

# Bumthang Spiritual Journey: Temples & Ancient Monasteries

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Bhutan**



Duration  
**6 Nights 7 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 78,000 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Paro · 1N**

↖ **Thimphu · 1N**

↖ **Punakha · 1N**

↖ **Bumthang · 3N**

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/bhutan/bhutan-6-nights-7-days-package-1004>

## Overview

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Bumthang Spiritual Journey: Temples & Ancient Monasteries — A 6 nights / 7 days Bhutan tour package crafted for pilgrims and cultural travelers who want an immersive Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package experience. This Bhutan Pilgrimage package focuses on the sacred valleys and ancient monasteries of Bumthang while visiting the spiritual and historic highlights of Paro, Thimphu, and Punakha. Ideal for those searching for a 6 and 7 Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package that blends peaceful meditation sites, temple rituals, and guided visits by experienced local spiritual guides.

Highlights:

- Paro Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) — iconic cliffside monastery
- Jakar Dzong & Kurjey Lhakhang — heart of Bumthang's spiritual life
- Mebar Tsho (Burning Lake) — revered pilgrimage site
- Scenic drive over Dochula Pass and visit to Punakha Dzong
- Traditional Bhutanese temples, prayer rituals, and local monastery interactions

Note: Domestic flight schedules between Bumthang (Jakar) and Paro are subject to seasonal availability; drives can be arranged as an alternative.

### ✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation for 6 nights in 3/4 hotels (standard double/twin rooms)
- ✓ Daily breakfast, 4 lunches and 3 dinners as per itinerary (B) = Breakfast, (L) = Lunch, (D) = Dinner
- ✓ All internal transport by private vehicle with experienced driver
- ✓ English-speaking guide throughout the tour
- ✓ All monument entrance fees and local guide interactions
- ✓ Bhutan visa and permit processing included
- ✓ Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- ✓ Domestic flight between Bumthang (Jakar) and Paro (subject to availability)

### ✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Paro
- ✗ Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- ✗ Personal expenses, tips, laundry, and beverages
- ✗ High-season or festival surcharges (if applicable)
- ✗ Any meals not specified in the inclusions
- ✗ Extra nights, early check-in/late check-out charges
- ✗ Expenses due to flight cancellations, weather delays, or itinerary changes
- ✗ Important: Domestic flights in Bhutan are weather-dependent; if flights are canceled, overland transfers or revised schedules may be provided at additional cost.

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

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Day

1

### **Arrival at Paro — First Glimpse of Himalayan Bhutan**

Arrive at Paro International Airport and meet your English-speaking guide. Transfer to your hotel and rest. In the afternoon visit Kichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest temples in Bhutan, and Paro Dzong (Rinpung Dzong). Evening at leisure to acclimatize and explore the town markets.

Tip: Arrive early if possible to have time for a short visit; flights to Paro offer dramatic mountain approaches.

Day

2

### **Thimphu — Capital Sights & Spiritual Centers**

Drive to Thimphu (approx. 1.5–2 hours). Visit the giant Buddha Dordenma statue for panoramic valley views and stop at the Folk Heritage Museum. Explore Tashichho Dzong, the seat of Bhutan's government and monastic body. Optional evening visit to a local monastery for a short prayer or audience with a monk.

Tip: Dress modestly when visiting dzongs and monasteries; shoulders and knees should be covered.

Day

3

### **Dochula Pass & Punakha — Mountain Passes and Riverside Dzong**

Depart Thimphu early and pass the scenic Dochula Pass with its 108 chortens and Himalayan views. Continue to Punakha, the former capital, and visit Punakha Dzong, located between two rivers. If time permits, enjoy a short walk to the Chimi Lhakhang (Fertility Temple).

Note: Weather at Dochula can be clear in winter offering spectacular views; pack layers.

Day

4

### **Journey to Bumthang — Entering the Spiritual Heartland**

After an early breakfast drive to Bumthang (Jakar). The scenic route winds through mountain passes and traditional villages, offering glimpses of rural Bhutanese life. Arrive in Jakar and check into your hotel. Evening free for rest or a short walk in Jakar town.

