

Matsutake Festival 5th, 6th, 7th Aug 2009

11 Days/ 10 Nights

Day 01 | 1st Aug 2009 | Saturday

Arrival in Paro – Thimphu (1 Hr)

Transfer to Thimphu by car/bus. After lunch Thimphu sightseeing. One can either wander on your own to stroll Thimphu streets or relax in your hotel.

Overnight: Thimphu | Altitude: 2300m

Day 02 | 2nd Aug 2009 | Sunday

Thimphu – Punakha (3 Hrs)

Visit the colourful weekend market. Drive pass by Memorial Chorten (temple) built in memory of the late 3rd King. Visit Changangkha Lhakhang, the oldest temple in the valley and Zilukha Nunnery. After lunch drive past Dochula pass over 3010m. When the weather permits one can enjoy a spectacular view of the highest mountains of Bhutan with a view that stretches almost 180 degrees. After a short tea break continue drive to the sub tropical valley of Punakha.

Overnight: Punakha | Altitude: 1350m

Day 03 | 3rd Aug 2009 | Monday

Punakha – Jakar (7 Hrs)

Visit Punakha Dzong (fortress) which houses the most elaborated temple in the country. One can also visit Souvenir making center. Drive over Pelela Pass at 3300m which forms the part of Black Mountain Range that divides the country into east and west. Drive through Trongsa and pass by the highest road pass in your trip at 3425m (Yotong La). En route stop at the weaving place where “Yatha” (wool weaving) is made which Bumthang is famous for.

Overnight: Jakar | Altitude: 2650m

Day 04 | 4th Aug 2009 | Tuesday

Jakar - Ura (2 Hrs)

Morning Jakar sightseeing on foot. Afternoon drive to Ura, a village made of cluster of large stone houses. Experience the village home stay with the locals of Ura.

Overnight: Farm House | Altitude: 3100m

Day 05 | 5th Aug 2009 | Wednesday

Matsutake Festival

Morning join the locals and the staff of the Thrumshingla National Park, Ministry of Agriculture to be part of the 2nd Matsutake festival held in Ura. Whole day mushroom haunting in the forest. Enjoy the picnic lunch. Evening back to the village. Traditional hot stone bath. Fresh matsutake for dinner.

Overnight: Farm House

Day 06 | 6th Aug 2009 | Thursday

Matsutake Festival

Join the locals and the staff of the Thrumshingla National Park, for the 2nd day of the festival. Whole day mushroom haunting in the forest with local cultural tour. Enjoy the picnic lunch. Evening back to the village. Traditional hot stone bath. Fresh matsutake for dinner.

Overnight: Farm House

Day 07 | 7th Aug 2009 | Friday

Matsutake Festival

Today's tour will be a combination of mushroom picking with nature trekking, birding and wildlife observation tour. Picnic lunch. Traditional hot stone bath. Enjoy your last night of village home stay.

Overnight: Farm House

Day 08 | 8th Aug 2009 | Saturday

Ura – Phobjikha (7 Hrs)

Retrace and enjoy the drive back to the wide valley of Phobjikha. En route stop to visit the majestic Trongsa Dzong (fortress), home of the royals and the watch tower which house a museum now. Continue to Phobjikha.

Overnight: Phobjikha | Altitude: 2900m

Day 09 | 9th Aug 2009 | Sunday

Phobjikha – Paro (5 ½ Hrs)

Morning walk around the wide valley of Phobjikha meeting with students who all walk for hours to reach their closest school in the valley. Take a short break in Wangdi town and view Wangdi Dzong the only fortress in the country that has the original roof. Continue to Paro over the Dochula. Evening stroll old Paro town and peep into some local handicrafts stores. One can also venture to try local restaurant for dinner.

Overnight: Paro | Altitude: 2200m

Day 10 | 10th Aug 2009 | Monday

Paro sightseeing

Visit 17 century Paro Dzong (Fortress) on foot and continue walking through the oldest wooden bridge still in use. Visit Kichu Lhakhang, one from the 2 oldest Buddhist temple in the country, historic Drukgyal Dzong (Fortress) and hike to Tiger's Nest, the most revered temple in the country that literally hangs on a granite cliff overlooking the Paro Valley.

Overnight: Paro

Day 11 | 11th Aug 2009 | Tuesday

Departure:

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. Our tour staff will bid you farewell at the airport.

Some useful Bhutanese phrases

Hello: Ku-zu-zam-po-la (meaning good health)

Thank You: Ka din chey la

See you: Lok jey gay

Good bye: Lus la “or” Laso la