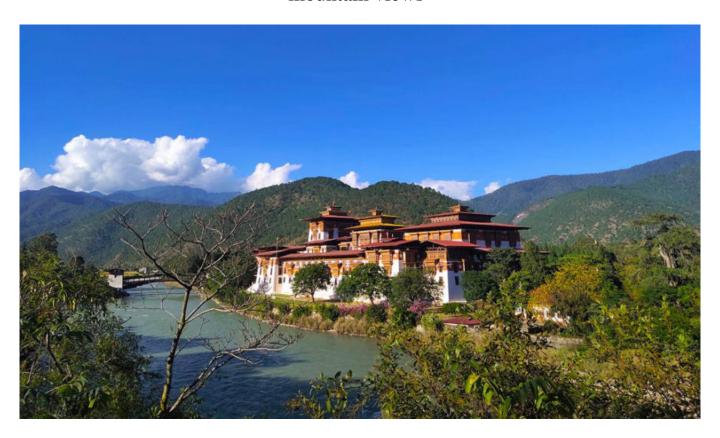


# Nepal Bhutan Private Tour 2024/2025

Two beautiful Himalayan Kingdom countries with cultural diversity, amazing mountain views



#### Overview

Join us on a fabulous journey to Bhutan and Nepal, two hidden Himalayan gems just waiting to be discovered. Himalayan neighbors, yet both with their own clearly identified unique cultures, are rarely seen in the modern world today. The **Bhutan Nepal Tour** is tailored to provide you with time to share in the love and warmth of these compelling countries.

In Bhutan enjoy the colorful local markets and visit important sites of interest in <u>Bhutan's capital</u> <u>Thimphu</u>. The school of Art and The Handmade Paper Mill are particularly interesting. An excursion is also made to Changgangkha Lhakhan a vibrant Buddhist temple via the Memorial Chorten.

Over your stay in Bhutan, you will discover much of its important heritage on various days. These include visits to the impressive 17<sup>th</sup> Century fortress of **Punakha Dzong** via **Dochula Pass** and **Chimi Lhakhang Monastery** in the Punakha district. In Paro, **The National Museum** is unique with over 3,000 works of Bhutanese art, covering more than 1,500 years of Bhutanese art, covering more than 1,500 years of Bhutanese. No journey to Nepal would be complete without visiting The <u>Tigers Nest Monastery</u>, sat high up on a sheer cliff edge, it is Bhutanes National treasure.



A fabulous flight over the Himalayas finds us in Kathmandu, Nepal's vibrant capital. Two days are spent discovering the very fabric of life in Kathmandu and its beautiful valley. Visits are made to many of the World Heritage Sites in the Kathmandu Valley. The first day is leisure with a visit to the ancient king's square of Patan, followed by a stroll around Kathmandu's many markets. On day two visit the temple squares of Kathmandu and Bhaktapur along with the sacred religious sites of Pashaputinath, Swoyambunath and Boudhanath.

From the treasures of The Kathmandu Valley, we drive to lowland Nepal and <u>Chitwan National</u> <u>Park</u> for a relaxing two-day <u>Elephant Safari</u>. On our last day, we arrive back in Kathmandu from Chitwan around lunchtime, allowing time to shop around in the colorful local bazaars.

# **Highlights**

- **Bhutan:** 6 Nights in Bhutan with Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), Capital City Thimphu, Punakha with Chimi Lhakhang Hike, Phobjikha with Bhutanese lifestyle.
- Nepal: 6 Nights in Kathmandu Nepal with Boudha Stupa, Pashupatinath, Monkey Temple, Patan Durbar Square, Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Chitwan national park with jungle safar

## **Outline**

- 1. Choose your own departure date
- 2. Select the comfort level of accommodation
- 3. Adjust activities to cater to special interests
- 4. Modify tour duration & any aspect of the tour
- 5. Flexible travel route (start from Bangkok/Paro and end to Kathmandu/Bangkok or vice-versa)

# Your Journey day by day

## Day 01: Fly to Paro from Kathmandu or Bangkok

Land at Paro and drive towards Thimphu at an altitude of 2300m. Stop halfway to the Paro-Thimphu highway to visit the

16<sup>th</sup>-century old Tachogang Lhakhang temple by traversing an old bridge. From the bridge, enjoy the scenic views of the villages. Tachogang temple means the hill of the excellent horse. Continue to drive to Thimphu.

You can move around Thimphu and see the beautiful market and villages. Shopping can also be an exciting activity in the local market. Another option would be to just move around and see the culture and traditions of this place. Overnight at Thimphu.

