

# **BHUTAN TOUR PLAN**

## **How to reach Phuentsholing?**

Train from NJP to Hasimara

(9AM - 12.30 PM)

Shared Jeep from Hasimara to Jaigaon

(12.30 PM - 1 PM)

Jaigaon and Phuentsholing are border towns on both side of the border.

Just cross into Phuentsholing and enter the Immigration Office.

**Note: Bringing cigarettes or any form of tobacco is illegal in Bhutan.**

**200 cigarettes in total are allowed for personal consumption but you have to pay 100% tax.**

## **Day 1: Phuentsholing to Thimphu**

Upon arrival at Phuentsholing pick up & transfer to Thimphu.

(165 Kms 4.5 HRS Drive + Additional time needed at Phuentsholing for cross border formalities)

Check into Hotel and have the evening to yourself for Lesiure. Overnight stay will be at Thimpu.

## **Day 2: Thimpu (Capital of Bhutan, Home of the Royalty)**

Once a rustic village sitting in a broad river valley, Thimphu is today the nation's capital. Enjoy a full day of sightseeing, including a visit to the National Memorial Chorten, completed by the Royal Queen Mother as a memorial stupa for the Third King. Continue on to 12th century Changangkha Temple and the Zilukha Nunnery. If your visit coincides with the weekend, you can walk through the Thimphu Market.

## **Places Covered**

King's Memorial Chorten, Changangkha Monastery,

National Zoo

Folk Heritage Museum

Textile Museum

National Institute of Traditional Medicine, Traditional Paper Factory (made  
From Daphne plant)

Overnight at your hotel in Thimphu.

### **Day 3: Punakha**

After breakfast from Hotel check out from Hotel and drive over the Dochu-La pass (3,100 meters), which on a clear day offers an incredible view of Himalayan peaks before descending into the Punakha valley (3 hrs). In the Dochu-La area there are vast Rhododendron forests that grow to tree size and bloom in late April/early May covering the mountains in a riot of glorious spring colour.

Punakha was the ancient capital of Bhutan. On arrival, visit Punakha Dzong, built in 1637 by the Shabdrung, the 'Unifier of Bhutan'. The three story main temple of the Punakha Dzong is a breathtaking example of traditional architecture with four intricately embossed entrance pillars crafted from cypress and decorated in gold and silver. After lunch, enjoy a walk to Chimi Lhakhang, temple of Drukpa Kuenly. He inherited the Divine Madman title since he revolted against the orthodox Buddhism in his time. Check into Hotel and overnight stay in Punakha

### **Day 4: Gangtey Gompa Monastery**

Punakha to Gangtey Gompa Monastery Excursion.

Gangtey Gonpa or Gangtey Monastery, is an important monastery of Nyingmapa school of Buddhism, the main seat of the Pema Lingpa tradition located in the Wangdue Phodrang District in central Bhutan. The Monastery, also known by the Gangten village that surrounds it, is in the Phobjikha Valley where winter visitors – the black-necked cranes – visit central Bhutan to roost, circling the monastery three times on arrival and repeating this circling when returning to Tibet.

Gangtey treks are a popular tourism attraction in the Phobjikha Valley which covers the Gangtey Gonpa. It is a trekking route followed by international trekking enthusiasts that starts from the Gangtey Gonpa in the Phobjikha valley. It passes through the Kumbu village (east of the Gonpa), goes through the Gedachen and Khebayathang villages, leads to the Kilhorthang village and terminates in the Kungathang Lhakhang. A short trek of about 90 minutes, known as the Gangte Nature Trail, starts from the mani stone wall to the north of the Gangtey Gonpa and ends in Khewa Lhakhang.

Check into Hotel in Wangdue for the night.

### **Day 5: Paro Local Sight Seeing**

After breakfast check out from Hotel and drive towards Paro (113Kms/ 3.50 HRS Approx)

Enjoy afternoon sightseeing around Paro, including a visit to the Ta Dzong Museum housing many religious relics, works of art and handicrafts offering a great orientation into Bhutan's historical, cultural, and religious past. Next, visit the Rimpong Dzong to see the painting of the great saint Milarepa. Dzong's are large monasteries and district administrative centres, which were once strategic forts. Check into Hotel and have the evening to you for Lesiure. Overnight stay will be at Paro.

### **Day 6: Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest)**

After breakfast hike to Taktsang Monastery. The walk of approximately 1.5 to 2 hours uphill takes you almost a kilometre above the Paro valley floor. The view of Taktsang Monastery built on a sheer cliff face 900 metres above the valley floor is a spectacular sight. The Monastery is an important pilgrim site for Buddhists. The great Guru Rimpoche is said to have flown here on the back of a tigress when he brought the teachings of the Buddhist Dharma to Bhutan in the 8th Century. Afterwards drive to the ruins of the 17th Century Drukgyel Dzong, and 7th Century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples constructed by the Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo.

Overnight at your hotel in Paro.

### **Day 7: Chelila Pass & Haa Valley**

Breakfast from Hotel and check out and move towards Haa Valley.

Enjoy a day trip to the Haa Valley, one of the most picturesque districts in Bhutan. Reached via the beautiful Chelila Pass (3900m), Haa Valley is characterised by its surrounding rugged and mountainous terrain and unique architecture

Home stay overnight with local family for the night

### **Day 8: Good Bye Bhutan**

Leave Bhutan from Haa to Phuentsholing with pleasant memories and proceed with Onward Journey from Jaigaon