



**TBZBHT02**

**BHUTAN**

**2N THIMPHU, 2N PUNAKHA, 2N PHOBIKA, 2N PARO**

**8 Nights & 9 Days**



### TOUR SUMMARY

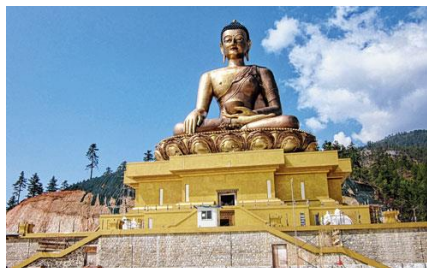
DAY	OVERNIGHT	PARTICULAR
Day 1	THIMPHU	PARO ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER TO THIMPHU ( 51KM / 1HRS 30 MNT )
Day 2	THIMPHU	THIMPHU SIGHTSEEING
Day 3	PUNAKHA	TRANSFER THIMHU TO PUNAKHA ( 85KM / 3HRS ) SIGHTSEEING : DOCHULA PASS, PUNAKHA DZONG, CHIMI LHAKHANG, SUSPENSION BRIDGE
Day 4	PUNAKHA	PUNAKHA SIGHTSEEING SIGHTSEEING : RINCHENGANG, WANGDI DZONG, BLACK NAKED CRANE
Day 5	PHOBIKA	TRANSFER PUNAKHA TO PHOBIKA ( 125KM / 4HRS 30MNT ) SIGHTSEEING : RINCHENGANG, WANGDI DZONG, BLACK NAKED CRANE
Day 6	PHOBIKA	PHOBIKHA SIGHTSEEING SIGHTSEEING : NATURE TRAIL HIKE, GANGTEY GOEMPA
Day 7	PARO	TRANSFER PUNAKHA TO PARO ( 176KM / 5HRS ) SIGHTSEEING : DOCHULA LA PASS , TA DZONG, NATIONAL MUSEUM, RINPUNG DZONG
Day 8	PARO	PARO SIGHTSEEING SIGHTSEEING : TAKTSHANG MONASTERY
Day 9	DEPARTURE	

## DETAIL ITINERARY

### DAY 1

**PARO ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER TO THIMPHU ( 51km / 1hrs 30mnt )**

**OVERNIGHT : THIMPHU (7,710 ft.)**



Upon your arrival in Paro airport our guide will be there to welcome you. He will be your tour guide and companion for the whole duration of your tour in Bhutan. Drive to your hotel in Thimphu, the capital city of Bhutan.

En-route we will stop over **Tachogang Lhakhang** for taking beautiful photo of suspension bridge built over Paro River for the temple otherside. On arrival check in at the hotel After refreshing yourselves and having lunch, visit the following

**Kuenselphodrang or the Buddha point** is the world's largest sitting Buddha statue, the statue is 167 feet high. The statue is situated on top of a hill overlooking the city of Thimphu, it can be accessed by road and is about 15 minutes away from the city's center. The word Kuensel means everything is clear and from this place you will sure enjoy a great view of the Thimphu Valley on both sides. The statue will house a temple inside it. The statue is constructed out of bronze and is studded with many semi-precious stones. On the drive to the statue the steep winding hill road offers an unparalleled view of the city of Thimphu and is an excellent place to capture a view of the city especially after dark.

**MotithangTakin preserve:** The MotithangTakin Preserve also known as the Thimphu Zoo by many is a small natural preserve for the TakinBhutan's national animal. It was originally a mini zoo, but it was converted in a preserve later on as the Takin. The preserve is a forested preserve that mimics the Takin's natural habitat, in addition to the Takin there are a few musk deer and barking deer that live inside the preserve.

