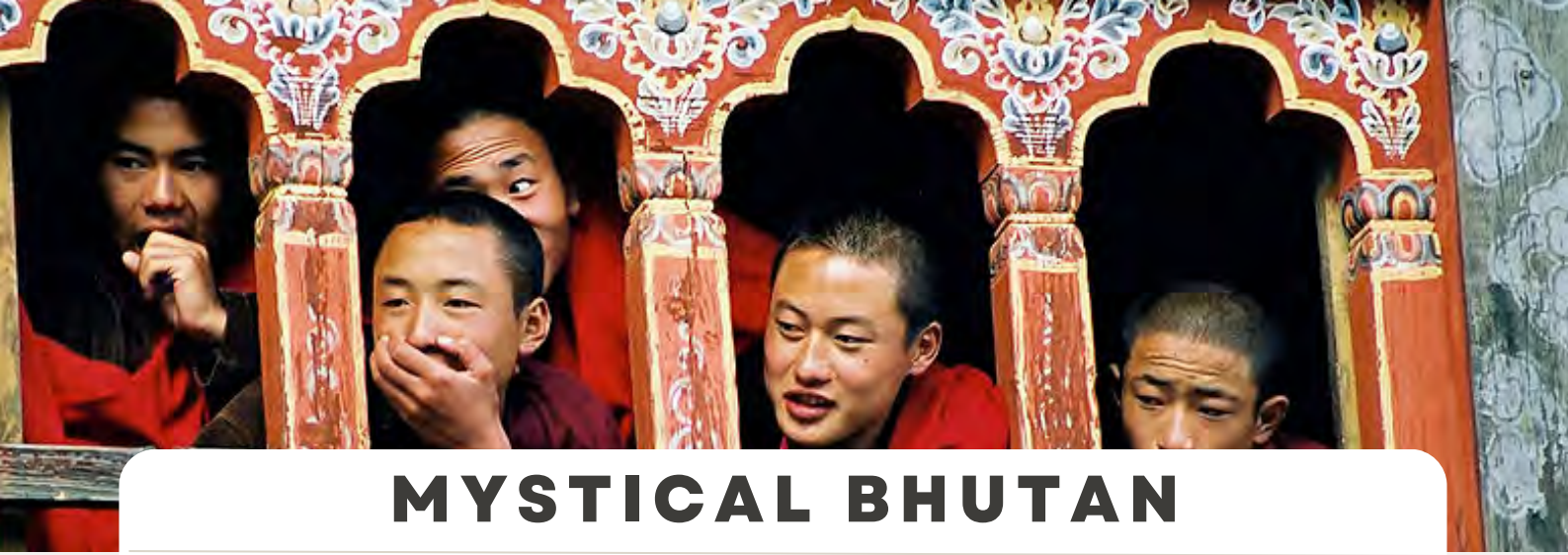


Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

Mystical Bhutan

**BHUTAN
FESTIVAL
TOUR**





MYSTICAL BHUTAN

LAND OF HERITAGE, HORIZONS & HARMONY

13 DAYS

DISCOVER THE LAST SHANGRI-LA

 DEPARTS FROM: **BANGKOK**  MAX GROUP SIZE: **14 PEOPLE**  PHYSICAL LEVEL: **MODERATE**

The remote Kingdom of Bhutan remains a world shrouded in mystery. Come traverse this small kingdom nestled within the Himalaya, and discover its welcoming people, witness its towering mountains and immerse yourself in celebration of its colourful cultural heritage.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Thimphu Textile Museum
- Folk Heritage Museum
- Dordenma Buddha
- Docchu-La Pass
- Punakha Dzong
- Temple of the Divine Madman
- Khamsum Yuelly Chorten
- Nalanda Monastery
- Sangchen Dorji Choling Nunnery
- Black Necked Crane Festival
- Crane Centre
- Black Mountains
- Lawaala Pass
- Bumthang Valley
- Thangbi Lhakang
- Gangtey Goempa
- Tamzhing Lhakhang
- Kurjey Lhakhang
- Jambay Lhakhang
- Mebar Tsho (Burning Lake)
- Kyichu Lhakang Temple
- Taksang Lhakang (Tiger's Nest)
- National Museum of Bhutan

MEET YOUR HOST



Every Byroads tour is supported by either Steve or Bronny - two experienced travellers with a genuine passion for people. They take care of all the nitty-gritty details to ensure your trip runs smoothly - and you can focus on enjoying the moment.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: BANGKOK

Arrive at Bangkok Airport and transfer to your hotel. Settle in and meet up with your group in the evening.

