



Bhutan Khadar Travel Paro: Bhutan

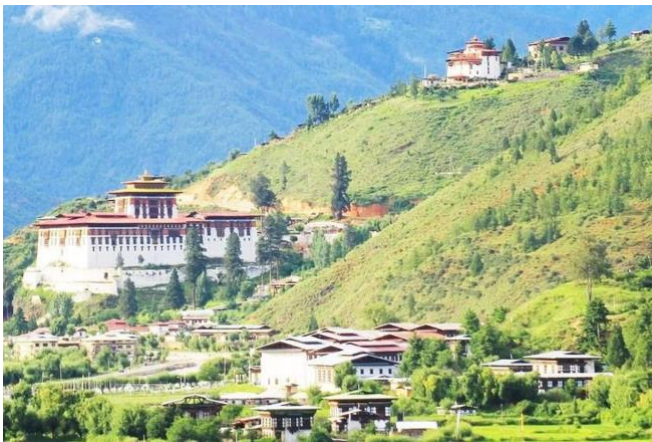
6 Days Cultural Tour

Experience the Heart of Bhutan's Culture, Nature, and Spiritual Heritage

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination	Highlights
Day 01	Arrive Paro – Thimphu	Scenic flight, Ta Dzong Museum, Rimping Dzong
Day 02	Thimphu	National Memorial Chorten, Tashichhodzong, Folk Heritage Museum
Day 03	Thimphu – Punakha	Dochu-La Pass, Punakha Dzong, Chimi Lhakhang
Day 04	Punakha – Thimphu – Paro	Khamsum Chorten, Wangdue Dzong, Semtokha Dzong
Day 05	Paro	Hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Nest), Drukgyel Dzong
Day 06	Depart Paro	Departure and farewell

Day 01: Arrive Paro – Thimphu



Welcome to Bhutan!

Your flight into Paro offers one of the most breathtaking mountain views in the world, showcasing towering Himalayan peaks. Upon arrival, a Bhutan Khadar Travel representative will greet you at the airport and assist with formalities.

After lunch, enjoy a guided tour of Paro including:

- Ta Dzong Museum – a treasure house of Bhutanese art, artifacts, and religious relics.
- Rimping Dzong – known for its architecture and the sacred painting of Milarepa.



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Later, drive to Thimphu (1.5 hrs) following the serene Pa Chhu River.
Overnight in Thimphu.

Day 02: Thimphu

Bhutan's charming capital offers a mix of tradition and modernity. Today's sightseeing includes:

- National Memorial Chorten – a symbol of peace and devotion.
- Changangkha Lhakhang and Zilukha Nunnery – sacred spiritual centers overlooking the valley.
- School of Arts & Crafts (Zorig Chusum) – where 13 traditional arts are taught.
- National Library and Traditional Paper Factory – preserving Bhutan's literary and craft heritage.
- Folk Heritage Museum – a replica of a medieval farmhouse.



If time permits, visit the Takin Preserve and Tashichhodzong, Bhutan's seat of government and monastic body.
Weekend visitors can explore Thimphu Market (Fri-Sun).
Overnight in Thimphu.

Day 03: Thimphu – Punakha



Depart Thimphu and drive over the Dochu-La Pass (3,100 m), offering spectacular Himalayan panoramas on clear days. Descend into the lush Punakha Valley, passing through rhododendron forests in spring bloom.

Visit Punakha Dzong, the "Palace of Great Happiness," built in 1637 at the confluence of the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers.

After lunch, walk through the fields to Chimi Lhakhang, the Temple of Fertility, dedicated to the Divine Madman—Drukpa



Where Every Journey Begins with a White Scarf and a Warm Heart



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Kuenley.

Overnight in Punakha/Wangduephodrang.

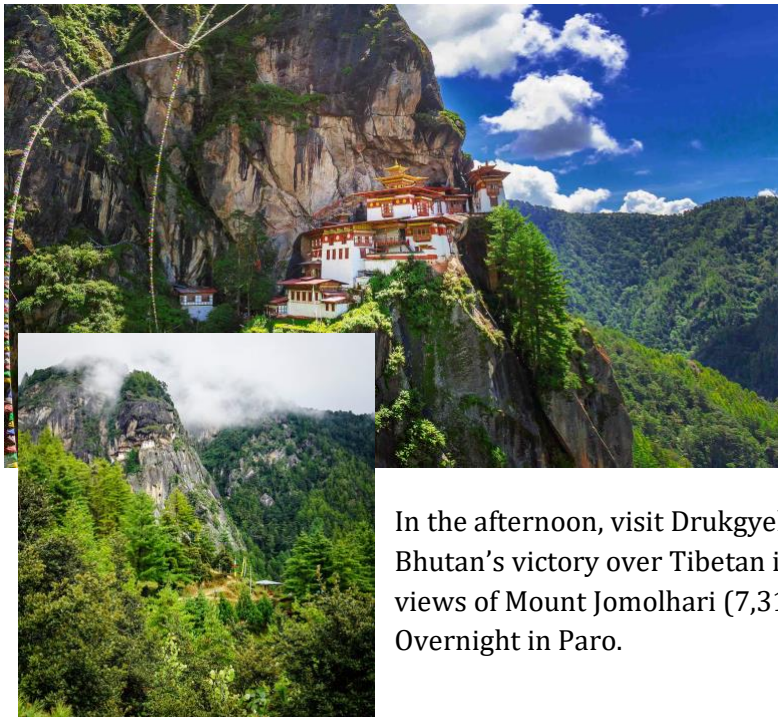
Day 04: Punakha – Thimphu – Paro

After breakfast, hike through rice fields to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten, built by Her Majesty the Queen Mother. Enjoy panoramic views of the valley.

