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4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS BHUTAN

Day 01: Arrive Paro by Druk Air, transfer to Thimphu (55 Km, 1:30 Hours)

The flight to Paro on a clear day is one of the most spectacular of all mountain flights. One can see Mt. Everest, Kanchenjunga, Makalu and other peaks in Bhutan such as Chomolhari, Jichu Drake and Tsering ghang. The first gift from Bhutan will be cool, clean fresh air as you step out of the aircraft. On arrival at Paro airport, received by our representative and transfer to Thimphu, the capital town of Bhutan, the road leads through the Paro valley to the confluence of Paro and Thimphu rivers at Chuzom (confluence). Later in the day take an exploratory walk getting acquainted with the local environment. Also visit National Memorial Chorten: a monument for world peace and prosperity. The paintings and statues inside the monument provide a deep insight into Buddhist philosophy. Overnight at hotel in Thimphu.

Day 02: Thimphu sightseeing & drive to Paro (55 km, 1:30 hr)

After leisurely breakfast at hotel proceed to a guided tour of Thimphu. Proceed to visit National Library (sat sun, govt holiday closed), which holds a vast collection of ancient Buddhist texts and manuscripts, some dating back several hundred years, as well as modern academic books mainly on Himalayan culture and religion. Also visit nearby Institute for Zorig Chusum (Sat afternoon, sun & govt holiday closed): Commonly known as Arts & Crafts School or Painting School, the Institute offers a six-year course on the 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan. On a visit, one can see students learning the various skills taught at the school. Drive towards city centre to visit Textile (sat afternoon, sun & govt holiday closed) and Folk Heritage Museum: These museums, both of which opened in 2001, provide fascinating insights into Bhutanese material culture and way of life. Conclude sightseeing with a visit of Trashichhodzong: This impressive fortress/monastery houses Secretariat building, the throne room of His Majesty, the King and various government offices. It is also the summer residence of Chief Abbot and central monk body. Evening drive to Paro. Overnight at hotel in Paro.

Day 03 Paro

Proceed to visit Ta Dzong (sun, mon & govt holiday closed), originally built as Watch Tower, it now houses National Museum of the Kingdom and boasts antique thangka paintings, textiles, weapons & armour, household objects and a rich assortment of natural and historic artifacts. Walk down the trail to visit Rinpung Dzong, meaning 'fortress of the heap of jewels' which has a long and fascinating history. Along the wooden galleries lining the courtyard of the Rinpung Dzong are fine wall paintings illustrating Buddhist lore. Before you enter the dzong you cross a picturesque traditional covered cantilever bridge, locally known as Nemi Zam. Afternoon visit Drukgyel Dzong, a ruined fortress from where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. The snowy dome of sacred Chomolhari, "mountain of goddess" looms directly over the Dzong. On the way back to hotel, visit 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples built in the Himalayas by Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo. One of the most sacred shrines in the country, it reflects the introduction of Buddhism in Bhutan. OR, IF THEY ARE INTERESTED IN HIKING, ABOVE ITINERARY CAN BE REPLACED BY FOLLOWING OPTION (SAME COST):

Day 03: Hike to Tiger's nest

After breakfast excursion to Taktshang Monastery (5hrs hike) : It is one of the most famous of Bhutan's monasteries, perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley floor. It is said that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at this monastery and hence it is called 'Tiger's Nest'. This site has been recognised as a most sacred place and visited by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1646 and now visited by all Bhutanese at least once in their lifetime. On 19 April, 1998, a fire severely damaged the main structure of building but now this Bhutanese jewel has been restored to its original splendour. Afternoon back in town visit Ta Dzong & Rinpung Dzong. Overnight at hotel in Paro

Day 04: Depart Paro

After breakfast transfer to airport to catch your flight to onward destination.