

ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY



JOURNEY OF PURPOSE & DISCOVERY



Journey of Purpose and Discovery to Bhutan (via Bangkok, Thailand)

Enjoy the unique culture and traditions of Bhutan while you spend time with the locals. This special journey is like taking a step back in time to explore this still little traveled land described as one of the happiest on earth!

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

Bhutan Highlights

- ✓ 11 days & 8 nights
- ✓ Make new friends while immersing yourself in the culture of Bhutan, **giving back to local community projects** and exploring this beautiful and peaceful nation
- ✓ Small group size with high-end service and accommodations throughout the journey

Community Connections

- ✓ Talk to the people you pass on the street. You'll be delighted at how open to conversation the locals are, and you may surprise yourself with the new impressions formed.
- ✓ Visit a **local school** and donate time to helping in a classroom.

Cultural Immersion & Exploration

- ✓ Take a challenging hike to the enchanting **Taktsang Monastery** for an unbelievable viewpoint of the surrounding valley. Built around a cave where the Guru Rinpoche meditated, this monastery clings to a cliff of rock 3,000 feet above the valley floor.

What's included?

- 4 & 5* accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Flights to and from Paro, Bhutan with airport transfers
- International air to and from Bangkok (gateway city set tentatively out of Los Angeles)
- Local English speaking guide

Not included:

- Personal expenses at the hotels
- Meals not specified
- Passport renewal or issuance
- Domestic flight to gateway city
- Departure taxes where applicable
- National Guide tip
- Tips to your maid or porters





📍 Los Angeles, California

DAY 1-2 – Fly to Bangkok

Depart from Los Angeles late today and make your way to Thailand. Lose a day as you cross the International Date Line.

📍 Bangkok, Thailand

DAY 3

Upon arrival at Suvarnabhumi Bangkok International Airport, you will be met and greeted by a local representative and transferred to a nearby airport hotel for check-in and overnight.

Meals today are by your own arrangement.

Overnight: Novotel Airport Hotel

Included meals: N/A

📍 Bangkok, Thailand

DAY 4 – Welcome to Bhutan

Head back to the airport early this morning for your flight to Paro. The Dragon Kingdom of Bhutan is the last of the Buddhist kingdoms that once occupied a vast area of the Himalayas. Lunch is on your own if not provided on your flight.

Upon arrival in Paro, drive the two hours to **Thimphu**, through spectacular mountain scenery and serene countryside to Bhutan's capital. Sandwiched in the heart of the Himalayas, Thimphu is a small, charming city, with all the buildings constructed and painted in the traditional Bhutanese style.

Arrive in Thimphu this afternoon for check-in and dinner.

Overnight: Khang Residency Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Thimphu, Bhutan

DAY 5 – Explore Thimphu

Morning **orientation and welcome**. All travelers will gather this morning with your national guide and receive further information on the program and today's activities.

Today wind through one of Bhutan's loveliest valleys. We can confidently assert that this is one of the most beautiful drives you will ever experience. Along the way see intact landscapes, idyllic farmhouses and small monasteries, crowned by crystal clear mountain views. The great fortresses, known as dzongs, are among the most striking examples of Bhutanese architecture.

Discover Thimphu with a morning tour starting at the **National Memorial Chorten** (stupa), which dominates the skyline, and is dedicated to the third King of Bhutan, who reigned from 1952-1972. Continue to **Tashichhodzong**: the "fortress of the glorious religion," initially erected in 1641 and rebuilt by King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in the 1960s. Tashichhodzong houses ministries, His Majesty's secretariat, and the central monk-body.

Dinner will be provided this evening.

Overnight: Khang Residency Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Thimphu, Bhutan

DAY 6

Cultural Immersion

This morning take part in a humanitarian visit in Thimphu at a **local non-profit or community program**.

