

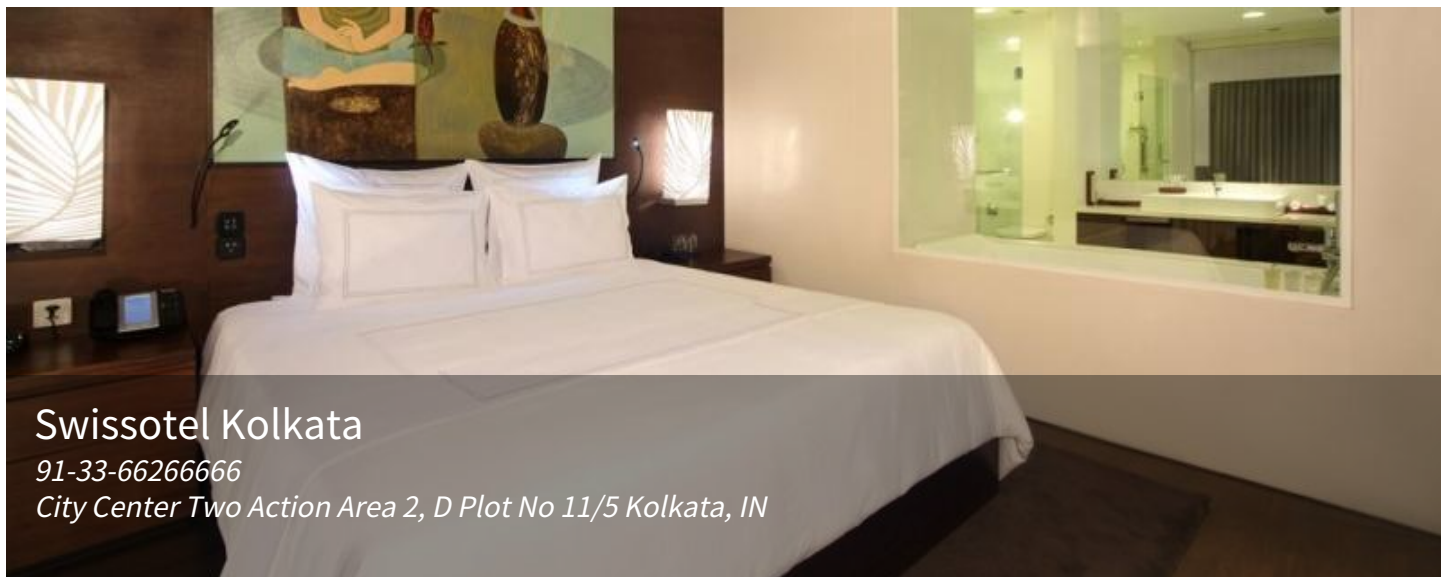


Tuesday · May 19th, 2020 - Wednesday · June 3rd, 2020

TMA Bhutan Conference & Study Tour

Tuesday · May 19th	Swissotel Kolkata (1 night)
Wednesday · May 20th	Flight from Kolkata to Guwahati (1 hr 10 mins) TMA Private Bhutan Tour 14 nights (15 days) Samdrup Jongkhar - for 1 night (2 days)
Thursday · May 21st	Trashigang - for 2 nights (3 days)
Saturday · May 23rd	Mongar - for 2 nights (3 days)
Monday · May 25th	Choekhor Valley - for 2 nights (3 days)
Wednesday · May 27th	Phobjikha Valley - for 1 night (2 days)
Thursday · May 28th	Nobding/Samtengang Trek - for 2 nights (3 days)
Saturday · May 30th	Punakha Valley - for 1 night (2 days)
Sunday · May 31st	Thimphu Valley - for 1 night (2 days)
Monday · June 1st	Paro Valley - for 2 nights (3 days)
Wednesday · June 3rd	Flight from Paro to Bangkok (TBA)

Tuesday · May 19th



Swissotel Kolkata

91-33-66266666

City Center Two Action Area 2, D Plot No 11/5 Kolkata, IN

May 19 · TBA

Check-in

May 20 · 11:00 AM

Check-out

1 night

Duration

Strategically located in New Town - just 3 km from the Airport and 15 minutes from the IT hub Sector 5 Electronic City Salt Lake - Swissotel Kolkata will offer unrivalled convenience to its guests. Aimed to charm both business and leisure travelers with the finest in Swiss hospitality Swissotel Kolkata features 147 modern and elegant guest rooms and suites. Culinary offerings will include Cafe Swiss - an all day dining restaurant serving local and international fare. Durbari - a specialty Indian restaurant and Splash - a rooftop lounge and bar under the stars with an unparalleled view of the city skyline topped with a heady mix of cocktails and hearty fare. Maaya - a club that features talk-of-the-town DJs spinning international chart-topping hits will be the ultimate rendezvous to savour the best cocktails and canapes in Kolkata. Swissotel Kolkata will also be the first hotel in Kolkata to co-exist with a mall like City Centre - a feature that will leave every guest spoilt for choice in terms of entertainment leisure and shopping options.

