

7 Nights / 8 Days Black Necked Crane Festivals

Minimum 2 pax - maximum 18 pax

BLACK NECKED CRANE FESTIVAL (11 November 2023)

Date	Place	Remarks
8-Nov-23	Thimphu	
9-Nov-23	Thimphu	
10-Nov-23	Gangtey	
11-Nov-23	Gangtey	Black Necked Crane Festival
12-Nov-23	Punakha/Wangdue	
13-Nov-23	Paro	
14-Nov-23	Paro	
15-Nov-23	Departure	

08th November 2023:

Arrive Paro By Air & Transfer to Thimphu (65 kms / 1 hr 30 mins Drive Approx)



You can take the flight either from Delhi or Kathmandu.

The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular in the entire Himalayas. Flying along the Himalayan range from Kathmandu, the journey offers fascinating views and an exciting descent into the Kingdom. Bhutan's first gift to you as you disembark from the aircraft will be cool, clean fresh mountain air. After immigration formalities and baggage collection, you will be met by our representative. Drive to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan.

On Arrival in Thimphu, Check in at the hotel.

Thimphu is also the Centre of government, religion and commerce. It is a unique city with an unusual mix of modern and ancient tradition and culture. Thimphu maintains a strong national character in its architectural style. In the evening take an exploratory walk around Thimphu's main street and market area.

Visit the Craft Bazaar and browse through some of Bhutan's fine traditional arts. Here you can buy hand-woven textiles, Thankha paintings, Masks, ceramic, slate and wood carvings, jewelry and many interesting items made from local materials.

Overnight in Thimphu (Altitude 2300m)

09th November 2023: Thimphu



After breakfast, proceed to visit the Kuensel Phodrang or Buddha point as it is popularly known, located a short drive away from the city center. You can get a panoramic view of Thimphu valley from here and pay your obeisance and offer prayers to the Buddha, the largest in the country. A walk in and around the premises taking in the scenic beauty of the surroundings is a popular activity even among the locals.

Visit the National Library, housing an extensive collection of priceless Buddhist manuscripts; the institute for Zorig Chusum (commonly known as the Painting School) where students undergo various yearlong training courses in 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan.

Later, visit the Royal Textile Academy and enjoy the Textile Museum, which provides an insight into one of the most distinct art forms in Bhutan.



After Lunch, proceed to visit Pangri Zampa Institute of Buddhist Astrology. Built in the 16th century, it is one of the oldest monasteries in Bhutan located just 15 km north of Thimphu. It is a monastic school where Buddhist monks learn astrology based on Buddhist philosophy.

Later, visit Thimphu Kaja Throm, the farmers market, where they sell cereals, vegetables, fruits and many farm products. It has a Café and a few fast-food restaurants.



Leisure time or you can walk around Thimphu main street and market area.

Overnight in Thimphu (Alt 2300m)

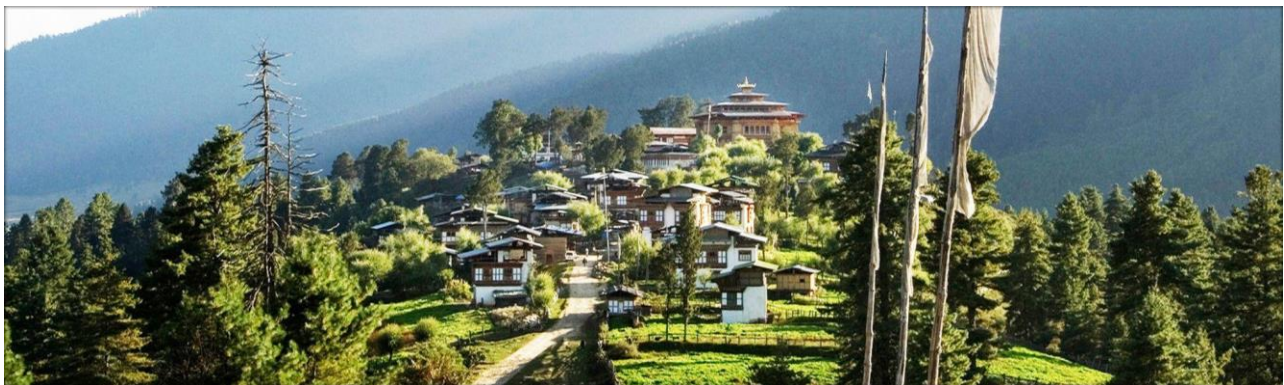
10th November 2023:

Thimphu to Gangtey (150 kms / 5 hrs. Drive Approx.)



After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Gangtey across the Do Chula pass (3080m). In Bhutan, the passes are marked by a large Bhutanese Chorten and prayer flags. Here you will see the beauty of 108 chortens against the backdrop of the most spectacular view of the high peaks of the eastern Himalayas on a clear day. Descent from Dochula pass to the valley of Punakha and Wangduephodrang.

