



Refresh Your Spirits  
Reach New Heights

# July Festival Tour

## Nimalung Masked Dance Festival

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011  
(11 days/10nights)

**Nimalung  
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” (Horse ride available on request).
- 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.
- Join flights from Bangkok, Delhi & Katmandu.

### 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 Nimalung Dratshang.*

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 day 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 “**Nimalung tsechu**” festival held in Nimalung Dratshang, Chummi . 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.

## July Festival Tour: Nimalung Masked Dance Festival Flight Schedules

11Days/10Nights

### From Bangkok

Date	sector	Flight no	Dep	Arr
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	BKK -PBH	KB131	0650	1000
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> July	PBH- BKK	KB140	1050	1615

### From Delhi

Date	sector	Flight no	Dep	Arr
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	DEL -PBH	KB205	1350	1640
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> July	PBH- DEL	KB204	0730	0920

### From Kathmandu

Date	sector	Flight no	Dep	Arr
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	KTM -PBH	KB401	0840	1030
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> July	PBH- KTM	KB400	0700	0805

## Outline Itinerary

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Arrive Paro & transfer to hotel. Visit Drugyel Dzong.
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Full programme of sightseeing in Paro valley. Visit the Ta Dzong museum, the impressive Rinpung Dzong, and some of the most interesting temples in the valley. Free time for exploring the town.
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> July	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) and drive to Punakha Dzong.
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Drive to Phobjikha visits Gangtey Monastery the only Nyingma monastery in western Bhutan and take a pleasant easy hike along the Nature Trail.
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Drive to Bumthang. The religious heartland of Bhutan, Bumthang is full of temples and sights of pilgrimage. Visit Jambay Lhakhang, Kurje Lhakhang and Tamshing monastery
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Morning attend Nimalung 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.
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Drive to Wangdi, afternoon Sightseeing in Wangdi valley, Visit Wangdi Dzong with its traditional shingle roof. Meet the locals by taking a stroll through the village.
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Drive to Thimphu, visit changgangkha temple, Dechenphodrang monastic Institute & in the evening Circumambulate the Memorial Chorten with the locals who go to turn the prayer wheels. Dinner at hotel.
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Full day sightseeing in Thimphu (2,400m). Visit the Folk Heritage Museum, the Institute of Traditional Arts & Crafts (Zorig Chusum), the Institute of

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Traditional Medicine, takin reserve, Sangaygang viewpoint, and Thimphu Dzong.  
Dinner at Traditonal Bhutanese restaurant.

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> July      Drive to Paro .Morning hike to Taktsang temple.Afternoon at leisure in Paro.  
Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July      Departure of flight from airport.....Tashi delek.....

**Important Note**

All our tours are offered dependent on flight and hotel availability. Since these are quite limited we recommend you book early to avoid disappointment. We request your understanding in the event of the need to alter dates and itineraries which we would only do in order to ensure the best holiday experience for you.

**For prices & detailed itinerary please contact us at [info@bhutanvisit.com](mailto:info@bhutanvisit.com)  
Please quote: Nimalung Masked Dance Festival**