Later visit the **Folk Heritage Museum**, where displays feature traditional Bhutanese history and life including a typical house filled with indigenous household items; at the National Textile Museum, see a vast collection of old and rare textiles and traditional garments such as the kira worn by women, and the gho, by men. These museums, both of which opened in 2001, provide fascinating insights into Bhutanese culture.

Continue exploring during a stop at a handicrafts emporium and onward to see the **Zulekha Nunnery** and enjoy the views of the fascinating Thimphu Valley from the **BBS Tower**. Finally, stroll along Thimphu's main street, visiting shops and markets.

Dinner will be provided this evening with lunch on your own arrangement.

Overnight: Khang Residency Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

📍 Punakha, Bhutan

DAY 7

Depart for Punakha

This morning, take a close look today at the Bhutanese art forms that continue to flourish in everyday life - *weavings, woodcarvings and the traditional art of painting Thangkhas* (sacred Buddhist religious scrolls). Depart this morning for the drive to Punakha.

In route, traverse **Dochula Pass** (10,500 ft.) and see one of Bhutan's most breathtaking views – a plethora of colorful rhododendron blossoms and soft green wild herbs and forest trees dot a canvas of alpine snow. Enjoy panoramic views of the Himalayan mountain ranges, and the fertile valley of Punakha (4,430 feet).

Late this afternoon you will arrive in **Punakha**, formerly established as Bhutan's winter capital because of its more temperate valley climate. Enjoy an excursion to **Chimi Lhakhang**, also known as the temple of fertility, situated on a hillock in the center of the valley. It is widely believed that couples who do not have children should pray at this temple, and are usually blessed with a child very soon.

Lunch and dinner will be provided today.

Overnight: Drubchu Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner





📍 Paro, Bhutan

DAY 8- Explore Punakha

This morning visit a **local school** in Punakha to spend the morning with the staff and students and volunteering your time and enjoying learning about the education system in Bhutan.

Late this morning, take a short morning drive through the valley, then a trek up to the majestic **Khamsung Yuely Namgyel Temple**. Enjoy the grand views of the Mo Chu River Valley, before your meandering walk down through terraced rice fields and small villages.

Next, your guide drives you to the **Punakha Dzong**, built in 1637 as both the religious and the administrative center of the country. From this spectacular setting, you can look back to see the **Khamsung Yuely Namgyel Temple** perched on the hillside far in the distance.

Depart Punakha for the scenic drive back to **Paro**, arriving at your hotel in the afternoon. Lunch will be provided today.

Later in the day, 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.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight: Drukchen Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Paro, Bhutan

DAY 9 – Tigers Nest Hike

This morning, your guide leads you on a hike to the enchanting **Tigers Nest**, the *Taktsang Monastery* viewpoint. Built around a cave where the Guru Rinpoche meditated, this monastery impossibly seems to cling to a cliff of rock 3,000 feet above the valley floor. The Taktsang Monastery is one of the most venerated pilgrim sites of the Himalayan world, containing 13 holy places.

Please note: The hike takes about 5 hours’ roundtrip, and is challenging, but unforgettably thrilling and mystical. *Transport by pony is available on the ascent, if you do not wish to hike. Walking is mandatory on the descent. *

Afternoon is at leisure back at the hotel with lunch on your own arrangement. A farewell dinner will be provided this evening.

Overnight: Drukchen Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

📍 Bangkok, Thailand

DAY 10

Today say goodbye to Bhutan, departing for the airport late this morning to fly back to Bangkok. Check back into your airport hotel this evening.

Lunch is on your own this afternoon. Meal service should be included on your flight to Bangkok.

Overnight: Novotel Airport Hotel
Included meals: Breakfast

📍 Bangkok, Thailand

DAY 11

Fly back to Los Angeles early this afternoon
Included meals: Breakfast



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📍 Bangkok, Thailand

Novotel Airport Hotel

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Telephone: +66-2-131-1111

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-6183-novotel-bangkok-suvarnabhumi->



📍 Thimphu, Bhutan

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📍 Punakha, Bhutan

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📍 Paro, Bhutan

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