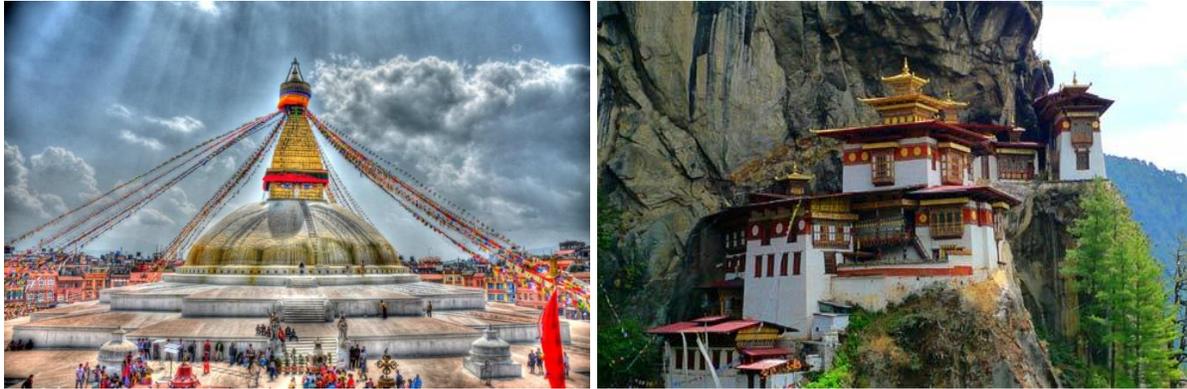


## NEPAL BHUTAN COMBO TOUR (7 NIGHTS/8 DAYS)



The Combination of Nepal tour and Bhutan tour will indeed be one of one of the memorable experience of your lifetime. This trip to Nepal and Bhutan starts from Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, where you will visit the largest stupa complex, holiest temple, and the beautiful Durbar Squares and experience a unique culture.

You will then fly to Bhutan. The country of Thunder Dragons which has largely remained untouched from the rest of the world in its pristine state, unspoiled by outside influences. Bhutan is a country of many surprises where chilies are served as the main dish and giant protective penis painted at the entrance of many houses. Visit various Dzongs and monasteries in Paro & capital Thimphu. Visit various tourist attractions in the capital of Thimphu enjoy the fresh air during your ride to Punakha, visit the largest Punakha Dzong and the famous Taktsang Monastery "Tiger's Nest".

You will then fly back to Kathmandu and complete this tour. We have many surprises when you are back to Kathmandu. Don't miss some of the optional activities in Kathmandu that we have for you.

## DAY 01: ARRIVAL – KATHMANDU (-/-/-)

Arrive in Kathmandu. Meeting and assistance at the airport and transfer to the hotel

### Afternoon, sightseeing tour of **Kathmandu Durbar Square and Swoyambhunath Stupa**

It is a place where the city's Kings were crowned. Having been built and rebuilt over the generations, it is now the valley's number one tourist attractions. Most of the temples you see here are a mere three or four centuries old. The entire square was designated as a World Heritage Monument in 1979. The Durbar Square is teeming with shrines and statues. Walk around Kumari Chowk which is a home of "living goddesses", she comes to the balcony at the scheduled time to welcome the guests.



### Continue on to **Swoyambhunath Stupa**

On the top of the hill west of Kathmandu value is one of the popular and instantly recognizable symbols of Nepal. It is also referred to as "Monkey Temple" by many tourists because of the large tribes of monkeys that guards the hill. Legends say after the Bodhisattva Manjushri drained the water from the lake revealing the Kathmandu valley, the lotus on the island of the lake was transformed into the hillock, and the blazing light from the lotus became the statue.



### **Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu**

## DAY 02: KATHMANDU (BREAKFAST/-/-)

Early morning, transfer to the airport for a scenic **Everest Experience flight (50 min)**

This flight provides brief but stunning views of an encyclopedic assortment of peaks. After taking off from Kathmandu airport the flight curves and flies over Dhulikhel towards Jiri offering panoramic views of peaks like Langtang (7246m), Mt. Shishapangma (8027m), Mt. Dorje Lakpa (6975m) and Mt. Lapchi Kang(7367m). Now the flight banks towards north to provide close-up view of four 8000's giants Mt. Makalu(8479m), Mt. Lhotse (8501m), Mt. Everest (8848m) and Mt. Cho Oyu (8153m). It passes over Namche Bazaar and glides back over Solu passing by Mt. Numbur (6956m) and the bulk of Gauri Shankar (7145m).



