



| Day 1 | 13th February 2016 | Thimphu |
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| <p>You will be welcomed by our Druk's Representative at Paro Airport. Paro is a picturesque valley, home to the Tigers Nest (Taktsang) monastery. Situated at 2280m above sea level. With the lovely scenery view surrounding us, we will drive to Thimphu which is at 2,400m. It is about 1.5 hours drive. Thimphu is Bhutan's capital. One of the world's most intriguing destinations. After reaching Thimphu, we will visit the Semtokha Dzong, which is the first Dzong built by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the founder of Bhutan. Overnight at Thimphu.</p> | | |
| Day 2 | 14th February 2016 | Thimphu |
| <p>Today is dedicated to exploring the capital – Thimphu. We will visit the massive sitting Buddha on a hill above the town. Also we will visit the Memorial Chorten, the weekend market, the Changangkha temple (popular fortress-like temple perched on a ridge above central Thimphu) and Trashi Choe Dzong (this fortress is an important administrative and religious centre of Bhutan. It houses the Royal Throne, National Assembly and the seat of the Chief Abbot of the central monastic body). Overnight at the same place as the previous night.</p> | | |
| Day 3 | 15th February 2016 | Thimphu |
| <p>After breakfast, we drive to Paro. This short journey offers beautiful views of the Paro valley. On arrival in Paro we hike to the famous Tiger's Nest monastery which sits atop a sheer cliff face at 3000m above sea level. The trip should take around 5 hrs round trip, depending how long we stay at the top. This monastery is built around a meditation cave of Guru Rinpoche to which he flew on the back of a tigress! It is certainly awe inspiring and is considered Bhutan's top attraction. Later in the day, time permitting, we will visit Kyichu Lhakhang - one of the oldest temples in Bhutan dating back to the seventh century. Overnight Thimphu.</p> | | |
| Day 4 | 16th February 2016 | Punakha |
| <p>After breakfast, we will drive via Dochu-la Pass to Punakha (1,450m). Punakha was the old capital of Bhutan until 1955. On a clear day one see the Himalayan ranges at Dochu-la Pass (3050m) and here at this high point there are 108 beautiful stupas. Here we may also attend the Punakha Serdra, the great procession and witness the casting of the jewels into the water by the Central Monastic Body. Overnight Punakha.</p> | | |
| Day 5 | 17th February 2016 | Punakha |
| <p>After breakfast, we will attend the first session of the Punakha Tsechu - the annual religious dance festival of Punakha Dzong. This beautiful and enlightening Tsechu, like all such festivals in Bhutan, is performed in honor of Guru Padmasambhava, also known as Guru Rinpoche, the precious yogi who is credited with having introduced Tantric Buddhism throughout the Himalayas. In the afternoon we visit Khamsum Yuley Namgyel Chorten. This Chorten (stupa) was built by the third Queen Mother Ashi Tshering Yangdon Wangchuck. It is a splendid example of Bhutanese architecture and art. Overnight Punakha.</p> | | |
| Day 6 | 18th February 2016 | Phobjikha |
| <p>After breakfast, we drive approx. for 3.5 hrs to Phobjikha (2,900 m). En route, we take a short hike to Chhime Lhakhang, a temple dedicated to the crazy yogi known as the Divine Madman. Phobjikha is one of the most important wildlife reserves in the country and at this time of year the famous and beautiful long necked black cranes migrate to this location. Overnight at Phobjikha.</p> | | |
| Day 7 | 19th February 2016 | Phobjikha |
| <p>Early in the morning, you will be escorted on a walk to view the black necked cranes. After breakfast, we will drive to Gangtey and visit Gangtoe Goenpa Monastery. We then head for the Gangtey nature trail hike, which passes by the crane roosting area. (1.5 hours approx.) Afternoon at leisure. Overnight Phobjikha.</p> | | |
| Day 8 | 20th February 2016 | Bumthang |
| <p>After breakfast, we drive approx 6 hrs to Bumthang. Situated at 2,600 m. En route we visit the majestic Trongsa Dzong. Bumthang is a very sacred mountain area comprised of 4 valleys. This is the religious heartland of the nation and home to some of its oldest Buddhist temples and monasteries. A brief stopover at Chumey Yathra weaving Centre and we see the production of Yathram - handwoven, colourful woollen strips of cloth, often with geometric designs. Some of Bhutan's best weavers are here. Overnight at Bumthang.</p> | | |
| Day 9 | 21st February 2016 | Bumthang |
| <p>After breakfast we attend the birthday celebration for the Fifth King. Cultural events will be performed beautifully by local students. We will also visit Tamzhing Monastery - the most important Nyingma gumpa in Bhutan and Kencho Sum Lhakhang (under construction) Overnight at Bumthang.</p> | | |

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| Day 10 | 22nd February 2016 | Bumthang |
