

Losar - Bhutanese New Year Festival Tour

Losar is Bhutan's most cherished celebration - and unlike the great tshechus, it happens at home. On this small-group journey you will spend the New Year as the guest of a traditional family homestay in Haa, Bhutan's least-visited valley: helping prepare the Losar Eve feast, joining the family's dawn temple visit and first offerings, trying your hand at archery and khuru with the village, and hoisting new prayer flags for the year ahead. The journey is framed by Thimphu's pre-New-Year bustle and finishes with the classic winter hike to Tiger's Nest. This is not a festival you watch from the sidelines - it is one you are welcomed into.

LOCATION	DURATION
Paro, Thimphu, Haa	8 Days

Highlights

- Losar New Year celebration with a Bhutanese host family
- Two nights at a traditional Haa homestay in Haa Valley
- Khapse making and the Losar Eve feast
- Dawn temple visit and first offerings of the New Year
- Archery and khuru matches with the village
- Prayer flag hoisting for the year ahead
- Chele La pass with Jomolhari views
- Tiger's Nest hike in crisp winter air

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Paro

Paro | 2,200m | — | —

You will be received at Paro International Airport by your Byways guide and transferred to your hotel. After lunch, ease into Bhutan with a gentle stroll through Paro town and a visit to Paro Rinpung Dzong. Over a welcome dinner, your guide introduces Losar — the Bhutanese New Year — and what the coming days with your host family will hold.

Day 2: Thimphu & the New Year Rush

Thimphu | 2,350m | 1.5 hrs | 55 km

Drive to Thimphu and feel the capital preparing for the New Year: the Centenary Farmers' Market at its busiest as families shop for the feast, homes being cleaned and altars dressed. Visit Buddha Dordenma and the Memorial Chorten, where locals gather for prayers in the closing days of the old year.

Day 3: To Haa Valley — Losar Eve

Haa | 3,988m (Chele La) | ~4 hrs | 115 km

Cross the spectacular Chele La pass to Haa, Bhutan's least-visited valley, and settle in at a traditional village homestay — your Bhutanese family for Losar. Spend the afternoon in the kitchen helping fry khapse (New Year pastries) and preparing the altar offerings, then share a warming home-cooked dinner as the old year closes.

Day 4: Losar — New Year's Day with the Family

Haa | 2,700m | — | —

Rise before dawn with the family for the first offerings of the New Year and a visit to the local lhakhang as the valley wakes. Then the day belongs to celebration: the Losar feast with suja (butter tea) and desi (sweet saffron rice), toasts, songs, and the easy joy of a Bhutanese home on its biggest day of the year. You are not a spectator today — you are a guest of the house.

Day 5: Games, Prayer Flags & the Valley

Haa | 2,700m | — | —

Losar celebrations continue with the village: archery and khuru (traditional darts) matches — you'll be handed a bow — and a hike to a hilltop to hoist new prayer flags for the year ahead, a ritual you'll take part in. Visit Lhakhang Karpo and Lhakhang Nagpo, Haa's ancient white and black temples, before a farewell evening with your hosts.

Day 6: Return to Paro

Paro | 3,988m (Chele La) | 2.5-3 hrs | 65 km

Bid farewell to the family and drive back over Chele La — on a clear winter day the pass offers sweeping views of Jomolhari and Jichu Drake. Afternoon at leisure in Paro: the National Museum, a hot stone bath, or last souvenir hunting in town.

Day 7: Hike to Paro Taktshang (Tiger's Nest)

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

A full day for Bhutan's most iconic hike. Set out in the crisp morning air for Paro Taktshang, the Tiger's Nest Monastery, clinging to its cliff 900 meters above the valley — quiet and clear in winter, with the trail largely to yourselves. Take it at an unhurried pace: tea at the Taktshang Cafeteria on the way up, time

inside the monastery, and a slow descent. In the evening, soothe your legs with a traditional hot stone bath and share a farewell dinner in Paro.

Day 8: Departure

Paro | 2,200m | — | —

After breakfast, your guide and driver transfer you to Paro International Airport for your onward flight — sent off with tashi delek for the new year, and a standing invitation to come home to Bhutan again.

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.

bywaysinquiry@gmail.com | +975 77 220 614 | www.byways.bt