



Beautiful Bhutan

8 days / 7 nights

Paro Tsechu – one of Bhutan’s glorious Himalayan Buddhist dance festival. As spring warms the mountains, the dancers in magnificent masks and brilliant silk costumes take on the aspects of peaceful and wrathful deities as they illustrate and re-enact Buddhist teachings and legends. Spring is a beautiful time in Paro, with flowers and blooming trees scenting the air of the peaceful mountain valleys, serene and lovely beneath the snow-covered peaks high above.



Witness the once-a-year display of the great scroll known as the *Thongdroel* on the final day of the festival, which is said to confer great blessings upon the onlookers.

Day 1 - Hong Kong – Bangkok

Depart Hong Kong via CX 751 at 1425hrs and arrive in Bangkok at 1610hrs, enjoy a relaxing overnight stay at airport hotel as you have an early connecting flight tomorrow morning.

Day 2 - Bangkok – Paro – Thimphu

Depart Bangkok via KB 141 at 0650hrs and arrive in Paro International airport at 1015hrs, where you will only be a 2 hour drive from the capital Thimphu (approximately 56km).

Enjoy your *meet & greet* upon arrival at Paro Airport, once you are ready, our tour representatives will escort you to your hotel.

After having refreshments and unpacking your full day of sightseeing in Thimphu valley will begin, places of interest include:

The National Library – peruse a vast collection of Buddhist texts and manuscripts, some dating back several hundred years, as well as modern academic books, mainly on Himalayan culture and religion.

The Institute for Zorig Chusum – Locally known as *the Painting School*, here students undertake a six-year course on the 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan.

The National Chorten - National Institute of Traditional Medicine (outside only), where the medicinal herbs abundant in the kingdom are compounded and dispensed, traditional medical practitioners are trained here.

The National Memorial Chorten - The building of this landmark was envisaged by the third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, as a monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it is both a memorial to the Late King (*‘the father of modern Bhutan’*) and a monument to world peace. The paintings and statues inside the monument provide deep insight into Buddhist philosophy.

Tashichhodzong - This impressive fortress/monastery houses the secretariat building, the throne room of His Majesty, the King and various government offices. It is also the summer residence of the Chief Abbot and central monk body.

Folk Heritage and National Textile Museums - These museums, both of which opened in 2001, provide fascinating insights into Bhutanese material culture and way of life.

Handicrafts Emporium - This government-run enterprise displays a wide range of beautifully hand-woven textiles and craft products. It



Thimphu



National Shorten



Tashichodzong

also carries a small collection of books on Bhutan, Buddhism and Himalayan culture.

After your enjoyable full day sightseeing tour enjoy dinner before retiring to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Day 3 - Thimphu – Punakha

In the morning you shall be escorted to **Wangdi** and **Punakha Valleys**. Visit the impressive **Punakha** and **Wangdi Dzongs**, perched on a spur at the confluence of two rivers. The position of the Dzong is remarkable as it completely covers the spur and commands an impressive view both up and down the valley.

Thereafter, take a short hike through a small village and rice terraces to Chhi-Med Lhakhang in the Picturesque **Lobesa valley**. Then visit the temple of one Of Bhutan’s foremost saints, Lama Drukpa Kunley, also Known as the *Divine Madman*, whom you will get to know.

Enjoy your overnight stay at your hotel.

Day 4 - Punakha – Paro

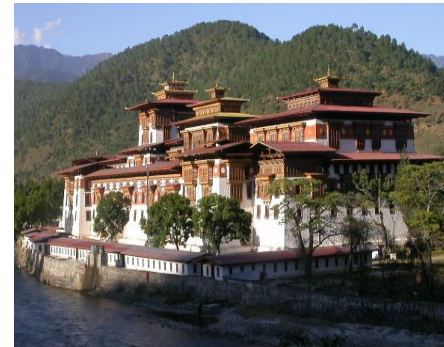
After your breakfast, once you are ready, you will be driven back to Paro, on the way you can see the **Dochu La Pass** (approximately 135hm/3hrs).

Upon your arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel and checked in; the rest of the day has been allocated as leisure time. Enjoy becoming familiar with the area and doing as you please for the rest of the relaxing day.

Day 5 - Paro (the fourth day of Festival)

We recommend a hearty breakfast today as there will be much to do and see. You will be driven back to Paro to attend the **Paro Festival** held in an open air courtyard inside and next to the impressive Paro Dzong.

The ‘Tsechu’ draws hundreds of Bhutanese people in a spirit of reverence, blessing, festivity and celebration, one of the best ways to experience the ancient living culture of Bhutan. The ‘Tsechu’ comes to life with color, music, dance and drama as villagers and



Phnakha Dzong



Dochu La Pass



Paro Festival

townspeople gather to witness the masked dancers, sword play and other sacred rituals. These events, most of which are performed by monks in colorful and elaborate costumes bring blessings to the onlookers, as well as instructing them about the Buddhist Dharma.

Spend the whole day witnessing the religious masked and cultural dancers performing the *Dance of Four Stags* & the *Dance of Judgment for the Dead* among other great acts. Once you are ready to head back, do enjoy a well-deserved rest at your hotel.

