

Bhutan Quick Getaway: Paro & Thimphu Cultural Weekend

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Bhutan



Duration
3 Nights 4 Days



Starting from
Rs. 24,500 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Paro · 2N**

↖ **Thimphu · 1N**

Overview

a compact 3 nights / 4 days Bhutan tour package designed for first-time visitors and families who want a focused cultural weekend. This Bhutan Family tour package blends iconic landmarks, moderate hiking, and relaxed city sightseeing. Ideal as a short Bhutan Family package and perfectly suited for travelers looking for a 3 and 4 Bhutan Family tour package experience.

Highlights:

- Paro Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) – Himalayan cliffside monastery and signature Bhutan attraction
- Tashichho Dzong & Buddha Dordenma – capital-city spiritual and cultural landmarks in Thimphu
- Paro Ta Dzong (National Museum) and charming Paro town streets
- Authentic Bhutanese hospitality with licensed local guide and comfortable stays

Please note: Flights to Bhutan must be booked separately. This package includes local visa processing (subject to approval).

✓ What's Included

- ✓ 3 nights accommodation on twin/double sharing basis (2 nights in Paro, 1 night in Thimphu)
- ✓ Daily breakfast (other meals as specified in the itinerary)
- ✓ All transfers and inter-city transportation in a private, comfortable vehicle
- ✓ Licensed English-speaking Bhutanese guide throughout
- ✓ Entrance fees to monuments & museums listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Permits and local government fees (visa processing included; subject to approval)
- ✓ Bottled water during transfers and sightseeing
- ✓ All applicable local taxes and service charges
- ✓ This package is structured as a short Bhutan tour package and can be adapted for family groups as a Bhutan Family Retreat tour package.

✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Paro
- ✗ Meals not mentioned above (lunches & dinners unless specified)
- ✗ Travel insurance and personal medical expenses
- ✗ Tips/gratuities for guides and drivers
- ✗ Personal expenses (phone calls, laundry, additional activities not mentioned)
- ✗ Peak season or festival surcharges if applicable
- ✗ Important: Book international flights early – Paro has limited flight slots and weather can affect schedules.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Paro & Cultural Introduction

Arrival: Land at Paro International Airport — one of the world's most scenic airport approaches. Meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel. After a short rest, explore the valley at a gentle pace.

Activities:

- Visit Ta Dzong (National Museum) to learn about Bhutan's history and artifacts.
- Walk to Rinpung Dzong (Paro Dzong) — admire its fortress architecture and riverside setting.
- Stroll through Paro town for handicrafts and local snacks.

Tip: Keep your camera ready for mountain vistas on arrival. Acclimatize with short walks; elevations range around 2,200 m.

Day

2

Hike to Tiger's Nest (Paro Taktsang)

A full-day highlight. Early breakfast then drive to the trailhead for Paro Taktsang (Tiger's Nest). The moderate uphill hike (approx. 2–3 hours each way depending on pace) climbs through pine forest and prayer-flagged ridgelines to the iconic monastery clinging to the cliff.

Activities:

- Hike to Taktsang Monastery, enjoy panoramic views and visit the meditation caves.
- Enjoy a packed or local lunch at the cafeteria overlooking the monastery.
- Optional short visit to Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest temples, in the late afternoon.

Important: Wear comfortable hiking shoes, carry water, and be prepared for high-altitude exertion.

Day

3

Drive to Thimphu – Capital Sights

After breakfast check out and drive (approx. 1.5–2 hours) to Thimphu, Bhutan's peaceful capital. Thimphu blends modern administration with preserved tradition.

Activities:

- Visit Tashichho Dzong, the fortress-monastery that houses the king's offices and government departments.
- See the Buddha Dordenma giant statue overlooking the Thimphu valley.
- Explore the Textile Museum and Folk Heritage Museum to understand local crafts and life.
- Browse the Crafts Bazaar for souvenirs and traditional goods.

Tip: Thimphu's market is ideal for family-friendly souvenir shopping. Respect photography signage at religious sites.

Day

4

Morning in Thimphu & Transfer to Paro – Departure

Enjoy a relaxed morning in Thimphu with optional visits or last-minute shopping. After lunch transfer back to Paro (approx. 1.5–2 hours) for your onward flight.

Activities:

- Leisurely morning (visit any missed museums or the local market).
- Drive to Paro with scenic valley views; stop for photos en route.
- Arrival at Paro International Airport and departure.

Note: Confirm flight timings early. Drivers will plan transfers to ensure timely airport arrival.

🔍 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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