

11 DAYS ABODE NEPAL AND BHUTAN



HIGHLIGHTS: KATHMANDU CITY • THIMPU • PUNAKHA DZONG • TAKIN ZOO • TAKTSANG MONASTERY • POKHARA TOWN • FAREWELL DINNER

This is a perfect combination of Nepal tour and Bhutan tour. This tour package is for the travelers who wish to spend more time in these Himalayan destinations of Nepal and Bhutan. Get immersed in diverse culture, nature, and traditions of Nepal and Bhutan.

You will visit sacred temples, monasteries, beautiful durbar squares and travel to Pokhara town, considered as the jewel of Nepal. You will visit sacred Dzongs, monasteries, travel to the beautiful valleys and interact with local people in the beautiful country of Bhutan.

DAY 01: ARRIVAL – KATHMANDU (-/-/-)

Arrive in Kathmandu. Meeting and assistance at the airport and transfer to the hotel

Afternoon sightseeing tour of **Kathmandu Durbar Square and Swoyambhunath Stupa**

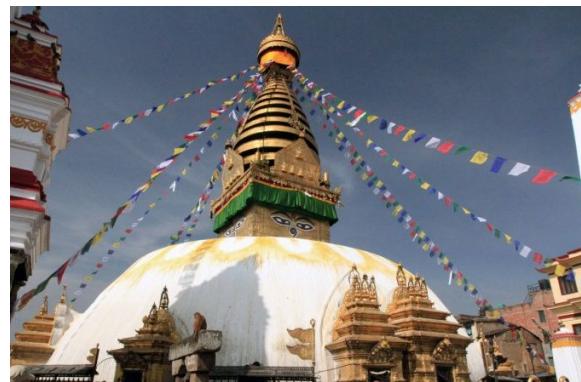
It is a place where the city's Kings were crowned. Having been built and rebuilt over the generations, it is now the valley's number one tourist attractions. Most of the temples you see here are a mere three or four centuries old. The entire square was designated as a World Heritage Monument in 1979. The Durbar Square is teeming with shrines and statues.

Walk around Kumari Chowk which is a home of "living goddesses", she comes to the balcony at the scheduled time to welcome the guests.



Continue on to **Swoyambhunath Stupa**

On the top of the hill west of Kathmandu value is one of the popular and instantly recognizable symbols of Nepal. It is also referred to as "Monkey Temple" by many tourists because of the large tribes of monkeys that guards the hill. Legends say after the Bodhisattva Manjushri drained the water from the lake revealing the Kathmandu valley, the lotus one the island of the lake was transformed into the hillock, and the blazing light from the lotus became the statue.



Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu

DAY 02 : ARRIVAL – PARO - THIMPU (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

Arrive in Bhutan Meeting and assistance at the airport, drive to Thimpu.

Afternoon, sightseeing tour of **National Memorial Chorten**

This large Tibetan-style chorten is one of the most visible religious structures in Thimphu, and for many Bhutanese it is the focus of their daily worship. It was built in 1974 as a memorial to the third king, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (1928–72). Early morning is especially tranquil as elderly people shuffle in, and spruced-up kids on their way to school whiz in and out to pay homage.



Evening relax and Walk around town.

Overnight at the hotel in Thimpu

DAY 03: THIMPU (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

After breakfast, visit **Buddha Point** in Thimpu

The huge 51m-tall steel statue of Buddha Dordenma commands the entry to the Thimphu valley. The massive three-storey base houses a large chapel, while the body itself is filled with 125,000 smaller statues of Buddha. The Buddha looks best in morning light, or at night when it is illuminated.

The statue was made in China (of course), cut into pieces and then shipped and trucked in from Phuentsholing – we would love to have seen the faces of the local farmers as the super-sized features of the Buddha drove by!



Visit **Takin Zoo** in Thimpu

The Takin Preserve, located in the Motithang district of Thimphu, is a wildlife reserve area for the Takin, the national animal of Bhutan. Native to Bhutan, India, and China, the Takin are docile creatures whose unique appearance attract special attention. Local legends attribute the creation of these animals in Bhutan by a 15th century saint name Drukpa Kunley, popularly known as the Divine Madman.

While originally a mini-zoo, the area was converted into a 8.4 acre preserve when it was discovered that the animals refrained from inhabiting the surrounding forest area, even when set free. A popular stop with tourists and locals alike, the preserve also houses a few native deers of Bhutan, including the barking deer and sambar.



