

J Yang Tours Customized Group Travel Specialist to Asia

China • Vietnam • Cambodia • Thailand • Laos • Bhutan • Japan • Mongolia

The Dragon Kingdom - Bhutan

Duration: 10 nights/11 days

We visit: Thimphu, Punakha, Bumthang, Gangtey, Phobjikha, Paro

Discover 'The Dragon Kingdom' on this in-depth, 11 day tour offering an insight into the ancient way of life that still thrives in Bhutan today. As well as the beautiful western valleys, this tour also explores Bhutan's spiritual central valleys. The best time to do this tour is between November – April when the Black-necked Cranes are in Phobjikha.

Highlights:

- Thimphu - Ta Dzong Museum, Rimpong Dzong, National Library, Changangkha Temple, the Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong
- Day excursion to Tango Monastery
- Punakha - Dochula Pass, Punakha Dzong, Chimi Lhakhang, Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten
- Bumthang - Wangdue, Trongsa Dzong, Kurje Lhakhang, Jambay Lhakhang, Tamshing Monastery
- Gangtey - Gangtey Goempa Manstery
- Phobjikha - Phobjikha Valley, Phobjikha Sanctuary
- Paro - Taktsang Monastery, Ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong, Kyichu Temple

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Bangkok-Thimphu

Early morning flight to Paro. Visit the Ta Dzong Museum featuring a fascinating collection of art and relics, and the 17th century Rimpong Dzong. Drive to Bhutan's capital, Thimphu (2 hrs). (L/D)

Day 2-3 Thimphu

Explore Thimphu's highlights including the National Library featuring ancient Buddhist scripts, Changangkha Temple, the Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong. On day 3 enjoy a day excursion to Tango Monastery, a sacred Buddhist college built in the 12th century. (B/L/D)

Day 4-5 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass. Spend two days exploring Punakha including the stunning Punakha Dzong and Chimi Lhakhang, a temple built in honor of Drukpa Kuenley, also known as the "Divine Madman". Also enjoy a short hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten. (B/L/D)

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- Day 6-7 **Bumthang**
Early departure for Bumthang (8 hrs), the spiritual heartland of Bhutan via Wangdue and the Trongsa Dzong. Explore Bumthang's many sacred and ancient Buddhist sites such as Kurje Lhakhang where Guru Rimpoche meditated and left his body imprint on a rock, the 7th century Jambay Lhakhang and Tamshing Monastery featuring some of Bhutan's oldest wall paintings. (B/L/D)
- Day 8 **Gangtey-Phobjikha**
Depart for Gangtey (6 hrs), home of the historic 17th century Gangtey Goempa Monastery, the only one of its kind west of the Black Mountain range. Phobjikha Valley (1.8 mile) is often described as "the most beautiful valley in the most beautiful country in the Himalayas". Every winter, the rare and beautiful Black-necked Cranes return from Tibet to the safety of this quiet and remote valley. (B/L/D)
- Day 9 **Paro**
Visit the Phobjikha Sanctuary, famous for its endangered Black-necked Cranes (Nov-Mar). Explore Gangtey before returning to Paro. (B/D)
- Day 10 **Paro**
Walk (1.5 hrs) up to the spectacular Taktsang Monastery, Bhutan's most revered temple perched on a rocky ledge over a 2952 ft drop. Afterwards visit the ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Temple, dating back to the 7th century. (B/L/D)
- Day 11 **Paro-Bangkok**
Early morning transfer to airport for flight to Bangkok. (B)

For tour price or customize this itinerary, please contact us

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