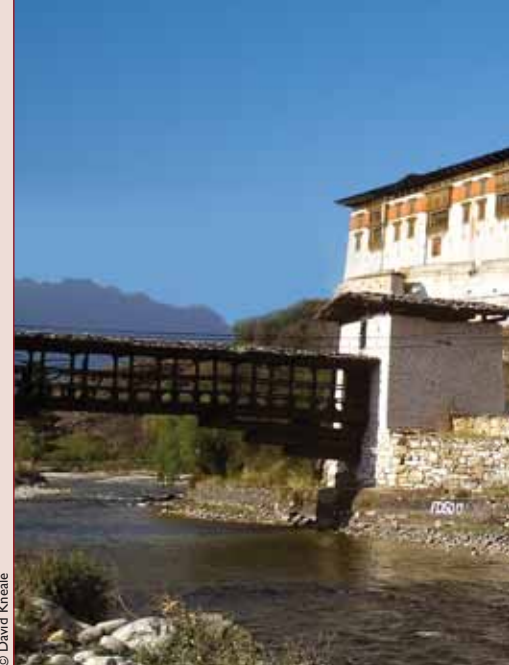




Bhutan family portrait © David Kneale



© David Kneale

Ta Dzong Museum overlooking Rimping Dzong, Paro

SPIRIT OF BHUTAN

8 days/7 nights

Hotels/Guest houses

Departs daily ex Bangkok

Price per person twin*	Cat A	Cat B
Sep-Nov 2010	\$8406	\$4214
Dec 2010	\$8229	\$4214
Jan & Jun 2011	\$8059	\$3987
Feb, Jul & Aug 2011	\$8229	\$4214
Mar-May 2011	\$8406	\$4214

*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.

Note: Airfares to/from Paro subject to change with Druk Air.

A Uma Paro, Taj Tashi, Amankora Punakha resorts.

B Standard range of accommodations.

Price per person includes: Airfare Bangkok/Paro return including taxes, Bhutan visa fee, accommodation, all meals, excursions, transfers by air-conditioned private vehicle, services of a local English speaking guide, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

Price excludes: Airfares Australia - Bangkok return and accommodation in Bangkok.

Discover the uniquely preserved culture and natural beauty of the kingdom of Bhutan. Touring the western valleys visiting historic fortresses, ancient monasteries and temples set against a dramatic Himalayan backdrop.

Day 1 Thimphu

Early flight to Paro. Visit Ta Dzong Museum offering a great orientation in Bhutan's history, 17th century Rimping Dzong and the cantilever wooden bridge. Transfer to Thimphu (2 hrs). LD

Days 2/3 Thimphu

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Thimphu, capital of Bhutan including Changangkha Temple, the National Memorial Chorten, Zilukha Nunnery, and Tashichhodzong. On day 3 hike (45 min) to Tango Monastery, a monastic school built in the 12th century. In the afternoon visit the Bhutanese School for Arts and Painting, the Folk Heritage Museum and The National Library featuring ancient Buddhist scripts. BLD

Days 4/5 Punakha

Drive to sub-tropical Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass (3,050m) with amazing mountain views. Afternoon visit to the imposing Punakha Dzong, built in 1637. On day 5 visit Chimi Lhakhang – temple of the 'Divine Madman' followed by a hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten with its complex Nyingmapa iconography. BLD

Day 6 Paro

We visit the busy market town of Wangdue and Wangduephodrang Dzong, before returning to Paro. Late afternoon is at leisure. BLD

Day 7 Paro

Morning walk (1.5 hrs) up to the viewing point of the famous Taksang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), perched on a rocky ledge above a 900m drop. Later we visit the historic ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong, and the 7th century Kyichu Temple. BLD

Day 8 Tour ends Bangkok

Early morning transfer to airport for flight to Bangkok. Tour ends. B



© David Kneale

Incredible Dzong courtyard architecture



© Bhutan TCB

Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten, Punakha

GATEWAY TO BHUTAN

7 days/6 nights

Hotels/Guesthouses

Departs daily ex Siliguri or Bagdogra

Price per person twin*	Cat A	Cat B
Sep-Nov 2010	\$5671	\$3159
Dec 2010	\$5553	\$3159
Jan & Jun 2011	\$5407	\$2964
Feb, Jul & Aug 2011	\$5553	\$3159
Mar-May 2011	\$5671	\$3159

*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.

Note: Airfares to/from Paro subject to change with Druk Air.

A Uma Paro, Taj Tashi Thimphu, Amankora Punakha resorts.

B Standard range of accommodations.

Price per person includes: One way economy class airfare leaving Bhutan with Druk Airlines to Bangkok including taxes, Bhutan visa fee, accommodation, all meals, excursions, transfers by air-conditioned private vehicle, services of a local English speaking guide, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

Price excludes: Airfares Australia - Bangkok return and accommodation in Bangkok.

This tour is ideal for those wishing to enter Bhutan from the Indian state of Western Bengal via Phuentsholing. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Himalayan foothills en route to Thimphu, followed by visits to Punakha, Wangdue and Paro. We highly recommend combining this tour with a visit to the renowned Indian hill station of Darjeeling and Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim.

