

Classic Bhutan Circuit: Paro, Thimphu & Punakha

Prepared by TourGrids



Destination
Bhutan



Duration
5 Nights 6 Days



Starting from
Rs. 55,000 / person

ITINERARY ROUTE

↖ **Paro · 2N**

↖ **Thimphu · 2N**

↖ **Punakha · 1N**

Overview

Discover the best of the Himalayas with this 5 nights / 6 days Bhutan tour package designed for first-time visitors and pilgrimage seekers. This Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package combines cultural highlights, serene valleys, and iconic monasteries – perfect as a Bhutan Pilgrimage package or a compact spiritual escape. Ideal for travelers searching for a 5 and 6 Bhutan Pilgrimage tour package, the itinerary balances gentle hikes, cultural visits, and scenic drives.

Highlights:

- Paro – Arrival, Paro Rinpung Dzong, National Museum
- Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) – Iconic monastery and pilgrimage site
- Thimphu – Buddha Dordenma, Tashichho Dzong, Memorial Chorten
- Dochula Pass & Punakha – 108 chortens, Punakha Dzong, suspension bridge
- Cultural experiences – Traditional crafts, local markets, guided monastery visits

This package is crafted to offer spiritual highlights and cultural immersion with comfortable travel and expert local guides. Altitude is moderate – consult our travel tips if you have health concerns.

✓ **What's Included**

- ✓ Accommodation on twin-sharing basis for 5 nights (standard / deluxe options available)
- ✓ Daily breakfast at hotels
- ✓ All transfers and sightseeing by private vehicle with an experienced driver
- ✓ English-speaking Bhutanese guide throughout the tour
- ✓ Entrance fees to monuments and temples as per the itinerary
- ✓ All Bhutan government-required permits and local taxes (subject to current regulations)
- ✓ Welcome assistance at Paro International Airport
- ✓ Note: Accommodation category and group size affect final price.

✗ **Not Included**

- ✗ International airfare to/from Paro
- ✗ Travel insurance and personal expenses
- ✗ Meals not mentioned in inclusions (lunches and dinners unless specified)
- ✗ Bhutan visa processing fee (if applicable) and any additional government levies not listed above
- ✗ Tips, portage, and gratuities
- ✗ Optional activities and personal purchases
- ✗ We recommend purchasing travel insurance that covers high-altitude emergency evacuation.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day

1

Arrival in Paro — Introduction to Bhutan

Arrive at Paro International Airport. Meet your guide and transfer to the hotel. After freshening up, enjoy a gentle orientation walk through Paro town and visit the National Museum (Ta Dzong) and Rinpung Dzong. Learn about Bhutanese history and local customs. Evening at leisure to relax and acclimatize.

Tip: Flights into Paro are scenic; keep your camera ready.

Day

2

Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Hike — Spiritual Highlight

Early breakfast and start the famous hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Nest Monastery) — Bhutan's most iconic pilgrimage site perched on a cliff. The round-trip hike takes around 4-5 hours at a moderate pace. Visit the monastery, soak in panoramic views of the Paro valley, and return to Paro for a relaxed afternoon visiting Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest temples in Bhutan.

Important: The hike involves steep paths; wear sturdy shoes and carry water.

Day

3

Drive to Thimphu — Capital City Sights

After breakfast, drive to Thimphu (approx. 1.5-2 hours). En route, enjoy views of the valley and stop at Simtokha Dzong if open. In Thimphu, visit Memorial Chorten, the bustling Clock Tower Square, local craft bazaars, and the Folk Heritage & Textile Museums. Evening free to explore Thimphu's cafes and markets.

Note: Thimphu is a blend of tradition and developing urban life — dress respectfully when visiting religious sites.

Day

4

Thimphu Cultural Immersion

Spend a full day exploring Thimphu's cultural landmarks. Visit the giant Buddha Dordenma statue for panoramic valley views, Tashichho Dzong, and the School of Arts & Crafts (Zorig Chusum) to see traditional artisans at work. Optional visit to Cheri Monastery or a short hike nearby.

Tip: Carry small change for local crafts and offerings at monasteries.

Day

5

Dochula Pass & Punakha — Valley of Fertility

Drive from Thimphu to Punakha via the scenic Dochula Pass (3,100 m) with its 108 chortens and expansive Himalayan views (weather permitting). Continue to Punakha and visit the magnificent Punakha Dzong located at the confluence of the Pho and Mo Rivers and the suspension bridge. Evening at leisure in Punakha.

Note: Weather at Dochula can be changeable; layers recommended.

Day

6

Punakha to Paro — Departure

Morning visit to Chimi Lhakhang (Fertility Temple) or an optional short hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten (time permitting). After sightseeing, drive back to Paro for your international departure. Arrive at Paro International Airport in time for your flight.

Important: Confirm international flight details the night before; Bhutan domestic driving times vary with mountain roads.

🔗 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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