**EXPEDITION TO BHUTAN**

**Description**

Surrounded by scenic landscapes, Bhutan which is also known as the ‘Land of Thunder Dragons’, is one of the most beautiful destinations to look out for! Its rich cultural heritage can be traced back to 2000BC. Cut-off for the centuries from the world, Bhutan has tried its best in conserving its ancient traditions. On this trip get to visit the monasteries, famous tiger's nest and much more! **What's Unique?**

Visit various monasteries, drive to Dochu- la pass and the National Library.

Phuentsholing - Thimpu - Punakha - Paro - Lataguri.

**Inclusions**

**INCLUDES**

Copy of itinerary.

Breakfast & dinner

Triple sharing accommodation in hotels/ lodges.

Driver, team leader, support staff, mechanic, support backup vehicle, support staff

Permit to Paro, Thimphu & Punakha.

Immigration fee.

Assistance in getting all paperwork done wherever required.

Theme dinner with bonfire one night.

First-aid kit with necessary medicines.

Tool box.

T-shirt/ highlighter specially designed. (Please send your size).

Stickers for bike & helmet.

Briefing by specialists.

**DOES NOT INCLUDE**

Extra transportation not included in trip.

Lunch.

Entry to the monuments.

Any expense incurred due to force majeure.

Government taxes.

Expenses of personal nature such as table drinks, water bottle, snacks, telephone calls, laundry, camera fee for still or video camera, tips to drivers, local guides, and hotel staff.

Halt for food is already fixed. Please be at the venue on time to avail the services else pay yourself.

Motorcycle, car & fuel. **Tips, Hints, Precautions**

1. What if I do not have my own bike?

No problem! Rented bike can be arranged at an extra cost as mentioned in Add-ons section.2. What riding gear do I need for this trip?

Everything! This is the kind of trip riding gear is made for. Get a riding jacket, pants, shoes, gloves, balaclava and full face helmet. Keep in mind that all of your riding gear should be good to go against rain, hail and snow.

**USEFUL INFORMATION:**

Costs are valid for Indian nationals with valid ID proof. For foreign nationals the cost will be different.

# Driving License

Driving license is mandatory for riding. Indian driving license is sufficient; international driving license is not required.

#Accessibility

Entry into Bhutan can be made either by train or by flight. Delhi to Bagdogra /The New Jalpaiguri Railway station is 1472 km away which will take 2-3 days by road, 22 Hrs by train and 2 Hrs by flight.

# Entry Permit

Indian Nationals travelling between India and Bhutan do not need visa. An identity document, be it either passport or an election I. D card is however required at immigration counter. Carry 2 passport size photographs too.

#Currency

The Bhutanese currency is called Ngultrum (Nu.) which is at par with Indian Rupee. Credit cards (Amex and visa cards) are accepted by only few establishments. There are no ATM centers are available. Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denominations are not acceptable in Bhutan.

#Clothes

Cotton clothes are sufficient, plus a woolen sweater or light jacket. Carry comfortable sports shoes are also recommended.

#Language

The official language of Bhutan is Dzongkha, but English has been the language of educational instruction since 1964 and is widely spoken. Locals at popular tourist destinations do understand and speak Hindi.

# Security

Bhutan is very safe destination with lowest crime rate in the world. In general you will find Bhutanese people very helpful, warm, hospitableand friendly.

**Do’s and Don’ts for the Team:**

First rule of this trip you have to follow is to listen to the guidelines of the team leader.

1. Respect each other and the place we are going to.

2. Be punctual. Integrity and discipline should be followed. Follow the traffic rules.

3. Head gear is mandatory for all the participants who are riding bike.

4. Organizers will not be responsible for any kind of damage during the trip.

5. Participants are responsible for their own motorcycle and personnel belongings, gears and the damage.

6. Participants are required to carry their own bike bulb, clutch wire etc. In any malfunctioning our mechanic will fix it and repair, but we will not provide any gear.

7. Participants must have their own Royal Enfield or other bike above 150 CC (Those who don’t have bike can get on rent, we can help you find it) or a 4 wheeler to Drive.

8. You should be above 18 years to drive a vehicle.

**ITINERARY**

Day 01: Day 01: Arrive Phuentsholing Destination: Phuentsholing

Everyone who is coming by air/train or road will meet at Jaigaon, the last town of India well-connected by train and air. After immigration and submitting the documents for bike/ car to RTO office you will proceed to Phuentsholing. Arrangements will be made for immigration at Jaigaon/Phuentsholing border. Carry passport or voter ID card for immigration purpose. The Phuentsholing border gate normally remains open from 6 AM to 8 PM. So, plan accordingly. On arrival in Phuentsholing, reach hotel followed by check-in and installation. The gateway to the south, Phuentsholing is a thriving commercial center on the northern edge of the Indian plains. Situated directly at the base of the Himalayan foothills, it is a fascinating mélange of Indian and Bhutanese culture. Overnight at the hotel in Phuentsholing.

