



STUNNING CHOMOLHARI TREK

Duration 10 nights / 11 days

Highlights :

This trek gifts you with great variety of Bhutanese landscapes and is without doubt one of the most beautiful and unspoiled trekking areas in the entire Himalayas. The trek begins at Drugyal Dzong in Thimpu, passing through beautiful villages, scattered hamlets and farmland. Different vegetation from richly forested valley to high alpine pasture land where Yak herders graze their animals. Trout fishing in the sky blue lake with magnificent view of the three majestic peaks (Chomolhari 7320 m, Jichu Drake 6900 m and Tshrim Khang) mountains are some activities which can be done on a rest day. You will also encounter rare species like the blue sheep & snow leopard.

Itinerary :

DAY 01 : Fly Katmandu / Paro by Druk air BAE 146-100 series. Paro valley is one of the most populated areas of whole country. Because of its proximity to the airport, there are hotels and tourist facilities close to the airstrip. The valley of Paro contains a wealth of attractions and requires a few days to be properly explored. A flight with Druk - Air, the country 's only airline, over the young fold mountains is an exhilarating experience and many visitors bear a lasting impression of authenticity from the moment they board to the time they land amidst the paddy fields in Paro. The flight offers you beautiful view of mountains and landscapes. On arrival and after visa formalities met by representatives and transferred to the hotel. Afternoon / evening time at leisure.

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel.

DAY 02 : Day hike to Taktsang monastery. Horses can be arranged with an extra US \$ 5/- The hike which is all the way uphill takes about 2 /3 hours through villages and pine forests. The monastery which clings to a huge granite cliff 800 meters from the Paro valley was devastated by fire in 1998 but the Royal Government has taken immediate steps to restore the monastery to its original structure. It is believed that the great saint Padmasambhava came in the 7th century on a flying tigress and meditated in a cave for 3 months. The demons were subdued who were trying to stop the spread of Buddhism and converted the Paro valley into Buddhism. During the end of the 17 century a monastery was built on the spot where the saint meditated and it is a pilgrimage site for every Bhutanese to visit once in their life time. Stroll back to the Hotel.

EVE : Drive 2 hours to Thimphu. The drive is a pleasant one mainly due to the luxurious Japanese transportation and a well maintained road through out Bhutan. 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 administrative headquarter and houses of the legislative body, The National Assembly lies deep in the valley in all its grandeur. Around the valley are several other interesting places. Dechenphodrang, a school for monks. The Thimphu Memorial Chorten, built in 1974 in the memory of late king Jingme Dorji Wangchuk, and the National library . Further up the valley lies the Pangri Zampa temple in Dehchencholing by the great grandfather of the Shabdrung and beyond Dehchencholing to the end of the valley is the Tango and Cheri monastery. Upon arrival, check into the Hotel.

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel.

- DAY 03 : Drive to Drugyel Dzong where the trek begins. The path goes upstream of the Pachu river through villages gradually ascending to 2800 meters at Shana for overnight camp. Walking time 5/6 hours.
- DAY 04 : Shana to Soi Thangthangkha. The trail again follows the Pachu river ascending through pine, oak and spruce forest. Lunch will be served near a wooden bridge. The camp is at an altitude of 3800 meters near a stone shelter. Walking time 7/8 hours.
- DAY 05 : Soi to Jangothang. Climb slowly for a while till you reach an army camp. Then follow the river above tree line with stunning views of the surrounding peaks. Hot lunch will be served inside a Yak herder's camp. An easy walk will reach you to Jangothang at 4050 meters. The view of Chomolhari (7320 m.) and Jichu Drake (6900 m) is superb. Both the mountains are still virgin peaks. Walking time 4/5 hours. Explore the surrounding areas like Tshophu lake, visit the Yak herders or simply relax.
- DAY 06 : Jangothang to Lingshi. The trail follows the stream for ½ hour and crosses the bridge to the right side. Climb up the ridge and enjoy stunning views of Chomolhari, Jichu Drake and Tshrim Khang mountains. Then walk through the wide open valley sometimes coming across herds of blue sheep. The climb up to the Nyele la pass 4700 meters is not too difficult and the view is breathtaking. After the pass it is a gradual descent through the valley with beautiful views on all sides. Nearing the camp, one can see the Lingshi Dzong perched on top of a hill with a commanding view of the valley. Arrive camp at 4100 meters near a stone shelter. Walking time 6/7 hours.
- DAY 07 : Lingshi to Shodu. Today is the most difficult day so early start is essential. The trek starts with the walk opposite the dzong and gradually through the valley until the stiff climb to Yale la pass at 4950 meters, the highest point of the trip. The panoramic view of Mt.Chomolhari, Jichu Drake and Tshrim Gang is breathtaking. After the pass it is a long descent to the camp at 3750 meters. Walking time 7/8 hours.



DAY 08 : Shodu to Barshong. The path follows the Thimchu river descending through rhododendron, Juniper and pine forests. The view of the cliff facing rocks and water falls are stunning. The trail gradually ascends after 3/4 hours to the ruins of Barshong Dzong reaching the camp at 3500 meters. Walking time 5/6 hours.

DAY 09 : Barshong to Dodina. The path descends for a while joining the Thimchu river gradually ascending and descending through thick bamboo and pine forests. From Dolemkencho, the trail descends all the way to Dodina where we meet representatives and waiting vehicles for the 1 ½ hour drive to Thimpu.. (Walking time 7/8 hours. Drive 1 ½ hour).

Upon arrival check into the hotel.

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel.

DAY 10 : AM : Stroll around the Thimpu market and later drive to Paro (2 Hrs.). Upon arrival, check into the hotel.

PM : Sightseeing tour of the enchanting valley of Paro. Here one visits the Drugyel Dzong, which served as fortress during the war with the Tibetans, but is now in ruins. The Kyichu, built by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo in the 7th century, and the Duntse Lhakhang, a very unique construction by Dupthob Thangtoyeb who also built the Tachogang, temple of the hill of excellent horses, which lies on the left bank of the river just before arriving at the confluence from Paro to Thimphu.

Dinner and Overnight at the Hotel.

DAY 11 : After and early breakfast, transfer to airport for final departure to connect the onward flight to Kathmandu.

*** End of arrangements ***

SACRED
SUMMITS