



Monks leaving the main hall of Punakha Dzong © David Kneale

## SPirit OF BHUTAN

8 days/7 nights

Hotels/Guest houses

Departs daily ex Bangkok

Price per person twin*	Cat A	Cat B
Sep 2011-May 2012	\$7068	\$3488

\*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.

**D**iscover the uniquely preserved culture and natural beauty of the kingdom of Bhutan. Touring the western valleys we visit historic fortresses (Dzong) and 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



© David Kneale

Incredible Dzong courtyard architecture

### Days 2/3 Thimphu

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Thimphu, capital of Bhutan including Changangkha Temple, the National Memorial Chorten, Zilukha Nunnery, Semtokha Dzong, built in 1627 and Tashichhodzong. On day 3 hike (45 min) to Tango Monastery, one of the most ancient monasteries in the Thimphu region. 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 the Dochula Pass (3,050m) with its amazing 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 Taktsang 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

Rock mural of Guru Rinpoche, Thimphu



© David Kneale

Ta Dzong Museum overlooking Rimping Dzong, Paro

# DRAGON KINGDOM

**11 days/10 nights**  
**Hotels/Guest houses**  
**Departs daily ex Bangkok**

<b>Price per person twin*</b>	Cat A	Cat B
Sep 2011-May 2012	\$11092	\$4379

\*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.

**E**xplore 'The Dragon Kingdom' on this in-depth tour offering an insight into the ancient way of life that still thrives in Bhutan today. The best time to visit is between Nov-Mar when the rare black-necked cranes are in Phobjikha.



© David Kneale

Bhutan family portrait



© David Kneale

Bhutan's national Sport, Archery

**Day 1 Thimphu**

Early flight to Paro. Visit the Ta Dzong Museum featuring a fascinating collection of art and relics, and the 17th century Rimpong 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, Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong. On day 3 enjoy a day excursion to Tango Monastery, a sacred and ancient Buddhist college. BLD

**Days 4/5 Punakha**

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass. Spend two days exploring Punakha including Chimi Lhakhang, Punakha Dzong and 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 sites such as Kurje Lhakhang, the 7th century Jambay Lhakhang and Tamshing Monastery, featuring some of Bhutan's oldest wall paintings. BLD

**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 Taksang Monastery, perched on a rocky ledge over a 900m drop, visit the ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Temple. BLD

**Day 11 Tour ends Bangkok**

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

## GATEWAY TO BHUTAN

**7 days/6 nights**

**Hotels/Guest houses**

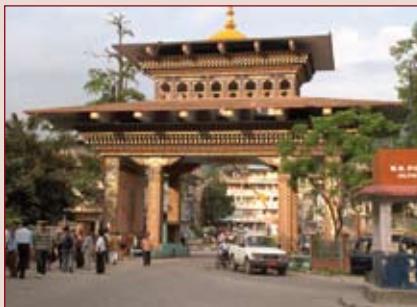
**Departs daily ex Siliguri or Bagdogra**

**T**his tour is ideal for those wishing to enter Bhutan overland 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. Explore spectacular dzongs, serene monasteries, remote villages and ancient sacred sites. We highly recommend combining this tour with a visit to the renowned hill station of Darjeeling and Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim.

<b>Price per person twin*</b>	Cat A	Cat B
Sep 2011-May 2012	\$4727	\$2578

\*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.

Note: Includes one way airfare Paro-Bangkok. Airfare subject to change with Druk Air.



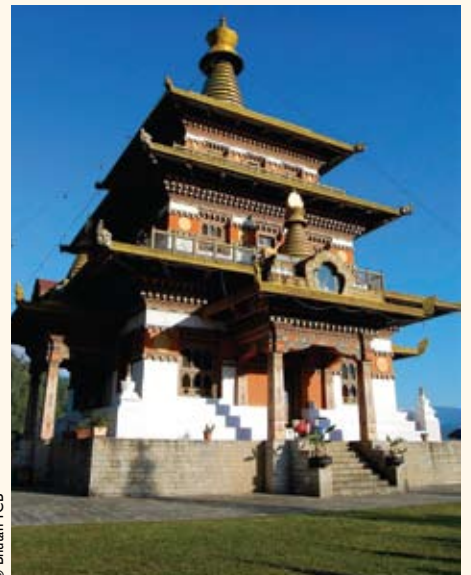
© Stephen Cameron

Gateway to Bhutan, Phuentsholing



© Stephen Cameron

Wall painting, Punakha Dzong



© Bhutan TCB

Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten, Punakha