DAY 2: PARO AND THIMPHU

Take the very early flight to Paro and catch a glimpse of Mount Everest on the way. Meet the guide and drive the scenic mountainous road to Thimphu. Be guided around the stunning Textile Museum and later the fascinating Folk Heritage Museum. Explore the Dordenma Buddha perched high above Thimphu, then check in for your two-night stay. (LD)

DAY 3: THIMPHU

Continue the tour of the capital, the only one in the world without traffic lights! Stop by the National Library, home to scrolls and the world's largest book. Visit the country's School of Arts and Crafts where students learn an array of skills such as mask carving, sculpting, embroidery and painting. Wander through the local markets and cheer the local archers as they compete in the national sport. (BLD)

DAY 4: PUNAKHA

Leave Thimphu and stop at the top of the Docchu-La Pass and admire the mountainous vista. Walk around the 108 Memorial Chortens and then enjoy morning tea at the teahouse. Continue on to the Punakha Valley for lunch then set off to explore the Temple of the Divine Madman. Seek a blessing if you would like another baby! Settle in to your hotel for two nights. (BLD)

DAY 5: PUNAKHA

Be guided around the impressive Punakha Dzong, a fortress-monastery auspiciously built at the confluence of the Mo Chuu and Po Chuu rivers and one of the most majestic structures in Bhutan. In the afternoon walk cross a suspension bridge and then gently hike to the Khamsum Yuelly Chorten.

DAY 6: WANGDUE

Leave Punakha and take the scenic drive to the Buddhist College for Monks at Nalanda Monastery. Drive next to the Sangchen Dorji Lhendrub Choling Nunnery with its remarkable Nepali-style Chorten. Take the afternoon to investigate the expansive Wangdue Phodrang Dzong. Overnight at Kyichu Resort. (BLD)

DAY 7: GANGTEY

Drive through the Black Mountains and stop at the top of 3300m Lawaala Pass to photograph the stunning scenery - and the yaks! Descend to the beautiful Phobjikha Valley, a huge U-shaped glacial valley, which is located in the central kingdom. Arrive in Gangtey and take an afternoon forest walk and hope to catch sight of the visiting black-necked cranes. Stop by the informative Crane Centre and see the two rescued cranes Karma and Pema. (BLD)

DAY 8: GANGTEY

Feast on the spectacle that is the Black-Necked Crane Festival, held at Gangtey Goempa (one of the oldest monasteries in Bhutan). Showcasing traditional dances and stories, the festival includes folk songs, mask dances and the famous Black-Necked Crane Dance. (BLD)

DAY 9: TRONGSA AND JAKAR

Drive over Pelela Pass, considered the boundary between central and west Bhutan and arrive in Trongsa, the heart of the Kingdom. Explore the largest dzong fortress in Bhutan where all the Kings of Bhutan first invest as the Trongsa Penlop (district ruler) before ascending the Raven Crown throne. Settle into Bumthang Valley for two nights. (BLD)

ITINERARY

DAY 10: JAKAR

A full morning visiting the following: Tamzhing Lhakhang, built in 1501 by Pema Lingpa and well known for its most unique mural paintings- Kurjey Lhakhang, one of the most holy and sacred sites in Bhutan, surrounded by 108 chorten walls, and housing three revered temples- Jambay Lhakahang, said to have been built by King Songtsen Gampo to subdue a giant ogress that was preventing the spread of Buddhism in the Himalayas. After lunch, travel to Mebar Tsho (Burning Lake) and later, enjoy a drop at the Red Panda brewery. (BLD)

DAY 11: PARO

This morning take a flight from Bumthang to Paro and be guided through the 7th century Kyichu Lhakang. Time in the afternoon to delve into the delights of the National Museum of Bhutan. (BLD)

DAY 12: TAKSANT (TIGER'S NEST) AND PARO

After a hearty breakfast drive to Ramthankha, the trail start-point to the breath-taking and iconic Tiger's Nest. Hike or take the option to ride a pony to the mid-way teahouse. After refreshment, either settle down to enjoy the view from the teahouse or take the three-hour return hike to the sacred monastery the Tiger's Nest. Tonight - recover! (BLD)

DAY 13: PARO AND BANGKOK

Take the morning at leisure to explore the shops of Paro. Join the afternoon flight to Bangkok, where our tour concludes (BL)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

GUIDES

- ✓ Byroads tour host and national and local guides

TRANSPORT

- ✓ Arrival transfer, return flights Bangkok to Paro, domestic flight Bumthang to Paro, private vehicle with air-conditioning

ACCOMMODATION

- ✓ 12 nights (3 to 4-star hotel average)

MEALS

- ✓ All meals are included once in Bhutan

TICKETS

- ✓ Entrance fees to indicated sites



GETTING THERE: FLIGHTS AND TRANSFERS

Your flights from Bangkok to Paro return with Druk Air are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Byroads.

Thai, Qantas and Singapore Airlines are good options to get to Bangkok. You can book online or via your travel agent.

