

Cultural Tour and Day Hikes (long)

Day 1: Arrival and sightseeing in Paro (2,250 m / 7,382 ft)

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 against foreign invaders.

Day 2: Travel to Chele La Pass then to Thimphu: 174 km, 5 – 6 hours

We begin our day with a trip to Chele La Pass (3,810m). At Chele La Pass we go on a hike along the mountain ridges adorned with colorful Buddhist prayer flags and stunning views of Mt. Jumolhari and the valleys below the pass. After lunch, we continue our hike along the ridges to the Kila Goempa Nunnery on the rocky outcrop below the pass. The hike concludes at a road just past the nunnery. We spend the night in Thimphu.

Day 3: Sightseeing in Thimphu

In Thimphu, we visit a mini zoo, The King's Memorial Chorten, a nunnery temple, the National Library, and the National Institute of Traditional Medicine. We may also visit a textile museum, a handicraft store, a traditional paper factory, a traditional painting school, a folk heritage museum, and Tashichho Fortress. In the evening, we can enjoy a leisurely walk in Thimphu and observe the local lifestyle.

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

Today we leave Thimphu to travel to Punakha. On our way we make a stop for tea at Dochu La pass. After tea and taking in the sights we continue traveling, first through old growth forests then through rice fields along river banks. We have lunch in Punakha where we visit Punakha Fortress. We spend the night in Punakha.

Day 5: Punakha Village Tour

We begin our day by crossing a suspension bridge to hike up to Punakha Fortress. At the fortress we can see the confluence of the Phochu and Mochu Rivers, and the surrounding villages set in the pine forest. We continue our hike to Limbhukha village. In the village we are greeted with friendly cups of tea and maybe some local wine. A vehicle will pick us up after our tour of the village. We spend the night in Punakha.

Day 6: Travel to Bumthang (2,850 m / 9,350 ft): 214 km, 7 hours

Today we travel to Bumthang over Pele La Pass. Depending on the time of year we can see yaks along

the road. We make a stop in Trongsa for lunch and to tour Trongsa Fortress, which is a masterpiece in Bhutanese architecture. As we continue traveling to Bumthang we make another stop at a textile weaving factory. The embroidered patterns are unique to Bumthang. We spend the night in Bumthang.

Day 7: Sightseeing in Bumthang

Today we are treated with a tour of Bumthang. We visit Jakar Fortress, Jambey Temple, and Kurje Temple before taking a lunch break. After lunch we visit Tamshing Temple, which contains many amazing Buddhist paintings. We continue the tour of Bumthang in the city in the evening with a visit to local shops.

Day 8: Exploration of Tang Valley then travel back to Bumthang: 84 km, 3 hours

Today we explore the most remote valley in Bumthang along with its neighboring villages. We begin the day by traveling to Tang Valley and hiking to the 16th century Ugyen Choling Palace and museum. Here the exhibits tell stories and give insights into lifestyle of a Bhutanese noble family. After touring the palace and museum, we visit Mebar Tsho “Burning Lake”. Burning lake was given its name in the 15th century after Pema Lingpa jumped in the lake with a lantern and emerged with a treasure and the lantern still lit. We spend the night in Bumthang.

Day 9: Travel to Wangdue (1,240 m / 4,068 ft): 197 km, 5 - 6 hours

We begin the day by touring Bumthang market and then traveling to Wangdue. On the way to Wangdue, we stop at the 18th century Chendebji Chhorten for lunch. Next, we cross two spectacular high passes before reaching Wangdue village. The village is well known for its amazing stone and slate carvings. We spend the night in Wangdue.

Day 10: Travel to Paro: 124 km, 4 - 5 hours

On our way to Paro, we stop at Lobesa village for a hike through the country side to Chimi Lhakhang Temple, which was built to worship Drukpa Kuenley “the Divine Madman” who blesses women seeking fertility. After visiting the temple we continue traveling eventually passing over Dochula Pass and stopping at the Druk Wangyal Monastery. The monastery contains incredible paintings of the king’s families’ lineage and their achievements.

Day 11: Hike to Tiger’s Nest Monastery

Today we are in for a treat. In the morning we hike to Tiger’s Nest Monastery. Spiritual teacher Rinpoche is believed to have flown on the back of a tiger to meditate in a cave where the Monastery now stands. We have fantastic views of the surrounding landscape while at the monastery. After having exploring the monastery, we hike down to Paro to spend the night.

Day 12: 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.