



BHUTAN & BEYOND

Remote Eastern Bhutan Itinerary – 11 nights

Introduction:

We have created this bespoke private tour, of remote eastern Bhutan, especially to cater for those past visitors who have only experienced the western side of Bhutan. Eastern Bhutan is a real treat with far less tourist visitors, amazing scenery and delightful people. It is also a haven for bird-watchers & weavers.

With more regular and reliable air services, from Paro to central Bumthang, and back from Yonphula (eastern side) to Paro we can now offer a dedicated eastern Bhutan itinerary with flexibility to suit most requests.

Tour Options:

- For those with more available time & budget consider a full 16 night traverse tour of Bhutan. You can choose West to East or East to West. Call us for details.

Take the road less travelled. You won't regret it!

Tour Itinerary Overview.

- 1 night Paro valley sightseeing.
- Domestic flight Paro/Bumthang.
- 2 nights Bumthang, Dzong visits, hiking.
- 1 night Yongko la, sightseeing.
- 2 night Autsho, exploring, hiking & sightseeing.
- 1 night Mongar, sightseeing & exploring.
- 2 nights Trashigang with sightseeing, hiking & exploring
- Domestic flight Trashigang/Paro.
- 1 night Paro valley with Taktsang Monastery hike, shopping & sightseeing.

CALL THE BHUTAN TRAVEL EXPERTS ON

AUS [toll free](#), James – [0412 416 111](#), Nicola – [0413 598 669](#)

Why Book with Bhutan & Beyond?

- 19 years experience, service & knowledge.
- We have personally visited Bhutan over 18 times.
- We offer the option to choose between **HALF BOARD** or **FULL BOARD** land package.
- Competitive pricing and luxury hotel upgrade options.
- Exceptionally well constructed & flexible itineraries.
- We provide a comprehensive pre-departure planning kit.
- Experts at combining Bhutan with [India](#) & [Nepal](#).
- ATAS Accredited via our parent company MTA Travel.
- Provision of our SHERPA app weblink for your COVID-19 requirements.
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION.



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Your Bhutan HALF BOARD Land Package Inclusions:

- Professional guide & driver with private SUV/minibus.
- All touring & transfers throughout your journey.
- Domestic flights Paro-Bumthang & Yonphula (Trashigang)-Paro.
- Bhutanese style 3* hotel accom with private bathrooms.
- Farm-stay accom option has shared western toilets and no shower facilities.
- **Breakfast & Dinner** and two bottles of water daily.
- Exploring & hiking as per your itinerary.
- Bhutan visa fees & processing.
- Sustainable development fee (SDF) & local taxes.
- Vehicle & driver repositioning fee at end of tour.
- Domestic airfares for your guide to fly with you.
- Comprehensive pre-departure planning guide.
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION.
- Bank transfer & communications fees.
- Professionally operated by Bhutan Tourism Corp Ltd. (BTCL)
- ATAS accredited via our parent company MTA Travel

Your Bhutan HALF BOARD Land Package EXCLUDES:

- International airfares to/from Bhutan.
- **Lunch at own expense budget @US\$10-12 pp per day**
- **Monument & entrance fees are at your own expense.**
- Personal items – laundry, drinks, tel calls, tips etc.
- Designer coffees at any time
- Snacks between main meals.
- [Travel Insurance](#) & proof of COVID-19 vaccination are both – mandatory to be granted a visa to enter Bhutan.
- Any COVID-19 PCR or RAT tests required.