All transfers are included in Bhutan

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

We'd love to do it all for you. But there are a few things you'll need to arrange yourself. This includes your:

- Visa
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Departure transfer
- International flights
- Additional meals and drinks
- Cash for tipping kitty
- Optional tours
- Spending of a personal nature
- Laundry

ACCOMMODATION

Byroads accommodation is a destination unto itself. We choose our hotels carefully to ensure a seamless transition from your day exploring to a night of relaxation. Think traditional architecture blended with modern comforts – and plenty of views.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:



Hotel River Valley

Hotel in a stunning location, located by the river, with views of the Khuruthang Valley and surrounding majestic mountains. This charming hotel features a restaurant, bar, fitness, spa and massage centre.



Kyichu Resort

Alongside the Dangchu River, the resort basks amongst beautiful alpine scenery. Built in the traditional style, the hotel offers simple rooms and a restaurant known for its vegetarian cuisine.



ABC Eco Lodge

Well-appointed, peaceful lodge in a serene valley. The rooms are traditionally decorated, and the main lodge is super cozy. The lodge prides itself on its friendly service and its great restaurant.

THE FINER DETAILS

DATES AND PRICES

DATE	TWIN SHARE	FLIGHT TICKETS	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
4 November 2024	5395 USD	1245 USD	550 USD
*4 November 2025	*5825 USD	*1345 USD	*595 USD

Due to the volatility of international currencies, trip fees are calculated in US Dollars. However, you will be charged in Australian dollars. Currency conversion is based on Westpac Banking Corporation's buying rate on your balance due date.

***2025 prices are provisional**

Additional expenses

Tipping is customary, so please allow extra funds for the tipping kitty. This will pay your local and national guides, drivers and porters.

MEALS

All meals are included each day once you are in Bhutan. If you wish to buy alcohol or other drinks or snacks these will be at your own expense. Bottled water is provided free on the bus.

DOCUMENTATION

Once we've received your final payment, we'll post you a comprehensive field guide. It's a physical document you can keep handy to inform your travels. It also includes all relevant tour and accommodation information you need to book your visa.

VISAS

Visas are required for most nationalities, including Australians and New Zealanders. Byroads will provide the visa application form for you to complete. The Byroads Bhutan operator processes a group visa for us and the visa is made available shortly before departure.

Other nationalities should check with Byroads.

READY TO PACK YOUR BAGS?

There are two ways to book:

Online
(available 24/7)

Postal booking
form (below)



Got questions? Contact us at travel@byroads.com.au

BYROADS TOUR

BOOKING FORM

Tour name: Start date:

Room type: Twin Double Single Sharing with:

Full name: Date of Birth:

Email: Mobile:

Postal address:

Emergency contact (Name and phone number):

Nationality: Passport No:

Issue date: Expiry date:

Any medical, dietary or other special requests?

Travel insurance provider:

Policy No:

Emergency assistance phone no:

PAYMENT DETAILS

The tour deposit is due at the time of booking. The final balance payment is due 60 days prior to the commencement of the tour. All payments must be made via direct bank deposit to Byroads.

Acc Name: Byroads Pty Ltd

BSB: 034-605

Acc number: 697336

DECLARATION

I have read and I understand all the information in the respective Byroads tour brochure, and agree to abide by the Standard Booking Conditions attached to this booking form. I also confirm that I am fit to travel.

Signature:

Date:

BYROADS TOUR

BOOKING CONDITIONS

RESERVATION AND DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of \$750 is payable on all tours. This deposit must be paid to Byroads, and each participating client must complete the Byroads Booking form. You agree to accept these conditions when paying a deposit for your tour and completing the Booking Form. Your Byroads tour booking will only be confirmed once the deposit and completed booking form have been received. These Booking Conditions form the basis of the contract between you and Byroads.

PAYMENT

All payments must be made directly to Byroads by bank transfer.

FINAL BALANCE

The balance of your tour payment is due 60 days prior to the start of your tour. If, for any reason, the balance payment is not received by the due date, Byroads reserves the right to treat such failure to pay the balance as a cancellation and to apply the appropriate cancellation charges.

CANCELLATION BY YOU

If, for any reason, you cancel your tour booking, Byroads shall apply the following cancellation penalties. Charges are per person:

- Cancellation up to and including 60 days prior to departure, forfeiture of the total deposit
- From 59 to 45 days prior to departure, 30% of the tour price shall be retained
- From 44 to 31 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price shall be retained
- Within 30 days prior to departure, no refund will be made.

In addition to the above charges, cancellation fees may also apply to any domestic airfare component of your tour. No refund will be made after your tour has commenced or in respect of lost or unused tickets, hotel coupons, meals or any other services not utilized.