In the eveing visit **TashichhoDzong**.The TashichhoDzong is a Buddhist monastery cum fortress at the northern edge of Thimphu the capital city of Bhutan. The Dzong was built on the western bank of the river Wang Chu, and has historically served at the seat of the DrukDesi or the Dharma Raja of Bhutan's government. After the kings assumed power in 1907 this post was combined with that of the king and Thimphu severed as the summer caital of the kingdom before becoming the full time capital of Bhutan. It was erected in 1641 and was subsequently rebuilt by King JigmeDorjiWangchuck in the 1960s. The Dzong has been seat of the Royal government since 1952 and presently houses the Throne room and the Kings secretariat. The Tashichhodzong is also home to several ministries of the Bhutanese government, and the Central Monk Body which is the apex organization of the country's main spiritual order. The Dzongs main structure is a two striped quadrangle with 3 storied towers on each of its four corners

In the eveing back to hotel

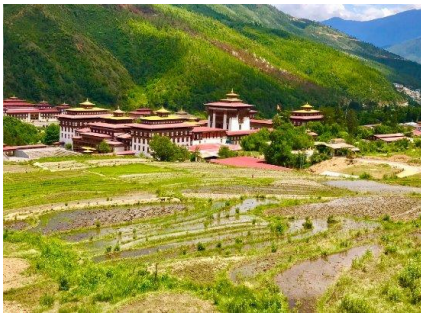
Overnight in Thimphu.

### DAY 2

**THIMHU SIGHTSEEING**

**OVERNIGHT : THIMPHU (7,710 ft.)**





After breakfast, sightseeing in Thimphu valley including visit to the following **National Library** which houses the collection of Bhutanese rich religious text and the contemporary Buddhism teachings from master all around the world. Drive further up to visit the Dechenphodrang monastic school and meet the young monks

**Textile Museum**, which provides insight into Bhutan's one of the most distinct art form. Also visit **Simply Bhutan**, a living museum and studio encapsulating the cultural heritage of the Bhutanese people.

After lunch, drive to **Sangaygang view point** (2685 meters) to have view of whole Thimphu valley and walk through hundreds of colourful prayer flags that dot the hill overlooking the valley.

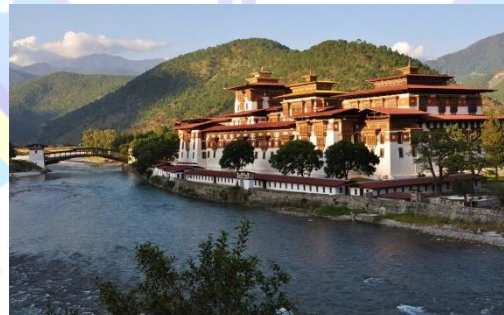
**Changangkha Monastery**, is next in itinerary. This monastery is built on a hill overlooking the Thimphu valley. It was built in 15th Century by Lama Phajo Drugom Zhipo. Many parents of Thimphu take their new born babies to this monastery to be blessed by a high lama.

Afterwards visit **King's Memorial Chorten**, continuously circumambulated by people, murmuring mantras and spinning their prayer wheels. Construction of this landmark was the idea of Bhutan's third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuk ('the father of modern Bhutan') who has wished to erect monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it serves both as a memorial to the Late King and as a monument to peace. Conclude the day with visit of Trashichhoedzong. This impressive fortress/monastery houses Secretariat building, the throne room of His Majesty, the King and various government offices. It is also the summer residence of Chief Abbot and central monk body.

### DAY 3

#### TRANSFER THIMHU TO PUNAKHA ( 85KM / 3HRS)

#### OVERNIGHT : PUNAKHA (4074 ft.)



After breakfast drive up to **Dochu-la pass** (3,088m/ 10,130 ft) stopping briefly here to take in the view and admire the chorten, mani wall, and prayer flags which decorate the highest point on the road. If skies are clear, the following peaks can be seen from this pass: Masagang (7,158m), sendagang (6,960m), Terigang (7,060m), Jejegangphugang (7,158 m ), Kangphugang (7,170 m) Zongphugang (7, 060 m ), a table mountain that dominates the isolated region of Lunana - finally Gangkar puensum, the highest peak in Bhutan at 7,497m.