Your Bhutan FULL BOARD Land Tour Inclusions:

- Professional guide & driver with private SUV/minibus.
- All touring & transfers throughout your journey.
- Domestic flights Paro-Bumthang & Yonphula (Trashigang)-Paro.
- Bhutanese style 3* hotel accom with private bathrooms.
- Farm-stay accom option has shared western toilets and no shower facilities.
- All meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner) & 2 bottles of water daily.
- All monument & entrance fees.
- Exploring & hiking as per your itinerary.
- Bhutan visa fees & processing.
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- International airfares to/from Bhutan
- Personal items – laundry, drinks, tel calls, tips etc.
- Designer coffees at any time
- Snacks between main meals.
- Any [luxury hotel](#) upgrades are additional costs.
- [Travel Insurance](#) & proof of COVID-19 vaccination are both – mandatory to be granted a visa to enter Bhutan.
- Any COVID-19 PCR or RAT tests required.

COVID-19 Updates & Procedures:

Our Sherpa travel app will keep you updated with COVID-19 requirements pre, during & post travel. These include PCR, RAT & any other tests and where to get them, vaccination certificates & other documentation plus any tracing apps required at your destination and stopovers.

Cancellation Conditions Land Tour:

- Deposit date until 35 days prior arrival in Bhutan – Land tour deposit is refundable less B&B service fees.
- 35 days or less prior to arrival in Bhutan – No land tour refund permitted.

These conditions cover land travel arrangements only not airfares which are subject to their own cancellation conditions.

Day 1: Arrive Paro

Paro Airport to Paro Town (20-30 mins)

Fly to Paro from your chosen point. After clearing immigration and customs you will be greeted by your BTCL guide and driver and transferred to your nearby Paro hotel. As you may have already visited western Bhutan choose to spend your afternoon hiking, exploring, relaxing or shopping in Paro.

The major features in Paro town include the Rinpung Dzong with its cantilever bridge, the National Museum and Kyichu Lhakhang, a revered temple boasting an orange tree that perpetually bears fruit.

Overnight Paro Valley – [Bhutanese 3* Hotel](#).



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Day 2: Paro To Bumthang Region

Early this morning fly Drukair from Paro to Jakar in the central Bumthang region.

- Final check-in at Paro Airport is 90 mins prior flight departure
- Aircraft type ATR 42 Turboprop
- Free checked baggage allowance is 20 kgs per person.
- Flight time is 35 mins.
- Your guide flies with you.

Sightseeing in Choekhor & Chhume valleys.

The central Bumthang region comprises the 4 valleys of Choekhor, Tang, Ura and Chhume. On arrival you will notice the large fields of buckwheat that cover the valleys.....buckwheat noodles and pancakes are a Bumthang specialty. This morning visit the Tamshing Monastery, home to young monks under 15 who's families cannot afford to send them to school, followed by a wander through nearby Chamkhar town. The bars here are also worth a visit in the evening for a mix of karaoke, soccer, pool and music.

This afternoon head west to the Chhume Valley. This region is renowned for its exceptionally high-quality weavings. You can take the opportunity to shop for excellent local handicrafts and textiles plus chat with the weavers.

Overnight Choekhor Valley – [Bhutanese 3* Hotel](#) .

Day 3 – Bumthang Region

Sightseeing in the Bumthang region.

This morning we suggest visits to one or both of the Jambay & Kurje Lhakhangs. These are the oldest two monasteries in the kingdom and all the former Kings of Bhutan are cremated at Kurje Lhakhang. You can take the option to hike back from the Lhakhangs to your hotel or local restaurant for lunch.

This afternoon other options include a drive by of the Wangdicholing Palace; a stop at the Swiss Farm for a range of local produce including wheat beer, arra and cheese. The Jakar Dzong is close by and also worth a visit.

Overnight Choekhor Valley – [Bhutanese 3* Hotel](#).



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Day 4: Yongko La

Choekhor Valley to Yongko La (pass) area. (up to 6+ hours drive time)

This morning drive eastwards to the Ura valley to wander the ancient stony paths of the village that give the area an almost medieval feel. The older women of this region still wear sheepskin shawls on their backs which double as a blanket and cushion. Ura is recognized as the cradle of Buddhism in Bhutan and believed by some to have been the home of Bhutan's earliest inhabitants. It is also the highest valley at 3100 m on the eastern side.