Later visit **Changzangkha Lakhang**

This popular temple, perched like a fortress on a ridge above central Thimphu, hums with pilgrim activity. It was established in the 12th century on a site chosen by Lama Phajo Drukgom Shigpo, who came from Ralung in Tibet. Parents traditionally come here to get auspicious names for their newborns or blessings for their young children from the protector deity Tamdrin (to the left in the grilled inner sanctum). Children are blessed by a phurba (ritual dagger) and given a sacred thread.

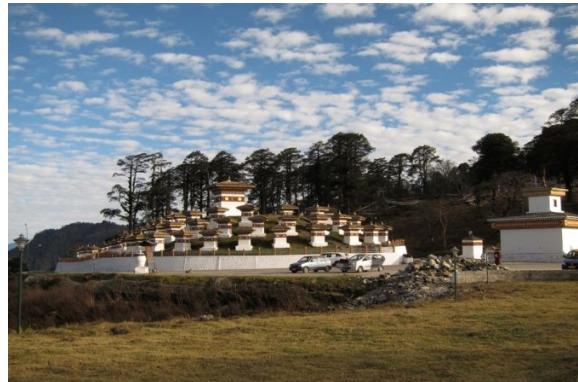
Overnight at the hotel in Thimpu

DAY 04: THIMPU – PUNAKHA (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

Drive to **Punakha via Dochula - Pass**

Dochula pass is located on the way to Punakha from Thimphu. The pass is a popular location among tourists as it offers a stunning 360 degree panoramic view of Himalayan mountain range.

The view is especially scenic on clear, winter days with snowcapped mountains forming a majestic backdrop to the tranquility of the 108 chortens gracing the mountain pass.



Upon arrival in Punakha visit **Punakha Dzong**

Punakha Dzong is arguably the most beautiful dzong in the country, especially in spring when the lilac-coloured jacaranda trees bring a lush sensuality to the dzong's characteristically towering whitewashed walls. This dzong was the second to be built in Bhutan and it served as the capital and seat of government until the mid-1950s. All of Bhutan's kings have been crowned here. The dzong is still the winter residence of the dratshang (official monk body).

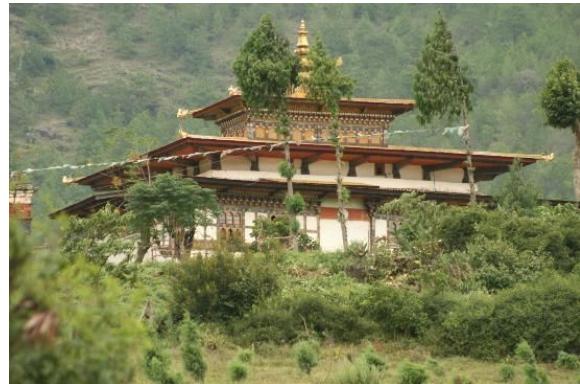


Overnight at the hotel in Thimpu

DAY 05: PUNAKHA – PARO (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

After breakfast visit **Chimi Lhakhang**

On a hillock below the Metshina–Punakha road is the yellow-roofed Chimi Lhakhang, built in 1499 by the cousin of Lama Drukpa Kunley in his honour after the lama subdued the demoness of the nearby Dochu La with his 'magic thunderbolt of wisdom'. A wooden effigy of the lama's thunderbolt is preserved in the lhakhang, and childless women go to the temple to receive a wang (blessing or empowerment) from the saint.



Visit **Wangdue Dzong Ruins** from outside

The Wangdue Phodrang dzong was founded by the Zhabdrung in 1638 atop a high ridge between the Punak Tsang Chhu and the Dang Chhu, clearly chosen for its commanding view of the valleys below. Wangdi is important in the history of Bhutan because in the early days it was the country's second capital. Sadly the dzong caught fire on 24 June 2012 and was virtually destroyed save for the lower walls. The mammoth task of rebuilding is expected to continue until 2021.

Evening, visit **Kyichu Lakhang**

A short drive from Paro is Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest and most beautiful temples. The temple is popularly believed to have been built in 659 by King Songtsen Gampo of Tibet, to pin down the left foot of a giant ogress who was thwarting the establishment of Buddhism into Tibet. Additional buildings and a golden roof were constructed in 1839 by the penlop (governor) of Paro and the 25th Je Khenpo. Elderly pilgrims constantly walk around the temple spinning its many prayer wheels.