Picnic lunch by the riverside before visiting Wangduephodrang Dzong. Drive back to Thimphu, visiting local handicraft shops, and continue to Paro, stopping at Semtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress in Bhutan.

Overnight in Paro.

Day 05: Paro – Taktsang Monastery Hike



After breakfast, embark on a memorable hike to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), Bhutan's most iconic landmark. Perched dramatically on a cliff 900 meters above the valley floor, it is said to be where Guru Rinpoche meditated in the 8th century.

Stop for refreshments at the teahouse viewpoint before descending.

In the afternoon, visit Drukgyel Dzong, rebuilt as a symbol of Bhutan's victory over Tibetan invaders. On a clear day, enjoy views of Mount Jomolhari (7,314 m).

Overnight in Paro.

Day 06: Depart Paro

Enjoy your final Bhutanese breakfast before transferring to Paro International Airport for your onward flight.

Tashi Delek! May your journey be filled with peace and good fortune.



Bhutan Khadar Travel
Paro: Bhutan

Day-by-day Itinerary (9 Nights, 10 Days)

Mystery of Bhutan

Days	Schedule	Hotel	Sightseeing & Activities
1st Day	Arrival, Paro-Thimphu		Paro Arrival and Khadar ceremony by our guide, Check into hotel
2nd Day	Thimphu-Bumthang		Travel to Chumey Bumthang, Prakhar Duchhoed
3rd Day	Bumthang		Jambay Lhakhang Drup, Kurje Lhakhang, Tamshing Lhakhang
4th Day	Bumthang		Mebar Tsho, Explore Tang Valley, Beekeeping Center
5th Day	Bumthang-Trongsa		WangdueChhoeling Palace, Trongsa Museum, Trongsa Dzong, Street Market
6th Day	Phobjikha		Black Necked Crane Festival, Gangtey Goenpa, Nature Hike, Visiting Crane Center
7th Day	Phobjikha-Punakha		Chhimi Lhakhang, Punakha Dzong, Suspension Bridge
8th Day	Punakha-Thimphu		Buddha Point, Takin Sanctuary Park, Thimphu Dzong, Thimphu Farmers Market
9th Day	Thimphu-Paro		Hike to Tiger Nest (Paro Taktsang), Paro Street
10th Day	Departure		Departure



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Day 01: Arrival, Paro-Thimphu

- **Tashi Delek and welcome to Bhutan. Our Guide will greet you at Paro airport with a khadar ceremony.**
- We will start our journey 1-hour drive to Thimphu from Paro
- Check into the Hotel ()

Day 02: Thimphu-Bumthang

- After breakfast, we will start our journey to Bumthang (7hrs drive)

- On the way, stop at **Dochu La:** is a mountain pass in the snow-covered Himalayas within Bhutan on the road from Thimphu to Punakha where 108 memorial chortens or stupas known as "Druk Wangyal Chortens" have been built by Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk, the eldest Queen Mother.



Apart from the chortens, there is a monastery called the Druk Wangyal Lhakhang (temple), built in honor of the fourth Druk Gyalpo (head of the state of Bhutan), Jigme Singye Wangchuk; the open grounds in its front yard is a venue for the annual Dochula Druk Wangyel Festival. The pass with 108 memorial chortens is adjacent to the country's first Royal Botanical Park. The pass is located at an elevation of 3,100 meters.

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- On the way, **Pelela Pass:** is the gateway to Central Bhutan. Pele La pass has a chorten and prayer flags fluttering across the hills. It is one of the highest mountains



passes at an elevation of 3423m. The pass takes over Black Mountain, the boundary between Western and Central Bhutan. If the weather is clear, one can see the view of Jomo Lhari, Jichu Drakey, and Kang Bum to the West from the road. It is a good stop for taking pictures.

- **Trongsa Dzong View Point:** is the largest dzong fortress in Bhutan, located in Trongsa (formerly Tongsa) in Trongsa district, in the center of the country. Built on a spur overlooking the gorge of the Mangde River, a temple was first established at the location in 1543 by the Drukpa lama, Nagi Wangchuk son of Ngawang Chhojey.



- **Prakhar Duchhoed:** The annual festival is held at the Prakar Lhakhang in Chummi gewog in Bumthang. Several kinds of mask dances are performed during the festival. The festival is celebrated to honor Lama Thukse Dawa, one of the sons of the 15th century Buddhist master, Terton Pema Lingpa.



