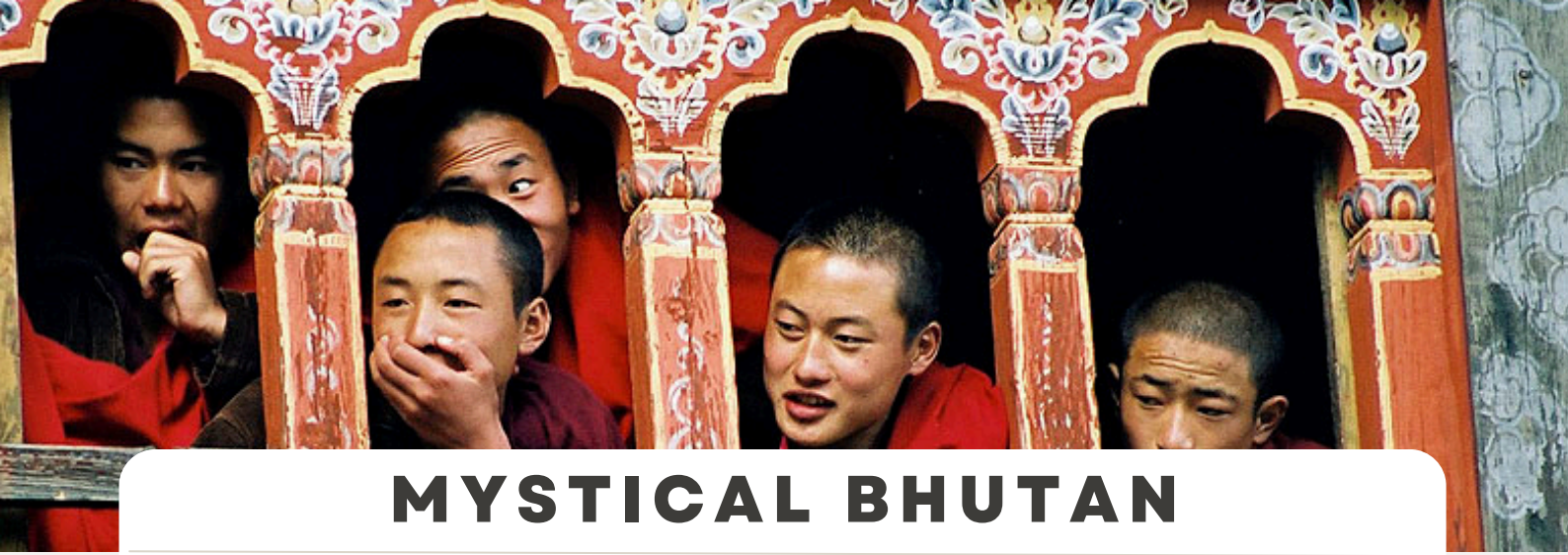


Mystical Bhutan

**BHUTAN
FESTIVAL
TOUR**





MYSTICAL BHUTAN

LAND OF HERITAGE, HORIZONS & HARMONY

13 DAYS

DISCOVER THE LAST SHANGRI-LA



DEPARTS FROM:
BANGKOK

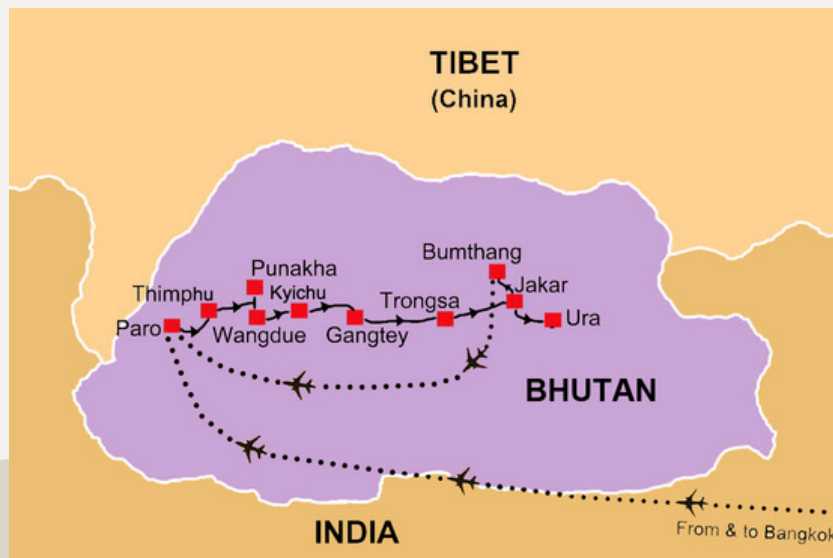


MAX GROUP SIZE:
14 PEOPLE



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 an experienced Byroads Escort – a true travel professional with a genuine passion for travel and 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: THU 4 NOV 27 - BANGKOK

Arrive at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport and transfer to your conveniently located airport hotel. There are no activities planned so there is time to relax and unwind after your flight to Bangkok. The flight to Paro will be very early in the morning. In the evening, meet your fellow travellers and your Byroads tour escort for a welcome briefing. It's the perfect opportunity to get to know each other and learn more about the fascinating days ahead in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan.

DAY 2: FRI 5 NOV 27 - PARO AND THIMPHU

Board a spectacularly scenic early morning flight to Paro, with breathtaking aerial views of the Himalayas and, if skies are clear, even Mount Everest. After arrival, meet your local Bhutanese guide and drive along the winding mountain roads, soaking in your first glimpses of this pristine Himalayan kingdom. Arriving in the capital, Thimphu, visit the acclaimed Textile Museum, a tribute to Bhutan's rich weaving traditions, followed by the Folk Heritage Museum, showcasing rural life through beautifully preserved artifacts and architecture. End the day with a visit to the majestic Dordenma Buddha – an enormous golden statue gazing peacefully over the valley. Check in to your hotel and enjoy the crisp mountain air of your new surroundings. (LD)

DAY 3: SAT 6 NOV 27 - THIMPHU