Room Selection

Category

Classic

Bedding

King/Twin

Nightly Rate

Prepaid

Guest Name

TBA

Payment

Prepaid as part of tour cost incl taxes, transfers & breakfast

Cancellation Policy

Non-Refundable once paid.

Wednesday · May 20th



Kolkata, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Intl to Guwahati, Lokpriya
Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport
Jet Airways (9W)

9W854 Carrier / Flight	11:40 AM (TBC) Depart CCU •	12:50 PM (TBC) Arrive GAU •	1 hr 10 mins Duration
----------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------

Notes

Airline Check-in:

Please ensure you check-in for your domestic flight Kolkata to Guwahati 1 hr and 30 mins prior to departure.

Aircraft Type:

Boeing 737 - 800

Luggage Allowance

25 KG in economy.

Meal:

Snack

Important note:

As your transfer from Guwahati airport to Samdrup Jongkhar operates direct, (3-4 hours drive time) you may wish to purchase water or snacks for the journey. Please purchase these at the airport cafe before boarding the transfer vehicle.



TMA Private Bhutan Tour 14 nights

Wednesday 20 May - Wednesday 03 June, 2019

15 days

Duration

Contact Info

Confirmed via Bhutan Tourism Corp Ltd (BTCL). Ms Tandin
Wangmo Tel: + 975-17332825

India & Bhutan Land Tour Inclusions:

- One night at Swissotel Kolkata Airport hotel incl breakfasts and round-trip transfers.
- Private taxi transfers from Guwahati airport to Bhutan border.
- Personal English speaking professional guide/s.
- Personal driver/s with private Toyota Coaster coach/es in Bhutan.
- All touring & transfers throughout your journey.
- Bhutan hotel accom (3 star) with private bathrooms for 10 nts.
- 2 nts Premium Trekking at tented campsites.
- 2 nts at 5* Zhiwa Ling Heritage hotel in Paro.
- All meals and bottled water daily (except trekking boiled water provided).
- All entrance fees & sightseeing.
- Bhutan Government royalties & taxes.
- Bhutan visa fees and all bank transfer fees.
- Gala dinner and conferencing venue/set-up at Zhiwa Ling Heritage.
- Photography assistance/training.
- Charity contribution to Tarayana Dragons charity group.
- Professionally operated by Bhutan Tourism Corp Ltd (BTCL).
- When trekking twin share tented campsites replace hotels.
- When trekking additional support crew & ponies are included.
- A comprehensive pre-departure trip planning kit
- Access to our exclusive travel app COMPANION
- ZERO FLIGHT RISK free cover for supplier default.
- ATAS Accredited via our parent company MTA Travel

Your Land Tour Exclusions:

- Airfares to Guwahati (Assam, India)
- Airfares from Paro (Bhutan)
- Personal Items tel calls, laundry, drinks etc.
- Tipping please refer to our tipping guide in your Bhutan Visitor Information notes
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance - mandatory to enter Bhutan. Please ensure you have coverage for hiking to 4000 metres.

Bhutan & Kolkata Land Travel Costs:

- *Please note all costs are quoted in US Dollars and are an approximation only.*

Bhutan 15 night all-inclusive land tour, incl 1 nt accom in Kolkata enroute to Bhutan

@US\$ 4093.00 per person twin share

@US\$ 995.00 surcharge for those requiring a single occupancy room

Airfare Costs:

- *Please note all costs are quoted in US Dollars and are an approximation only.*

Singapore Airlines - Australia/Kolkata/Bangkok/Singapore/Australia

Jet Airways - Kolkata/Guwahati

Drukair - Paro/Bangkok

@US\$ 1490.00 per person

IMPORTANT ADVICE FOR TRAVELLERS TO BHUTAN**MEALS:**

Breakfast & Dinners are taken at your hotels and lunches are hosted at good local Bhutanese restaurants or a picnic lunch will be provided.

BHUTAN VISA:

Will be pre-arranged on your behalf by Bhutan & Beyond. You must carry your Bhutan visa authority letter with you. Drukair /Bhutan Airlines will require it at check-in and then again it must be presented to Immigration on arrival at Paro Airport.