Wangdue is also known for its bamboo handicrafts, slate carving, and stone carving. The road to Gangtey/Phobjikha Valley passes through an oak and rhododendron woodland. Phobjikha is one of Bhutan's few glacial valleys and the preferred home of black necked cranes migrating from the Central Asian Plateau to avoid the harsh winters. Explore the Phobjikha Valley.



Overnight stay in Gangtey. (Altitude 2800m)

11th November 2023: Gangtey.

After breakfast, witness Gangtey Black Necked Crane Festival. The annual Black-Necked Crane festival is celebrated at the courtyard of Gangtey Goenpa in Phobjikha valley. The festival is an occasion for the locals to rejoice and celebrate the arrival of this endangered and majestic bird which becomes an inseparable part in their daily lives during the winter months.



With around 300 or more arrivals every year, the Gangtey - Phobjikha valley is Bhutan's major wintering habitat for Black-necked Cranes.

The Black-Necked Crane festival dance, developed locally and performed by school children, is often the festival's highlight. As part of the Integrated Conservation and Development Program, the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature, a national NGO, organizes the festival.

The festival generates awareness and understanding of the importance of conserving the endangered Black-Necked Cranes. It includes cultural programs such as folk songs and dances and masks dances performed by the local people and crane dances and environmental conservation-themed dramas and songs by school children.



In the afternoon, take the beautiful Gangtey Nature trail. The hike is a beautiful Nature walk along the Black Necked crane roosting area with the view of the lower Phobjikha valley. It is the most beautiful and shortest of the existing nature trails in Bhutan.

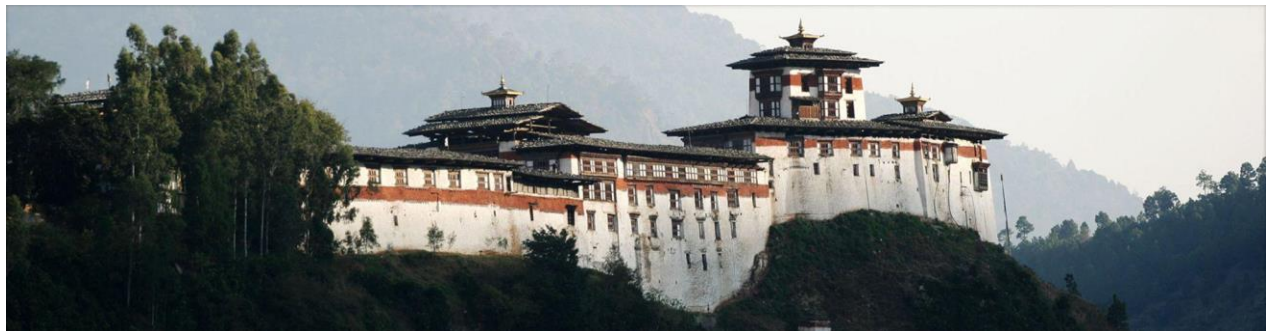
The trail hike starts from the Mani Stone wall stupa to the north of Gangtey Gumpa and ends in Khewa Lhakhang (temple). The hike takes around 45 minutes to an hour through the pine forest and small bamboo shrubs. You may spot a few of the early arrivals on this hike in their roosting areas. (1hr 30mins)

- Distance: 1 hr. 30 mins
- Altitude: 2700 M
- Elevation gain: 200M
- Difficulty: Easy

Overnight stay in Gangtey. (Altitude 2800m)

12th November 2023:

Gangtey to Wangdue / Punakha (70 kms / 3 hrs. Drive Approx.)



After breakfast, drive back to Wangdue. Wangduephodrang Dzong built on a spur at the confluence of two rivers with an impressive view over both the north-south and east-west roads, Wangduephodang played a critical role in unifying Western, Central and Southern Bhutan in the 17th century. It was razed to the ground by a fire in 2012 and reconstructed to its original glory over the last 10 years.



After lunch, proceed to visit the Punakha Dzong, built strategically at the junction of Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the religious and administrative center of the region. Punakha Dzong has played an important role in Bhutan's history. Damaged by four catastrophic fires and an earthquake, the Dzong has been fully restored by the Kings.



Later, hike to Khamsum Yuelhay Namgyel Chorten, the most beautiful stupa in the whole country. Conceived in the form of a temple, it was built by the Royal Family in the early 1990's. The view of mountains and the valley below is spectacular from this chorten. From the motor road, hike for about half an hour and enjoy the beautiful nature along the path leading up to the Chorten.

Overnight stay in Punakha. (Altitude 1400m)

13th November 2023:

Punakha to Paro (150 kms / 5 hrs. Drive Approx.)



After breakfast, drive back to Paro descending from Dochu La, following the way back up the dramatic Wang Chhu and Paro Chhu River valleys, before crossing through Paro Town towards the north end of the valley.

After lunch, proceed to visit Ta Dzong, originally built as a Watchtower, which now houses the National Museum. The extensive collection includes antique thangkha paintings, textiles, weapons & armor, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts.

