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TOUR 'A Taste Of Bhutan'

Pure Land of Indestructible Buddha Raffle - Prize

Day 1	Flight from Bangkok to Paro (3 hrs approx) A Taste of Bhutan 7 days/6 nights Thimphu Valley - 2 nights
Day 3	Punakha Valley - 2 nights
Day 5	Paro Valley - 2 nights
Day 7	Flight from Paro to Bangkok (4 hrs, 30 m approx)



Pure Land of Indestructible Buddha Raffle

The Prize:

The prize is a holiday for two in Bhutan as described in the “Taste of Bhutan 7 day / 6 night all-inclusive land package” offered by the travel agent Bhutan & Beyond - PLUS Economy class air travel from Bangkok to Paro (Bhutan) and return to Bangkok as arranged by Bhutan & Beyond.

Important Notes:

- This raffle prize can be availed any day & any month subject to air seat availability.
- This package price offer is valid for travel in 2020, a surcharge may apply for travel in 2021.
- The tour itinerary is just a guide and we can further tailor to suit travellers personal interests.
- Bhutan & Beyond will be happy to assist with the winners ex-Australia flight bookings.

Additional Costs: (at own expense)

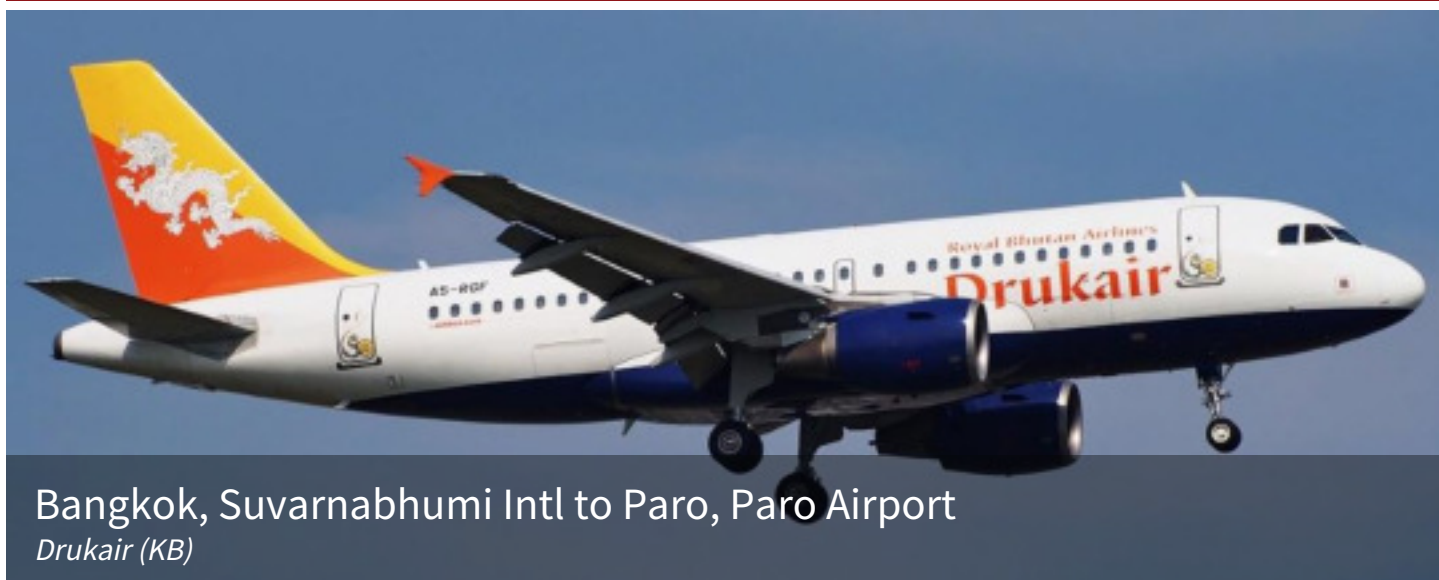
- Ex-Australia flights to/from Bangkok.
- An overnight stop outbound (enroute to Bhutan) is required in Bangkok and may also be required on return journey depending on dates of travel & airline you choose to fly.
- Travel Insurance is mandatory to be granted a visa to Bhutan and we can assist with this if required. Please ensure travel insurance covers for hiking to 4000 metres.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, drinks, snacks between meals, (designer coffees), phone calls, medications, shopping, tips etc.

