



## **Glimpses of Bhutan Paro Tshechu 11 Days**

### **Day 01      March 28, 2012      Paro to Thimphu**

Our BTT representative will receive you at the Paro Airport and escort to your hotel.  
Leave for Thimphu -1.5 hours drive and check into hotel.

Sightseeing in Thimphu:

- National Memorial Chorten built in honour of our late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk.
- Visit Dechenphug Monastery – It is the houses the protective deity of the Thimphu Valley, a very important monastery for the residents of Thimphu
- Halt at Phutsho Pelri Hotel or Similar.

### **Day 02      March 29, 2012      Thimphu**

- Thimphu Dzong, the seat of the royal government and the central monastic body, It is also the summer residence of Je Khenpo (chief abbot of Bhutan). The Dzong is open to visitors only in winter when the Je Khenpo and the monk Body moves to Punakha the ancient winter capital of Bhutan.
- Takin Zoo – Takin is the national animal of Bhutan
- Dechenphodrang Monastery – A monastic school for young to middle aged monks
- Zilukha nunnery.
- National School of Arts and Crafts, where traditional arts are still kept alive through instructions in the arts of painting thankas(sacred Buddhist religious scrolls),sculpting, boot making, embroidery, sword making etc.
- Traditional Medicine Institute, where indigenous medicine are prepared accordingly to ancient practices.
- Textiles Museum (gallery of the Bhutanese textiles through the ages)
- Explore Thimphu town.
- Halt at Phutsho Pelri Hotel or Similar.

### **Day 03      March 30, 2012      Thimphu to Punakha**

- Early morning day hike to Tango Buddhist College.
- After lunch depart to Punakha via Dochula pass (3050 metres). This pass offers panoramic views of Himalayan ranges.
- Visit Chime Lhakhang, a temple dedicated to the god of fertility.
- Halt at Meri Phuensum Resort or similar.

### **Day 04      March 31, 2012      Punakha/Wangdi/Trongsa**

- Visit Punakha Dzong, winter seat of Je Khenpo (chief abbot) of Bhutan and ancient capital of Bhutan, remarkably located between the rivers of Pho Chu (Male) and Mo



Chu (female).

- Leave for Wangduephodrang
- Visit Wangduephodrang Dzong, built in 1638
- Drive to Trongsa via Pelela pass (3400 metres) the road passes through the black mountain national park.
- Short break at the Chendebji Chorten(2400 metres)
- The journey passes through farmhouses and villages. You will find yaks in this area depending on the time of the year.
- Halt at local hotel in Trongsa.

**Day 05      April 1, 2012      Trongsa/Bumthang**

- Visit Trongsa Dzong is the most impressive and magnificent dzong in Bhutan .It was built in 1644.
- Drive to Bumthang(2580m) via Yotongla pass(3425m)
- On the way to Jakhar stop at chume village, there are two shops selling yathra, a textile Bumthang is famous for, Yathra is a distinctive strip of woven woollen fabric in numerous colors and patterns.
- Halt at Jakar Village or similar.

**Day 06      April 2, 2012      Bumthang**

- Visit Jakar Dzong built in 1667 and it's the seat of the district administration.
- Day excursion to Tamshing lhakhang.
- Visit Kurjey and Jambay lhakhangs.
- Visit Swiss Farm .The farm produces cheese, honey and fruit wine.
- Halt at Jakar Village or similar.

**Day 07      April 3, 2012      Bumthang/Paro**

- Leave for Paro. It is a long drive back and you will be passing through the same villages and towns on the way back.
- Halt at Udumwara Resort of similar.

**Day 08      April 4, 2012      Paro**

- Witness Paro Tsechu at Rinpung Dzong built in 1646 and is the seat of the district administration of Paro as well as the monk body.
- Nemizampa Bridge, a 15<sup>th</sup> century bridge.
- Drukgyal Dzong, the seat of the victorious Drukpas, was built in 1650s to commemorate a victory over the Tibetan armies. It caught fire in 1951 and was never repaired.
- Kyichu Temple, one of the oldest Temple in Bhutan dated back to 7<sup>th</sup> century.
- Paro town, Paro's main shopping district.
- Halt at Udumwara Resort or similar.



**Day 09      April 5, 2012      Paro**

- Early morning, you set out to make a pilgrimage to one of the most important religious sites in the Himalaya, Taktsang Lhakhang, known as Tiger's Nest. This magical monastery clings to a vertical granite cliff 2000 feet above the valley floor. The legend of Taktsang dates back to 747 AD when Padmasambhava, in the wrathful form of Guru Dorji Drolo, is believed to have flown here on the back of a tiger to subdue the evil spirits of the region. Tantric Buddhist mythology tells that the vanquished spirits were transformed into protectors of the dharma. One of them, Singye Samdrup, is recognized today as the guardian deity of Taktsang. After about an hour of rather steep hiking, you reach a small tea house that has a wonderful panoramic view of the temple. For those interested, it is possible to get a closer view by hiking another hour (each direction) to reach the temple. Otherwise we can relax at the tea house and enjoy the breathtaking views.
- Halt at Udumwara Resort or similar.

**Day 10      April 6, 2012      Paro**

- Paro tsechu in the morning Sightseeing of Paro valley.
- On the last day of the festival, rise before dawn to attend the display of the great Thongdroel, an intricately appliquéd and embroidered silk scroll measuring 40 x 60 feet. This work of art pictures the eight manifestations of Guru Rinpoche, the second Buddha and the founder of Tantric Buddhism.
- Site Seeing in Paro Valley:
  - Drukgyal Dzong the Dzong of the victorious Drukpas was built in 1650 to commemorate a victory over the Tibetan invasions. It caught fire in 1951 and was never repaired.
  - Kyichu Temple, one of the oldest temples in Bhutan dated back to the 7th century.
  - Ta Dzong, an ancient watchtower, which now houses the National Museum.
  - Last minute shopping in Paro town.
- Halt at Udumwara Resort or similar.

**Day 11      April 7, 2012      Paro**

- Leave for Paro Airport after breakfast.
- Depart Paro.