Later, visit **Dryugyul ruins**

Near the end of the paved road, 14km from Paro, stand the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong. This dzong was built in 1649 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in a location chosen for its control of the route to Tibet. The dzong was named Druk (Bhutan) gyel (victory) to commemorate the victory of Bhutan over Tibetan invaders in 1644. One of the features of the dzong was a false entrance that lured the returning Tibetan invaders into an enclosed courtyard during a second attack.



Overnight at the hotel in Paro

DAY 06: PARO (BREAKFAST/LUNCH/DINNER)

After breakfast, visit **Taktsang Monastery**

Taktsang Palphug Monastery more famous as Paro Taktsang is a Buddhist temple complex which clings to a cliff, 3120 meters above the sea level on the side of the upper Paro valley, Bhutan.

Mountainous Paro valley is the heart of Bhutan; here the only international airport of the country is located.

The Taktsang Palphug Monastery is one of the most famous touristic destinations of the country and the cultural icon of Bhutan.



Evening walk around the town for shopping

Overnight at the hotel in Paro

DAY 07 : PARO – KATHMANDU (BREAKFAST/-/-)

Transfer to the airport in Paro and fly back to Kathmandu. Upon arrival in Kathmandu transfer to the hotel.

Afternoon, visit **Pashupatinath temple and Boudhanath Stupa**

Pashupatinath is one of the sacred Shiva temples on the Indian sub-continent. It draws devotees from all over India, including many colorful Sadhus (wandering Holy men). It is the largest temple complex in Nepal. Visiting Pashupatinath begins and ends a traditional pilgrimage circuit. Lord Pashupatinath's supreme holiness stems from hollowed linga enshrined in the main temple and its location on the bank of sacred Bagmati River. Bagmati sanctity makes Pashupatinath Nepal's most sacred cremation site. After the bodies are burnt the ashes are thrown into the river, where they are carried down to meet Ganges.



Continue on to **Boudhanath Stupa**

On the eastern side of Kathmandu is a huge stupa of Boudhanath. This is the largest stupa in Nepal and one of the largest in the world. It is the sacred place for Buddhist pilgrims. Once you enter the stupa complex it resembles Bharkor street of Tibet with a considerable population of Tibetans, number of thriving monasteries and many small shops selling Tibetan artifacts. Boudhanath is one of the few places in the world where Tibetan culture is accessible, vibrant and unbound.



Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu

DAY 08: KATHMANDU – POKHARA (25 MIN FLIGHT) (BREAKFAST/-/-)

After breakfast, transfer to the domestic airport and fly to **Pokhara**

After Kathmandu, Pokhara is the most popular destination in Nepal. It is also referred as city of lakes and mountains. It is also the gateway to one of the best trekking location in the world. Approx. 200 kms from Kathmandu Pokhara enjoys a mild climate, clean air, reflection of snow capped mountains on the sheltered lake. Its relaxed atmosphere is pleasantly removed from the hectic hustle and bustle of Kathmandu.



Lakeside Pokhara is a traveler's oasis. The tourist area of lakeside, stretched out along the southeast shore of the valley's largest lake. Lakeside has its own charm especially in the evenings when darkness hides the clutter and shops are lit up like a Christmas trees. Foothills separate Pokhara from Himalayas.

Upon arrival in Pokhara meeting and assistance at the airport and transfer to the hotel

Afternoon sightseeing tour of Pokhara town with one hour boating on Fewa lake.

Evening, stroll around the lakeside area

Overnight at the hotel in Pokhara

DAY 09: POKHARA – KATHMANDU (BREAKFAST/-/-)

Early morning, sunrise excursion to **Sarangkot hill**

At an elevation of 1592m, Sarangkot is probably the most popular short excursion from Pokhara. It is perfect viewpoint to admire the mountain views and splendid panorama. The panoramic view includes a glimpse of Mt. Dhaulagiri, Mt. Annapurna South and Mt. Hiunchuli with the bulk of Mt. Annapurna behind, unmistakable mt. Fishtail, Mt. Annapurna III, IV and II and Lamjung Himal. Pre-dawn excursion to Sarangkot is recommended to view beautiful sunrise over the Himalayas.