Continue to drive south-eastwards on what is one of the most scenic stretches of road in the Kingdom. When crossing the Thrumshing La (eastern Bhutan's highest pass at 3780 m) you are now officially departing western Bhutan & entering eastern Bhutan, albeit in the central region of the country. The region from the pass to the next major town of Mongar is celebrated as being one of the best bird-watching areas in all the Asia-Pacific region.

Tonight you will overnight at the only hotel in this scenic, bird-watching area.

Overnight Yongko La area – Trogon Villa. Bhutanese 3* Hotel

Day 5: Autsho

Yongko La to Autsho (3+ hours drive)

This morning take a short scenic bird-watching hike to the ruins of the Shongar Dzong a few kms from your hotel. Then drive eastwards and visit the Jarung Khashor chorten, modelled on the Nepali chorten of the same name in Kathmandu, followed by the Lemongrass Oil Unit at Kuri Zampa. Take lunch at a local restaurant and, just before the town of Mongar, leave the main east-west road that traverses Bhutan and head north to Autsho. Here will be your base for the next 2 nights and facilitate your excursion further north to the remote Lhuentse region.

Travelling through the valley of the Kuri Chhu you pass extensive cornfields and, at the valley floor, rice terraces and tropical fruits such as mango and pineapples flourish. Take a wander through Autsho village and relax in your Autsho hotel on the banks of the Kuri Chhu (river) where macaques, langurs & bird-life can be found.

Overnight Autsho – Phayul Resort – Bhutanese 3* Hotel

Note: This is a more basic hotel and you will need to take your own shampoo/flannel.



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Day 6: Lhuentse

Lhuentse Day Excursion (4+ hours driving)

Lhuentse is the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family and also home of Bhutan's kushutara weaving tradition. The road north to Lhuentse is undergoing widening for the next year or so. It could be slow going on some stretches albeit spectacular. Reach the peaceful valley of Khoma to immerse yourself in village life and allow time to explore the heartland of Bhutan's most treasured textiles. Take a gentle stroll between the traditional farmhouses and discover cobbled courtyards and weavers working on veranda's. Wander over to the Lhakhang (temple) perched in the bend of the river. Take a picnic lunch or take lunch at a local farm house. There is an option to hike to the Khoma village for approx 1 hour.

Later return to Autsho which is the nearest tourist class hotel.

Overnight Autsho – Phayul Resort

Day 7: Mongar

Autsho to Mongar. (up to 3+ hours)

This morning drive back south & then eastwards to Mongar on the main West-East highway. En-route visit the Yakgang Lhakhang (temple). This is rarely visited and the lay monk caretaker can sometimes open up the private lhakang in his house next door which features valuable relics, used in the annual festival, and handmade texts from Tibet.

Take lunch at a local restaurant and this afternoon visit the Mongar Dzong and take a wander through the old part of town to the park with it's clocktower and prayer wheel.

When travelling though eastern Bhutan the dominant language is Sharchop which is different enough from Dzongkha (the national language of Bhutan) that eastern and western Bhutanese usually have to use English or Nepali to communicate. The towns between west and east Bhutan also differ as in western Bhutan most towns are situated in valleys whereas in eastern Bhutan most towns, including Mongar, are situated at the tops of hills or ridges.

Overnight Mongar – [Bhutanese 3* Hotel](#).

Day 8: Trashigang

Mongar to Trashigang. (3-4 hrs)

Enjoy a leisurely departure from Mongar en-route further east to Trashigang. On arrival take lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon spend time exploring Trashigang town an/or to take a hike. The Dzong is worth visiting and offers excellent



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Day 8 – continued.

views from a high promontory overlooking the confluence of the Drangme Chhu (river) and Gamri Chhu. Up until the beginning of the 20th century all of eastern Bhutan was governed from this Dzong.

