Jambay Lhakhang Drup Festival Tour

Jambay Lhakhang Drup

LOCATION	DURATION
Bhutan	**9 Days**

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive at Paro – Drive to Thimphu

Paro – Thimphu | 2280m

You will be received by the Representative from Byways Tours and Travels at the airport and transfer you to the hotel.

After lunch, visit Ta Dzong, an ancient watchtower, which was built in 1656 and renovated in 1968 and converted into a National Museum of Bhutan, then visit Rimpung Dzong (Paro Dzong) built in 1646 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. The Dzong presently houses administrative offices of Paro District and Monastery.

In the late afternoon, drive to Thimphu (approximately 1.5 hours), stopping at **Tamchog Lhakhang**, the temple of the iron-bridge builder Thangtong Gyalpo, en route. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Thimphu.

Hotel in Thimphu

Day 2: Thimphu Sightseeing

Thimphu | 2350m

After breakfast, first visit the Buddha Dordenma, the tallest Buddha statue in the world. Visit **National Library,** which holds a vast collection of ancient Buddhist manuscripts followed by a visit to **Folk Heritage Museum.** Then visit **Takin Preserve center** where you will have the chance to see our **National Animal Takin** followed by a visit to **Zhulikha Nunnery** and **the School of Thirteen Arts and Crafts** which is famous for carving and freehand art, in this school you will find the students whose aptitude is more artistic than academic, Lunch will be servedd in one of the tourist restaurant in middle of the city.

After lunch visit **authentic Bhutanese craft market** and weekend market. Also visit an **archery ground** to witness archery matches if you are interested,. In the evening, visit Tashichho Dzong (Fortress of the Glorious Religion), built in 1641 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and reconstructed in 1961 by the Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, who is also known as the Father of Modern Bhutant. Evening stroll through Thimphu city. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 3: Thimphu – Punakha

Thimphu → Punakha | 1250m | 2h 30m drive | 76 km

(76 km, 2.5 hours by road). After breakfast, drive to Punakha valley via **Dochula Pass (3,140 meters).** We stop for a while at Dochula pass and if the weather in the distance is clear, you will have the chance to see all the higher Himalayan ranges from there.

When you reach Punakha valley, visit **Chimi Lhakhang** which is also known as the “Temple of Fertility” built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley who is popularly known as “The Divine Madman” in the 15th century. Following this, visit **Punakha Dzong** built in 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and is situated between Pho Chu (Male River) and Mo Chu (Female River). For many years until the time of the second king, it served as the capital of Bhutan. The construction of the Dzong was foretold by Guru Rinpoche who visited this place in the 8th century, who predicted that, a person named Namgyal will arrive at a hill that looks like a sleeping elephant. There was a smaller building here called Dzong Chu (Small Dzong) that housed a statue of Buddha. It is said that Zhabdrung when he visited this place he met a Bhutanese architect called Zowe Palep, so ordered the architect, Zowe Palep, to sleep in front of the statue, while Palep was sleeping; the Zhabdrung took him in his dreams to Zangtopelri (Paradise) and showed him the palace of Guru Rinpoche. From his vision, the architect conceived the design for the new Dzong, which in keeping with the tradition, was never committed to paper. The Dzong was named **Druk Pungthang Dechen Phodrang** which means “Palace of Great Happiness”. The war materials captured during the battle with Tibetans are preserved here. Punakha is still the winter residence of **Chief Abbot** (Je-Khenpo) and King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk convened the First National Assembly here in 1952. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 4: Punakha – Phobjikha Valley – Trongsa

Punakha → Phubjikha | 2180m

After breakfast, drive to Trongsa via Phubjikha valley, on the way, stop for a while to take photographs of the reconstruction of wangduephodrang dzong from outside, which was destroyed by fire in 2012.

In Phobjikha valley, visit Gangtey Gompa. Gyaltse Pema Thinley, the grandson and mind reincarnation of Pema Lingpa founded the Temple in 1613, and Tenzin Legpai Dhendup, the second re-incarnation, built the temple. Then visit the black necked crane center from where you will have the chance to see the crane through telescoped, Black Necked Crane are the rare species bird, and are the winter visitor in few places of Bhutan and they fly back to Tibetan plateau in summer. After lunch, drive to Trongsa. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 5: Trongsa – Bumthang

Trongsa → Bumthang | 2580m

After breakfast, visit Trongsa Dzong which was built in 1643 by Chogyel Minjur Tempa, an official who was sent by the Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to unify eastern part of Bhutan. It was later enlargedd in the end of 17th century by the Desi Tenzin Rabgye. An official name of Trongsa Dzong is **Chhoekhor Raptentse Dzong** and it is also known by its short name **Choetse Dzong.** Trongsa Dzong was also the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family. The first two hereditary kings ruled from this dzong, and tradition still dictates that the crown prince serve as Trongsa Penlop (governer) before acceding to the throne. The current king of Bhutan became trongsa penlop in 2004.

