

## BHUTAN

Travel to the faraway Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan and discover a veritable Shangri-La. Geographically isolated for centuries, the country's cultural traditions and spiritual values remain mostly untouched by modernity.

Visit imposing hilltop monasteries and chortens (stupas) that dominate Bhutanese hilltops and valleys. Red-robed monks perform sacred ceremonies and preside over colourful "Tsechus", festivals celebrated throughout the year. Many locals still favour traditional dress, and you'll find Bhutanese amongst the world's friendliest people.



Punakha Dzong © Shutterstock



Bhutan's national sport, archery © David Kneale

## SPIRIT OF BHUTAN

8 days/7 nights

From \$2834 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Paro

Price per person from\*: Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$5962 \$4214 \$2834

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Accommodation, all meals, sightseeing including entrance fees, transfers by air-conditioned private vehicle, services of a local English speaking guide and driver, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, Bhutan visa fee.

- A Taj Tashi/Uma Punakha/Uma Paro
- B Hotel Osel Thimphu/RKPO Resort Punakha/ Naksel Boutique Hotel & SPA Paro
- C Standard range of accommodations

**D**iscover the uniquely preserved culture and natural beauty of the kingdom of Bhutan. Touring the western valleys, you will discover historic fortresses, ancient monasteries and ornate temples set against a dramatic Himalayan backdrop.

### Day 1 Thimphu

Arrive by air into Bhutan (not included) where you will be met by your guide and driver. Visit the National Museum and the historic 17th century Rimping Dzong. Transfer to Thimphu (1 hr). LD

### Days 2/3 Thimphu

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the capital Thimphu, including the giant Buddha Dordenma statue overlooking the city, Changangkha Temple, the National Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong. On Day 3 hike to Tango Monastery (45 min), one of the regions oldest monasteries. After lunch visit the Bhutanese School for Arts and Painting, the Folk Heritage Museum and The National Library featuring age-old Buddhist scripts. BLD

### Days 4/5 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass (3,050m) with its amazing Himalayan views (weather permitting). Afternoon visit to Punakha Dzong, built in 1637. On Day 5 visit Chimi Lhakhang, temple of the 'Divine Madman' followed by a hike through beautiful farmland to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. BLD

### Days 6/7 Paro

After a leisurely morning in Punakha, return to Thimphu for lunch. Afterwards drive to Paro. On Day 7 enjoy a morning walk (3-4 hrs) up to the viewing point of the famous Taksang Monastery, perched on a rocky ledge above a 900m drop. Later we visit the historic ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong, and 7th century Kyichu Temple. BLD

### Day 8 Tour ends Paro

Early morning transfer to airport for your onward flight (not included). Tour ends. B



© Natural Focus Safaris

## BHUTAN E-BROCHURE

What you see on these pages is just a small sample of what we offer in Bhutan. View our full range of cultural tours, mountain treks and unique Buddhist festival celebrations online. Our 16 page Bhutan e-brochure can be downloaded here:

[www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au/bhutan](http://www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au/bhutan)



Beautiful entrance to the main hall of Punakha Dzong © David Kneale



# DRAGON KINGDOM

12 days/11 nights

From \$4368 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Paro

Price per person from\*: Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$12860 \$5884 \$4368

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Accommodation, all meals, sightseeing including entrance fees, transfers by air-conditioned private vehicle, services of a local English speaking guide and driver, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, Bhutan visa fee.

- A Taj Tashi/Uma Punakha/Amankora Gangtey/ Bumthang resorts/Uma Paro
- B Hotel Osel Thimphu/RKPO Resort Punakha/ Rinchenling Lodge Bumthang/Naksel Boutique Hotel & SPA Paro
- C Standard range of accommodations

**D**iscover the ancient Buddhist way of life that still thrives in Bhutan today. This in-depth tour visits the historic and picturesque valleys of Paro, Thimphu, Punakha and Gangtey, as well as Bhutan's spiritual heartland, Bumthang.

### Day 1 Thimphu

Arrive by air into Bhutan where you will be met by your guide and driver. Visit the National Museum which features a fascinating collection of art and the 17th century Rimping Dzong before driving to Bhutan's capital, Thimphu (1 hr). LD

### Days 2/3 Thimphu

Explore Thimphu's many highlights including the Buddha Dordenma statue, the Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong. On Day 3 enjoy a hike through forested hills to Tango Monastery. BLD



Punakha Dzong Monastery © Shutterstock



Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), Paro © Shutterstock



National Memorial Chorten, Thimphu © Shutterstock

### Days 4/5 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass. Spend two days exploring. Tour Chimi Lhakhang and Punakha Dzong, and take a short hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. BLD

### Days 6-8 Bumthang

Depart for Bumthang (8 hrs), the kingdom's spiritual heartland. Explore the valleys many sacred sites and monasteries including the 16th century Tamshing Monastery, Kurje Lhakhang containing a rock imprint of Guru Rimpoche's body, Jambay Lhakhang and visit the 16th century Tang Ugyen Chholing Palace featuring a museum containing an excellent overview of traditional rural life in Bhutan. BLD

### Day 9 Gangtey/Phobjikha

Drive to Gangtey (6 hrs), home of the historic 17th century Gangtey Goempa Monastery. See the impressive Trongsa Dzong en route. BLD

### Days 10/11 Paro

Visit the Phobjikha Sanctuary, famous for its endangered Black-necked Cranes (Nov - Mar) before driving to Paro. On Day 11, walk up to the spectacular Taktsang Monastery (3-4 hrs), perched on a rocky ledge over a 900m drop. Also visit the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Temple. BLD

### Day 12 Tour ends Paro

Early morning transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Tour ends. B



17th century chain bridge near Paro © Shutterstock

## BHUTAN FESTIVALS

Tsechus (festivals) are one of the best ways to experience the ancient culture of Bhutan. Local people gather in a spirit of celebration and faith to witness religious and cultural dances by performers wearing elaborate costumes in honour of Guru Rimpoche. We have a range of suggested festival itineraries that have been carefully selected to ensure the most genuine festival experience without overcrowding. Tsechus are held throughout the year in almost every district. Contact us for full details.