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Day 03: Bumthang

- The **Jampa Temple** (Tibetan: gswsrgms, Wylie: *byams pa*, THL *Jampé Lhakhang*) or **Temple of Maitreya** is located in Bumthang (Jakar) in Bhutan, and is said to be one of the 108 temples built by Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo in 659 CE on a single day, to pin down an ogress to earth forever.
- **Kurjev Lhakang**: we go safely over, also known as the Kurjev Monastery, is located in the Bumthang valley in the Bumthang district of Bhutan. This is the final resting place of the remains of the first three Kings of Bhutan. Also, a large tree behind one of the temple buildings is believed to be a term that was left there by Padmasambhava.
- **Tamzhing Monastery**: is the principal seat of Pema Lingpa. Tamzhing monastery was built in 1501 by Pema Lingpa. This temple is well known for most unique mural paintings. This temple also has unique statues and several other important cultural properties, which are of high importance to the history of Bhutan and the Peling traditions. Pema Lingpa died at the age of seventy-two in 1521 at Tamzhing monastery.

Day 04: Bumthang

- **Membartsho (Dzongkha aqevan)**, also known as Mebar Tsho, is a holy site, revered as the place where Pema Lingpa, Bhutan's greatest tertön (treasure revealer), discovered several of Guru Rinpoche's terms in the 15th century. The





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pool in the Tang Valley, near Bumthang in central Bhutan is known locally as the Burning Lake.

- Bumthang valley is known for its picturesque landscapes, ancient temples, and rich cultural heritage. Tang Valley is particularly notable for its remote location and beautiful scenery, including the famous Mebar Tsho (Burning Lake).
- Visit the Beekeeping Center in Bumthang which is likely referring to the National Livestock Research Centre (NLRC), which is the implementing body for the National Apiculture Program in Bhutan. Bumthang is known for its honey production, and the NLRC plays a crucial role in developing and supporting the beekeeping industry in the region.



Day 05: Bumthang-Trongsa

- Located in the spiritual heartland of Bhutan, in the serene district of Bumthang, the Wangduechhoeling Palace stands as a timeless symbol of Bhutanese culture and history. This architectural gem, once the royal seat of power, has undergone a remarkable transformation into a vibrant museum and cultural hub. Visiting Wangduechhoeling Palace is not just a journey through space but a passage through time, offering an in-depth look into the country's monarchy, heritage, and artistic traditions.
- **Trongsa Museum:** Commanding a breathtaking view above the historic Trongsa Dzong, the Royal Heritage Museum embodies the spirit and grandeur of Bhutan's enduring legacy. Originally built in 1652 in Trongsa, the birthplace of Wangchuck dynasty, the iconic Taa Dzong of Trongsa now stands as an iconic cultural landmark in Central Bhutan.

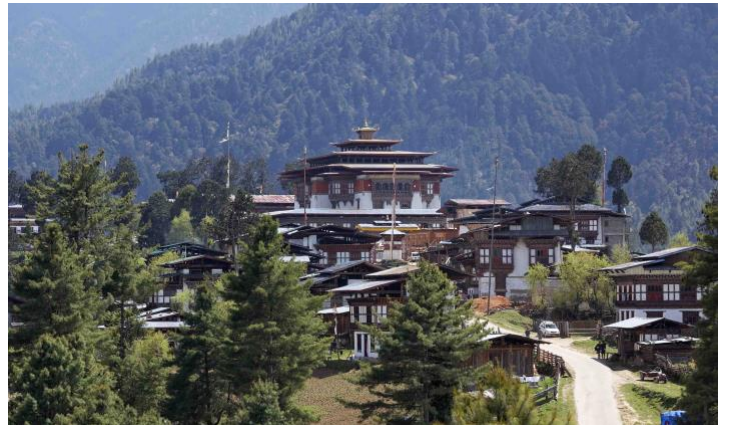


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- **Trongsa Dzong:** It was the seat of power over central and eastern Bhutan and the vanguard of the warriors. All the Kings of Bhutan first invest as the Trongsa Penlop before ascending the Raven Crown throne. The massive Trongsa Dzong is the largest fortress in Bhutan which stands on a spur overlooking the gorge of the Mangdi Chuu river. This strategically placed structure is the first sight long before reaching Trongsa. The Dzong is the massive structure with many levels, which slope down the contours of a hill on which it perches. Because of its highly strategic position as the only connecting route between east and west, the Trongsa Penlop was able to control the whole eastern region effectively.
- Visit Willing Water fall.
- Explore Trongsa Street and market.

Day 06: Phobjikha

- Visit Gangteng Monastery, generally known as Gangtey Gonpa or Gangtey Monastery, is an important monastery of Nyingmapa school of Buddhism, the main seat of the Pema Lingpa tradition and which is the landmark structure of Phobjikha Valley.



- A black-necked crane festival is held every year in the premises of the Gangteng Monastery on 11 November to welcome the cranes, which start arriving in late October. The festival is attended by a large number of local people. On this occasion, children wearing crane costumes perform choreographed crane dances. During this period, cranes are seen flying at high altitudes over the mountains. The festival includes Environmental conservation messages: Dramas and songs by school children highlighting the importance of protecting the cranes and their habitat.



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- Gangtey nature hike (This pleasurable walk will give you a nice feel of Phobjikha Valley. It is most tourists visit the place during the winter season to see the magnificent black-necked cranes that migrate from far-flung remote parts of Tibet. The hike is about 2 hours This hike takes you through the pine forest and small bamboo plants provide a spectacular view of the Phobjikha Valley. Difficulty Level: Moderate. Distance: 4 km. Walking time: 2 hr.
- Visit the crane information center (Star of the center is Karma, an injured black-necked crane who was discovered as an eight-month-old with a broken wing and now lives in a neighboring enclosure. It's a rare chance to see these magnificent cranes up close).
- Explore Phobjikha valley: also known as Gangteng Valley which has a bowl-shaped glacial valley on the western slopes of Black mountains, bordering the Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park. Because of the large flock of black necked



cranes that winters here, it is one of the most important wildlife preserves in the country. Some people refer to this entire region as Gangte (or Gangtey), after the goemba that sits on a ridge above the valley.

