



KINGDOM OF THE THUNDER DRAGON – “BHUTAN”

Bhutan is a land where the past and the contemporary co-exist in harmony, a recipe that makes a journey undeniably amazing. A trip through Bhutan, in many ways, is still a journey into the past.

Nestling in the heart of the great Himalayas, Bhutan remained in self-imposed isolation for centuries, aloof from the rest of the world; and still stands like a mythical Shangri-la, mesmerizing visitors with its pristine environment and inhabitants.

This deeply spiritual land is home to a unique identity, derived essentially from a fertile religious and cultural heritage. Bhutan brims with myth and legend. As a befitting testimony, a great Buddhist heritage of over 2000 monasteries and 10,000 monuments dot its peaceful open space and regal mountains.

It is a land of about 700,000 people who believe that Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross National Product. It is a country with a different face, and a different story to tell.

*Spend 5 days in this magical little country,
staying at the most luxurious hotels;
exploring the beautiful Paro Valley, and the
enriching capital city-Thimphu.*

Day 1, AUSTRALIA /BANGKOK

On board, flight to Bangkok.

Day 2, BANGKOK / PARO/THIMPHU



Arrive in Bangkok from Australia. Stay in transit to catch the Druk air flight to Paro.

As you near Bhutan (and if the weather is clear), you can see the massive peaks of the eastern Himalayas, including

Kanchenjunga (third highest mountain in the world) and Bhutan's holy mountain, Chomolhari. After arriving in the Paro Valley, you will be met by your guide and driver, and driven to Capital city, Thimphu.

Thimphu is the least known and most exclusive of the Himalayan capitals. Situated at an elevation of 8,000 feet, it has one of the richest Buddhist histories in the



entire Himalayas. Its unique architecture echoes a mix of Nepali and Central Tibetan styles.

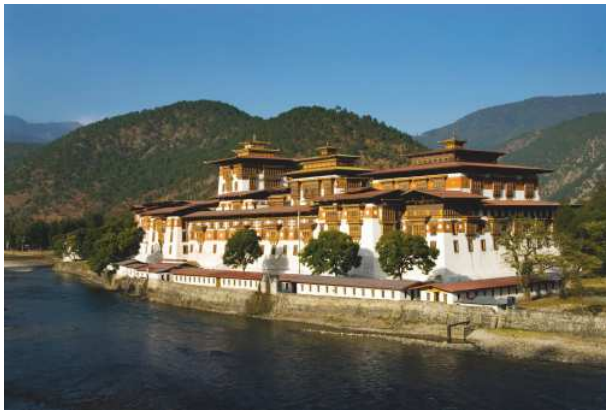
Check in to hotel Taj Tashi, and take some time off in your room.

In the evening, visit the Memorial Chorten—built in memory of the third king Jigme Dorji Wangchuk; and the Tashichhodzong— the seat of the government and home to about 300 monks during summer.



OVERNIGHT – HOTEL TAJ TASHI

Day 3: THIMPHU/ PUNAAKHA / THIMPHU



After breakfast, drive to Punakha through the *Dochula* pass (3100 meters). On a clear day you can see the eastern Himalayan ranges including the highest mountain in Bhutan *Mt.Gangar Punsum* (7520 meters).

Punakha, the former capital of Bhutan offers superlative views of the Himalayas, the nearby Wangdiphodrang Dzong and the Punakha Dzong. The latter is the winter home of the largest group of monks in the country (some 500) and the



Je Khempo (spiritual



leader of the monk body).

Visit the Punakha Dzong and the Chimi Lakhang (Temple of the Divine Mad Man) and drive back to Thimphu for a special dinner at the hotel.

OVERNIGHT – HOTEL TAJ TASHI

Day 4: THIMPHU / PARO

Drive to Paro after breakfast this morning. Visit Paro city, which has kept its bucolic nature in spite of the airport and the existence of development projects. Fields - brown or green cover most of the valley floor, while hamlets and isolated farms dot the countryside.



Visit the *Kyichu Lhakhang*, one of the oldest and most sacred monasteries of the Kingdom, dating back to the 7th century AD, built by the Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo.