Day 6 - Paro (Closing ceremony day of the festival)

This will be the final day of *Tsechu*, rise before dawn to attend the display of the great *Thongdroel*, an intricately appliquéd and embroidered silk scroll measuring 40 x 60 feet. This work of art portrays the eight manifestations of Guru Rinpoche, the Second Buddha and the founder of Tantric Buddhism. Thangkas such as this one are regarded as great treasures and are displayed only once a year for a few hours. It is believed that the mere sight of the *Thongdroel* brings salvation to the beholder.

The festival fills with people from all over the country well before dawn. People offer butter lamps and receive *Thongdroel* blessings, Monks dance cheerfully beating on double-sided drums with curved drumsticks.

The *Thongdroel* is then let down to the ground and ceremoniously rolled and folded away before the first rays of the sun can reach it. Following the display of the *Thongdroel*, the *Tsechu* continues throughout the day with the performances of several additional dances.



Thongdroel

Day 7 - Paro – Hiking to Takstang - Paro

After your delicious breakfast you will be driven to our hike path, from where you will eventually be able to see **Taktsang Monastery**; a most holy and spiritual architectural wonder. Taktsang means '*Tiger's Nest*' and this spectacular building is perched on a rocky ledge with a sheer drop of 3,000 ft. It is said that in the second half of the 8th century, Guru Padma Sambhava, the second Buddha, alighted here upon the back of a tigress.

Enjoy your picnic lunch at the Taktsang cafeteria, after which you will be driven to Paro.

Upon your arrival, you will be driven up the valley to **Durkgyel Dzong**, built in 1647 by the Shadrung to commemorate the Bhutanese victory over the Tibetans in the war of 1644.



Takstang

En route visit **Kyichu Lhakhang**, built in the 7th century by the Tibetan King, Songsten Gampo, do ensure you have seen all you wanted to before heading back to your hotel in Paro for your final overnight stay.

Day 8 - Paro – Bangkok – Hong Kong

In the early morning, proceed to the airport for your flight to **Bangkok** via KB 146 which **departs** at **1050hrs**, and arrives at **1615hrs** (One stop via Dhaka), connect to your return flight back to **Hong Kong**.



	Per Night (HKD)	No. of night	PER PERSON basis (HKD) Min. 2 people travel
Bhutan Local arrangement 7D6N	2,211	6	13,266
Air Fare – Bangkok – Paro – Bangkok (Drukair)	6,560 (approx.)		6,560
Druk air taxes	TBA		TBA
Tourism Development Fund	80		80
Remit charge (USD 50 per transaction)	395		395
Visa fee payable on arrival	80		80
Roughly cost	HKD 20,380 per person		
Supplement for stay at Uma Paro , 2 nights	5,500 per person		
Supplement for stay at Zhiwa Ling Paro, 2 nights	4,200 per person		
Air Fare – HK – Bangkok – HK (CX)	2,610 ** approx.		
CX air taxes & fuel surcharge	750 ** approx.		
Regent Suvarnabhumi airport hotel / The Cottage Suvarnabhumi airport hotel (5-8 min.) from airport	580 ** approx.		

* * Fare and airport taxes figure may revise subject to airlines & Hotel given

Package includes

- Accommodation base on Bhutanese hotel on a full board basis throughout (excluding beverage)
- The Services of an experienced English – speaking Bhutanese guide
- Entry permits and fees
- Transport including airport transfer
- All Bhutanese Government Visa Fees, Taxes and Royalties
- Transport including airport transfers
- Mineral water on all days out

- All main luggage is carried for you and you will only have to carry whatever you require for that days' walks or tours. All single travelers benefit from their own room throughout.
- Throughout your stay you have the option to participate in a range of extra Outdoor Activities at an additional charge.

Package remarks –

- Full payment is required upon reservation , no change and no refund allowed once reservation is confirmed,
- Visa to Bhutan made through Nanda travel
- Tax will apply for import of cigarette and tobacco even for personal use

Please Note: This itinerary is intended as a guide only. Local conditions and weather may necessitate variations to the program and can affect the availability of views and panoramas described. Be aware that all times stated are approximate, and may vary with individual and group fitness.

Package excludes –

- * Air Ticket to / from Bangkok given as a roughly cost mention above
- * Tips to the guide, driver and restaurants
- * Portage at the airport and hotels
- * Any expenses of personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls, insurance, camera fees, excess – baggages, emergency / medical cost etc.
- * Any increase in costs beyond our control such as fuel & airfare increase or additional

Notes –

Notes – The above quote is valid for 7 days in order to guarantee the above quotation , NO reservations has been placed and please advise acceptance in order us to reserve room on definite basis within the above validity period

BHUTAN – Tourism policy

Tourism is administered by the Tourism Authority of Bhutan (TAB), a department of the Ministry of Trade & Industry. Their rules are simple, yet are carefully thought out and strictly enforced. There are few loopholes.

Their basic policy is that foreign tourists pay USD 280 for each night in Bhutan during high season with extra fee for individual. This is an all-inclusive rate that covers all your food, accommodation, transport and guide services. A portion of the fee directly goes to the government as a sort of tourist tax, and the rest goes to tour operator providing the services.

The tourism rules are in keeping with the government's policies of proceeding slowly in all aspects of development and modernization. The 35% royalty that goes into the national treasury has



helped with development and, among other things, providing free medical care and education for everyone in the country.

All prices shown are subject to variation without notice.