Itinerary Options at a Surcharge:

- Upgrade to a higher grade of hotel in Bhutan 4* or 5*.
- Extend duration in Bhutan.
- Travel business class.

Please note - This prize is not redeemable for cash.

Day 1:



Bangkok, Suvarnabhumi Intl to Paro, Paro Airport *Drukair (KB)*

KB Carrier / Flight	Depart BKK •	Arrive PBH •	3 hrs approx Duration
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Notes

- Please check-in no later than 3 hrs before departure
- Seating allocated at check-in
- Please request left side window seats for best views
- Checked baggage allowance is 30 KG in economy
- Choice of veg & non-veg meals will be offered



A Taste of Bhutan 7 days/6 nights

7 days / 6 nights

Duration

We love Bhutan...it really is the most wonderful, rewarding destination! We are very fortunate to travel to Bhutan annually to ensure our itineraries and inclusions are the very best possible for our valued clients. Below is an itinerary designed for private travellers and can be tailored to suit your exact requirements.

'A Taste of Bhutan' 7d/6n Private Tour

Your Bhutan Tour Inclusions:

- Drukair or Bhutan airlines Bangkok/Paro/Bangkok.
- Personal English speaking guide & driver with private vehicle.
- All touring & transfers throughout your journey.
- Accommodation for 6 nights in Bhutanese style 3* hotels with private bathrooms.
- All meals and bottled water daily.
- All sightseeing, hiking & entrance fees.
- Visa fees, Bhutan government tourism fees and taxes.
- Bank transfers and communications charges.
- Professionally operated by Bhutan Tourism Corporation Ltd. (BTCL).
- Zero Flight Risk - free cover for supplier default.
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION

Tour Exclusions:

- Ex-Australian Airfares to/from Bangkok
- An overnight stop outbound (enroute to Bhutan) is required in Bangkok and may also be required on return journey depending on dates of travel & airline you choose to fly.
- Items of a personal nature such as medications, phone calls, laundry, drinks, snacks between meals, designer coffees are at own expense.
- Tips for guide and driver at the end of your tour. (tipping guide will be provided)
- Comprehensive travel insurance which is mandatory to enter Bhutan.

Optional Adventure Activities: (costs additional & to be paid direct)

Subject to weather conditions you can undertake the following activities whilst in Bhutan & your guide will assist with arrangements. Please ensure your travel insurance covers you for biking & white-water rafting activities!

- Mountain bike riding/bicycle hire. (Paro & Thimphu valleys from US\$25.00 pp pd)
- White water rafting - Punakha Valley only. (from US\$250.00 for 1-5 persons)
- Archery in Paro valley. (from US\$7.00 per person)

IMPORTANT ADVICE FOR TRAVELLERS TO BHUTAN

AIRLINE CHECK-IN FOR BHUTAN:

Please ensure you check-in for all Drukair/Bhutan Airlines international flights no later than 2.5 hours prior to departure. For flights from Bangkok & Singapore to Paro you must be at the Gate Lounge no later than 40 mins prior flight departure.

BAGGAGE ON DRUKAIR & BHUTAN AIRLINES:

Checked baggage allowances are 30 kgs per person in economy & 40 kgs per person in business class although can be less on shorter regional flights. Please be aware baggage on Drukair/Bhutan Airlines can NOT always be interlined from/to other airlines. Please enquire for more details.

VISAS:

You must carry your Bhutan visa authority letter with you. Drukair/Bhutan Airlines will require it at check-in and then again it must be presented to Immigration on arrival at Paro Airport.

TRAVEL INSURANCE & HEALTH:

Travel insurance is mandatory to enter Bhutan and we require a copy of your policy before a visa can be issued. For your protection we urge you to ensure your travel insurance is in place at the time of paying your Bhutan travel deposit. For professional travel health advice please contact Travel Medical Alliance on 1300 421142 (Australia), or your local Medical centre or GP, at least 8 weeks before travel. Please note there is a rabies risk in India, Nepal and Bhutan.

