

# Western Bhutan Cultural Tour



Days: 8

Price: 1790 USD  
International flight not included

Comfort: ★★★★★

Difficult: ★★★☆☆

✎ Comfort & Luxury

✎ Culture

✎ Travel with children

✎ Mountains

✎ Must see

Bhutan emerged as one of Asia's poorest countries, shunning the 'profit at all costs' mentality of the rest of the world. With one foot in the past and one in the future, it strolls confidently towards modernization, on its own terms, fiercely protecting its ancient culture, its natural resources and its deeply Buddhist way of life.

## Day 1. Arrival in Paro and transfer to Thimphu



Paro

65km - 1h 50m

Thimphu

### Paro - Thimphu

- Arrive Paro International Airport. Our tour guide will meet you and take you on a short one-hour drive along the Paro and Thimphu river valleys to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, at 2320 metres.
  - Once you settle into your hotel, we will begin to unlock the mysteries of Bhutan by touring Thimphu's most important sites.
- After lunch visit the Memorial Chorten built in the memory of late Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, Buddha Point, 15th century Changangkha Lhakhang, Textile Museum is worth a visit to learn about Bhutan's living national art of weaving and primary center of learning for Bhutanese artists School of Thirteen Arts & Crafts.
- Evening: Explore Thimphu Town / Handicrafts Stall /Centenary Farmer's weekend Market.

🍴 Lunch	Zakhang (traditional restaurant)
🍷 Dinner	3 star hotel
🏠 Accommodation	3 star hotel

## Day 2. Hike to Cheri Monastery







Thimphu

- In the morning drive to north of **Thimphu** Valley (15kms) and hike to Cheri Monastery for 30 – 45mins. Cheri Monastery was established in 1620 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and is now a major teaching and retreat center of the Southern Drukpa Kagyu sect.
- After Lunch, visit Handmade Paper Factory followed by visit to National Takin Reserve and Zihlukha nunnery, biggest nunnery in Bhutan and is a good place to photograph and interact with the nuns and learn about what it takes and feels like to be a Bhutanese Buddhist Nun.

☕ Breakfast	3 star hotel
🍴 Lunch	Made by your team
🍷 Dinner	3 star hotel

## Day 3. Things to Do in Punakha



Thimphu   
 77km -  3h  
Punakha 

### Thimphu - Punakha

- After breakfast, we will drive from Thimphu to Punakha on national highway, which leads from the cold of Thimphu to the hot, almost tropical area of the Punakha Valley. En route, we will stop at Dochula Pass, where you can visit the marvelous 108 stupas and have a coffee break.
- Upon arrival in Punakha visit Chimmi Lhakhang - Takes a 45mins hike round trip. This monastery is also referred to as the "Abode of Fertility"
- Afternoon we go visiting the beautiful Punakha Dzong, seated at the confluence of **Pho Chu** and **Mo Chu** rivers and Punakha suspension bridge, an exciting bridge for photography enthusiasts.

 Breakfast

3 star hotel

 Lunch

Zakhang (traditional restaurant)

 Dinner





3 star hotel

 Accommodation

3 star hotel

## Day 4. The valley of Gangtey is one of the most beautiful spots in Bhutan.



Punakha   
 78km -  3h  
Phobjikha 

### Punakha - Phobjikha

- After breakfast, we will be heading towards Phobjikha, the valley where significant wintering ground of the rare and endangered **Black-necked cranes** in Bhutan are found.
- After reaching Phobjikha we will be visiting Gangtey Monastery that overlooks the wetlands surrounded by subsistence farms and natural forest areas makes Phobjikha a stunningly beautiful and sacred valley. After that we will Hike through Gangtey Natural Trail (1.5hrs) most beautiful and shortest of the existing nature trails in Bhutan. In the evening, visit Farm House (traditional village house).

 Breakfast

3 star hotel

 Lunch

Homestay

 Dinner





3 star hotel

 Accommodation

3 star hotel

## Day 5. Drive to Paro



Phobjikha   
 214km -  7h  
Paro 

### Phobjikha - Paro

- After breakfast, we will drive to Paro. En route, we will stop at **Lamperi Botanical Garden** which comprises of over 46 species of **rhododendrons**.
- Evening at Paro you can relax at hotel or explore some beautiful handicrafts shops in town.

 Breakfast

3 star hotel

 Lunch

Zakhang (traditional restaurant)

🍴 Dinner	3 star hotel
🏠 Accommodation	3 star hotel

## Day 6. Full day touring Paro valley

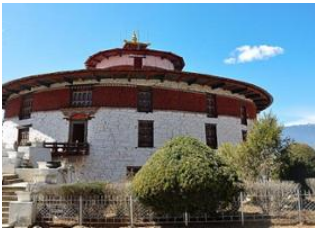


Paro 📍

- Today we will be having full day sightseeing visiting Rinpung Dzong built in 1646 by **Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal**, Ta Dzong (the watchtower) one time watch tower built to defend Rinpung Dzong during inter-valley wars of the 17th century, Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest and most sacred shrines of the Kingdom dating back to 7th century and Drukgyel Dzong - This Dzong, with a delightful village nestling at its foot, was built in 1646

☕ Breakfast	3 star hotel
🍴 Lunch	Zakhang (traditional restaurant)
🍴 Dinner	3 star hotel
🏠 Accommodation	3 star hotel

## Day 7. Hike to Tiger's Nest



Paro 📍

- After breakfast we will Hike to Tiger's Nest - Bhutan's most scenic icon or the most important landmark, Taktsang the Tiger's nest clings to the side of a steep cliff 300 meters above the Paro valley.

