### **Magical Bhutan**

5 Days/ 4 Nights Paro & Thimphu

## Day 1: Arrival in Paro

As you embark on your journey to Bhutan, the flight to Paro offers breathtaking views of the majestic Himalayan peaks, including Mt Everest, Mt Kanchenjunga, and Bhutan's own sacred mountains like Mt Jhomolhari, Mt Jichu Drake, and Mt Tserimgang. Upon arrival at Paro airport, our Big Bhutan representative will receive you, and we'll proceed on a scenic drive to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan - a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity. After checking in to our hotels, we'll visit the National Memorial Chorten, a symbol of world peace and a tribute to the late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Our next stop is Tashichhodzong, the "Fortress of the glorious religion," an architectural marvel with historical significance. In the evening, you can take a stroll around the capital city.

## Day 2: Sightseeing in Thimphu

After breakfast, we'll visit Dochula, a 30-minutes drive from Thimphu. Perched at an altitude of 3,100 meters, Dochula Pass is a breathtaking mountain pass that offers a mesmerizing panorama of Bhutan's Himalayan landscape. Its main attraction is the enchanting collection of 108 memorial stupas known as Druk Wangyal Chorten. The pass, adorned with prayer flags and surrounded by lush greenery, provides a serene and spiritual experience, making it a must-visit destination for travelers exploring Bhutan's natural beauty and culture. After lunch, we will explore more of Thimphu, gaining insights into Bhutan's traditional arts and crafts at the Institute for Zorig Chusum (Painting School) and visit to the Centennial Farmers Market

### Day 3: Morning Sightseeing in Thimphu & Return to Paro

After breakfast, we will visit Kuenselphodrang (Buddha Point). The Buddha Dordenma, a colossal golden statue, stands 51 meters tall, gazing over the city and the lush surrounding hills. It is the tallest Buddha Dordenma statue in the world. This iconic monument is a symbol of peace and a testament to Bhutan's rich Buddhist heritage. Visitors are awed by its grandeur, serene ambiance, and the panoramic views it offers, making it a must-visit attraction in Thimphu.

After lunch, we'll drive to Paro and continue our exploration. Our visit includes Ta Dzong, the National Museum, showcasing Bhutanese art and artefacts, and Rinpung Dzong, an iconic fortress and religious center. We'll also explore Kyichu Lhakhang, a 7<sup>th</sup> century temple that played a significant role in introducing Buddhism to Bhutan.

### Day 4: Taktsang Hike

This morning, we embark on a memorable hike to Taktsang Monastery, famously known as the 'Tiger's Nest'. Legend has it that 8<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist master Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a flying tigress and meditated in this breathtaking location. Despite suffering a fire in 1998, the monastery has been meticulously restored to its former grandeur. After this spiritual journey, we will return to our hotel to prepare for our departure from Bhutan.

# **Alternative to Taksang Hike**

Drive to Chelela Pass (3,988 meter or 13,083 ft) with picnic lunch. This mountain pass straddling Haa and Paro valleys offers breathtaking views of the majestic Himalayan Mountains. The picturesque journey take you through pine, oak, and rhododendron forests, adorned with vibrant red and pink blooms in April and May. Around 10 km from the pass, we will spot Kila Nunnery on a distant hillside, adorned with prayer flags along the path. Beyond the tree line, you may encounter yaks grazing in alpine meadows. The pass is dotted numerous prayer flags, piercing the vibrant blue sky. On clear days, enjoy breathtaking views of Mt. Jomolhari and other Himalayan peaks.

## **Day 5: Departure from Paro**

As we bid farewell to the enchanting land of Bhutan, we hope your journey has been filled with wonderful memories. Enjoy an early breakfast at the hotel before departing for the airport, where you'll catch your flight to your onward destination.

#### What is included:

- Double room on twin sharing basis in government approved 3 star hotels \*
- Single room supplement will incur additional charges.
- All three meals
- Bottled mineral water for the entire trip
- Afternoon tea and snacks
- English speaking certified guide
- Comfortable SUV and a tourism department certified driver
- Entrance Fees to Museums & Tigers Nest
- Visa fee and processing charges
- Sustainable Development Fee
- Government taxes
- Full service & assistance before, during and after your Bhutan trip

### What is not included:

- Airfare to and from Bhutan (Tickets can be arranged if required)
- Any other beverages (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) including bottled water ordered in restaurants and hotels by guests.
- Travel Insurance (Travel Insurance is mandatory and can be purchased on arrival at the airport or can be arranged while processing visa or travel permit)
- Wire Transfer fees
- Laundry
- Tips for guides and drivers

#### **Terms & Conditions**

<sup>\*</sup> Four & Five Star hotels & ultra luxury accommodation available at additional costs.

- Package per day per person rate is for minimum two pax. Additional rates applicable for solo travellers.
- Tour costs needs to be paid in full to confirm bookings.

## **Tour Payment Refund Policy**

- 95% Refund for tour cancelled 90 days prior to arrival, transfer charges will be deducted.
- 85% refund for tour cancelled 60-45 days prior to arrival, transfer charges will be deducted.
- 75% refund for tour cancelled between 30 to 45 days prior to arrival.
- No refund for tour cancelled for less than 30 days of arrival.
- For luxury hotels & resorts, hotel cancellation policy will be applicable.

# **Tour Date Change or Replacement Policy:**

# 1. Date Change Option:

We understand that plans can change, and we are happy to accommodate date changes at no additional cost for travel during non-peak seasons. However, please note that a surcharge will apply for bookings during peak seasons, festivals, or for hotel upgrades. To facilitate a smooth date change, we kindly request our customers to notify us as soon as possible regarding their desired travel date adjustments. It's important to note that refunds will not be possible for no-shows after arrival due to hotel cancellation policies.

### 2. Seat Replacement:

If you wish to minimize cancellation costs, you have the option to replace individuals traveling with you, whether they are friends or family members, or anyone else interested in taking your reserved seats on the originally confirmed dates. Once the replacement has been confirmed, the payment for the replaced seats will be directed to your bank account. Please note that for flights booked to Bhutan, specific policies may apply. To process the necessary visa or name change formalities, we kindly request a notification of the replacement at least 10-15 days prior to the scheduled arrival date