BHUTANESE ACCOMMODATION:

Unless you have opted for upgraded properties your hotel will be a comfortable 3-star standard. Rooms have mainly twin bed (we can request doubles) and have private bathroom facilities with western style toilets. Farm house/Home stays and some heritage lodges have share bathrooms with limited facilities.

FLIGHT RECONFIRMATION:

Drukair/Bhutan Airlines only require reconfirmation of your return flight from Bhutan and 3 days in advance. Your guide will attend to this. Occasionally they are forced to totally cancel a service for operational reasons, in such an instance any additional costs must be borne by the traveller and claimed via their travel insurance.

YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge your journey to/from and through this region of South Asia comes with the usual risks of travel and, in some cases, additional risks that are associated with adventure activities and the specific nature of your chosen journey. You accept these risks and the possibility personal injury, death, property damage or loss may result from your decision to participate in such a journey. You agree that should you be affected by any sickness, serious injury or other unforeseen circumstance that Bhutan & Beyond, and/or any of our overseas partner operators, can arrange any urgent medical treatment or emergency evacuation as deemed necessary for your safety and that all such costs will be borne by you and/or your travel insurer. You also agree that upon completion of our tour booking form and payment of your deposit that you release all claims of liability against Bhutan & Beyond (and all staff) and any and all of our partner operators overseas, including all their staff, for any personal injury, death, property damage, loss or inconvenience sustained by you as a result of this tour, be it a private journey or as part of a small group tour.

CANCELLATION CHARGES & TRAVEL INSURANCE:

The Drukair/Bhutan Airlines air flight component of your tour package will be totally non-refundable once tickets are issued which is usually within a few days of paying your deposit. Your Bhutan land arrangements are subject to the cancellation fees below. Travel insurance must be purchased no later than the day you pay your deposit for your protection.

- Deposit date until 60 days prior to arrival in Bhutan - loss of deposit.
- 60 days or less prior to arrival in Bhutan- no refund provided.

TASHI DELEK May All Good Things Come to You.



Thimphu Valley - 2 nights

Thimphu Hotel (TBA)

2 nights

Duration

Day 1:

Paro Airport to Thimphu City - 1 hr 30 mins.

After clearing immigration and customs you will be greeted by your BTCL guide and driver and transferred to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, travelling through the spectacular countryside en-route. All the houses and buildings in the Kingdom are painted and constructed in traditional Bhutanese style.

On arrival into Thimphu check-in to your hotel and take lunch. Enjoy the remainder of the day to explore Thimphu, both by vehicle and on foot. Your options include visits to the National Memorial Stupa; the celebrated Royal Textile Academy and the Takin Preserve home to Bhutan's most unusual national mammal.

Overnight Thimphu - Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel

Day 2:

Exploring the Thimphu Valley today.

This morning visit the majestic Trashichhoe Dzong and the Tara Lhaden Zhingkhram lhakang (temple). Continue on to the awesome Golden Buddha which also offers an excellent 3 km hike option with sensational valley views.

Other recommended places to visit are Zorig Chusum the Institute of the 13 Arts & Crafts of Bhutan (closed over school holidays and weekends); the Folk Heritage Museum; the National Library, which holds a vast collection of ancient Buddhist manuscripts; the hand-made paper making factory & the colourful weekend markets (Fri-Sun) where everyone goes to buy an array of fresh fruits & vegetables, home-wares, handicrafts and clothes.

Don't forget to take a wander along Thimphu's main street, Norzin Lam, which offers good shopping and the Craft Bazaar. For those who have an interest in quality weavings and local art check out the Gagyel Lhundrup weaving centre, where you can interact with the weavers, and the adjacent S. Bishwa art gallery. The city bars are also worth a visit. Your guide will advise you the best options. Please note Tuesday is 'dry day' in Bhutan and most bars in the city will remain closed.

Overnight Thimphu - Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel

Day 3:



Punakha Valley - 2 nights

Punakha Valley Hotel. (TBA)

2 nights

Duration

Day 3:

Thimphu Valley to Punakha Valley - 3+ hrs

Start early this morning and drive eastward to the Punakha Valley. En-route pass the Semtokha Dzong built in 1629, the oldest fortress of its kind that guarded the Thimphu valley, and which today is a monastery. Ascend to Dochu La (pass-3116 m) to view the 108 Stupas; a memorial to those who lost their lives in late 2002 when Bhutan evicted Indian rebels camped in the jungle on the Bhutan Indian border. On a clear day witness a breathtaking view of the eastern Himalaya.