After breakfast, sightseeing tour of **Pashupatinath temple**

Pashupatinath is one of the sacred Shiva temples on the Indian sub-continent. It draws devotees from all over India, including many colorful Sadhus (wandering Holy men). It is the largest temple complex in Nepal. Visiting Pashupatinath begins and ends a traditional pilgrimage circuit. Lord Pashupatinath's supreme holiness stems from hollowed linga enshrined in the main temple and its location on the bank of sacred Bagmati River. Bagmati sanctity makes Pashupatinath Nepal's most sacred cremation site. After the bodies are burnt the ashes are thrown into the river, where they are carried down to meet Ganges.



Continue on to **Boudhanath Stupa**

On the eastern side of Kathmandu is a huge stupa of Boudhanath. This is the largest stupa in Nepal and one of the largest in the world. It is the sacred place for Buddhist pilgrims. Once you enter the stupa complex it resembles Bharkor street of Tibet with a considerable population of Tibetans, number of thriving monasteries and many small shops selling



Tibetan artifacts. Boudhanath is one of the few places in the world where Tibetan culture is accessible, vibrant and unbound.

## Afternoon sightseeing tour of **Bhaktapur Durbar Square**

Bhaktapur also known as 'Bhadgaon' is the third largest town in the valley. The stone embedded street links a string of temples, monastery, courtyards and monumental squares. You will quickly notice how vibrant the town's cultural life is with strong communities of potters, woodcarvers and weavers. Bhaktapur Durbar Square is much larger and much less crowded then compared to other two durbar squares. Just upon entering the square you will notice the substitute signs of four great Indian pilgrimage sites. Most recognizable is the finely carved Bansi Narayan Mandir of Bishnu.



## Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu

### DAY 03 : KATHMANDU - PARO - THIMPU (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

Transfer to the airport and fly to Paro. Arrive in Paro. Meeting and assistance at the airport, drive to Thimphu.

## Afternoon, sightseeing tour of **National Memorial Chorten**

This large Tibetan-style chorten is one of the most visible religious structures in Thimphu, and for many Bhutanese it is the focus of their daily worship. It was built in 1974 as a memorial to the third king, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (1928-72). Early morning is especially tranquil as elderly people shuffle in, and spruced-up kids on their way to school whiz in and out to pay homage.



Evening visit to the Tashichho Dzong, seat of the national government and the Central Monastic Body, including the summer residence of the Je Khenpo (Chief Abbot of Bhutan). It was first constructed in 1216 A.D. by Lama Gyalwa Lhanangpa where Dechen Phodrang now stands above Thimphu.



In 1641 Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal acquired it but finding it too small, he built another one, known as the lower Dzong. The original dzong was destroyed by fire in 1771 and everything was moved to the lower dzong. The new building was later expanded several times over the years. It was damaged during an earthquake in 1897 and rebuilt in 1902. King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck had it completely renovated and enlarged over five years after he moved the capital to Thimpu in 1952 in traditional style using neither nails nor written plans.

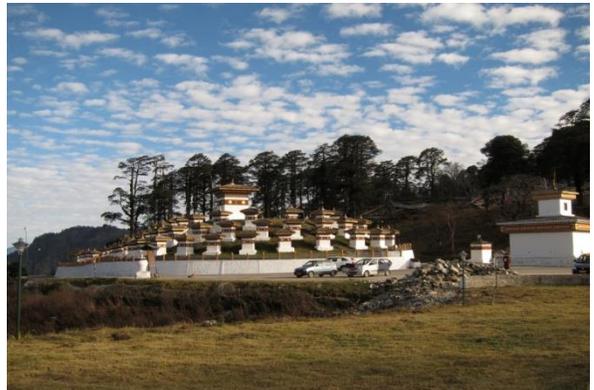
Evening relax and Walk around town.

## **Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Thimpu**

### **DAY 04: THIMPU – PUNAKHA - THIMPU (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)**

#### **Transfer to Punakha via Dochula - Pass**

Dochula pass is located on the way to Punakha from Thimphu. The pass is a popular location among tourists as it offers a stunning 360 degree panoramic view of Himalayan mountain range.



The view is especially scenic on clear, winter days with snowcapped mountains forming a majestic backdrop to the tranquility of the 108 chortens gracing the mountain pass.

