



October Trek & Festival in Bhutan

Druk Path Trek and Jakar Festival Tour

6th-20th October 2010

15 days/14nights

Refresh Your Spirits

Reach New Heights

Trek to 3,800 metres.

Camp in the wild.

Luxury Resort hotel

Highlights

- 5-day trek along the former route between Paro and Thimphu.
- A cultural sightseeing tour of Thimphu, Paro, Punakha, Wangdi and Bumthang.
- Attend the religious masked dance festival in Jakar Dzong.
- 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 dance troupe and Bhutanese dining.
- Options to arrive via Bangkok, Delhi, Calcutta and Kathmandu.

About this tour

This special tour offers you the opportunity to combine a short but exhilarating trek with a cultural tour that takes you to Bumthang, the cultural heartland of Bhutan. In Bumthang, you will attend the Jakar Tsechu festival, held in the Dzong perched high above the town.

The **Druk Path Trek** from Paro to Thimphu is a short four-night, five-day trek following the old route from Paro to Thimphu, crossing the chain of mountains that separates the two valleys. Although the route is sparsely inhabited, there are wonderful lakes and the area is famous for its spectacular rhododendron forests. Especially in the clear weather of late autumn and winter there are great views of the Himalayas.

Camp at sites with fantastic views and spend your evenings relaxing over multi-course suppers cooked by our experienced trekking chefs. We supply everything to make your trek a comfortable experience: 2-person sleeping tents, mattresses, dining tent, toilet tents and tables and chairs, as well as an experienced team of helpers from guide to cooks and assistants. You carry nothing but your day-pack. We load your rucksack onto ponies and our team goes ahead to ensure that your camp and refreshments are awaiting you on arrival after an enjoyable day's trekking.

Back down in the towns, we will take you on a tour of the sights of **Thimphu**, the capital, **Paro**, **Punakha**, **Wangdi** and **Bumthang**. Visit impressive monasteries and temples where Tibetan Buddhism flourishes and red-robed boy-monks chant their prayers. The huge Dzongs are the uniquely Bhutanese feature of every town. Enjoy watching traditional craftsmen and women at work on wooden items, statues and complicated textile weavings. Relax, unwind, chat with the locals, take photos, browse in the shops.

In Bumthang, you will spend a day at the "**Tsechu**" festival at **Jakar Dzong**. Religious masked dances are performed by local monks and laymen, with the purpose of teaching the people what to expect after they die. This colourful festival is attended by far more locals than tourists since it is an important occasion for them. This is your chance to see a wonderful display of the most colourful and elaborate woven silk clothing since everybody comes dressed in their finery.

Back in the capital, celebrate the end of your visit with an evening of classic Bhutanese dining and traditional entertainment performed by local musicians.

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

Druk Path Trek and Jakar Festival Tour

15 days/14nights

Flight Schedules: 6th-20th October 2010

From Bangkok

| Date | sector | Flight no | Dep | Arr |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|------|------|
| Wed 6 th Oct | BKK -PBH | KB131 | 0650 | 1000 |
| Wed 20 th Oct | PBH- BKK | KB128 | 1050 | 1500 |

From Delhi

| Date | sector | Flight no | Dep | Arr |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|------|------|
| Wed 6 th Oct | DEL -PBH | KB205 | 1115 | 1405 |
| Wed 20 th Oct | PBH- DEL | KB204 | 0830 | 1015 |

From Kathmandu

| Date | sector | Flight no | Dep | Arr |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|------|------|
| Wed 6 th Oct | KTM -PBH | KB401 | 1105 | 1245 |
| Wed 20 th Oct | PBH- KTM | KB400 | 0915 | 1025 |

Flight Schedules: 7th-21st October 2010

From Calcutta

| Date | sector | Flight no | Dep | Arr |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|------|------|
| Thurs 7 th Oct | CCU -PBH | KB211 | 0830 | 1010 |
| Thurs 21 st Oct | PBH- CCU | KB210 | 0710 | 0750 |

Outline Itinerary

- 6th Oct **Delhi/Bangkok/Kathmandu arrivals:** Arrive Paro & transfer to hotel. Visit Drugyel Dzong, and a traditional farmhouse home.
- 7th Oct **CCU arrivals:** Transfer & lunch at hotel. Meet with group for afternoon sightseeing
First group: morning hike to Taktsang Temple. (3,000m). This is a highlight of the tour. Afternoon visit Ta Dzong museum, Rinpung Dzong, Paro town.
- 8th Oct Trek starts from Drugyal Dzong - Jele Dzong. (8 km, 3 hours 3,530m highest altitude). A short trekking day with a gradual climb to Jele Dzong (3,400m) and views of the Paro valley and peaks.
- 9th Oct Trek Jele Dzong- Jangchulakha (10 km, 4 hours 3,600m). A gradual ascent through thick alpine & rhododendron forests. See the yak herders camps and views of Jhomolhari mountain.
- 10th Oct Trek Jangchulakha – Jimilangtsho. (11 km, 4 hours 3,700m). Follow the ridge for views of 6,989 m. Jichu Drake mountain. Camp by the lakes of Jimilangtsho.

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- 11th Oct Jimilangtsho – Phojodhing. (18 km, 8 hours 3,800m). Today you may come across some yak herders' camps. Expect majestic views of Mount Gangkar Puensum, and other peaks. Descend to Phajodhing temple and enjoy a view of Thimphu city far below.
- 12th Oct Phojodhing to Thimphu. (5 km, 1½ hours 3,500m). A short downhill trek to Thimphu through blue pine forests. Afternoon sightseeing: Chang-gangkha temple, Folk Heritage Museum, Handicraft Emporium, weaving workshops and a handmade paper workshop. In the evening enjoy traditional Bhutanese dining and a musical performance.
- 13th Oct Sightseeing in Thimphu (2, 400m). Visit the takin reserve, Sangaygang viewpoint, Wangditse temple, Dechenphodrang monastic school, the Institute of Traditional Arts & Crafts (Zorig Chusum) and the Institute of Traditional Medicine, Thimphu Dzong & the Memorial Chorten.
- 14th Oct Drive to Punakha (2½hrs.). 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.
- 15th Oct Punakha - Trongsa - Bumthang (7 hrs). Crossing the Pele-La Pass and the Yotong-La Pass a long, winding drive (41km) leads to Trongsa, a small town with an impressive Dzong. Optional short hike to the Dzong. Continue for 2 hours more to Bumthang.
- 16th Oct Attend Jakar Tsechu (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.
- 17th 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.
- 18th Oct Drive from Bumthang to Wangdi (5½hrs). Wangdi Dzong is the only Dzong that still preserves its shingle roof.
- 19th Oct Drive to Paro (3½hrs) with sightseeing en route and short detour into Thimphu if requested. Afternoon visit Kichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest temples in Bhutan.
- 20th Oct **Delhi/Bangkok/Kathmandu departures:** transfer and check-in at Paro Airport for flight departure. **Second Group:** Morning hike to Taktsang temple. (3,000m). This is a highlight of the tour. Afternoon in Paro town.
- 21st Oct **Calcutta departures:** transfer and check-in at Paro Airport for flight departure from Paro.

For prices & detailed itinerary please contact us at info@bhutanvisit.com

Please quote: Druk Path Trek and Jakar Festival Tour (14 nights).