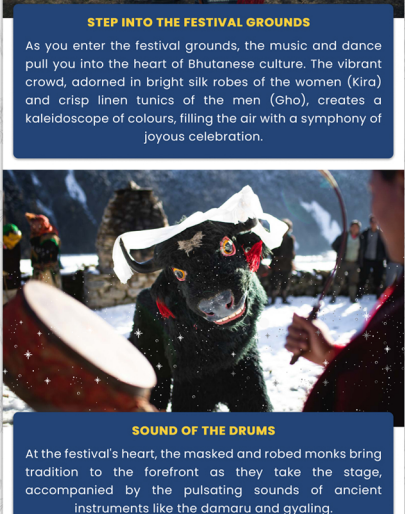


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1st Quarter 2023

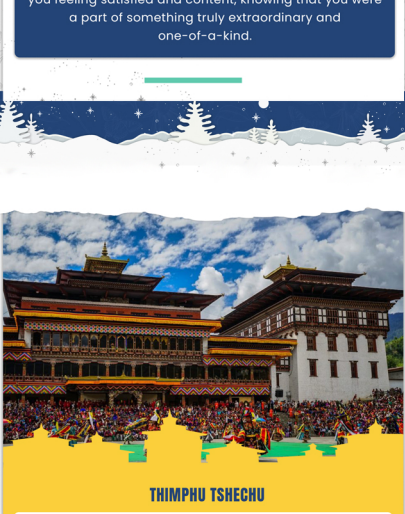


BHUTAN'S FESTIVALS: A WINDOW INTO THE HEART OF BHUTANESE SOCIETY



MUST EXPERIENCE FESTIVALS OF BHUTAN

Embark on a journey through the vibrant and picturesque landscapes of Bhutan, where the festival season is an ode to the rich cultural heritage of the land. Each festival comes with a rich tapestry of customs, traditions, and rituals passed down from generation to generation.



STEP INTO THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS

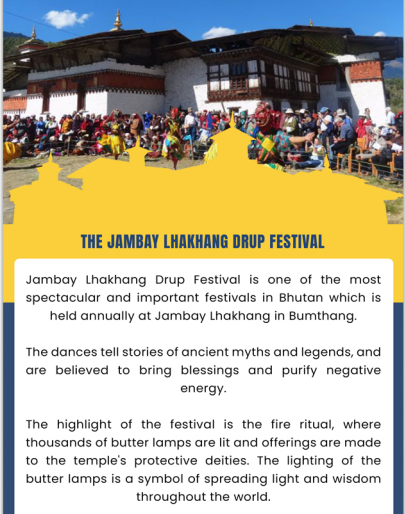
As you enter the festival grounds, the music and dance pull you into the heart of Bhutanese culture. The vibrant crowd, adorned in bright silk robes of the women (Kira) and crisp linen tunics of the men (Gho), creates a kaleidoscope of colours, filling the air with a symphony of joyous celebration.



SOUND OF THE DRUMS

At the festival's heart, the masked and robed monks bring tradition to the forefront as they take the stage, accompanied by the pulsating sounds of ancient instruments like the damaru and gyaling.

The spectators are captivated as the monks perform gracefully and twirl in time with the music. Their graceful movements convey the teachings of Buddha, weaving a spellbinding display of spiritual elegance and expertise.



JOIN THE FESTIVAL WITH LOCAL BHUTANESE

The festivities continue to buzz with vitality as the day progresses. The sun slowly descends, casting a golden glow over the festival grounds, and the musical sounds slowly fade into the night.

Yet, the warmth and joy of the experience linger, leaving you feeling satisfied and content, knowing that you were a part of something truly extraordinary and one-of-a-kind.



