

Cultural Tour/Hike

Day 1 – Paro to Thimphu

Arrive at Paro International Airport – Paro
Received by Guide and Driver at the airport

Drive to Thimphu (the capital of Bhutan). The drive is 1.5 hours and the road is quite windy through the mountainsides. It is a scenic drive and the vehicle can stop anywhere you wish to look more.

Check in the hotel

Sightseeing in Thimphu – There are plenty of things to do and you can pick and choose as you wish and the guide can help you choose. The following are the choices (you may not be able to do all today but it can be spread out to other days):

- Memorial Chorten – In memory of the 3rd King
- Changangkha Monastery – Beautiful scenes, it is on top of a hill
- Takin Zoo – Takin is the national animal of Bhutan
- Folk Heritage Museum
- Textile Museum – Displays of beautiful hand woven textiles of Bhutan

Day 2 - Thimphu

Early morning hike to Tango and Chari Monasteries (you may do both or one dependent on your stamina). It is on the outskirts of Thimphu and around 1 hour hike uphill to each monastery. It is a beautiful hike and it is also a Buddhist College for Monks.

Visit the Tashichodzong – The building where the King's Throne room is and also the Capital Building for Bhutan.

Visit Dechenphug Monastery – It houses the protective deity of the Thimphu Valley, a very important monastery for the residents of Thimphu

Walk around Thimphu town

Day 3 – Thimphu – Phajoding

Hike to Phajoding around 3 to 4 hours hike from Thimphu valley and has some beautiful glacial lakes.

Camp Overnight

Day 4 – Thimphu – Phajoding

Hike around Phajoding

Day 5 – Phajoding – Thimphu

Hike back to Thimphu

Rest

Day 6 – June 16th 2006 – Thimphu to Punakha

Leave for Punakha (approx. 3 hours) – It used to be the old Capital of Bhutan.

Visit Chimi Lhakgang – monastery for the Divine Madman or Lam Drukpa Kuenley.

Visit the Punakha Dzong – It is a really beautiful edifice. It is the winter residence for the Monastic Body, and while you are there, the Monastic Body may still be there as well, and visitors may not be allowed inside.

Drive to Wangdi town and visit the Dzong.

Day 7 – June 17th 2006 – Punakha to Paro

Leave Punkha for Paro in the afternoon

Visit the ruins of Drukgyal Dzong

Visit the Ta National Museum and the Rinpung Dzong

Day 8 – June 18th 2006 – Paro

Hike to Takstang or popularly known as the “Tiger’s nest”. Around 3 hours hike uphill. This monastery is one of the most sacred monasteries of Bhutan.

Walk around Paro town

Day 9 – June 19th 2006

Fly Out