

The Five Jewel Tour

Paro, Thimphu, Trongsa, Bumthang & Punakha
9 Days/ 8 Nights

Embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of Bhutan with Five Jewel Tours. Our meticulously crafted itinerary showcases the five dazzling gems of Bhutan: Paro, Thimphu, Trongsa, Bumthang, and Punakha. The Five Jewel Tours will immerse you in the pristine Himalayan landscapes, rugged terrain, and ever-changing flora, offering a unique insight into Bhutan's inner world, its remote beauty, and the brilliance of its culture and way of life through an extraordinary journey through Central Bhutan, the cultural and spiritual heartland of this remarkable country.

Day 1: Arrival in Paro/Thimphu

After an awe-inspiring mountain flight and a breathtaking landing, you'll arrive in Bhutan, where your adventure begins. At Paro International Airport, our local tour guide will warmly greet you. After some refreshments, we'll embark on a tour of Paro, visiting Rinpung Dzong, the newly constructed Drukgyel Dzong, and the ancient Buddhist temple, Kyichu Lhakhang. After lunch, we'll journey to the capital, Thimphu, just an hour's drive away. In the evening, you can explore the bustling streets of Thimphu and experience its urban culture.

Day 2: Exploring Thimphu

Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, is a city where the past and present coexist in a captivating blend. You'll witness modern buildings adorned with traditional architecture, the latest imported SUVs sharing the roads with pedestrians, and historical heritage sites impeccably preserved. Your day will include visits to the Folk Heritage Museum, the Zorig Chusum Institute (the school of 13 arts and crafts), the National Library, and the National Memorial Chhorten. After lunch, we'll explore Changangkha Monastery, Takin Park, and Tashichhoedzong. We'll also take you to two stunning viewpoints, Sangaygang and Buddha Point, offering panoramic vistas of the capital.

Day 3: Thimphu to Trongsa

Our journey to Central Bhutan, the historical birthplace of the Monarchy, will take us through mesmerizing landscapes, winding roads through the Black Mountain range, changing vegetation, rural communities, and farmlands. Trongsa is a seven-and-a-half-hour drive from Thimphu. Along the way, you'll enjoy breathtaking views at Dochula pass where you will stop for tea or coffee. Continuing our descent through lush forests and valleys, we'll pass Wangduephodrang and reach Chendibji, where a picturesque chorten by the riverside awaits us for lunch. From there, it's a 45-minute drive to Trongsa.

Day 4: Trongsa to Bumthang

Trongsa, once the historical and political epicentre of Bhutan, offers insights into the country's rich history. You'll explore Trongsa Dzong and the Ta-dzong (now a museum). On your journey to Bumthang, you'll cross Yotongla, the highest mountain pass between Trongsa and Bumthang. After an hour's drive downhill, you'll arrive in the idyllic valley of Chumey, known for its vast buckwheat fields.

Bumthang valley, the spiritual heartland of Bhutan, will be your destination, and in the evening, you can take a leisurely stroll in Chamkhar town.

Day 5: Exploring Bumthang

Bumthang valley, situated between 2,600 and 4,500 meters, holds some of Bhutan's most sacred sites. You'll visit Kurje Lhakhang, Jampa Lhakhang, Tamshing Monastery, and the mythical burning lake, Mebar Tsho. Jakar Dzong, overseeing the picturesque valley, will also be on the itinerary.

Day 6: Bumthang to Punakha

After an early breakfast, we'll depart for Punakha. The journey is long and winding, and we'll make a detour to Phobjikha valley, the winter roosting ground of Black-necked Cranes. You'll visit the historic Gangtey Monastery, one of the seats of the Nyingma school of Buddhism, and enjoy a traditional lunch at a Phobjikha farmhouse before continuing to Punakha.

Day 7: Punakha to Paro

Punakha, the old capital of Bhutan, offers an unforgettable experience with visits to monuments that have shaped the country's history. We'll explore the Punthang Dewa Chenpoi Phodrang or the "Fortress of Great Happiness," built at the confluence of Phochhu and Mochhu rivers. After visiting the dzong, we'll embark on a short hike to Khamsum Yuellay Namgyal Stupa, perched on the majestic blue pine hill of Sirigang. Following the visit, we'll return to the capital.

Day 8: Tiger's Nest Hike in Paro

Today, you'll embark on the epic hike to Taktsang, also known as Tiger's Nest, perched precariously on a cliff. The three-hour uphill trek offers a spectacular view of the Paro Valley. At the cafeteria halfway up, you'll enjoy tea and coffee while marvelling at the breathtaking surroundings. Your guide will take you to the permissible shrines and the meditation cave where Guru Rinpoche meditated for three months and subdued evil spirits. Lunch will be served at the viewpoint cafeteria. In the evening, relax with a traditional hot stone bath at a Bhutanese farmhouse and savor dinner.

Day 9: Departure

After an early breakfast, your guide will accompany you to Paro International Airport for your departure. Bon Voyage, and thank you for exploring the Five Jewels of Bhutan with Big Bhutan Tours!

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 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