

## 7 Nights / 8 Days Jakar Festival (Bumthang)

Minimum 2 pax-maximum 18 pax

### JAKAR TSHECHU (Cultural festival 21-25 October 2023)

Date	Place	Remarks
19-Oct-23	Thimphu	Arrival by Air
20-Oct-23	Thimphu	Sightseeing
21-Oct-23	Punakha/Wangdue	By road
22-Oct-23	Bumthang	Jakar Festival
23-Oct-23	Bumthang	Jakar Festival
24-Oct-23	Paro	Domestic Flight
25-Oct-23	Paro	sightseeing
26-Oct-23	Departure	

### 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023:

**Arrive Paro by Air & Transfer to Thimphu (65 kms / 1hr 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 into 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)**

## 20<sup>th</sup> October 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 year-long 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**, visit Pangri Zampa Institute of Buddhist Astrology. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Then**, 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 2350m)**

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2023:**

**Thimphu to Punakha (75 km / 3 hrs. Drive Approx.)**



**After breakfast at the hotel,** drive to Punakha across Do Chula pass (3080m). In Bhutan, the passes are marked by a large Bhutanese Chorten and prayer flags. Do Chula pass offers the most spectacular view of the high peaks of the eastern Himalayas on a clear day. Here you will also see the picturesque 108 chortens (stupas).



**After checking into the hotel,** proceed to visit 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.

The Dzong is open for visitors during Punakha festival and in the summer months when the monk body moves to Thimphu.



**Afternoon,** hike up through fields of chilies and cabbages to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten, which was built to remove negative forces and promote peace, stability and harmony in the changing world. The Chorten dominates the upper Punakha Valley with commanding views across the Mo Chhu and up towards the mountainous peaks of Gasa and beyond. A stunning monument recently built by the Royal family and consecrated in 1999.

**Overnight in Punakha. (Altitude 1400m)**



**22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023:**

**Punakha to Bumthang (203 km / 8 hrs. Drive Approx.)**

**After breakfast,** drive to Bumthang via Wangdue and Trongsa, over the Pelela Pass (Altitude – 3400m) and Youtongla Pass (3400m).



**En-Route visit Trongsa Museum,** a cylindrical stone structure constructed by the first Governor of Trongsa in the year 1652. It has four different observation points named Dragon, Garuda, Tiger, and Lion. But, if you look at it closely, it's a perfect combination of the old traditions and the new. It has five floors of significant displays of art, craft and royal memorabilia. Some of these are a 500-year-old jacket used by Ngagi Wangchuk and the Raven crown.

**After arrival at Bumthang,** check-in at the hotel and refresh. Enjoy your evening at your own leisure.

**Overnight in Bumthang. (Altitude 2800M).**

**23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023: Bumthang**



**After breakfast at the hotel,** witness the Jakar Tshechu until lunch. The five days Jakar Tshechu in Bhutan's spiritual heartland is an experience of the rich pageantry and festive atmosphere of this unique landscape. People visit the festival dressed in their finest clothes and jewelry. The festival hosts different types of folk songs and religious mask dances.





**After lunch,** visit Kurje Lhakhang, one of the most sacred places in Bumthang. Kurje Lhakhang is a temple complex consisting of three beautiful temples. The oldest temple contains the rock which has the imprint of Guru Rinpoche's body and hence is considered to be the holiest. The second temple was Royal Family. A 108 chorten wall surrounds the three temples.



**Then,** walk across the cable suspension bridge through Tamshing village and visit Tamshing Lhakhang. For those interested in art and paintings, this treasure house of interesting religious Buddhist paintings is a must-visit. With a number of ancient paintings such as that of 1000 Buddhas and 21 Taras, the monastery was built by the famous saint Pema Lingpa in 1501.