Continue drive towards Punakha , Punakha situated at an altitude of 1300m/4265ft, Punakha is blessed with a temperate climate and owing to its natural drainage from Pho Chhu (male) and Mo Chhu (female) rivers, this valley produces abundant crops and fruits. Until 1955 Punakha served as the capital of Bhutan, and still today serves as the winter residence of the monk body.

Later 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 centre 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 Fourth King.

Later embark on a short interesting walking excursion to **Chimi Lhakhang** : Situated on a hillock in the centre of the valley, this temple is dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kuenley, who in the late 15th century used



humor, songs and outrageous behaviour to dramatize his teachings and due to this also known as Divine Madman'. This Lhakhang is also known as the temple of fertility. It is widely believed that couples who do not have children and wanting one, if they pray at this temple, they are usually blessed with a child very soon.

Later after lunch proceed for **Punakha suspension bridge** is the second longest suspension bridge in Bhutan and connects the old administrative centre of Punakha Dzongkhag to the rest of the valley. It is perched high above the swift river Po Chu and spans about 160-180 meters in length. This iron chain bridge has been a precursor for modern suspension bridges in the world. For all the adrenaline junkies, here is a handy guide to the beautiful yet scary suspension bridge in Bhutan. Evening check in to hotel Overnight at Punakha

## DAY 4

### PUNAKHA SIGHTSEEING

OVERNIGHT : PUNAKHA (4074 ft.)



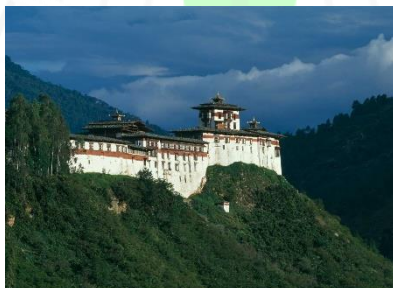
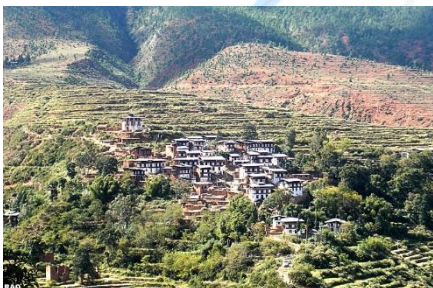
After breakfast proceed for **Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten** sits majestically on a ridge above Punakha valley with amazing view of the countryside and the hills below. It was built by the Queen Mother to ward off evil forces and bring peace and harmony for all living beings. It is one of the finest examples of Bhutanese architecture.

It is located about 30 minutes drive from the town and a 45 minutes uphill hike from the base of the hill through rice fields. On the return walk there is an option to hike along the riverside, following the ancient trail that goes through farmlands, village homes and arrive near Punakha. This additional hike takes about two hours and in particular worth for birding and to enjoy the country side views. Evening back to hotel. Overnight at Punakha

## DAY 5

TRANSFER PUNAKHA TO PHOBJIKA ( 125KM / 4HRS 30MNT)

OVERNIGHT : PHOBJHIKA



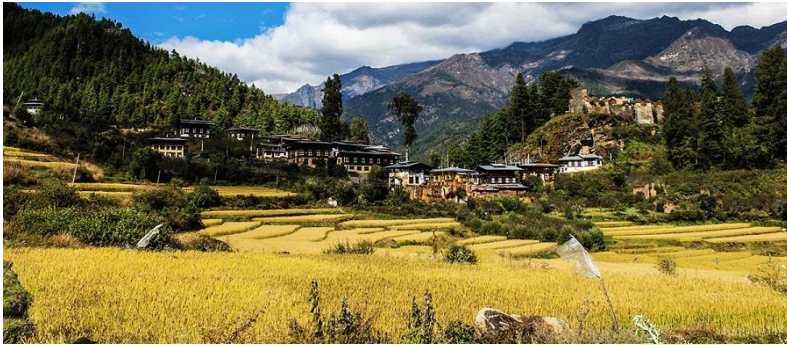
Today after breakfast drive to the remote isolated valley of Phobjikha. En route could stop for a short hike to the ancient village of **Rinchengang** overlooking the ruins of **Wangdi Dzong**. It's amazing how they have managed to be together and preserve the old houses. If you are tired to hike, could do it on the way back. The drive is very picturesque and worth every turn and climb. This valley is protected being winter home for the endangered Black Necked Cranes migrating to Bhutan every end of Oct to end of Feb. This valley is a paradise for the nature lovers and hikers. Upon your arrival could go for a short walk in the valley. Or if you are too tired after the long drive, could relax in the hotel and enjoy the breathtaking view of the valley. This is a very remote village and the hotel standard is very basic