| <p>Today, we will explore more of Bumthang. Visits include Jakar Dzong, Jambay Lhakhang, and Kurjey Monasteries. Jakar Dzong - the 'Fortress of the White Bird,' was constructed in 1667 after a group of lamas, searching the area for a suitable site for the new dzong, saw a single white bird continuously circling overhead before settling on the top of a hill. This was considered a good omen, and the hill was selected as the site for the dzong. Jambay Lhakhang is one of the 108 temples built by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gonpo in 659 AD. Kurjey monastery is blessed by Guru Rinpoche - here he left his body imprint inside the cave, thus giving it the name Kurjey (Body Imprint). Above the Monastery is a tall cypress tree that is believed to have sprouted from the walking stick of Guru Rinpoche. Meditation sessions are included in the tour, especially as we have time in Bumthang. Overnight at Bumthang.</p> | | |
| Day 11 | 23rd February 2016 | Mongar |
| <p>Today we will drive approx. 7 hours to Mongar (1600m). We travel over high passes and through beautiful valleys and wooded hillsides. From the lookout at Ura Shelthangla, you will enjoy a magnificent view of Bhutan's highest peak, Mt Gangkar Puensum (7,500m high). We then will climb to the highest point on Bhutan's lateral road - Thrumshingla Pass (3,800m). En route, if we have time, we can make a stop at Namling and Sengor villages where you can view more breathtaking landscapes and cascading waterfalls. Overnight at Mongar.</p> | | |
| Day 12 | 24th February 2016 | Mongar |
| <p>After breakfast, we will take a day trip to a remote yogic meditation sanctuary - Largyap Retreat Centre. This centre is a top a high pass. It is about 1.5 hrs walk to the Centre. We will have lunch here and see relics and meditate. Return for overnight stay again at Mongar.</p> | | |
| Day 13 | 25th February 2016 | Lheuntse |
| <p>Today we will drive about 3 hrs to Lheuntse which sits at an altitude of 1,700 m. This is one of the most rural and isolated districts in the Kingdom of Bhutan. The Kurtoe region of Lheuntse is the ancestral home of the Royal Family of Bhutan. In Lheuntse we will see weaving, pottery making and a Guru Rinpoche site. You will stay one night in Lheuntse and return to Mongar the next day.</p> | | |
| Day 14 | 26th February 2016 | Mongar |
| <p>After an early breakfast we will visit the Lheuntse dzong, built in the 17th century. Following this we also visit a special Guru Rinpoche site then drive back towards Mongar via Kurizampa, the training centre of His Eminence Gyelsthen Trulku Rinpoche. Lunch will be served at Kurizampa. After we return to our hotel in Mongar.</p> | | |
| Day 15 | 27th February 2016 | Trashi Yangste |
| <p>After breakfast, we begin the approx 4 hour drive to the beautiful town of Trashi Yangste. On the way, we will stop at Gom Kora and also the little town of Doksum where the Manla village people will come to meet with Khandro Rinpoche. Manla is the birthplace of H.H the 9th Shabdrung Rinpoche. We will have picnic lunch on the way. Overnight at Trashi Yangste.</p> | | |
| Day 16 | 28th February 2016 | Trashigang |
| <p>Morning time we will spend looking at the sites of Trashi Yangtse. Chorten Kora is the town's central and most beautiful stupa - where a local dakini gave her life for her community. then we may visit the old dzong, shop and explore the town. Later we can travel to a beautiful view overlooking the mountains. Late in the afternoon we will travel 3 hours onward to Trashigang.</p> | | |
| Day 17 | 29th February 2016 | Trashigang |
| <p>Day trip to Drametse – a very special and beautiful rural village. There are holy sites here of Pema Lingpa, Chorton Zangmo (the dakini of Trashi Yangtse) and Shabdrung Jigme Drakpa. The holiness of one of these sites is said to be second only to Tiger's Nest (Paro Taktsang) . Overnight at Trashigang.</p> | | |
| Day 18 | 1st March 2016 | Kangpar Lama Gompa |
| <p>Today after breakfast we will drive approx 3 hours till the car can go no further. We will enjoy moorning tea then we walk approx. 2 hours to Kangpar Lama Gompa. This is a very special retreat place full of relics and holy sites. Here we will have lunch, meditate and stay overnight as their guest house. This centre has never had westerners visit before.</p> | | |
| Day 19 | 2nd March 2016 | Pema Gatsel |
| <p>After breakfast, we will walk back to the motor stop (approx. 1 hr) then we will continue on our drive to Pema Gatsel which is approx. 3 hours. Here we will stay in local hotel for the night. If we arrive early enough we will have a preliminary visit to the Shakya Shri nunnery, Jashar Gompa.</p> | | |
| Day 20 | 3rd March 2016 | Samdrup Jongkhar |
| <p>After breakfast, we will go to Jashar Gompa once again. We will offer prayers and witness lama dancing that is especially dedicated to our group. After a sumptuous lunch at the nunnery we will drive for about 3 hours to Samdrup Jongkhar, to prepare for our BHutan departure via India. Overnight stay at Samdrup Jonkhar.</p> | | |
| Day 21 | 4th March 2016 | Onward Destination |
| <p>Today, we bid farewell to Bhutan and drive to the Guwahati airport, India. It is approx. 3 hours drive and from here you will take your plane to your onward destination. May you carry indelible and blissful memories home!</p> | | |

