

Black- Necked Crane Festival and Tour

Day 01: (07 Nov, Tuesday): Travel to Thimphu (2,320 m / 7,610 ft): 54 km, 1 hour

Upon your arrival into the country, a representative from Himalayan Treks and Adventure will meet you at an agreed upon location. From here, we travel to Thimphu. The road to Thimphu passes through the Paro Valley, and offers beautiful views of the landscape including Chortens set next to the confluence of Paro and Thimphu rivers

Day 02: (08 Nov, Wednesday): Go sightseeing in Thimphu

In Thimphu, our tour continues to Memorial Chorten, a nunnery temple, mini zoo, the National Institute of Traditional Medicine, a Bhutanese traditional painting school, a folk heritage museum, the majestic Tashichho Dzong and a traditional paper factory. If this day is on the weekend, some of the landmarks will be closed and we will instead visit the weekend market, which is also a wonderful experience.

Day 03: (09 Nov, Thursday): Travel to Punakha (1,250 m / 4,100 ft): 76 km, 2 - 3 hours

We begin our day by traveling Punakha with a stop for tea at Dochu La Pass. At the pass we are treated with great views of the Himalayas as well as the forested area below. As we continue to Punakha, we drive through a forest full of rhododendrons, firs, and hemlocks. As we near Punakha, we pass rice fields and river banks. In Punakha, we visit Punakha Fortress, which is the second oldest (1638) fortress and second largest in Bhutan.

Day 04: (10 Nov, Friday): Travel to Gangtey (2,900 m / 9,510 ft): 85 km, 3 hours

On our way to Gangtey, we stop in Wangdue phodrang to see the slate and stone carvings this area is known for. As we continue to Gangtey we pass through an old growth oak and pine forest, which gently opens up to a beautiful village surrounded by amazing snowcapped mountains. In Gangtey we are treated to views of the Black Mountain range as well as the beautiful Phobjikha valley. The valley is the overwintering site for black-necked cranes. We also explore Phobjikha villages. We spend the night in Gangtey.

Day 05: (11 Nov, Saturday): Gangtey: Black Necked Crane Festival

Today we are treated with the Black-Necked Crane Festival, Which is hosted by the Gangtey Monastery. At the festival, locals gather and celebrate the arrival of the endangered black-necked crane. The locals perform masked dances, sing folk songs, and put on short plays. After the celebration we go on nature hike on the Gangey trail to Khewa Lhankhang temple. After touring the temple we return to the hotel and spend the night in Gangetey.

Day 06: (12 Nov, Sunday): Travel to Paro: 198 km, 205 km, 6-7 hours

After eating breakfast in Gangtey, we travel to Paro. Continuing to Paro we pass over Dochula Pass where we will once again have great views of the Himalayas as well as the forested area below. After arriving in Paro we take the rest of the day for rest and leisure.

Day 07: (13 Nov, Monday): Hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery

Today we treat ourselves to a tour of the Tiger's Nest Monastery. After eating a healthy breakfast, the tour goes on a short hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery. Tiger's Nest Monastery rests at an elevation of 3,180 meters and is Bhutan's most cherished heritage site. Spiritual teacher Rinpoche is believed to have traveled on the back of a tiger into the cave where Tiger's Nest Monastery stands. After lunch and exploring the monastery, the tour continues to Thimphu, where we will spend the night.

Day 08: (14 Nov, Tuesday): 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.