



## Bhutan Luxury Experience – 10 nights

Visit magical **Bhutan in luxury** & style. This 10 night private luxury tour, is available for departures every day of the year & combines the best of 5 star and luxury lodges & resorts. It is especially designed to give you a 3rd night in 2 valleys affording more time to enjoy the delightful lodges and to fully explore to local region.

Experience a wonderfully unique, intimate and very rewarding journey through the Land of The Thunder Dragon – the jewel of the Himalaya.

Hot Tip! Try Bhutan in the off-peak (regular) seasons for an even better experience with far less tourists....and at lower cost.

Please do ask us for a quote for other durations.

### Tour Itinerary Overview.

- 2 nights Thimphu with sightseeing, hiking and shopping options.
- 3 nights Phobjikha valley for hiking and exploring.
- 3 nights Punakha valley with monastery & Dzong visits.
- 2 nights Paro valley with Taktsang Monastery hike, shopping & sightseeing.

### CALL THE BHUTAN TRAVEL EXPERTS ON

AUS [toll free](tel:0412416111), James – [0412 416 111](tel:0412416111), Nicola – [0413 598 669](tel:0413598669)

### Why Travel with Bhutan & Beyond?

- 17 years experience, service & knowledge.
- We personally visit Bhutan at least once every year.
- Competitive pricing and best mix of luxury options.
- Exceptionally well constructed & flexible itineraries.
- We provide a comprehensive (16 page) Bhutan visitor guide.
- Experts at combining Bhutan with India & Nepal.
- ATAS Accredited via our parent company MTA Travel
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION

### Luxury Travel Experience Inclusions:

- English speaking guide & driver with private SUV.
- All touring & transfers throughout your journey.
- Luxury accom at Bhutan's finest hotels & lodges for 10 nts.
- All meals (often gourmet) & bottled water daily.
- Breakfasts & dinners taken at luxury hotels.
- Lunches taken at local restaurants exc 1 lunch at Gangtey Lodge.
- All entrance fees, hiking and sightseeing.
- Visa fees.



All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.  
Email: [enquiries@bhutan.com.au](mailto:enquiries@bhutan.com.au) T: 1300 367 875 (toll free) T: 07 5525 2845  
Website: [www.bhutan.com.au](http://www.bhutan.com.au) PO Box 691, Robina DC, QLD 4226, Australia



## Bhutan Luxury Experience – 10 nights

- Government 'Tourism Sustainability Levies' & taxes.
- Bank transfer & communications fees.
- A comprehensive Bhutan visitor guide.
- Professionally operated by Bhutan Tourism Corp Ltd

### Luxury Travel Experience *Exclusions:*

- Airfares to/from Bhutan.
- Personal items – laundry, drinks, tel calls, tips etc.
- Designer Coffees always at extra cost.
- Travel Insurance which is mandatory to enter Bhutan.

### Cancellation Conditions

Deposit date until 60 days prior departure – Loss of deposit  
From 60 days prior arrival in Bhutan – No refund permitted

#### Day 1:

##### Paro Airport to Thimphu City (1 hr 15 mins)

After clearing immigration and customs you will be greeted by your BTCL guide and driver and transferred to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, travelling through the spectacular countryside en-route. All the houses and buildings in the Kingdom are painted and constructed in traditional Bhutanese style.

On arrival into Thimphu check-in to your hotel and take lunch. Enjoy the remainder of the day to explore Thimphu, both by vehicle and on foot. Your options include visits to the National Memorial Stupa; the celebrated Royal Textile Academy and the Takin Preserve.

##### Overnight Thimphu – [Le Meridien – Deluxe room.](#)

#### Day 2:

##### Sightseeing in the Thimphu Valley

This morning visit the awesome Golden Buddha which also offers an excellent 3 km hike option with sensational city & valley views. Next view the majestic Trashichhoe Dzong and visit the beautiful Tara Lhaden Zhingkhom lhakang (temple).

Visit 'the 'Simply Bhutan' interactive display village for a traditional lunch and where you can taste local produce, try your hand at archery and much more. Other recommended visits are Zorig Chusum – the Institute of the 13 Arts & Crafts of Bhutan; the National Library, which holds a vast collection of ancient Buddhist manuscripts; the Gagyel Lhundrup Weaving centre & adjacent S. Bishwa art gallery; the hand-made paper making factory & the colourful weekend markets (Fri-Sun)



All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.  
Email: [enquiries@bhutan.com.au](mailto:enquiries@bhutan.com.au) T: 1300 367 875 (toll free) T: 07 5525 2845  
Website: [www.bhutan.com.au](http://www.bhutan.com.au) PO Box 691, Robina DC, QLD 4226, Australia



## Bhutan Luxury Experience – 10 nights

---

### Day 2 – continued.

where all the locals go to buy an array of fresh fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of household items, handicrafts and clothing.

