

4 Days Classic Bhutan Discovery Tour

Trip overview

Step into the "Last Shangri-La" with our **4-day Classic Bhutan Discovery Tour**. This short but soulful journey is designed for travelers who wish to experience the spiritual essence and stunning natural beauty of Bhutan in a compact timeframe. Traveling through the central valleys of **Thimphu and Paro**, you will uncover the unique philosophy of Gross National Happiness that defines this serene kingdom.

Your adventure features a blend of ancient tradition and breathtaking landscapes. You will marvel at the grand architecture of **Tashichho Dzong**, learn about the rich folk heritage in the capital, and wander through peaceful nunneries. The undisputed highlight of the trip is the exhilarating trek to the **Tiger's Nest (Paro Taktsang)**, a sacred monastery miraculously clinging to a granite cliff 900 meters above the Paro Valley. Guided by our **expert local storytellers**, you will gain deep insights into the Buddhist way of life and leave with memories of a kingdom where time seems to stand still.

- **Durations:** 4 Days
- **Destinations:** Thimphu - Paro
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/4-days-classic-bhutan-discovery-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to the Last Shangri-La & Thimphu Exploration

Your spiritual journey begins as you land in the breathtaking Paro Valley, surrounded by the emerald peaks of the Himalayas.

Arrival & Scenic Drive: Upon your arrival at Paro International Airport—one of the most spectacular landing experiences in the world—your **private Bhutanese guide and driver** will greet you with a traditional warm welcome. You will then enjoy a scenic 1.5-hour drive along the crystalline Pa Chhu and Thimphu Chhu rivers to **Thimphu**, the kingdom's vibrant capital. After a brief rest at your hotel to acclimatize, you will begin your immersion into Bhutanese culture.

The Heart of Thimphu: Your exploration starts at the **National Memorial Chorten**, a monument to world peace where you can join locals in their daily ritual of circumambulation. Next, visit the **Motithang Takin Preserve** to see the Takin—Bhutan's unique national animal that defies

biological classification. Continue to the serene **Zilukha Nunnery**, home to the biggest nunnery in the country, before concluding your day at the majestic **Thimphu Dzong (Tashichho Dzong)**. This impressive fortress-monastery serves as the center of government and religion, radiating a sense of profound imperial and spiritual power.

Accommodation: Hotel in Thimphu

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Expert Tips for Day 1:

*Thimphu sits at an altitude of approximately **2,330 meters (7,644 feet)**. While not extreme, we recommend moving at a gentle pace and staying well-hydrated to help your body adjust on this first day. When visiting the **National Memorial Chorten**, remember to walk around the stupa in a **clockwise direction**, following the flow of the local devotees. For the visit to **Thimphu Dzong**, please ensure you are wearing respectful attire (long sleeves and long trousers/skirts), as it is a working religious and governmental center. If you arrive early, take a walk through the main street—you'll notice Thimphu is the only capital city in the world without a single traffic light!*

Day 2: Cultural Heritage & The Journey to Paro

Today is dedicated to discovering the living arts and traditional rhythms of Bhutanese life before we head back to the picturesque valley of Paro.

Morning: A Glimpse into Tradition: Your cultural immersion begins at the **National Folk Heritage Museum**. Set in a restored 19th-century three-story earthen and timber house, the museum provides a fascinating look into the rural Bhutanese lifestyle, traditional household objects, and indigenous farming tools. Next, you will visit the **National Painting School** (Institute for Zorig Chusum), where students undergo rigorous training in Bhutan's 13 traditional arts and crafts, including thanka painting, woodcarving, and embroidery.

A Personalized Keepsake: Before lunch, we visit the **Bhutan Post Office Headquarters**. Bhutan is world-famous among philatelists, and here you have the unique opportunity to create **personalized postage stamps** using your own portrait. These are legal tender that can be used to send postcards to your loved ones from the "Land of the Thunder Dragon."

Afternoon: Return to Paro Valley: After enjoying a final Thimphu lunch, we embark on a scenic drive back to **Paro**. The route offers beautiful views of terraced rice fields and traditional farmhouses with shingle roofs. Upon arrival, you will check into your hotel and have the evening free to explore the charming town of Paro or relax in the tranquil mountain atmosphere.