THIMPHU TSHECHU

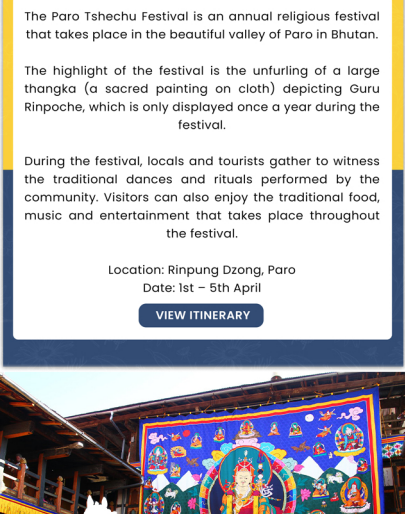
Thimphu Tshechu Festival is an annual cultural event that is held in the stunning Bhutanese countryside, and tourists can take in the breathtaking views while enjoying the festivities.

The festival is a celebration of Bhutan's rich cultural heritage and traditional arts and is attended by locals and tourists alike. The highlight of the festival is the Thimphu Tshechu mask dance, which is performed by trained dancers in intricate costumes and masks.

Whether you are interested in traditional dance, music, or just soaking up the atmosphere, Thimphu Tshechu is an unforgettable experience that you won't want to miss.

Location: Tashi Chhodzong, Thimphu
Date: 24th - 26th September

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)



GANGTEY FESTIVAL

Gangtey Festival, also known as Gangtey Tshechu, is an annual celebration held in the beautiful valley of Gangtey in Bhutan.

The festival is held in honor of the local protector deity, Peling Gonpo Dorji. One of the highlights of the festival is the Tshechu, a colorful and lively dance performance that depicts the life and teachings of Guru Rinpoche and the unfurling of a large thangka, which is a traditional Bhutanese religious painting.

It is a unique and authentic cultural experience that offers a glimpse into the rich history and traditions of this magical kingdom.

Location: Gangtey Gonpa, Phobjikha, Wangduephodrang
Date: 27th - 29th September

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)



BLACK NECKED CRANE FESTIVAL

The Black Necked Crane festival in Bhutan is a unique and colorful celebration that takes place annually in the eastern region of the country.

The festival is held in honor of the black necked crane, a species of crane that migrates to Bhutan during the winter months. The festival is a celebration of the arrival of these beautiful birds and the start of the winter season.

It is a great opportunity for visitors to experience Bhutan's rich culture and traditions, as well as to learn about the importance of conservation and protecting the black necked crane.

Location: Gangtey Gonpa, Phobjikha, Wangduephodrang
Date: 11th November

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)



THE JAMBAY LAKHANG DRUP FESTIVAL

Jambay Lhakhang Drup Festival is one of the most spectacular and important festivals in Bhutan which is held annually at Jambay Lhakhang in Bumthang.

The dances tell stories of ancient myths and legends, and are believed to bring blessings and purify negative energy.

The highlight of the festival is the fire ritual, where thousands of butter lamps are lit and offerings are made to the temple's protective deities. The lighting of the butter lamps is a symbol of spreading light and wisdom throughout the world.

Get a glimpse into Bhutan's rich history and spiritual beliefs!

Location: Jambay Lhakhang, Chhoekhor, Bumthang
Date: 28th October - 1st November

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

JAKAR TSHECHU

Jakhar Tshechu is a vibrant and lively festival celebrated in Bumthang, known for its rich cultural heritage and traditional customs. This festival is celebrated in honor of the great saint, Pema Lingpa, who is considered to be the 2nd Buddha in Bhutan.

These dances are performed by local villagers dressed in vibrant and intricate costumes, accompanied by traditional music and instruments.

The Jakhar Tshechu festival is an opportunity for tourists to immerse themselves in the rich culture and customs of Bhutan, making it an unforgettable experience.

Location: Jakar Dzong, Chhoekhor, Bumthang
Date: 22nd - 24th October

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

THE WANGDUE TSHECHU FESTIVAL

The Wangdue Tshechu festival in Bhutan is a vibrant celebration of Bhutanese culture and tradition. The festival is held annually in the Wangdue Phodrang district and is a celebration of the Guru Rinpoche or Padmasambhava, a revered figure in Bhutanese Buddhism.