Don't forget to take a wander along Thimphu's main street, Norzin Lam, and the city bars are also worth a visit. Your guide will advise you the best options. Please note Tuesday is 'dry day' in Bhutan and most bars in the city will remain closed.

### Overnight Thimphu – Le Meridien- Deluxe room.

### Day 3:

#### Thimphu to Phobjikha Valley (5+ hrs)

This morning you will be transferred by road eastwards to the Phobjikha Valley. En-route passing the Semtokha Dzong, built in 1629 & the oldest fortress of its kind that guarded the Thimphu valley, which today it is a monastery. Continue ascending to Dochu La (pass) to view the 108 Stupas, commissioned by a former Queen as a memorial to those who lost their lives during the low intensity conflict in late 2002 when Bhutan evicted Indian rebels camped in the jungle on the Bhutan-Indian border. On a clear day you will witness a breathtaking view of the eastern Himalaya and depending on the time of the year the vista can vary from alpine snow (November – March) to a profusion of blossoms (March – May) splashed among the soft green of the wild herbs and forest trees.

When the Wangdue Phodrang Dzong (under reconstruction) comes into view notice the large cacti that cover the hillside below. These were planted long ago to discourage invaders from climbing the steep slope to the Dzong. From the road view Rinchengang, one of Bhutan's oldest villages, which did not have access to water, electricity or schooling until the early 1990's. The craftsmen of Rinchengang are sought after for their skills in construction of Dzongs and Lhakhangs (temples).

Potatoes are this region's primary cash crop and mainly exported to India. Phobjikha is a glacial valley on the western slopes of the Black Mountains and is one of the most beautiful open valleys in Bhutan. It is also one of the most important wildlife preserves in the country and the winter home (late October to early February) of the rare black necked crane, which annually flies in from Tibet. There are also muntjaks (barking deer), wild boar, sambar, Himalayan black bear, leopard and red foxes.

The delightful Gangtey Lodge offers a very personalized and intimate experience. With wonderful valley views, gourmet dining and just 12 very large farmhouse suites you will feel very much at home in this special valley which offers some excellent hiking opportunities.

### Overnight Phobjikha Valley – [Gangtey Lodge](#) – Farmhouse Suite



All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.  
Email: [enquiries@bhutan.com.au](mailto:enquiries@bhutan.com.au) T: 1300 367 875 (toll free) T: 07 5525 2845  
Website: [www.bhutan.com.au](http://www.bhutan.com.au) PO Box 691, Robina DC, QLD 4226, Australia



## Bhutan Luxury Experience – 10 nights

---

### Day 4:

#### Sightseeing in the Phobjikha Valley.

While you are in Phobjikha visit the Black Crane nature information centre and the sacred Gangtey Monastery plus enjoy time to wander through Gangtey village and hike the Gangtey Nature Trail. There are many additional hikes available in this beautiful valley and your guide will advise you the best options. Or just soak up the ambience, spa and cuisine at the lodge.

#### Overnight Phobjikha Valley – Gangtey Lodge – Farmhouse Suite

### Day 5:

At leisure in the Phobjikha Valley.

A lodge, and a valley, as wonderful as these, deserves a 3 night stay. Chill out in the lodge with massage treatments or take a bike ride through the valley. There are also a wide range of special activities the lodge can organize for you.

#### Overnight Phobjikha Valley – Gangtey Lodge – Farmhouse Suite

### Day 6:

#### Phobjikha Valley to Punakha Valley. (3-4 hrs)

Depart this morning to the Punakha Valley which holds the title as the winter capital because of its more temperate climate. You will find the temperature here much warmer than surrounding valleys in the winter time and quite hot during the summer period.

Arriving into the Punakha valley visit Chimi Lhakhang, a monastery built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley (also known as the Divine Madman or Mad Monk) who has a very colourful history. It is believed that childless women who visit the temple will conceive after receiving a “wang” (blessing) from the resident monk.

After lunch enjoy an orientation tour of the valley including a visit to the local nunnery before arriving for some relaxation at your resort.

The COMO Uma resort has perhaps the best aspect in Bhutan looking northwards up the valley towards the main eastern Himalaya range. Enjoy the stunning views from your room and the restaurant and terrace. Offering full spa facilities and attention to detail this resort will be another major highlight of your journey in Bhutan.