## Day 02: Sightseeing at Thimphu

Today you can roam around the local market and get a close view of the tradition and People. Then we head towards other remarkable places of Thimphu. You can see the school of art and craft one of the



famous school as the student learn 13 different type of arts. Handmade paper mill is on the list to visit. Then we drive towards Changangkha Lhakhang via Memorial Chorten (temple). Changangkha Lhakhang is a vibrant Buddhist temple offering amazing views. The temple is one of the oldest in Thimphu and is quite close to Motithang Zoo. Visit mini zoo to see Bhutan's national animal Takin. Have lunch and continue to explore other attractions such as Thimphu Dzong, Bhutan Postal Museum, Folk Heritage Museum, and Great Buddha Dordenma Statue which is the largest Buddha statu of Bhutan. Overnight at Thimphu.

## Day 03: Thimphu to Punakha

Head towards Punakha via Dochula pass (3010m). On the way, a great view can be seen if it is a clear day, you can enjoy the scenery and take pictures for your memories. Punakha is renowned for <u>Punakha Dzong</u>, a 17th-century fortress at the juncture of the Pho and Mo Chhu rivers. Don't miss out to visit the largest and oldest Punakha Suspension Bridge. It connect three villages of Bhutan and the views from there are phenomenal. You also get a chance to visit Souvenir making center as well. Overnight at Punakha.

## Day 04 : Punakha – Phobjikha tours

Today we will walk to Chimi Lhakhang Buddhist Monastery in Punakha district, also known as the temple of Fertility. It stands on a round hillock and was built in 1499 and is famous for phallus art. On the way is Wangdi town where you can meet the locals and view their culture. Further, you will walk towards Phobjikha 3140m the highest road pass of the trip. Then you can visit Gangtey Gompa, an important monastery of the Nyingmapa school of Buddhism and the main seat of the Pema Lingpa tradition. Visit the Crane Centre as well. Especially during winter, enjoy a view of black cranes from a telescope. Evening you can walk around Phobjikha and view the lifestyle and traditions or relax at the hotel. Overnight at Phobjika.

## Day 05: Phobjikha - Paro tours

Head back towards Paro to visit the National Museum, which holds in its possession over 3,000 works of Bhutanese art, covering more than 1,500 years of Bhutan's cultural heritage. Its rich holdings of various creative traditions and disciplines. Next, we walk through the oldest wooden bridge towards Paro Dzong. Paro Dzong is located on a steep hillside and is considered the most fascinating structure to view. In the evening, you can enjoy the local handicrafts in the Paro and if you are a food lover then you can visit the local restaurant to try the local dishes. Overnight at Paro.

## Day 06: Paro Sightseeing tour

Today we visit one of the oldest two temples Kyichu Lhakhang a prominent Himalayan Buddhist temple. Then, we stride towards <u>Drukgyal Dzong</u>, once the fortress and Buddhist Monastery now in ruins. Next, we hike towards Paro Taktsang also called Tiger's Nest a noticeable sacred site located on the cliff of upper Paro valley. The view from this Monastery is eye-catching and you can enjoy the beautiful and peaceful surrounding nature. Evening we can relax or walk around Paro. Overnight at Paro.

## Day 07: Flight to Kathmandu



Fly to Kathmandu, today you can enjoy the crowded and traditional market of Kathmandu if you have enough time. The view of local market holds a unique feature and is built in such a manner that it looks extremely beautiful. Old design houses and market makes the sight more beautiful.

## Day 08: Explore Kathmandu (B)

Today on the list we have beautiful UNESCO heritage sites, we start our tour from the Patan Durbar square a place that is magnificently beautiful and holds enormous sculptures and art. The architectural heritage of Kathmandu evolved over centuries of craftsmanship influenced by Hindus and Buddhist culture. The art culture and traditional lifestyle of Kathmandu is worth viewing. Next you can head towards local markets which seems quite crowded but holds the beautiful traditional items. The small street market and narrow roads reaching to every street in the local market makes the place more beautiful.

## Day 09: Tour in Kathmandu Valley

Further exploration of Kathmandu Valley and view of the Sacred temple Pashupatinath is in the list today along with other temples. Pashupatinath is among the most sacred temples for Hindus situate at the bank of Bagmati River. You can also see the crematorium site at Bagmati River. Then visit Boudhanath Stupa an enormous Stupa and the most visited sites by Buddhist in Kathmandu and other parts of the world. The Stupa is a beautiful view for the tourist. Next we head towards Bhaktapur City, also famous for wooden temples and houses. It is the renowned place for devotees as it holds many temples. You can relax at Bhaktapur and enjoy the ancient heritage sites. The culture of the people in Bhaktapur is quite distinct and admirable.