Day 07: Phobjikha-Punakha

- After breakfast, we will start our 2-hr. journey to Punakha from Phobjikha.
- Visit **Chimi Lhakhang (Chimi Lhakhang**, also known as **Chime Lhakhang or Monastery** or temple, is a Buddhist monastery in Punakha District, Bhutan. Located near Lobesa, it stands on a round hillock and was founded and built in 1499 by the Drukpa Kagyu lama Ngawang Chogyal, who was the 14th abbot of the Monastery. The monastery is the repository of the original wooden symbol of



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- phallus that Kunley brought from Tibet. This wooden phallus is decorated with a silver handle and is used to bless people who visit the monastery on pilgrimage, particularly women seeking blessings to beget children.
- Visit **Punakha Dzong** (The Punakha Dzong, also known as Pungthang Dewa chhenbi Phodrang (meaning "the palace of great happiness or bliss"), is the administrative center of Punakha District in Punakha, Bhutan. Constructed by Ngawang Namgyal, 1st Zhabdrung Rinpoche, in 1637–38, it is the second oldest and second-largest dzong in Bhutan and one of its most majestic structures. The dzong houses the sacred relics of the southern Drukpa Lineage of the Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism, including the Rangjung Kharsapani and the sacred remains of Ngawang Namgyal and the tertôn Pema Lingpa.)

- Visit Suspension Bridge (The suspension bridge is a pedestrian bridge that crosses over the Pho Chhu River in Punakha, Bhutan. The bridge is made of steel cables and wooden planks and is suspended high above the river below. The bridge spans a distance of approximately 160 meters which



is the longest within the Kingdom and is about 1.2 meters wide. Walking across the suspension bridge is an exhilarating experience, as you feel the bridge sway slightly under your feet with each step you take. As you cross, you can enjoy breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. The bridge is especially beautiful during the spring months when the valley is in full bloom with colorful flowers.)



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Day 08: Punakha-Thimphu

- Visit **Buddha Dordenma Statue**: The gigantic statue of Shakyamuni Buddha erected on a mountaintop is considered one of the largest statues of Buddha in the world. Measured at a height of 51.5 m, the statue was completed on 25th September 2015, which also marks the 60th-anniversary celebration of the fourth king Jigme Singye Wangchuk. The statue is made of bronze gilded in gold which symbolizes indestructibility. The statue is located atop a hill in Kuense! Phodrang Nature Park which overlooks Thimphu Valley.



- **Takin Sanctuary** (located in the Motithang district of Thimphu, Bhutan is a wildlife reserve area for Bhutan takin, the national animal of Bhutan. Originally a mini-zoo, it was converted into a preserve when it was discovered that the animals refrained from inhabiting the surrounding forest even when set free. The reason for declaring takin as a national animal of Bhutan on 25 November 2005 (*Budorcas taxicolor*) is attributed to a legend of the animal's creation in Bhutan in the 15th century by Lama Drukpa Kunley).





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- Visit **Thimphu Farmers Market**: The Centenary Farmers Market is a vibrant hub that serves both farmers and consumers, embodying Bhutan's dedication to preserving its traditions while embracing modernity and economic growth. Renovated and inaugurated on 18 September 2023, it stands as a landmark of progress and a symbol of sustainable agricultural development.



- **Thimphu Dzong** (is a Buddhist monastery and fortress on the northern edge of the city of Thimphu in Bhutan, on the western bank of the Wang Chu. It has traditionally been the seat of the Druk Desi (or "Deb Raja"), the head of Bhutan's civil government, an office that has been combined with the kingship since the creation of the monarchy in 1907, and the summer capital of the country. In old British documents, it is known as Tassisudon.)





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Day 09: Thimphu-Paro

- After breakfast, we will start our Hike(6 hours for a round trip), to Tiger Nest(Paro Taktsang: also known as the Taktsang Palphug Monastery and the Tiger's Nest), which is a sacred Vajrayana Himalayan Buddhist site located in the cliffside of the upper Paro valley in Bhutan. It is one of thirteen Tiger's Nest caves in historical Tibet in which Padmasambhava practiced and taught Vajrayana. The monastery is Bhutan's most famous monastery. The legend says that Guru Padmasambhava came here flying on the back of a tigress and meditated at the place where he now the Monastery stands.)
- Lunch on the way to Tiger nest.
- Dinner at hotel.

Day 10: Departure

- Time to say goodbye to Bhutan, the beautiful Himalayan country.



Bhutan Khadar Travel Paro: Bhutan

Spirit of Bhutan: An 8-Day Journey into the Heart of the Himalayas

This journey is designed to immerse you in the profound beauty and rich culture of the Last Shangri-La. From ancient dzongs and sacred temples to breathtaking mountain passes and serene valleys, you will experience the essence of Bhutanese spirituality and tradition.

