East- West Cultural Tour in Bhutan

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The East West cultural tour is our effort to introduce you to the rich cultural heritage of this tiny Himalayan kingdom also known as the last Shangri-La. Our week-long tour in Bhutan begins with sightseeing in the country's capital, Thimphu, where we visit the Memorial Chorten, mini- zoo, National Institute of Traditional Medicine, folk heritage museum and the majestic Tashichho Dzong (fortress). Next, we travel to Punakha via Dochula pass (3,100m) and tour the Chimi Lhakhang temple on the way. We also visit the Punakha Dzong and explore the amazing Gangtey village before heading to Paro. In the beautiful Paro valley, You will visit Rinpung Dzong and Kichu Lhakhang temple. Your cultural journey ends with a hike to the famous Tiger's Nest Monastery which is a perfect way to end one's journey in the last Shangri-La.

Itinerary

Day 01: ARRIVE PARO

Your representative from Bhutan will receive you at the Paro airport and drive you to the hotel.

Day 02: PARO - THIMPHU

Sightseeing around the Paro valley includes visit to Ta Dzong which houses the National Museum, the ruins of Drugyel Dzong and the courtyard of Kichu Lhakhang one of the oldest monasteries in Bhutan – dated 7th century AD. After lunch, drive to the capital, Thimphu.

Day 03: THIMPHU SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing in Thimphu includes – visit to the National Library, Zangthopelri Lhakhang, Tashi Nencha Studio and the School of Thangka Painting. In the afternoon, visit the Handicraft Emporium and the Memorial Chorten.

Day 04: THIMPHU - TRONGSA

The drive to Trongsa takes about seven hours across the Dochula Pass and Pelela Pass. On a clear day one can get a good view of the Himalayan ranges. Drive through Wangdue town. Picnic lunch at Chendebji Chorten. Overnight in Trongsa.

Day 05: TRONGSA - JAKAR (BUMTHANG)

In the morning, visit the Trongsa Dzong and see the Ta Dzong. Drive through Trongsa town to the beautiful valley of Bumthang. Enroute visit the Chume Valley, where local women weave the famous “Bumthang Yathra”, pure woolen textile woven in the traditional method with beautiful colored patterns.

Day 06: BUMTHANG

Full day sightseeing in Bumthang valley. Visit the Wangdicholing Palace, Swiss Farm House along with some monasteries.

Day 07: BUMTHANG - MONGAR

After breakfast, drive to URA village and visit Ura Lhakhang. Drive to Mongar through Thrumshingla Pass (the highest pass in Bhutan). Overnight in Mongar.

Day 08: MONGAR - TRASHIGANG

Proceed to Trashigang. Dinner and overnight stay at hotel in Trashigang.

Day 09: TASHIGANG - DAY TRIP TO KHALING (55 KMS ONE WAY)

Day trip with picnic lunch to Khaling Weaving Center to see the entire process of spinning, dyeing and weaving. This center is managed by the National Women's Association of Bhutan. Drive back to Trashigang.

Day 10: TASHIGANG - MONGAR

This is the beginning of the return journey. After sightseeing Trashigang valley, drive to Mongar.

Day 11: MONGAR - BUMTHANG

Drive to Bumthang.

Day 12: BUMTHANG - PUNAKHA

Drive to Punakha via Trongsa. Picnic lunch will be served enroute.

Day 13: PUNAKHA - PARO

In the morning, visit the premises of Punakha Dzong and then drive to Paro. Evening at leisure.

Day 14: PARO EXCURSION TO TAKTSHANG OR DRIVE TO CHELILA PASS

Drive to Satsam Chorten and then hike to the viewpoint of Taktshang, the Tiger's Nest. This 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 15: PARO - DEPARTURE

Early morning drive to the Paro Airport for your flight to next destination