CANCELLATION BY BYROADS – Prior to Travel

If, for any reason, Byroads is forced to cancel a tour before it commences, Byroads may offer a transfer to an alternate departure, or all monies paid by you in respect of the tour will be refunded, less any unrecoverable costs. Unrecoverable costs may include but are not limited to monies paid to service providers, airlines, transportation companies, travel agencies and hotels associated with your tour.

AMENDMENTS

Up to and including 60 days prior to the departure of your tour, any amendment to a confirmed reservation may incur a fee of \$50 per change per file. From 59 to 30 days prior to departure, any amendment to confirmed travel arrangements may incur a fee of \$100 per change per file. Once documents have been dispatched, any amendment may incur a fee of \$150 per change per file.

TOUR PRICES

Byroads tour prices and provisional tour prices are based on tariffs and prevailing rates of exchange when tours were costed. Prices are subject to change without prior notice. In the event of fluctuations in currency exchange rates, service providers' tariffs, fuel prices or any other cost that affects the price of your tour, Byroads reserves the right to adjust tour prices at any time up to the day of departure.

TOUR OPERATION

Although Byroads will endeavour to ensure that tours are operated as advertised, an express condition of making a reservation is the acceptance by you that the tour itineraries, schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing and mode of transportation as outlined in the Byroads brochure and/or supplied in the pre-departure information are subject to change without prior notice.

Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, epidemic, pandemic, adverse weather conditions, floods, earthquakes, airline flight rescheduling, technical faults with transportation and road conditions may also have a consequential effect on the tour's content. Any decision made in respect of tour services provided by Byroads to reroute or amend the itinerary due to the above or similar circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Byroads. Byroads shall not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events that affect the schedule and content of your tour.

If Byroads is forced to cancel your travel arrangements after your trip has commenced due to reasons outside of its control, it will provide you with a refund of recoverable third-party costs only.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Byroads operate soft adventure tours. All participants must have a reasonable degree of physical fitness and be healthy. Before travelling with Byroads, you must familiarise yourself with any health requirements applicable to the areas you will be travelling. This includes obtaining any compulsory vaccinations or medical tests that may be required for entry into your country of travel.

You are responsible for having the correct entry and exit documents for your visiting countries. Byroads will assist in providing up-to-date information but is not responsible for any changes that may be made by governments.

ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

You acknowledge that the nature of the tour is adventurous and that participation involves a degree of personal risk. You will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes can present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. We use information from foreign government departments and reports from our own contacts in assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However, you must acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information and your itinerary. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made considering this information, and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Ensure your passport has a minimum of six months validity remaining, as this is an entry requirement in many countries. Upon booking, visa requirements will be advised once Byroads has received your passport details. Visas are required for a number of our tours, and it is your responsibility to obtain them.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

The cost of your Byroads tour does not include international airfares, airport departure taxes, unspecified meals, optional sightseeing, additional transfers, gratuities for hotel staff, guides and tour leaders, items of a personal nature such as laundry, phone calls, etc. or any other incidental expenses.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is an express condition of travelling with Byroads that you have comprehensive travel insurance to cover you for the duration of your tour. This should include full cover for any medical expenses and repatriation if required. It is highly recommended that you take out travel insurance when you pay the deposit to guard against any unforeseen circumstances that can lead to your need to cancel your tour. If you rely on complimentary travel insurance offered through your credit card company or bank, you should ensure that it is suitable for your tour. Some of the policies offered by these institutions may not offer adequate coverage. You must provide the policy number, insurance supplier details and emergency contact number to Byroads before your documents are issued.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

We contract with a network of companies, government agencies and individuals to assist in the running of our tours as agent for these third parties. We are not responsible for the acts and omissions of these third parties. To the fullest extent permitted by law:

(i) Any liability for any loss, death, injury or damage which you may suffer (directly or indirectly) in connection with or arising out of your participation in a tour, or any breach of the Booking Conditions, is excluded;

(ii) You release Byroads and its officers, employees, agents and representatives from any liability and expressly waive any claims you may have against us arising out of, or in connection with, your participation in a tour;

(iii) Any condition or warranty which would otherwise be implied by law into these Booking Conditions (Implied Warranty) is excluded.

To the extent an Implied Warranty cannot be excluded, our liability in respect of the Implied Warranty is limited to (in our absolute discretion): (a) the provision of a similar tour to an equivalent value or (b) a refund of the total amount received by us from you in connection with your booking.

Any claim by you is excluded to the extent that it is for indirect or consequential loss, loss of profits or economic loss (however it arises) or for indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages.

APPLICABLE LAW

The laws of Victoria, Australia, govern these Booking Conditions to the fullest extent allowable. Any disputes in connection with a tour or these Booking Conditions must be initiated in the courts of Victoria.