

## Insight of Bhutan - BTCSH



### Itinerary for 9 nights / 10 days.

**Day1. Bangkok ---Paro:** The flight into Paro on the national carrier Druk Air, the only Airline of Bhutan. From a window seat on clear days you can experience a spectacular view of the Himalayan peaks as you approach Paro. Upon arrival you will be met by your guide and transferred to hotel, After refreshment visit national museum and the Rimpung Dzong, Overnight at Paro. Alt: **7364ft.**

**Day2. Paro ----- Thimphu**

After breakfast 1hr drive winds along a river valley, past small villages and traditional farm houses, through peaceful countryside to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital. It's a small charming capital city sheltered in the heart of the Himalayas. Altitude **7,493ft.** All of the houses and buildings are painted and constructed in traditional Bhutanese style. Check into hotel in Thimphu. Afternoon visit our colorful vegetable market and to National Library where ancient scrolls wrapped in silk to keep the wisdom of Buddhist texts safe or visit the Folk Heritage Museum. After dinner, on your own to explore small downtown Thimphu,

**Day3. Thimphu----- Punakha** 3hrs / 77 km. Start your drive through a forest of pine and hemlock, festooned with hanging lichens high up Dochula pass /Alt: **10142ft.** this pass offers panoramic views of the Himalayan mountain ranges, as we descend along a series of curve road to the fertile valley of Punakha / Alt: **4430ft.** Before proceeding further to Punakha town, we will take a short 45 Minutes walk to Chimi Lhakhang a temple on a small hill top. This temple is dedicated to the great yogi in 14<sup>th</sup> century known as Drukpa Kuenly or popularly known as "Divine Madman" Over night at Punakha.

**Day4. Punakha ----- Trongsa ,** 6 hrs / 145 kilometers, We'll start early to visit Punakha Dzong or, the "Palace of Great Happiness," situated between the Pho Chu and Mo Chu (male & female) rivers. Continue toward the central valleys of Bhutan through the breathtaking beauty and serenity of Bhutan's rich flora and fauna. Passing Wangdi Dzong ( fortress) the road climbs steadily through semi-tropical vegetation up to Pele la Pass **at 11046 ft.** You may spot a yak grazing along the roadside. With an alpine environment, bright with rhododendron flowers and dark green with dwarf bamboo, On clear days view sacred Mount Jomolhari (23,355 ft) we pass by Chendebji Chorten. As you enter Trongsa valley, the huge fortress of Trongsa Dzong on the far side of a deep valley, makes you wonder if you will ever reach it. Overnight in Trongsa.

**Day5: Trongsa ----- Bumthang** 2 to 3 hours / 68 kilometers

This morning tour the spectacular Trongsa Dzong, perched so high on a mountain it's said the clouds float below it. Continuing on our journey, the road rises rapidly through a series of hair-pin bends up to Yotong La pass at **11,200 feet**, Enjoy the colorful, quiet peace of the pass with its many prayer flags fluttering in the breeze. Drive downhill to arrive in the Chumey Valley. At Tsugney village, you'll witness traditional Yathra weaving with the bright geometric patterns distinctive of this area. Once made from Tibetan wool, some wool now comes from local sheep. A local shop offers old and new textiles for sale. Continue to Choekhor valley, where Jakar Dzong, the "castle of the white bird" perches above Bumthang. Alt: **8463ft**.

**Day6: Bumthang ----- Phobjikha.**

Travel on to Phobjikha, climbing up and passing through semi-tropical dwarf bamboo and the blush of many colored rhododendrons. Arrive in the broad glacial valley of Phobjikha, the chosen winter roosting home of the rare Black necked Cranes. Endangered cranes leave the Tibetan plateau for Bhutan each winter and return home early spring. By legend, they are reincarnated sacred souls of Lamas that come to pay homage to the nearby monastery of Gangtey Gumpa and help other souls to enlightenment. When they first return, it's said, the cranes circle the Monastery three times before landing in the wetlands below. Over night in the quiet valley of Phobjikha

**Day7: Phobjikha ----- Thimphu.** 6hrs / 145km. Resume your journey back. Make a day hike pass small villages and through Rhododendron forest for 2hrs. Within a few miles, vegetation transforms once more to pines, rhododendron and fir. You are sure to spot Grey langur, Brown monkey and lots of bird species by the trail. Your van will pick you up and drive to Thimphu via Dochula pass. Overnight at Hotel

**Day8. Thimphu --- Sightseeing :-** This morning you will start the day by visiting the National memorial chorten (shrine) a monument dedicated to the 3<sup>rd</sup> king. Visit Traditional Painting School, a school for Bhutan's 13 traditional Arts and crafts, stop in at National Library where ancient scrolls are preserved. Visit Textile weaving, Its worth a visit to get to know the living national art of weaving. After that you can stroll around the street of Thimphu.

**Day9 Thimphu ---- Paro, 1 hr drive. Hike to Taksang (Tigers Nest)**  
Early drive to paro's upper valley. On a clear day you'll have an unforgettable view of the "Goddess" Mt.Chomolhari at **23,640 feet**. Afterward, it's a short drive to trail head. Hike to Taksang Monastery, the most famous monastery in Bhutan. Taksang means "Tiger Nest" so named because Guru Rinpoche reportedly flew to the site on the back of a flying tiger early 8th century. Between blue pines and a bluer sky, the monastery perches miraculously on a cliff nearly 2,700 feet above Paro's valley floor. **Light butter lamps**, Break along the way for tea and snacks in small tea house. Descend in distilled afternoon light to eat a delicious dinner and overnight at Paro.

**Day10. Paro -----Bangkok.** Say goodbye to Bhutan and board a flight for Bangkok for onward destinations. We hope you'll carry this gentle kingdom in your heart: May it brings peace to you and others. Have a safe journey home.

**Tashi Delek**

<b>Hotel</b>	<b>1 pax</b>	<b>2 pax</b>	<b>3 and above</b>	<b>Single supplement</b>
<b>3***</b>	<b>\$ 2985</b>	<b>\$ 2851</b>	<b>\$ 2448</b>	<b>\$ 403</b>
<b>4* &amp; 5*</b>	<b>\$ 12111</b>	<b>\$ 7329</b>	<b>\$ 7082</b>	<b>\$ 2090</b>
<b>Rate 2012</b>				
<b>3***</b>	<b>\$ 3359</b>	<b>\$ 3135</b>	<b>\$ 2985</b>	<b>\$ 448</b>

**Hotel used in the above itinerary**

**3\*\*\* Hotels**

**Thimphu –River view or similar**

**Paro ----Tenziling or similar**

**Punakha –Meri punsum Resort or similar**

**Phubjikha – Yulkey or similar**

**Bumthang – Yugarling or similar**

**Trongsa –Yangkhil Resort or similar**

**4\* & 5 \* Hotels**

**Thimphu – Taj Tashi or Termalinca**

**Paro – Zhiwaling or Uma paro**

**Punakha – Aman Kora Resort**

**Phubjikha – Aman Kora Resort**

**Bumthang –Aman Kora Resort**

**Trongsa -- Yangkhil Resort**