See the *Taa Dzong*, the national museum of Bhutan. It was built in 1951 as a watchtower. Unlike the rectangular shape of other Dzongs, Taa

Dzong is round, like European castles.

It holds a fascinating collection of art, relics, religious Thangka paintings and the country's exquisite postage stamps.

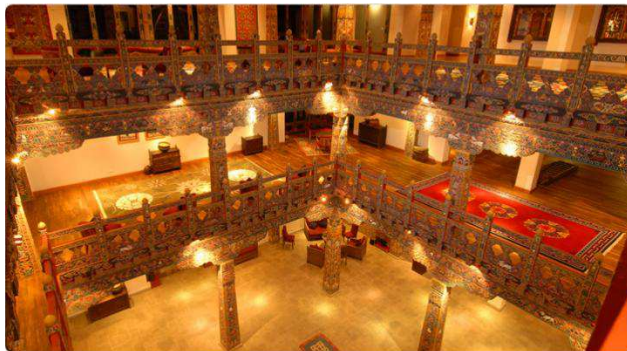
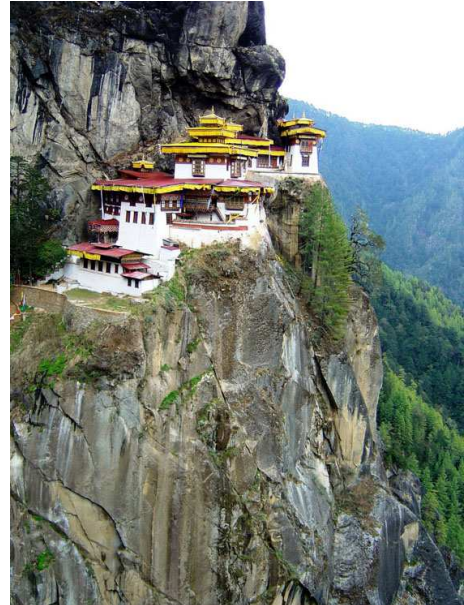


OVERNIGHT – The ZHIWALING

Day 5: Paro

After an early breakfast today, drive up to Satsam Chorten and prepare for a hike to the 'Tiger's Nest' or the Taktsang Monastery. This magical monastery clings to a vertical granite cliff 2,000 feet above the valley floor.

In approximately 45 minutes, you will reach a small teahouse that has a wonderful panoramic view of the temple. For those interested, it is possible to get a closer view by hiking another 45 minutes (each direction) to reach the small 'Chorten' directly across from the temple.



Anyone not interested in hiking further can relax at the teahouse and enjoy the view.

OVERNIGHT – The ZHIWALING

Day 6: PARO / BANGKOK / AUSTRALIA

Take the flight back to Bangkok and the next flight from there to Australia.

TOUR COST

BASIS – 15 paying Pax	USD	Remark
01 Double Room on double / twin sharing basis	USD 1900.00	Net per person

OTHER SUPPLEMENTS	USD	Remark
Supplement for 01 Single room	USD 1040.00	Net per single
Airfare (Bangkok / Paro / Bangkok) Fare as on date and subject to reconfirmation closer to the dates)		
In Economy Class	USD 1025.00	Net per person
In Business Class	USD 1230.00	Net per person

TOUR COST INCLUSIVE OF:

- Accommodation on twin / double share basis.
- All transfers and sightseeing using one private A/C Car - Toyota or equivalent. .
- Entrance Fees to all Sites.
- All presently applicable taxes.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIVE OF:

- Any Airfare.
- Meals
- Alcohol at any place.
- Accompanying Escort.
- Payment of airport Taxes upon departure, if not already included in the tickets.
- All supplements indicated above.
- Tips at Restaurants during meals and to Chauffeurs and Guides.
- Visa Fee / Airport Tax / Insurance.
- Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, table drinks / alcohol, customary tips etc.
- Any expenses incurred beyond our control due to natural disasters, political disturbances etc.

HOTEL ENVISAGED:

CITY	HOTEL
PARO	The ZHIWALING
THIMPU	TAJ TASHI
