

BHUTAN & BEYOND

Luxury Amankora Journey – 7 nights

The Ultimate Journey in Bhutan.

The Bhutan & Beyond team have had the great fortune to have personally experienced all 5 of the wonderful Amankora luxury lodges.

Amankora is the very best Bhutan has to offer the discerning traveller.

Amankora Luxury Journey Itinerary.

Please note this suggested 7-night itinerary (detailed below) is the minimum duration possible and features 4 of the 5 Amankora lodges. To travel to all five Amankora lodges we would recommend a [10 night](#) + itinerary. This will allow more time to explore each valley in a relaxed manner.

Departures are daily, all year round, subject to lodge availability. Please note Gangtey lodge, in Phobjikha, offers only 8 suites and is regularly fully booked in peak season months. Booking early is essential.

Please do ask us for a quote for other durations.

Amankora Journey 7-night Itinerary Overview.

- 1 night Thimphu with sightseeing, hiking and shopping options.
- 2 nights Phobjikha valley for hiking and exploring.
- 2 nights Punakha valley with monastery & Dzong visits.
- 2 nights 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](#)

Amankora 7 Night Journey Inclusions.

- 7 nights (or more) luxury suite accommodation.
- All gourmet meals & snacks incl a range of house beverages.
- All transfers, extensive sightseeing, hiking & touring.
- Bhutan visa processing & road permits.
- Private SUV with personal English-speaking guide & driver.
- Complimentary laundry & one 60 min holistic massage per person during your stay.
- Bhutan government tourism sustainability fees & local taxes.
- Bhutan & Beyond bank transfers for payments to Bhutan suppliers.
- A comprehensive pre-departure trip planning guide.
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION.
- ATAS Accredited via our parent company MTA Travel.



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All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.

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Your Amankora Journey Exclusions:

- International airfares to/from Bhutan.
- Personal bank charges incurred making payments to Bhutan & Beyond.
- Personal items –souvenirs, telephone calls, tips etc.
- Designer coffees, drinks, between meals and taken outside of Amankora lodges.
- Travel Insurance which is essential when travelling to Bhutan.

Cancellation Conditions

- 10% deposit payment due, on written confirmation of your Amankora booking.
- Deposit date until 60 days prior arrival in Bhutan - Land tour deposit is refundable less [B&B service fees](#).
- 45-60 days prior to arrival in Bhutan your Amankora deposit is non-refundable.
- 45 days prior to arrival in Bhutan – your final payment is due & immediately becomes non-refundable.

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

Luxury Amankora Journey 7 Nights Itinerary

Day 1:

Paro Airport to Thimphu city. (1.5 hrs drive)

Your flight to Bhutan offers a wonderful introduction as it weaves through the valley before landing at Paro Airport. After clearing customs & immigration meet your private Amankora professional guide & driver for a 1.5 hour SUV transfer to Amankora Thimphu, a 16-suite lodge. Amankora Thimphu lies in a steep pine forested valley, above Thimphu city, and at an altitude of 2,350 metres (7,709 feet).

Take an afternoon orientation tour of Thimphu city. Options include the celebrated National Textiles Museum; the Folk Heritage Museum; Zorig Chusum – the Institute of the 13 Arts & Crafts of Bhutan; a “kora” at the National Memorial Chorten and the Takin Preserve. This is home to Bhutan’s most unusual national mammal. Alternatively relax and sample the delights of the lodge and its spa.

Overnight – [Amankora Luxury Lodge Thimphu](#)

Day 2:

Thimphu to Phobjikha Valley. (5 hrs)

Depart Thimphu and visit the awesome Golden Buddha which affords magnificent views across the Thimphu Valley. For those with more energy we recommend the 3 km (1 hour) hike through the adjacent National Park.



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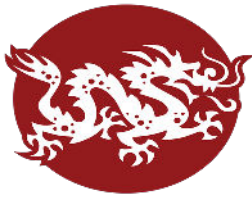


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Day 2 - Continued

Continue eastwards over Dochu La (pass-3116m) viewing the 108 stupas. On clear days witness the magnificent eastern Himalaya vista. Descending into the Punakha valley continue on via Wangdue Phodrang Dzong. The road follows the scenic Dang Chhu (river) before climbing through forests of bamboo and oak.

Finally, a small side road splinters off into the very beautiful hidden Phobjikha Valley. At an altitude of 3,000 metres (9,842 feet), this glacial valley is home of the rural settlement of Gangtey. On a forested knoll close to the valley floor is the very special Amankora Gangtey, an intimate 8-suite lodge.

After late lunch visit the striking Gangtey Goempa sitting at the head of the valley. After that take a stroll through the quaint Gangtey village.

Overnight – [Amankora Luxury Lodge Gangtey](#)

Day 3:

Sightseeing Phobjikha Valley.

This morning will start with a visit to the Black Neck Crane Centre. Depending on the season, time spent in the centre's nearby hide is a must to view the breeding cranes. The cranes are an endangered species who arrive from Tibet in late October and depart again in early March. After lunch hike the valley Nature Trail, a 1.5-2 hour easy walk along the valley floor.

