



Bumthang Festivals Tour – 23 OCT-03 NOV 26 (11 nts)

BHUTAN & BEYOND

Tour Introduction:

After the awesome flight into Paro experience 5 different valleys Thimphu, Phobjikha, Bumthang, Punakha, Paro along with Trongsa the location of Bhutan's very best museum. You will be amazed by the colour and spectacle of the Jambay Lhakhang Drup & Prakhar Duchhoed (festivals) in central Bhutan. Furthermore, it features the most important sights in Thimphu city; the remote beauty of the Phobjikha valley also features the most important temples & scenery of the central Bumthang region; the remote beauty of the Phobjikha Valley; the splendour of the magnificent Punakha Dzong and culminates with a pilgrimage hike to the majestic Taktsang Monastery (Tigers Nest) in Paro valley. In addition to witnessing Jambay Lhakhang Drup & Prakhar Duchhoed (festivals).

This tour combines the very best sites the Kingdom of Bhutan has to offer in the western & central Bhutan.

Tour Itinerary Overview.

- 2 nights Thimphu with exploring, hiking and shopping options.
- 2 nights Phobjikha valley for hiking and exploring.
- 2 nights Bumthang valleys, festivals, hiking, exploring. *(subject to scheduled dates being realised.)*
- 1 night Trongsa with museum & Dzong visits.
- 2 nights Punakha valley with monastery & Dzong visits.
- 2 nights Paro valley with Taktsang Monastery hike, shopping & exploring.

Why Book With Bhutan & Beyond

- We only take a maximum of 8 persons on this tour.
- Maximise your Bhutan experience with one of our top rated Bhutanese guides.
- Witness the spectacle of the Jambay Lhakhang Drup & Prakhar Duchhoed. ([festivals](#)).
- Immerse yourself in the vibrant Buddhist culture of Bhutan.
- All hiking on this tour is optional, although you must be able to climb a steep set of stairs to gain entry to the magnificent Punakha Dzong.
- We tailor our tours for less driving and more sightseeing!
- Bhutan & Beyond offer our 22 years experience, service & knowledge.
- Competitive pricing & well constructed itineraries.
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION
- Our comprehensive Bhutan Visitor Information planning guide.
- ATIA (formerly ATAS) Accredited via our parent company MTA Travel

CALL THE BHUTAN TRAVEL EXPERTS ON

James – [0412 416 111](tel:0412416111), Nicola – [0413 598 669](tel:0413598669)



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Bhutan Land Tour Inclusions:

- Professional guide, driver & private vehicle.
- All touring & transfers throughout your journey.
- Bhutanese style [3* hotels](#) with private bathrooms for 9nts.
- 4* [Gangtey Tent Resort](#) with private bathrooms for 2nts
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) and two 500 ml bottles of water per person daily.
- All monument & entrance fees, sightseeing & hiking as per the itinerary.
- Bhutan visa fees & processing.
- Sustainable development fee (SDF) & local taxes.
- Witness the Jambay Lhakhang Drup & Prakhar Duchhoed [festivals](#) in Bumthang. *(subject to scheduled festival dates being realised)*
- Bhutan & Beyond bank transfers for payments to Bhutan suppliers.
- Professionally operated by Bhutan Tourism Corp Ltd. (BTCL)
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION giving access to your travel docs on your smart device.
- Our comprehensive Bhutan Visitor Information guide. (regularly updated)

Bhutan Land Tour Exclusions:

- Air flights to/from Paro are additional.
- Personal bank charges incurred making payments to Bhutan & Beyond.
- Personal items: phone calls, laundry, drinks, designer coffee etc.
- Tips – please refer to tipping suggestions in our Bhutan Visitor Info guide
- [Travel Insurance](#) is essential when travelling to Bhutan.
- Any COVID-19 PCR or RAT tests required.

Available On Request:

- Upgrade to Business Class on your flights.
- Ex-Australia airfares.
- Stopovers & additional Asian arrangements.

Cancellation Conditions:

- Deposit date until 45 days prior arrival in Bhutan - Land tour deposit is refundable less B&B service fees.
 - 45 days or less prior to arrival in Bhutan - No land tour refund permitted.
- Please note: - These conditions cover land travel arrangements only, not airfares, which are subject to their own cancellation conditions.*



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Friday 23 October 2026

Paro to Thimphu (1 hr 30 mins, drive time, altitude 2350 m)

After clearing immigration & customs you will be greeted by your BTCL guide & driver immediately outside the terminal exit door. Transfer by road to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, travelling through the spectacular countryside en-route make a stop at the Tachogang Lhakhang (iron bridge). All the houses and buildings in the Kingdom are painted and constructed in traditional Bhutanese style.