Accommodation: Hotel in Paro

Meals: Hotel Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Expert Tips for Day 2:

*The **National Painting School** is a wonderful place for photography, but please be mindful and ask for permission before taking close-up shots of the students at work. If you plan to make personalized stamps at the Post Office, have a high-quality digital photo ready on your phone, or the staff can take one for you on the spot. In the evening in Paro, we recommend a stroll through the **Paro Town** center; it is one of the best places to find high-quality hand-woven textiles and authentic Bhutanese incense. If you are feeling adventurous, ask your guide about trying a **Traditional Hot Stone Bath** at a local farmhouse tonight—it's the perfect way to relax your muscles before tomorrow's big hike!*

Day 3: The Ascent to Tiger's Nest & Paro's Majestic Fortresses

Today marks the pinnacle of your Bhutanese adventure as you journey to the kingdom's most sacred and gravity-defying landmark.

Morning: The Legendary Trek to Taktsang: After a nourishing breakfast, you will be driven to the base of the mountain for your trek to **Paro Taktsang**, famously known as the **Tiger's Nest**. Perched on a sheer granite cliff 900 meters above the valley floor, this monastery is Bhutan's most iconic spiritual site. The trek takes approximately 1.5 hours to reach the wooden cafeteria (the midpoint), offering a breathtaking panoramic view of the monastery clinging to the rock. After a brief rest for photos, you will continue another 1.5 hours through pine forests draped with prayer flags to reach the monastery itself. Inside, the profound silence and flickering butter lamps create an atmosphere of deep spiritual power.

Afternoon: Museums and Monastic Architecture: After descending and enjoying a well-earned lunch, you will visit the **Ta Dzong**. Originally built as a watchtower to protect the valley, it now serves as the **National Museum of Bhutan**, housing an incredible collection of thangkas, heritage artifacts, and natural history exhibits. Your day concludes at the **Paro Dzong (Rinpung Dzong)**, the "Fortress on a Heap of Jewels." This massive structure is a masterpiece of Bhutanese architecture, featuring fine wall paintings and grand courtyards that still serve as the administrative and religious heart of the district.

Accommodation: Hotel in Paro

Meals: Hotel Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Expert Tips for Day 3:

*The hike to the Tiger's Nest reaches an altitude of over **3,100 meters (10,000 feet)**. We recommend an early start to avoid the midday sun and the larger crowds. Your guide will provide **walking sticks**, which are highly recommended for the steep descent to protect your knees. Please note that **photography is strictly prohibited** inside the Tiger's Nest temple rooms; you will be required to leave your cameras, phones, and bags in secure lockers at the entrance. For the visit to Paro Dzong, ensure your shoulders and knees are covered as a sign of respect. If the full hike feels too demanding, horses are available for hire (at an extra cost) to take you up to the midpoint cafeteria, but the final descent and ascent to the monastery must be done on foot.*

Day 4: Farewell to the Dragon Kingdom & Departure

Your transformative journey through the "Land of the Thunder Dragon" concludes today, leaving you with a newfound sense of peace and memories of the majestic Himalayas.

A Final Morning in Paro: Enjoy your final Bhutanese breakfast at the hotel, savoring the crisp mountain air and the tranquil views of the Paro Valley one last time. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have a few moments for a final stroll through the quiet streets or to pick up any last-minute spiritual mementos.

Seamless Airport Transfer: Your **private tour guide and driver** will meet you at your hotel for a comfortable transfer to Paro International Airport. As you travel to the airport, your guide will assist with the check-in procedures and bid you a fond farewell. Though your physical journey ends here, the spirit of Bhutan's Gross National Happiness remains with you as you board your flight to

your next destination.

Onward Journey: As your plane takes off, enjoy a final bird's-eye view of the winding rivers and ancient dzongs that make this kingdom so unique. We wish you a safe and pleasant flight!

Accommodation: / (End of Service)

Meals: Hotel Breakfast

Expert Tips for Day 4:

*Paro International Airport is widely considered one of the most beautiful in the world, with its traditional Bhutanese-style terminal building. We recommend arriving at the airport **2 hours prior to your flight**. If your onward destination is toward Nepal or India (such as Delhi or Kathmandu), be sure to request a **window seat on the right side of the aircraft** during check-in. On a clear day, this offers a breathtaking opportunity to see the world's highest peaks, including **Mount Everest and Mount Kanchenjunga**, from above. Please ensure you have all your souvenirs and any restricted items packed according to international regulations, and keep your camera handy for those last spectacular aerial shots of the Himalayan range!*

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate

Tel:

Beijing: +86 904-6699-222
Chengdu: +86 904-6699-234
Lhasa: +86 904-6699-253
Cambodia: +84 904-6699-555

Address:

Address 1: Floor 4, Global Center, Chengdu, Sichuan, China

Address 2: Chaoyang Road No.21, Guilin, Guangxi, China

Email:

info@asiachinatour.com

Website:

www.asiachinatour.com