



Land of the Thunder Dragon

Get acquainted with Bhutan, the land of the thunder dragon.

Distinctive and remote, Bhutan offers some extraordinary experiences. Soaring mountains, land of mystic splendour, imposing monasteries and dzongs. Enter a different world where Gross National Happiness is deemed more important than Gross National Product.



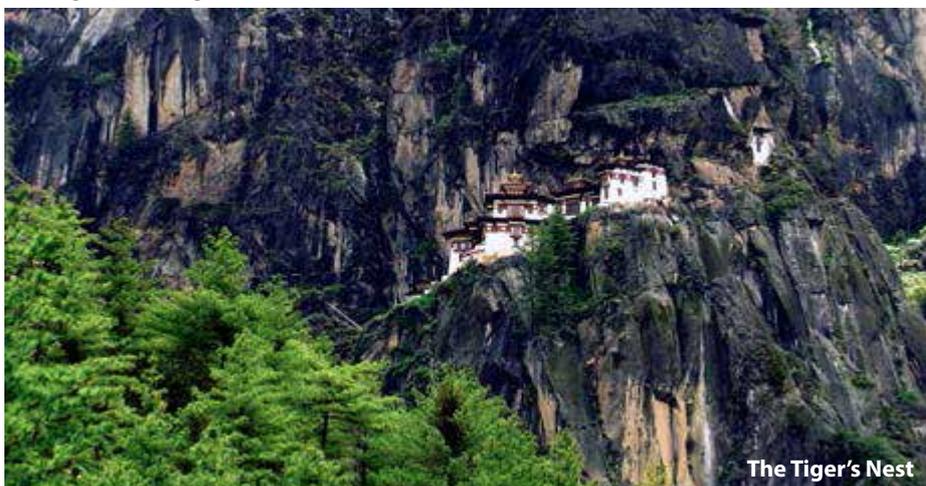
The Tshechu Festival is held in honour of Guru Rimpoche.



Paro Airport

PARO

Bhutan's only airport, Paro International Airport is the home of Druk Air - Royal Bhutan Airlines. Druk Air is the only airline that flies to Bhutan. There are direct Druk Air flights to Bangkok, New Delhi, Kolkata and Kathmandu from Paro.



The Tiger's Nest

TAKTSANG PALPHUG MONASTERY

The Tiger's Nest is a prominent Buddhist sacred site, located in the cliffside of the upper Paro valley, Bhutan. The monastery hangs on a precipitous cliff at 3,120 metres (10,240 ft). The rock slopes are almost vertical and the monastery buildings are built into the rock face. Though it looks formidable, the monastery complex is accessible from several directions.



Cham, sacred masked dances

WANGDUE PHODRANG

At the confluence of the Mo and Tang Rivers in the Wangdi Valley, the Wangdue Phodrang Dzong rests on the spur of a hill, east of Thimpu. The name is said to have been given by the Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal who was searching for the best location for a dzong. At the chosen spot the Shabdrung encountered a boy named Wangdi playing beside the river and named the dzong "Wangdi's Palace". Cham, sacred masked dances, are annually performed during religious festivals.

ITINERARY

DAY 01	Arrive Paro and drive to Thimpu for overnight stay.
DAY 02	City tour of Thimpu and overnight stay.
DAY 03	Drive to Punakha visiting Chimi Lhakhang en route. Tour Punakha Dzong and stay overnight.
DAY 04	Visit Wangduephodrang. Overnight in Punakha.
DAY 05	Drive to Paro for overnight stay visiting Simtokha Dzong en route. Tour Ta Dzong National Museum and the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang monastery.
DAY 06	Viewing of Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) monastery. Overnight in Paro.
DAY 07	Day excursion to Ha valley. Overnight in Paro
DAY 08	Fly out of Paro

TAILOR MADE TRAVEL

Our private, tailor-made journeys offer complete freedom of choice. The itineraries shown are designed to give you a flavour of what is possible and can be customised to suit your preferences. Prices vary according to selection of accommodation and season.

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

Best time to travel

Bhutan is noted for its Tsechus, or festivals, which are held annually on dates which are chosen by the lamas according to the Buddhist lunar calendar. The festivals are held on the tenth day of the lunar month, in honour of Guru Rinpoche, the great Indian tantric saint who brought the teachings of the Buddhist Dharma from Tibet to Bhutan in the 8th century, because it is on the tenth day that he is said to have performed his great deeds. Each locality has a certain time of year during which the festival is performed. The festivals are generally preceded by a rituals and dances performed by monks or trained laymen in beautiful costumes of brilliantly colored silk and papier mache masks to the accompaniment of traditional instruments. The dances are usually held in the open courtyard of the local Dzong, or monastery/district administrative centre. This is a great time to be in the Dragon Kingdom.

Distances

- Paro - Thimpu: 54km/34miles.
- Thimpu - Punakha: 70km/43miles.
- Punakha- Wangdue Phodrang 15km/9miles.
- Punakha- Paro: 131km/81miles.

Weather

	Summer	Winter
Thimpu	16 - 26°C/61 - 79°F	-3 - 20°C/27 - 68°F
Paro	15 - 27°C/59 - 81°F	-6 - 10°C/21 - 50°F

Bhutan in Texas!

The campus of the University of Texas El Paso, rebuilt in 1917 after a fire, follows the Bhutanese dzong architecture. While the early structures only copied the general appearance of a dzong, recent buildings incorporate internal elements of the dzong form as well.

LOCATION MAP

