Graceland Cultural Tour

Day 01: Arrive in Paro and 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. We will then travel to Thimphu to check into a hotel.

Day 02: 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 fortress 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. We spend the night in Thimphu.

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

After eating breakfast we travel to Dochu La pass (3,100 m) for tea then travel to Punakha through mature forests of rhododendrons, firs and hemlocks. Are next stop is in Lobesa 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. We also visit Punakha Fortress, which was built in 1637 and is the second oldest and second largest fort in Bhutan. We spend the night in Punakha.

Day 04: Sightseeing in Punakha

Punakha is blessed with a moderate climate perfect for a variety of crops including fruit orchards. We can see the beautiful farms laced into the countryside while sightseeing in Punakah. Touring the countryside we visit Ritsha Village, which is a model village of farmers. We also visit the Khansum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. We spend the night in Punakha.

Day 05: 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 06: Go sightseeing in Bumthang

We begin our tour in Bumthang by visiting several temples. We visit Jambay, Kurje, and Tamshing Temples. We also tour Jakar Fortress, which was built in the 15th century, and Wangdichholing Fortress, which was built in 1857 as a palace and the private residence of Trongsa Penlop Jigme Namgyel, who was a Bhutanese warrior.

Day 07: Bumthang to Wangdue (1,240 m / 4,068 ft): 197 km, 6 hours

We start our day by touring Bumthang market then traveling to Wangdue. Wangdue is home to many rare and exotic animals like the red panda, tiger and leopard, black-necked crane, white-bellied heron,

and the spotted eagle. There are many skilled craftsmen in Wangdue, which are known for their slate and stone carvings. The artistry is evident in the city and on the tour. We spend the night in Wangdue.

Day 08: Wangdue to Paro: 124 km, 3 - 4 hours

On our way to Paro, we visit Chimi Lhakhang fertility temple, which is dedicated to the Divine Madman (Lama Drukpa Kuenley). We then continue traveling to Paro and cross the Dochu La Pass. At the pass, we visit the new Druk Wangyal Monastery, which beautiful paintings depicting the king's ancestors and their achievements. We spend the night in Paro.

Day 09: Hike to Tiger Nest Monastery (3180 m / 10,430 ft)

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 sits. We spend the night in Paro.

Day 10: 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.