



The Women's Travel Group HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS BHUTAN

Rated as the happiest country in the world, this hidden treasure of the Himalayas, known as the Dragon Kingdom, is home to an ancient and simple lifestyle. You can combine Bhutan with Nepal, Delhi/Agra or Bangkok.



Day 1 - Friday, Oct. 14 Arrive Paro (Bhutan) / Thimpu (D)

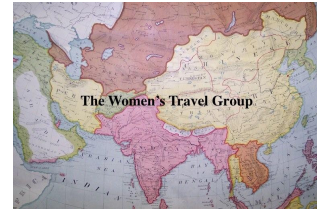
We are met on arrival in Paro. (Paro Airport is at 7,200 feet / 2,195 meters) Drive to Thimphu. If time permits, stroll around the small Thimphu town. This evening we will meet our Tour Leader for an orientation, before our Welcome dinner.

Overnight at HOTEL LE MERIDIEN.

Located at the heart of Bhutan's capital city, we are just steps away from shops and entertainment, and conveniently accessible to Memorial Chorten, Tashichho Dzong, and other celebrated attractions. 78 elegant guest rooms and suites boast authentic Bhutanese-style furnishings and amenities like a flat-screen TV, free high-speed WiFi, marble bathroom, an ergonomic workspace, and uncompromising views of the local hillsides and the capital city. Be inspired and energized by the global flavors and creative presentations of our carefully curated fare at Latest Recipe, Sese Shamu, the only Pan Asian restaurant in Thimphu and Latitude 27. Relax and revitalize with our selection of leisure facilities including a swimming pool and pampering spa.

Day 2 - Saturday, Oct. 15 - Thimphu Valley Sightseeing (BL)

Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, is situated at an elevation of 8200ft. / 2500 meters. This morning we visit the **Buddha Point**, the **Royal Textile Museum**, followed by the **Folk Heritage Museum**. We enjoy a traditional lunch at the folk heritage restaurant. After lunch,



we visit the **Memorial Chorten** (stupa-Buddhist shrine c. 1974) built to honor the late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk. Visit **RENEW** (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Woman), a non-profit organization dedicated to empowerment of women and children in Bhutan, and finally stop by the **Dupthop Lhakhang** (a Buddhist Nunnery).

Day 3 - Sunday, Oct. 16 - Thimphu / Punakha Excursion (BLD)

Our first stop after leaving Thimphu is **Dochula Pass**. Situated at 10,500 feet / 3,200 meters above sea level, the pass offers breathtaking views of the Himalayan Range and valleys below. While in Punakha, visit **Punakha Dzong**, (Dzong, a distinctive type of fortress architecture) built at the confluence of the Phochu and Mochu Rivers in 1637. Visit one of the **longest suspension bridges** in Bhutan, spanning 600 feet / 180 meters over the fast-flowing Pho Chhu river, before driving back to Thimphu.

Day 4 Monday, Oct. 17 - Thimphu to Paro (BLD)

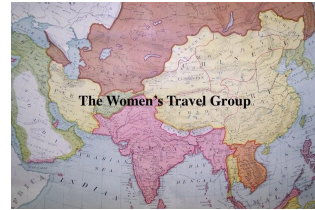
After breakfast, drive to Paro. Visit, **Drukgyal Dzong** built in 1647 the Dzong was destroyed by fire and left in ruins as an evocative reminder of the great victories it was built to commemorate. On a clear day, we can get a magnificent view of Mount Chomolhari, altitude. 23,990 feet / 7314 meters Drive south to **Satsam Chorten**, erected in memory of the late Dilgo Khentse Rinpoche, and continue to **Kyichu Lhakhang**, built in the seventh century by a Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo. For lunch, we will try **local cuisine at a farmhouse**. After lunch visit the **National Museum of Bhutan** (Ta Dzong) which contains works of art, handicrafts, costumes, armor, and rare stamps. Take a leisurely walk down to **Rimpung Dzong**. We walk through a traditional covered bridge across the river to our waiting vehicle at the valley floor which takes us to the Hotel. If time permits, walk up the nearby hill to get a panoramic view of the Paro Valley.

Overnight at LE MERIDIEN PARO

Le Meridien Paro, Riverfront is the perfect destination that offers the opportunity to live and experience the country's exotic culture and natural beauty with a mix of luxury and comfort. Located 10 minutes from Paro International Airport, Le Meridien Paro, Riverfront is situated on the edge of the Paro River, offering panoramic views of the Eastern Himalayas, making it a perfect stopover for anyone visiting Bhutan. The timeless art of leisure can be freely pursued with amenities that include Explore Spa and an indoor heated pool, as well as a Fitness Center. Our two restaurants, Bamboo Chic and Latest Recipe and Latitude bar offer diners an exquisite sensorial experience. Our 59 guest rooms, including seven suites, are chic retreats designed with the curious traveler in mind. Each offers striking Himalayan Valley and Paro River views.