#### **Upon arrival in Punakha visit Punakha Dzong**

Punakha Dzong is arguably the most beautiful dzong in the country, especially in spring when the lilac-coloured jacaranda trees bring a lush sensuality to the dzong's characteristically towering whitewashed walls. This dzong was the second to be built in Bhutan and it served as the capital and seat of government until the mid-



1950s. All of Bhutan's kings have been crowned here. The dzong is still the winter residence of the dratshang (official monk body).

Evening drive to Thimphu

## Donner and overnight at the hotel in Thimphu

### DAY 05: THIMPU – PARO (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

After breakfast, visit **Buddha Point** in Thimphu

The huge 51m-tall steel statue of Buddha Dordenma commands the entry to the Thimphu valley. The massive three-storey base houses a large chapel, while the body itself is filled with 125,000 smaller statues of Buddha. The Buddha looks best in morning light, or at night when it is illuminated.



The statue was made in China (of course), cut into pieces and then shipped and trucked in from Phuentsholing – we would love to have seen the faces of the local farmers as the super-sized features of the Buddha drove by!

Visit **Takin Zoo** in Thimphu

The Takin Preserve, located in the Motithang district of Thimphu, is a wildlife reserve area for the Takin, the national animal of Bhutan. Native to Bhutan, India, and China, the Takin are docile creatures whose unique appearance attract special attention. Local legends attribute the creation of these animals in Bhutan by a 15th century saint name Drukpa Kunley, popularly known as the Divine Madman.

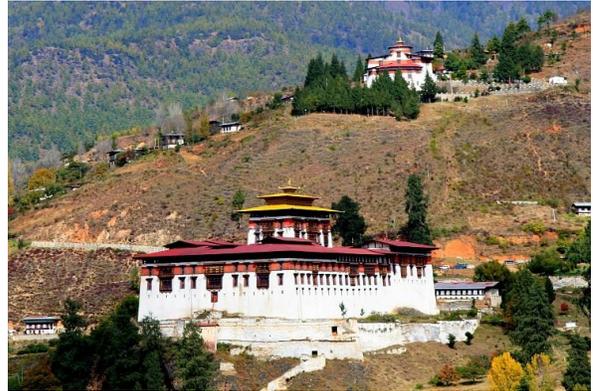


While originally a mini-zoo, the area was converted into a 8.4 acre preserve when it was discovered that the animals refrained from inhabiting the surrounding forest area, even when set free. A popular stop with tourists and locals alike, the preserve also houses a few native deers of Bhutan, including the barking deer and sambar.

Later, drive to **Paro**

In Paro visit **Paro Dzong**

Paro Dzong ranks as a high point of Bhutanese architecture. The massive buttressed walls that tower over the town are visible throughout the valley. It was formerly the meeting hall for the National Assembly and now, like most dzongs, houses both the monastic body and district government offices, including the local courts. Most of the chapels are closed to tourists but it's worth a visit for its stunning architecture and views.



Later, visit the museum. **Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Paro**

## DAY 06: PARO (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

After breakfast, visit **Taktsang Monastery**

Taktsang Palphug Monastery more famous as Paro Taktsang is a Buddhist temple complex which clings to a cliff, 3120 meters above the sea level on the side of the upper Paro valley, Bhutan.

Mountainous Paro valley is the heart of Bhutan; here the only international airport of the country is located.

The Taktsang Palphug Monastery is one of the most famous touristic destinations of the country and the cultural icon of Bhutan.



Evening, visit **Kyichu Lhakhang**

A short drive from Paro is Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest and most beautiful temples. The temple is popularly believed to have been built in 659 by King Songtsen Gampo of Tibet, to pin down the left foot of a giant ogress who was thwarting the establishment of Buddhism into Tibet. Additional buildings and a golden roof were constructed in 1839 by the penlop (governor) of Paro and the 25th Je Khenpo. Elderly pilgrims constantly walk around the temple spinning its many prayer wheels.



**Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Paro**

## DAY 07 : PARO – KATHMANDU (BREAKFAST/-/FAREWELL DINNER)

Free till departure. Fly back to Kathmandu

Upon arrival in Kathmandu transfer to the hotel

Evening, transfer to an authentic Nepali restaurant for farewell dinner with cultural shows

This is one of the wonderful experiences to taste typical Nepali food which we call “Dal Baht” with lentils. You will be surprised with the variety of

After the show, transfer to the hotel

Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu



## DAY 08 : KATHMANDU - DEPARTURE (BREAKFAST/-/-)

Free till departure. Transfer to the airport in time to connect your onward flight

<<END OF PROGRAM>>