



For those who felt the pull of Bhutan but know that four days is just the beginning — ***Bhutan Awakening: Extended*** gives you the gift of time. Six unhurried days to wander deeper into the kingdom's valleys, cross into the sacred heights of the Himalayas via the legendary Dochula Pass, and discover the full sweep of Bhutanese life — from the semi-tropical warmth of Punakha's fertile valley to the spiritual hush of Thimphu's ancient monasteries, and the unforgettable ascent to Tiger's Nest. More days. More layers. More Bhutan.

✦ *Excursion II adds Punakha Valley, the sacred Chimi Lhakhang, Dochula Pass, and a full Thimphu immersion day — building on Excursion I to reveal Bhutan's broader, richer soul.* ✦

 6 Days Duration	 3,150m Max Elevation	 Easy Difficulty	 All Year Best Season
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YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

DAY

1

Arrival in Paro | Elevation: 2,250m



Arrive at Paro International Airport — your first glimpse of the Himalayan kingdom, framed by forested peaks and prayer flags.



Warm welcome from your dedicated Shangrila Expeditions guide, followed by a Tashi Khadar (welcome scarf) ceremony.



Visit the National Museum of Bhutan (Ta Dzong) — an extraordinary watchtower-turned-museum showcasing Bhutanese thangkas, textiles, flora, and artefacts spanning centuries.



Explore Rinpung Dzong (Paro Dzong) on foot — a magnificent 17th-century fortress-monastery perched above the Paro Chhu river, active with monks and ceremonial life.



Cross the ancient cantilever wooden bridge leading into the charming, unhurried lanes of Paro Town.



Leisurely evening stroll through Paro town — browse local craft shops and soak in the serene atmosphere of Bhutan's most storied valley.



Dinner at hotel with traditional Bhutanese cuisine.

DAY

2

Paro → Punakha via Dochula Pass | Elevation: 1,300m



After breakfast, embark on one of Bhutan's most scenic drives — winding upward through dense rhododendron and pine forests toward the Dochula Pass at 3,150m.



Dochula Pass: 108 memorial chortens (stupas) crown this sacred ridge. On clear days, the panorama of the eastern Himalayas — including peaks over 7,000m — is among the most breathtaking sights in all of Bhutan.



Take a warm tea break at the Dochula cafeteria while the mountains reveal themselves above the clouds.



Descend into the semi-tropical warmth of Punakha Valley — a dramatic contrast of lush farmland, banana palms, and braided rivers at just 1,300m elevation.



Lunch in Khuruthang town, Punakha's main settlement.



Visit Punakha Dzong — often called the most beautiful Dzong in Bhutan, sitting at the confluence of the Pho and Mo Chhu rivers. A masterpiece of Bhutanese architecture and the site of the 2011 royal wedding.



Evening hike to Chimi Lhakhang — the famous 'Fertility Temple' set on a gentle hillock amid rice fields, associated with the Divine Madman, Drukpa Kunley. Beloved by pilgrims and travellers alike.



Dinner at hotel.

DAY

3

Punakha → Thimphu | Elevation: 2,350m



Morning hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten — a beautiful 45-minute trail through rice paddies and subtropical forest to a stunning hilltop temple with sweeping valley views.



The stupa rewards you with a 360° panorama of the entire Punakha Valley — a perfect moment of quiet beauty before returning to the road.



Retrace the route over Dochula Pass back toward Thimphu — the same pass looks entirely different from the other direction, revealing new vistas.



Evening visit to Tashichho Dzong — the grand seat of Bhutan's government and summer home of the Central Monk Body. Particularly atmospheric in the golden evening light.



Explore Thimphu's lively evening streets — coffee shops, handicraft galleries, and the gentle rhythm of Bhutan's capital city.



Dinner at hotel.

DAY

4

Thimphu Full Immersion Day | Elevation: 2,350m



Visit the Memorial Chorten — the National Memorial Stupa, built in 1974 in memory of the Third King, where devotees circumambulate throughout the day in a moving act of daily faith.



