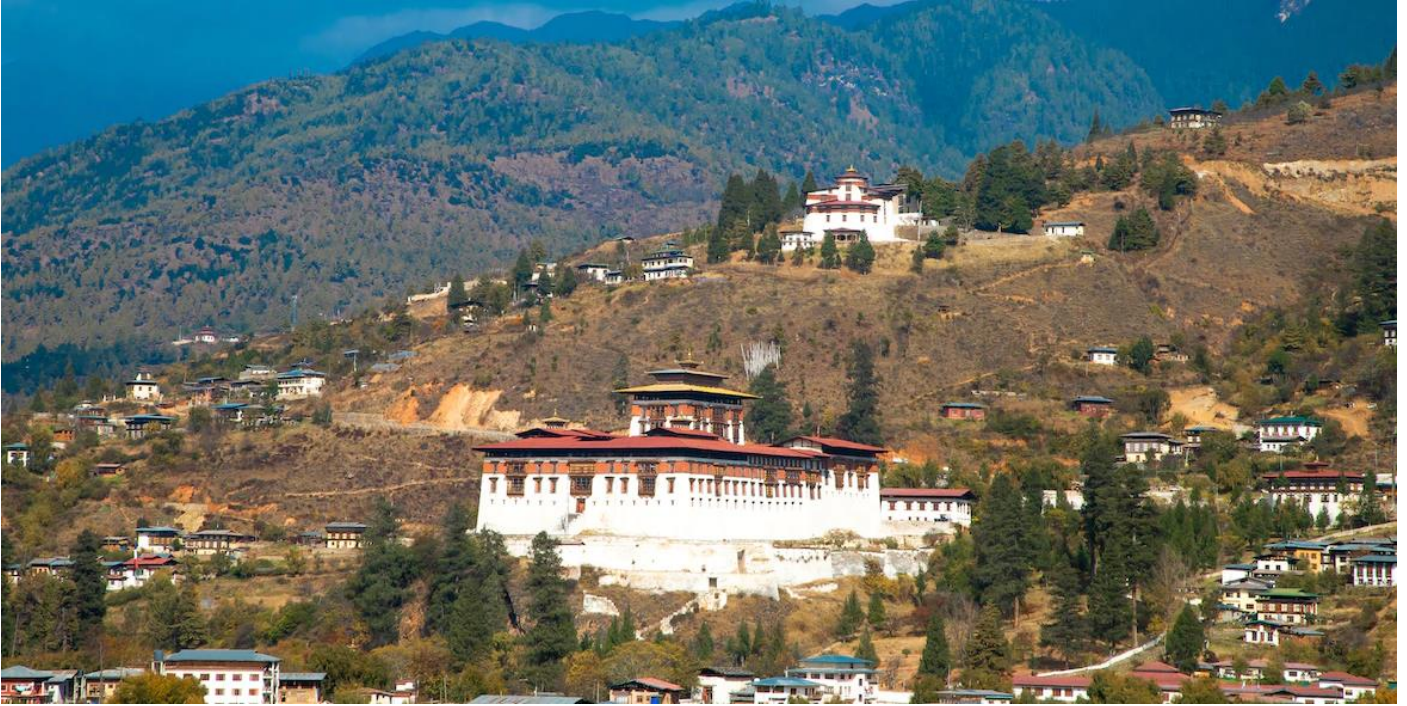


## **Bhutan 6 N 7 D**



### **OUTLINE ITINERARY (06 NIGHTS 07 DAYS)**

- Day 01: Arrive Paro. Drive to Thimphu.
- Day 02: Thimphu
- Day 03: Thimphu – Punakha
- Day 04: Punakha – Excursion to Gangtey
- Day 05: Punakha – Paro
- Day 06: Paro
- Day 07: Take the flight from Paro to Onward Journey.