Day 1 Phuentsholing

A representative will meet you on arrival at either Siliguri or Bagdogra airport in the Indian state of West Bengal. Travel by road (approx 3 hrs) through lush green tea fields to Phuentsholing, the gateway to Bhutan, for dinner and overnight. LD

Day 2 Thimphu

Drive to Thimphu, capital of Bhutan (6-7 hrs), stopping to appreciate the view of the Indian plains, mountain jungle and alpine forests. We also stop at the beautiful Kharbandi Gompa. On entering the Thimphu Valley we visit the 17th century Semtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress in the kingdom. Afternoon free to explore. BLD



© David Kneale

Beautiful entrance to the main hall of Punakha Dzong

Day 3 Thimphu

Full day sightseeing tour of Thimphu including the Bhutanese School for Arts and Painting, the Folk Heritage Museum, The National Library, Memorial Chorten, Tashichhodzong, Changangkha Temple and the Zilukha Nunnery. BLD

Day 4 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via the picturesque Dochula Pass (3,050m). Afternoon visit to the imposing 17th century Punakha Dzong and Chimi Lhakhang – temple of the ‘Divine Madman’. BLD

Day 5 Paro

Hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten before returning to Paro. Afternoon at leisure. BLD

Day 6 Paro

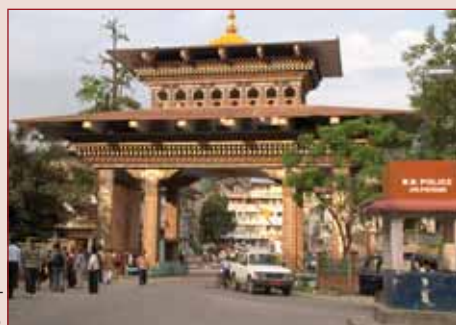
Morning visit to the Ta Dzong Museum and Rimping Dzong built in 1645. After lunch, walk 1.5hrs up to the viewing point below the famous Taktsang Monastery (Tiger’s Nest), perched on a rocky ledge above a 900m drop. BLD

Day 7 Tour ends

Early morning transfer to airport for your onward flight. Tour ends. B



Wall painting, Punakha Dzong



Gateway to Bhutan, Phuentsholing

DRAGON KINGDOM

11 days/10 nights

Hotels/Guest houses

Departs daily ex Bangkok

Price per person twin*	Cat A	Cat B
Sep-Nov 2010	\$13398	\$5384
Dec 2010	\$13221	\$5384
Jan & Jun 2011	\$12979	\$5058
Feb, Jul & Aug 2011	\$13221	\$5384
Mar-May 2011	\$13398	\$5384

*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.

Note: Airfares to/from Paro subject to change with Druk Air.

A Uma Paro, Taj Tashi, Amankora Punakha, Gangtey & Bumthang resorts.

B Standard range of accommodations.

Price per person includes: Airfare Bangkok/Paro return including taxes, Bhutan visa fee, accommodation, all meals, excursions, transfers by air-conditioned private vehicle, services of a local English speaking guide, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

Price excludes: Airfares Australia - Bangkok return and accommodation in Bangkok.

Discover ‘The Dragon Kingdom’ on this in-depth, 11 day tour offering an insight into the ancient way of life that still thrives in Bhutan today. As well as the beautiful western valleys, this tour also explores Bhutan’s spiritual central valleys. The best time to do this tour is between November - April when the Black-necked Cranes are in Phobjikha.

Day 1 Thimphu

Early morning flight to Paro. Visit the Ta Dzong Museum featuring a fascinating collection of art and relics, and the 17th century Rimping Dzong. Drive to Bhutan’s capital, Thimphu (2 hrs). LD

Days 2/3 Thimphu

Explore Thimphu’s highlights including the National Library featuring ancient Buddhist scripts, Changangkha Temple, the Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong. On day 3 enjoy a day excursion to Tango Monastery, a sacred Buddhist college built in the 12th century. BLD

Days 4/5 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass. Spend two days exploring Punakha including the stunning Punakha Dzong and Chimi Lhakhang, a temple built in honour of Drukpa Kuenley, also known as the ‘Divine Madman’. Also enjoy a short hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten. BLD

Days 6/7 Bumthang

Early departure for Bumthang (8 hrs), the spiritual heartland of Bhutan via Wangdue and the Trongsa Dzong. Explore Bumthang’s many sacred and ancient Buddhist sites such as Kurje Lhakhang where Guru Rimpoche meditated and left his body imprint on a rock, the 7th century Jambay Lhakhang and Tamshing Monastery featuring some of Bhutan’s oldest wall paintings. BLD



© David Kneale

Bhutan’s national sport, archery

Day 8 Gangtey/Phobjikha

Depart for Gangtey (6 hrs), home of the historic 17th century Gangtey Goempa Monastery. BLD

Day 9 Paro

Visit the Phobjikha Sanctuary, famous for its endangered Black-necked Cranes (Nov - Mar). Explore Gangtey before returning to Paro. BLD

Day 10 Paro

Walk (1.5 hrs) up to the spectacular Taktsang Monastery, Bhutan’s most revered temple perched on a rocky ledge over a 900m drop. Afterwards visit the ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Temple, dating back to the 7th century. BLD

Day 11 Tour ends Bangkok

Early morning transfer to airport for flight to Bangkok. Tour ends. B