Magical Nepal - Bhutan Tour

Description

The Magical Nepal - Bhutan tour includes a 10-day and 9 nights trip, starting with exploring Kathmandu city and then followed by a journey from Kathmandu to Paro, Bhutan, and then to the capital city of Thimphu. The tour explores the authentic historical, cultural, and traditional rich cities of Nepal and Bhutan.

The tour starts with an exploration of some of the world heritage sites in Nepal. Following that we fly to Paro and witness the scenic views of the Bhutanese landscape along with the architectual magnificence. There will be a full day for local sightseeing in Thimphu, followed by a journey to Phunakha and a day spent there. We return to Paro and a day trip to the Tiger's Nest Monastery before departure. After return from Bhutan, the trip concludes with a final excursion to the historic city of Bhaktapur and Nagarkot.

Highlights

Itinerary

Days	Description	Altitude	Hours
01	Arrival in Kathmandu	meters	
02	Sightseeing Kathmandu	meters	
03	Fly to Paro and Drive to Thimphu	meters	
04	Thimphu Halt & local sightseeing	meters	
05	Thimphu to Phunakha	meters	
06	Phunakha to Paro	meters	
07	Day trip to Tiger’s Nest Monastery	meters	
08	Departure from Paro and Arrival in Nepal	meters	
09	Sightseeing Bhaktapur & Nagarkot View.	meters	
10	Departure from Nepal		

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival in Kathmandu.

Welcome to Nepal, on your arrival at TIA our Precious Adventures representative will pick you up at the airport. The representative will transfer you to the hotel where you will stay. After your long and tiring journey to Nepal, you can either relax in your room or perhaps explore the local vicinity and be fascinated by the diverse culture of Nepal. In the evening you are cordially invited for a complimentary dinner where you meet with your trek guide and they will further provide detailed

information about the trip. For dinner, you will have staple Nepali food which includes rice, daal, and vegetable along with meat depending on your choice.

Day 02: Sightseeing Kathmandu

Today we drive around Kathmandu for sightseeing and visit two of the UNESCO world heritage sites in Kathmandu. Boudhanath stupa holds a prominent place among Buddhist people. A stupa is a hemispherical shaped structure or mound which is prominent in Buddhism. Though the Boudhanath stupa is bustling with day-to-day activities, the atmosphere around here is rather tranquil. Following that we visit the holy Pashupatinath temple also known as the Monkey temple, is one of the most sacred and significant Hindu temples in the world. The temple is dedicated to Lord Pashupatinath, who is an incarnation of Lord Shiva. While visiting the temple we can see some Hindu rituals and ceremonies taking place.

Later we visit Durbar square and Swyambhunath and enjoy the cultural heritage of Nepal. First we visit the Durbar square where we witness living goddess, 'kumari'. The Kumaris are young girls who receive the power of Goddess Kali and Taleju. It is believed that Kumari Goddess is the living incarnation of Goddess Taleju. Later we visit the local market likewise variety of shrines, temples, monastery, museum, library and stupas are worth exploring, some of them having major historical significance. In the end we visit the famous Swayambunath stupa, where form the top of Swayambhunath hill we enjoy the majestic view of captivating sunset and the Kathmandu valley. Walking around these monuments brings about a beautiful impression of the tradition, culture, city life, and customs of Nepal. The choice is yours to make. Overnight at Kathmandu.

Day 03: Fly to Paro and Drive to Thimphu

On this day we fly into the Kingdom of Thunder Dragon, from Kathmandu we fly to Paro. During the flight we witness breathtaking views of the Kingdom of Bhutan. On your arrival our representatives will pick you up at the airport and then transfer to Timphu. Timphu is the bustling capital city of Bhutan and is the centre of religion, commerce and government. The capital is a truly unique place with an interesting blend of tradition and modernity. We explore various temples, dzongs, chortens, museums, handicraft stores, nunneries, parks and many more. We visit the National Memorial Chorten and meet with the elderly generation in circumambulation at the National Memorial Chorten. Exquisite paintings and sculptures and works of art created by traditional and contemporary artist can be witnessed. The National Memorial Chorten was consecrated on July28, 1974, to commemorate the Third King. After that we visit the largest statues of Buddha located at Kuenselphodrang Nature Park. The Buddha Dordenma is considered as a symbol of indestructibility. The 169 feet bronze statue of Buddha Dordenma is really spectacular. The view of Thimphu valley from the Buddha point is magnificent and beautiful, especially at night. Overnight at Timphu.

Day 04: Thimphu Halt & local sightseeing

The Radio Tower hike in Thimphu is a great way to see the city from above. Wangditse is a moderate hike with great views over Thimphu, the view from the top is extremely pleasing. We also visit the WangditseGoemba which was founded in 1750. The windstorm in 1995 had seriously damaged the monument, which lead to its much needed restoration in 2002. Amazing statues of the guardian deities Yeshey Gonpo (Mahakala), Palden Lhamo (Mahakali) and Tsheringma (the Goddess of Longevity) are kept here.

We also visit the Motithang Takin Preserve,here we can see the national animal of Bhutan. Takin is considered as one of the vulnerable species and is a rare animal found in Bhutan, Nepal and Burma. Then we head towards Institute of Zorig Chusum also known as the painting school, or the school of

thirteen arts. The institute offers a glimpse of 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan.

We can also pay visit to the Centenary Farmers' Market in Thimphu, Bhutan is a popular weekend market located on the banks of the Wangchhu River. Many locals from the nearby areas come here to sell their agricultural harvests. This market is the largest domestic market in Bhutan.