### **DETAIL ITINERARY**

#### **Day 01: Arrive Paro. Drive to Thimphu. Stay overnight in Thimphu.**

Now that you're all set for your Bhutan Tour arrive on time at the International Airport to check-in for the early morning flight. You'll enter the magical world of Bhutan in just a couple of hours as you land at Paro International Airport.

The flight is undoubtedly a treat for the eyes, what with mesmerising views of the Himalayas and picturesque sights of the extensive Paro Valley! As you enter the Paro region, you'll see the beautiful, crystalline Pa Chhu (Paro) river meandering down the valley, fertile rice fields, and exemplary pieces of architecture such as Bhutan dzong.

#### **Kuzuzangpo La! Welcome to Bhutan, The Kingdom of Happiness**

Our team will be eagerly waiting for you at the airport's exit terminal. Just complete the immigration formalities and collect your baggage, and you're in for a warm welcome.

From Paro airport, we'll start our drive towards Thimphu, the Happiness Kingdom's capital city. Located at an approximate height of 2500 m in the Thimphu Valley, this vibrant city is an hour's drive from the airport.

We'll take you on a scenic drive along the Paro River and the Wang Chu (Thimphu) River, passing timeless villages within the countryside. Get ready for the first glance of Thimphu as we approach Simtokha Dzong. Upon arrival, check-in at one of our finest selections of Bhutan hotels and overnight stay.

### **Day 02: Thimphu Tour. Stay overnight in Thimphu.**

We hope you had a good night's sleep in beautiful Bhutan! Enjoy the hotel's satiating breakfast before we begin our Thimphu tour today.

First on the list is **Memorial Chorten**, dedicated to the founder of modern Bhutan. This tall, four-storeyed structure contains statues and symbols of several Tantric deities, undoubtedly ranking among the must-visit tourist places in Bhutan. Experience the fantastic sight of locals circumambulating the Chorten, holding prayer beads and murmuring the divine prayers. What better way to begin your day in wonderful Bhutan than visiting such a pious landmark?

Now we take you to the **National Library**. This 20th-century building houses major historical evidence in the form of documents and photos. Also, you'll find the world's biggest published book here that weighs 68 kg and is 2 metres in height.

Next stop is **Buddha Dordenma**, made in line with increasing the Bhutan happiness index. This sitting statue of Buddha measures 169 feet in height and is filled with 1,25,000 shorter Buddha statues. One of the world's most giant Buddha statues, Buddha Dordenma, with its peaceful and assuring appearance, draws innumerable tourists towards it. Also, this spot offers spectacular views of the Thimphu Valley.

After seeking the umpteen blessings of the Buddha, we drive towards Thimphu for lunch. By the way, did you see any traffic lights in your Bhutan Travel so far? This is the only nation worldwide that controls vehicular traffic without them. In Thimphu, you'll see a traffic policeman waving and signalling to the main traffic. Well-dressed and wearing white gloves, the traffic policeman's graceful mannerisms are sure to fascinate you. This unique traffic control system of amazing Bhutan might as well qualify for some sightseeing!

After this, visit **Simply Bhutan Museum**, an engaging 'living' museum that offers a brief overview of different facets of traditional existence in Bhutan.

Your next stop is at the **Takin Sanctuary** to witness the baffling and endangered Takin. This large mammal weighing up to 650 kgs is the national animal of wonderful Bhutan. The Takin's unusual appearance with its resemblance to a cow from the rear and a goat from the front interests many visitors. Won't you like to get close up on this mysterious creature while it feeds near the fence?

Late afternoon, we take you to **Tashichho Dzong**, an impressive structure located just on the outskirts of Thimphu. One of Bhutan's most iconic monuments, the Tashichho Dzong houses His Majesty's throne room and several government offices. This massive fortress is also the summer residence of the central monastic body.

Souvenir shopping is surely at the back of your mind. At the **Handicraft Market of Thimphu**, shop for souvenirs to your heart's content. Buy beautifully embroidered attires, scroll paintings, and precious jewellery at reasonable prices from one or more of the 100 government appointed shops here.