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination	Key Highlights
01	Arrive Paro – Thimphu	Scenic Mountain Flight, Ta Dzong Museum, Rimpong Dzong
02	Thimphu	National Memorial Chorten, Changangkha Temple, National Library, Tashichhodzong, Weekend Market
03	Thimphu – Punakha	Dochula Pass & Himalayan Views, Punakha Dzong
04	Punakha	Hike to Khamsum Yuelley Chorten, Wangduephodrang Dzong, Chimi Lhakhang
05	Punakha – Haa	Semtokha Dzong, Scenic drive via Chelela Pass
06	Haa – Paro	Lhakhang Karpo & Nagpo, Haa Valley Exploration
07	Paro	Hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taktsang), Drukgyel Dzong
08	Depart Paro	Farewell and Departure

Detailed Daily Itinerary

DAY 01: ARRIVE PARO – THIMPHU

Your adventure begins with one of the world's most spectacular mountain flights into Paro. After being greeted by your guide, you will start your immersion into Bhutanese culture.

- **Afternoon Sightseeing in Paro:**
 - **Ta Dzong Museum:** Once a watchtower, it now houses a magnificent collection of religious relics, art, and handicrafts, providing a perfect introduction to Bhutan's history and culture.
 - **Rimpong Dzong:** Visit this majestic fortress-monastery to see the painting of the great saint Milarepa, showcasing the deep meditative traditions of Bhutan.



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- **Evening:** A scenic 1.5-hour drive along the Pachu River brings you to the capital city, Thimphu.
- **Overnight:** Thimphu

DAY 02: THIMPHU

Explore the unique capital city, a blend of ancient tradition and modern development.

- **Full Day Sightseeing:**
 - **National Memorial Chorten:** Join locals in circumambulating this stupa, a vibrant center of faith filled with beautiful paintings and statues.
 - **Changangkha Temple:** A 12th-century temple perched on a ridge, offering peace and panoramic views.
 - **National Library:** Home to a vast collection of ancient Buddhist scriptures.
 - **Tashichhodzong:** The impressive fortress that houses the throne room and serves as the seat of government.
- **Weekend Market (if applicable):** A vibrant display of local food, from fiery chilies to fresh cheese, and a variety of handicrafts.
- **Overnight:** Thimphu

DAY 03: THIMPHU – PUNAKHA

Journey through stunning landscapes to the ancient capital.

- **Dochula Pass (3,100m):** Stop at this high mountain pass adorned with 108 chortens. On a clear day, it offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the Eastern Himalayas.
- **Punakha Valley:** Drive down into the warm, fertile valley.
- **Punakha Dzong:** Visit the "Palace of Great Happiness," a breathtaking dzong at the confluence of two rivers. It is one of Bhutan's most beautiful and historically significant structures, serving as the winter seat of the Central Monastic Body.
- **Overnight:** Punakha / Wangduephodrang

DAY 04: PUNAKHA

A day of gentle hikes and exploration of fertility temples and strategic fortresses.

- **Hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten:** A beautiful hike through rice fields leads to this stunning chorten, built for the protection and well-being of the kingdom.
- **Wangduephodrang Dzong:** Explore this strategically located dzong, perched on a spur overlooking the confluence of two rivers.
- **Chimi Lhakhang:** Also known as the "Temple of the Divine Madman," this temple is a popular pilgrimage site for couples seeking blessings of fertility.
- **Overnight:** Punakha / Wangduephodrang



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DAY 05: PUNAKHA – THIMPHU – HAA

Travel back through Thimphu and ascend to the secluded Haa Valley.

- **Semtokha Dzong:** En route to Thimphu, visit the oldest dzong in Bhutan, which now houses the Institute for Language and Culture Studies.
- **Chelela Pass (3,810m):** One of the highest motorable passes in Bhutan, offering spectacular panoramic views of Mount Jomolhari and the Himalayan ranges.
- **Haa Valley:** Drive down through deep pine forests into this newly opened, serene and picturesque valley.
- **Overnight:** Haa

DAY 06: HAA – PARO

Discover the hidden gems of the Haa Valley before returning to Paro.

- **Lhakhang Karpo & Nagpo:** Visit the "White and Black Temples," built in the 8th century by a Tibetan King to subdue a demoness.
- **Valley Exploration:** Enjoy the tranquil beauty of Haa. You can stroll through the small township or opt for a bicycle ride to explore the rural villages and farm roads (bike hire at extra cost).
- **Afternoon:** Transfer back to the Paro valley.
- **Overnight:** Paro

DAY 07: PARO

The highlight of the journey: a hike to the iconic Tiger's Nest Monastery.

- **Hike to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest):** This unforgettable 1.5-2 hour uphill hike takes you to one of Bhutan's most sacred sites, perched on a cliff face 900 meters above the valley. The monastery is a testament to faith and architectural wonder. (Horse riding is available part-way for an additional cost).
- **Afternoon Sightseeing:**
 - **Drukgyel Dzong:** Visit the "Victorious Fortress," a historic ruin with a stunning backdrop of Mount Jomolhari on a clear day.
 - **Paro Valley Sights:** Explore other cultural sites within the beautiful Paro valley.
- **Overnight:** Paro

DAY 08: DEPART PARO

After breakfast, your guide will escort you to Paro International Airport for your departure flight, bidding you a heartfelt farewell as you carry the spirit of Bhutan with you.



