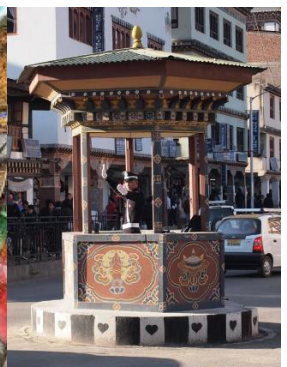


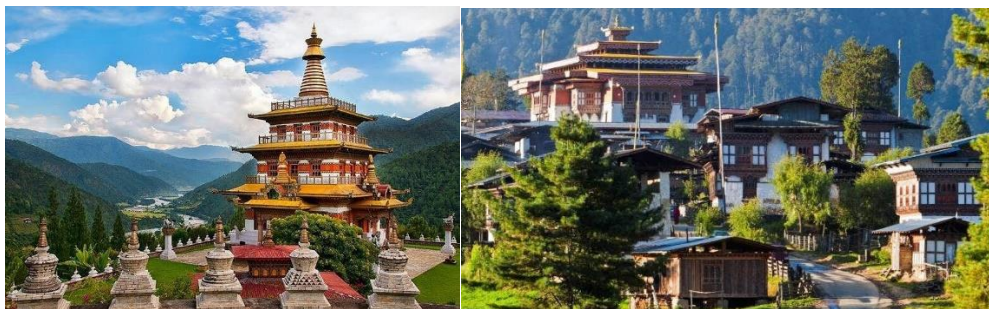
Bhutan through your eyes : “the Land of the Thunder Dragon “



Pre-departure	KUALA LUMPUR – BANGKOK You may fly to Bangkok on your own on any flight schedules available. Advisable to over- night at a hotel near to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi airport.
DAY 01	Fly from BANGKOK – BHUTAN (This itinerary is suitable for flight to Bhutan either on a Monday /Tuesday/Wednesday) Check in at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International airport BKK early in the morning to catch your flight to Bhutan on Royal Bhutan Airlines.
	ETA Bhutan noon time (subject to flight schedule) PARO, BHUTAN – THIMPHU City (D) Meet & Greet by your English speaking local guide upon arriving Paro airport, the gateway to BHUTAN – welcome to the Land of the Thunder Dragon 😊 Relax and enjoy an hour scenic drive to Thimphu City. Thimphu, Bhutan’s new capital, occupies a valley in the country’s western interior. In addition to being the government seat, the city is known for its Buddhist sites. On the way, stop at Chunzom – the confluence of Pachu & Wangchu river. Enjoy the primitive way of walking over the river to Tachog Lhakhang (Tachog Temple) by a suspended 15th century iron chain bridge. Continue our drive to Thimphu. If time permit, a short city tour drive thru’ before arriving your restaurant/hotel. Have an early dinner before checking in our first night hotel in the capital city of Bhutan. Overnite : Thimphu



DAY 02	THIMPHU – PUNAKHA (B/L/D) Breakfast at the hotel Today, we shall drive to Punakha, the old capital city of Bhutan. A must-stop at DOCHULA PASS Our driver will stop us near to Sopsokha for a short walk across terraced rice fields to the Temple of Chimi Lhakhang (Devine Madman’s Monastery) : The Lhakhang is located 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) from Punakha near a village called Sopsokha from where a 20 minute walk along muddy and dusty path through agricultural fields of mustards and rice, leads to a hillock where the monastery and the chorten are situated. Prayer flags are lined all along the road from the tiny village hamlet known as Yowakha, along a drain or stream to the monastery. All houses in the village have paintings of phalluses on their exterior walls. Continue the day to visit one of the most beautiful scenes of Bhutan – the PUNAKHA Dzong. Built in 1637, Punakha Dzong served as the seat of the government until the mid 20th century. Spend some time at PUNAKHA Dzong (in late spring (mid of May), if the season is right, one can enjoy the Jacaranda trees in full bloom along the river side) Enjoy the stunning evening views (setting sun) of Punakha and Wangdue valley at the Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendup Lhakhang Nunnery in the evening. Overnite : Punakha



DAY 03

PUNAKHA – PHOBIJKHA VALLEY (GANGTEY) (B/L/D)

