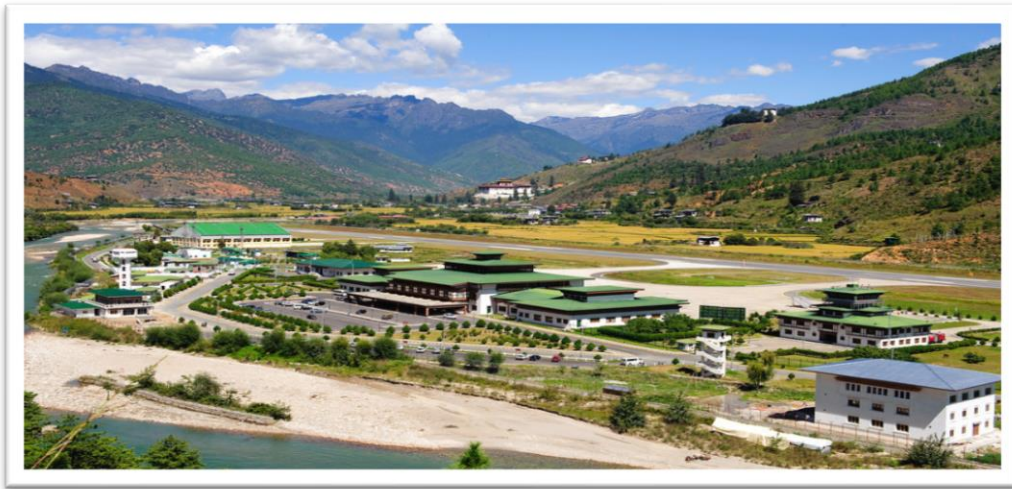


Cultural Tour Programme for 3N/4D

Day 1, Bangkok-Paro to Punakha (3 And half hour drive)

Paro (alt. 2200m/7218ft) - The beautiful valley of Paro encapsulates within itself a rich culture, scenic beauty and hundreds of myths and legends. It is home to many of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries, National Museum and country's only airport. The flight to Paro is considered one of the most spectacular flight experiences in the world. While flying in and out of Bhutan, one can see Mt. Everest, Kanchenjunga, Makula, and other high peaks such as Jumolhari, Jichu Drakey, and Tsrin Gang.



A representative from **Kidh-Chong Travels** will receive you at the airport.

Visit following places in Punakha:

- 1) **Dochula (highest pass between Thimphu province & Punakha)**
Pass between Thimphu and Punakha, if the weather favors you can see splendid panoramic view of Himalayan Mountains covered with snow from Dochula and the 108 stupa.
- 2) **Chimi Lhakang (temple)**
It's a pleasant 20 minute walk across the fields and the yellowed roofed Chimi Lhakang was built in 1499 by the cousin of Lama Drukpa Kuenley in his honor after he subdued the demoness of the nearby Dochula pass with his 'magic thunderbolt of wisdom'.

Lunch in local restaurant.

- 3) **Punakha Dzong (fortress)**
The heavenly fort on earth which is second oldest and largest fort in the Kingdom. It was established in 17th century under the order of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel fulfilling the prophecy of Guru Rimpoche. Zhabdrung established a monk body with 600 monks in Punakha Dzong and passed away in Punakha Dzong in 1651. The fort is used for winter residence for Dratshang (official monk body).

Overnight in Punakha.

Day 2, Punakha to Thimphu (2 and half hours drive)

Breakfast in Hotel.



Drive to Thimphu and visit following places:

- 1) **Memorial Chorten (Stupa)**
Dates back to 20th century, which is built in the memory of our 3rd king. The fantastic sight of Memorial Chorten is located in the heart of Thimphu city. It's a rear piece of stupa in a form temple inside; many elderly Bhutanese citizens are seen chanting prayers and prostrating towards stupa.
- 2) **Buddha Point**
Its newly built huge sited Buddha statue in Kuensel Phodrang area of 50 m height facing whole Thimphu capital city. The statue fulfills the prophecy of flourishing the happiness and peace in the entire world.
- 3) **Takin Reserve**
National animal of Bhutan, Takin can be seen in Reserve Park. The reason for declaring Takin as a national animal of Bhutan on 25 November 2005 (*Budorcas taxicolor*) is attributed to a legend of the animal's creation in Bhutan in the 15th century by Lama Drukpa Kunley.
- 4) **National Institute of 13 Arts and Crafts**
This institute, commonly known as 'the painting school' operates four to six year courses that provide instruction in Bhutan's 13 traditional arts.
- 5) **Post office**
Visiting post office is refreshing time and a fantastic art to create your own stamps and to post internationally.

Leisure time in down town with our local guide. Going around the town is immense experience to interact with local people and see the beautiful incorporated architecture designs of the house.

Lunch at Local restaurant in Thimphu.

Overnight in Thimphu.

Day 3, Thimphu to Paro Tigers Nest (taksang) 1 hour drive.

Breakfast in Hotel.



Bhutan's most scenic icon or the most important landmark; Taktshang clings to the side of a steep cliff which is 800 meters above Paro valley. The landmark was first visited by great Indian saint know as Guru Rimpoche, founder of tantric form of Buddhism in Himalayan regions in 8th century. It is believed that he meditated there for three months and three days in order to overcome great evil forces. The original temple was built in 17th century but tragically, it was consumed by fire in 1998. Like a phoenix, the temple was rebuilt to its fullest glory in 2003. Taktshang is considered to be the 10th holiest place in the world.

Lunch in Taktshang Cafeteria.

Overnight in Paro

Day 4, Paro to Bangkok

Breakfast in Hotel.

Departure (Tashi Delek)