



A monk contemplates the view from a remote mountain monastery © David Kneale

JOURNEY ACROSS BHUTAN

15 days/14 nights

Hotels/Guest houses

Departs daily ex Bangkok

Price per person twin*	Cat A	Cat B
Sep 2011-May 2012	\$11081	\$4846

*Minimum two people. Single travellers prices on request.

Note: Airfare to Paro subject to change with Druk Air.

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

B Standard range of accommodations.

Price per person includes: Airfare Bangkok-Paro including taxes one-way, 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 from Guwahati airport and Australia - Bangkok return and accommodation in Bangkok.

This unique tour is designed for the enthusiastic traveller who wants to gain a deeper insight into Bhutan's culture and its landscapes. It begins in the gentle valleys of the west and journeys across spiritual central Bhutan before exploring the historical towns of Mongar and Trashigang in the rugged east.

Day 1 Paro

Early morning flight to Paro. After lunch, visit the Ta Dzong Museum, Rimping Dzong built in 1645 and the cantilever wooden bridge. LD

Day 2 Paro

Walk 1.5 hrs up to the viewing point below Taksang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), perched on a rocky ledge above a 900m drop. Visit the ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Temple. BLD



© David Kneale

Bhutanese pilgrim in Gho

Days 3/4 Thimphu

Drive to Thimphu (2 hrs). Spend 2 days exploring the capital's highlights, including the National Memorial Chorten, Folk Heritage Museum, the National Library containing ancient Buddhist scriptures, the Bhutanese School for Arts and Painting, Changangkha temple, Zilukha nunnery and Tashichhodzong. BLD

Days 5/6 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) across the spectacular Dochula Pass (3050m). Clear weather reveals Himalayan views. Afternoon tour of the imposing Punakha Dzong. On day 6 visit Chimi Lhakhang-temple of the 'Divine Madman' and enjoy a walk through farmland up to beautiful Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten. BLD



© David Kneale

Beautiful Punakha

Day 7 Gangtey/Phobjikha

Morning departure for the market town of Wangdue before continuing on to Gangtey. This beautiful valley is the home of the historic 17th century Gangtey Goempa Monastery and Phobjikha Sanctuary, famous for its endangered Black-necked Cranes which arrive here in November and stay until March. BLD

Day 8 Trongsa

Drive to Trongsa via the 18th century Chendibji Chorten. In Trongsa, the ancestral home of the ruling dynasty, visit Trongsa Dzong, one of the most impressive monuments in Bhutan built in 1543. Afterwards explore Ta Dzong museum housing historical artefacts of the royal family. BLD

Days 9/10 Bumthang

Depart for Bumthang (3 hrs), the spiritual heartland of Bhutan. Spend the next two days exploring the surrounding areas' ancient monasteries and sacred Buddhist sites. Highlights include Kurje Lhakhang, containing a rock imprint of Guru Rimpoche's body, Jambay Lhakhang (7th century) and Tamshing Monastery. BLD