Day 5 Tuesday, Oct. 18 - Excursion to Taktsang Monastery "Tiger's Lair" (BLD)

After breakfast, our vehicle will drop us at the starting point of the excursion to view the spectacular **Taktsang monastery** (Tiger's Lair). 10,000 feet – 320 meters. The trail to the monastery climbs through beautiful pine forest, many of the trees festooned with Spanish moss, and an occasional grove of fluttering prayer flags. Mules are for hire as far as the cafeteria, but not downhill on the return. We stop halfway for a rest and refreshments and continue the hike (if not tired) for a short while until we see, clearly and seemingly within reach, the Taktsang monastery. Constructed in the 1600s and renovated in 2002, this incredible monastery clings to the edge of a sheer rock cliff that plunges 2900 feet/900 meters into the valley below. History states that Guru Padmasambhava, the Tantric mystic



who brought Buddhism to Bhutan, landed here on the back of a flying tiger. Looking at the monastery flying tigers do not seem so impossible after all! Lunch will be served at the cafeteria. If not too tired, we can visit a farmhouse for a relaxing **hot stone bath**. (There are mules, donkey and horses for those who wish to ride part of the way. There is a place to sit and a cafeteria as a half way point; from here you can see the monastery. The second half of the walk is steeper but paved. Farewell dinner this evening with time to share our adventures and treasures from our journey

Day 6 - Wednesday, Oct. 19 Paro / Delhi – Onward (B)
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From a window seat on clear days, we can experience a spectacular view of Himalayan peaks as we leave Paro for Delhi where we will connect with our international flight back home.

Please note We can also fly onward via Bangkok or Kathmandu or add Delhi/Agra with the Taj Mahal.. Call for details.

Day 7 Thursday, Oct. 20 Arrive home or at our next destination.

INCLUDED:

- Accommodation on Twin sharing basis at the hotels mentioned above or similar if not available
- Meals as listed in the itinerary on a fixed menu basis (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)
- Sightseeing and transfers in Bhutan by non-air-conditioned vehicles (Jeeps / Vans)
- Local guide in Bhutan.
- Applicable entrances at the listed monuments
- Services of our representative at airports on arrival/departures
- Bhutan visa fee
- All presently applicable government taxes.

NOT INCLUDED:

- International Airfare.
- Internal Airfare
- Meals other than mentioned in the itinerary.
- Any services during leisure time.
- Airport taxes
- Insurance
- Tipping/gratuities
- Necessary inoculations
- Items of personal nature such as visa fee, telephone, laundry, beverages.
- Any items not listed above.

Land Arrangements

Minimum 6 travelers on sharing basis
Single supplement

\$3,425
\$1,745



WTG – Terms & Conditions – Bhutan

TERMS, CONDITIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION

Please read the Terms, Conditions & General Information contained in these pages very carefully. They outline the terms under which The Women's Travel Group (ECPS Consulting Corp.) and SITA World Tours will operate, and they limit our liability. Payment of deposit and/or final payment is an acknowledgement of receipt of these terms & conditions and constitutes acceptance of such as outlined.

COVID-19 and Your personal responsibility:

Countries welcoming you and allowing open travel will have a Covid-19 rule-set in place. Visitors must be familiar with these requirements and are expected to adhere to all rules. Requirements will differ from country to country and may also change over time. It is therefore important that all travelers are secure in their understanding of what will be expected of them before departing their home and upon entering a foreign destination. Please ask your SITA Travel Expert in regard to the specific entry requirements. Furthermore, understand that COVID-19 may be present anywhere. The World Health Organization and medical experts have stated that older citizens, as well as guests with existing health challenges, are exposed to heightened risks. It is important that travelers take personal responsibility for their well-being and strictly follow instructions, whether given verbally or through public announcements and signage. When traveling with SITA World Tours you agree to accept all risks associated with exposure to COVID-19. At SITA World Tours we encourage adherence to hygiene and distancing rules and sincerely wish that all of our guests travel safe and remain healthy

Please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/pdf/global-airline-testing-order_2021-01-2_R3-signed-encrypted-p.pdf

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>

Visas: US Passport holders currently require visas for Bhutan. we can provide the visa, free of charge as long as clients send a color copy of their passport at the time of booking. Please ensure that your passport is valid for 6 months from the return date and has a blank visa page for the entry stamp. (not an endorsement page)

Airfares (TBA): Based on current fares and subject to change without notice UNTIL TICKETED. Airfares are based on the current lowest fare, and subject to availability of the applicable class of service. it may be necessary to re-quote a



fare at the time of booking, depending on availability. At the time of final payment, please check for any applicable increase in taxes and fuel surcharges. Airfares are subject to different rules and cancellation fees. Some airfares may be non-refundable once ticketed. Details will be provided on request. **Please note that effective Jun 01 2019 it is mandatory to provide the passenger contact details – Tel # & Email – to the airline, so that they may provide updates directly to the passenger regarding schedule changes, flight delays, or cancellations.** The passenger has the right, not to provide the contact details, but the travel agency issuing the ticket requires to receive such refusal in writing, which will be added to the ticketing record.

****Insurance:** We strongly recommend Travel Insurance. The link below says ECPS Consulting-the name for our insurance license. We can secure quotes and buy insurance easily from this link. **Travel Insurance Quote linked here** Insurance is non-refundable

Inoculations: We recommend that We contact Passport Health at 1-888-499 7277 or www.passporthealthusa.com for questions regarding country-specific health counseling.

Tour Reservations: SITA requires a deposit of \$500 per person to commence reservations. This amount will be adjusted with the balance due 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Payments: SITA accepts tour payments by Agency check and /or by clients Visa, Master & American Express credit cards. Payments are made directly online at.SITA does not accept 3rd party credit cards.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received 90 days or more prior to departure: \$350 per person; 89-61 days prior to departure, the fee incurred will be 75% of the entire tour price No refunds whatsoever will be made for cancellations received within the last 60 days prior to departure.

NOTE: If We book as a share and request a change to a Single room or We request a share, are paired with a roommate, and later cancel, the penalty is \$225. Should we find a suitable match for Wer former roommate, the penalty will be credited back to We.

Tour documents: Final tour documents including day-by-day itinerary, hotel listing, air tickets & vouchers are sent between 30-15 days prior to departure.