

Druk Path Trekking

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This is a relatively short, moderate grade trek leading from Paro valley to Thimphu valley, or vice versa, & crossing the chain of mountains that separates the two valleys. The route passes through sparsely populated places. One of the interesting features of this trek is the presence of beautiful lakes enroute teeming with fish. Also this area is particularly famous for spectacular rhododendron forests which run riot in the month of May. The best time for this trek is March – May and September – November.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrive Paro Airport.

Arrive at Paro Airport (7,000ft). A representative from the office who will then take you to the hotel will receive you at the airport.

Day 02: PARO SIGHTSEEING

A day of acclimatization. Local sightseeing includes visits to Drugyel Dzong, Ta Dzong, which houses the National Museum, and the traditional wooden bridge. Stroll through Paro town.

Day 03: PARO - JELE DZONG

The trek trail is gradual and if the weather is clear the Paro valley can be seen. Altitude – 11,600 ft / 3,536 m. Distance 10 kms.

Day 04: JELE DZONG - JANGCHULAKHA

The trail takes you through thick alpine forests and rhododendron trees. The yaks in winter graze in the pastures around the path and there may be some yaks and yak herders around the campsite. Altitude – 11,900 ft / 3,627 m. Distance – 10 kms.

Day 05: JANGCHULAKHA - JIMILANGTSO

The trail follows the ridge of the mountain and on a clear day one can get a splendid view of

the mountains and valleys. Camp is close to the lake of Jimilangtso. These lakes are known for their giant sized trout. Altitude – 12,160 ft / 3,706 m. Distance – 11 kms.

Day 06: JIMILANGTSO - SEMKOTHA

The trail goes through dwarf rhododendron trees and passes by the lake of Janetsho. One may come across some yak herders' camps and one can see to how they live. Camp is close to Semkotha lake. Altitude – 12,580 ft / 3,834 m. Distance – 11 kms.

Day 07: SEMKOTHA - PHAJODING

The trek begins with a gradual climb and if weather permits one will get a beautiful view of Mount Gangkhar Puensum, the highest mountain in Bhutan and other Himalayan mountains from Dochula Pass. The path gradually descends till Phajoding, where the monastery and the retreat centers for meditation are located. Overnight in camp. Altitude – 11,600 ft / 3,536 m. Distance – 10 kms.

Day 08: PHAJODING - THIMPHU

The trail to Thimphu goes downhill through the blue pine forests. It takes about 2 -3 hours to reach Thimphu. Evening at leisure. Overnight in a hotel. Alt. 8,050 ft / 2,454 m. Distance – 7 – 8 kms.

Day 09: THIMPHU SIGHTSEEING

Visit the National Library, School of Thangka Painting, Institute of Traditional Medicine and the Memorial Chorten. Afternoon, visit the Handicraft Emporium.

Day 10: THIMPHU - PARO

Morning at leisure. After lunch, drive to Paro. On the way, visit Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress in the country built in 1627 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the unifier of Bhutan. Evening walk around Paro town.

Day 11: PARO excursion to taktshang or dirve ot Chelila pass

Spend a full day hike to Taktsang, the Tiger's Nest. This magical monastery clings to a vertical granite cliff 3,000 ft above the valley floor. The monastery unfortunately got burnt in 1998 and has recently been reconstructed.

Day 12: PARO - DEPARTURE

Early breakfast at the hotel and drive to the Paro Airport to board the flight. Your escort from Bhutan will see you off at the airpor