INDIA VISA:

Most nationalities require an entry visa to enter India. This could be a single, double or multi-entry visa depending on your itinerary. There is now an on-line advance e-visa option for travel up to 30 days stay and for a single entry into India. This visa is very convenient as you do NOT have to send your passport away prior to arrival in India!

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

If you do NOT qualify for an E-Tourist Visa Australians, and most other nationalities, must apply for their visa direct with VFS-Global, at their nearest location to your residence. Visa forms and all associated information can be downloaded from the VFS-Global website as per the web link below. You should lodge your visa application no later than 4 weeks before departure from your home country. <http://www.vfsglobal.com/india/australia/>

TRAVEL INSURANCE & HEALTH:

Travel insurance is mandatory to enter Bhutan and we require a copy of your policy before a visa can be issued. For your protection we urge you to ensure your travel insurance is in place at the time of paying your Bhutan travel deposit.

BHUTANESE ACCOMMODATION:

Unless you have opted for upgraded properties your hotel will be a comfortable 3-star standard. Rooms have mainly twin beds and have private bathroom facilities. Double rooms can be requested. Farm house/Home stays and some heritage lodges have share bathrooms with limited facilities.

FLIGHT RECONFIRMATION:

Drukair/Bhutan Airlines only require reconfirmation of your return flight from Bhutan and 3 days in advance. Your guide will attend to this. Occasionally they are forced to totally cancel a service for operational reasons, in such an instance any additional costs must be borne by the traveller and claimed via their travel insurance.

CANCELLATION CHARGES & TRAVEL INSURANCE:

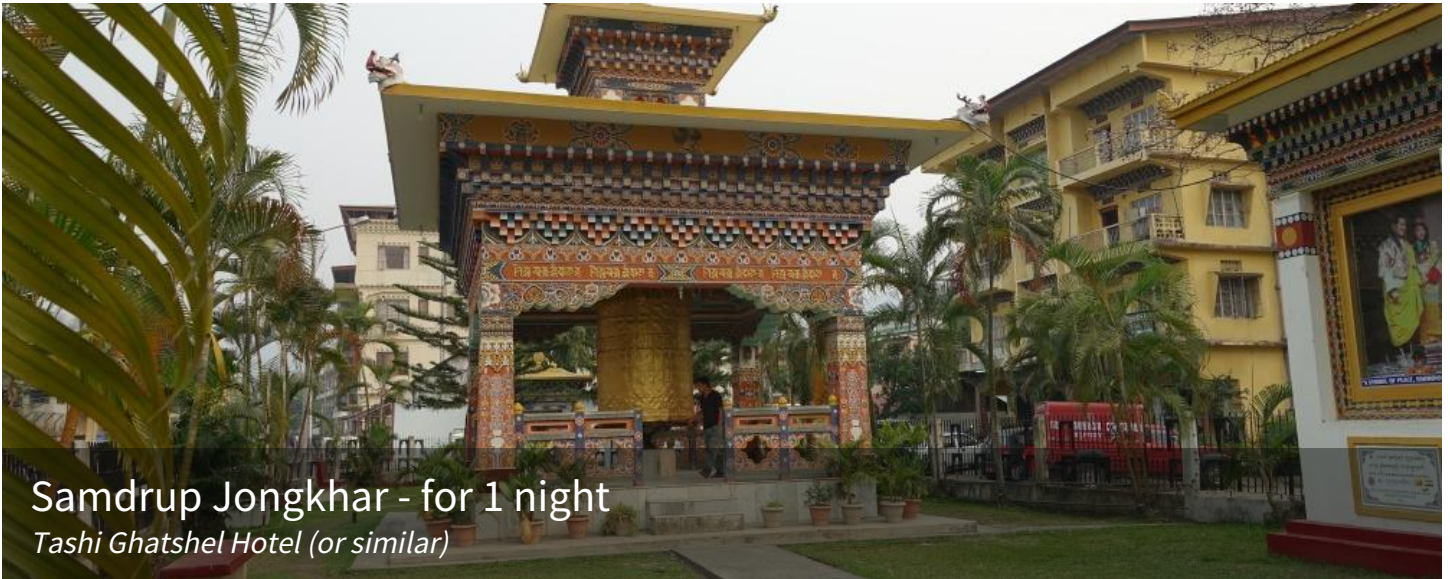
The Jet Airways/ Drukair / Bhutan Airlines air flight component of your tour package will be totally non-refundable once tickets are issued. Your India & Bhutan land arrangements are subject to the cancellation fees below. Travel insurance must be purchased no later than the day you pay your deposit for your protection.

