Paro Tsechu



| Days: | 9 |
|--|--|
| Price: | 2040 USD International flight not included |
| Comfort: | **** |
| Difficult: | ★★★☆☆ |
| Adventure Travel with c | Festival Sphotographic hildren |

Paro Tsechu is one of the most popular festivals in Bhutan. A Tsechu is a Buddhist festival in honor of Guru Rimpoche, the saint who brought Buddhism to Bhutan. A highlight of the Paro Tsechu is the unfurling of the silk **Thangka** – so large it covers the face of an entire building and is considered one of the most sacred blessings in the whole of Bhutan. The 'Thangka, known in Bhutan as a 'thongdroel' is a religious picture scroll, and is only exhibited for a few hours at daybreak on the final day of the festival enabling the people to obtain its blessing.

Day 1. Sightseeing at Paro



Paro Airport ♥ ♣ 10km - ④ 15m Paro ♥

Paro Airport - Paro

- The flight to Paro is one of the most spectacular mountain flights in the world, with a constantly changing panorama of some of the highest mountains on earth. Our representative will meet you at Paro airport and transfer you to hotel.
- After lunch enjoy afternoon sightseeing around Paro, including a visit to the National Museum, Ta Dzong and Rimpong Dzong to see the painting of the great saint Milarepa.

Afterwards walk to the beautiful cantilever wooden bridge still in use.

| ₩¶ Lunch | Zakhang (traditional restaurant) |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| ▼ Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 2. Hike to Tiger's Nest



- After breakfast, we will hike to Tiger's Nest Bhutan's most scenic icon or the most important landmark, Taktshang the Tiger's nest clings to the side of a steep cliff 300 meters above the Paro valley.
- In the afternoon drive to the ruins of the 17th Century Drukgyel Dzong and 7th Century Kyichu Lhakhang, one
 of the 108 temples constructed by the Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo. Kyichu is built in a manner similar to the
 Jokhang in Lhasa.

| Breakfast | 3 star hotel |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| ₩¶ Lunch | Zakhang (traditional restaurant) |
| Y Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 3. Witness Thongdroel ceremony



Paro ♥ ♣ 51km - ④ 1h 18m Thimphu ♥

Paro - Thimphu

- Wake up very early at 2.30am and drive to Paro Dzong to witness the **Thongdroel ceremony** where a large religious painting of **Guru Rinpoche** made of cloth is unfurled on the side of the Dzong. This event signifies the final day of the annual festival.
- After some time spent resting back at the hotel and drive to capital, Thimphu following the Pachu River. We will stop on the way to take in the magnificent **Tamchhog Lhakhang**, the hereditary place of worship for Bhutan's iron bridge builder.

| Breakfast | 3 star hotel |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| ¶ Lunch | Zakhang (traditional restaurant) |
| ▼ Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 4. Full day Sightseeing in Thimphu



 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.

| • | Breakfast | 3 star hotel |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| | ¥¶ Lunch | Zakhang (traditional restaurant) |
| | T Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| | Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 5. Visit Phobjikha Sanctuary

Thimphu



Thimphu ♥ ♣ 133km - ۞ 5h 20m Phobjikha ♥

Thimphu - Phobjikha

- Drive from Thimphu to Phobjikha over the Dochu-La pass (3,100m), which is marked by 108 little Chortens and prayer flags. On clear weather we can enjoy the view of almost all snow-covered mountains including highest mountain **Gangkar Puensum** (7740m). We will take a short walk to stretch legs to Chimilhakhang temple at Punakha.
- After lunch we will continue our drive crossing over Puntsangchu River at Wangdiphodrang via old town. In Phobjikha we will visit Gangtey monastery before we check into our hotel.

| Breakfast | 3 star hotel |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| ₩¶ Lunch | Zakhang (traditional restaurant) |
| ▼ Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 6. Hike to Shasi La Chorten



Phobjikha 🕈 🛱 78km - 🕑 3h Punakha 🕈

Phobjikha - Punakha

 After breakfast we will hike to Shasi La. The trail is the migration trail for the Gangteps to the lower valleys in the fall. This beautiful hike starts from Gangtey monastery and continues through Tokha village and slowly upwards through Rhododendron forest.

It takes one hour to drive back to Gangtey. Alternatively, you can follow the Shasi La Trail from the lodge up to the Shasi La Chorten and turn around and walk the same way back to Phobjikha Valley.

• latter evenin we will drive to Punakha.

| P Breakfast | 3 star hotel |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| ¶Lunch | Zakhang (traditional restaurant) |
| Y Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 7. Hike to Chorten Nebu Temple



Punakha 9

• Today we will hike to Chorten Nebu Temple.

After lunch we will continue descending through small villages. Although steep in places, the trail from Chorten Nebu towards the valley floor is wide and well defined, as local people visiting the temple, as well as children walking to and from school frequently use it.

If time permits we will visit Punakha Dzong, the "Palace of Great Happiness" built in 1637 by the Zhabdrung.

| Breakfast | 3 star hotel |
|---------------|--------------|
| ₩¶ Lunch | Dry Picnic |
| T Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 8. Drive to Paro



Punakha 🛛

Paro 9

🖨 127km - 🕑 3h 30m

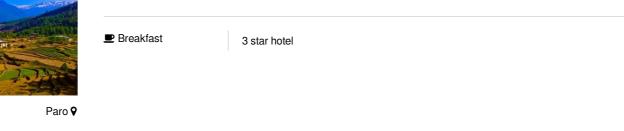
Punakha - Paro

- After breakfast, we will drive to Paro. En route, we will stop at Lamperi Botanical Garden which comprises
 of over 46 species of rhododendrons.
- After enjoying a visit through the gardens we continue our drive to Paro. After settling into comfortable accommodations, there is time to relax before a dinner of local specialties in the hotel restaurant.

| P Breakfast | 3 star hotel |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| ¶ Lunch | Zakhang (traditional restaurant) |
| ▼ Dinner | 3 star hotel |
| Accommodation | 3 star hotel |

Day 9. Have a nice journey and see you soon !

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



Itinerary map



Individual price per person

| 1-1 | 2-2 | 3-10 |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 2360 USD | 2280 USD | 2040 USD |

Included

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

Not included

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