

# Gangtey Phobjikha Valley: Himalayan Crane & Nature Walks

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination  
**Bhutan**



Duration  
**4 Nights 5 Days**



Starting from  
**Rs. 40,000 / person**

## ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Thimphu · 1N**

↖ **Gangtey · 2N**

↖ **Paro · 1N**

## Overview

a carefully crafted Bhutan tour package for nature lovers, birdwatchers and light trekkers. This 4 nights / 5 days Bhutan Adventure tour package highlights the pristine Phobjikha (Gangtey) Valley, wintering grounds of the rare Black-necked Crane, combined with cultural visits in Thimphu and Paro. Perfect as a compact Bhutan Adventure package or a 4 and 5 Bhutan Adventure tour package option for travelers seeking wildlife, easy nature walks and authentic village experiences.

### Highlights:

- Black-necked Crane watching at the Phobjikha Valley reserve
- Gangtey (Gangtey Gumpa) – a living Buddhist monastery
- Scenic drives via Dochula Pass and Pele La Pass
- Guided nature walks on valley trails and crane observation points
- Cultural stops: Tashichho Dzong, Buddha Dordenma, Paro Dzong, and Kyichu Lhakhang
- Local village and farm visit with homestay/tea experience

Note: Best time for crane sightings in Phobjikha is October–February; however, the valley is beautiful year-round. Domestic flight schedules and road conditions can affect exact timings.

### ✓ What's Included

- ✓ Accommodation on twin/double sharing basis for 4 nights (standard or boutique lodges as specified)
- ✓ All land transportation in a private, comfortable vehicle with driver
- ✓ Experienced English-speaking Bhutanese guide
- ✓ Daily breakfast, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners (as per itinerary)
- ✓ Entry fees to monuments and Black-necked Crane reserve (where applicable)
- ✓ Cultural experiences and guided nature walks listed in the itinerary
- ✓ All permits, fees and government taxes required for travel in Bhutan
- ✓ Emergency assistance and local support

### ✗ Not Included

- ✗ International flights to/from Paro
- ✗ Bhutan visa fees (processed by tour operator; government tariff & Sustainable Development Fee if applicable)
- ✗ Travel insurance and personal expenses
- ✗ Meals not listed in inclusions and drinks
- ✗ Tips/gratuities for guides and drivers (recommended)
- ✗ Any optional activities or services not specified in the itinerary
- ✗ Single room supplement (if you prefer private room)

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

---

Day

1

### **Arrival in Paro — Transfer to Thimphu & Thimphu evening highlights**

Arrive at Paro International Airport. Meet your guide and drive to Thimphu (approx. 1–1.5 hours). After hotel check-in, enjoy a relaxed afternoon of sightseeing: visit the Memorial Chorten, stroll through the craft bazaars, and view the massive Buddha Dordenma statue from the southern viewpoint. Evening at leisure; optional short walk to explore local cafés and handicraft shops.

Tip: Keep your camera ready on arrival — Paro valley views from the highway are picturesque.

Day

2

### **Thimphu sightseeing and drive to Gangtey via Dochula Pass**

Morning guided sightseeing in Thimphu: visit Tashichho Dzong (administrative and monastic complex) and the Folk Heritage Museum or National Textile Museum (time-permitting). After lunch, depart for Gangtey (Phobjikha Valley). Travel time ~4–5 hours via the scenic Dochula Pass (3,100 m) where you can see the 108 chortens and expansive Himalayan panoramas, and Pele La Pass. Arrive at Gangtey in late afternoon.

Short orientation walk in the valley and an introduction to the Gangtey Gompa (monastery) and surrounding wetlands.

Important: Weather at Dochula and Pele La can be cool; layer up.

Day

3

### **Black-necked Crane reserve visit & guided nature walks in Phobjikha**

Early morning guided visit to the Black-necked Crane observation area (seasonal — best Oct–Feb) to watch cranes feeding and moving across the marshlands. Return to the lodge for breakfast.

Spend the day on guided nature walks across the valley: walk the Gangtey Nature Trail, visit the local village and farms, and learn about traditional Bhutanese agriculture and livelihoods. Afternoon visit to Gangtey Monastery to observe monastic rituals and panoramic valley views.

Note: Crane-watching is weather-dependent. Binoculars and quiet observation are recommended.

Day

4

### **Extended walks, cultural exchange & optional farm/homestay visit**

After breakfast, choose from activities: a longer guided hike on the surrounding foothills for valley panoramas, a bird-watching walk with a local naturalist, or a cultural exchange at a nearby farm/homestay to experience Bhutanese tea and local cuisine preparation.

Late afternoon photography walk at the wetlands to capture golden-hour light on the valley. Enjoy an evening cultural talk about the ecology of Phobjikha and community conservation efforts.

Tip: Carry reusable water, sturdy walking shoes, and sun protection – mountain weather can change quickly.

Day

5

### **Drive back to Paro – Paro sightseeing and departure**

After a leisurely breakfast, depart Gangtey and drive back to Paro (approx. 4–5 hours). En route enjoy views of the countryside and stops for photographs. On arrival in Paro, time-permitting, visit Kyichu Lhakhang and Paro Dzong or the National Museum (Ta Dzong).

Transfer to Paro International Airport for your onward flight. If your flight is later in the evening, enjoy last-minute shopping in Paro town.

Important: Allow sufficient buffer for road travel to reach the airport on time; road travel times vary by season.

## **🔗 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?**

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!

### **⚡ Expert-Guided Planning**

Personalized guidance from verified travel experts who understand your needs.

### **⚙️ Customizable Packages**

Tailor your trip your way — destinations, experiences, budget. All up to you!

### **🛡️ Hassle-Free Booking**

Smooth, secure, and simple booking process without any stress or confusion.

### **🏷️ Best Price Guarantee**

Multiple free quotes and booking at the most competitive rates available.

For the latest pricing, availability, and customization options, visit:

<https://tourgrids.com/packages/bhutan/bhutan-4-nights-5-days-package-997>