On arrival into the Punakha Valley visit the local markets at Mesina before lunch at a local restaurant. Next visit Chimmi Lhakhang, a monastery built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley (also known as the Divine Madman or Mad Monk) who has a very colourful history. It is believed that childless women who visit the temple will conceive after receiving a "wang" (blessing) from the resident monk. Continue on an excursion along a delightful country lane to visit the small village of Talo where you can wander the beautiful & serene gardens of the monastery.

Overnight Punakha Valley - Bhutanese 3* Style Hotel.

Day 4:

Exploring in the Punakha Valley.

This morning, visit the dramatic Punakha Dzong, which formally served as the seat of the government and is still the winter residence of the Dratsheng (Central Monk Body). This is Bhutan's most spectacular Dzong and an excellent example of how a medieval fortress and a centre of both monastic and administrative functions has adapted and evolved for modern day use. Next visit the beautiful Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang & Nunnery.

This afternoon, after lunch at a local restaurant, we recommend you travel further up the valley & hike through rice paddies and fields of vegetables and through tiny hamlets to Khamsum Yulley Namgyel Chorten. This Chorten holds very special significance being consecrated in 1999 & dedicated to the protection of the former Crown Prince now King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Alternatively take the afternoon at leisure and don't forget the markets if you are there on a Saturday morning. If of interest white-water rafting is available in this valley at extra cost. Your guide will advise if the conditions are suitable. Please ensure your travel insurance covers this activity first!!

Overnight Punakha Valley - Bhutanese 3* Style Hotel.

Day 5:



Paro Valley - 2 nights

Paro Valley Hotel (TBA)

2 nights

Duration

Day 5:

Punakha Valley to Paro Valley. (4 + hrs)

Depart Punakha early morning for your transfer westwards to the Paro Valley, once again traversing Dochu La, and arriving in Paro town in time for a late lunch.

This afternoon enjoy an orientation tour of the major features in Paro town including Paro Dzong with its cantilever bridge and the National Museum, to view the fine collection of ancient Thangkha paintings, textiles, weapons and other artefacts. Finally take a wander along the main streets which offer good shopping for jewellery and handicrafts.

Overnight Paro Valley – Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel.

Day 6:

Hiking Pilgrimage & Sightseeing in the Paro Valley.

Early this morning hike to the Taksang Monastery, also known as Tiger's Nest. This is Bhutan's most revered monastery and all Bhutanese strive to make the pilgrimage here at least once in their lives. This visit is much more than 'just a hike' and each step gains merit points for the next part of life's journey.

Choose between a 1.5-2 hour round trip hike to the monastery viewpoint, or a longer 5 hour & more strenuous round trip hike including time in the monastery itself. Please note you must be of at least moderate fitness to make it all the way to the monastery and back. Tigers Nest clings impossibly to a cliff of rock at 800 metres above the valley floor and where Guru Rinpoche flew on the back of a tigress to subdue the local demons followed by 3 months meditation in a cave still visible in the monastery. In 1998 Taksang was seriously damaged by fire and has since been painstakingly reconstructed to its original condition and consecrated by the 4th King in 2005.

This afternoon, time permitting, visit Kyichu Lhakhang one of Bhutan's oldest and most beautiful temples boasting an orange tree that perpetually bears fruit. Take the rest of the day at leisure. Consider a hot stone bath at a local farm house, or at your hotel, after your hike (extra cost).

Overnight Paro Valley – Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel.

Day 7:
Day of departure

Early morning transfer to Paro Airport in time to check-in for your onward flight.

Day 7:



Paro, Paro Airport to Bangkok, Suvarnabhumi Intl
Drukair (KB)

KB			4 hrs, 30 m approx
Carrier / Flight	Depart PBH •	Arrive BKK •	Duration

Notes

- Please check-in 3 hrs before departure
- Seating allocated at check-in
- Checked baggage allowance is 30 KG in economy
- Choice of veg & non-veg meals will be offered

Tashi Delek - May all good things come to you.