The sight of shimmering Phewa Lake is stunning enough, but to the north the hillside drops straight down to Suikhet valley, with a breathtaking vista of Mt. Dhaulagiri, the Annapurna range, and Mt. Fishtail filling the horizon.

After breakfast, transfer to the domestic airport of Pokhara and fly back to Kathmandu. Upon arrival in Kathmandu, meeting and assistance at the airport and transfer to the hotel

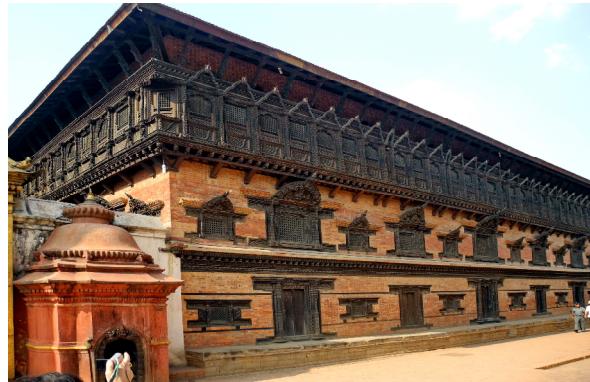
Rest of the day is free for Shopping/personal activities

Overnight the hotel in Kathmandu

DAY 10: KATHMANDU (BREAKFAST/-/FAREWELL DINNER)

After breakfast, sightseeing tour of **Bhaktapur Durbar Square**

Bhaktapur also known as 'Bhadgaon' is the third largest town in the valley. The stone embedded street links a string of temples, monastery, courtyards and monumental squares. You will quickly notice how vibrant the town's cultural life is with strong communities of potters, woodcarvers and weavers. Bhaktapur Durbar Square is much larger and much less crowded than compared to other two durbar squares. Just upon entering the square you will notice the substitute signs of four great Indian pilgrimage sites. Most recognizable is the finely carved Bansi Narayan Mandir of Bishnu.



Rest of the day is free

Evening, transfer to an authentic **Nepali restaurant for farewell dinner with cultural shows**

This is one of the wonderful experiences to taste typical Nepali food which we call "Dal Baht" with lentils. You will be surprised with the variety of Nepalese dishes that will keep on coming. The server with a gentle smile in their face will name you every item in Nepali as well as in English language before serving you. Along with the food you will be kept entertained with typical Nepali folk shows. You will get a chance to see the dance performance of different ethnic groups of Nepal in their unique cultural uniform.



Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu



Travelsmith Nepal Pvt. Ltd.

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DAY 11: KATHMANDU – DEPARTURE (BREAKFAST/-/-)

Free till departure. Transfer to the airport in time to connect your onward flight

<<END OF PROGRAM>>

PRICE: ON REQUEST

Inclusions:-

Nepal Part:-

- ✓ 4 nights twin share accommodation at the hotek in Kathmandu with breakfast
- ✓ 1 night twin share accommodation at the hotel in Pokhara with breakfast
- ✓ All necessary airport transfers as per the program by private vehicke
- ✓ Sightseeing tours in Kathmandu and Pokhara with service of a local experienced English speaking guide
- ✓ Kathmandu/Pokjhara/Lathmandu airfare (including airport taxes)
- ✓ Farewell dinner at an authentic Nepali restaurant with cultural shows and necessary transfers
- ✓ Sunrise excursion in Pokhara
- ✓ All applicable entrance fees (except in museums)
- ✓ Applicable government taxes

Bhutan Part:-

- ✓ 2 nights accommodation in Thimpu with breakfast
- ✓ 1 night accommodation in Punakha with breakfast
- ✓ 2 nights accommodation in Paro with breakfast
- ✓ All meals in Bhutan
- ✓ All necessary airport transfers with service of a local representative on private basis
- ✓ Guided sightseeing tours in Bhutan as per the itinerary
- ✓ Bhutan Visa fee
- ✓ Bhutan permit
- ✓ Applicable monasteries fees
- ✓ All applicable entrance fees

Exclusions:-

- ✗ International airfare
- ✗ Kathmandu/Paro/Kathmandu airfare (will be advised separately)
- ✗ Lunches and dinners in Nepal (except farewell dinner)
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Tips/gratuities to guides, drivers etc;