A good hiking option today is from Trashigang to the village of Sangkhar (3+ hrs). Take a rocky trail which leads up above the town and then continues through forest with lots of birds and wildlife. After an hour you reach the top of the ascent from the courthouse at a big pile of rocks (some 800ft of height gain). From here you can see Sangkhar village opposite with a prominent stupa. To the left on top of a hill, is the village Mukthang Khar looking a little like a fort on a hilltop. The path now contours around eventually passing some scattered houses and terraced fields to reach Sangkhar Chorten, 1,430m. Your vehicle meets you at the Sanghar Chorten and take the new feeder road to the village.

Trashigang is a lively and interesting town and the bars are worth a visit this evening although they do close early at 8.00 pm.

Overnight Trashigang – Bhutanese 3* Hotel

Day 9: Trashigang Excursions

Sightseeing in the Trashigang region.

Eastern Bhutan is the heartland of weaving in the Kingdom and Bhutanese weavings and textiles are generally acknowledged as amongst the finest in the world. You will have an excellent opportunity to both shop and interact with the weavers themselves on today's excursion to the weaving village of Radi, approx 2.5 hours (each way) eastwards from Trashigang. The Druk Deothjung Eastern Rural Handicraft Centre in Trashigang is the last opportunity for quality weavings & handicrafts if you don't take the Radi option today.

Alternatively take a scenic excursion north up to the small town of Trashiyangtse and visit the Chorten Kora. Constructed in 1740 this chorten is modelled on the Bodnath stupa in Kathmandu although is not as large. This drive is approx 3 hours round trip.

Overnight Trashigang – Bhutanese 3* Hotel.

Day 10: Trashigang to Paro by air

Trashigang (Yonphula airport) to Paro – flight time 45 mins

- Final check-in at Yonphula Airport is 60 mins prior flight departure
- Aircraft type ATR 42 Turboprop
- Free checked baggage allowance is 20 kgs per person.
- Flight time is 45 mins.
- Your guide flies with you.



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This morning return to Paro by Drukair domestic flight. Take lunch at a local restaurant in Paro. This afternoon consider an excursion to the capital Thimphu or to Chele La pass to visit the remote Kila Nunnery.

Overnight Paro – [Bhutanese 3* Hotel](#).

Day 11: Paro Excursions

Options to visit Thimphu, Haa Valley or hike to Taktsang Monastery

Exercise your preference today and consider the following:

- Haa Valley: Take a day excursion to the remote Haa valley, traversing Chele La pass (3988 m). Here you can hike or drive to the Kila Nunnery, Bhutan's oldest. Descend into Haa for exploring and hiking before returning to Paro late afternoon
- Taktsang Monastery Pilgrimage Hike: Taktsang Monastery (aka as Tigers Nest) is one of the most scared and revered monasteries in the Kingdom and all Bhutanese Buddhists desire to make a pilgrimage visit to Taktsang at least once in their lives. Each step taken towards the monastery gains merit points towards their future.

Choose between a 1.5 to 2 hour round trip hike to the monastery viewpoint or a longer 5 hour and more strenuous hike into the Monastery itself. Tigers Nest clings impossibly to a cliff of rock at over 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 the monastery was seriously damaged by fire and has since been painstakingly reconstructed to its original condition and consecrated by the 4th King in 2005.

Take a Bhutanese vegetarian lunch at the Taktsang Viewpoint and, returning from the hiking trail, visit nearby Kyichu Lhakhang – one of Bhutan's oldest and most beautiful temples boasting an orange tree that perpetually bears fruit.

- Thimphu Day Excursion:
Bhutan's capital Thimphu is ever-changing. Have a day there people-watching, shopping and exploring. The drive time is just a little over an hour each way.

Overnight Paro – [Bhutanese 3* Hotel](#).

Day 12: Depart Paro by Air

Farewell beautiful Bhutan today.

An early transfer to Paro airport this morning for your onwards flight.



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