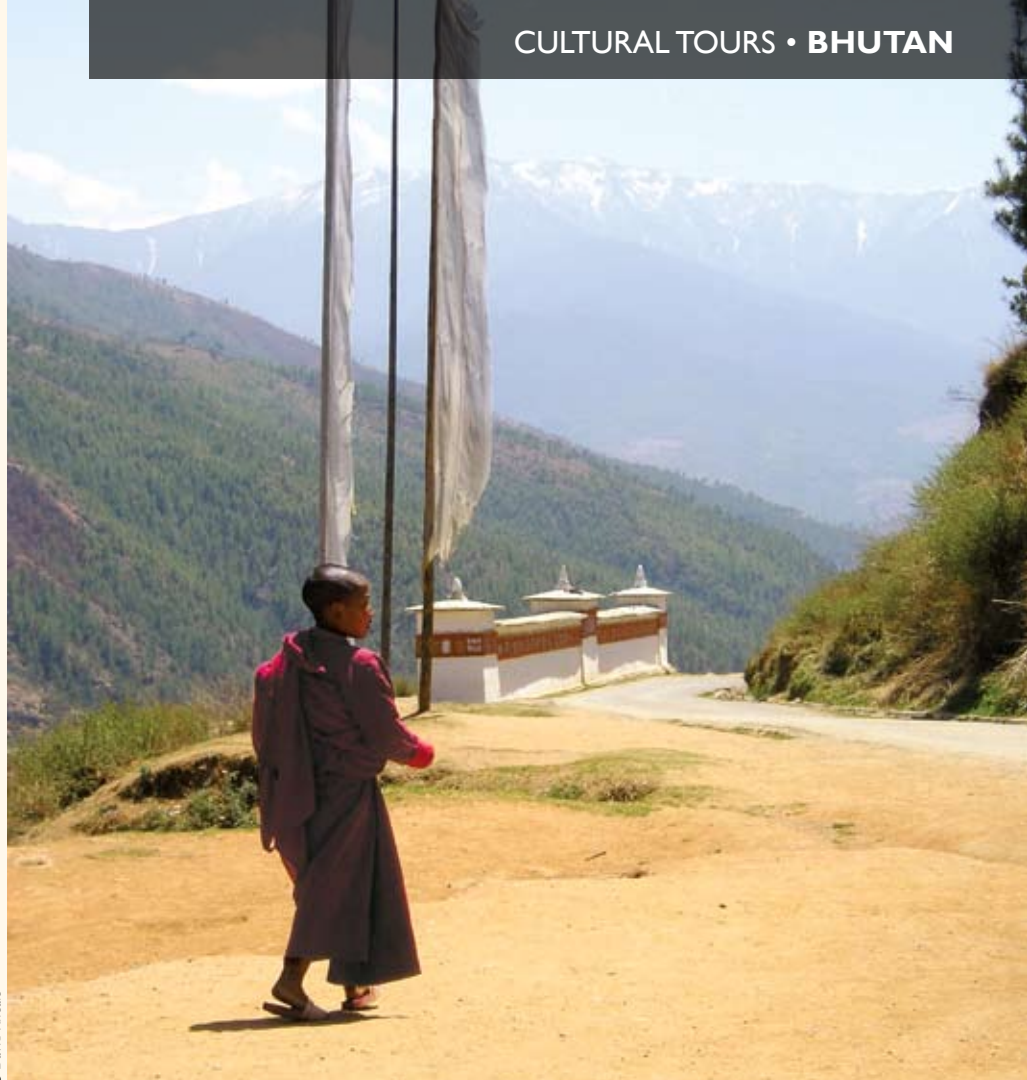
Day 11 Mongar

Continue eastwards to Mongar (6 hrs) over the Thimshing-La Pass (4,000m). From here, the road descends through a beautiful alpine valley before the vegetation changes to subtropical. Climb through pine forests, maize fields and eastern hamlets to reach the town of Mongar. BLD



© David Kneale

Rural mother and child



© David Kneale

An unforgettable view

Days 12/13 Trashigang

Drive to remote Trashigang (3 hrs). Highlights include the Trashigang Dzong and the temple of Gom Kora. Visit the Doksum village where women busily weave traditional Bhutanese fabric. On day 13 visit Trashiyaangtse Dzong. BLD

Day 14 Samdrup Jongkhar

Drive to the south-east border town of Samdrup Jongkhar (6 hrs). Afternoon at leisure. BLD

Day 15 Tour ends Guwahati

Transfer to Guwahati Airport. Tour ends. B



© Stephen Cameron

Rice fields, Punakha Valley

ADVENTURE TOURS

Bhutan provides the perfect destination for a host of adventure travel options. These tours are designed to combine a tour of Bhutan's cultural highlights with an adventure outdoor experience. All of these tours are flexible, and can be easily tailored to suit different skill levels.

White Water River Rafting
Spend 2 days rafting the outstanding Class II and IV rapids on the Po Chu and Mo Chu rivers east of Punakha. Spring provides exhilarating rapids whilst winter waters are suitable for beginners.

Mountain Biking
Bhutan's mountainous terrain offers a breathtaking adventure for cycling enthusiasts. Routes take you through mixed forests, pastures, meadows and valleys dotted with medieval villages rich in culture.

Outdoor Adventure
Experience Bhutan's wondrous countryside with a combined tour of rafting, trekking, hiking and cycling. This tour is high-intensity and only suitable for the seasoned adventurer.




© Stephen Cameron

Taksang Monastery