Alternatively, we can start the day with a moderate grade hike across meadows and fields that ascend to the Tselela pass through mixed forest of Juniper, Bamboo, Magnolia and Rhododendron. Meet the people of Gogona who speak a language called Bjopkha – the language of nomads. Their life in this isolated valley has encouraged them to continue using their ancient dialect. Visit the Gogona Goempa and after a picnic lunch, walk back the same route to Gangtey. Note – guests can shorten treks after a certain point and travel back by SUV to take late lunch at the lodge.

Overnight – Amankora Luxury Lodge Gangtey

Day 4:

Phobjikha to Punakha. (3hrs)

Today you will have a leisurely start for your drive back westwards to the Punakha Valley. On arrival stop for a stroll up to the Chimi Lhakhang, also known as the 'monastery of the Mad Monk'. This auspicious fertility monastery built in 1499 enjoys a very colourful history which your guide will explain to you. It is still a place of important cultural significance today where females come to receive a 'wang', a fertility blessing to aid pregnancy.

At an altitude of 1,300 metres (4,265 feet), Punakha Valley is one of the lowest lying valleys in Bhutan and enjoys a warmer climate. Amankora Punakha is accessed via a suspension bridge over the Mo Chhu (river) and a short drive



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Day 4 - Continued

by buggy takes you to the lodge comprising a former royal farmhouse combined with modern 8 suite accommodation and spa facilities set among the paddy fields and fruit plantations.

This afternoon enjoy a short hike or horse ride in the valley, spend time mixing with the locals in the town or relax and enjoy the delights of the lodge and spa.

Overnight – [Amankora Luxury Lodge Punakha](#)

Day 5:

Sightseeing Punakha Valley.

The day in Punakha Valley begins with a hike through terraces of rice, chillies and cabbage along the banks of the Mo Chhu (river) to the upper end of the valley. Here you will find the Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten. This is a stunning monument built by a former Queen of Bhutan to protect the current 5th King from perceived misfortunes.

After lunch visit the very impressive Punakha Dzong, Bhutan's best, and home to the remains of Bhutan's first ruler, Shabdrung Narwang Namgyal. It is also the winter residence of the Monk Body of Bhutan. If time permits drive to the nearby village of Talo, via a stop at the local nunnery, and wander through the beautiful grounds of the village temple.

Overnight – [Amankora Luxury Lodge Punakha](#)

Day 6.

Punakha to Paro Valley. (4 hrs 30 mins)

After a leisurely breakfast the final leg of your 'kora' takes you westwards to the Paro Valley. After descending from Dochu La (pass) you will follow the dramatic Wang Chhu and Paro Chhu (rivers) valleys before passing through Paro town en route to the Amankora Lodge located further up the valley. Paro Valley sits on an elevation of 2,250 metres (7,382 feet).

A hidden pine forest trail leads you across a small brook and into a clearing where you will find the wonderful Amankora Paro. This 24-suite lodge and spa offers a range of unique healing and rejuvenating treatments. In the afternoon, there is an opportunity for a stroll to the nearby ruins of the Drugyel Dzong, currently under restoration or take a visit to the Paro Dzong & the National Museum.

Not far from the lodge is Kyichu Lhakhang, a revered temple with historic & cultural significance. Furthermore, it features an orange tree that perpetually bears fruit. This afternoon after arrival at the Paro lodge perhaps enjoy a walk to the recently restored Drugyel Dzong. This is the historical site of the Fort of Drukpa Victory, from which the Bhutanese used to repel the Tibetan invaders again and again.

Overnight – [Amankora Luxury Lodge Paro](#)



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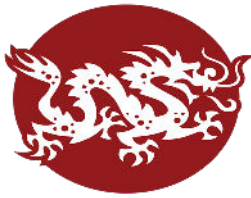


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Day 7.

Sightseeing Paro & Taktsang Monastery Hike.

Start the day with a pilgrimage hike to view one of Bhutan's most revered monuments, the Taktsang Monastery. More commonly referred to as the "Tigers Nest," Taktsang is a most revered place, and all Bhutanese Buddhists try to take the pilgrimage to this monastery at least once in their lives. Each step taken on the path counts as merit points for their future.

For those with limited time, or fitness, a 1.5 hour round trip hike to the monastery viewpoint is an excellent compromise and it offers a good cafeteria for lunch or refreshments.

The full 4-5 hour round trip hike into the monastery itself, perched on a cliff face 800 m above the valley floor, is very rewarding. However, a good standard of fitness and ability to handle plenty of steep steps is essential. This hike will be one of your trip highlights and is a fitting end to your Bhutan experience. Amankora will pack you a picnic lunch as an option on this hike.

In the afternoon take a visit to the town temple, built in 1525, to view ancient wall paintings. A wander along Paro main street for handicrafts and jewellery is a great way to end your journey or simply relax and enjoy your afternoon at the lodge and spa.

Overnight – Amankora Luxury Lodge Paro

Day 8.

Day of departure.

Your guide & driver will transfer you to Paro Airport after an early breakfast. The transfer time is approximately 30 minutes.

Tashi Delek - You have completed your rewarding "kora".



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