

## Tour Bhutan – Himalayan Splendor (7 nights /8 days)

This cultural trip offers a close impression on the most important sights in Bhutan. It is well balanced with beautiful sceneries and landscapes, sacred sites and cultural monuments. On the other hand one has enough time to get a glimpse of the Bhutanese traditional life and have nice meetings with the local people. There is no trekking in this trip

### **Day 1: Arrive Paro Bhutan by Druk Air /KTM or BKK - PBH.**

The flight fro KTM/BKK – PBH takes you over the great Himalayas, offering the sparkling scenery of the world's highest snow covered peaks. You can experience the breathtaking views of the Mount Jomolhari and as you descend down to the Paro airport you can see the Pa Chu (Paro River) meandering down the beautiful Paro valley. O/N Paro; is at 2280 meters (7500 ft).

### **Day 2: Paro – Thimphu.**

Drive 65 km./ 1.45hrs./The full day sightseeing in Thimphu today includes visits to: - National Library-which holds the huge collection of the ancient Buddhist text, manuscripts, modern books and printing blocks for the prayer flags., National Institute of Traditional Medicine – where the abundant herbal medicines in the kingdom are prepared. Painting School (Institute of Zorig Chusum)- where children are taught 13 different fields of learning in the traditional manner and most famous for the thangka paintings. National Memorial Choerten - which is built in memorandum of the late King of Bhutan, “Jigme Dorji Wangchuk”, Handicraft Emporium- which displays wide varieties of beautifully hand woven crafted products of Bhutan, Mini Zoo- where you will see the National animal of the Kingdom, climb uphill to Sangaygang to have a overall view of the capital city of Bhutan, Zulukha Nunnary, and Tashichoe Dzong. O/N Thimphu.

### **Day 3: Thimphu – Trongsa.**

After breakfast your drive towards central Bhutan will take you through a Dochula Pass (alt. 3100m) from where you can have a spectacular view of the great Himalayas only if the weather condition is favorable including Mesanggang, table mountain, gangkar puensum, the highest peak in Bhutan and the little pass is mark by the 108 choertens named the “Druk Wangyel Choerten ” and the prayer flags flying along with the winds. Lunch en route at wangdiphodrang. After lunch proceed towards Trongsa across the Pelela Pass (3300m) which is a boundary between east and the west. En route stop at Chendibji Choerten, which is a Nepali style choerten where you will find the four corners of it painted with eyes and built during the 18<sup>th</sup> century by a saint named “Shida”. O/N Trongsa. 267kms/ 8.00 hrs

### **Day 4: Trongsa – Bumthang.**

In the morning visit Trongsa Dzong built by Lama Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1647 and the Ta Dzong(watch tower) above it, which is dedicated to Buddhist epic hero, King Gesar of Ling. Drive to Bumthang (68kms / 2 hrs ) across the Yutongla pass(3400m) and after it takes you through a wide, open, cultivated valley of Chumey. Check into Hotel and after lunch visit Kurjey Lhakhang- where the saint Guru Padmasambhava subdued a local demon and left his body print on the rock, Jambay Lhakhang built in 7<sup>th</sup> century, Tamshing Monastery, which is one of the oldest monastic school in the Kingdom and the Jakar Dzong which houses the administrative center of the region. O/N Bumthang.

### **Day 5: Bumthang – Punakha/Wangdi.**

Explore the fascinating valley of Bumthang and then proceed way back to the western Bhutan. Drive 197 kms / 6.00 hrs. Lunch en route at Trongsa local restaurant, which is famous for its cuisine. En route visit Wangdi Phodrang Dzong – which is the only Dzong that is roofed in the traditional manner i.e. roofed with the wooden planks in a thick layer. O/N Punakha/Wangdi.

**Day 6: Punakha/Wangdi – Paro.**

Morning visit one of the most beautiful Dzong amongst other Dzong's in the Kingdom, Punakha Dzong which is situated in the middle of two rivers namely the Pho Chu(father river) and Mo Chu(mother river). It served as the capital of Bhutan till 1955 and now serves as a winter residence of the central monk body. And is also the place where Ugyen Wangchuk was crowned as the first king of Bhutan in 1907. The fortress did withstand several damages from fire, flood and the earthquake. Also visit Chhimi Lhakhang built by great saint named Lam Drukpa Kuenley- "the divine madman". After lunch drive back to Paro (71kms/ 2 hrs) through the widening road, on arrival at Paro visit the Kichu Lhakhang, built by the Tibetan King Songtsen Goenpo in 7<sup>th</sup> century. O/N Paro.

**Day 7: Paro Sightseeing.**

Full day sightseeing includes visit to Ta Dzong(watch tower), which is now the National museum of the Kingdom, Paro Rinphung Dzong- "fortress on the heap of jewels" built by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1646. Lunch will be served in the local restaurant and after lunch hike to famous Taktshang Monastery "Tigers' Lair" which will offer you a stunning view of the monastery which is perched on the rocky side of the cliff at a height of 90m above Paro valley and is a place where a legendary Guru Padmasambhava is believed to have flown from Tibet riding on the back of Tiger to subdue the demons who were giving the obstacle in spreading the Buddhism in Bhutan –" which takes 3-4 hrs.(both way). Way back drive to the ruined Drukgyel Dzong which marks the victory of the Kingdom over the Tibetan Invaders and from here with a clear day one can have a spectacular view of the Mount Jomolhari (7314m). In the evening stroll through the town. O/N Paro.

**Day 8: PBH- KTM or BKK**

Early Breakfast and transfer to Paro airport for the flight to onward destination.

**Cost includes:**

Car, driver, all ground transports and transfers, English speaking Guide, All food breakfast - lunch - dinner, Accommodation on twin sharing basis at Hotels, Bhutan Permit

**Cost excludes:** Travel Insurance, Extra cost in the event of landslide additional transportation and evacuation cost in case of emergency, expenses of personal nature, KTM & BKK Airport tax, Visa for Nepal.

**Prices per person 2015:**

- 1 PAX :US\$ 250 pax per night X number of nights + Usd 50 ( visa )
- 2 PAX :US\$ 230 pax per night X number of nights + Usd 50
- 3 + PAX :US\$ 210 pax per night X number of nights + Usd 50

On top of that comes the flight either from Bangkok or KTM.

Flight: Kathmandu - Paro - Kathmandu is USD 475.00 per person (Flight Prices are subject of change without any notice!)