Valley of Earthly Delights: An 8-Day Cultural & Natural Journey

This itinerary is a harmonious blend of Bhutan's rich cultural heritage and its stunning natural landscapes. From the vibrant capital to the serene glacial valleys and the iconic Tiger's Nest, this journey offers a deep and delightful immersion into the soul of Bhutan, including the special highlight of the Phobjikha Valley, a haven for wildlife and natural beauty.

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination	Key Highlights
01	Arrive Paro – Thimphu	Scenic Mountain Flight, Ta Dzong Museum, Rimpong Dzong
02	Thimphu	National Memorial Chorten, Changangkha Temple, Arts & Crafts School, Takin Preserve, Tashichhodzong
03	Thimphu – Phobjikha Valley	Dochula Pass & Himalayan Views, Scenic drive to Phobjikha
04	Phobjikha Valley	Gangtey Monastery, Black-Necked Crane Center (seasonal), Nature Walks
05	Phobjikha Valley – Punakha	Punakha Dzong, "Palace of Great Happiness"
06	Punakha – Paro	Chimi Lhakhang "Fertility Temple", Souvenir Shopping in Thimphu
07	Paro	Hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taktsang), Drukgyel Dzong
08	Depart Paro	Farewell and Departure

Detailed Daily Itinerary

DAY 01: ARRIVE PARO – THIMPHU

Your journey begins with a breathtaking flight into the Himalayas, landing in the serene Paro Valley.

- **Afternoon Sightseeing in Paro:**
 - **Ta Dzong Museum:** Housed in an ancient watchtower, this museum offers a perfect introduction to Bhutan's history, culture, and art through its rich collection of relics and handicrafts.
 - **Rimpong Dzong:** Visit this impressive fortress-monastery, a classic example of a dzong's dual religious and administrative role, and see the revered painting of the meditation master Milarepa.



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- **Evening:** A scenic 1.5-hour drive along the Pachu River brings you to Thimphu, Bhutan's charming capital.
- **Overnight:** Thimphu

DAY 02: THIMPHU

Immerse yourself in the unique atmosphere of the world's only capital city without traffic lights, where tradition and modernity coexist.

- **Full Day Sightseeing:**
 - **National Memorial Chorten:** A vibrant hub of daily worship, this stupa is a beautiful monument to world peace and the Third King.
 - **Changangkha Temple:** A 12th-century temple offering peace and panoramic valley views.
 - **Cultural Institutions:** Visit the **School of Arts and Crafts** to see apprentices learning 13 traditional techniques, the **National Library** holding ancient scriptures, and the **Traditional Paper Factory**.
 - **Folk Heritage Museum:** Step back in time at this replica of a traditional Bhutanese farmhouse.
 - **Takin Preserve:** See the Takin, Bhutan's unique and quirky national animal.
 - **Tashichhodzong:** The magnificent "Fortress of the Glorious Religion," which serves as the seat of government and the central monastic body.
- **Weekend Market (if applicable):** Explore this bustling market for a sensory feast of local foods, crafts, and colorful goods.
- **Overnight:** Thimphu

DAY 03: THIMPHU – PHOBJIKHA VALLEY

Journey from the capital into the heart of a pristine glacial valley.

- **Dochula Pass (3,100m):** Stop at this sacred pass with 108 chortens. On a clear day, be rewarded with a spectacular panoramic view of the Himalayan peaks.
- **Scenic Drive to Phobjikha:** Wind your way through lush forests and over a high pass into the wide, U-shaped Phobjikha Valley, a designated conservation area and one of Bhutan's most stunning landscapes.
- **Overnight:** Phobjikha Valley

DAY 04: PHOBJIKHA VALLEY

A day dedicated to the serene beauty and unique ecology of the Phobjikha Valley.

- **Gangtey Monastery:** Visit this 16th-century Nyingmapa monastery, an important spiritual center perched on a hill overlooking the entire valley.
- **Black-Necked Crane Center:** Learn about the majestic and endangered Black-Necked Cranes that migrate here from Tibet to winter (November to March).



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Observation points offer chances to view these graceful birds in their natural habitat.

- **Nature Walk:** In the afternoon, enjoy a gentle walk along the valley floor, traversing its spacious, beautiful surrounds and passing through quaint villages and pine forests.
- **Overnight:** Phobjikha Valley

DAY 05: PHOBJIKHA VALLEY – PUNAKHA

Descend from the high valley to the ancient capital of Bhutan.

- **Punakha Dzong:** Visit the "Palace of Great Happiness," arguably Bhutan's most beautiful dzong. Situated at the confluence of the Pho Chu and Mo Chu rivers, its stunning architecture and profound history as the coronation site of Bhutan's kings will leave you breathless.
- **Overnight:** Punakha / Wangduephodrang

DAY 06: PUNAKHA – PARO

A day of spiritual blessings and a scenic return to the Paro Valley.

- **Chimi Lhakhang:** Begin with a pleasant walk through rice fields to the "Temple of the Divine Madman." This fertility temple, dedicated to the unconventional saint Drukpa Kunley, is a popular pilgrimage site.
- **Return Journey:** Drive back to Thimphu for some last-minute souvenir shopping at the handicraft stores before continuing on to Paro.
- **Overnight:** Paro

DAY 07: PARO

The grand finale: a hike to one of the world's most iconic and sacred monasteries.

