

Bhutan

Happiness ♦ Tradition ♦ Vistas

Feb 18-28, 2019

"Nothing is bigger than necessary. Every sign of human settlement repeats the mantra of contentment: 'This is just enough.'" – Jamie Zeppa



Bhutan – “Land of The Thunder Dragon”

- Gross Happiness Index instead of GDP
- World’s only net carbon emitter
- No traffic lights, only white-gloved traffic cops
- 108,000 trees commemorated birth of prince in 2016
- Progressive, yet rooted in tradition; stunningly beautiful

Such a place does exist.

11 days (10 nights) Bhutan

- 2 nights Thimphu
- 2 nights Gangtey
- 2 nights Bumthang
- 2 nights Punakha
- 2 nights Paro

Note: International flights not included. We would be pleased to advise you on best flights into and out of Bhutan. Please [contact](#) us.





“What I love about this itinerary . . .

I thought I'd seen it all -- until I ventured into Bhutan. Garlanding the subcontinent's furthest reaches, and hidden from the world by imposing mountain ranges, this spectacular region has captured the world's imagination as the Happiest Place on earth. Innovative social programs, a resolute focus on maintaining tradition, exquisite arts and crafts, and the gentlest people against the backdrop of the stunning Eastern Himalaya range – there's so much to fall in love with about Bhutan: a place that is like no other. Truly the last Shangri La!”

~Shila

Your destination awaits

Explore a culture that revolves around the sacred

Watch spinning prayer wheels at breathtaking **Dochula Pass**

Descend into a flower-bedecked valley in **Pjobjhika**

Visit glorious monasteries of

Gangtey, Trongsa and Bumthang

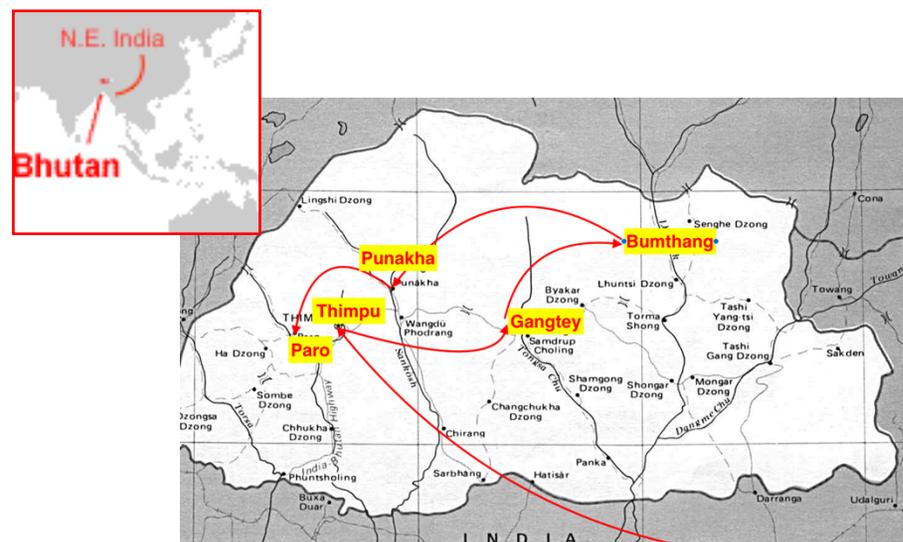
where hundreds of monks live out their reverence

Don traditional costume and join the **Panukha Tzechu** festival

Glimpse deities said to inhabit beautiful **Mount Chomolhari**

Conquer a cliff face and catch your breath at

Tiger's Nest Monastery





Day 1: Feb 18

Thimphu

Arrive Paro. **If arriving independently i.e. not with N.E India tour, please arrange to arrive by 11 am.**
Drive Paro – Thimphu (2 hours).

The capital town of Bhutan and the centre of government, religion and commerce, Thimphu is a unique city with unusual mixture of modern development alongside ancient traditions. With the population of about 90,000 it is perhaps still the world's only capital city without a traffic light.

Evening, enjoy an exploratory walk around Thimphu Main Street and market area. Also visit a local craft bazaar to browse through example of Bhutan's fine traditional arts. Here you can buy hand-woven textiles, Thangka paintings, masks, ceramics, slate and wood carvings, and more.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 2: Feb 19

Thimphu

Take the morning to sightsee Thimphu, including the National Library and the highly recommended Textile Museum.

