



Bhutan

Mountainous Bhutan is situated on the southeast slope of the Himalayas, bordered on the north and east by Tibet and on the south and west and east by India. The landscape consists of a succession of lofty and rugged mountains and deep valleys. In the north, towering peaks reach a height of 24,000 ft (7,315 m).

Bhutan: Although only the size of Switzerland, Bhutan's topography and climate are those of dramatic contrasts. The land rises from the southern sub-tropics at an altitude of about 1,000 feet above sea level to snow-capped peaks of around 24,000 feet in the north. The central temperate belt, which encompasses most of the major settlements and tourist haunts, ranges from about 4,500 to 14,000 feet. The capital city of Thimphu, for example, is situated at 8,300 feet.

The climate along this belt defies generalization but it can be safely said that spring (March to May) brings warm days and cool nights with the mercury averaging 20 degrees Celsius at daytime. With June come occasional downpours and summer temperatures peak at over 27 degrees Celsius. The milder months of fall (September to November) are less wet and are the best time of the year for trekking. The ensuing months are the driest and night-time temperatures often plummet to below zero. However, winter offers its own charms of sunny blue skies and unhindered view of snow-capped mountains.



Druk Path Trek

Day One

Upon arrival in Paro transfer to central Hotel. Evening at leisure. Overnight at Hotel in Paro on a full board basis.

Paro: Situated in the Paro Valley of the Eastern Himalaya, this town is full of legends, heroism, and natural splendour. The town is located at an altitude of 2,250 m above the sea level with a river flowing gently on its side and making it the most beautiful valley in the country. Visit Paro in the spring and see for yourself what a Kaleidoscope of striking colours this place presents. Attractions include Paro Dzong, National Museum and Taktsang Lhakang (Tiger's Nest).

Day Two

Sightseeing in Paro: Visit Drukgyel Dzong, on the way visit Kyichu Lhakhang. After lunch visit National Museum and Paro Dzong. Overnight in Paro. Full board.

Day Three

The Trek begins above the Museum and you gradually climb up to Jele Dzong. If the weather is clear views of the Paro Valley and snow-capped mountains can be seen. Overnight at Camp on a full board basis. (Alt: 2590m, distance: 7km)

Day Four

Continued...

You continue your climb towards Jangchulakha. The trail takes you through thick Alpine forest and Rhododendron tree. Overnight at Camp on a full board basis.
(Alt: 2900m, distance 10km)

Day Five

Today you climb to the highest point - Jimilangtso. On a clear day the views of the mountains and valley are sensational. The camp is close to the Lakes of Jimilangtsho, which are famous for their Giant Trout. Overnight at Camp on a full board basis.
(Alt: 3350m, distance 11km)

Day Six

Today is a gradual climb towards Phajoding. If weather permits, beautiful views of Mount Gangkhar Phunsum can be seen. Overnight at Camp on a full board basis.
(Alt. 3116 m, distance 21km)

Day Seven

The trek to Thimpu is down hill through blue pine forest. At a leisurely pace you should be able to reach Thimpu in about 3 hours. Afternoon / Evening at leisure. Overnight at a Hotel in Thimpu on a full board basis.
(Distance 8 km)

Day Eight

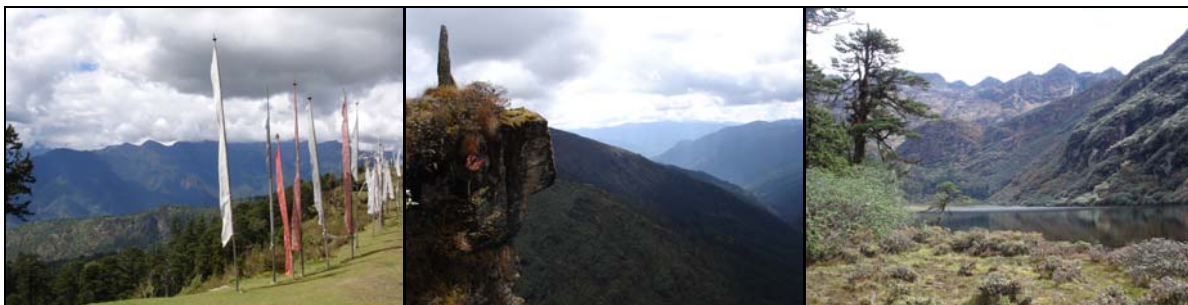
A bit of a later start this morning with some sightseeing of Thimpu (Visit Memorial Chorten, Painting School, National Library, Bhutanese Hand Made Paper factory). After lunch drive to Punakha across the Dochula Pass (alt. 3050m), where one can see the beautiful views of the Eastern Himalayan Ranges. Overnight at a Hotel in Wangdi on a full board basis.

Day Nine

Today allows for some further sightseeing: Visit Wangdi Dzong, Punakha Dzong - the winter home of Central Monk Body, Je - Khenpo. & Chimi Lhakhang. Transfer to Paro. Overnight at a Hotel in Paro on a full board basis.

Day Ten

Transfer to Paro Airport for your return flight back to the UK.



Includes:	Accommodation, meals and transfers as detailed in the itinerary.
Excludes:	International flights, tips and gratuities, Visa, travel insurance.
Price per person:	Price on application
Best time to travel:	October
Is it for you?	The majority of the tour is done by foot and so you will need a reasonable level of fitness. You will also be walking at altitude so you should be prepared for it to be cold at night, and to take measures to help prevent altitude sickness.