



Dear Traveler

Greetings from **Horizon Holidays**

Thank you for choosing us for your travel needs. The travel plan is totally customizable. Please reach your tour planner and ask for changes that you would like to incorporate in your vacation.

WHEREVER YOU GO

We at **Horizon Holidays** genuinely appreciate your business, and we're grateful for the trust you've placed in us.

-Confucius



Welcome to Bhutan

The Land of the Thunder Dragon

Explore the fascinating cultural heritage of **Bhutan** with its beautiful Mountain scenery. Known as the land of the Thunder Dragon it is set amidst the magnificent Himalayan Ranges with its idyllic country vistas of terraced rice paddies, snowcapped peaks and colorful Buddhist prayer flags flapping in the breeze; with Temples and Stupas dotting the horizon along the way. Experience special moments with locals at their festivals and in their colorful and lively Markets. Share the passion on one of our wonderful journeys in Bhutan.

Inclusions

- Accommodation in Hotels as customized.
- **Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner. Starting with Dinner on Day 1.
- All applicable Transfers & Sightseeing (will not be at disposal). Will be exclusively used for guests as per the itinerary only (on point to point basis) with driver.
- Vehicle Type: As per Pax Size.
- Driving Time: 10AM in Morning till 7PM in the Evening.
- Sustainable Development Fees of INR 1200 per person per night.
- Professional English Speaking Guide. (In Bhutan Territory).
- Pickup & Drop from and to Bagdogra Airport.
- All Taxes.

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Exclusions

- All International and Domestic Airfares.
- Any Entry Fees Applicable.
- Travel Insurance.
- Any Meals not specified in the itinerary above.
- Hotel mini-bar, snacks, beverages, laundry, telephone calls and all other similar incidentals.
- Any items or services not specified in the itinerary above.
- Pre-registration or late check-out of rooms.
- Personal items.
- Cost incurred due to mishaps, strikes, political unrest etc.
- Anything not mentioned under Inclusions.



7N8D Bhutan - Highlights

Day 1: Arrival at Bagdogra. Transfers to Phuntsholing (170km/5hrs).

Day 2: Phuntsholing to Thimphu (150km/5hrs).

Day 3: Thimphu to Punakha. (80km/3hrs).

Day 4: Punakha - Phobjikha Valley - Punakha (80km/3hrs - One Way).

Day 5: Punakha to Paro (135km/4hrs).

Day 6: The Famous Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Day 7: Paro to Bagdogra (300km/8hrs).

Day 8: Departure from Bagdogra Airport.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival at Bagdogra. Transfers to Phuntsholing (170km/5hrs)

Upon arrival at **Bagdogra Airport**, you shall be picked up in our exclusive vehicle and transferred to your hotel in **Phuntsholing**. Phuntsholing is the most urbanized town of Bhutan. It is considered as the financial, industrial and trading capital of the country. Phuntsholing separates Bhutan from India at the border and one can clearly notice the difference in culture, lifestyle and landscape. This town is known as the gateway to Bhutan for trade with India.

Day 2: Phuntsholing to Thimphu (150km/5hrs)

After breakfast, drive towards the capital of Bhutan - Thimphu. **Thimphu** combines a natural small-town feel with a new commercial exuberance that constantly challenges the country's natural conservatism and Shangri La image. Vehicle traffic, unheard of a handful of years ago, now crawls through the center of town during an equally new phenomenon - rush hour. However, the juxtapositions of old and new remain part of



Thimpu's charm. Crimson-robed monks, government ministers clad in traditional dress and camera-wielding tourists all share pavements lined with shops selling SIM cards and Buddhist accessories. Upon arrival, visit **Kuensel Phodrang (Buddha Statue)** a place for refreshing with a huge statue of Buddha on top of the Kuensel Phodrang. **Simply Bhutan** - An interactive 'living' museum that gives a good guided introduction to various aspects of Bhutanese traditional life. **National Memorial Chorten (Monument) & Folk Heritage Museum**. Later visit **Sangaygang View Point, Changangkha Monastery** and **Takin Preserve Centre** as time permits.