Deposit date until 60 days prior to arrival in Bhutan - loss of deposit.

60 days-45 days prior to arrival in Bhutan - 75% loss of tour cost.

45 days or less prior to arrival in Bhutan- no refund provided.

TASHI DELEK May All Good Things Come to You.



Samdrup Jongkhar - for 1 night
Tashi Ghatshel Hotel (or similar)

2 days

Duration

Wednesday 20 May:

Guwahati Airport (Assam, India) to Samdrup Jongkhar (3-4 hours drive time)

On arrival at Guwahati Airport you will be greeted by your private India transfer operator in the arrivals hall and he will be holding a sign with your names listed. Transfer by road to the India-Bhutan border where you will be greeted by your Bhutanese guide & driver.

Samdrup Jongkhar is a typical border town with little of real interest, being slightly chaotic and generally lacking in the charms the rest of Bhutan will unfold to you. The remainder of the day is at leisure to wander about the small bazaar area. So please prepare for a 'hard' start and your rewards will come as you travel into Bhutan's heartland.

Overnight Samdrup Jongkhar – Tashi Ghatshel Hotel.

Thursday · May 21st



Trashigang - for 2 nights
+975-4-521440
Druk Deojung Hotel. (or similar)

3 days

Duration

Thursday 21 May:

Samdrup Jongkhar to Trashigang (6 hrs)

07:00 AM Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture

An early morning departure from Samdrup Jongkhar to Trashigang for your first of two longer drives on this journey. Enroute visit the small & relatively underdeveloped village of Womrong which will offer your first view of a small Bhutanese Dzong and soon after the Zangto Pelri Lhakhang (temple). Next stop is Khaling, the site of an historic battlefield and location of the National Handloom Centre, where young girls from all over Bhutan are trained in traditional hand weaving and vegetable dyeing. Finally visit the pleasant university town of Kanglung with its clock tower and large Sherubtse College campus.

Trashigang is a lively and interesting town and the bars are worth a visit this evening although they do close early at 8.00pm!

Basic Health Unit - BHU (visit to be confirmed)

Overnight Trashigang – Druk Deojung Hotel.

Friday 22 May:

Day trip to Radi (4 hrs)

Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture

Eastern Bhutan is the heartland of weaving in the Kingdom and Bhutanese weavings and textiles are generally acknowledged as amongst the finest in the world. Today enjoy an excursion to the weaving village of Radi, eastwards from Trashigang.

This afternoon visit Trashigang Dzong which offers excellent views from a high promontory overlooking the Drangme Chhu (river) and Gamri Chhu. Up until the beginning of the 20th century all of eastern Bhutan was governed from this Dzong.

BHU (visit to be confirmed)

Overnight Trashigang - Druk Deojung Hotel

Saturday · May 23rd



Mongar - for 2 nights
+975-4-641522
Wangchuk Hotel (or similar)

3 days

Duration

Saturday 23 May:

Trashigang to Mongar (4 hrs)

Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture.

Continue your journey westwards to Mongar. Your journey today offers some of Bhutan's best scenery. When you descend into the valley of the Kuri Chhu you pass extensive cornfields and, at the valley floor, rice terraces and tropical fruits such as mango and pineapples flourish.

When travelling through eastern Bhutan the dominant language is Sharchop, as opposed to Dzongkha the national language of Bhutan. So eastern and western Bhutanese use Nepali or English to communicate. The towns between western and eastern Bhutan also differ as in western Bhutan most towns are situated in valleys whereas in eastern Bhutan they are situated at the tops of hills or ridges.

BHU or visit with local traditional medical practitioner. (to be confirmed)

Overnight Mongar –Wangchuk Hotel.

Sunday 24 May:

Mongar sightseeing.

