

## BHUTAN - HAPPINESS IS A PLACE

### **ITINERARY: 5 NIGHTS/6 DAYS**

#### **DAY 1: ARRIVE AT PARO - THIMPHU(55KM/1 HOUR)**

On arrival at Paro International Airport, you will be warmly received by a friendly, traditionally dressed representative with a traditional white welcome scarf (**called Khadhar**) with eight auspicious symbols printed on it. Drive to Thimphu which is about 1 hour drive from airport with sightseeing en route. Check in to your hotel and relax with a cup of welcome tea.

- *Tachogang Ironchain bridge on the way to Thimphu.*
- *Drive to Kuenselphodrang where world's tallest Buddha (Dhordenma) Statue (169 feet) sits overlooking the Thimphu Valley. Enjoy the spectacular view of Thimphu city.*
- *National Library*
- *Institute of 13 Traditional Arts and Crafts.*
- *Evening visit Tashichho Dzong the impressive fortress which houses the secretariat building, the throne room of His Majesty the King and various government offices. It is also the summer residence of the Chief Abbot and central monk body. Witness the Flag lowering ceremony before you enter the Dzong.*
- *Overnight at your hotel in Thimphu. (L,D)*

#### **DAY 2: THIMPHU**

- *After breakfast drive along the Thimphu River for 25km to the base of Tango monastery, the seat of higher learning for the Buddhist Monks. Be prepared for a steep climb from the open car park and 20-minute hike through the blue pine and oak forest to reach the monastery. The Tango Monastery was founded in the 12th century by Lama Gyalwa Lhananpa. Phajo Drukgom Shipo also meditated and saw the vision of God Tandin (God with Horse Head), hence the name "Tango" which means horse head.*
- *Royal textile Academy*
- *Evening visit handmade paper factory.*
- *Weekend market where local farmers sell their produce.*
- *Witness an archery game if one is going on at Changlingmethang ground.*
- *General Post Office where you can make a postage stamp with your own picture which can be posted within Bhutan.*
- *Evening free for shopping.*
- *Overnight at your hotel in Thimphu. (B,L,D)*

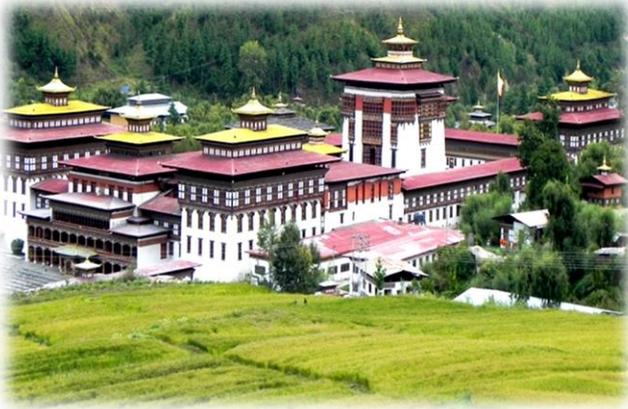
#### **For more information and booking enquiry:**

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### **DAY 3: THIMPHU-PUNAKHA (70 KM/2 HOURS)**

- *After early breakfast, drive up to Dochu-la pass (3,088m/10,130ft) stopping briefly here to take in the view and admire the 108 chortens, mani wall, and prayer flags which decorate the highest point on the road. If skies are clear, the high Himalayan peaks towards the north east will be revealed in all their glory.*
- *Hike (about 30 minutes) to Chemi Lhakhang through a nice walk along the rice field and through farm houses. The temple was built by Lama Nawang Chogyel in 1499 and is today a popular temple where barren women come to pray for a child. The temple is popularly known as the Fertility Temple.*
- *Drive to Punakha Dzong, a massive structure built at the junction of two rivers. Punakha was Bhutan's capital until 1955, and Punakha Dzong still serves as the winter residence of the central monk body. Bhutan's first king, Ugyen Wangchuck, was crowned here in 1907. The fortress has withstood damage from fire, earthquake and flood over the centuries. The latest flood, in October, 1994, caused great damage to the fortress but miraculously spared its most holy statue.*
- ***You can also do river rafting (optional at additional charges).***
- *Drive further to take a small hike (about 2 hours) to Nyzergang to visit the Khamsum Yuelly Namgyal Temple. Sangnachoeling Nunnery for a beautiful view of both Punakha and Wangdue Phodrang .*
- *Overnight at your Hotel in Punakha. (B,L,D)*

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### DAY 4: PUNAKHA-PARO (140KM/4 HOURS)

- *After early breakfast in the hotel drive to Paro.*
- *Visit Duntse Lhakhang.*
- *Evening visit Paro Ta Dzong, which in the past served as watchtower for Paro Dzong and now houses the National Museum.*
- *Paro Dzong (Rinpung Dzong), built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal.*
- *Overnight at your Hotel in Paro. (B,L,D)*



### DAY 5: PARO-Taktshang Hike (4-6 HOURS)

- *Hike to Taktshang Monastery, one of the holiest and the most beautiful sites of Bhutan. Taktshang, the tiger's lair, acquires its name from the legend of its foundation, when in the 8th Century Guru Rimpoche, widely revered as the second Buddha, arrived from Tibet flying across the mountains on the back of a tigress.*
- *On the way back drive up the valley to view the ruins of the Drugyel Dzong, which once defended this valley from several invading Tibetan armies during the 17th century.*
- *Visit Kyichu Lhakhang (Temple) a 7<sup>th</sup> century Temple and one of the oldest in the country.*
- *Evening free or can visit the Paro town with a street of typical Bhutanese traditional buildings.*
- *Overnight at your Hotel in Paro. (B,L,D)*

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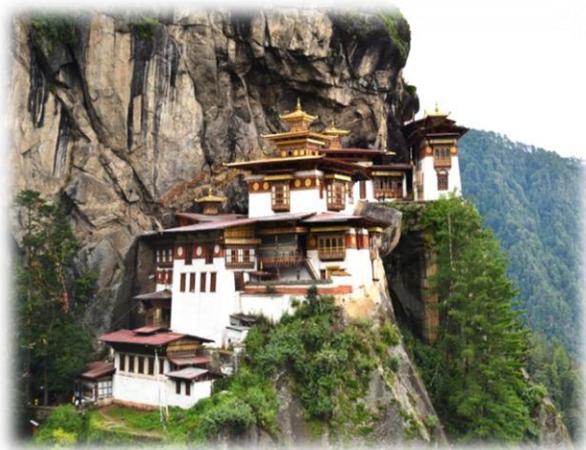
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### **DAY 6: DEPART PARO**

- *Your travel to Bhutan ends. After breakfast our team will drop you to the airport and bid farewell.*



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