**Visit Menbar Tsho (The Burning Lake).** In early 1475, the saint, Pema Lingpa, discovered holy relics hidden here by Guru Rinpoche and thus received his holy mission to propagate religion. To silence skeptical minds, he plunged into the water with a burning lamp and declared: "If I am a demon, I shall die! If I am not, and I am the true spiritual son of Guru Rinpoche, this lamp will continue to burn and I will recover hidden treasures!" That happened, and the place took the name of the Burning Lake. Devout Bhutanese always send a little lamp floating on the water making a wish.

It is still believed today that people with less sins and spiritual minds are able to see an extraordinary sight in the lake while looking down from a rock overlooking it. At the entrance to the lake is the image of Pema Lingpa along with his two sons carved out on a rock.

**Overnight in Bumthang. (Altitude 2800M)**

## 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023:

### Bumthang to Paro (Domestic Flight 35 mins)

**After breakfast**, drive to Bumthang Domestic airport for your flight to Paro International Airport, Drukair conducted the inaugural flights to Bathpalathang Airport on 17 December 2011 coinciding with the National Day of Bhutan. The airport is a 5 minutes' drive along Chamkar River towards the north of Chamkar town. The flight time is around 35 minutes to Paro from Bumthang and it is one of the best flights over the mountain range. After arrival at the hotel, check in and refresh.

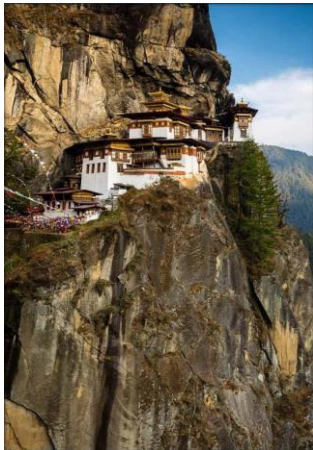


**After lunch**, proceed to visit Ta Dzong, originally built as a Watchtower, which now houses the National Museum. The extensive collection includes antique thangka paintings, textiles, weapons & armor, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts.

**Later**, visit Sangchen Choekor 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 fine views from the switch back drive up and the peaceful and spiritual ambience of the traditional monastery.

**Overnight in Paro. (Altitude 2300m)**

## 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023: Paro



**After breakfast**, hike to Taktshang Monastery (5hrs hike) (3150 Meters): It is one of 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 '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.

**Afternoon**, explore downtown Paro.

**Overnight in Paro. (Altitude 2300m)**

### **01<sup>st</sup> November 2023: Departure**

**After an early breakfast at the hotel,** drive to the airport. Our representative will help you with exit formalities until you leave the 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.

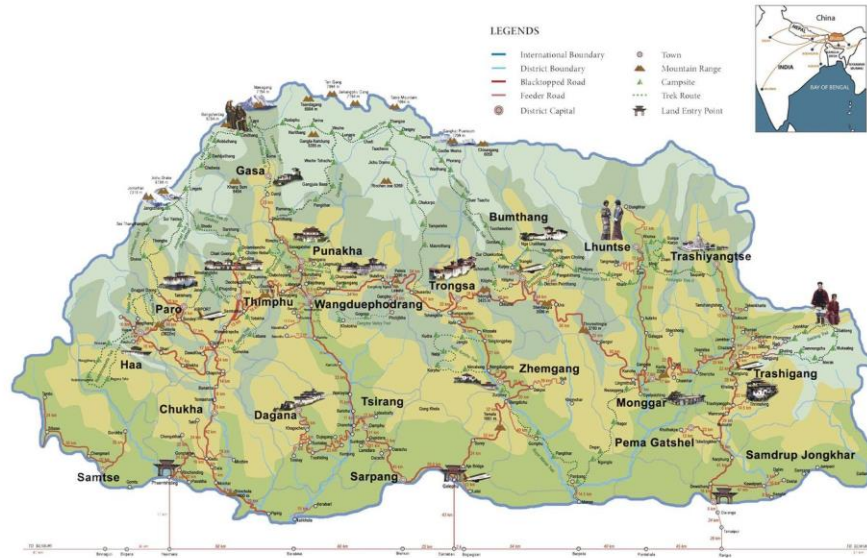
### **Cancellation:**

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