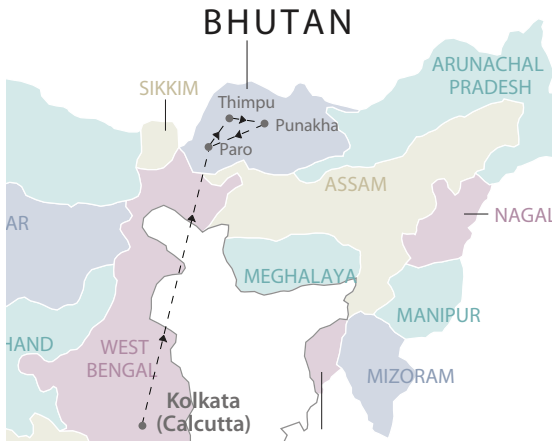


BEST OF BHUTAN

9 Days / 8 Nights

Bhutan, "The Land of the Thunder Dragon" is still regarded as one of the last Shangri-Las in the Himalayas because of its remoteness, Bhutan is located in a relatively unexplored pocket of Asia and because of this there have been heavy restrictions placed on the number of travellers visiting this country. Join this exclusive Essential Bhutan Tour and discover a spectacular world of Himalayan Mountains and forested hills, where magnificent fortresses still command the hilltops.



Day 1: Kolkata

On arrival at Kolkata Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The city of Calcutta (now called Kolkata) is the proud intellectual capital of India, with a rich contemporary cultural life. The city retains some of India's most striking colonial buildings, and is also home to the country's first underground railway. Overnight at your hotel. (B)

Day 2: Kolkata

After breakfast you will visit the Jain Temple, richly decorated with mirrors and Venetian glass mosaics, the Kali temple, and the white marble Victoria Memorial. Drive past the Howrah Bridge, one of the largest cantilever bridges, the Dalhousie Square, Fort Williams, the secretariat building, the Old Court House Street, finishing with a visit to the 16 hectare Zoological Gardens. Overnight at your hotel. (B)

Day 3: Kolkata - Paro

After breakfast transfer to the airport to board your onward flight to Paro. On arrival at Paro airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight at your hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Paro

After breakfast you will be taken on a city tour of Paro visiting Ta Dzong - an ancient watchtower, now the National Museum of Bhutan and Rinpun Dzong (since 1967). In the afternoon visit the Drukgyel Dzong (now in ruins) built to commemorate the victory over Tibetan invaders in 1644. Overnight at your hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Paro - Thimpu

This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour of Taktshang Lakhang. This monastery is located approximately 80 km from Paro, and is precariously perched on the edge of a cliff. In the afternoon drive to Thimphu for your overnight stay. Evening will be at leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thimpu

After breakfast, proceed for a sightseeing tour of Thimpu visiting Memorial Chorten - built in memory of His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk (regarded as the father of modern Bhutan) - Handicrafts Emporium, Textile & Folk Heritage Museum, National Library and Arts and Crafts school. Overnight at your hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Thimpu - Punakha

After breakfast you will visit Tashichhodzong. After seeing the sights, you will continue on to Punakha via Dochula pass (3,150 metres) - overlooking the high Himalayas and the lush green valleys of Talo and Mendigang. On arrival at Punakha you will be taken to your hotel for your overnight stay. Evening at leisure (B, L, D)

Day 8: Punakha - Paro

After breakfast proceed to Punakha Dzong - the old capital of Bhutan. On the 17th December 1907, the first king of Bhutan was crowned. It is here on this date every consecutive year that they celebrate the National Day in Bhutan. After sightseeing in Punakha depart to Paro by road. Evening at leisure. Overnight at your hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Depart Paro

After breakfast in the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

PRICE PER PERSON FROM:

(1 Aug 08 - 31 Dec 08)

Superior \$2,555
Luxury \$4,425

(1 Jan 09 - 30 Apr 09)

Superior \$3,225
Luxury \$5,035

PRICE INCLUDES

- 8 nights accommodation on twin share basis with breakfast (B)
- Transport by private air-conditioned vehicle
- All meals at Paro, Thimpu and Punakha (B, L, D)
- Sightseeing tours as per the itinerary with services of English speaking local guides
- Entrance fees at all monuments and porters at all hotels & airports
- Other inclusions as per the itinerary

Based on minimum of 2 passengers travelling together. Price excludes domestic and international airfares

The above rates are not valid for travel during 'Super Peak' period (15 Dec 08 - 5 Jan 09)

HOTELS

City	Superior	Luxury
Kolkata	The Park	Taj Bengal
Paro	The Village Lodge	Taj Tashi
Thimpu	Hotel Kisa	Zhiwa Linga (Junior Suite)
Punakha	Hotel Zangtho Pelri	Puna Tshangchu Cottages