Day 3: Thimphu to Punakha. (80km/3hrs)

After breakfast, drive to the old capital **Punakha**, via the **Dochu La Pass at 3050m**, where you will stop to enjoy spectacular panoramic views of the eastern Himalayan Ranges. You will notice the change of climate and vegetation as we approach the low-lying Punakha at 1250m altitude. On the way, visit **Chime Lhakhang**, which was built by Lama **Drukpa Kuenley**. He subdued the demons with his **"Magical Thunder Bolt"**. The Temple is also known as **"The Temple of Fertility"**. Punakha is the old historical capital of Bhutan and was the site of the coronation of the first king of unified independent Bhutan in 1907, Ugyen Wangchuk. It sits in a warm valley famous in Bhutan for its white and red rice cultivation. Further, visit **Punakha Dzong**, known as the **'Palace of Great Happiness'**; the fortress was built in 1637CE, making it the country's second oldest and second largest Dzong. **Overnight in Punakha.**

Day 4: Punakha - Phobjikha Valley - Punakha (80km/3hrs - One Way)

After breakfast drive to the beautiful valley of **Gangtey**. Enroute, visit to **Wangdiphodrang Dzong built in 1638**. Legend relates that as the people were searching for the site of the Dzong; four ravens were seen flying away in four directions. This was considered auspicious sign, representing the spread of religion to the four points of the compass. The Dzong is situated at the confluence of **Mo Chu** and **Tang Chu** Rivers. Drive further to Gangtey. Visit **Gangtey Gompa** from outside. Gyaltshe Pema Thinley, the grandson and mind reincarnation of Pema Lingpa founded the Temple in 1613, and Tenzin Legpai Dhendup, the second re-incarnation, built the temple.



The present Abbot, Kunzang Pema Namgyal is the ninth re-incarnation. It is a Nyingmapa Monastery and is affiliated to other Nyingmapa monasteries including Tamshing in Bumthang. Explore **Phobjikha Valley**, famous for the Black Necked Cranes during winter. Proceed back to **Punakha**.

Day 5: Punakha to Paro (135km/4hrs)

After breakfast, visit **Punakha Dzong**, known as the '**Palace of Great Happiness**'; the fortress was built in 1637CE, making it the country's second oldest and second largest Dzong. Later, take a short excursion to visit the **Chhimi Lhakhang - The Temple**, also known as '**The Temple of Fertility**' built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley, 'The Devine Mad Man'. Later, drive towards **Paro**. Paro is a historic town with many sacred sites and historical buildings scattered through the area. The Paro Valley is wide and verdant and is recognized as one of the most beautiful of all towns in Bhutan. On arrival, visit **Ta Dzong** - the newly opened museum in the watchtower; dedicated to the Wangchuk dynasty. They tell the stories of the Dzong and the valley, and features personal belongings of the kings and queens of Bhutan. Later in the evening, you are at leisure to explore **Paro** on your own.

Day 6: The Famous Tiger's Nest Monastery.

After breakfast, you shall visit, what is literally considered as the '**Wall Poster of Bhutan**' - '**The Tiger's Nest**'. The Tiger's Nest Monastery, also known as **Paro Taktsang**, is one of Bhutan's most recognized spots. Even people on the quickest of tours through Bhutan find the time to make it here. Why? Because this place is extraordinary. The Tiger's Nest Monastery is a small collection of buildings precariously perched on a cliff, 900meters off of the ground. It is stunning in its beauty and location. Without a doubt, a first time trip to Bhutan would not be complete without seeing the Tiger's Nest. The Tiger's Nest Monastery was constructed in 1692, around the cave where Guru Rinpoche first meditated; the event that introduced Buddhism into Bhutan. There is a legend that Guru Rinpoche was carried from Tibet to this location on the back of a tigress, thus giving it the name 'Tiger's Nest'.

Day 7: Paro to Bagdogra (300km/8hrs)

After breakfast, prepare for a long drive towards **Siliguri / Bagdogra**. On arrival, you are free for Shopping.



Day 8: Departure from Bagdogra Airport.

Today, after a delicious breakfast, you shall proceed towards **Bagdogra Airport**, for your Onward Journey Home with great memories from '**Horizon Holidays**'.

Happy Memories



*WHEREVER YOU GO
GO WITH ALL YOUR HEART*

-Confucius