Timphu Dzong also called as the fortress of glorious religion was constructed by the third king, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in the 1960s after the capital was moved from Punakha to Thimphu. sitting along the bank of the Wang Chu, it is an architectural delight. Currently it serves as offices of the king, the cabinet secretariat and the ministries of home affairs and finance. Overnight at Timphu.

Day 05: Thimphu to Phunakha

On this day we visit the ancient capital of Bhutan. It is a 2 and a half hour drive from Timphu via the Dochu-La (3,150 m). Dochula Pass beautiful pass located on the way to Punakha from Thimphu. It offers a stunning 360-degree scenic view of Himalaya's mountain range embedded with 108 chortens that was built by Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. The construction of 108 chortens was commissioned by Her Majesty in order to commemorate the victory over the Indian militants and to liberate the souls of those who lost their lives during that battle. Once we cross the pass, we travel along with a beautiful aquamarine river that takes you to Punakha.

Chhimi Lhakhang is a fertility temple located in the village of Sopsokha. It was built in 1499 by Ngawang Choegyel, the 14th Drukpaheirarch, and is dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kunley, also known as the "Divine Madman". We walk through terraced rice fields for 30 minutes before reaching the temple situated on a a small hill. The temple is renowned for its association with the phallic symbol and the legend of the Divine Madman. We can see the paintings depicting his deeds on the walls of the temple, and couples seeking children have come from around the world to be blessed at Chhimi Lhakhang.

Punakha Dzong is a historic fortress located at the junction of the Pho Chu and Mo Chu river. It was build in the year 1637 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, and has served as a religious and administrative center for the region. Over the centuries, the Dzong has been damaged by fires and earthquakes, but it has been fully restored in recent years by King Jigme Singye Wangchuck. Here we get to witness the finest woodworks ever to be created, massive Kuenray, the Coronation Hall of all Bhutanese kings, the Dzong chung at the entrance to the Dzong, and the recently renovated cantilever bridge over the Mochu. Overnight at Phunakha.

Day 06: Phunakha to Paro

Today we get to explore the serene valley which shelters many of Bhutan's old monasteries and temples. Mount Chomolhari (7,300 meters) is also situated here, located at the northern end of the valley whose glacier water forms the pristine Pachu flowing through the valley. This day we explore the Paro Dzong (aka Ringpung Dzong). Rinpung Dzong, which is also called as the 'fortress of a heap of jewels by locals was built in 1646 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. The dzong still stands strong on a hill above Paro township. Linked by the traditional cantilever bridge (called the Nemi Zam) over the Pa Chu, it is an ideal location to get excellent pictures. Then we visit the National Museum (Ta Dzong). Ta Dzong is situated on a ridge just above Rinpung Dzong, which was originally built as a watchtower. In 1968, Ta Dzong was inaugurated as the first National Museum. Currently it holds amazing collection of relics, art, religious thangka paintings, Bhutan's exquisite postage stamps, coins and handicrafts, together with a small natural history collection.

We also visit the Kyichu Lhakhang which is the oldest temple in Bhutan. Also known as Kyerchu Temple or Lho Kyerchu, the temple is a reservoir of peace. The temple is one of the 108 temples built by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo to subdue an ogress that was obstructing the spread of Buddhism. According to some legend, all the fascinating 108 temples were built in a single night. Next to the temple is a museum dedicated to the late Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. Here we come across photographs and other artifacts belonging to Rinpoche which help us understand about their life, culture and traditions. Today we rest at Paro.

Day 07: Day trip to Tiger's Nest Monastery

On this day we witness the highlight of the entire trip. We will hike up to Tiger's Nest aka Taktsang Monastery. First we get to experience the uphill climb as we ascend more than two thousand feet. Taktsang Monastery, also known as Tiger's Nest, is a famous Buddhist relic located on a cliff in Bhutan. According to legend, Guru Rinpoche flew to the location on the back of a tigress and meditated in one of the caves, leading to the site being considered holy. The trip to Bhutan is surely incomplete without experiencing this architectural wonder. Perching on the cliffs, this artistic monument will absolutely leave you wonderstruck. Visitors can also enjoy a hot stone bath, which is owned by locals and holds up to four people. The place helps you to get rid of joint and muscle tension. The bath costs approximately USD 25 per person.

Day 08: Departure from Paro and Arrival in Nepal

On the 8th day we leave behind the Bhutanese territory and head back to Nepal. After returning to Nepal you can simply relax in the hotel room, or perhaps head outside in the evening to enjoy the streets of Kathmandu.

Day 09: Sightseeing Bhaktapur & Nagarkot View.

Today we head out to witness the traditional craftsmanship in Bhaktapur, a historic city close to Kathmandu.we visit the Bhaktapur Durbar Square. We explore the 55 Windows Palace, Vatsala Temple, Nyatpol Temple and Statue of Bhupatindra Malla. We can also try some local delicacies like the juju Dhau, which is a popular delight here. After that we go to Nagarkot hill station. We catch pristine views of glorious mountains and the daybreak and take a glimpse of eight out of thirteen Himalayan ranges from Nagarkot in clear weather. The aesthetic sunset marks the end of our trip. We return to Kathmandu for the night.

Day 10: Departure from Nepal.

With hopes that you enjoyed the experience with us, we bid you goodbye. We will be looking forward to more precious adventures together. Have a safe journey.