What a fulfilling day it's been! We still have plenty in store for you to celebrate Bhutan. But it's time to break at the hotel for a delicious dinner and a restful sleep before that.

### **Day 03: Thimphu - Punakha. Overnight stay in Punakha.**

After breakfast, we check out of the hotel and head for Punakha city. This 3-hour journey includes an ascending drive through the Dochula Pass at 3100 m amidst pines and junipers. This mesmerising mountain pass with 108 stupas and bright-coloured prayer flags is indeed a visitor's delight also we will visit the **Lamperi Botanical Park** where you will find different species of rhododendron flowers.

If you're lucky to spend time here on a clear day, you'll get guaranteed superb views of the region's highest peaks. Stroll around the stupas dedicated to 108 brave soldiers who lost their lives in warfare.

Immerse yourself in nature as you capture beautiful Bhutan in your camera from great photography spots here. You must visit the intricately designed Druk Wangyal Lhakhang temple at **Dochula Pass** if you love ancient architecture.

Once rejuvenated, we continue with our journey and start descending towards Punakha. Upon arrival Check-in to the hotel.

Now, it is time to take a beautiful hike on the paddy fields towards **Chimi Lhakhang**, the temple of the Devine Mad Man called Drukpa Kuenley. We can take a picturised and leisurely walk through the paddy field, no steep climb here, just easy walk in the paddy field. The return journey takes about an hour and a half or two.

Next, we'll head straight to the 17th-century **Punakha Dzong**, a majestic structure inextricably associated with the momentous historical events of unforgettable Bhutan, such as the crowning of all the Kings of Bhutan. Punakha Dzong is also the central monastic body's winter residence.

This six-storeyed architectural marvel with towering, whitewashed walls is Bhutan's most beautiful dzong. Built on the banks of two rivers, the dzong turns into a spectacle in sunny weather, what with its whitewashed walls splashed in sunlight that bounces off the waters.

We will finish our day by seeing one of the **longest suspension bridges** in Bhutan, spanning 350m and perched high above the very swift river of Po Chhu. Draped with prayer flags, the bridge connects the town of Punakha and the Punakha Dzong, mainly used by locals from the other side of the town as a shortcut to Punakha Dzong. After this visit retrace back to hotel. Rest of the time leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 04: Punakha – Excursion to Gangtey. Overnight stay in Punakha**

Today after breakfast we will take you to an excursion to Gangtey. Gangtey is a beautiful place of rolling hills and green meadows surrounded by snowcapped mountains. It is at an altitude of 3000m. From Gangtey, one can closely view the picturesque Black Mountain ranges as well as the beautiful Phobjikha valley. **Gangtey Gonpa** is perched atop a small hill that rises from the valley floor. The Monastery is surrounded by a large village inhabited mainly by the families of the 140 Gomchens (Lay Monks). The Gangtey Gonpa is the only Nyingmapa Monastery on the western side of the Black mountains and is also the biggest of its kind.

Gangtey is also the winter home for the famous Black Necked Cranes who migrate here from Tibet during the winter months. At Gangtey, you can visit the **Gangtey Monastery** and the **Black Necked Crane center**.

Retrace back to Punakha and overnight stay at the hotel.

#### **Day 05: Punakha – Paro. Overnight stay in Paro.**

This morning we start our journey towards Paro via the picturesque Dochula Pass. Remember, on day 1 of your Bhutan Tour, you got only a glimpse of Paro Valley while entering the Kingdom of Happiness. But today, after about 5 hours, you'll get to stay in one of the most excellent Bhutan hotels located right in the spectacular valley!

We will continue our drive towards beautiful Paro. The confluence of rivers is always fascinating. So is Chuzom, the meeting point of Rivers Thimphu and Paro. We'll halt for a while and enjoy a walk on Chuzom's bridge. Also, noteworthy here are 3 different-styled chortens - Tibetan, Nepali, and Bhutanese. Take as many pictures as you want before we continue our travel.

