



## Bhutan Summer Splendour – 6 nights 04-10 July 2021

### Introduction:

After the awesome flight into Paro experience the 3 valleys of Paro, Thimphu & Punakha. This small group tour caters to a maximum of 8 persons. Furthermore it features the most important sights in Thimphu city; and the magnificent Punakha Dzong. Finally a special pilgrimage hike to Taktsang Monastery (Tigers Nest) in Paro.

### Tour Itinerary Overview.

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

### Reasons To Book This Small Group Tour

- This tour is a guaranteed departure.
- We only take a maximum of 8 persons on our tours.
- We tailor our tours for less driving and more sightseeing!
- 17 years experience, service & knowledge.
- Competitive pricing & well constructed itineraries.
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION
- Our comprehensive Bhutan Visitor Information planning guide
- ATAS Accredited via our parent company MTA Travel.

### CALL THE BHUTAN TRAVEL EXPERTS ON

AUS [toll free](tel:1300367875), James – [0412 416 111](tel:0412416111), Nicola – [0413 598 669](tel:0413598669)

### Tour Inclusions:

- English speaking guide, driver & private coach.
- All touring & transfers throughout your journey.
- Bhutanese style 3\* hotel accom with private bathrooms.
- All meals including bottled water daily.
- Entrance fees, hiking & sightseeing.
- Bhutan visa fees & visa processing.
- Government tourism royalties & local taxes.
- Bank transfer & communication fees.
- Professionally operated by Bhutan Tourism Corp – BTCL.

### Tour Exclusions:

- Flights to/from Paro are additional.
- Personal items: phone calls, laundry, drinks, designer coffees, tips etc.
- Travel Insurance – mandatory to enter Bhutan.



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### Available On Request:

- Upgrade to Business Class on your flights.
- Ex-Australia airfares.
- Stopovers & additional Asian arrangements.

### Cancellation Conditions:

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

### DETAILED TOUR ITINERARY – 04-10 JUL 2021

#### Sunday 04 July, 2021

##### Paro Valley to Thimphu Valley (1 hr 30 mins)

After clearing immigration and customs you will be greeted by your BTCL guide and driver. Transfer 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 take lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy the remainder of the day to explore Thimphu. Visit the colourful weekend markets (Fri-Sun) where everyone goes to buy an array of fresh fruits & vegetables, home-wares, handicrafts and clothes, before a visit to the National Memorial Stupa followed by the Takin Preserve – home to Bhutan's most unusual national mammal.

##### Overnight Thimphu – [Bhutan Style 3\\* Hotel](#)

#### Monday 05 July:

##### Sightseeing in the Thimphu Valley today.

This morning visit the awesome Golden Buddha which also offers an excellent 3 km hike option with sensational valley views. Next head north up the valley to the majestic Trashichhoe Dzong and Tara Lhaden Zhingkhram lhakang (temple). Next visit the 'Simply Bhutan' traditional display village followed by a Bhutanese lunch. At 'Simply Bhutan' you can try ara tasting (local spirit); suja tasting (butter tea); try your hand at archery and enjoy a cultural performance of song & dance during the lunch.

This afternoon other places of interest to visit are the celebrated Royal Textiles Academy. Don't forget to take a wander along Thimphu's main street, Norzin Lam, which offers good shopping and the Craft Bazaar. For those who have an interest in quality weavings and local art check out the Gagyel Lhundrup weaving centre, where you can interact with the weavers, and the adjacent S. Bishwa art gallery.

##### Overnight Thimphu – Bhutan Style 3\* Hotel.



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Tuesday 06 July:

### Thimphu to Punakha Valley (3+ hrs)

This morning you will be transferred by road eastwards to the Phobjikha Valley. En-route pass the Semtokha Dzong. This was built in 1629 & the oldest fortress of its kind that guarded the Thimphu valley. Today it is a monastery. Continue ascending to Dochu La (pass) to view the 108 Stupas. These were commissioned by a former Queen as a memorial to those who lost their lives during the low intensity conflict in late 2002. This was when Bhutan evicted Indian separatist rebels camped in the jungle on the Bhutan – Indian border. On a clear day you will witness a breathtaking view of the eastern Himalaya.

On arrival into the Punakha valley stop and 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, and which is an, easy 20 minute walk across paddy fields. 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 the nunnery and, time permitting, consider a visit to the small very traditional village of Talo where you can wander through the serene grounds of the monastery with its beautiful gardens.

Overnight Punakha Valley – [Bhutan Style 3\\* Hotel](#).

Wednesday 07 July:

### Sightseeing & hiking in Punakha

This morning visit the dramatic Punakha Dzong, which formerly served as the seat of 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.

This afternoon we especially recommend you travel northwards up the valley and take a fascinating hike through fields of vegetables and tiny hamlets to Khamsum Yulley Namgyel Chorten. 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.

Alternatively take the afternoon at leisure. If of interest white-water rafting is available in this valley at extra cost. Your guide will advise if the conditions are suitable. Please ensure your travel insurance covers this activity first!!

Overnight Punakha Valley – Bhutan Style 3\* Hotel



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Thursday 08 July:

### 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.

This afternoon enjoy an orientation tour of the major features in Paro town including Paro Dzong with its cantilever bridge. Finally take a wander along the main streets which offer good shopping for jewellery and handicrafts.

### Overnight Punakha Valley – [Bhutan Style 3\\* Hotel](#)

Friday 09 July:

### Hiking Pilgrimage & Sightseeing in the Paro Valley.

Taktsang Monastery (aka as Tigers Nest) is one of the most scared and revered monasteries in the Kingdom and all Bhutanese Buddhists desire to make a pilgrimage visit to Taktsang at least once in their lives. Each step taken towards the monastery gains merit points towards their future.

Choose between a 1.5 to 2 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 over 800 metres 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.

Take a Bhutanese vegetarian lunch at the Taktsang Viewpoint and, returning from the hiking trail, visit nearby Kyichu Lhakhang – one of Bhutan's oldest and most beautiful temples boasting an orange tree that perpetually bears fruit.

### Overnight Paro Valley – Bhutan Style 3\* Hotel

Saturday 10 July:

### Day of departure.

Early morning transfer to Paro airport in time to check-in for your onward flight.



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