Begin your day discovering the unique character of the world's only capital city without traffic lights! Visit the National Library, home to ancient texts, sacred scriptures and the world's largest published book. Next, admire the skills on display at the School of Arts and Crafts, where young artists master traditional techniques like thangka painting, embroidery, wood carving and sculpture. Later, enjoy some time in the colourful local markets – perfect for souvenirs – and cheer along with locals at an archery match, Bhutan's beloved national sport that's both fierce and festive. (BLD)

DAY 4: SUN 7 NOV 27 - PUNAKHA

Today's journey winds up through pine forests and rhododendron groves to the high-altitude Docchu-La Pass. Here, marvel at 108 whitewashed chortens shrouded in prayer flags, set against a dramatic Himalayan backdrop. Enjoy morning tea at a cosy mountain teahouse before descending into the fertile Punakha Valley. After lunch, visit the quirky and beloved Temple of the Divine Madman, dedicated to Drukpa Kunley, Bhutan's most eccentric saint. Believed to bless fertility, it's one of the most fascinating temples in the country. Settle in at your hotel and enjoy your tranquil two-night stay in Punakha. (BLD)

DAY 5: MON 8 NOV 27 - PUNAKHA

This morning, explore the architectural wonder that is Punakha Dzong. Elegantly perched at the confluence of two glacial rivers, it's considered one of Bhutan's most beautiful and important dzongs. Walk its grand courtyards, intricately painted halls and ancient temples. In the afternoon, cross a swaying suspension bridge and take a gentle hike through rice paddies and pine forest to reach the striking Khamsum Yuelly Chorten. This modern yet traditionally built stupa rewards with sweeping views over the lush Punakha Valley. (BLD)

DAY 6: TUE 9 NOV 27 - WANGDUE

Depart Punakha for a peaceful drive into central Bhutan. Visit the Buddhist college at Nalanda Monastery where crimson-robed monks study ancient teachings surrounded by forested hills. Then visit the serene Sangchen Dorji Lhendrub Choling Nunnery, perched high with panoramic views and home to Bhutan's devout nuns. Admire the large stupa in Nepalese style. In the afternoon, explore the sprawling Wangdue Phodrang Dzong, dramatically set on a ridge above the river. Check in to the welcoming Kyichu Resort for the night. (BLD)