At a short distance from Chuzom, you can spot the **Thamchok Lhakhang**, a private temple dedicated to the ancient saint Thangthong Gyelpo. He is famous for having built countless iron chain bridges to ease Himalayan travels and pilgrimages. The access to the temple is through an iron suspension bridge built by Thangthong Gyelpo, which is purely a photographer's delight. Finally, we reach our hotel in Paro. Check-in at the hotel.

After fresh ups, next, we take you to the **Ta Dzong**, an ancient watchtower-converted- museum, also known as the country's National Museum. Indulge in Bhutan's rich culture as you see lovely exhibits of paintings, bronzes, 3-D stamps, silken stamps, textiles, and jewellery. Look out for the famed triangular stamp illustrating the ape-like yeti. Walk the galleries showcasing stuffed animals of amazing Bhutan.

Now let's go below the Museum. An architectural marvel and, indeed, a photographer's delight is awaiting you. That's **Paro Dzong**, a 17th-century, impressive fortress with a complex of preserved buildings. Also known as **Rinpung Dzong**, this square fortress is Paro's administrative centre and houses temples, courtyards, and offices with intricate Bhutanese motif works. After this visit retrace back to hotel and overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 06: Paro Sightseeing and overnight stay in Paro**

Today, it's all about Paro! Post breakfast, we take a short drive on a blacktop road of green Bhutan to the end of Paro Valley. This is where the 17th-Century **Drukgyel Dzong** stands. A symbol of victory over the Tibetan aggression, Drukgyel Dzong served as an excellent barrier for several years against further attacks. Today, we can see only the ruins of this fortress because it had caught fire and suffered heavy damage in 1951. However, the well-protected ancient ruins make an impressive sight, qualifying as Bhutan's most stunning archaeological spot!

We take you to the end of the blacktop road and then along a narrow path to Lingshi, a remote Bhutanese village that yak herders call home. Today, if Weather God is on your side, you'll be able to get a clear view of the snow-clad, towering (23,996 feet) Mt. Jomolhari. This spectacular mountain, also regarded as the holiest peak in beautiful Bhutan, provides a perfect backdrop to the Drugyel ruins and Lingshi.

Coming up is one of the best parts of your Bhutan Tour! From Lingshi, we retrace about 6 kilometres to take in breathtaking views of **Taksang Lhakhang**, more popularly called "The Tiger's Nest". This iconic monastery is so-called owing to the myth that the medieval Buddhist saint Padmasambhava visited it, riding a flying tiger. The legend also says that he meditated in a cave that is now the Nest's lower storey. The monastery houses a wrathful emanation of Padmanabha on top of a tiger.

You can reach this sacred place only through an uphill hike as it's perched on a precipitous rock face. It's a 5-hour trek through scenic pine forests, with the eluding view of the Nest beckoning you the whole time.

So, are you game? We'll take you uphill through the well-marked trail till we reach our lunch point after about 3 hours. Enjoy unique views of the monastery from here. If you're hell-bent on visiting the monastery, we'll take you further uphill for another couple of hours.

Next, we'll take you to Paro town. You can explore it at your leisure. But something is interesting on the way back from the dzong to our waiting vehicle. Take the experience of crossing the traditional cantilever bridge with a shingle roof and a couple of watch houses on each end.

In Paro town, enjoy local cuisine like steamy momos. Else, visit one of the finest restaurants that serve sophisticated Bhutanese foods, such as Ema Datshi (Bhutan's national dish). Shop for souvenirs at the Paro Craft Market. After this, we return to the hotel. Enjoy the last dinner before we all part ways tomorrow.

### **Day 07: Check out of the hotel in Paro. Take the flight from Paro to Onward Journey.**

After breakfast and check-out, we'll drive you to Paro international airport. After bidding a heartfelt goodbye to unforgettable Bhutan, we board the flight to onward Journey. We hope you enjoyed your Bhutan Tour thoroughly. We'll be more than happy to take you around the Kingdom of Happiness again!

**\*\*End of The Tour\*\***