#### Day 10: Drive to Chitwan National Park 190km

Post Breakfast travel towards Chitwan and on the way you can definitely enjoy the view of small hills and Trishuli River. At Chitwan we will stroll at market and villages, here you will meet the Tharu, inhabitant of Chitwan whose culture is quite distinct than other groups of Nepal. We can roam around the market and visit the information center. In the evening we can go for entertainment programs and watch Tharu dance, a traditional dance of Tharus.

## Day 11: Jungle Safari Rides in Chitwan National Park

We start our day with a canoe at the Rapti River. It is a traditional dugout canoe and on the river we can see Crocodile and various other aquatic life. After the Canoe trip you have an option of traditional cart ride. Then we head towards elephant back safari towards the forest where u can find One-horned Rhino and various other species of animal. If you are lucky enough then you might get a chance to see the Royal Bengal Tiger. After the Safari you can see the elephant breeding camp and walk around the village.

## Day 12: Drive back to Kathmandu

You will head back to Kathmandu through the same route. You can take photographs of the small and beautiful hills and on the way. You can also find many street shops that sell different fruits and vegetables. The view of Trishuli River on the way is quite enthralling.



## **Day 13: Final Departure**

This marks the end of your tour. You will carry along with you a great experience of the Himalayan country and traditional culture. The markets in Nepal and the fortress and Monasteries that you visited in this tour will be memory to cherish forever.

## **Cost & Inclusion**

# Nepal:

- All airport pickups and drops.
- Comfort accommodation.
- Private ground transportation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Breakfast in Nepal.
- Full meals in Chitwan.

## **Bhutan:**

- All airport pickups and drops.
- Comfort accommodation.
- Private ground transportation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Full meals in Bhutan.
- Processing Travel Permit and Entry Visa.

#### **Select:**

## **FAOS**

# What are the highlights of a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour?

The highlights of a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour can vary depending on the itinerary, but typically include visits to UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Nepal, such as Kathmandu Durbar Square and Pashupatinath Temple, as well as iconic attractions in Bhutan like the Tiger's Nest Monastery and Punakha Dzong. Other highlights may include scenic drives through the Himalayas, encounters with local cultures, and opportunities for adventure activities.

## What is the best time to embark on a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour?

The best time to visit Nepal and Bhutan is during the spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) seasons. These months offer pleasant weather with clear skies, making it ideal for sightseeing



and outdoor activities. However, different regions within Nepal and Bhutan may have slightly different climate patterns, so it's advisable to check specific details when planning your tour.

## Are visas required for Nepal and Bhutan?

Yes, visas are required for both Nepal and Bhutan. Nepal offers visas on arrival for citizens of most countries, while Bhutan requires visitors to obtain a visa in advance through an approved local tour operator. It is recommended to check the latest visa requirements and regulations before planning your tour.

## Can the itinerary of a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour be customized?

Yes, the itinerary of a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour can be customized according to your preferences and interests. You can work with a tour operator or travel agency specializing in these destinations to design an itinerary that suits your needs, including the duration of the tour, specific attractions to visit, and activities you wish to engage in.

## What is the mode of transportation during a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour?

The mode of transportation during a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour typically involves a combination of domestic flights, private vehicles, and sometimes short hikes or walks. Domestic flights are usually used to connect between major cities or regions, while private vehicles with professional drivers are used for local transportation and sightseeing.

## Is it safe to travel to Nepal and Bhutan?

Nepal and Bhutan are generally safe destinations for travelers. However, as with any travel, it is essential to exercise caution and follow local guidelines and advice. It's advisable to consult travel advisories from your home country's government and take necessary precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable journey.

# How long does a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour typically last?

The duration of a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour can vary depending on your preferences and the itinerary you choose. It can range from around 7 to 14 days or more, depending on the time you have available and the places you wish to visit.

## What is a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour?

A Nepal Bhutan Private Tour is a customized travel experience that combines visits to both Nepal and Bhutan. It offers the opportunity to explore the unique culture, history, and natural beauty of these two



neighboring countries in a personalized and exclusive manner.

#### Can I use credit cards and ATMs in these countries?

Credit cards are widely accepted in major establishments such as hotels, restaurants, and shops, especially in urban areas. However, it is advisable to carry some cash as well, as smaller businesses may prefer cash payments. ATMs are also available in cities and towns for cash withdrawals.