DAY 7: WED 10 NOV 27 - GANGTEY

Today's scenic drive takes you across the misty Black Mountains and the lofty 3300m Lawa-La Pass, where you may spot grazing yaks and fluttering prayer flags. Descend into the pristine Phobjikha Valley – a wide glacial bowl that feels like a forgotten world, carpeted in green and rich in wildlife. Arrive at Gangtey, a charming village with deep monastic roots. In the afternoon, enjoy a peaceful walk through pine forest trails and open meadows, and if lucky, catch sight of the elegant black-necked cranes that migrate here from Tibet. Visit the Crane Centre to learn about these rare birds and meet Karma and Pema, their two rescued residents. (BLD)

ITINERARY

DAY 8: THU 11 NOV 27 - GANGTEY

Join locals and monks for the enchanting Black-Necked Crane Festival, a celebration of culture and conservation held at the centuries-old Gangtey Goempa monastery. Set against a stunning mountain backdrop, the festival features vibrant mask dances, traditional folk songs, and the joyous Black-Necked Crane Dance performed by children. It's a rare opportunity to witness the harmony of religion, nature, and community in Bhutanese life. Don't forget your camera – this is one of Bhutan's most colourful events. (BLD)

DAY 9: FRI 12 NOV 27 - TRONGSA AND JAKAR

Travel further east across the remote Pelela Pass, which marks the gateway to central Bhutan. Continue on to Trongsa, Bhutan's spiritual and geographical heart. Explore Trongsa Dzong, the country's largest fortress-monastery, dramatically cascading down a ridge. This is where Bhutan's monarchs historically received their titles before becoming king. In the late afternoon, descend into the sacred Bumthang Valley – a spiritual hub rich in legends and monasteries – and check into your accommodation in the charming town of Jakar. (BLD)

DAY 10: SAT 13 NOV 27 - JAKAR

Spend the morning exploring some of Bhutan's most sacred and storied temples. Begin with Tamzhing Lhakhang, known for its ancient mural paintings created by the revered saint Pema Lingpa. Visit Kurjey Lhakhang, nestled in a peaceful setting beside the river, where Guru Rinpoche meditated, leaving a body imprint in stone. Continue to Jambay Lhakhang, built in the 7th century to pin down an ogress said to be obstructing Buddhism's spread. After lunch, travel to Mebar Tsho – the 'Burning Lake' – a revered pilgrimage site. End your day with a well-earned drink at the small but fascinating Red Panda brewery. (BLD)

DAY 11: SUN 14 NOV 27- PARO

Take a short and scenic domestic flight from Bumthang to Paro. On arrival, explore Kyichu Lhakang, one of the country's oldest and holiest temples, whose peaceful aura is matched only by its stunning setting. Later, delve into the National Museum of Bhutan, housed in an old watchtower and brimming with artefacts that span the history and culture of this Himalayan kingdom. Take the evening to relax or explore Paro's atmospheric streets. (BLD)

DAY 12: MON 15 NOV 27 - TAKSANT (TIGER'S NEST) AND PARO

After an early breakfast, drive to the trailhead at Ramthankha and begin your ascent to Taktsang Monastery, famously known as Tiger's Nest. Clinging impossibly to a sheer cliff face 900 metres above the valley floor, it is Bhutan's most iconic and sacred site. For those preferring a gentler option, ponies are available to the halfway point teahouse, where you can rest with a warm drink and admire the view. Continue the 3-hour roundtrip hike to the monastery for a truly unforgettable experience. Return to Paro and celebrate your achievement with a relaxing evening. (BLD)

DAY 13: TUE 16 NOV 27 - PARO AND BANGKOK

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Paro, with time to browse for last-minute souvenirs or enjoy one final walk through the town. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport for your return flight to Bangkok, where the tour concludes on arrival at Bangkok airport. Take with you unforgettable memories of Bhutan's serene landscapes, warm people, and vibrant spiritual culture. (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 2027	*5995 USD	*1395 USD	*695 USD

*Provisional 2027 Prices

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.

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?



BOOK ONLINE NOW

(available 24/7)

Or visit: www.byroads.com.au/portfolio_page/byroads-booking-form/



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