After lunch visit Buddha Point, for stunning views from alongside the giant statue. Then, visit King's Memorial Chorten, continuously circumambulated by people, murmuring mantras and spinning their prayer wheels. Visit Choki Traditional Art School, a govt. initiative where students from various backgrounds are admitted to for a duration of 1-6 years learning traditional art forms like painting, wood carving, sculpture making, embroidery.

Dinner and overnight in Thimphu

Meals: B, L, D



Day 3: Feb 20

Thimphu - Gangtey

Drive 6 hours Thimphu – Gangtey via the Dochula Pass. In Bhutan, the passes are marked by a large Bhutanese Chorten and prayer flag.

The Dochula pass offers the most spectacular view over the high peaks of the eastern Himalayas on a clear day. The journey continues over the mountain pass where on a clear day, the towering Himalayan peaks are clearly visible. The highway follows the scenic Dang Chhu before climbing through forests of bamboo and oak.

Arrive Gangtey. In evening, rest or explore the beautiful Gangtey valley at your leisure.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 4: Feb 21

Gangtey

Begin the day with a visit to Gangtey Goempa, the biggest Nyingmapa monastery in Bhutan.

Then, explore the Phobjikha valley. A few kilometers beyond the Gangtey Monastery lies the village of Phobjikha. A classic textbook glacial valley, also known as the Valley of the Black Cranes, this quiet and remote location is the winter home of black-necked cranes, which migrate from the arid plains of Tibet in the north, to pass the winter months in a milder climate. Pay a visit to the black-necked crane information centre to learn more. Use the centre's powerful spotting scopes to spot the beautiful birds.

Return to Gangtey and overnight.

Meals: B, L, D



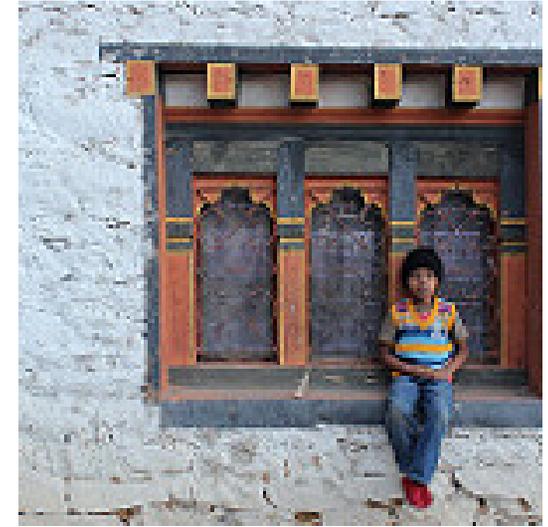
Day 5: Feb 22

Gangtey - Bumthang

After breakfast begin the 7 hour drive to Bumthang via Trongsa. Stop enroute at Chendbji Chorten, patterned on Kathmandu's Swayambhunath Stupa, with eyes painted at four cardinal points.

After lunch at Trongsa visit Trongsa Dzong. Built in 1648 it was the seat of power over central and eastern Bhutan. Also visit Ta Dzong, recently opened fort in Trongsa. The Ta Dzong, a cylindrical stone structure rising five stories, was built in 1652 by Chogyal Minjur Tempa. After more than 350 years, it has been resurrected into a museum, that represents a tasteful blend of tradition and modernity.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 6: Feb 23

Bumthang

Bumthang is the general name given to combination of four valleys – Chumey, Choekhor, Tang and Ura, with altitudes varying from 2,600m to 4,000m. It is home to many prominent Buddhist temples and monasteries. Visit a few of the most notable and beautiful throughout the day.

The monastery is part of an effort to preserve and revitalize Bhutanese culture. The monk's regular curriculum is reading, memorizing the daily prayers, learning dharma dances, drawing mandalas, learning the melodies of sacred rituals, the use of ceremonial instruments and the art of making sacrificial objects, along with the basics of contemplation.

Dinner and overnight in Bumthang

Meals: B, L, D



Day 7: Feb 24

Bumthang - Punakha

After breakfast, drive 8 hours to Punakha, the old capital town of Bhutan.

One of the most picturesque drives, cutting past charming hamlets, serene farmlands, hours and hours of deep forests and valleys, hills filled with rhododendrons of every hue, the drive to Bumthang is long but you wouldn't want it to end. Lunch stop and onward to Punakha.

