

4 Days Cultural Tour

Four days is Bhutan distilled - and the answer for travellers who thought they didn't have time for the kingdom at all. This is our only itinerary based entirely in one Paro hotel: no repacking, no long transfers, just the essentials done properly. You'll explore the Paro valley's watchtower museum and Rinpung Dzong, spend a full day in Thimphu - the capital where Buddha Dordenma gazes over the valley and the post office prints stamps with your own photograph - and save the final full day for the hike every visitor dreams about: Tiger's Nest Monastery, clinging to its cliff a thousand metres above the valley floor. Best suited to travellers joining from a wider Himalayan journey, or anyone whose leave allowance says no but whose bucket list says Bhutan.

LOCATION	DURATION
Paro, Thimphu	4

Highlights

- Tiger's Nest Monastery hike
- Paro Rinpung Dzong
- National Museum (Ta Dzong)
- Kyichu Lhakhang - 7th century temple
- Buddha Dordenma - 51m tall statue
- Thimphu sightseeing
- Takin Preserve Center
- Traditional craft markets

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Paro - Valley Exploration

Paro | 2,280m | 1.5 hrs | 54 km

You will be received by a representative from Byways Tours and Travels at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

After lunch, visit **Ta Dzong**, an ancient watchtower built in 1656, renovated in 1968, and converted into the **National Museum of Bhutan**. Then visit **Rinpung Dzong (Paro Dzong)**, built in 1646 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. The Dzong currently houses the administrative offices of Paro District and a monastery. In the evening, stroll around the charming town of Paro. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Meals: L/D | Hotel in Paro

Day 2: Day Trip to Thimphu - City Tour

Paro to Thimphu | 2,350m | 1.5 hrs each way | 110 km round trip

After breakfast, drive from Paro to Thimphu (approximately 1.5 hours), stopping en route at **Tamchog Lhakhang**, the 15th-century temple of the famed iron-bridge builder Thangtong Gyalpo. On arrival, visit **Buddha Dordenma**, the tallest Buddha statue in the world at 51 meters. Then visit the **National Library**, which houses a vast collection of ancient Buddhist manuscripts, followed by the **Folk Heritage Museum**.

Continue to the **Takin Preserve Center** to see Bhutan's national animal, the Takin. Visit **Zhulikha Nunnery** and the **School of 13 Arts and Crafts (Zorig Chusum)**, famous for traditional carving and freehand art. Here you will find students whose aptitude is more artistic than academic. Lunch will be served at a tourist restaurant in the city center.

After lunch, visit the **authentic Bhutanese Craft Market** and the **Weekend Market**. You may also visit an **archery ground** to witness archery matches if 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 Wangchuk, known as the Father of Modern Bhutan. In the late afternoon, drive back to Paro. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Meals: B/L/D | Hotel in Paro

Day 3: Tiger's Nest Monastery Hike

Paro | 3,120m | 5-6 hrs hike | 7.4 km hike

After breakfast, embark on an excursion to **Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taktsang)**. The total distance is **7.4 km (4.5 miles)** round trip and takes a **minimum of 5 hours**. The elevation at the starting point is **2,600m**, and the monastery sits at **3,100m** above sea level.

A 25-minute drive from the main town of Paro takes you to Satsam Chorten, where the trail begins. The path climbs through beautiful pine forests, with many trees festooned with Spanish moss and occasional groves of fluttering prayer flags. We stop for rest and refreshments at Taktsang Cafeteria, then continue until we see Tiger's Nest Monastery clearly within reach. The history dates back to the 8th century when Guru Rinpoche, a tantric master, flew to this place on the back of a flying tigress—said to be his Tibetan consort Yeshe Tsogyal—and meditated in a cave nearby. The temple was built in the 17th century by Penlop Gyaltse Tenzin Rabgye. This incredible monastery clings to the edge of a sheer cliff that plunges 600 meters into the valley below.

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

Meals: B/L/D | Hotel in Paro

Day 4: Departure

Thimphu to Paro Airport | 2,280m | 2 hrs | 75 km

Early morning, drive to Paro International Airport for your departure. Bid farewell to the Land of the Thunder Dragon. Tashi Delek!

Meals: B

What's Included

Included

- + Accommodation in 3* Hotels in twin sharing basis
- + All Three Meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
- + Daily Tariff
- + Visa Fee
- + Royalty and Government Taxes
- + Sustainable Development Fee of USD 100 per night per person which 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, etc.
- Personal expenses in items such as laundry, soft or hard drinks, camera charges, bottle water in restaurants or in hotels, Portage, bellboy charges
- Charges for chartered flights necessitated by a sudden death or unforeseen mishap
- Tips to guide and driver

Ready to Book?

Contact our Bhutan travel experts to customize this itinerary.

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