

THE KINGDOM OF CLOUDS BHUTAN

OCTOBER 07 - 13, 2019

USD 2,888/person based on twin/triple sharing

DAY 01 (MON) OCT 07 MANILA / PARO

Depart Manila for Bhutan.

DAY 02 (TUE) OCT 08 ARRIVE PARO - THIMPU

Upon arrival, we drive to **Thimphu**, the capital town of Bhutan. It is a unique city with unusual mixture of modern development alongside ancient traditions. Situated in western Bhutan, it is perhaps still the world's only capital city without a traffic light. Enjoy a short walking tour in the afternoon.

DAY 03 (WED) OCT 09 THIMPU

Visit **Thimphu Festival**, which is held in the courtyard of the **Tashichho Dzong**. This is the main Secretariat Building, where the Government ministries, the office of His Majesty the King, the throne room, and the living quarters of the monk body and its Chief Abbot are housed. After, we drive to **Thimphu Chorten**, this stupa is located at the heart of the Thimphu city and was built in 1974 to honour the third King of Bhutan. Afterwards visit to **Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang)**. It holds one of the largest Buddha's statue in the country of 169 feet (51.5m), made of bronze and gilded in gold. Then visit **Changangkha Lhakhang**. This temple is located above central Thimphu, built in 12th century by Lama Phajo Drukgom Shigpo on a ridge overlooking the town. Later drive to upper Motithang in Thimphu to visit Takin Preserve. The **Takin** is the national animal of Bhutan, and looks like a cross between a cow and a goat. In the afternoon, we visit the **National Library**, the **Institute for Zorig Chusum (commonly known as the Painting School)**, **Textile Museum**, and Folk Heritage Museum. Conclude the day's sightseeing with visit of **Trashichoedzong**, or 'the fortress of the glorious religion'.

DAY 04 (THU) OCT 10 THIMPU - PUNAKHA

Attend the last day of Thimpu then drive up to **Dochu-la pass** (3,088m/ 10,130 ft) for a majestic panoramic view from above before we proceed to **Panukha**. In the afternoon visit **Punakha Dzong** or '**Palace of Great Happiness or Bliss**'. This majestic dzong served as both the religious and the administrative center of Bhutan in the past. Then embark on a short walking excursion to **Chimi Lhakhang**, also known as the **Fertility Temple**.

DAY 05 (FRI) OCT 11 PANUKHA - PARO

Before going back to Paro, we visit **Simtokha Dzong**, the oldest fortress of the country constructed by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in 1629. In Paro, we proceed to **Ta Dzong**, originally built as Watchtower, which now houses National Museum. Then we walk down the trail to visit **Rinpung Dzong**, ("Fortress of the Heap of Jewels"), which has a long and fascinating history.

DAY 06 (SAT) OCT 12 PARO

After breakfast, excursion to **Taktshang Monastery** (approx. 5 hours round trip walk). It is 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'.

DAY 07 (SUN) OCT 13 PARO / MANILA

Transfer to airport for our flight back to Manila. Thank you!

IMPORTANT:

- USD 500 non-refundable deposit is required for reservation
- Minimum 15 passengers

INCLUSIONS:

- RT International Airfare
- 4 star hotel accommodation
 - Full board Meals
 - Tips and gratuities
 - Travel insurance
 - Filipino Tour Escort

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