



Refresh Your Spirits
Reach New Heights

October Festival Tour

Jakar Masked Dance Festival

Mon 11th – Sat 23rd October 2010 (13 days/12 nights)
(12D/11N option also available)

**Jakar Festival.
Luxury Resort
Hotel option.**

Highlights

- A cultural sightseeing tour of Thimphu, Paro, Punakha, Wangdi, Trongsa & Bumthang
- Visit Dzongs (monasteries), Lakhangs (temples), museums, villages & places of natural beauty.
- Short hike to Taktsang Monastery (the famous “Tiger’s Nest”)
- Visits to traditional arts and crafts schools and individual workshops. Watch artisans while they work.
- Evening of entertainment - performance by a traditional musicians and Bhutanese dining.
- Departs from Bangkok or Kolkatta **Mon 11th – Sat 23rd Oct.** (12 nights)
- Option: joining from Kathmandu: **Tues 12th Oct – Sat 23rd Oct** (11 nights)
- Option: joining from Delhi: **Mon 11th Oct – Fri 22nd Oct** (11 nights)

About this tour

This tour will bring you to the centre of Bhutan. It provides you with a thoroughly enjoyable cultural tour of the spiritual heartland of Bhutan. And you will get to see the popular Masked Dance Festival of Jakar Dzong.

Your tour starts with a leisurely stop in **Paro**, giving you time to acclimatize and enjoy the many colourful cultural sites of Paro. In addition to a full cultural tour of **Thimphu, Punakha** and **Wangdi**, you will travel to the high-altitude glacial valley of **Phobjikha**. After full immersion in nature, with only solar-panelled electric lighting, you will move on to **Trongsa** and the cultural heartland of Bhutan, the **Bumthang** valley.

You will be driving through some of the most spectacular scenery in Bhutan, as you traverse the Black mountain range and cross several high passes. The Pele-la pass, at 3,300 metres, is often covered in mist. It marks the boundary between East and West and not only the landscape changes but also the climate, the houses and the customs differ as you descend towards Trongsa, the base of the first king of Bhutan

Two hours from Trongsa is the town of **Jakar**, the main town in the Bumthang valley (2700metres) where you will spend a few days touring the sites linked to so many of Bhutan’s religious and historical legends. A highlight of the tour and a true visual delight, is the “**tsechu**” festival held in the Jakar Dzong. Religious masked dances will be performed by monks and laymen.

Additional attractions include the wool weaving centers and the supplies of cheese, apple juice and honey that are produced here using Swiss methods. The area is ideal for gentle treks and day walks into the countryside, passing through villages where the farmers are going about their daily lives, ploughing with oxen, sifting wheat, grinding flour or weaving.

Celebrate the end of your visit with an evening of classic Bhutanese dining accompanied by musicians playing on traditional instruments. The final day’s trek to **Taktsang** (optional) is another highlight of the tour.

Bhutan Visit, P.O. Box 1334, Lhaki Lam, Thimphu, Kingdom of Bhutan. Tel/Fax: (975)-2-325811

Website: <http://www.bhutanvisit.com> E-mail: info@bhutanvisit.com

October Festival Tour: Jakar Masked Dance Festival

13Days/12 Nights

12 Days/11Nights

Flight Schedules: 13 days/12 Nights

From Bangkok (12N)

Date	sector	Flight no	Dep	Arr
Mon 11 th Oct	BKK -PBH	KB127	0650	0950
Sat 23 rd Oct	PBH- BKK	KB130	1140	1635

From Calcutta(12N)

Date	sector	Flight no	Dep	Arr
Mon 11 th Oct	CCU -PBH	KB211	0830	1010
Sat 23 rd Oct	PBH- CCU	KB210	0710	0750

Flight Schedules: 12 Days/11 Nights

From Delhi (11N)

Date	sector	Flight no	Dep	Arr
Mon 11 th Oct	DEL -PBH	KB205	1115	1405
Fri 22 nd Oct	PBH- DEL	KB204	0830	1015

From Kathmandu (11N)

Date	sector	Flight no	Dep	Arr
Tues 12 th Oct	KTM -PBH	KB401	1105	1220
Sat 23 rd Oct	PBH- KTM	KB400	0915	1025

Outline Itinerary

- 11th Oct Arrive Paro & transfer to hotel. Visit Drugyel Dzong, and a traditional farmhouse home.
- 12th Oct (KTM arrivals join group). Full programme of sightseeing in Paro valley. Visit the impressive Rinpung Dzong, the Ta Dzong museum, a traditional farmhouse and some of the most interesting temples in the valley. Free time for exploring the town.
- 13th Oct Drive to Punakha (3½hrs.). Stop at Dochula pass (3000m) and take a stroll through rice fields and villages in the semi-tropical region around Chimi Lhakhang (1,200m). Drive to Punakha Dzong and, if time permits, hike to Khamsum Yuelley Chorten.
- 14th Oct Visit Wangdi Dzong with its traditional shingle roof. A winding drive (5½ hrs) leads to Trongsa, a small town with an impressive Dzong. optional short hike to the Dzong.
- 15th Oct Drive to Bumthang (2 hrs). Attend Jakar Tshechu (Festival). The festivities consist mainly of masked dances, chanting, blessing & reading religious texts. The repertory of masked dances and the gorgeous silk costumes are the same for all the 'tsechu' - only the settings are different. Thronging with locals, these occasions are a visual delight.
- 16th Oct Morning attend festival and afternoon sightseeing in Bumthang. The religious heartland of Bhutan, Bumthang is full of temples and sights of pilgrimage. Visit Jambay Lhakhang, Kurjey Lhakhang, Tamshing monastery & Wangdi-Choling ruined palace. Ura village. Options for short hikes.

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- 17th Oct Sightseeing in Bumthang valley: nunnery & Membartsho. Options for short hikes.
- 18th Oct Return drive to Phobjikha (5 hrs). Visit Gangtey Monastery the only Nyingma monastery in western Bhutan & optional Nature Trail hike.
- 19th Oct Morning in Phobjikha. Afternoon drive to Thimphu. Check in hotel & in the evening Circumambulate the Memorial Chorten with the locals who go to turn the prayer wheels.
- 20th Oct Sightseeing in Thimphu (2, 400m). Visit the takin reserve, Sangaygang viewpoint, Folk Heritage Museum, the Institute of Traditional Arts & Crafts (Zorig Chusum) the Institute of Traditional Medicine and Thimphu Dzong. Dinner at Traditional Bhutanese restaurant.
- 21st Oct Short walk: Wangditse temple,,Dechenphodrang monastic school and archery demonstration.
- 22nd Oct Drive to Paro. (Delhi flight departure). Morning hike to Taktsang temple. Afternoon at leisure in Paro. (Luxury hotel option).
- 23rd Oct Flight departure from Paro.

**For prices & detailed itinerary please contact us at info@bhutanvisit.com
Please quote: Jakar Masked Dance Festival**