Note: The drive is long (6–8 hours) with beautiful photo stops — stay hydrated and carry snacks.

Day

5

### **Bumthang — Monastery Circuit: Jakar, Kurjey & Tamshing**

Full day exploring Bumthang's sacred sites: visit Jakar Dzong (the 'Castle of the White Bird'), Kurjey Lhakhang (meditation site with Guru Rinpoche's imprints), and the ancient Tamshing Lhakhang with its rare murals. Engage with resident monks and participate in puja if available.

Tip: Respect photography rules inside lhakhangs; ask your guide before taking pictures.

Day

6

### **Burning Lake & Jambay Lhakhang — Pilgrimage Day**

Visit the sacred Mebar Tsho (Burning Lake) – a revered pilgrimage spot associated with Terton Pema Lingpa – followed by Jambay Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest temples. Afternoon visit to local artisans and optional stop at Mebar Tsho festivals or local rituals when available. Conclude with a blessing or short meditation session arranged by your guide.

Important: Access to Mebar Tsho includes a moderate walk on uneven paths; comfortable walking shoes recommended.

Day

7

### **Return to Paro / Departure — End of Spiritual Journey**

Transfer to Bumthang airport for a domestic flight to Paro (flight subject to schedule) or begin return drive for onward connection to Paro. Upon arrival in Paro, connect to your international flight home or extend your stay. Farewell from your guide and driver.

Note: Domestic flight timings can affect departure day logistics; we will confirm schedules in advance and provide alternatives if needed.

## **🔍 Frequently Asked Questions**

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## ❓ **What is the best time to visit Bhutan?**

The best time to visit Bhutan is during spring (March–May) and autumn (September–November). Spring offers blooming rhododendrons, wildflowers, and pleasant temperatures (12–24°C), making it perfect for trekking and photography. Autumn provides crystal-clear skies with stunning Himalayan views, major festivals like Thimphu and Paro Tshechus, and excellent weather for sightseeing. Winter (December–February) is ideal for those seeking snow-capped landscapes, fewer crowds, and cozy lodge stays, though temperatures can drop to -2°C in valleys. Monsoon season (June–August) brings lush greenery and better hotel rates but frequent rainfall. For first-time visitors, autumn is recommended for clear mountain views and cultural festivals.

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## ❓ **How can Indian travelers reach Bhutan?**

Indian travelers can reach Bhutan by road or air. By road (most popular): Enter at Phuentsholing border (adjacent to Jaigaon, West Bengal). From there, it's 5–6 hours to Thimphu or Paro. Take train to Hasimara (17km from border), New Alipurduar, or New Jalpaiguri, then taxi to the border. By air: Fly into Paro International Airport from Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati, or Bagdogra via Drukair or Bhutan Airlines (seasonal schedules). Other road entry points include Gelephu and Samdrup Jongkhar from Assam. The road journey offers scenic mountain views, while flying provides dramatic Himalayan aerial views during the approach to Paro's challenging runway.

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## ❓ **Do Indian citizens need a visa for Bhutan?**

Indian citizens don't need a visa but require permits and pay a Sustainable Development Fee (SDF). Required documents: valid passport or voter ID and recent passport photos. Minors need birth certificates. Entry permits cover Thimphu and Paro, while route permits are needed for other areas like Punakha, Phobjikha, or Bumthang. Permits can be arranged at entry points or through the official online system via licensed operators. The SDF is charged per person per night (rates vary - check latest official guidelines). Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Carry multiple photocopies of documents and permits for smooth checkpoint processing throughout your journey.

