



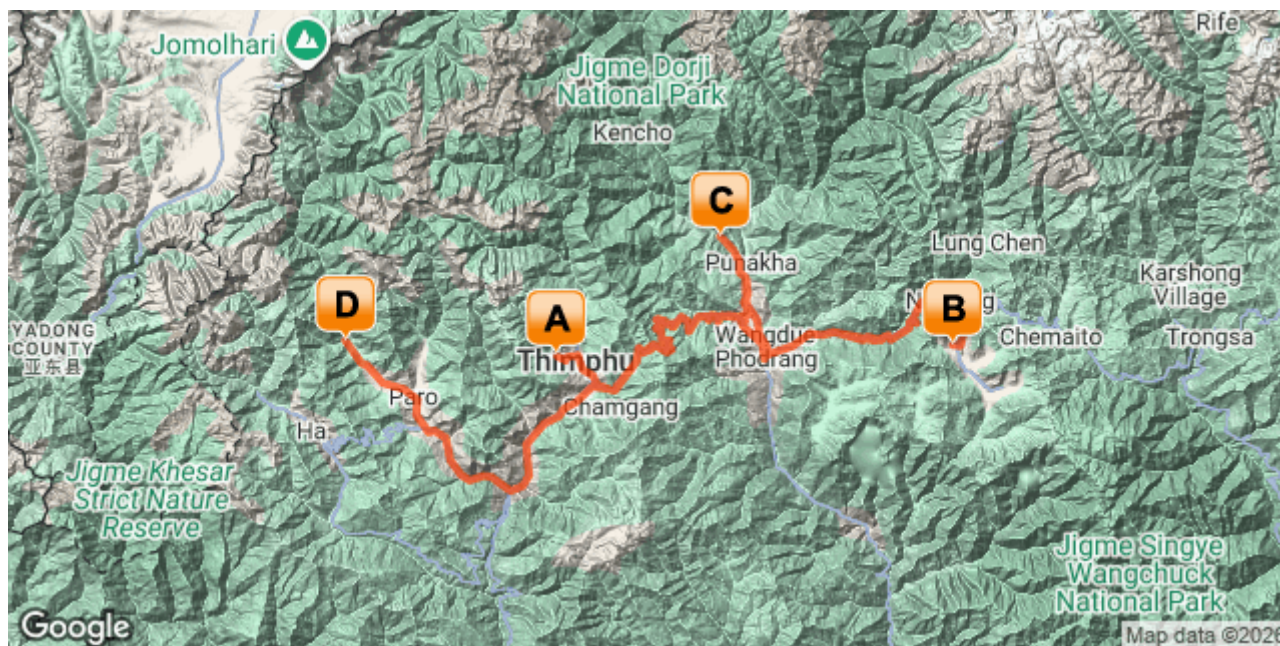
THE AMANKORA JOURNEY THROUGH BHUTAN



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Thimphu - Gangtey - Punakha - Paro District
9 Days / 8 Nights

Date of Issue: 16 January 2026



Introduction

Hidden deep within the eastern Himalayas, Bhutan remains one of the world's most mystical and protected destinations. Governed by the philosophy of Gross National Happiness, this extraordinary kingdom invites you to slow down, reflect, and reconnect with nature, culture, and self. This thoughtfully crafted journey traces Bhutan's most enchanting valleys and spiritual heartlands, combining sacred monasteries, forested trails, and dramatic mountain scenery with exceptional comfort. Each stop reveals a different facet of Bhutan's soul—its devotion, artistry, and profound sense of balance—creating an experience that is immersive, restorative, and quietly transformative.

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Amankora Thimphu	Thimphu	B&B	2 Nights
Amankora Gangtey Lodge	Gangtey	B&B	2 Nights
Amankora Punakha	Punakha	B&B	2 Nights
Amankora Paro Lodge	Paro District	B&B	2 Nights

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

Included

- Hotels accommodation twin sharing at the hotels mentioned above or similar for a total of 08 nights in a mentioned category rooms with breakfast & inclusive of all currently government applicable taxes.
- Services of using air-conditioned vehicle for inter-cities transfers and sightseeing.
- Meeting and assistance on arrival / departure at airports.
- All sightseeing tours / excursions as per program mentioned above.
- Unlimited water bottle during long journeys.
- Service of an English (as per requirement) speaking local guides till 04 Pax & 04 Pax onwards we will provide English speaking accompanying escort.
- Includes entrances to all the monuments as mentioned in the program.

