



JOURNEY TO DRUK-YUL

Duration 4 nights / 5 days

Introduction

Bhutan a purely Buddhist Himalayan Kingdom is unsurpassed in its scenic majesty and vibrant culture. The kingdom shares with Nepal the worlds greatest concentration of Mountains and living heritage of Buddhism. The fifty minutes flight from Kathmandu to Paro can truly be described as a flight into fantasy. During the flight a first hand close up view of Mt. Everest, Mt. Kanchenjunga and many other famous Peaks become a reality. Bi-weekly flights between these two Kingdoms have made travel easier to the long isolated Dragon Kingdom of Bhutan.

Tours to Bhutan are planned to commence on Mondays and Thursdays from Kathmandu. The tour cost is inclusive of all airport transfers, conducted sightseeing tours, full board at hotels and during treks on the twin-bed-sharing-basis. There are direct flights from Delhi bi-weekly and Bangkok weekly and tours can be planned accordingly. Bhutan is one of the few countries in the world still untouched. a paradise for tourist interested in Buddhist culture and philosophy, flora and fauna, trekking and mountaineering. Due to the Royal Government's policy of controlled selective tourism, Bhutan has been receiving less than 5000 tourists annually.

Itinerary

Day 01: Transfer to the airport and Fly Katmandu / Paro by Druk air BAe 146-100 series, the only national carrier. The flight offers beautiful views of mountains and landscapes. On arrival and after visa formalities, met by representatives and transferred to the Kichu Resort.

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel / Resort.

Day 02: **AM:** Sightseeing tour of Paro visiting the ruined fortress of Drugyel dzong which still attracts visitors due to the strategic location of the fort. The fort defended the Paro valley from the Tibetan invasion from the north in the early 17th century. On clear day, Mount Chomolhari (7320 meters) can be seen towering over the dzong. Proceed through the beautiful valley to the watch tower or locally known as Ta-Dzong. It was converted into the National museum in the 1960's by the third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. The seven floors museum highlights various aspects of Bhutanese culture and history dating back to the 7th century.

LATE PM: Drive to Thimphu (65 Kms. - 2hrs). Upon arrival, check into the Hotel.

Thimphu , perhaps the most unusual capital city in the world, is a bustling town on the banks of its own river and set gloriously in the hills of its own valley. A regal town. Thimphu is home to the revered Bhutanese Royal family and to several foreign missions and development projects. The capital city has a population of 45,000, five miles from the Thimphu stands the Simtokha Dzong on a lofty ridge and is the first Dzong built by the Shabdrung in 1629. The Tashichhodzong, the main secretariat building which houses the throne room of His Majesty the King of Bhutan and it is the country's administrative



headquarters and houses of the legislative body. The National Assembly lies deep in the valley in all its grandeur.

Upon arrival check into Hotel / Resort.

Dinner and Overnight at Hotel / Resort.

Day 03: **AM:** Sightseeing tour of Thimphu. Visit the Memorial chorten built in the memory of the late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, Painting School and the Tashichho Dzong 15th century Changangkha monastery, Motithang mini zoo to see the rare "Takin" national animal of Bhutan and drive further down with good views of the Thimphu valley. Also visit the new Drupthob nunnery temple and some free time can be spent in the market.

PM : Drive 3 hours to Wangduephodrang crossing the Dochula pass at 3100 meters. On a clear day, the eastern Himalayan ranges including the highest mountain in Bhutan Mt.Gangar Punsum (7520 meters) can be seen. The drive from the pass is downhill all the way dropping to the lower and warmer valleys of Lobesa. Upon arrival check into the Hotel / Resort.

Later visit the Dzong from outside and the market area.

Dinner and Overnight at Hotel / Resort.

Day 04: After breakfast, drive 45 minutes to Punakha which served as an old capital of Bhutan and visit the Punakha Dzong. This remarkable fortress is built between two rivers and has survived many glacial floods and fire. Every year during the month of February a procession known as the Punakha Serda takes place to commemorate the victory over the Tibetans.

Later, drive 3 hours to Thimphu for lunch.

After lunch, proceed to Paro. On the way visit the Simthokha - Dzong, the oldest Dzong in Bhutan built in 1627 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. In 1961, the third King turned the Dzong into a centre for traditional studies for law students who would be trained as a Dzonkha Teacher. It now houses the Buddhist University. Arrive Paro and check into the Hotel / Resort.

Evening at leisure.

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel / Resort

Day 05: Early breakfast and transfer to the airport for the flight back to Katmandu. Upon arrival, meet and transfer to the Hotel.

SACRED
SUMMITS