Upon arrival, enjoy your evening at leisure. Punakha's religious festival will be just beginning, so there will be plenty to take in. Locals will gather in a spirit of festivity, celebration and deep faith to witness unique masked dances and celebrations tomorrow.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 8: Feb 25

Punakha

Enjoy a morning walk through fields and paddies to Chimi Lhakhang, the fertility temple.

After lunch; proceed to witness the Punakha Tshechu at Punakha Dzong. The Punakha Tshechu, as all Tshechu festivals, marks the heroic deeds of Guru Padma Sambhawa, also known as Guru Rimpoche, the precious saint who introduced Tantric Buddhism throughout the Himalayas. Monks and laymen dressed in colourful brocades and ferocious masks perform tantric dances with chants of Buddhist scripts. The culmination of festival is the unfolding of a huge cloth *thangka*, a sacred scroll, depicting Padma Smabhava and imagery from Buddhist pantheon.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 9: Feb 26

Punakha - Paro

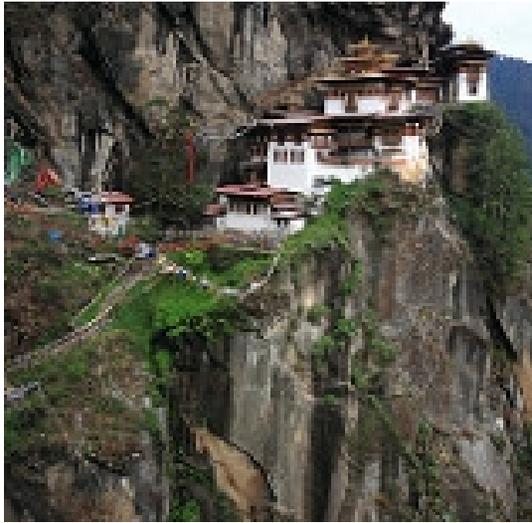
Drive 5 hours to Paro. Enroute, visit Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress in the country and current home to the School for Buddhist Studies.

Upon arrival in Paro, visit National Museum and "fortress of jewels." Along the wooden galleries lining the inner courtyard are fine wall paintings illustrating Buddhist lore such as four friends, the old man of long life, the wheel of life, scenes from the life of Milarepa, Mount Sumeru and other cosmic Mandala.

Evening to explore Paro at your own leisure.

Dinner and overnight in Paro.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 10: Feb 27

Paro

After breakfast, walk 5 hours to the Taktshang Monastery or "Tiger's Nest", one of the most famous of Bhutan's monasteries, perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley floor. It is said that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at this monastery and hence it is called 'Tiger's Nest'. (Horse transport available partway for those who wish to save their legs) Take in this beautiful monastery and spectacular views before descending.

Late afternoon, drive to Drukgyel Dzong, a ruined fortress where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. The snowy dome of sacred Chomolhari, "mountain of goddess" can be seen in all her glory from the approach road to the Dzong.

Group farewell dinner.

Meals: B, L, D



Day 11: Feb 28

Paro - Departure

Today, be prepared to leave a bit of your heart behind as you depart this magical country.

Transfer to airport for flight Paro to Delhi or Kolkata to meet your international flight.

Safe travels and we hope to welcome you on an unforgettable E.Y.H.O trip soon!

Details

INCLUDES

- conceptualized by Shila who travelled extensively in Bhutan
- local English-speaking destination guides
- all workshops and demos
- all group airport and road transfers in private air-conditioned transportation
- accommodation in select 4*-5* boutique and heritage hotels.
- all monument and excursion fees
- **all meals**
- Bhutan Visa fee

... and much much more!

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flight, tipping, and travel insurance
- beverages at included lunches and dinners



Costs



Cost option per person in USD	Bhutan (11 days)
Double occupancy	USD 3980
Single supplement	USD 1380
Domestic flights	Delhi-Paro, Paro-Delhi: USD 650 pp Kolkata-Paro, Paro-Kolkata: USD 460 pp

Extra night including 2 airport transfers:

Delhi - USD 95 pp in double occ./ add USD 60 for own room

Kolkata - USD 75pp double occ/add USD 55 for own room

Enquiries

shila@eyhotours.com

Visit

www.eyhotours.com



[Visit us, perchance Like Us!](#)