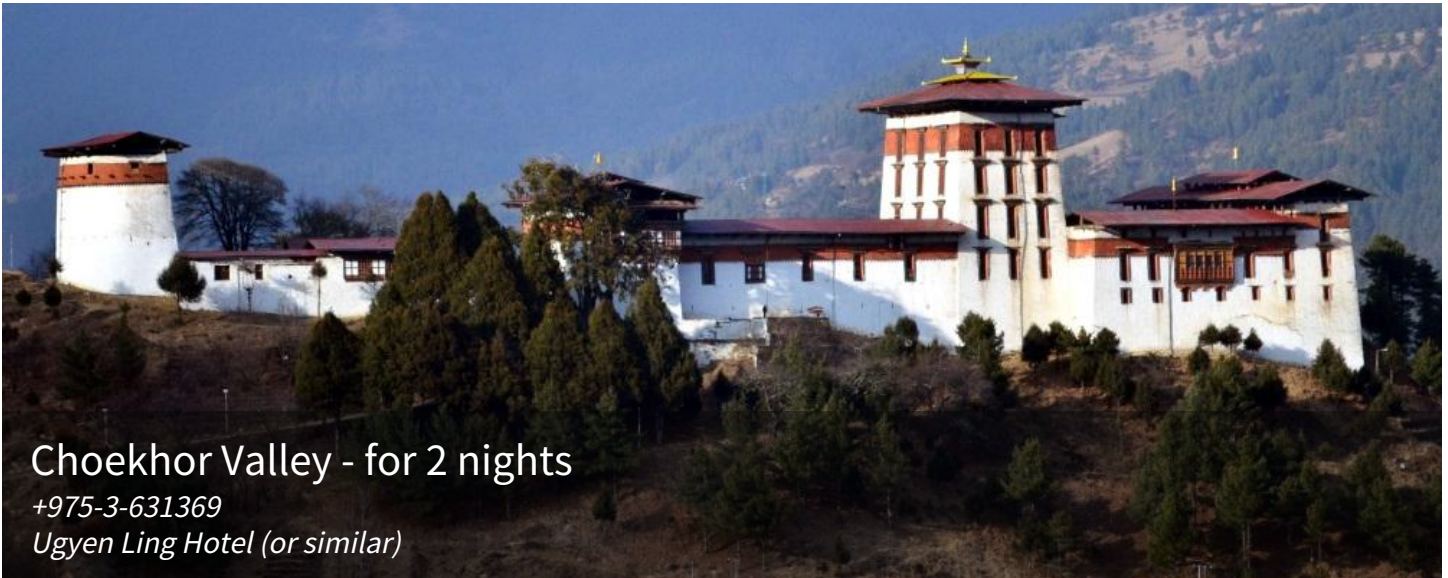
Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture.

If you wish to see people from almost all walks of life in Bhutan, make a visit to the Mongar weekend market place, where you can purchase organic vegetables fresh & dry, to hand woven cloths and lemongrass oil.

Time permitting today also visit Kengkhar this region is very well known for its wooden masks & bamboo baskets, which you will see in many shops in Thimphu and Paro.

Overnight Mongar –Wangchuk Hotel.

Monday · May 25th



Choekhor Valley - for 2 nights

+975-3-631369

Ugyen Ling Hotel (or similar)

3 days

Duration

Monday 25 May:

Mongar to Choekhor Valley, Bumthang. (6 hrs)

7.00 AM Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture.

An early morning departure to Jakar, in Choekhor Valley, for this second and final longer drive on your journey through the Kingdom. The route between Mongar & Jakar is one of the most spectacular drives in the country. When crossing the Thruming La (3780 m) you are now officially departing eastern Bhutan and entering western Bhutan, albeit in the central region of the country. Bumthang comprises the 4 valleys of Ura, Tang, Choekhor and Chhume.

Enroute visit the Ura valley, the highest in Bumthang, and believed by some to have been the home of Bhutan's earliest inhabitants. The stony paths of the very traditional village of Ura give a medieval feel and the old women of this region still wear sheepskin shawls on their backs which double as a blanket and cushion.

Overnight Choekhor Valley – Ugyen Ling Hotel.

Tuesday 26 May:

Sightseeing in the Bumthang Region.

Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture.

Drive by Wangdicholing Palace and visit Jambay or Kurjey Lhakhangs. These are the oldest two monasteries in the kingdom and all the Kings of Bhutan are cremated at Kurjey Lhakhang.

Time permitting this afternoon your options include the Tamshing Monastery where about 95 Monks reside, most are under 15 and from poorer families who cannot afford to send their children to state schools and the Swiss Farm to taste sweet cheese, apple brandy and locally brewed wine and beer. Take some time to wander through the nearby streets of Chamkhar town.

Hospital visit. (to be confirmed while in Bumthang)

Overnight Choekhor Valley – Ugyen Ling Hotel.



Phobjikha Valley - for 1 night

+975-17117508

Dewachen Hotel (or similar)

2 days

Duration

Wednesday 27 May:

Choekhor Valley to Phobjikha Valley (4 hrs)

Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture.

Today transfer westwards to the Phobjikha Valley via the Chhume valley for the opportunity to shop for excellent local handicrafts and textiles. This region is renowned for its exceptionally high quality weavings. Stop in Trongsa for lunch. Trongsa Dzong is the ancestral home of the Royal Family of Bhutan and you will visit the excellent museum housed in the Dzongs ancient watchtower.