Day 02: Day 02 : Phuentsholing - Paro

After breakfast, drive to Paro 4 km ahead of Phuentsholing. You will visit Kharbandi Gompa, a beautiful monastery situated in garden of tropical plants and flowers. The monastery is home to paintings depicting scenes from the life of Buddha and statues of Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and Guru Rimpoche. From the monastery garden you get a splendid view of Phuentsholing and plains of West Bengal and their tea gardens. Proceed further to Paro. Lunch stop en route. Afternoon in Paro; visit Ta Dzong, once a watchtower, built to defend Rinpung Dzong during inter-valley wars of the 17th century. Ta Dzong was inaugurated as Bhutan’s National Museum in 1968. Afterwards, walk down a hillside trail to visit Rinpung Dzong. Built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, the first spiritual and temporal ruler of Bhutan, the Dzong houses the monastic body of Paro, the office of the Dzongda (district administrative head) and Thrimpon (judge) of Paro district. Overnight at the hotel in Paro.

Day 03: Cultural tour in Paro

After breakfast drive up the valley to view the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong. It was from here that the Bhutanese repelled several invading Tibetan armies during the 17th century. Visit traditional Bhutanese Farm House which offers good insight into lifestyle of the life of local people. Then take an excursion to Taktsang Monastery, the most famous of Bhutanese monastery. It is said that Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress and meditated at this monastery hence it is called “Tiger’s Nest”. The excursion to monastery takes about 5 hours for round trip. On our way back to Paro town visit Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest and most sacred shrines of the Kingdom. Overnight stay at the hotel in Paro.

Day 04: Day 04: Drive from Paro to Thimpu

The green walls of the hills known as doors or gateways into Bhutan from the plains of India rise even higher as the plane flies north towards the Tibetan border. Silvery rivers rush along the valleys, waterfalls plunge down the forested mountainsides, and to the north, the great snow-capped peaks of the inner Himalayas rise up to the heavens. Farm houses dot the hillsides on either side of the plane. Five miles, before Thimphu, visit Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress of the Kingdom which now houses the School for religious and cultural studies.

**Cultural tour to Thimphu.**

Visit the National Library, housing an extensive collection of priceless Buddhist manuscripts; the Institute for Zorig Chusum (commonly known as the Painting School) where students undergo a 6-year training course in Bhutan’s 13 traditional arts and crafts. Later visit Textile and Folk Heritage Museum, a fascinating testimony of the Bhutanese material culture and living traditions. After lunch, also visit King's Memorial Chorten continuously circumambulator by people, murmuring mantras and spinning their prayer wheels. Construction of this landmark was the idea of Bhutan’s third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuk (“the father of modern Bhutan”) who has wished to erect monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it serves both as a memorial to the Late King and as a monument to peace. Then, visit the government-run Handicrafts Emporium and local crafts shops, to browse through example of Bhutan's fine traditional arts. Here you can buy hand-woven textiles, thangkha paintings, masks, ceramics, slate and wood carvings, jewelry, interesting items made from local materials. Overnight stay at the hotel in Thimphu.

Day 05: Thimphu to Punakha After an early breakfast, drive up to Dochu-la pass (3,088m/ 10,130 ft) stopping briefly to admire the chorten, mani wall, and prayer flags which decorate the highest point on the road. If skies are clear, the following peaks can be seen from this pass (left to right): Masagang (7,158m), Tsendagang (6,960m), Terigang (7,060m ), Jejegangphugang (7,158 m ), Kangphugang (7,170 m ), Zongphugang (7, 060 m ), a table mountain that dominates the isolated region of Lunana - finally Gangkar Puensum, the highest peak in Bhutan at 7,497m. Later visit to Punakha Dzong, built strategically at the junction of Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the religious and administrative center of the region, Punakha Dzong has played an important role in Bhutan’s history. Damaged by four catastrophic fires and an earthquake, the Dzong has been fully restored by the present King.  
After that drive to Wangduephodrang visiting Dzong and local market. The district of Wangduephodrang is also famous for its bamboo products, slate and stone carvings. Overnight stay at the hotel in Punakha.

Day 06: Drive from Punakha to Thimphu

**Cultural tour to Thimphu**

After an early breakfast, drive up to Thimphu and visit Trashichhoedzong, “fortress of the glorious religion”. This is the center of government and religion, site of monarch’s throne room and seat of Je Khenpo or Chief Abbot. Built in 1641 by the political and religious unifier of Bhutan, Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, it was reconstructed in 1960s in traditional Bhutanese manner, without nails or architectural plans. Overnight stay at the hotel in Thimphu.

Day 07: Day 07: Drive from Thimphu to Lataguri via Phuentsholing

After breakfast drive to Lataguri, a small town located in the Jalpaiguri district of Indian state of West Bengal. The village is located outside the Gorumara National Park on National Highway No. 31. Permits for entering Gorumara and Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary are given from Lataguri. Overnight stay at a hotel in Lataguri.

Day 08: Day 08: Depart from Lataguri

After breakfast depart for Lataguri for onward journey. Lataguri to BAGDOGRA airport - (65km). Lataguri to New Jalpaiguri Railway station - (50 km).