

INDEPENDENT TRIPS

Bhutan Happiness Kingdom 7D/6N

Cultural

7 Days / 1 Country

Bhutan

Departure city: **Paro, Bhutan**

End city: **Paro, Bhutan**



HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the city of Thimphu and experience its fascinating culture
- Visit Punakha Valley and Phobjikha Gangtey Temple
- Choose to drive to Chele La pass, or to hike the Tiger's Nest

Experience the wonders of Bhutan on this incredible 7-day adventure. Visit Thimphu, the Punakha Valley, Phobjikha Gangtey Temple and more.

MAP



What is included



Independent Trips

Include all of your accommodation, transport and experiences on a pre-set trip that you can customize to perfectly suit your travel needs.



Accommodation: 6

- 6 Nights shared accommodation (1N Thimphu, 3N Paro, 2N Punakha)
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Meals: 19

- 6 Breakfast(s), 7 Lunch(es), 6 Dinner(s),
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Guides:

- English-speaking guide throughout tour
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What is not included

- *Airfare
- *Other meals/drinks
- *Tips
- *Travel insurance

*Luxury hotel can be arranged in additional cost

*Specialised bilingual guides (photography, bird watching, Buddhism, flora & fauna, fly fishing) can be arranged in additional cost

*Prices for optional activities are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Please confirm these prices before departing on your trip.

Itinerary

Day 1: Paro-Thimphu, Bhutan

Paro Airport Pickup & Transfer to Thimphu (L/D)

After a spectacular flight with views of the highest world's highest peaks and the beautiful scenery of Valley, arrive to the airport. There you will be picked-up and transferred to your accommodation in Thimphu. In the evening, visit the magnificent Tashichoe Dzong (the Fortress of the Glorious Region). Overnight in Thimphu.

Day 2: Thimphu-Paro, Bhutan

Thimphu Sightseeing & Transfer to Paro (B/L/D)

Have breakfast at your accommodation before going on a city tour of Thimphu. You will visit places as the King's Memorial Chorten, a stupa built in the memory of the Third King of Bhutan; the Buddha Point, where you will be amazed by a 169-foot statue of Buddha; and the National Library, home to ancient Bhutanese scripts and the biggest book in the world.

Continue to the Jungshi handmade paper Factory and learn about the traditional methods of producing authentic Dehsho (Bhutanese paper made with tree bark). You can even try your hand and making one!

Next stop is the Takin Preservation Centre, is a wildlife reserve area for takin, the national animal of Bhutan. Transfer back to Paro and spend the evening at leisure. You can take a walk to the main city from Clocktower square for some shopping and exploring. Overnight in Paro.

Day 3: Paro-Punakha, Bhutan

Paro-Punakha (B/L/D)

In the morning, drive through the lowlands of the Punakha Valley towards Punakha. Stop at Hongtsho Village, where you will get your permit stamped at the checkpoint and have the chance to buy fresh apple juice.

Continue towards western Bhutan and cross the Dochula Pass, a mountain pass famous for its 108 memorial stupas known as the "Druk Wangyal chortens". Stop to take in the extraordinary views of the Gangar Punsum (if the weather permits) and make three rounds around the chortens as you offer prayers.

Proceed through Thinleygang village and enter the Punakha Valley. Arrive in Lobesa Village, where you visit some traditional houses and learn about the local's lifestyle. Have lunch and continue to Buddhist Shrine "Chimi Lhakhang". It was built in 1499 and is dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kunley "Divine Madman" known for his outrageous behaviour. It is visited by women that wish to have a child. Enjoy the view of the surrounding paddy fields before driving to Punakha. Overnight at a hotel in Punakha.

Day 4: Punakha, Bhutan

Punakha-Phobjikha-Punakha (B/L/D)

Have breakfast at your accommodation and head to Phobjikha at 3000 metres. On the way, visit the Gangtey Gonpa Temple, the seat of Nyingmapa Buddhism, one of the religious sects in Bhutan, built in 1613. After exploring the temple, stroll around the beautiful Valley of Phobjikha. The Valley is the winter home to endangered black-necked cranes migrating from Tibet from November to February.

Drive back to the Punakha Valley. Overnight at a hotel in Punakha.

Day 5: Punakha-Paro, Bhutan

Punakha-Paro (B/L/D)

Have breakfast and enjoy the scenic drive back to the Paro Valley. Spend the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at a hotel in Paro.

Day 6: Paro, Bhutan

Paro Valley Sightseeing (B/L/D)

Today you can choose between driving to Chele La Pass or Hike to the Tiger's Nest.

Option 1: Drive to Chele La Pass (3988m). On the way, make a stop at Kila gumpa, a Buddhist sacred place and one of the highest motorable passes in the country.

The Chele La Pass offers gardens of Himalayan flowers, plants and special pheasant species. Water is scarce on these ridges and it is recommended to bring extra water supplies with you. Return to Paro in the evening. Overnight in Paro.

Option 2: Hike to the Tiger's Nest. Taktshang (Tiger's Nest) is Paro's Valley most important landmark and one of the country's biggest treasures. The monastery stands on a granite cliff about 1000 metres above the valley floor.

The hike to Taksang takes around 2.5 hrs. From the cafeteria, you can enjoy great views of the monastery. You can also walk 45 minutes further uphill to get a closer view of the monastery. The journey back to the main road will take less than 1.5 hrs. Have lunch at your accommodation and spend some time in Paro Bazar to do some shopping. Overnight at a Hotel in Paro.

Day 7: Paro, Bhutan

Paro Airport Drop-off (B)

After breakfast, you will be transferred back to Paro International Airport. A representative will help you with exit formalities. Good luck on your onward travels!