Later, visit Sangchen Choekhor Shedra high on the top of a hill on the north side of the valley. The Shedra, a Buddhist college, is home to about 150 monks, studying for six years before they move on to Tango Monastery upon graduation. It's worth a visit mainly for the beautiful scenic view of the valley below and the peaceful ambience in the traditional beauty and spirituality of the temple.

Overnight stay in Paro. (Altitude 2300m)

14th November 2023: Paro

After breakfast, hike to the Taktsang Monastery (5 hrs. hike) (3150 Meters):



It is the most famous of Bhutan's monasteries, perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley floor. It is said that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at this monastery and hence it is called the Tiger's Nest. This site has been recognized as a most sacred place visited by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1646 and now visited by all Bhutanese at least once in their lifetime. On 19 April 1998, a fire severely damaged the main structure but now this Bhutanese jewel has been restored to its original splendor.

Overnight stay in Paro. (Altitude 2300m)

15th November 2023: Departure

After early breakfast at the hotel, drive to the airport. Our representative will help you with exit formalities until you leave our country with beautiful memories.

Notes:

Upgrades to higher category hotels can be arranged on request with surcharge.

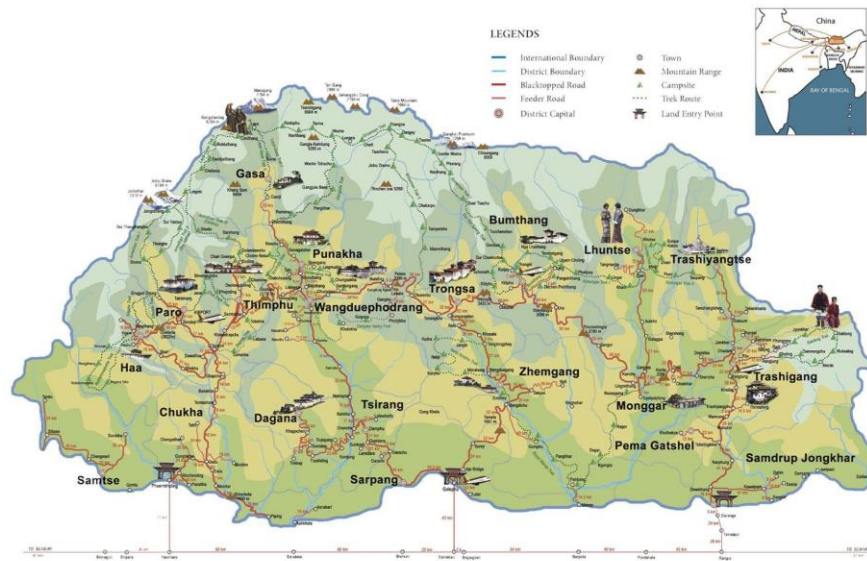
Pre and post excursions in Delhi or Kathmandu can be arranged on request.

Cancellation:

One month prior to arrival date: **100% refund**

15 days prior to arrival date: **50%**

1-15 days prior to arrival date: **0%**



Bhutan, often referred to as the "Land of the Thunder Dragon" or 'Druk Yul', is regarded as one of the last "Shangri-Las" in the Himalayan region given its remoteness, its spectacular mountain terrain, varied flora and fauna, its unique ancient Buddhist monasteries and the peaceful and serene environment.

This country of rolling hills and towering crags certainly exudes a charm of its own. The people are delightful, the mountains are magnificent, the forests are dense, the air is pure, the architecture inspiring, the religion profound and the art superb. Like timeless images from the past, the traveler encounters the full glory of this ancient land through its strategic fortresses known as Dzongs, numerous ancient temples, monasteries and stupas which dot the countryside, prayer flags which flutter along the high ridges, wild animals which abound in dense forests, foamy white waterfalls like ethereal showers and the warm smiles of its friendly people.

The tiny kingdom of Bhutan shares with Nepal the world's greatest belt of mountains and the living heritage of Buddhism. The flight to Paro can truly be described as a flight into fantasy. During the flight, a first-hand close-up view of Mt. Everest, Mt. Kanchenjunga and other famous peaks of the Himalayan range became a reality.

With its beautiful and largely unspoiled Himalayan setting, its rich flora and fauna and its vibrant Buddhist culture, Bhutan has become an increasingly popular destination for international tourists. In addition to generating hard-currency revenue, tourism is also providing the impetus for the development of the service sector and economic development across the region. In an effort to safeguard its rich natural and cultural environment, the country has consciously adopted a tourism policy that promotes a sustainable path to development.



Facts and Figures:

Land area: 38,394 square kilo meters

Forest area: 72.5 %

Altitude: between 240metres and 7541
meters above sea level

Inhabitants: 700,000

Language: Dzongkha, English widely spoken

Religion: Vajrayana stream of Mahayana
Buddhism (Also known as Tantric Buddhism)

Currency: Ngultrum (equal to Indian Rupee)

Capital: Thimphu

National Tree: Cypress

National Bird: Raven

National Flower: Blue Poppy

National Sport: Archery

National Animal: Takin

Local time: Six hours ahead of GMT and half
an hour ahead of Indian Standard Time

