

# BHUTAN with TRIBAL TRUST

TRIP DATES:

October 10<sup>th</sup> to October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025



**Day 1 – Oct 10 (Friday):** Arrive Paro (2,300m / 7,600ft) • Flight - BANGKOK/PARO

Today, we depart to Bhutan and as we near Bhutan (and if the weather is clear), we can see the massive peaks of the eastern Himalayas, including Kanchenchunga - 28,169ft/8585m (third highest mountain in the world) and Bhutan's own holy mountain, Chomolhari - 24,035ft/7325m.

Upon arrival in Paro, your Bhutan visa will be stamped into your passport. Our guide & driver will receive you at the exit point with your name placard. We will drive you straight to Thimphu for an hour & check into your hotel where we will check you in to freshen up and also have lunch in the hotel.

Our first stop after lunch will be the **Royal Textile Academy & the Museum** – The institution is dedicated to preserve and promote the Bhutanese textiles in particular and the thirteen arts in general as well as strive to promote the unique culture and traditions of Bhutan by creating international awareness and encouraging international collaboration to promote mutually beneficial exhibits and educational programs.

Next visit the Bhutan's post office next to the Bhutan National Bank office. A visit to the **Bhutan Post Office** headquarters is a must if you are a stamp lover. Bhutan is believed to have some of the best postage stamps in the world. You can also get personalized postage stamps, just take along a Pen Drive with photo/s or the officer there will click your photo and print the stamps for you to mail a postcard to your loved ones at home. You can also buy lovely stamp albums for souvenirs.

In the evening, at the hotel Lobby over a cup of tea/coffee, your guide will have an orientation of the tour to Bhutan which will cover all aspects of the tour including sharing your interest and customize your trip as per your need & experience Bhutan

Overnight: Amankora Thimphu (1 night)

**Day 2 – Oct 11 (Saturday): Journey to the Eastern part of the Kingdom, Trashigang (1,838m/6,030ft)**

*Option of taking the Helicopter and below are the designated landing areas by the chopper service*

1. *Landing at Tashigang Middle Secondary School Ground.*
  - *Seating capacity is only 5 passengers excluding the pilot.*
  - *Weight limit is only 360kgs*
  
2. *Landing at Yongphula Airport.*
  - *Seating capacity is only 5 passengers excluding the pilot.*
  - *Weight limit is only 370kgs*

Yonphula Airport is the relatively new gateway to Bhutan's eastern Trashigang District. The road to the town of Trashigang travels through villages, giving us our first real glimpse of traditional life and architecture in rural Bhutan. Also, along the way, in the town of Kanglung, is Sherubtse College, the region's premiere higher education institution and part of the Royal University of Bhutan system.

Located at the relatively low altitude of 1158m/3800ft, Trashigang has a mild climate, a relaxed atmosphere, and an intriguing mix of people. It's a thriving community dependent on farming and rural activities. Surrounding it are pristine forests and fields of oranges, beans, maize, mustard, pumpkins, and marijuana (used for pig feed).

Rest at the hotel. In the afternoon, you will visit the Dzong and have the rest of the day at leisure to stroll around the downtown.

**Day 3 – Oct 12 (Sunday): Rest and acclimatization day for the travellers or if traveller is up for it, day excursion to Trashi Yangtse.**

Day trip to Trashi Yangtse - One of the newest dzongkhags in the country, Trashi Yangtse was established as a distinct district in 1992 and spans 1,437 sq. km of subtropical and alpine forests. With its wealth of natural, historical and cultural resources is a destination that visitors to Bhutan will never forget. It is home to some of the country's important protected areas. It contains the Kulong Chhu Wildlife Sanctuary, established in 1993, which itself is part of the larger Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary. Visit Chorten Kora, 1750m/5,741ft altitude. Built over a period of 12 years around 1740 by Lama Ngawang Loday. The chorten was modelled after Boudhanath stupa in Nepal, which the lama carved out of a radish. Differences between the Chorten Kora and Boudhanath stupas are reportedly due to distortion of the model as it shrunk on the return journey of the lama to Bhutan. \*The drive round trip will take 4-5hrs drive\*

## Overnight at Lingkhar Lodge (2 nights)

### Day 4 – Oct 13 (Monday): Fly to Jangbi, Central Bhutan - bound for Jangbi's Monpa Community.

*Option of taking the Helicopter to Jangbi. Landing at Jangbi School Ground, Trongsa*

- *Seating capacity is only 5 passengers excluding the pilot.*
- *Weight limit is only 360kgs*

*Once done with the Monpa community, fly to Punakha.*

- *Seating capacity is only 5 passengers excluding the pilot.*
- *Weight limit is only 360kgs*

A beautiful scenic flight over Black Mountain Forest and the day is an exciting time to spend in the Monpa community! (approximately 1 hour)

The local community of Monpa people, led by the village headman, will welcome us with folk song and dances and offering of fruits and local moonshine.

Once done with the local community, fly to base of Mt. Jichu Drake, namely Tsophu, have lunch and explore the area for 2 hours and then fly to the final destination for the day, Punakha for an overnight.