Excluded

- Does not include any airfare, any item not mentioned above, any items of personal nature such as table drinks, laundry, telephone bills, video camera fees, tips to guides/escort, drivers, bell boys, etc.
- Any International airfare, Travel Insurances or Visa – Please ensure clients have a valid E-visa and passport for their travel to India.
- Any other expenses of personal nature.

Day 1

Amankora Thimphu, Thimphu

Thimphu

Resting in a lush green valley of hills and rice paddies, Bhutan's capital city of Thimphu is the country's commercial and religious hub, and is known for its interesting fusion of ancient and modern elements. Historical architecture and ancient traditional elements juxtapose with contemporary buildings and sensibilities. The imposing, stately 350-year-old Tashicho Dzong Fortress is currently used as the administrative centre of the county, and is also the king's office. Visitors can explore the gold-spired Memorial Chorten, a revered Buddhist shrine; see the intricate frescoes and slate carvings at Simtokha Dzong; and discover the Bhutanese way of live through exhibits and folk dances at the fascinating National Folk Heritage Museum. The city bustles with cafes, clubs and restaurants, thereby offering the best of old- and new-world charms.

Day Itinerary

Arrive in Bhutan and transfer to Thimphu. Absorb the calm, unspoiled atmosphere of the Himalayas. The rest of the day is at your leisure to relax, acclimatise, and ease into the gentle rhythm of the kingdom.

Overnight: Amankora Thimphu

The Amankora Resort in Thimphu has suites containing king size bed, reading chair and window banquette. This provides views across a landscaped courtyard, or of the stream and pine forest. The suite's interior features wood paneling and chocolate brown walls.

A stay at the Amankora Resort in Thimphu provides an authentic experience of the town. At the resort is a spa offering treatments using local herbs. Bhutan's 9-hole golf course is located in the heart of Thimphu, tee times can be arranged by Amankora.

As Bhutan's capital city, Thimphu is home to many attractions and activities, including the National Textile Museum, Folk Heritage Museum and the bustling Changlingmethang Market. Nearby, one can visit Pangri Zampa, two 16th century buildings that now house a monastic astrologer training school. At the head of the valley, a walk across one of the bridges leads to Cheri Goemba where the kingdom's first monk community was based.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 2

Amankora Thimphu, Thimphu

Day Itinerary

Immerse yourself in the cultural heart of Thimphu on a guided afternoon sightseeing tour. Visit the impressive Tashichho Dzong, explore Bhutan's living traditions at the Folk Heritage Museum, pay your respects at the National Memorial Chorten, and wander through vibrant local markets that offer a glimpse into everyday Bhutanese life.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 3

Amankora Gangtey Lodge, Gangtey

Gangtey

The little village of Gangtey is located in the beautiful Phobjikha Valley, within the Wangdue Phodrang District in Central Bhutan. Set at an altitude of 3000 metres, and tucked away in an ancient glacial valley of lush greenery and cultivated farmlands, it serves as the perfect base from which to explore the spectacular surrounding wilderness. The village is home to several fascinating sites, namely the 17th-century Gangtey Monastery, the only Nyingmapa monastery on the western slopes of the Black Mountains. In winter, visitors can spot endangered black-necked cranes, which migrate from the Tibetan Plateau and the vast plains of Central Asia to this warmer corner of the world. The lucky few can enjoy the famous Tshechu Festival, a lively and colourful annual celebration featuring a vibrant mix of games, costumes, dancing and drumming.

Day Itinerary

Embark on a breathtaking mountain drive to Gangtey, a serene and verdant valley cradled by the Himalayas. As the landscapes open out into sweeping meadows and pine forests, the pace of life slows, offering a sense of calm and quiet that makes Gangtey a true sanctuary in the mountains.

