

# Kurjey Tshechu Festival



**Dates** June 21 - July 3, 2010

**Trip Duration** 12 nights / 13 days

**Difficulty Rating** Easy / Moderate

**Highlights** Central Bhutan is considered the center of the Bhutanese culture. Bumthang, which is the center of central Bhutan is home to an extraordinary number of monasteries and gombas. One of the most important and venerated is the Kurjey monastery where the Guru Rimpoche mediated and left an imprint of his body on a rock inside the second of three temples.

**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 at hotel.
  - 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. In the morning, hike to the Kila Goenpa nunnery for superb views in all directions - the Haa Valley, Taktshang Goenpa, the Paro Valley. Lunch at hotel. Afternoon drive to Thimphu, our capital. Dinner and overnight at hotel.
  - Day 4 Thimphu. After breakfast, visit the National Library to see some unique and historic books. Our books are not hardbound in the typical manner. Next, the traditional Painting School and then the Traditional Paper Factory. After lunch, souvenir shopping or more touring, as you wish. Dinner and overnight at hotel.
  - Day 5 Thimphu. Day excursion to the 13th century Phadoding Monastery built by Phajo Drugom Zhigpo. Lunch box will be served on route. Dinner and overnight at hotel.
  - Day 6 Thimphu - Punakha. Morning drive to Punakha via Dochu-la Pass (10,000 ft). On clear days there are excellent views of the Himalayas. Afternoon sightseeing of the Punakha and Wangdue valleys. Overnight at hotel.
  - Day 7 Punakha - Trongsa. Drive to Trongsa with a stop at Chendebji Chorten. Check-in and lunch in the hotel. In the afternoon, make an excursion to Kuenga Rabten, an ancestral home of the Royal Family. Overnight at hotel.
  - Day 8 Trongsa - Bumthang. In the morning you can wander around Trongsa and visit the Dzong. After lunch we will drive to Bumthang. Dinner and overnight at lodge.
  - Day 9 Bumthang. This is a day of visiting holy sites: monasteries and dzongs, including Jambay Lhakhang, Tamzhing Monastery and Kuenchosum Lhakhang. After lunch you will visit the Jakar Dzong known as the "Fortress of the White Bird." Overnight at lodge.
  - Day 10 Bumthang. Full day at the Kurjey Tshechu festival; enjoy festivities in and around the monastery. Overnight at lodge.
  - Day 11 Bumthang - Wangdue. After breakfast, begin our return to the West by driving through Trongsa back to Wangdue. Overnight at hotel.
  - Day 12 Wangdue - Paro. Drive from Wangdue to Paro via Dochu-la Pass and Thimphu. Farewell dinner and overnight at hotel.
  - Day 13 Paro. Early morning drive to Paro international airport after breakfast.

