

Bhutan Archery Market Tour

Day 01: Arrival and sightseeing in Paro (2,250m / 7,382ft)

Upon your arrival into the country, a representative from Himalayan Treks and Adventure will meet you at an agreed upon location to assist with transport and checking into a hotel. After checking into rooms, we visit Rinpung Fortress, which was built in 1646. We also tour the oldest temple in the country, Kichu Lhakhang, and Drugyal fortress, which was built in 1646 to honor Bhutan's successful defense of foreign invaders.

Day 02: Paro to Thimphu (2,320 m / 7,610 ft): 54 km, 1 hour

After breakfast, we leave Paro to visit the confluence of Paro and Thimphu rivers. Here we see 3 different types of temples including Tachogang Lhakhang Temple. We continue our tour into Thimphu where after checking into hotel rooms, we visit the Memorial Chorten, the Changangkha Monastery, a mini zoo, and a nunnery temple. We also visit a folk heritage museum, a traditional paper factory, Tashichho Fortress and a Giant Buddha statue. We spend the night in Thimphu.

Day 03: Thimphu: Tour of the weekend market, Changlimithang Archery Range and handicraft shops

In the morning, we visit the exciting Weekend Market near Thimphu River. At the market we can see people from villages selling farmed products and handicrafts. Popular commodities include fiery chilies, fresh cheese, and mangoes. The market is a great place to wander and explore while, taking in the atmosphere. It is also a great place to take photographs and to talk with people. Next to the Weekend Market is the Changlimithang Archery Range where we can see people participating in sport archery. The evening is also a great opportunity to tour Thimphu and absorb Bhutanese lifestyle.

Day 04: Thimphu to Punakha (1,300 m / 4,265 ft): 76 km, 2 - 3 hours

After a great nights rest and a wonderful breakfast we travel over Dochu La Pass to Punakha. Our trip takes us through beautiful forests and locations with excellent views of the Himalayan Mountains. We also stop at Chimi Lhakhang Temple, which was built to worship Drukpa Kuenley "the Divine Madman" who blesses women seeking fertility. Next we visit Punakha Dzong "fortress", which is the second oldest and largest fortress in Bhutan. We will spend the night Punakha.

Day 05: Excursion to Gangtey: 164 Km, 5 - 6 hours

We begin our day by exploring the Wangdue Phodrang district. Nearby villages have amazing craftsman and the area is well known for its stone and slate carvings. Next, we travel to the scenic Gangtey Valley for astonishing views of the surrounding mountains, and beautiful Phobjikha Valley. Phobjikha Valley is over-wintering site of the black-necked cranes. We also tour Phobjikha village before returning to Punakha.

Day 06: Travel to Paro (2,250 m / 7,382 ft): 130 km, 4 hours

While traveling to Paro, we visit the new Druk Wangyal Monastery, which is popular for its artwork depicting the king's ancestors and their accomplishments. We spend the night in Paro.

Day 07: Hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery

Today we visit the Tiger's Nest Monastery. The monastery is believed to have been discovered when spiritual teacher Rinpoche flew on the back of a tiger into the caves that are now covered by the monastery. After touring the monastery, we hike back to Paro for an overnight stay.

Day 08: Final departure

We conclude our trip after breakfast. If you wish to stay in Bhutan, further accommodations can be arranged or if you are leaving we will assist in preparations and transport to the airport.