#### Overnight Punakha Valley – [COMO Uma Resort](#) – Valley View room



All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.  
Email: [enquiries@bhutan.com.au](mailto:enquiries@bhutan.com.au) T: 1300 367 875 (toll free) T: 07 5525 2845  
Website: [www.bhutan.com.au](http://www.bhutan.com.au) PO Box 691, Robina DC, QLD 4226, Australia



## Bhutan Luxury Experience – 10 nights

---

### Day 7:

#### Sightseeing & hiking in Punakha.

This morning visit the dramatic Punakha Dzong, which formerly served as the seat of the government and is still the winter residence of the Dratsheng (Central Monk Body). This is Bhutan's most spectacular Dzong and an excellent example of how a medieval fortress and a centre of both monastic and administrative functions, has adapted and evolved for modern day use. Don't forget the local market if you are in Punakha on a Saturday morning. Take lunch at a local restaurant or enjoy a picnic lunch overlooking the Dzong and river.

This afternoon we recommend a fascinating hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyel Chorten through fields of vegetables, rice paddies and tiny hamlets. This Chorten holds very special significance being consecrated in 1999 and dedicated to the protection of the former Crown Prince – today's current King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

#### Overnight Punakha Valley – COMO Uma Resort – Valley View room

### Day 8:

#### Sightseeing in Punakha Valley.

This morning we recommend an excursion to the traditional villages of Nobgang & Talo. Nobgang is home to the 4 Queens of the 4th King (all sisters!). Talo offers the opportunity to stroll the serene grounds & beautiful gardens of the local monastery. There is also a good hiking option back down to the valley floor.

After lunch at a local restaurant take the afternoon to relax and enjoy the resort facilities.

#### Overnight Punakha Valley – COMO Uma Resort – Valley View room

### Day 9:

#### Punakha Valley to Paro Valley (4 hrs +)

Depart Punakha early morning for your transfer westwards to the Paro Valley, once again traversing Dochu La, and arriving in Paro town in time for a late lunch at one of the local restaurants.

This afternoon enjoy an orientation tour of the major features in Paro town including Paro Dzong with its cantilever bridge & Kyichu Lhakhang – one of Bhutan's oldest and most beautiful temples boasting an orange tree that perpetually bears fruit.

#### Overnight Paro Valley – [Zhiwa Ling Heritage Resort](#) – One Bedroom Suite



All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.  
Email: [enquiries@bhutan.com.au](mailto:enquiries@bhutan.com.au) T: 1300 367 875 (toll free) T: 07 5525 2845  
Website: [www.bhutan.com.au](http://www.bhutan.com.au) PO Box 691, Robina DC, QLD 4226, Australia



## *Bhutan Luxury Experience – 10 nights*

---

### Day 10:

#### Sightseeing & hiking in the Paro Valley.

This morning take a pilgrimage hike to the very revered Taktsang Monastery, also known as Tigers Nest. All Bhutanese Buddhists strive to make this pilgrimage at least once in their lives and each step they take on the trail counts towards credits for their future. Choose between a 1.5 hour round trip hike to the Monastery viewpoint or a longer 5 hour and more strenuous hike into the Monastery itself. Tigers Nest clings impossibly to a cliff of rock, at 800 m above the valley floor, and where Guru Rinpoche flew on the back of a tigress to subdue the local demons followed by 3 months meditation in a cave still visible in the monastery. In 1998 the monastery was seriously damaged by fire and has since been painstakingly reconstructed to its original condition and consecrated by the 4th King in 2005.

This afternoon check out the National Museum in Paro to view the fine collection of ancient Thangka paintings, textiles, weapons and other artefacts and we recommend a wander along the main street which offers good shopping for local jewellery and handicrafts.

Zhiwa Ling Heritage Resort is a 5 star property and here we stay in one bedroom suite accommodation in the main building. The lobby and mezzanine areas are quite awesome and the valley location is closer to the Taktsang Monastery hike start point. Alternatively, if you are seeking a slightly more up-market experience upgrade to COMO Uma Paro Resort situated on a hill overlooking the town & valley. Here we recommend the COMO suite – a generous one bedroom suite, for the best experience.

#### Overnight Paro Valley – Zhiwa Ling Heritage Resort – One Bedroom Suite

### Day 11:

#### Day of departure.

Early morning departure from your hotel to Paro Airport for your onward flight.



All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.  
Email: [enquiries@bhutan.com.au](mailto:enquiries@bhutan.com.au) T: 1300 367 875 (toll free) T: 07 5525 2845  
Website: [www.bhutan.com.au](http://www.bhutan.com.au) PO Box 691, Robina DC, QLD 4226, Australia