- **Hike to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest):** Embark on a memorable 1.5-2 hour uphill hike to this astonishing monastery, clinging to a sheer cliff face 900 meters above the valley. This is the undisputed highlight of any trip to Bhutan. (Horses are available for part of the way for an additional cost).
- **Afternoon Sightseeing:**
 - **Drukgyel Dzong:** Visit the "Victorious Fortress," a historic ruin with a dramatic backdrop of the sacred Mount Jomolhari on a clear day.
 - **Paro Valley Sights:** Explore any remaining cultural sites in the valley.
- **Overnight:** Paro



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DAY 08: DEPART PARO

After a final breakfast amidst the Himalayan serenity, your guide will escort you to Paro International Airport for your departure flight. We wish you a safe journey and say **Tashi Delek** (blessings and good luck)!

Journey Across Bhutan:

A 15-Day Trans-Bhutan Adventure

This epic 15-day journey is the ultimate Bhutanese experience, taking you from the western valleys to the remote eastern districts. Traverse high mountain passes, explore ancient dzongs, immerse yourself in spiritual heartlands, and witness the diverse cultures and landscapes that make up the Dragon Kingdom. This is a true voyage of discovery across one of the world's most enigmatic countries.

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination	Overnight	Key Highlights
01	Arrive Paro	Paro	Scenic Flight, Ta Dzong Museum, Rimping Dzong, Cultural Orientation
02	Paro	Paro	Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taktsang), Drukgyel Dzong, Kyichu Lhakhang
03	Paro (Haa Excursion)	Paro	Day trip to Haa Valley via Chelela Pass
04	Paro – Thimphu	Thimphu	Scenic Drive, National Memorial Chorten, Changangkha Temple
05	Thimphu	Thimphu	Arts & Crafts School, National Library, Takin Preserve, Tashichhodzong
06	Thimphu – Punakha	Punakha	Dochula Pass, Punakha Dzong, Chimi Lhakhang
07	Punakha – Phobjikha	Phobjikha	Scenic Drive, Gangtey Monastery, Black-Necked Crane Center



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Day	Destination	Overnight	Key Highlights
08	Phobjikha – Trongsa	Trongsa	Pele La Pass, Chendebji Chorten, Trongsa Dzong & Museum
09	Trongsa – Bumthang	Bumthang	Jakar Dzong, Tamshing, Kurje & Jambay Lhakhang
10	Bumthang	Bumthang	Tang Ugyen Chholing Museum, Mebartso (Burning Lake)
11	Bumthang – Mongar	Mongar	Thrumshing La Pass, Ura Valley, Mongar Dzong
12	Mongar – Trashigang	Trashigang	Kori La Pass, Trashigang Dzong
13	Trashigang (Tashiyangtse)	Trashigang	Gom Kora, Chorten Kora, Zorig Chusum Institute
14	Trashigang – Samdrup Jongkhar	Samdrup Jongkhar	Scenic drive through eastern landscapes
15	Samdrup Jongkhar – Guwahati	-	Departure via Assam, India

Detailed Daily Itinerary

DAY 01: ARRIVE PARO

Your trans-Bhutan adventure begins with a spectacular mountain flight into Paro. Upon arrival, your guide will provide a warm welcome.

- **Afternoon Sightseeing:**
 - **Ta Dzong Museum:** Begin your journey at this ancient watchtower, now a national museum, offering a profound introduction to Bhutan's history and culture.
 - **Rimpong Dzong:** Visit this majestic fortress-monastery, a quintessential example of Bhutan's architectural prowess.
- **Evening:** Enjoy a cultural orientation on Bhutanese etiquette, preparing you for the deep immersion ahead.
- **Overnight:** Paro

DAY 02: PARO

A day dedicated to one of Bhutan's most sacred and iconic sites.

- **Hike to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest):** Embark on the unforgettable pilgrimage to this monastery, perched on a cliff face 900 meters above the valley. The hike is a challenging but rewarding highlight of any trip to Bhutan.
- **Afternoon Sightseeing:**



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- **Drukgyel Dzong:** Explore the "Victorious Fortress," a historic ruin with a dramatic mountain backdrop.
- **Kyichu Lhakhang:** Visit one of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred temples, dating back to the 7th century.
- **Overnight:** Paro

DAY 03: PARO (EXCURSION TO HAA VALLEY)

Venture off the main tourist trail to a secluded and beautiful valley.

- **Haa Valley Day Trip:** Drive over the breathtaking **Chelela Pass (3,900m)**, one of the highest in Bhutan, and descend into the pristine Haa Valley. Explore its unique culture and rugged, mountainous landscapes before returning to Paro.
- **Overnight:** Paro

DAY 04: PARO – THIMPHU

Journey to the nation's charming capital.

- **Scenic Drive:** A 1.5-hour drive brings you to Thimphu.
- **Thimphu Sightseeing:**
 - **National Memorial Chorten:** Join locals in circumambulating this vibrant center of faith.
 - **Changangkha Temple:** A 12th-century temple offering peace and panoramic views.
 - **Zilukha Nunnery:** Visit this serene nunnery for a glimpse into the spiritual life of Buddhist women.
- **Weekend Market (if applicable):** Explore the bustling market for local crafts and produce.
- **Overnight:** Thimphu

DAY 05: THIMPHU

A full day to explore the unique capital.