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## ❓ **What are the local transportation options in Bhutan?**

Local transportation in Bhutan includes taxis (readily available in major towns with point-to-point fares), city and intercity buses (budget-friendly with fixed schedules), and private cars with drivers (most comfortable for multi-stop itineraries). Shared taxis are common for intercity routes. Limited domestic flights operate seasonally to places like Bumthang, weather permitting. Self-drive is possible but less common due to challenging mountain roads requiring experience. For tourists, hiring a private vehicle with driver is recommended for flexibility and comfort, especially when traveling between valleys. Mountain roads are winding with stunning views but require buffer time for transfers.

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## ❓ **Where should I stay in Bhutan and what accommodation options are available?**

Bhutan offers accommodations across all budgets. Luxury options include Six Senses (eco-chic in multiple valleys), COMO Uma (boutique luxury in Paro/Punakha), Amankora lodges, and Taj Tashi Thimphu. Mid-range choices include Le Méridien properties, Naksel Boutique Hotel Paro, and Dewachen Hotel Phobjikha. Budget travelers can choose Hotel Norbuling Thimphu or local guesthouses. Stay in Paro for Tiger's Nest access, Thimphu for urban experiences, Punakha for riverside tranquility, and Phobjikha for nature immersion. Many properties offer traditional architecture, valley views, and cultural experiences. Book advance during peak seasons (spring/autumn) and festivals. Most hotels provide heating in winter and arrange cultural programs.

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## ❓ **What are the must-visit attractions in Bhutan?**

Must-visit attractions include Paro Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) – the iconic cliffside monastery requiring a scenic half-day hike. Punakha Dzong is a stunning fortress at river confluence, while Dochula Pass offers 108 chortens and Himalayan panoramas. Buddha Dordenma in Thimphu provides valley views, and Phobjikha Valley is perfect for black-necked crane spotting (winter) and tranquil walks. Don't miss Chimi Lhakhang fertility temple via village walks, Chele La Pass (highest motorable pass), and Tashichho Dzong in Thimphu. Bumthang valleys offer spiritual sites and traditional culture. The National Museum in Paro showcases Bhutanese heritage. Plan 7–10 days for a classic Paro-Thimphu-Punakha-Phobjikha circuit.

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## ❓ **What local food should I try in Bhutan?**

Bhutanese cuisine is known for its spiciness and cheese-based dishes. Must-try dishes include Ema Datshi (chilies with cheese – the national dish), Kewa Datshi (potatoes with cheese), and Shamu Datshi (mushrooms with cheese). Try Phaksha Paa (pork with chilies), Jasha Maru (spicy minced chicken), and regional specialties like Hoentay buckwheat dumplings from Haa and Puta buckwheat noodles from Bumthang. Enjoy red rice, suja (butter tea), and local ara (spirit). Bumthang is famous for cheese and honey. Note that Bhutanese food is quite spicy – chilies are considered vegetables, not just spices. Most restaurants also serve Indian, Chinese, and continental options for those preferring milder flavors.

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## ★ **Traveller Reviews**

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**Nisha Awasthi**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Discovering the Spirit of Bhutan

Exploring the monasteries and learning about Buddhism here was enlightening. This package offers a great spiritual experience.



**Vikas Bansal**

★★★★☆ 4/5

### Serene Himalayan Escape

The tranquility and beauty of Bhutan was such a peaceful escape from the hustle of daily life. It's truly a gem!



**Radha Shetty**

★★★★★ 5/5

### A Fantastic Discover of Bhutanese Culture

This was a fantastic tour that let us discover Bhutanese culture in depth. We participated in a local festival—unforgettable!



**Vinay Malhotra**

★★★★★ 5/5

### Bhutan: Truly the Land of the Thunder Dragon

I was captivated by Bhutan's rugged beauty and rich traditions. Each experience was enriched by our guide's storytelling. Loved it!



**Chaitanya Joshi**

★★★★☆ 4/5

### Well-Structured Travel Itinerary

The itinerary was perfect, balancing sightseeing and relaxation. With so much to explore, this package was excellent value.

## ⚡ Why Choose TourGrids?

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Because your dream vacation deserves the best! From expert advice to personalized trips, easy booking, and unbeatable deals — we make travel stress-free and fun!

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