Continue westwards via The Pele La (pass) which crosses through the Black Mountains National Park and divides western and central Bhutan. This is the best place in Bhutan to see yaks from the road. You will pass the village of Rukubji surrounded by extensive fields of mustard, potatoes, barley and wheat and keep a watchful eye out for Rhesus Macaques (Brown Monkeys).

Potatoes are this regions primary cash crop and exported to India. Phobjikha is a glacial valley on the western slopes of the Black Mountains and is one of the most beautiful open valleys in Bhutan. It is also one of the most important wildlife preserves in the country and the winter home (late Oct to early Feb) of the rare black necked crane which annually flies in from Tibet. There are also muntjaks (barking deer), wild boar, sambar, Himalayan black bear & leopard.

While you are in Phobjikha visit the sacred Gangtey Goemba (Monastery) and take a wander through the quaint village of Gangtey followed by an easy hike along the Gangtey Nature Trail.

BHU (visit to be confirmed today or tomorrow morning before departing this valley)

Overnight Phobjikha Valley – Dewachen Hotel.



3 days

Duration

Nobding/Samtengang Trek 3 day/2 night

This is a lower altitude trek, and is located in the Punakha/Wangdue region of western Bhutan.

- The altitude ranges from 1900m to 2750m above sea level.
- Rated EASY which translates to hard in few places!

Thursday 28 May:

Day 1: Nobding Samtengang Trek, Nobding – Raja Wo, 45 mins drive & 6 hour trek, 12 kms.

Breakfast at hotel, incorporating morning lecture.

Drive from Phobjikha to Nobding (approx 45 mins) and meet your trekking crew. Commence your trek today at Nobding village. It is a gradual descent to Reda Goenpa. Visit the Goenpa & the nearby Reda village, before descending to the Danchu (river) where the trail continues until you reach your overnight camp at Raja Wo.

Overnight: Tented Campsite at Raja Wo (1900m). premium trek equipment provided.

Friday 29 May:

Day 2: Nobding Samtengang Trek, Raja Wo to Zaza Kha, 3 - 4 hour trek, 12 kms

- There is an option this morning to hike to a beautiful waterfall.

Commence your trek to Zaza Kha today by crossing the suspension bridge to Raja Wo village, stop here to enjoy the unique cultural experience of interacting with the local villagers and the occasional yak herdsman. When departing the village it is a gradual climb through Oak & Rhododendron forest before reaching your tented campsite at Zaza Kha.

Overnight tented campsite at Zaza Kha (2750 M)

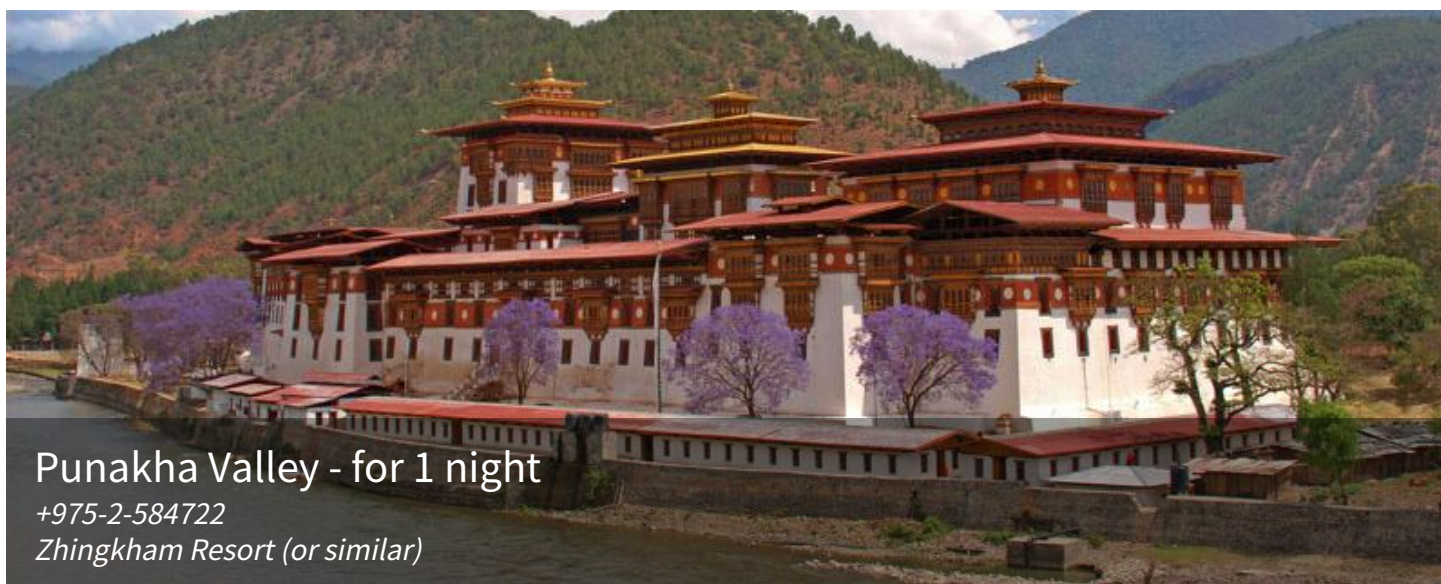
Saturday 30 May:

Day 3: Nobding Samtengang Trek, Zaza Kha to Samtengang, 4-5 hour trek, 13.5 kms

Today's hike is a gradual downhill hike through a Pine & Rhododendron forest with (weather permitting) breathtaking views of the remote Sha valley, Wangdue Phodrang Dzong & local villages.

Your treks ends today in Samtengang where you will bid farewell to your trek crew and will be collected and transferred by road to Punakha.

Saturday · May 30th



Punakha Valley - for 1 night

+975-2-584722

Zhingkhams Resort (or similar)

2 days

Duration

Saturday 30 May: continued

Samtengang to Punakha Valley (1 hour)

On completion of trek you will be transferred by road to Punakha. When the dramatic Wangdue Phodrang Dzong comes into view (tragically destroyed by fire in 2012) notice the large cacti that cover the hillside below. These were planted long ago to discourage invaders from climbing the steep slope to the Dzong. On your journey you can also view Rinchengang one of Bhutan's oldest villages which did not have access to water, electricity or schooling until the early 1990's. The craftsmen of Rinchengang are stonemasons, originally from India, and sought after for their skills in construction of Dzongs and Lhakhangs (temples).

Punakha holds the title as the winter capital because of its more temperate climate. Arriving into the valley visit Chimi Lhakhang, a monastery built by Lama Drukpa Kuenley (also known as the Divine Madman), which is a pleasant, easy 20 minute walk across paddy fields. It is believed that childless women who visit the temple will conceive after receiving a "wang" (blessing) from the resident monk.

BHU or hospital visit (to be confirmed)

Overnight Punakha Valley – Zhingkhams Resort.

Sunday · May 31st



Thimphu Valley - for 1 night

2 days

Duration

Sunday 31 May:

Punakha Valley to Thimphu (3 hrs)

Breakfast at hotel, incorporating morning lecture.

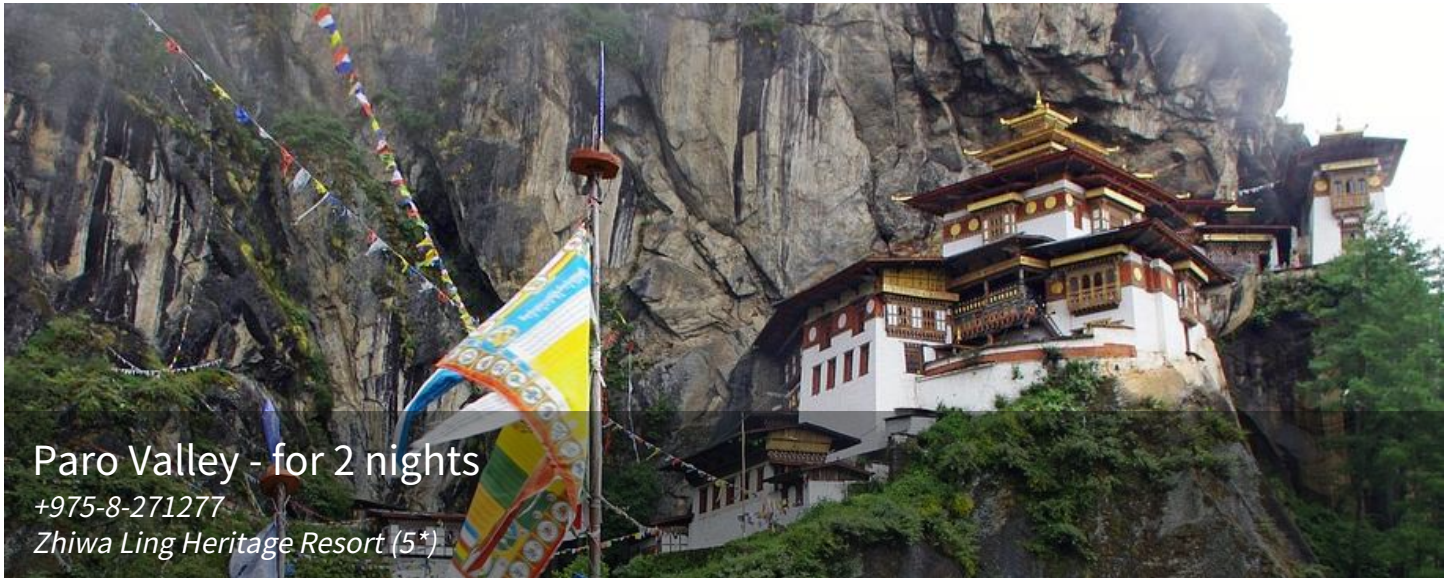
This morning visit the dramatic Punakha Dzong, which formally served as the seat of the government and is still the winter residence of the Dzatsheng (Central Monk Body). This is Bhutan's most spectacular Dzong and an excellent example of how a medieval fortress and a centre of both monastic and administrative functions, has adapted and evolved for modern day use.

