

# 7D6N Essential Bhutan

Fr **\$2099**

**ONLY DEP: 28DEC17 – 03JAN18**

**LIMITED 20 SEATS ONLY**

**BASED ON FIRST COME FRIST SERVE BASIS**

**INCLUSIONS:**

**Air Tickets with Taxes, 6Nights 3\* Hotel accommodation,  
All Meals, Bhutan Visa Fee, Bhutan Govt Royalties Taxes,  
Sightseeing entrance fees.**

**28DEC 17**

**SINGAPORE → PARO - THIMPHU (B/L/D)**

(Elevation of Thimphu - 2,350m)

On arrival, you will be greeted by the Local Guide.

**KYICHU LHAKHANG:** An ancient Himalayan Buddhist monastery, built in the 7th century by Tibetan Emperor Songsten Gampo to spread the teachings of the Buddha. It is believed that many spiritual treasures were hidden at the site of the temple and later revealed by great Buddhist teachers.



**EXOTIC SAJIB BAZAR** "Paro Farmer's weekend Market", the domestic weekend market for the farmers. It's one of the popular spots for the tourists and a recreational place for people from all walks of life displaying wide assortment of fresh, organic produce.

Before hopping onto your coach to move towards **THIMPHU**, witness locals greatly enjoying archery in their traditional attire, Bhutan's National Sport.

**1 hour and 30 mins** drive from **PARO** to **THIMPHU**. En-route, stop at **TACHO GANG TEMPLE** iron Bridge "temple of the hill of the excellent horse" built by the so-called Iron Bridge Builder, Thangtong Gyalpo in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It's said that while Thangtong Gyalpo was meditating here, he had a vision of the spiritual horse Balaha-an emanation of Alvalokieshvara. He decided there upon to build a temple at this spot in addition to one of his famous iron bridge. Crossing this Iron bridge would be one of your thrilling experiences in Bhutan.



**TASHICHOEDZONG**, "fortress of the glorious religion". This is the center of government and religion, site of monarch's throne room and seat of Je Khenpo or Chief Abbot. Built in 1641 in traditional Bhutanese manner, without nails or architectural plans.

*Overnight at a Hotel in Thimphu*



**29DEC 17**

**EXCURSION WITHIN THIMPHU (B / L / D)**

**BHUTAN POST OFFICE:** This Post Office is not only friendly and open with helpful staff, but also has the most amazing fabulous facility where you can get stamps made with your face on, which are legal and can be used to mail your postcards overseas. The reaction of friends and family at home when they receive mail from Bhutan with your own face on the stamp is priceless. The process is quick and efficient, and very reasonably priced. *(DTS will provide postcards for free for all our guests to be posted home)*

**MEMORIAL STUPA:** Dwarfing the modern concrete structures in its vicinity, the towering Memorial Stupa is one of the most visible landmarks in Bhutan's capital. It was built, some 40 years ago, to commemorate the life and times of the Father of Modern Bhutan – Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (the 3rd king).

Feel free to interact and take photos of elderly people continuously circumambulating around, murmuring mantras and spinning their prayer wheels.



**BUDDHA DORDENMA:** World's largest Buddha - just three kilometers from the town centre is the Buddha Dordenma project, where the 169-foot tall statue of Shakyamuni Buddha is being built in the posture in which he attained enlightenment 2,600 years ago at Bodha Gaya, India. You may also enjoy the breathtaking view of Thimphu Vallet from Kuensel Phodrang Park. This Buddha Dordema Project is partially sponsored by Singaporean.

After lunch, proceed to **PUNAKHA**, a place once famed as the ancient capital of Bhutan and, even today, houses the national treasures of the Kingdom. After 40 mins drive from **THIMPHU**, make a brief stop over at one of the most picturesque passes in Bhutan **DOCHUL PASS** which is located at an altitude of 3,100 meters and is perhaps the only spot where one can see the eastern Himalayas in a spectacular 360 degrees. It is here that a grand new festival has been introduced besides which the place is also known for a plethora of flora and fauna. Dochula Pass sub-tropical forests, the habitat of the White-Bellied Heron (world's most endangered bird), rhododendron forests (Bhutan has 48 species), and then beautiful alpine flowers in all colors.



*Overnight at a hotel in Punakha.*

**30DEC17**

**PUNAKHA** (Elevation of Punakha-1,310 m)

Today the day begins with morning short leisure hike to **TEMPLE OF FERTILITY**, located amid rice fields at the bank of Punatsangchu river. This ancient temple was built to honour the “Divine Mad Man” – Drukpa Kuenley - whose crazy teachings bordered on the burlesque including phallic worship. Today, the temple is much sought after by barren couples all over the world for its power to grant fertility.



After lunch, our most climactic part of the day, however, is the visit to **PUNAKHA DZONG** – the grand ancient capital – which is considered the most beautiful architectural specimen from Bhutan. This awe-inspiring complex which appears like a gigantic ship in the midst of an ocean, flanked as it is by two rivers on either side, is the home of Bhutan’s spirituality. It is here Bhutan’s Kings are crowned and the head of the Buddhist clergy anointed.

**PUNAKHA SUSPENION BRIDGE:** After the visit to Dzong, walk up to have another adventure - Punakha Suspension Bridge – This is going to be one of the highlights of today’s tour. It is known for the 2nd longest suspension bridge in Bhutan. The bridge is set very high on a fast mountain river, it is perfect for those who wish to get their heart pumping with excitement. This suspension bridge connects the town of Punakha and the Punakha Dzong with the smaller villages surrounding the Punakha town. The view from the bridge is very stunning and spectacular. The prayer flags, the mountain, the river below and the monks bathing makes it unique. It is a short walk from the picturesque Punakha Dzong. The real adventure is walking across the bridge.