Then visit Ta Dzong (An ancient watch tower which is now a trongsa museum), and then drive to Bumthang. In the evening at around 7 pm to 9 pm drive to festival place to witness fire blessing ceremony. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6: Bumthang Sightseeing

Bumthang | 2580m

After breakfast, witness the Jambay Lhakhang Drup **at Jambay lhakhang**. which is believed to have been built in 659 by Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo, in the same day as kyichu Lhakhang in Paro.

After lunch, visit Jakar Dzong, Legend has it that when the lamas assembled in about 1549 to select a site for a monastery, a big white bird rose suddenly in the air and settled on a spur of a hill, so this was interpreted as an important omen, and the hill was chosen as the site for a monastery and for Jakar Dzong which is translated as "Castle of White Bird". Zhabdrung's great-grandfather, Ngagi Wangchuk, founded the monastery, The current structure was build in 1667and has a circumference of more than 1500m. its official name is Yuelay Namgyal Dzong, in honor of the victory over the troops of Tibetan ruler Phuntsho Namgyal. Visit Tamsing Lhakhang which was established in 1501 by a great saint known as Pema Lingpa who was born in one of the valley of Bumthang Called Tang Valley. This temple was also known by the name Tamshing Lhendup Chholing, which means "the temple of good massage". And this temple is one of the most important Nyingma monastery in the kingdom. And Finaly visit Kurjey Lhakhang, kurjey was named after the body print of Guru Rinpoche. Kur means Body and jey means Print. Finally visit Burning Lake. Stroll around the very tiny town of Bumthang in the evening. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 7: Bumthang – Thimphu

Bumthang Valley → Thimphu | 2350m

After breakfast, drive to Thimphu. Lunch will be servedd en route. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 8: Thimphu – Paro – Tiger's Nest

Thimphu – Paro | 2350m | 5h hike | 7.4 km

After an early breakfast, drive from Thimphu back to Paro (approximately 1.5 hours).

After breakfast, an excursion to Tiger's Nest Monastery. Total distance **7.4 km (4.5 miles**) round trip, and takes **approximately 5 hours** round trip. Elevation at the starting point of the hike **2,600 meters** and elevation at tiger's nest monastery is **3,100 meters** above sea level.

A short drive of around 25 minutes from the main town of Paro takes you to Satsam Chorten, the trail climbs through beautiful pine forest, many of the trees festooned with Spanish moss, and an occasional grove of fluttering prayer flags. We stop for a rest and have tea with cookies at Taktsang cafeteria and then walk a short distance until we see, clearly and seemingly within reach, Tiger's Nest monastery. The history dates back to the 8th century when Guru Rinpoche, a tantric master flew to this place on the back of a flying tiger, said to be his favorite Tibetan consort known as Khandro Yeshey Chogyal and meditated in a cave nearby, The temple itself was built in the 17th century by the Penlop (governor) of Paro Gyaltse Tenzin Rbgey; this incredible monastery clings to the edge of a sheer rocky cliff that plunges 600 meters into the valley below.

After lunch, visit **Kyichu Lhakhang,** one of Bhutan's oldest Buddhist temples, which was built in 659 AD by a Tibetan king Tshongchen Gyampo. In the evening, stroll through Paro town for last-minute souvenirs and enjoy a farewell dinner. Overnight at the hotel in Paro.

Hotel in Paro

Day 9: Departure

Thimphu → Paro | 2280m

Early in the morning, drive to Paro Airport for your departure. Farewell!

What's Included

Included

+ Accommodation in 3* Hotels (1 Single room just for you).
+ All Three Meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner). Lunch will be served in a local Tourist Restaurant.
+ Daily Tariff.
+ Visa Fee.
+ Royalty and Government Taxes.
+ SDF (Sustainable Development Fee) of USD 100 per night per person, which directly goes towards free education, Free Healthcare and infrastructure development.
+ Transportation from receive till drop.
+ Museum and Monument fee.
+ Bottle Water in Car.
+ Sightseeing.
+ English Speaking Guide.
+ Driver.

Not Included

- Air Fare.
- Insurance Premiums.
- Payment for service provided on a personal basis.
- Cost for any services not mentioned in the "Inclusive Head"
- Cost incurred due to mishaps, strikes, political unrest, sudden death etc.
- Personal expenses in items such as laundry, soft or hard drinks, camera charges, bottle water in restaurants or in hotels, Portage, bellboy charges.
- Tips to guide and driver.

Ready to Book?

Contact our Bhutan travel experts to customize this itinerary.

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