The highlight of the festival is the unfurling of a large thangka, or traditional Buddhist painting, which is said to bring good luck and blessings to those who view it.

This festival is a great opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in Bhutanese culture and tradition.

Location: Tencholing Army Ground, Wangduephodrang
Date: 22nd - 24th September

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

THE PUNAKHA DRUBCHEN FESTIVAL

The Punakha Drubchen Festival is one of the most significant religious festivals in Bhutan, held annually in the Punakha Dzong, the ancient fortress located in the Punakha district.

The highlight of the festival is the reenactment of the 17th century battle between Bhutan and Tibet and features a series of colorful and elaborately choreographed dances, performances, and rituals.

The Punakha Drubchen Festival is a unique opportunity to experience the rich culture and history of Bhutan and is a must-see for any visitor to the country.

Location: Punakha Dzong, Punakha
Date: 26th - 28th February

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

THE PARO TSHECHU FESTIVAL

The Paro Tshechu Festival is an annual religious festival that takes place in the beautiful valley of Paro in Bhutan.

The highlight of the festival is the unfurling of a large thangka (a sacred painting on cloth) depicting Guru Rinpoche, which is only displayed once a year during the festival.

During the festival, locals and tourists gather to witness the traditional dances and rituals performed by the community. Visitors can also enjoy the traditional food, music and entertainment that takes place throughout the festival.

Location: Rinpung Dzong, Paro
Date: 1st - 5th April

[VIEW ITINERARY](#)

LOOKING FOR MORE FESTIVAL DATES?

Click the button below to view more festival dates for 2023.

[VIEW MORE](#)

CONCLUSION

The festivals in Bhutan are a wonderful celebration of culture, tradition, and community. From the grand and colorful Tshechu festivals and spiritual Guru Rinpoche festivals, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

The beautiful monasteries and temples are adorned with colorful flags and intricate designs, adding to the already breathtaking scenery of Bhutan.

It is a beautiful reminder of the importance of preserving and celebrating our cultural heritage. These festivals are not just a celebration of Bhutanese culture, but a celebration of life and the beauty of human connection.

Overall, festivals in Bhutan are a unique and unforgettable way for tourists to experience the country's rich culture and traditions. They offer a chance to immerse oneself in the Bhutanese way of life and to experience the warmth and hospitality of the Bhutanese people. So, if you want to experience something different and unique, Bhutan is the perfect destination for you.

FLIGHT SCHEDULES JAN - MAR DRUK AIR:

[JANUARY](#)

[FEBRUARY](#)

[MARCH](#)

FLIGHT SCHEDULES DEC-MAY BHUTAN AIRLINES:

CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW TO VIEW MORE FLIGHT SCHEDULE FOR 2023

[VIEW MORE](#)

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

IS THERE A VACCINATION REQUIREMENT TO VISIT BHUTAN?

Although we recommend all visitors to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to help stop the spread of the disease, there are now no COVID-19 vaccination requirements for adults or children to enter Bhutan from September 23, 2022.

However, all individuals (12 years and above) entering Bhutan may be subjected to random RT-PCR testing at the formal points of entry or at the worksite to maintain COVID-19 surveillance for new variants. No fee shall be charged for the RT-PCR testing for surveillance.

CAN UNVACCINATED GUESTS ENTER BHUTAN? IF SO, WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE?

Yes, unvaccinated guests can enter Bhutan and there will be no quarantine period.

IF SOMEONE GETS COVID-19 WHILE TRAVELLING IN BHUTAN, WHAT HAPPENS?

If a guest tests positive for COVID-19 during their stay in Bhutan, they will be required to quarantine in their hotel until they test negative. The cost for the additional quarantine nights and PCR tests will be borne by the guest. The SDF will be waived during the quarantine period.

WILL THERE BE ANY COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR LEAVING BHUTAN?

There will be no COVID-19 protocols to leave Bhutan, unless they are required by the country the guest is travelling to.

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