- **Cultural Immersion:** Visit the **School of Arts and Crafts**, the **National Library**, the **Traditional Paper Factory**, and the **Folk Heritage Museum**.
- **Takin Preserve:** See Bhutan's unique national animal.
- **Tashichhodzong:** Admire the "Fortress of the Glorious Religion," the seat of Bhutan's government and monastic body.
- **Optional Hike:** For the active traveler, a hike to the ancient **Tango and Cheri Monasteries** is highly recommended.
- **Overnight:** Thimphu

DAY 06: THIMPHU – PUNAKHA

Where Every Journey Begins with a White Scarf and a Warm Heart



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Cross from the capital into the sub-tropical valleys of central Bhutan.

- **Dochula Pass (3,100m):** Stop at this sacred pass with 108 chortens for spectacular Himalayan views.
- **Punakha Dzong:** Visit the "Palace of Great Happiness," Bhutan's most beautiful dzong, situated at the confluence of two rivers.
- **Chimi Lhakhang:** Take a pleasant walk through rice fields to the famous "Temple of the Divine Madman."
- **Overnight:** Punakha / Wangdue

DAY 07: PUNAKHA – PHOBJIKHA VALLEY

Ascend to a serene glacial valley, a haven for wildlife.

- **Scenic Drive:** A 3-hour drive through lush forests leads to the wide, open landscape of the Phobjikha Valley.
- **Gangtey Monastery:** Visit this important 16th-century monastery overlooking the valley.
- **Black-Necked Crane Center:** Learn about the endangered cranes that winter here (Nov-Mar).
- **Overnight:** Phobjikha Valley

DAY 08: PHOBJIKHA VALLEY – TRONGSA

Journey into Bhutan's central heartland, the ancestral home of the royal family.

- **Pele La Pass (3,420m):** Cross this high pass on the Black Mountain range.
- **Chendebji Chorten:** Stop at this beautiful 18th-century stupa.
- **Trongsa Dzong:** Explore the largest dzong in Bhutan, a massive and impressive structure.
- **Ta Dzong Museum:** Visit the watchtower museum dedicated to the Wangchuck dynasty.
- **Overnight:** Trongsa

DAY 09: TRONGSA – BUMTHANG

Enter the spiritual and cultural heartland of Bhutan.

- **Scenic Drive:** A 2.5-hour drive through changing landscapes brings you to the Bumthang valley.
- **Bumthang Sightseeing:**
 - **Jakar Dzong:** The "Dzong of the White Bird."
 - **Tamshing Lhakhang:** A 16th-century temple with ancient wall paintings.
 - **Kurje Lhakhang:** One of Bhutan's most sacred sites, where Guru Rinpoche meditated.



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- **Jambay Lhakhang:** A 7th-century temple that is one of the kingdom's oldest.
- **Overnight:** Bumthang (Jakar)

DAY 10: BUMTHANG

A day to delve deeper into the myths and history of the Bumthang region.

- **Tang Ugyen Chholing Palace Museum:** Get a fascinating overview of traditional rural Bhutanese life.
- **Mebartso (The Burning Lake):** Visit this sacred pool where the treasure-revealer Pema Lingpa is said to have discovered hidden scriptures.
- **Overnight:** Bumthang (Jakar)

DAY 11: BUMTHANG – MONGAR

Begin your journey into remote Eastern Bhutan.

- **Thrumshing La Pass (4,000m):** Cross the highest point on Bhutan's road network.
- **Ura Valley:** Drive through the picturesque Ura village with its unique clustered houses.
- **Mongar Dzong:** Visit this dzong, a remarkable example of traditional architecture built in the 1930s without nails or plans.
- **Overnight:** Mongar

DAY 12: MONGAR – TRASHIGANG

Descend into the lush, subtropical climate of far-eastern Bhutan.

- **Kori La Pass (2,450m):** Traverse this pass before descending through cornfields and banana groves.
- **Trashigang Dzong:** Visit the "Fortress of the Auspicious Hill," which commands a stunning view over the region.
- **Overnight:** Trashigang

DAY 13: TRASHIGANG (EXCURSION TO TASHIYANGTSE)

Explore the cultural and artistic hub of the far east.

- **Gom Kora:** A famous temple set on a rocky outcrop.
- **Chorten Kora:** A dazzling white stupa modeled after Nepal's Boudhanath.
- **Zorig Chusum Institute:** Watch students master Bhutan's 13 traditional arts and crafts.
- **Doksum Village:** See skilled weavers at work creating traditional fabrics.



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- **Overnight:** Trashigang

DAY 14: TRASHIGANG – SAMDRUP JONGKHAR

The final long drive through the eastern landscapes to the Indian border.

- **Scenic Drive:** A full-day (approx. 9-hour) journey through beautiful, remote villages and lush, dramatic scenery.
- **Overnight:** Samdrup Jongkhar

DAY 15: SAMDRUP JONGKHAR – GUWAHATI

Your trans-Bhutan journey concludes at the gateway to India.

- **Departure:** After breakfast, your guide will assist with your transfer to an Indian vehicle for the drive to Guwahati Airport in Assam for your onward flight.
- **Farewell:** We wish you a safe journey and say **Tashi Delek!**