Mid morning transfer by road to Thimphu, Bhutan's quirky capital, via Dochu La (pass). At the pass view the 108 Stupas commissioned by a former Queen as a memorial to those who lost their lives during the low intensity conflict in late 2002 when Bhutan evicted Indian rebels camped in the jungle on the Bhutan Indian border. On a clear day you will witness a breathtaking view of the eastern Himalaya and depending on the time of the year the vista can vary from alpine snow (Nov - Mar) to a profusion of blossoms (Mar - May) splashed among the soft green of the wild herbs and forest trees. Pass the Semtokha Dzong built in 1629, the oldest fortress of its kind that guarded the Thimphu valley, and which today is a monastery.

This afternoon, time permitting visit; the National Memorial Stupa; the awesome Golden Buddha & Takin Preserve.

Overnight Thimphu – Bhutanese Style 3* Hotel (or 4* upgrade hotel of preferred?)

Monday · June 1st



Paro Valley - for 2 nights

+975-8-271277

Zhiwa Ling Heritage Resort (5*)

3 days

Duration

Monday 01 June:

Thimphu to Paro Valley (1 hrs 30 mins)

Breakfast at hotel incorporating morning lecture.

A hospital visit will be scheduled for this morning in Thimphu. For those not attending the hospital visit they have the option of visiting the celebrated Royal Textiles Academy and/or enjoy some time at leisure to explore Thimphu main streets on foot.

Late morning transfer to the Paro Valley and on arrival take lunch at a good local restaurant. This afternoon visit Rinpung Dzong, with its cantilever bridge and take time to wander along the main streets in Paro which offer good shopping for jewellery and handicrafts. Alternatively head to the hotel earlier and enjoy the facilities of the resort.

AM Thimphu hospital visit (to be confirmed)

Overnight Paro Valley – Zhiwa Ling Heritage Resort

- *Please note - The conference room at the Zhiwa Ling is available for use as required during your stay.*

Tuesday 02 June:

Hiking & Sightseeing in the Paro Valley.

Early morning hike to the Taktsang Monastery, also known as Tigers Nest. This is Bhutan's most revered monastery and all Bhutanese strive to make the pilgrimage here at least once in their lives. This visit is much more than 'just a hike' and each step gains merit points for the next part of life's journey. Choose between a 2 hour round trip hike to the Monastery viewpoint or a longer 5 hour and more strenuous hike into the Monastery itself. Tigers Nest clings impossibly to a cliff of rock at 800 m above the valley floor and where Guru Rinpoche flew on the back of a tigress to subdue the local demons followed by 3 months meditation in a cave still visible in the monastery. In 1998 the monastery was seriously damaged by fire and has since been painstakingly reconstructed to its original condition and consecrated by the 4th King in 2005.

Remainder of the day at leisure for conferencing, lectures or enjoy the spa facilities at the resort.

Overnight Paro Valley – Zhiwa Ling Heritage Resort (Gala Dinner)

Special Note: This afternoon is the most suitable time to tip your guide and driver. Please refer to the tipping regime detailed in your general information guide.

Wednesday 03 June:

Day of departure.

Transfer to Paro airport in time to check-in for your onward flight.

Wednesday · June 3rd



KBTBA

Carrier / Flight

TBA

Depart PBH •

TBA

Arrive BKK •

TBA

Duration