

THE KINGDOM OF BHUTAN
5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS



Welcome to the land of mountain legends, nestled high in the Himalayas, where traditions remain unchanged from ancient civilizations!

ITINERARY

DAY 1 PARO • THIMPHU (1 HR, 55 KMS)

Arriving in Bhutan is an unparalleled experience as the flight provides wonderful Himalayan scenery below. On completion of airport formalities, you will be met at the arrival lounge and start the drive through the valley towards Thimphu, the modern capital of Bhutan. Arrive Thimphu and check in to your hotel. In the evening (if time permits), visit the impressive **Trashichho Dzong** which houses the Throne Room of the King and various Government Offices. It is also the Summer Residence of the Chief Abbot and the Central Monk Body. If your visit falls on a working weekday, arrive in time to watch the hoisting of the National Flag and the March of the Guards (D)

Accommodation: Thimphu at Druk Hotel 4* or similar, for 2 nights

DAY 2 THIMPHU

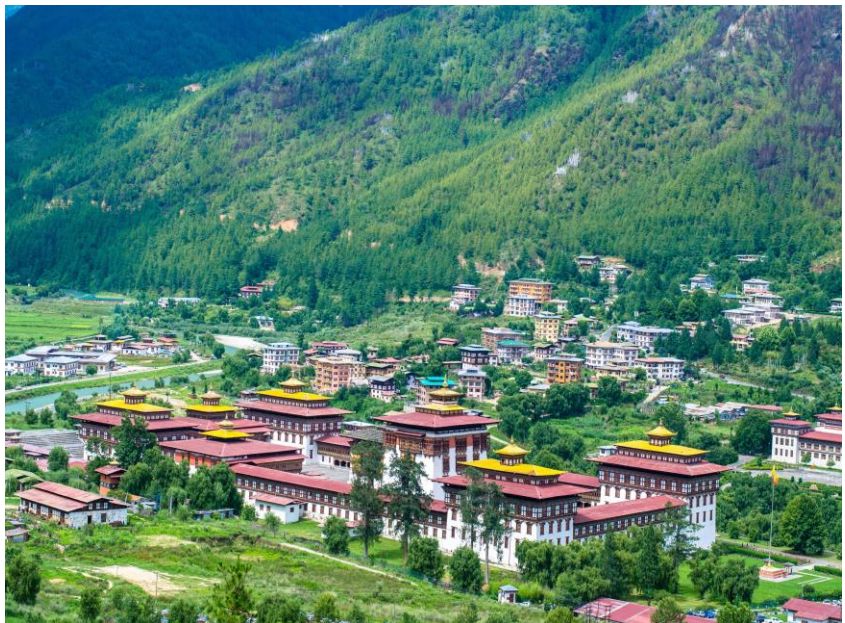
This morning, visit the National Memorial Chorten which was originally envisaged by Bhutan's third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, as a monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it is both a memorial to the Late King and a monument to peace.

Visit the Bronze Statue of Sakyamuni Buddha (51.5 m), sitting on top of Kuensel Phodrang hill and offering unobstructed views over the Thimphu Valley. Also visit the nearby National Library, which houses an extensive collection of Buddhist literature.

After lunch, visits will include: the National Institute of Traditional Medicine (outside only), where the medicinal herbs abundant in the kingdom are compounded and dispensed. Zorig Chusum (commonly known as the Painting School), where a six-year training course is given in the 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan.

Also visit Thangtong Dewachen

Nunnery - the only nunnery in the Capital and was built in 1976. The nuns all live together as a family with each given a specific chore from cooking to cleaning to shopping. Towards evening, visit the Tashichho Dzong, the summer residence of the Je Khenpo (Chief Abbot) and the central monk body. Later, if time permits, explore the main street for some interesting Himalayan artifacts or textiles for which Bhutan is famous. If your visit to Thimphu coincides with the weekend, you can walk through the Thimphu Market (Open only from Friday until mid-Sunday). (B/L/D)



**DAY 3 THIMPHU • PARO (1 HR, 55 KMS)**

In the morning drive to Paro. En-route you have an opportunity to visit handicraft and souvenir stores in Thimphu. In the afternoon, drive towards the north end of the valley to visit the National Museum. The museum collection includes ancient Bhutanese art and artifacts, weapons, coins, stamps and a small natural history collection. Then walk down a hillside trail to visit Rinpung Dzong (Paro Dzong) situated at a commanding height overlooking Paro valley. Built in 1646, this Dzong now houses Paro's monk body and the offices of the civil administration and is symbolic as the religious and secular center of all affairs of the valley. On arrival check in at the hotel. In the evening, visit a Traditional farmhouse for an opportunity to interact with a local family and learn something of their lifestyle. (B/L/D)

Accommodation: Naksel Resort 4*or similar, for 2 nights

DAY 4 PARO • TIGERS NEST MONASTERY • PARO (2-3 HRS TOTAL HIKE TIME)

After breakfast morning hike uphill to the Tiger's Nest" monastery, spectacularly located on the side of a cliff 900mts above the valley floor. It is said that in the 8th century Guru Rinpoche flew on the back of a tigress from eastern Bhutan to this place and meditated in a cave here for 3 months, hence its name, "Tiger's Nest". The principal temple of the present monastic complex dates from 1692. The main structure was severely damaged by fire in 1998, but after many years of painstaking restoration work, the complex has now been fully restored to its former glory. A pilgrimage to Taktsang is the dream of a lifetime for the devout. Along the way, visit 7th Century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples constructed by the Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo. The building of this temple marks the introduction of Buddhism in Bhutan. (B/L/D)

DAY 6 PARO

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your departure flight. (B)

NOTE:

Please note that some of the sights/itinerary may change due to season, weather, national holidays, and special events. We maintain the rights to alter the itinerary since tours are made in advance and unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Itinerary changes are made to improve your overall travel experience in Bhutan

The driving and hiking times mentioned are approximate times and do not include breaks in the journey for sightseeing, photo/tea/meal/rest stops. Due to the ongoing up-gradation of the only national highway (east-west), there may be delays in transfer time/ arrival time due to poor road conditions, road closures, inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances. During your journey, you may encounter areas of degraded roads, a bumpy ride, traffic jams and road closures – we do apologize for the inconveniences. During the treks/hikes, there may be delays or diversion of hiking trails due to trail conditions, inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

INCLUSIONS

- Transportation by car or minivan
- Return transfers airport / hotel / airport
- Private English speaking local guide
- 4 night accommodation at 4* hotels or similar
- 11 meals: 4 breakfasts at hotels, 3 lunches at local restaurants, 4 dinners at hotels
- Visits as per itinerary with private vehicle
- **Visa for Bhutan**

Note: lunches and dinners will be served in local restaurants

Not included: International airfare · Gratuities to hotel personnel, guides and drivers · Beverages · Optional excursions.

Private guided tour, English speaking, minimum 2 passengers required.

Price in CAD\$, per person, starting from:	Land portion
	Double occupancy
DAILY DEPARTURES 2021	
January 10 – August 25 *	2449
August 26 – November 30 *	2749
Single supplement (minimum 2 passengers required)	

*** SUPPLEMENTS (payable extra):**

DRUK HOTEL, THIMPHU

Festivals: (Mar 20-25' 2021) & (Sept 11-21' 2021) – CAD120 per room per night

Aug 01-31: CAD65 per room per night

Prices in this document are for information only; they were issued at press time, for the current year. Please note that due to exchange rates and temporary promotions, they can increase or decrease at any time. Contact your travel agent for the price and promotion of the moment.