

# Dagala Thousand Lakes Trek

This trek takes you into an area adorned with a multitude of pristine, crystal clear lakes. As you walk amidst the shimmering lakes, you'll be treated to stunning views of the entire Himalayan mountain range and some of the world's highest peaks including Mt. Everest, Jomolhari, Masang Gang, Jichu Drake, Gangche Ta, and many more.

While this is a somewhat strenuous trek, it is well worth the effort because of the tranquility and beauty of the natural landscape that you will enjoy during the journey. The best time to embark on this trek is between April-June or September-October.

LOCATION	DURATION
<b>Dagala Range</b>	<b>9 Days</b>

DIFFICULTY	MAX ALTITUDE	BEST SEASON
<b>moderate</b>	<b>4,720m</b>	<b>Mar-May, Sep-Nov</b>

## Highlights

- Trek amidst pristine, crystal clear mountain lakes
- Panoramic views of Mt. Everest, Jomolhari, and other Himalayan peaks
- Spot blue poppies and mountain birds
- Camp beside Talakha Monastery
- Visit the iconic Tiger's Nest Monastery
- Experience authentic yak herder camps

## Day-by-Day Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrive at Paro

Paro | 2,280m

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

After lunch, visit **Ta Dzong**, an ancient watchtower built in 1656 and renovated in 1968, now converted into the National Museum of Bhutan. Then visit **Rinpung Dzong** (Paro Dzong), built in 1646 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. The dzong presently houses the administrative offices of Paro District and the monastery.

Meals: L/D | Hotel in Paro

### Day 2: Paro Sightseeing

Paro | 2,280m | 5h hike

After breakfast, take an excursion to **Tiger's Nest Monastery**. A short drive of around 25 minutes from the main town of Paro takes you to Satsam Chorten, where 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 rest and tea with cookies at the Taktsang cafeteria, 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 tigress, said to be his Tibetan consort known as Khandro Yeshe Tsogyal, and meditated in a cave nearby. The temple was built in the 17th century by the Penlop (governor) of Paro, Gyaltshe Tenzin Rabgye. This incredible monastery clings to the edge of a sheer rock cliff that plunges 600 meters into the valley below.

After lunch, visit **Drukgyel Dzong**, built in 1644 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to commemorate the victory over Tibetan invaders. The dzong is now in ruins because it was completely burned down by a fire caused by a butter lamp in 1951. The name "Drukgyel" means "Victorious Druk." The dzong was used as an administrative center until 1951.

Then visit **Kyichu Lhakhang**, one of Bhutan's oldest Buddhist temples, built in 659 AD by the Tibetan king Songtsen Gampo. In the evening, stroll around the tiny town of Paro.

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Meals: B/L/D | Hotel in Paro

### Day 3: Paro to Gur - Trek Starts

Gynekha to Gur | 3,290m | 4-5 hours | 7 km

After breakfast, drive to the starting point of your trek which takes around an hour to a beautiful village called **Gynekha**.

A short descent to the river, crossing the bridge, you start climbing until you reach a huge rock platform from where you have a picturesque view of the valley below.

After another two hours, you reach **Gur**, an area of yak pastures located just below the main trail.

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Meals: B/L/D | Camping

### Day 4: Gur to Labatamba

Gur to Labatamba | 4,300m | 5-6 hours | 12 km

On the second day, the trail takes you across the high ridges from where you can truly appreciate the rugged beauty of your surroundings and the mountain vegetation.

The first mountain pass you cross is marked by a huge cairn and gives a spectacular view of **Mt. Kanchenjunga** (8,586m of Sikkim) and a number of the Bhutanese Himalayan peaks.

As you descend the pass, you will be able to see the entirety of the Dagala mountain range including meadows and yak herder camps.

Once you have descended into the Labatamba valley, you begin climbing gradually through the valley, passing several yak herder huts before you arrive at **Uthso Tsho**. The campsite is right next to the lake.

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Meals: B/L/D | Camping

## Day 5: Labatamba to Panka

Labatamba to Panka | 4,000m | 6-7 hours | 8 km

The trail climbs along the western side of **Dala Tsho** up to a saddle at 4,520m. From here onwards, you will have a fantastic view of the majestic Himalayan peaks all through the descent.

Provided the weather is clear, the mountain peaks visible in the far distance include **Mt. Everest** (8,838m of Nepal), **Mt. Kanchenjunga** (8,586m of Sikkim), **Mt. Jomolhari** (7,314m), **Mt. Jichu Drake** (6,989m), **Mt. Tshering Gang** (6,789m), **Mt. Khangbum** (6,526m), **Mt. Masang Gang**, **Mt. Tsende Gang**, and **Mt. Gangche Ta**.

If you want an even better view, you can climb a peak close to the saddle with an altitude of 4,720m.

From the saddle, the path descends, passing some yak herder huts to Doccha Chhu. You follow the river for a while but stay higher up on the slope to reach **Panka** with ascents and descents along the way.

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Meals: B/L/D | Camping

## Day 6: Panka to Talakha

Panka to Talakha | 3,080m | 5-6 hours | 8 km

Today you need to cross several passes but none of them require a major climb. You should keep your eyes open for different varieties of blue poppy (June-July) and mountain birds while in this area.

After crossing the last pass, **Tale La** (4,180m), you start a long descent to **Talakha Monastery**.

You will camp right beside the monastery and wake up to the early morning prayers of the monks. From here, you will be treated to a great view of Bhutan's capital, Thimphu.

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Meals: B/L/D | Camping

## Day 7: Talakha to Chamgang to Thimphu - Trek Ends

Talakha to Thimphu | 2,350m | 3 hours | 6 km

From the monastery, it's a short walk down to the feeder road which will lead you to the village of **Chamgang** where your driver will be waiting for you.

After that, drive to Thimphu and relax in the hotel.

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Meals: B/L/D | Hotel in Thimphu

## Day 8: Thimphu Sightseeing

Thimphu | 2,350m

After breakfast, visit **National Memorial Chorten**, which was built in 1974 by the mother of our third king in memory of the third king, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. The paintings and statues in the temple are dedicated to the third king.

Then visit the tallest statue of **Buddha Dordenma** (51 meters tall).

After that, visit the **Mini Zoo** where you will get a chance to see our national animal, the Takin.

Finally, visit **Tashichho Dzong** and stroll around Thimphu city for shopping.

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Meals: B/L/D | Hotel in Thimphu

## Day 9: Departure

Paro Airport | 2,280m

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

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Meals: B

## What's Included

### Included

- + Accommodation in 3\* Hotels in twin sharing basis
- + All Three Meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
- + Daily Tariff
- + 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
- + Camping equipment and tents
- + Pack horses and horsemen
- + Trekking permits

### Not Included

- Air Fare
- Visa fee of USD 40 per person
- 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.

[bywaysinquiry@gmail.com](mailto:bywaysinquiry@gmail.com) | +975 77 220 614 | [www.byways.bt](http://www.byways.bt)