

Tamshingphala Choepa Festival



Dates September 16-18, 2010 (festival dates)

Trip Duration 13 nights/14 days

Difficulty Rating Easy

Highlights The Tamshingphala Choepa Festival is a boisterous occasion that takes place in Bumthang, a most spectacular setting. Other highlights include a hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery and sightseeing in Thimphu, the capital city.

Cost Cost depends on the group size. Contact us for details. Costs will include ground transportation to and from Paro airport, transportation and entrance fees to all listed activities, entry fees, all meals, accommodations.

Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive at Paro Airport. You will be received by our guide at the Paro International Airport and escorted to your hotel for refreshment. Visit the National Museum of Bhutan and Paro Dzong. Overnight in Paro.

Day 2 Paro. Hike to Tiger's Nest, Taktshang Monastery. Lunch at Taktshang teahouse with its spectacular view of the famous monastery. Overnight at hotel.

Day 3 Paro - Thimphu. We take a 1 hour to Thimphu and transfer to hotel. Sightseeing in and around Thimphu valley includes the National Library, which holds a collection of ancient Buddhist texts and manuscripts, the Painting School, textile and Folk Heritage Museum. Overnight at hotel.

Day 4 Thimphu - Punakha. Take a hike to Chimi Lhakhang Temple. This temple is on a hilltop and dedicated to the great Yogi known as Drukpa Kuenley or popularly known as "Divine Madman" of the 14th century. It is believed that this temple blesses women who seek fertility. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5 Punakha - Bumthang. Journey over the Yutong-la pass (11,000 ft). Stop in Chumey village where there are many shops selling yathra, a woolen textile. The road follows the valley through blue pine forests to Kiki-la (9300 ft). We then descent down to the Choekor Valley in Central Bumthang. Overnight at hotel.

Day 6 Bumthang. Enjoy a full day at the famed Tamshingphala Choepa Festival. Overnight at hotel.

Day 7 Bumthang. Morning to enjoy the festival. Afternoon sightseeing to Jakar Dzong. Overnight at hotel.

Day 8 Bumthang. Morning drive to see the flaming lake (Mebar Tsho) and explore the village of Ura. Afternoon to enjoy the festival activities. Overnight at hotel.

Day 9 Bumthang - Gangtey. Driving distance is approximately 6 hours. After an early breakfast, drive over Pele-la pass (10,800 ft). Stop at the Chendebji Chorten for lunch. Overnight at hotel in Gangtey.

Day 10 Gangtey. Drive to the glacial valley of Phobjikha. Along the slopes is the great monastery of Gangtey, established in the 17th century. This quiet and remote valley is the winter home of the black necked cranes. Explore Gangtey Village and Phobjikha Valley. Overnight at hotel.

Day 11 Gangtey - Thimphu. Driving time is approx 6 hours. Stop along the way for lunch and to enjoy scenery. Overnight at hotel.

Day 12 Thimphu. Our excursion today is a short hike to Cheri Monastery. The monastery, which is now a major teaching and retreat center, sits on a hill above Thimphu and takes about an hour to walk up. Overnight at hotel.

Day 13 Thimphu - Paro. Sightseeing around Thimphu includes visiting the National Memorial Chorten and Trashichho Dzong, an impressive monastery. Drive to Paro for dinner. Overnight at hotel.

Day 14 Paro. Early morning drive to Paro international airport after breakfast.