**SANGCHEN DORJI LHENDRUP NUNNERY**, a magnificent nunnery temple built by the Queen’s parents is located right on the top of the hill, the stupa resembling Nepal’s Boudhanath stupa. In the evening, one can witness nuns doing evening prayers. Get ready for a group photo with nuns!

*Overnight at a hotel in Punakha .*



**31DEC17**

**PUNAKHA – PARO** (Elevation of Paro- 2,195m)

Today, we will embark onto a easy scenic hike along with visit to school visit.  
(Please wear a pair of comfortable walking shoe)

**HIKE TO KHAMSUM YULLEY NAMGYEL:** A hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyel will take you through the beautiful landscapes amidst terraced fields and old farm houses. The Stupa-like-temple stands out beautifully on a hill on the opposite bank of the river, built by the Queen mother. Due to its intricacy and unique architectural designs, it took 8 ~ 10 years to complete. While hiking towards Khamsum Yulley Namgyel, we will make a stopover at **YOEBESA COMMUNITY SCHOOL** - one of the smallest community schools in Bhutan. Visit classes and interact with enthusiastic students.



3 – 4 Hours drive from PUNAKHA to back to PARO.

*Overnight at a Hotel in Paro.*

**01JAN18**

**PARO** (Elevation of Taktshang – 3,120 m)



#### **HIKE TO TIGER'S NEST**

(Please a pair of very very comfortable walk shoe)

With an early start, we will undertake a three-hour hike to Taktshang ( Tiger's lair), the most famous temple in the Himlayan Buddhist world – Taktshang Monastery.

#### **Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest)**

**\*\* For spiritual connection, interested ones can host prayer flags.**  
*( Prayer flags are combination of mantras and prayers for the happiness and good fortune among all living beings. The prayer flags in five different colors fluttering in the wind symbolize five different elements- blue stands for wind element.The white flag symbolizes air, and the red flag stands for fire. The green and yellow flags symbolize water and earth, respectively.)*

*Lunch will be served at the Taktshang Cafeteria where you get the clear view of Tiger's Nest.*

**\*Optional** – Nothing beats a soak into Hot stone bath after an arduous hike to Tiger's Nest.

**Luxuriate yourself by soaking into our own hot-stone spa.  
An evening to remember!**

After soaking in your legs at the hot stone-spa, get ready for another unforgettable moment- partake in an open-air cultural show by the professional local dancers with the bonfire without forgetting to try Bhutanese local "Ara"-the homemade alcohol along with the wellness tea.

*Hot-pot Dinner at hot stone bath café and Overnight at a Hotel in Paro.*



**02JAN18**

**PARO – CHELALA PASS - PARO**

This day will be fully engaged in immersion into culture, hands-on experiences and so on.

**Be a local!**

Cook with locals at the farm house where you can learn how to cook Bhutan's National Dish "Ema datse" and brew local alcohol "Ara"

Eat with locals and wear like locals without forgetting to enjoy interaction and photography session to take back the best memories.

Towards the evening, if you are not tired, while driving back towards the hotel, we will visit the **RUIN OF DRUKGYEL** which is registered under UNESCO in 2012. It is considered as the most beautiful and famous archeological sites in Bhutan.



**TAA DZONG / National Museum:** One time watch tower built to define Rinpung Dzong during inter-valley wars of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, since 1967 Taa Dzong is serving as the National Museum of the country. It holds fascinating collection of art, relics, religious thangkha paintings and Bhutan's exquisite postage stamps. The museum circular shape augments its varied collection displayed over several floors.



**THE RUIN OF DRUKGYEL DZONG:** This Dzong, with a delightful village nestling at its foot was built in 1646 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to commemorate his victory over the Tibetan invaders. Historically and geographic magazine. The glory Drukgyal Dzong remain even when it was destroyed by fire in 1951. On a clear day, one can see the commanding view of Mount. Jomolhari from the village, below the Ruin.



**\*\*** If time permits, toward the evening, embark on to A NATURE DRIVE THROUGH PINE a nature drive through pine woods and winding roads to Chelela pass (3,988m), the highest point reached by road in Bhutan. From **Chelela**, one can also get a view of famous Himalayan ranges like snow-clad Mt. Jhomolhari (7,300m), the abode of Goddess Remati, and other peaks like Jichu Dra-ke (6,950 m).

*Overnight at a Hotel in Paro.*

**03JAN18**

**PARO – SINGAPORE**

Coach pick up transfer to Paro airport for your flight departure back to Singapore.

*\*All immigration departure cards will be pre-filled up by our company for swift check-in. All we need is their signatures at the end of the card!*

## PROPOSED FLIGHT SCHEDULE (LIMITED TO 20 GROUP SEAT ONLY)

### DRUK AIR

28DEC18	KB501	SIN / PARO	0630 - 1050
03JAN18	KB500	PARO / SIN	0750 - 1610

**Note:** Flight timings are subject to change by the airlines without prior notices.

PACKAGES PRICE		
Special Promotion Package	\$2699	\$2099

### B. Hotel Used will be 3 stars

### C. Quotation Includes:

- Return group fare on Druk Air
- All Airport Taxes
- 6 nights' 3 star hotel accommodation
- Bhutan Visa Fee & All Taxes
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Bottles (500ml) drinking water
- Entrance to sightseeing site as per itinerary
- All coaching and transfer services required for the programme
- Service of English-speaking Local tour guide

### D. Quoted Tour Fare Excludes:

- Optional Tours (Hot Stone Bath)
- Local Guide & Driver Tipping US\$7 per day per person.
- All items of personal nature such as drinks, laundry, room service, etc.
- Increase in airport taxes/fuel surcharges (subject to change until ticket issuance).
- Items not explicitly detailed in this proposal should not be deemed as inclusive.