# What types of accommodations are available in these countries?

All these countries offer a range of accommodations, including luxury hotels, resorts, guesthouses, and budget-friendly options. In major cities and popular tourist areas, you can find a variety of choices to suit your preferences and budget.

# How do I book a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour?

There are many different ways to book a Nepal Bhutan Private Tour. You can book a tour through a <u>travel agency</u>, online, or directly with a <u>tour operator</u>. When booking a tour, be sure to compare prices and itineraries to find the best deal.

## **Essential Information**

#### 1. Nepal and Bhutan Tour Plan

Nepal and Bhutan both share a border with the Himalayas, a massive mountain range that runs from northeastern Pakistan to southwest China in a curved path. Both countries are located on the southern edge of the Himalayas, with China's Tibet Autonomous Region to their north. Nepal and Bhutan, two of the most popular locations for international travelers visiting the Himalayas for climbing, trekking, and sightseeing, are both fantastic places to visit. Their temperatures and topography are remarkably similar because they are both on the southern side of the Himalayas, with towering mountains in the north and lowland plains and sub-tropical jungles in the south.

They are, however, totally different countries, with widely different religions, customs, and ways of life, despite their similarities. Nepal is predominantly Hindu, with a minor Buddhist population, whereas Bhutan is a devoted Buddhist country with a fusion of religion and culture. Nepal is also a more accessible destination, with few prerequisites for visitors and the freedom to travel practically anywhere you want, whenever you want. Bhutan, on the other hand, has a more structured tourism policy, and due to its environmental and ecological rules, travelers can only visit this lovely kingdom on a guided tour.

Each country has its own distinct beauty and culture, and while their tourism resources may differ, both are worth seeing as two of the world's remaining Himalayan kingdoms. Which Himalayan



destination you choose is determined by you, your budget, and what interests you the most about the Himalayas.

## 2. Religions significances of Nepal and Bhutan

Bhutan is a dedicated Buddhist country, and Buddhism has been the kingdom's official religion for over 1,200 years due to its widespread practice. Buddhism was first introduced to the kingdom in the 8th century by the Buddhist master Padmasambhava, who was known locally as Guru Rinpoche, a Tibetan name for him. Buddhism is widely practiced all across the kingdom and is integrated into people's daily lives in the same way that it is in Tibet. From the time they wake up in the morning to the time they close their eyes at night, the residents of Bhutan are guided by their Buddhist values.

Bhutan is also known for its Buddhist monasteries. The country's highlands and valleys are home to some of the world's most beautiful and outstanding shrines and temples. The Taktsang Monastery, which rises halfway up the cliff face above the Paro Valley, is perhaps the most famous. The Tiger's Nest Monastery, as it is locally known, was built on the location of Padmasambhava's meditating caves, where he is supposed to have arrived after journeying from Tibet on the back of a great flying tiger, who was also his first consort. There are a number of other noteworthy monasteries throughout the country, including the Punakha Dzong and the Paro Dzong, all of which have a rich and diverse history.

Nepal is primarily a Hindu country, having adopted Hinduism from its Indian neighbors. Hinduism is supposed to have been introduced to Nepal by a Hindu scholar named Ne, who came from India in the prehistoric period and stopped in the Kathmandu Valley to spread his faith to the locals. According to Nepali folklore, Ne chose a faithful goatherd to be the country's first monarch, ushering in the Gopala Dynasty, which lasted for 500 years.

Although Hinduism is the predominant religion in Nepal, the country also maintains a tiny population of Buddhists, which has allowed the two religions to coexist over the years. The influence of Tibetan Buddhism on Nepal's hill tribes has been a crucial component in the development of both religions, and many Hindu and Buddhist rituals and celebrations are based on the same principles. Due to the shared roots of Hinduism and Buddhism, it is not uncommon to see Hindus worshiping in Buddhist temples and Buddhists worshiping in Hindu temples. Nepal has become a multi-religious community as a result of these "dual-faith" activities, with the two religions considered as separate branches of the same faith. This may be noticed in the Kathmandu Valley's abundance of Buddhist and Hindu temples, which sit next to one another and share many characteristics of each other's faith in their design and workmanship.