### Day 5 – Oct 14 (Tuesday): Explore Punakha.

Early morning, we drive to Goen Tsephu, visit the cave. Drive back to Khamsum Yuelleu parking lot and commence/undergo a gentle hike to the Khamsum Yuley Chorten (Stupa) built by our Queen mother for the wellbeing of sentient beings and world peace. Lunch at river side and followed by rafting. If time permit, visit the Punakha Dzong. The Punakha Dzong built in 1637 by Zhabdrung that is situated at the confluence of the `Pho' & `Mo' Chus (Male & Female rivers respectively) guards the Southern end of the Punakha valley. This huge fortress/monastery was the capital of Bhutan until 1966.

The `Je Khenpo' (head religious abbot) of Bhutan and most of the monk in Thimphu occupies this Dzong throughout the winter, since the lower elevation of the Punakha valley provides more comfortable temperatures. In 1651, Zhabdrung went into retreat and passed away soon after. For fear of civil unrest his death was kept a secret for over 50 years, whereby the court ruled on his behalf. The bodily remains of the Zhabdrung are preserved to this day in this Dzong

Overnight: River Lodge (2 nights)

### Day 6 – Oct 15 (Wednesday): Towards the Capital, Thimphu (2,400m/7,800ft)

Our drive today and we ascend up over winding roads across 10,000ft Dochula where on the clear day you will be treated with a visit of 108 stupas adorning the landscape and the amazing views of the eastern Himalayas of Bhutan in the backdrop.

As we descend towards Thimphu, we can see the oldest fort the Simtokha Dzong built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Rinpoche, the Unifier of Bhutan, this massive fortress holds some of the most sacred relics including the preserved remains of Zhabdrung himself. The central monk body of Bhutan moves from Punakha to Thimphu every spring to take avoid Punakha's hot summer.

Upon arrival, we drive up to see the tallest seated Buddha statue in the world facing towards the East, bestowing infinite love and compassion to all sentient beings in the spheres. The statue houses an enormous meditational house in the base and two storied chapels on the top floors. You will be fascinated at fine art works crafted by the local artisans. The site also offers a good view of the valley below. Option for a scenic hike around the Buddha or visit the gorgeous Hidden Monk Village Dodedrak.

Overnight hotel TBA

### **Day 7 – Oct 16 (Thursday): Explore the capital city in Thimphu**

Local shops entice with traditional weavings; Tibetan and Bhutanese silverwork; coral and turquoise beads and prayer flags. A number of cottage industries, including metalworking and paper making, are found in Thimphu, and visitors often enjoy visiting their workshops to see artisans practicing their craft. Depending upon the interest of the group, there are couple of major sightseeing; National Textile Museum, where Bhutan's finest weavings and brocades are on display is a must see! There's also the School of Zorigchusum, where students undergo 4 years training in traditional arts and crafts and the Jungshi Paper Factory, where you can observe the delicate artistry involved in creating deh- sho, or locally handmade paper. Evening drive to Paro

**OR**

Drive to Paro valley and upon reaching the valley, ascend up to the most obvious National Museum of Bhutan located inside the Ta Dzong which once acted as the watch tower for the Paro Dzong below. The museum houses the historical and cultural artifacts, rich flora and fauna collections with a good view of the valley below. Few minutes' drive below is the Paro Rinpung Dzong. Admire the impressive architecture of the Paro Dzong, a stronghold that once defended the country from Tibetan invasions. Eventually, end your day with a walk down from the Dzong towards Buddhist Art Gallery where you may chance to see local artisans working on their paintings.

Afternoon, we visit the Duntse Lhakhang, one of the sacred temples built in the Himalayan region over the areas of Tibet and Bhutan by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo. This temple reflects the introduction of Buddhism in the kingdom. See the ancient murals on the walls still well preserved.

Evening – we participate in making of 'Tsa Tsa' - mini stupas, which we will take next day for our Tiger Nest hike and offer/place with brief prayers for oneself and all sentient beings.

### **Day 8 – Oct 17 (Friday): Taktsang “Tiger Nest” Excursion**



After early breakfast, drive back to Paro and we embark on our hike to Taktsang-The Tiger's Nest. This serene monastery clings to a steep granite cliff about 700 meters above the valley floor. Legend has it that the Guru Padmasamhava flew to this rocky cave in the 8th century to meditate. He flew here on the back of a tigress hence the name. Being one of the most revered pilgrim sites, many thousands of pilgrims come here every year, some walking for a month to reach here. The surrounding area has many temples, monasteries and cells where many monks, nuns and lay people can meditate-some even for a life time. Although we are not allowed inside the monastery, we can hike up to the view point, where a cafeteria is situated. From here you can get a most spectacular and breath-taking view of Taktsang. It takes about 2 hours to get there and about 2 hours to return down (approx.).

Overnight: Zhiwa Ling Heritage (2 nights)

### **Day 9 – Oct 18 (Saturday): Depart Bhutan**

- Flight - Paro/Bangkok

We bid farewell to our newfound friends of Bhutan. Your guide and driver will accompany you to the airport for your departure.

***Tashi Delek!***

### **Notes on itinerary:**

This is a guideline for the travels across the Kingdom and the overall site seeing's are very flexible in terms of adding more cultural, religious and or nature/hiking experiences along the way in discussion with your guide.