

## **Bhutan Photography Tour**

**9 days/8 nights**

**Paro, Thimphu, Wangdue, Punakha, Trongsa & Bumthang**

Bhutan, in all its seasonal splendor, unveils itself as a true haven for photographers. Its unspoiled Himalayan terrain, interwoven with an enigmatic culture, centuries-old traditions, and intricate textiles and customs, beckons photographers from across the globe. Here, rich colors dance amidst stunning landscapes, verdant panoramas, traditional edifices, and the captivating tapestry of its people and places. Bhutan stands as the coveted destination for photographers, and within its embrace, an abundance of moments and memories await the lens. We are here to transform your photography dreams into a vivid reality, catering to both passionate enthusiasts and seasoned professionals. Our immersive nine-day Bhutan Photography tour serves as your gateway to the heart of Bhutan's Himalayan culture.

### **Day 1: Arrival in Paro**

Upon landing at Paro International Airport, our local tour guide will extend a warm welcome and accompany you to your hotel. Freshen up, and embark on an orientation tour of Paro. Visit the captivating Rinpung Dzong, the Ta-dzong (National Museum), and indulge in a short excursion to the newly consyruacted Drukgyel Dzong and the 7<sup>th</sup> century Kyichu Lhakhang. These sites, steeped in Buddhist heritage, provide perfect subjects for your lens. Following this, we will drive you to Thimphu, the Bhutanese capital, offering picturesque photo opportunities during the one-hour journey. En route, feel free to capture rural life, quaint villages, and the stunning landscape. In Thimphu, after hotel check-in, take a city stroll. In the evening, explore night photography at the National Memorial Chorten and Kuenselphodrang.

### **Day 2: Thimphu Unveiled**

Early morning, capture the Thimphu Valley's panoramic beauty from Kuenselphodrang. With the world's tallest Bronze Buddha statue as a centerpiece, this locale offers diverse photographic opportunities. Post-breakfast, visit the painting school, Folk Heritage Museum, and the National Library. After lunch, explore the 13<sup>th</sup> century Changangkha Lhakhang (temple), Motithang Takin Preserve, and Dechenphodrang Monastery. In the evening, visit Tashichhodzong to capture its architectural splendor and monks' activities.

### **Day 3: Thimphu to Trongsa**

Embark on a day-long adventure filled with captivating scenes. Pause at Dochula Pass for breakfast and coffee, surrounded by Himalayan mountain panoramas and traditional 108 stupas. Proceed through dense forests, verdant valleys, and rustic settlements, eventually reaching Wangdue Valley.

Capture the 17<sup>th</sup> century Wangdue Dzong, which was recently consecrated after a fire burned down the fortress. Continue to Pelela Pass, yet another photography

hotspot, and descend through picturesque valleys and rural life. During winter, you will encounter yaks and herders. Stop at Chendebji Chorten for tea and coffee and photography, followed by a picturesque viewpoint offering a majestic glimpse of Trongsa Dzong. Overnight halt in Trongsa.

#### **Day 4: Trongsa to Bumthang**

After breakfast, visit the magnificent Trongsa Dzong, perched on a ridge overlooking Mangdichhu. Explore the main shrine, home to the Buddha of three eras, and capture the courtyard's essence. Visit Ta Dzong, housing the museum. After lunch, journey to Bumthang, with scenic stops for photographic breaks.

#### **Day 5: Bumthang Unveiled**

Capture the mesmerizing Chamkhar Valley, cloaked in morning mist and golden sunrays. After breakfast, visit Jakar Dzong, poised atop a hill with a stunning valley backdrop. Visit Jambay Lhakhang and Kurje Lhakhang, each offering thrilling photography prospects. Hike to the Tamshing Monastery and Koenchogsum Temple across Chamkhar River. Lunch in Chamkhar town, followed by evening photography.

#### **Day 6: Bumthang to Punakha**

Return to western Bhutan. Arrive in Punakha, exploring night photography near Punakha Dzong.

#### **Day 7: Punakha to Paro**

Depart for Kabesa valley to explore morning photography at Khamsum Yuellay Namgyal Chhorten. Hike to the stupa, enjoying the scenic landscape and architecture. Breakfast with a view. Explore Kuenrey inside Punakha Dzong. Visit Chimi Lhakhang (Temple of fertility) and return to Paro, with sunset photography at Dochula Pass.

#### **Day 8: Tiger's Nest Hike**

Embark on an epic hike to Taktshang (Tiger's Nest), an iconic Bhutanese heritage site perched on a cliff. Capture this spiritual marvel and indulge in a traditional stone bath. Savor dinner at a local farmhouse.

#### **Day 9: Depart from Paro**

After breakfast, your tour guide will accompany you to the airport for your homeward journey, carrying cherished photographic memories of Bhutan.

#### **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

\* Four & Five Star hotels & ultra luxury accommodation available at additional costs.

### **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:**

- Package per day per person rate is for minimum two pax. Additional rates applicable for solo travellers.
- Tour costs need 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.