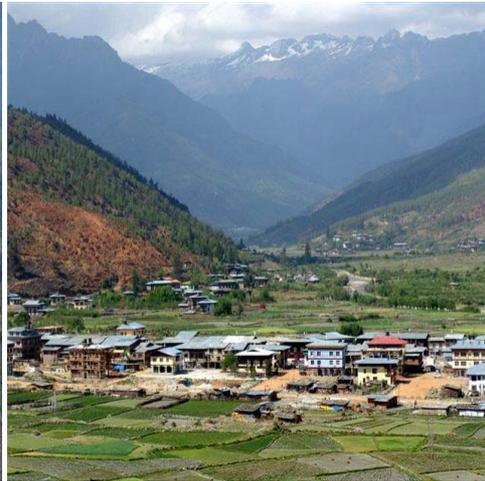




GREAT WALKS WORLDWIDE

HIKING IN BHUTAN

11-day / 10-night guided hike along the Druk Path – departs daily on request in season



Costs: Ask for details for land only or land plus international flights

Grade: Challenging

Elevation: Maximum 4210m

Includes: Most meals, evening tea, porters while on trek, tent and sleeping mats, all land transport in mini-buses or vans, services of trekking guide and driver, hotel accommodation, entry fees to temples and monasteries, tourism development taxes and @ 35% government royalty.

Not included: Flights or other travel arrangements, visa fees, departure taxes, bar or laundry or gratuities, sleeping bag (we recommend you bring a good quality bag), any personal expenses and travel insurance.

Departs: Paro from February to June and September to November

Bhutan has a controlled tourism and development policy that means those who visit are among a special group of individuals.

Untouched, untainted and saturated with ancient culture, few places are left on earth so undisturbed. A land lost in time, this jewel of the Himalayas will not remain hidden forever. The friendly people of Bhutan are eager to welcome you and share their traditional lifestyle.

Our trek along the Druk Path is one of the most scenic and famous treks in Bhutan. We follow a wilderness trail past remote lakes with magnificent views of snow-capped mountains. Adorned with colorful prayer flags amidst the lush greenery of pristine landscapes, this place is a true Shangri-La.

Though it is a short trek, it still goes to a high altitude and sometimes makes it strenuous - previous hiking experience is necessary. Approximately 6 of the 11-days will be spent hiking with a minimum of 5-hours per day of mountain trekking. The remaining days are spent leisurely exploring the interesting towns and villages, and mingling with the locals.

A definite highlight of the tour is the climb to the **Taksang (Tiger's Den) Monastery**, hanging on a cliff 800m above the valley. It takes approximately 2-hours to ascend to the closest viewpoint where one is left breathless from the stunning views of the mountains all around. It is something one will never forget. Woven garments, prayer flags, festivals and traditional dances contribute to the colourful atmosphere that abounds - monasteries and mountains, in harmony with nature.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Paro. (L, D)

Airport welcome you at the airport and drive to your hotel. After lunch a visit to the National museum which houses a collection of thankas (religious scroll paintings), arts and artifacts, animals, ancient armors, butterflies, vessels, and other historical artifacts. If we have time, we will visit the Rimpong Dzong (fortress) of Paro.

Day 2: Paro Taktsang excursion (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we drive 10km north to hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Den) monastery perched on a cliff 900m above the valley. It is a 2-hour ascent to the closest viewpoint, and 1-hour to descend to the valley. We stop for refreshments half way. In the 8th Century Guru Rimpoche went here on the back of a tigress in one of his eight forms (Guru Dorje Drolo), meditated in a cave for 3 months, and later converted the Paro valley to Buddhism.

Day 3: National Museum – Jele Dzong (B, L, D)

A short trekking day. The trail ascends gradually through forest of pine, spruce and silver fir trees to our camp below Jele Dzong. If weather permits, Paro valley can be seen with snow-capped mountains in the background. Altitude: 3,450m. Distance: 11 km. Time: 5 hours.

Day 4: Jele Dzong – Jangchulakha (B, L, D)

Today begins with a climb to Jele Dzong (if open we can visit the inside the temple) and through a forest of junipers. The trail takes us through temperate forests and rhododendron trees. Often yak herders are seen near our campsite, depending on the season. Altitude: 3750m. Distance: 10km.

Day 5: Jangchulakha – Jimi Langshto (B, L, D)

We follows ridge today often with beautiful views of the mountains and the valley. The trail passes Lake Jimilangtsho, and descends to our campsite at Lake Jynetsho where perhaps we can enjoy freshly caught trout for dinner. Altitude: 3890m. Distance: 11km. Time: 5 hours.

Day 6: Jimi Langtsho – Simkotra Tsho (B, L, D)

The trail climbs to a ridge at 4010m and another overlooking Jynetsho, and then we descend to the lake. We finally descend to some stone ruins at 4110m, and spend the night at our campsite overlooking Simkotra Tsho.

Day 7: Simkotra – Phajoding (B, L, D)

A long climb over several false summits and a rocky traverse to the top of Labana Pass at 4210m. The trail descends gently often with great views of Dochula and Mt. Jomolhari. Another long traverse before crossing Phumela Pass at 4080m. On clear days we can see stunning views of the highest mountain in Bhutan; Mt. Gangkhar Puensum and other Himalayan peaks. Below us the entire Thimphu valley. Descend downhill through juniper and rhododendron forests to our campsite at 3750m. Distance: 10km. Time: 3-4 hours.

Day 8: Phajoding – Thimphu (B, L, D)

The trek to Thimphu is downhill through a beautiful blue pine forest. At a leisurely pace we reach our hotel in Thimphu in about 2-hours. After time to change and shower and lunch you can stroll through the town, visit handicraft shops, and explore. Dinner & overnight at the hotel.

Day 9: Thimphu – Punakha (B, L, D)

The morning is free for sightseeing and shopping in Thimphu. Some of the highlights here include: Changangkha Lhakhang one of the oldest temples in Thimphu (situated on a knoll overlooking the valley), the Trashicho Dzong (the fortress of the glorious religion), the National Library (filled with historical Buddhist texts) and the Folk Heritage Museum. In the evening, we drive 2-hours to Punakha, where we spend the night.

Day 10: Punakha – Paro (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we can visit the Punakha Dzong, the most impressive in Bhutan. Then we drive north for 45-minutes to a new temple overlooking a beautiful valley. After a short walk, we drive to the Wangdue Dzong, and then back to Paro for our final night.

Day 11: Paro

Airport transfer in the morning after breakfast.

Contact Outdoor Travel or your travel agent for brochures and reservations

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