## DAY 6

### PHOBJIKA LOCAL SIGHTSEEING

#### OVERNIGHT : PHOBJHIKA



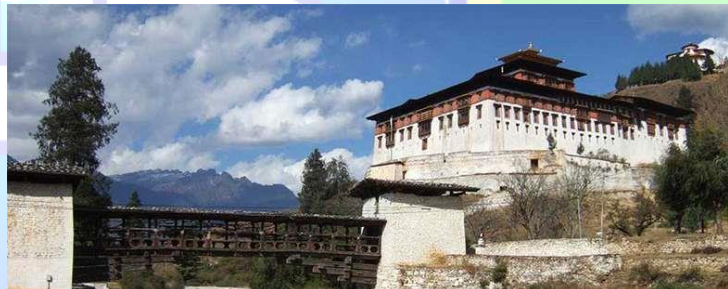
*Today, will be a very relaxing day. Morning could go for walk right below your hotel and meet the school children who all walk for hours to reach their nearest school. Or if you want to relax and start very late, today is the right day to make it happen.*

*After late breakfast could go for **Phobjikha Nature trail hike (2.5 Hrs)**, which offers beautiful view of the valley. It starts from the valley and end with **Gangtey Goempa** temple at the hilltop overlooking the valley. Gangtey Goempa temple is a beautiful temple, richly renovated with many monks living. Could also visit the **Crane Canter** supported by the RSPN. Can have an option to visit a village and a farmhouse for lunch/dinner*

## DAY 7

### TRANSFER PHOBJIKA TO PARO ( 176KM / 5HRS )

#### OVERNIGHT : PARO



*Morning retrace the drive back to Paro crossing over **Dochula La pass**. Later in the day after checking into hotel, proceed to visit **Ta Dzong**, originally built as watch tower, which now houses **National Museum**. The extensive collection includes antique thangka paintings, textiles, weapons & armor, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts.*

*Then walk down the trail to visit **Rinpung Dzong**, meaning ('fortress of the heap of jewels'), which has a long and fascinating history. Along the wooden galleries lining the inner courtyard are fine wall paintings illustrating Buddhist lore such as four friends, the old man of long life, the wheel of life, scenes from the life of Milarepa, Mount. Sumeru and other cosmic Mandala. Evening back to hotel.*

*Overnight at Paro*

## DAY 8

### PARO SIGHTSEEING

#### OVERNIGHT : PARO



After breakfast excursion to **Taktsang Monastery** (approx. 5 hours round trip walk). 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 and visited by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1646 and now visited by all Bhutanese at least once in their lifetime.

Later in the afternoon, drive to the base of Drukgyel Dzong, a ruined fortress where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. The snowy dome of sacred Chomolhari, "mountain of goddess" can be seen in all her glory from the approach road to the Dzong. Nearby visit a traditional farm house, which offers deep insight into lifestyle of local people especially the village. folks. While returning to the hotel, along the way, visit the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples built. in the Himalayas by Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo. The building of this temple marks the introduction of Buddhism in Bhutan. Evening back to hotel. Overnight at Paro

## **DAY 9**

### **DEPARTURE**

After breakfast at Hotel you will proceed to Airport to Catch your Flight for your onward destination with sweet holiday Memories.

**Tour End**



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