

PRIVATE
TOUR

BHUTAN

"Land of the
Thunder Dragon".

Enjoy two intimate
Tsechu experiences set
in the Bumthang Valley,
Bhutan's spiritual heartland.



Festivals of the Last Shangri-La 12 Days/11 Nights

Departs ex Bangkok Sun 06 Nov 2011
Tour cost from \$5416 pp*^{A#}

*Tour cost based on 2 clients travelling. Prices for single travellers and groups consisting of 3 or more passengers available on request.

^AAirfares to/from Paro subject to change with Druk Air.

#Prices subject to change due to possible introduction of festival hotel supplements. Contact us for details.

Nestled in the eastern Himalayas between China and India, Bhutan is a mountainous Buddhist kingdom where time seems to have stood still. Religion permeates every aspect of life and fluttering prayer flags, saffron-robed monks and lonely hilltop monasteries exist in harmony with virgin forests and alpine meadows.

"Festivals of the Last Shangri-La" includes the chance to see many of Bhutan's most important towns and temples as you journey to the beautiful region of Bumthang, Bhutan's spiritual heartland. Beginning in the lovely Paro Valley with its spectacularly-located Taktsang Monastery, this tour explores Thimphu, the historical winter capital Punakha and the home of the Black-Necked Cranes, the beautiful, Phobjikha Valley. Continuing eastwards to the town of Jakar in the Bumthang Valley, you will witness the amazingly colourful dances and religious pageantry of one of Bhutan's most important festivals at 7th century Jambay Lhakhang Monastery, and the Prakar Tsechu amidst a village atmosphere. This will be a special experience, as you stroll amongst the colorful masked dancers and the equally colorful audience dressed in their finest ghos and kiras. This trip offers a real insight into the cultural highlights of this magical kingdom.

For further details contact call us on 1300 363 302.

Download our Bhutan e-brochure from
www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au/bhutan





Performers wearing the traditional Mahakala mask © Bhutan DOT

FESTIVALS OF THE LAST SHANGRI-LA

12 days/11 nights

Hotels/Guesthouses

Departs Sun 06 Nov 2011

Ex Bangkok

Tour Cost Twin (Min 2)*A#

Cat A

Cat B

Sunday 06 Nov 2011

\$14618 \$5416

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A Uma Paro, Taj Tashi Thimphu, Amankora Punakha & 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

Enjoy two intimate Tsechu experiences set the Bumthang Valley, Bhutan's spiritual heartland. Villagers gather to witness unique masked dances and celebrations. Also visit sacred sites in Paro, Thimphu, Punakha and Gangtey.

Days 1/2 Thimphu

Early flight to Paro. Visit the Ta Dzong Museum and the 17th century Rimpong Dzong before driving onto Bhutan's capital, Thimphu (2 hrs). On day 2 explore the highlights of Thimphu including the National Library featuring ancient Buddhist scripts, Memorial Chorten, Tashichhodzong and the Zilukha nunnery. LD/BLD

Days 3/4 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (5 hrs) via the spectacular Dochula Pass (3,050m). On arrival, visit the impressive 17th century Punakha Dzong. On day 4 visit Chimi Lhakhang – temple of the 'Divine Madman' followed by a hike through farmland to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten. BLD

Days 5-7 Bumthang

Depart for Bumthang (3 hrs), the spiritual heartland of Bhutan. Visit Tamshing Monastery featuring some of Bhutan's oldest wall paintings and Kurje Lhakhang. Stay awake until midnight to catch the opening proceedings of the Jambay Lhakhang Drup Festival, including an unusual naked dance performed to sanctify the region. On day 6 witness the colourful masked dances and cultural festivities at 7th century Jambay Lhakhang. On day 7 drive a to the Chumey Valley to participate in the Prakar Festival. BLD

Day 8 Gangtey/Phobjikha

Morning drive to the valley of Phobjikha, home of the historic 17th century Gangtey Goempa and Phobjikha Sanctuary, winter residence of the black-necked cranes (Nov-Mar). BLD

Day 9 Thimphu

Drive to Thimphu with lunch en-route. BLD

Days 10/11 Paro

Drive to Paro with lunch en-route. On day 12 walk (1.5 hrs) up to Takstang Monastery. BLD

Day 12 Tour ends Bangkok

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



© David Kneale

Spectacular views from Dochula La Pass



© David Kneale

Dramitse Ngacham- "Dance of the Drum Beaters"



© Taj Tashi

Taktasang Monastery