



LUXE INDIA
TOURS AND TRAVELS PVT. LTD.

The Himalayan Mountain tour of Bhutan

PARO – HAA VALLEY PARO – CHAPCHA - THIMPHU – GANGTEY – PUNAKHA – PARO

10 days trip starting from \$1370 per person

NATURE AT ITS BEST – BHUTAN

Bhutan's pristine environment with high rugged mountains and deep valleys, offers ecosystems that are both rich & diverse. Bhutan being one of the small countries in the world, it still has 65% forest coverage making Bhutan a negative carbon zone. Bhutan is known for its natural beauty, forest conservation, gross national happiness, rich wild life, cascading rivers, great culture and heritage.

This 10 Days tour is meant for nature lovers who love exploring nature including Bird watching and visiting the most beautiful and isolated areas in the kingdom, adorned with positive alpine forests and tranquil mountain peaks.

Bhutan has long maintained a policy of strict isolationism, both culturally and economically with the goal of preserving its cultural heritage and independence. Closed to foreign visitors until the 1970's, Bhutan's past and present are firmly grounded in traditional Buddhist culture.

DAY 01: ARRIVE PARO

Arrive at Paro International Airport. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. Upon arrival at hotel, check in at the hotel. After lunch, sightseeing of Paro.

Visit Paro Dzong, the 'Fortress of a Heap of Jewels.' Constructed in the early 15th century as a diminutive fort, it was developed into a much more commanding fortress in 1646. One of the kingdom's finest examples of traditional Bhutanese architecture, the structure now houses a monastic school. While back to hotel, cross Nyamai-Zam, a traditional wooden covered bridge which spans the Paro River. Perched above Paro Dzong is its watchtower renovated in 1968 to house the National Museum. The round building is built in the shape of a conch shell, and it displays an impressive collection of ancient and modern thangkas (Buddhist paintings). Later, visit the Kyichu Monastery, via the Drugyel Dzong ruins. It is one of the oldest monasteries in the country, built in the 7th century. Back at hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 02: TIGER BNEEST MONASTERY (PARO)

After breakfast, drive around 25 minutes to hike to one of Bhutan's most revered pilgrimage sites, the Taktshang Lhakhang, popularly known as the Tiger's Nest Monastery. The trek offers spectacular views of this sacred monastery perched precariously on a sheer rock face nearly 3,000 feet (900 m) above the valley floor. Legend has it that Guru Rinpoche, father of Mahayana Buddhism, arrived in the Paro Valley more than a millennium ago on the back of a tigress. He meditated for three months in a cave, which was converted into this monastery.

On your return, stop at the cafeteria for lunch, then descend to the base of Ramthanka. The return hike takes around two hours. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 03: PARO - HAA VALLEY VIA CHELE LA -PARO(100 KMS – 2 HRS)

After early breakfast, drive to Chele La, the highest road pass in Bhutan. It snakes upwards through blue pine and rhododendron forests for 22 miles (35 km). On a clear day, the view sweeps down to the Haa Valley.

Passing along the edelweiss-covered ridge, you will pass a sky burial site, the traditional Tibetan method for disposing of their dead. Then descend for approximately two hours through dense rhododendron forest (possibly sighting shaggy yaks!) to Kila Goemba, an ancient nunnery nestled in a craggy patch on the mountainside below. Time to descend back to the road and visit Haa Valley

Haa is the ancestral home of the Queen Grandmother and the illustrious Dorji family. Here, there are a couple of important temples and a few shops surrounded by farmhouses and apple orchards beside the fast-flowing Haa River. The hills of Haa provide an ideal location for hiking or mountain biking, with the chance to stop and visit remote shrines and temples and discover the unchanged lifestyles of nomadic herders. Back to Paro. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 04: PARO - CAPCHA (50 KMS - 1 HR 30 MINUTES)

After breakfast, check out and leave for Thimphu. Thimphu, situated in a large valley traversed by the Wangchu River and surrounded by high peaks. Upon arrival at Thimphu, check in at the hotel. Later sightseeing of Thimphu.

Visit the Changangkha Lhakhang, a fortress-like temple perched on a ridge south of Motithang. From the courtyard, find great views of the Thimphu Valley. Next, drive towards Dechenphodrang. Since 1971, it has housed the state monastic school - on any regular day the grounds hum with recitations emanating from the windows. Drive to Buddha Dordenma – one of the largest Buddha statues in the world, the Buddha Dordenma was built in 2015 on the merry occasion of 60th birthday of the fourth king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

Later, visit, Anim Dratshang (nunnery), National Library, Handmade Paper factory & Memorial Chorten (stupa). Visit to School of Arts & Crafts, Textile & Folk Heritage Museum, Zangtho Pelri Lhakhang (Lhakhang = Temple) and Handicrafts Emporium. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 05: CAPCHA - THIMPU (50 KMS - 1 HR 30 MINUTES)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for the scenic valley of Chapcha. Perched on a hilltop, stands the Dokhachu Goenpa, a remote monastery that offers rare insights into the way of life of the 20-30 monks who reside there. Spend the day relaxing at the monastery and observing the lifestyle of the monks and overnight at the Monastery Guest House.