☕ Breakfast	3 star hotel
🍴 Lunch	Zakhang (traditional restaurant)
🍴 Dinner	3 star hotel
🏠 Accommodation	3 star hotel

## Day 8. Have a nice journey and see you soon !

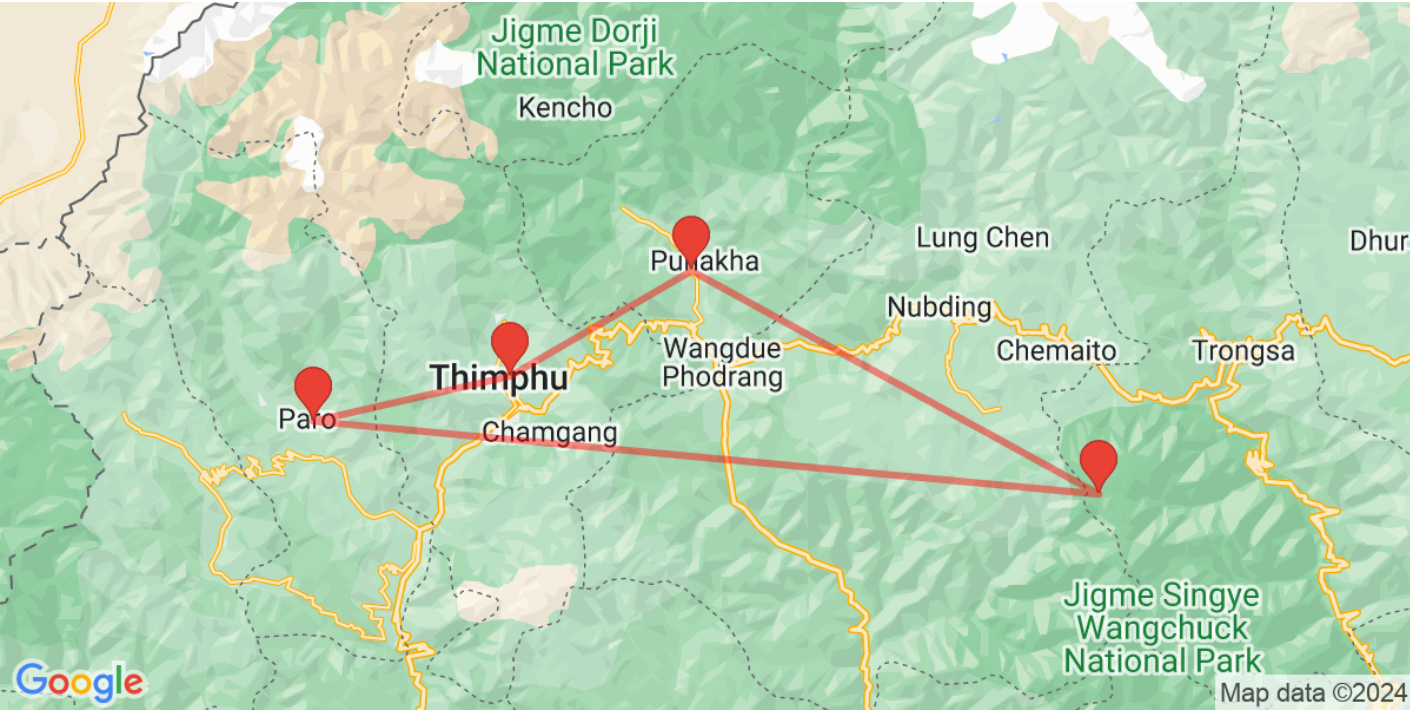


Paro 📍

- We drive you back at the airport accordingly to your flight departure.

☕ Breakfast	3 star hotel
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# Itinerary map



## Individual price per person

1-1	2-2	3-10
2070 USD	2000 USD	1790 USD

## Included

- Bhutan Tourist Tariff Royalty & Govt Surcharge
- Visa fees.
- All private excursions and transfers in superior air-conditioned vehicle.
- Local English speaking guide/tour leader.
- Experienced driver.
- Accommodation in 3 Star Hotel, highest standard government approved hotels & guesthouses.
- All meals in Bhutan.
- All entrance fees and permits.
- Tents

## Not included

- All personal expenses such as bars, beverages, laundry, telephone and tips.
- Medical / Travel Insurance.
- Air-fare