

Seven Nights Royal Bhutan: Paro to Bumthang Cultural Immersion

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Bhutan



Duration
7 Nights 8 Days



Starting from
Rs. 1,20,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ Paro · 2N

↖ Thimphu · 2N

↖ Punakha · 1N

↖ Bumthang · 2N

Overview

Seven Nights Royal Bhutan: Paro to Bumthang Cultural Immersion

Experience an authentic Bhutan tour package that blends spiritual pilgrimage, rich cultural encounters, and pristine Himalayan landscapes. This **7 nights / 8 days** itinerary is tailored for travelers seeking both cultural depth and sacred sites – ideal as a **Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package** or **Bhutan Pilgrimage package**. From the iconic **Taktshang (Tiger's Nest)** in Paro to the sacred temples of **Bumthang**, this journey across Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Trongsa and Bumthang covers Bhutan's spiritual heart.

Highlights:

- **Taktsang (Tiger's Nest), Paro**
- **Kuenselphodrang (Buddha Dordenma), Thimphu**
- **Dochula Pass & 108 Chortens**
- **Punakha Dzong**
- **Trongsa Dzong and Tower**
- **Kurjey & Jambay Lhakhang, Bumthang**

This package is part of our curated 7 and 8 Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package offerings and is optimized for travelers seeking cultural immersion, spiritual visits and scenic drives.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ 7 nights accommodation in standard/heritage hotels (twin/double basis)
- ✓ Daily breakfast and 4 selected lunches/dinners as per itinerary
- ✓ All internal transfers and private transportation with experienced driver
- ✓ English-speaking Bhutanese guide throughout the trip
- ✓ Domestic flight: Bumthang to Paro (subject to schedule and weather)
- ✓ Entrance fees to monuments and scheduled activities
- ✓ Bhutan visa processing and government royalty/permits
- ✓ All applicable taxes and service charges
- ✓ This itinerary is designed for travelers searching for a comprehensive Bhutan tour

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International flights to/from Bhutan
- ✗ Travel insurance and emergency evacuation
- ✗ Visa fees for nationals requiring special arrangements (if applicable)
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in inclusions and personal expenses (drinks, telephone, laundry)
- ✗ Tips/gratuities for guide and driver
- ✗ Any optional activities, special festival entry fees, or last-minute itinerary changes due to weather
- ✗ Important: Single-room supplements apply for solo travelers. Flight schedules between Bumthang and Paro are weather-dependent and may affect the order of the itinerary.

package or a focused Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival at Paro — Introductory Orientation

Arrive at **Paro International Airport**. Meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. Spend your first afternoon exploring **Ta Dzong (National Museum)** and **Rinpung Dzong**. Enjoy a gentle walk through Paro town and a welcome briefing about the pilgrimage elements of your trip.

Tip: Domestic flight schedules in Bhutan can change due to mountain weather; morning flights are recommended.

Day

2

Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Hike & Kyichu Lhakhang

Hike to the iconic **Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest)** — a highlight of any Bhutan tour package. The hike takes 2.5–4 hours round trip depending on pace. After descending, visit the ancient **Kyichu Lhakhang**, one of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred temples.

Important: Wear sturdy shoes; the trail includes steep sections. Altitude is moderate but bring water and sun protection.

Day

3

Drive to Thimphu — Capital Highlights & Cultural Sites

Short scenic drive to **Thimphu**. Visit the giant **Buddha Dordenma (Kuenselphodrang)**, the **Memorial Chorten**, and **Tashichho Dzong** (administrative and monastic fortress). Explore local artisans at the **National Textile Museum** and nearby craft bazaars for traditional Bhutanese handicrafts.

Note: Thimphu is the political heart of Bhutan, where tradition and modernity co-exist.

Day

4

Thimphu to Punakha via Dochula Pass

Drive over the dramatic **Dochula Pass** with panoramic Himalayan views and the serene **108 Druk Wangyel Chortens**. Continue to the fertile valley of **Punakha**. Afternoon visit to the glorious **Punakha Dzong**, located between two rivers, and the nearby suspension bridge and riverside walk.

Tip: Air is crisp at Dochula — carry a warm layer; on clear days the views are spectacular.

Day

5

Punakha to Bumthang – Scenic Drive via Trongsa

A longer travel day through central Bhutan. En route stop at the historic **Chendebji Chorten** and cross high passes including Pele La. Visit **Trongsa Dzong** and the **Ta Dzong (Trongsa Tower Museum)** – crucial to Bhutan’s history – before descending to the spiritual heartland of **Bumthang**.

Day

6

Bumthang – Temples, Pilgrimage Sites & Local Culture

Full day exploring Bumthang’s sacred circuit. Visit **Kurjey Lhakhang** (meditation cave and relics), **Jambay Lhakhang**, **Tamshing Lhakhang**, and the local artisan villages. Immerse in local rituals and learn about the religious significance of this valley – a highlight for any Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package.

Day

7

Bumthang to Paro – Scenic Domestic Flight & Leisure

Morning domestic flight from **Bumthang to Paro** (weather permitting). Enjoy aerial views of the Himalayan ridges. Afternoon at leisure in Paro – optional visits to any missed sites, local market shopping, or an evening cultural performance showcasing traditional Bhutanese music and dance.

Note: Domestic flights are subject to weather; schedule flexibility is advised.

Day

8

Departure from Paro

Transfer to **Paro International Airport** for your onward flight. If your flight is later in the day, enjoy a relaxed morning stroll or last-minute shopping.

Thank you for choosing this Royal Bhutan cultural immersion. We recommend allowing extra travel time for international connections as Bhutan’s flight timings can change.

🔍 Frequently Asked Questions

❓ **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.

❓ **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.

❓ **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.

❓ **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.

❓ **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.

❓ **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.

❓ **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.

★ **Traveller Reviews**



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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