Overnight: Amankora Gangtey Lodge

Amankora Gangtey Lodge is situated in the Phobjikha Valley, near the village of Gangtey. The lodge offers views of the 16th-century Gangtey Goemba monastery and the valley floor. Guests can explore the Black Mountains National Park, home to endangered black-neck cranes. The lodge's suites feature king-size beds, wood-burning stoves, and window seats. Dining options include a dining room with large family-style tables and floor-to-ceiling windows. Leisure facilities encompass a spa with massage rooms, a library with books on Buddhism and local folklore, and a hot stone bath experience.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 4

Amankora Gangtey Lodge, Gangtey

Day Itinerary

Enjoy a leisurely day discovering the serene beauty of the Gangtey Valley at your own pace. Nestled in the heart of Bhutan, this pristine landscape invites quiet exploration—wander through open meadows, visit the historic Gangtey Monastery, and soak in the valley's unspoiled charm. During the winter months, you may also witness the elegant Black-Necked Cranes that migrate from the Tibetan Plateau, adding to the valley's magical, tranquil atmosphere.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 5

Amankora Punakha, Punakha

Punakha

Located in the Himalayas of Bhutan, the Punakha rests at the confluence of the Puna Tsang Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers. This ancient Bhutanese capital serves as an excellent base from which to explore the scenic temple-dotted Punakha Valley and beyond. The town's star attraction is undoubtedly the incredibly picturesque riverside Punakha Dzong, a 17th-century fortress which plays host to the annual religious Punakha Festival featuring traditional dancing and music. Lucky birdwatchers can spot the critically endangered white-bellied herons. Visitors can enjoy epic views of the Himalayas from the renowned Dochula Pass, explore the Royal Botanical Park, and discover the picturesque mountain-top village of Talo. Other popular activities include: hiking through the valley, visiting the Chimi Lhakhang 'fertility' Temple, and the traditional architecture of Punakha Ritsha Village.

Day Itinerary

Travel through Bhutan's scenic valleys to Punakha, a historic riverside town known for its gentle pace, lush landscapes, and peaceful setting along the riverbanks.

Overnight: Amankora Punakha

Amankora Punakha is located in a subtropical valley in Punakha, Bhutan. The lodge features comfortably furnished guest rooms that are equipped with modern amenities, including a safe and a minibar. Guests can enjoy tailored dining experiences at the accommodation during their stay. Additional facilities include a terrace, a swimming pool, a spa, a fitness centre, and parking facilities.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 6

Amankora Punakha, Punakha

Day Itinerary

Spend a full day uncovering the charm of Punakha with a guided tour that brings its heritage and culture to life. Admire the majestic Punakha Dzong, an architectural gem perched at the confluence of two rivers. Visit Chimi

Lhakang, the temple of the “divine mad monk,” and soak in the tranquil beauty of the surrounding rice fields and lush landscapes.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 7

Amankora Paro Lodge, Paro District

Paro District

Sitting pretty at an altitude of 2200 metres above sea level, Paro is the gateway to beautiful Bhutan. Planes make an incongruous sight, flying low as they prepare for landing in this Himalayan oasis, home to many of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries. Resting on the banks of the Paro River, there is plenty to observe in this traditional town, from quaint farmhouses scattered across the valley to emerald green terraced paddy fields. For outdoor enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike, a great day excursion is to trek to the famous Tiger's Nest Temple, on the face of a sheer 1000-metre-high cliff. This acclaimed temple houses the National Museum, which shows hundreds of ancient Bhutanese artefacts and artwork. It's advised to do this at the end of a trip, once travellers have acclimatised.

Day Itinerary

Set out on a scenic drive from Punakha to Paro, winding through Bhutan's dramatic valleys and rolling hills. Along the way, admire quaint villages, terraced fields, and sweeping mountain vistas, each turn revealing the serene beauty and timeless charm of this Himalayan kingdom.

Overnight: Amankora Paro Lodge

Amankora Paro Lodge is located in Paro Valley at an elevation of 2,250 metres, making it a beguiling start or an atmospheric end to an Amankora journey. Hidden in thick pine, the 24-suites, with walls clad in wood and black steel panelling, contrast rustic elements with contemporary design. Amenities include king-size beds, traditional wood-burning stoves, and banquette window seats, while bathrooms featured terrazzo-clad bathtubs, twin vanities, and a separate shower and toilet. Hiking and cycling are arguably the best ways to explore the incredible landscape.



Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 8

Amankora Paro Lodge, Paro District

Day Itinerary

Spend a full day exploring Paro with your guide, culminating in the awe-inspiring Tiger's Nest Monastery. Perched dramatically on a cliff, this sacred site offers not only a glimpse into Bhutan's spiritual and cultural heritage but also

brehtaking panoramic views. The hike to the monastery is a journey of serenity and reflection, making it one of the most iconic experiences in the Himalayas.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Day 9

End of Itinerary

Day Itinerary

As your unforgettable Bhutanese adventure concludes, transfer to the airport for your onward flight, taking with you cherished memories of the kingdom's majestic landscapes, rich culture, and serene Himalayan charm.

Basis

Bed and Breakfast

Transport

Travel Information



Consistently voted the happiest country in the world, the little nation of Bhutan is set at the far eastern end of the Himalayas, between India and China. Bhutan only began to open its doors to outsiders in the 1970s and still has a strict sustainability policy regarding tourism. As a result, it has retained a deep cultural authenticity and has preserved its environment admirably, making it one of Asia's most beguiling and unforgettable destinations. Highlights include incredible forts and temples perched on sheer mountain cliffs, a rich (predominantly Buddhist) culture, and spectacular scenery – ranging from temperate sub-tropical plains and valleys cloaked with dense forest to lofty sub-Alpine mountains capped with snow.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Local currency: Bhutanese Ngultrum

Symbol: Nu.

ISO code: BTN

Subunit: Chhertum

Banknotes: Nu.1, Nu.5, Nu.10, Nu.20, Nu.50, Nu.100, Nu.500, Nu.1000

Coins: Ch.5, Ch.10, Nu.25, Nu.50

Banking

Card Transactions: Limited

ATMs: Yes

Mastercard: Limited acceptance

Visa: Limited acceptance

American Express: Limited acceptance

Diner's club: Limited acceptance

Banking Hours:

Weekdays: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Weekends: Limited

Public Holidays: Limited

Foreign exchange services: Limited

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Air:

Main airlines: Druk Air, Bhutan Airlines

International Airports: Paro International Airport (PBH)

Domestic Airports: None

Road:

Driving on the: Left
Tar roads: Yes
Gravel roads: Limited
Valid International Driver's License needed: No
Car hire available: Limited
Taxis: Yes
E-hailing services: No

Bus:

Inter-city bus services: Yes
Local city bus networks: Limited

Rail:

Railway system: No
Subway System: No

Water:

Ferries: No
Water taxis: No
Leisure cruises: No

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice**Food and water safety:**

Can you drink the tap water: No
Fresh fruit and veg: Yes
Ice: Use bottled or purified water
Meat: Yes, but prefer well-cooked
Street food: Exercise caution

Local cuisine: Bhutanese cuisine is characterized by spicy flavors and typically includes dishes like Ema Datshi (chili and cheese stew), Phaksha Paa (pork cooked with chilies), and Momos (dumplings). Butter tea (suja) is a popular local drink.

Drinks: Butter tea (suja), Ara (locally brewed rice wine)

Tipping: Tipping is not expected but appreciated.

Climate and Weather

Annual rainfall: Varies by region

Average temperature: 10°C to 25°C

Summer:

Average highs: 24°C to 28°C

Average lows: 15°C to 18°C

Winter:

Average highs: 12°C to 16°C

Average lows: -1°C to 5°C

Best time to visit: The best time to visit Bhutan is during the spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) seasons when the weather is mild, and the skies are clear, offering ideal conditions for trekking and sightseeing.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Spring and Summer

Cool, light, breathable and comfortable: Yes

Lightweight warm clothes: Yes

Winter and Autumn

Jerseys, cardigans, sweaters, jackets: Recommended

Heavyweight clothing and boots: Yes

General

Umbrella and raincoat: Yes

Warm gloves, hat and scarf: Yes

Swimming costume (bathing suit): Yes (for hot springs)

Hat, sunglasses and sunblock: Yes

Walking shoes: Yes

Casual: Yes

Smart-casual attire: Yes

Internet Availability

Internet cafes: Limited

Accommodation options: Yes

Restaurants: Yes

Cafes: Yes

Shopping malls: No

Public parks: Yes

Libraries: Limited

Electricity and Plug Standards

Plug Type: Type D, Type F

Voltage (V): 230

Frequency Hertz (Hz): 50

*Travel plug adapter and voltage converter might be necessary depending on your appliances.