## 3. Best time to visit Nepal and Bhutan

Bhutan maintains a unique version of Tibetan Buddhism in order to maintain cultural and religious ties with Tibet. Hiking in Phobjikha will expose you to a wide range of plants and creatures. The National Library, Heritage Museum, 3rd King's Memorial Chorten, and the Giant



Buddha statue are all worth seeing in Thimphu. The magnificent Punakha Dzong in Punakha and the famous Taktsang Monastery in Paro are not to be missed.

You will arrive in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, after flying across the steep Himalaya. The Nepali culture will be stretched out in front of you in the Kathmandu Valley. Kathmandu, brimming with spiritual teachers and ascetics, is unmistakably a Buddhist city in every way. With the sunset and sunrise of the Himalayas, you can see Pashupatinath Temple and Durbar Square, both of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

# 4. Bhutanese and Nepalese Outdoor Activities

Apart from hiking, Nepal is one of Asia's most popular places for adventure sports, which is unsurprising given the presence of the enormous Himalayas on its doorstep. The paths, which are well-known for trekking, are also frequently used for mountain biking, with the most popular sites for this strenuous pastime being the Kathmandu Valley and the area around Pokhara, west of Kathmandu.

White-water rafting has become quite popular in Nepal, thanks to the abundance of rapid rivers that wound their way down from the Himalayas. The Trishuli River as it flows down into the Kathmandu Valley, lowering down from its point of entry into Nepal at the Gyirong Port/Rasuwa Fort crossing the crossing point with China, is one of the most popular portions of the river for this. Other activities of this nature can be found in Nepal, such as bungee jumping, paragliding, base jumping, abseiling, and many others.

While Bhutan has many similar sports, such as mountain biking, rafting, kayaking, and rock climbing, visitors to the kingdom prefer the softer pastimes. Bhutan also boasts a variety of leisure activities that would not stress you out or exhaust you. A visit to one of the kingdom's many tshachus, or hot springs, is one of the most popular activities. These hot springs, which are said to have medicinal characteristics, have been used by Bhutanese people for years to treat body ailments and sinus problems. In the winter, it is customary to visit the hot springs for their restorative and calming characteristics.

Bhutan features a few of the best river fishing places in Asia, as well as a number of rich fishing lakes, in addition to trekking and visiting the kingdom's enormous number of dzongs. Bhutan is ideal for fishing for snow trout and brown trout, although the precise number of fish species is unknown due to the country's lengthy seclusion from the rest of the globe. While fishing requires a permission, which is easy to obtain, and there is a rigorous "catch and release" policy in Bhutan, there are few more peaceful activities to do than go fishing.

#### 5. Traveling cost to Nepal and Bhutan

Nepal has always been recognized as a low-cost destination, and backpacking in Nepal was the only option to travel in the 1970s and 1980s. Although there are fewer backpackers now than it was in past, Nepal remains a relatively cheap place to visit, with low-cost hostels with multi-bed



dorms, inexpensive food, low entrance visa fees, and affordable basic public transportation. Even trekking equipment, which you can buy or rent in Thamel, Kathmandu, is inexpensive, making it cheaper to buy there than to bring it from home.

Bhutan, on the contrary, is known as one of Asia's most expensive tourist destinations. The Daily Minimum Fee of USD 250 (200 USD in the low season) is required for all visitors to Bhutan and is included in the tour price. Whatever tour you select, the daily minimum fee will not be less than the Daily Minimum Fee. The pricing, which is set by the government, is intended to keep tourism at its peak, and Bhutan is targeting the top end of the tourist industry, rather than the low-cost, low-cost excursions that can be offered elsewhere.

The rate includes all of your typical expenses while in Bhutan, including your 3-star hotel (minimum required) and main meals, as well as your local guide, driver, and private vehicle for the duration of your trip. The only extra expenses you'll have are for alcoholic beverages, extra food for snacks and treats, and any spending on souvenirs and gifts. So, what appears to be exorbitantly expensive at first glance, is actually one of the best and most effective complete-package tourist setups in the world.

A portion of the daily tariff is paid to the government to aid in the reduction of poverty in the country and the improvement of the educational system. The cash for the tour in Bhutan is held by the TCB until the end of the tour, when the percentage owed to the tour operator is handed back once the post-tour survey has been completed and assessed. This means that any concerns about the quality or grade of service can be addressed right away, which is a wonderful method to ensure that the tourist industry maintains a high level of service.

With its cheap hostels, simple and inexpensive transport charges, low-cost cuisine, and breathtaking Himalayan treks, Nepal may be the more budget-friendly alternative, but Bhutan cannot be surpassed for the level of service you get for your money. Bhutan is unquestionably the best value for money when it comes to getting the most bang for your buck.