On arrival into Thimphu take lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon visit the Kaja Throm farmer's market for fresh produce includes the sale of clothing & homewares & souvenirs (Fri-Sun); National Memorial Chorten followed by the Takin Preserve – home to Bhutan's most unusual national mammal.

Overnight Thimphu-[Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel](#)

Saturday 24 October:

Exploring in the Thimphu valley.

This morning visit the awesome Buddha Dordenma statue located at Kuenselphodrang. The statue is made of bronze and gilded in gold. It is considered the largest Buddha Dordenma statue in the world. There is also an excellent 3 km hike option through Kuenselphodrang Nature Park which offers sensational valley views.

Drive by to view the majestic Trashichhoe Dzong, Houses of Parliament, Royal Residences & Supreme Court building and visit Zorig Chusum – the Institute of the 13 Arts & Crafts of Bhutan.

This afternoon visit the 'Simply Bhutan' display village (described as a living museum), where you can experience traditional Bhutanese village life; ara tasting (local spirit); suja tasting (butter tea); try your hand at archery and more.

Remainder of the afternoon at leisure to take a wander along Thimphu's main street, Norzin Lam and visit the Craft Bazaar where you can purchase locally made goods & perhaps visit the Postal Museum & shop which offers a wonderful 'personalised' stamp service for visitors.

Overnight Thimphu – Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel



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Sunday 25 October:

Thimphu to Phobjikha Valley (5+ hrs, alt 2900m)

This morning you will be transferred by road eastwards to the Phobjikha Valley. En-route passing the Semtokha Dzong, built in 1629 & the oldest fortress of its kind that guarded the Thimphu valley, which today it is a monastery. Continue ascending to Dochu La (pass) to view the 108 Stupas, commissioned by a former Queen as a memorial to those who lost their lives during the low intensity conflict in late 2003 when Bhutan evicted militant insurgents camped in the jungle on the Bhutan – Indian border. On a clear day you will witness a breathtaking view of the eastern Himalaya. (named the Jigme Singye Wangchuck Himalayan range.)

When the recently rebuilt Wangdue Phodrang Dzong comes into view, notice the large cacti that cover the hillside below which, were planted long ago to discourage invaders from climbing the steep slope to the Dzong. From the road view Rinchengang, one of Bhutan's oldest villages, which did not have access to water, electricity or schooling until the early 1990's. The craftsmen of Rinchengang are sought after for their skills in construction of Dzongs and Lhakhangs (temples).

Potatoes are Phobjikha's primary cash crop and mainly exported to India. Phobjikha is a glacial valley on the western slopes of the Black Mountains and is one of the most beautiful open valleys in Bhutan. It is also one of the most important wildlife preserves in the country and the winter home (late October to early February) of the rare black necked crane, which annually flies in from Tibet. There are also muntjaks (barking deer), wild boar, sambar, Himalayan black bear, leopard and red foxes.

Time permitting walk the Gangtey Nature Trail on arrival this afternoon. Alternatively undertake this tomorrow morning. This is an easy, mainly flat, walk through forest and pastures.

Overnight Phobjikha – [4* Gangtey Tent Resort.](#)

Monday 26 October:

Exploring & hiking in Phobjikha

Today you will visit the sacred Gangtey Goenpa (Monastery) plus enjoy time to wander through Gangtey village and visit the Black Crane nature information centre and nearby hide to view the cranes should they be present in the valley.

Take time this afternoon for some relaxation, or an excursion further down the valley to the more remote Phobji region. Here you can enjoy an easy hike through villages, temples & farmhouses.

Overnight Phobjikha – 4* Gangtey Tent Resort.



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Tuesday 27 October:

Phobjikha to Choekhor Valley (5+ hrs, alt 2800m)

Early this morning depart Phobjikha, via Trongsa, to the central Bumthang region comprising the 4 valleys Choekhor, Tang, Ura and Chhume. Traverse the Pele La (Pass) which crosses through the Black Mountains National Park and divides western and central Bhutan. Keep a watchful eye out for Rhesus Macaques (Brown Monkeys) on the side of the road.