DAY 06: CAPCHA - THIMPU (150 KMS - 4 HRS)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave for Gangtey Valley by surface. Enroute, take a short stop at Dochula Pass (3,080m) that heralds the most enchanting views of Bhutan.

Then, make your way towards the Phobjikha Valley, a wide glacial valley with a central stream that meanders through thickets of dwarf bamboo. The forest beyond the farms is mostly coniferous, and the general vegetation is composed largely of blue pine, birch, maple and several species of rhododendrons.

Next, visit the Black-Necked Crane Centre, which is devoted to protecting and rehabilitating the endangered species that migrates annually from the Tibetan Plateau, and learn why local farmers consider them good luck. For the best opportunity to see the striking, four-foot-tall birds in person, plan to visit from November to February.

Upon arrival at Gangtey, check in at the hotel and time to relax. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 07: GANGTEY - PUNAKHA (80 KMS - 2 HR 30 MINUTES)

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and leave (by surface) for Punakha. Enroute visit, Gangtey Monastery — an important bastion of the Nyingmapa school of Buddhism, a tradition traced to eighth-century Indian master Guru Rinpoche (also known as Padmasambhava).

Punakha – the former capital of Bhutan, set in a fertile, picturesque valley at the confluence of the Mo Chhu (Mother River) and Pho Chhu (Father River). Enroute, take a short hike to Chimi Lhakhang – perched on a round hillock flanked by prayer flags, this Buddhist monastery is dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kunley, a 15th-century Tibetan Buddhist saint, also called “the Divine Madman,”.

Arrive at Punakha and check in at the hotel. Afternoon, visit Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten (chorten = stupa). Evening free to enjoy fascinating Punakha valley. Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 08: ATTEND A TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL, SIGHTSEEING IN PUNAKHA

Today, drive early to attend the Punakha Tshechu Festival. Traditional festivals not only play an important role in preserving Bhutan’s rich culture, but also provide devout Buddhists with an opportunity for prayer and pilgrimage. Time permitting, traverse the Punakha countryside by walking through paddy fields to Pana village to see the Chimi Lhakhang Temple. This temple was built in the year 1400 and is a popular pilgrimage point for Bhutanese people. Back to hotel and overnight stay.

DAY 09: PUNAKHA - PQRO (125 KMS - 3 HRS 30 MINUTES)

After an early breakfast, set out on a beautiful day hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Monastery. A thirty-minute drive from Punakha Dzong will bring you to the base of the hill on which this temple is built. From the car park, cross a suspension bridge and walk through rice fields before climbing a moderate incline surrounded by pine trees. The hike up is about an hour, and down about half an hour. Enjoy the serene natural beauty of the area and light traditional butter lamps at the temple - a powerful offering symbolizing wisdom.

Drive back towards the Paro Valley. Stop at the Dochula Pass for photographs and to hang prayer flags. Arrive at Paro and check in at the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

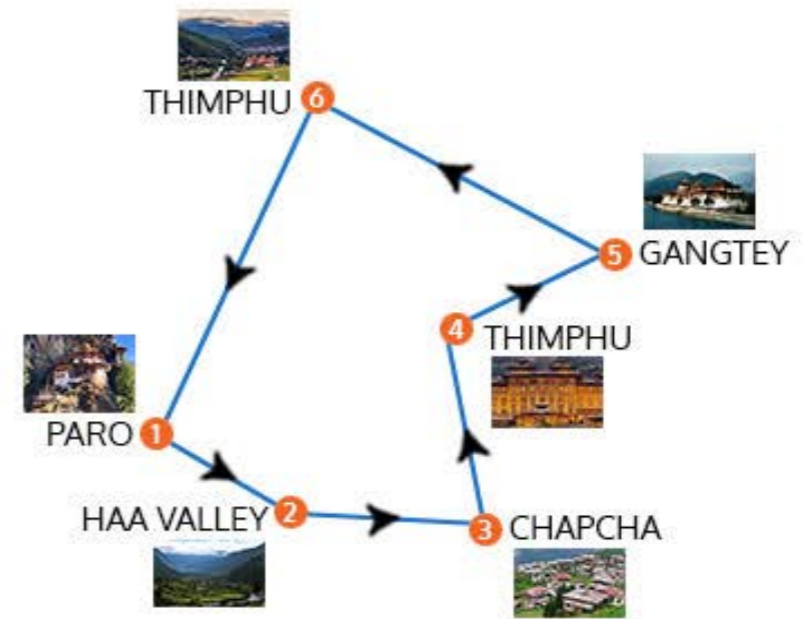
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Drive back towards the Paro Valley. Stop at the Dochula Pass for photographs and to hang prayer flags. Arrive at Paro and check in at the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.



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