we will begin to unlock the mysteries of Bhutan by touring Thimphu's most important sites.

- **Kuensel Phodra** (Buddha- the sitting Buddha statue which is 167 feet high and situated on top of a hill overlooking the city of Thimphu.
- **The National Memorial Chorten** was built in 1974 to memorialize Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, the third king of Bhutan (1928-1972).
- Visit **Tashichhodzong**, whose history dates back to the 13th century, wherein houses His Majesty's Throne Room and is the summer home to the Monastic Body.

Check into the hotel. Evening free time to relax.

*Overnight at hotel – Thimphu.*

## DAY 2 : THIMPHU INSIGHT

(B/L/D)

- **The Tango Monastery** is a Buddhist monastery located 14 kilometres to the north of the capital city of Thimphu in Bhutan, near Cheri Mountain.
- **Pangri Zampa Lhakhang**-The main temple of Pangri Zampa is a four storey building. During the time of Dual governance the ground floor was a store but now it has become classroom for monks for studying astrology. The second and third floors are special chapels of the Buddhist deities, Yeshi Gonpo and Palden Lhamo. The fourth floor is a sanctum which has statues of Drukpa Kagyu Lamas.
- Weaving is an integral component of the culture and tradition of Bhutan. With the aim to preserve and promote this living art, the **Royal Textile Academy** of Bhutan was instituted in May 2005 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Mother Sangay Choden Wangchuck as a non-government, non-profit organization.
- Institute for **Zorig Chusum** - It is a small Institute for students to learn various traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan. This includes Painting, Embroidery, sculpting, sketching, wood carving etc.
- **Centenary Farmers' Market** is where farmers come to sell their vegetables, cheeses, grains, and the occasional yak leg. Across the street is the Kundeyling Baazam where you can bargain for local handicrafts, such as mala beads and prayer wheels.

*Overnight at hotel - Thimphu.*

## Day 3: PUNAKHA DAY EXCURSION

(B/L/D)

- On our way to **Punakha**, the former capital of Bhutan, we will stop at Dochula Pass. Providing stunning 360-degree views of the Himalayan Mountains, it is also the location of the 108 Druk Wangyal Chortens.
- **Punakha Dzong** is considered one of the most beautiful spots in Bhutan.
- Visit **Druk Wangyel Chorten**, built by the Queen Mother for the peace and stability of the country. The 108 Khangzang Namgyal Chhortens are a new landmark for travellers as they cross Dochula, the first mountain pass into the interior of the country.
- Visit **Chimi Lhakhang**, also as known as the "Fertility Temple," the single building site was originally built in 1499 on a short hill that had been blessed by rogue Buddhist leader Drukpa Kunley, known as the "Divine Madman."
- **Punakha Dzong**, often referred to as the "palace of Happiness", is the second oldest and second largest dzong in Bhutan.

*Overnight at hotel - Thimphu.*



**Day 4: THIMPHU - PARO**

**(B/L/D)**

- **TAKTSANG MONASTERY** – Tiger's Nest is Bhutan's most iconic landmark and religious site. (Pony ride own Expenses – USD40 per pony one way up to half hill.) The hike up to the view point will take about 1 and half hours and from here you will enjoy a spectacular view of the monastery clinging to the side of the cliff. The walk further up to the monastery which will take about 1 hour.
- **Rinpung Dzong**, built in 1645 to defend the valley against Tibetan invaders. The Dzong is now used as an administration center and school for monks.
- Visit **The National Museum**: rated as one of the finest natural history museums in South Asia which is a repository of not only precious work of art but also costumes, armor and other hand crafted objects of daily life that provide a good snapshot of the rich cultural traditions of the country. Of special interest is the gallery of thangkhas which exhibits exquisite pieces of different vintages – those depicting Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the first Je Khempo and first Druk desi are of particular significance.

Overnight at hotel – Thimphu.

**Day 5: DEPARTURE**

**(B/-/-)**

After breakfast your guide will escort you to the airport for your flight.

<p><b>Low Season:</b>  <b>JAN , FEB , JUN , JUL , AUG and DEC</b></p>	<p><b>SGD \$2558</b></p>
<p><b>High Season:</b>  <b>MAR , APR , MAY , SEP , OCT and NOV</b></p>	<p><b>SGD \$2828</b></p>

**The above prices inclusive of following services (B1300):**

- Return Airfare by Drukair
- Accommodation in 5 star hotel dusicD2 Yarkay in Thimphu.
- All meals as per itinerary.
- All transfers and sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- Certified English speaking local guide
- Government Royalties and taxes.
- All entrance and monument fees as per the selected itinerary.
- Bhutan visa fee.

**The following are NOT included in above mentioned quote:**

- Insurance of any kind / medical expenses.
- Beverages (alcoholic)
- Expenses of personal nature (like tipping, laundry, telephone/fax calls, camera/video fees etc.)