The Trongsa Dzong is perched at the end of a ridge and seems to hang in space at the head of the valley. The dzong's location afforded it great power over this part of the country, as the only foot and mule trail between east and western Bhutan leads straight through Trongsa and through the dzong itself. This dzong is the ancestral home of the Royal Family of Bhutan and has added an excellent museum into its ancient watchtower which you can visit, followed by lunch. On arrival in the Bumthang region notice the large fields of buckwheat that cover the valleys.....buckwheat noodles and pancakes are a Bumthang specialty.

Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. There are short walks and hikes to choose from and your guide will be happy to make recommendations. Later this evening, after dinner you have the option of attending the opening of the Jambay Lhakhang Drup (8.30 pm) the program this evening features the Naked Dance!

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

Wednesday 28 October:

Festival visit & exploring in the Bumthang Valleys.

This morning visit Kurje Lhakhang. Kurje & Jambay Lhakhangs are the oldest two monasteries in the kingdom and all the Kings of Bhutan are cremated at Kurje Lhakhang, before a visit to Jambay Lhakhang to witness the colour & spectacle of the Jambay Lhakhang Drup. The Bhutanese love their festivals and will all be dressed in their finest clothes.

This afternoon visit Tamshing Monastery where about 25 Monks reside – most are under 15 and from poorer families who cannot afford to send their children to state school; then make a visit to the nearby 'Burning Lake' and learn its dark legend.

Time permitting, drop in at the Swiss Farm to taste local produce including sweet cheese, apple brandy and locally brewed wine and beer.

Overnight Choekhor – Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel



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Thursday 29 October:

Choekhor Valley to Trongsa (2+ hrs, alt 2200m)

This morning transfer westwards today to Trongsa, en-route visiting the Chhume weaving centre for the opportunity to shop for excellent local handicrafts and textiles. This region is renowned for its exceptionally high-quality weaving's & make a visit to the Prakhar Duchhoed (festival) which is also held today in the Chhume valley.

After enjoying a picnic lunch at the festival, continue onward to Trongsa. Trongsa Dzong is the ancestral home of the Royal Family of Bhutan.

Overnight Trongsa – [Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel](#)

Friday 30 October:

Trongsa to Punakha Valley (6 + hours, alt 1200m)

Depart early this morning to the Punakha Valley which holds the title as the winter capital because of its more temperate climate.

On arrival in the Punakha valley take lunch, followed by a visit to Chimi Lhakhang, a monastery built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley (also known as the Divine Madman or Mad Monk), which is a pleasant, easy 20-minute walk across paddy fields. It is believed that childless women who visit the temple will conceive after receiving a "wang" (blessing) from the resident monk.

This afternoon visit the Sangchen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang & Nunnery, time permitting consider a very scenic excursion to either the small village of Nobgang, original home to the 4 former Queens of the 4th king, OR the small village of Talo where you can wander through the beautiful and serene gardens of the local monastery.

Overnight Punakha – [Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel](#)



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Friday 31 October:

Exploring & hiking in the Punakha Valley.

This morning enjoy a scenic walk over the Punakha suspension bridge, Bhutan's longest, before a visit to the dramatic Punakha Dzong nearby, 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.

Choose to enjoy a relaxing afternoon at leisure or travel up the valley & take a fascinating hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyel Chorten through fields of vegetables, rice paddies and tiny hamlets. This Chorten hold very special significance being consecrated in 1999 and dedicated to the protection of the former Crown Prince – today's current King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

Overnight Punakha – Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel

Saturday 01 November:

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 at one of the local restaurants.

This afternoon enjoy an orientation tour of the major features in Paro town. These include the Rinpung Dzong, with its cantilever bridge, and the National Museum (Ta Dzong). Here you will view the fine collection of ancient Thangkha paintings, textiles, weapons and other artefacts.

Alternatively, skip the museum and explore Paro's main streets which offer good shopping, including the CSI daily market for locally produced goods from cottage and small industries in Bhutan.

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



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Sunday 02 November:

Exploring and hiking in Paro.

This morning hike to the Taktsang Monastery, also known as Tigers 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 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 800 m 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 lunch at the viewpoint cafe on the hiking trail.

On completion of your hike visit the nearby Kyichu Lhakhang – one of Bhutan's oldest and most beautiful temples boasting an orange tree that perpetually bears fruit.

Take the remainder of the day at leisure or return to Paro town for some last-minute shopping.

Overnight Paro -Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel

Monday 03 November:

Day of departure.

Early morning departure from your hotel to Paro Airport for your onward flight.

END OF TOUR



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