

Stargazing in Punakha

Discover the celestial wonders of Bhutan on this unique astro-tourism journey culminating in the beautiful Punakha Valley. With virtually no light pollution, Punakha offers exceptional conditions for stargazing—see the Milky Way stretch across the sky, identify constellations, and capture stunning night sky photographs. This tour seamlessly blends Bhutan's rich cultural heritage with unforgettable stargazing experiences, featuring the iconic Tiger's Nest Monastery, the majestic Punakha Dzong, and two nights of guided celestial observation in the pristine darkness of Punakha.

LOCATION	DURATION
Paro, Thimphu, Punakha	5 Days

Highlights

- Two nights of guided stargazing in Punakha Valley
- Milky Way observation and constellation identification
- Night sky photography session
- Tiger's Nest Monastery hike
- Visit the magnificent Punakha Dzong
- Cross Dochula Pass with 108 memorial chortens
- Traditional hot stone bath under the stars
- Cultural immersion with celestial wonder

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Paro & Evening Orientation

Arrive at Paro International Airport, one of the world's most scenic landings. Your guide will greet you with a traditional white scarf (khadhar). Transfer to your hotel and rest after your journey. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner and an introduction to Bhutan's pristine night skies—learn what makes this Himalayan kingdom exceptional for stargazing. Weather permitting, step outside for your first glimpse of the star-filled sky.

Day 2: Tiger's Nest & Paro Valley

After breakfast, embark on the iconic hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taksang), perched dramatically on a cliff 900 meters above the valley floor. This 4-5 hour round trip is one of Asia's most rewarding hikes. Afternoon, visit Paro Dzong and explore the charming town. Evening at leisure to rest before tomorrow's journey to Punakha.

Day 3: Paro to Punakha via Dochula Pass

Drive to Punakha, crossing the spectacular Dochula Pass (3,100m) with its 108 memorial chortens. On clear days, enjoy panoramic views of the Himalayan peaks. Stop at Chimi Lhakhang, the "Temple of the Divine Madman." Check in to your Punakha hotel. After dinner, begin your stargazing adventure—away from any city lights, the Punakha sky reveals thousands of stars invisible elsewhere. Your guide will introduce you to major constellations, planets visible that evening, and the mythology behind them.

Day 4: Punakha Dzong & Night Sky Photography

Morning visit to Punakha Dzong, the "Palace of Great Happiness," dramatically situated at the confluence of two rivers. Explore this architectural masterpiece and learn about its role in Bhutanese history. Afternoon, enjoy a traditional hot stone bath—the perfect relaxation before tonight's main event. After dinner, venture to a prime stargazing location for an extended session. Tonight focuses on Milky Way observation (seasonal) and night sky photography. Learn camera settings and techniques to capture the cosmos. Your guide will point out deep sky objects, discuss Buddhist perspectives on the cosmos, and help you create lasting memories of Bhutan's celestial beauty.

Day 5: Return to Paro & Departure

After a leisurely breakfast, drive back to Paro via Thimphu. Brief stops at Buddha Dordenma statue and the National Memorial Chorten. Arrive at Paro Airport for your departure flight, taking with you memories of Bhutan's ancient monasteries and star-filled skies. Tashi Delek!

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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