Simply Bhutan Living Museum: an interactive cultural centre where you can witness traditional practices, try on national dress, and engage with living Bhutanese heritage.



Royal School of Arts and Crafts — watch master artisans practice Bhutan's 13 traditional arts, from thangka painting to wood carving, textile weaving, and bronze casting.



Visit the Traditional Medicine Hospital (Menjung) — explore Bhutan's 2,500-year-old system of healing, still widely practised alongside modern medicine today.



Lunch in Thimphu town.



Takin Preserve Centre — meet Bhutan's extraordinary national animal, the takin, a unique bovine found nowhere else on earth.



Traditional Handmade Paper Factory — see the ancient process of lokta paper production, used in sacred texts and royal correspondence.



Buddha Dordenma Viewpoint — ascend to the giant golden Buddha for a bird's-eye panorama of the entire Thimphu valley.



Weekend Farmers Market (Saturday/Sunday) — a colourful gathering where farmers from surrounding valleys sell organic produce, red rice, dried chillies, yak cheese, and local crafts.



Dinner at hotel.

DAY

5

Thimphu → Paro — Tiger's Nest | Elevation: 3,150m



Early breakfast and drive to Paro — the valley comes alive in the morning light, with mist rising from the Paro Chhu river.



Begin the pilgrimage hike to Paro Taktsang — Tiger's Nest Monastery. The trail climbs through fragrant blue pine and juniper forest, past fluttering prayer flags and ancient meditation caves.



Arrive at Tiger's Nest (3,150m): clinging impossibly to a sheer granite cliff, this sacred monastery was built where Guru Rinpoche meditated for three months in the 8th century — one of the holiest sites in the Vajrayana Buddhist world.



Enter the inner sanctuaries and take a quiet moment for meditation or prayer — a deeply moving experience for travellers of all backgrounds.



Lunch at the hillside cafeteria with a direct view across the gorge to the monastery — a memory you will carry for life.



Descend at leisure; horses available for the lower section on advance request.



Browse Paro's craft shops for hand-woven textiles, wooden masks, incense, and Bhutanese paintings as farewell keepsakes.



Farewell dinner at hotel — optional traditional cultural show with masked dance and folk music.

DAY

6

Departure Day — Until We Meet Again



Final morning at leisure in Paro — a perfect time for reflection, a last stroll through the valley, or simply breathing in the mountain air.



Paro International Airport features curated boutiques with artisanal Bhutanese products, hand-crafted souvenirs, and specialty items — ideal for last-minute gifts.



Transfer to Paro International Airport for your onward flight, carrying with you the serenity, wonder, and happiness of the kingdom.



Tashi Delek! — May good fortune follow you always. Bhutan awaits your return.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR PACKAGE



Accommodation in TCB-rated hotels, twin-bed / double-occupancy



Private ground transportation with professional driver



Expert English-speaking Shangrila guide throughout



Bhutanese SIM card and airport transfers



All meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) throughout



All monument and museum entrance fees



Bhutan visa processing and Sustainable Development Fee (SDF)



Drinking water and welcome Tashi Khadar scarf ceremony

WHY TRAVEL WITH SHANGRILA EXPEDITIONS?

"We don't just arrange tours — we create transformative experiences rooted in Bhutan's living culture, ancient wisdom, and extraordinary landscapes. As a registered Bhutan tour operator, our on-the-ground team and long-standing relationships with local communities ensure you travel with authenticity, depth, and ease."

- ✓ **Bhutan-based expertise & local relationships**
- ✓ **End-to-end seamless service from visa to farewell**
- ✓ **Aligned with Bhutan's High Value, Low Impact philosophy**

- ✓ **Cultural immersion beyond the typical tourist trail**
- ✓ **Expert guides fluent in Bhutanese history & Buddhism**
- ✓ **Customizable to your interests — families, couples, groups**

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Tour prices quoted in USD per person. Rates vary by season. Contact us for a personalized quote.