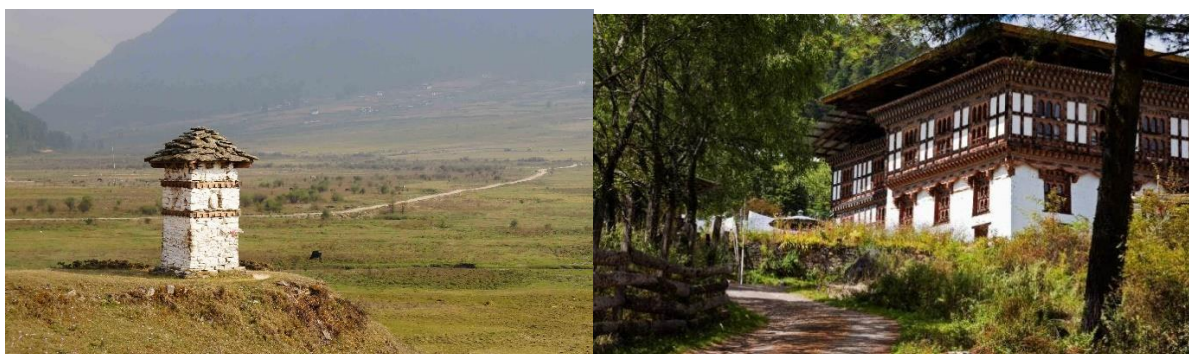
Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit the beautiful **Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Lhakhang** after hiking to the upper Punakha valley and **crossing the hanging bridge** through large tracts of paddy fields. It takes you about 1 hour to reach the temple and the view sighted from the temple is also stunning. In autumn (late Oct- early Nov), one could enjoy the golden paddy fields & harvest season, subject to weather)

After lunch, drive to **Phobjikha valley** as known as Gangtey Valley which is one part of the beautiful Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park.



Check in the hotel after your arrival at Phobjikha. **Visit the local farmhouse and experience the life of Phobjikha valley.**



Enjoy a Bhutanese dinner. Overnite : Phobjikha (Gangtey)

There is an option for you to overnight at a farm house (homestay), if you preferred.

Kindly confirm your choice upon booking (subject to availability)



DAY 04

PHOBIJKHA (GANGTEY) VALLEY – THIMPHU (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel.



Today, we shall explore the **spectacular Phobjikha valley** by following the **Gangtey Nature Trail** to some characteristic villages. Enjoy the natural views and get in-depth exploration to the local farm houses.

The Gangtey Nature Trail is a gentle two-hour trek that lets you soak up the remarkable Phobjikha Valley. Starting at the 17th century Gangtey Monastery, you'll amble down a fairly flat terrain that ends at the bottom of the valley. En route, you'll pass grass planes, farmhouses and dense pine forests before reaching a vast open space of the wide valley.



Drive back to THIMPHU.

If time permit, visit the **Craft Bazaar / Clock Tower City center** before dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnite : Thimphu



DAY 05

THIMPHU (*must be either on a Friday / Saturday/Sunday*) (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy our morning at the **weekend market Centenary Farmers Market** – walk across to the **Kundeyling Baazam (Bazaar)** for some local shopping.

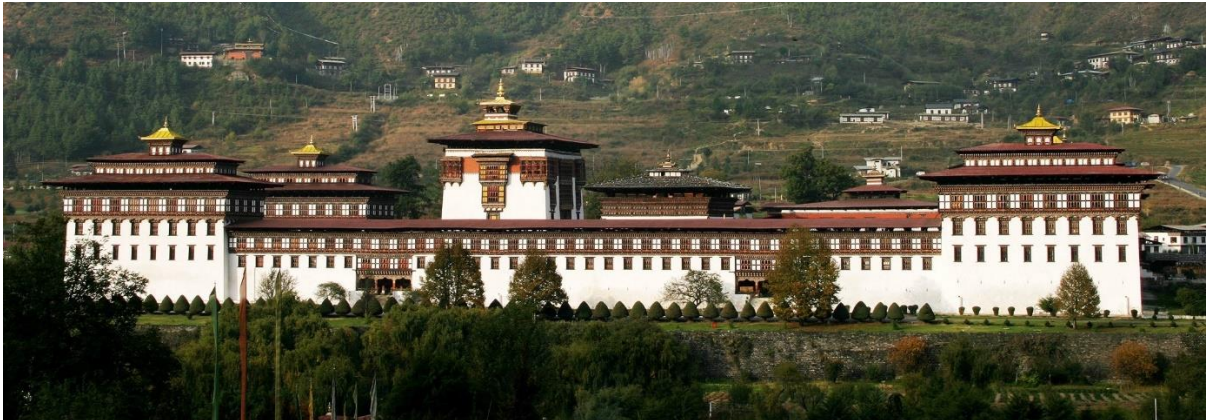
The Centenary Farmer's Market is a two storey building with about 400 stalls that provides farmers from around the country the opportunity to display their produce and people a chance to support the local agriculture.



Take a scenic drive up to **Buddha Point** in the Kuensel Phodrang Nature Park to see the 169-foot-tall bronze statue of the seated Buddha Dordenma. One of the largest sitting Buddha statues in the world.

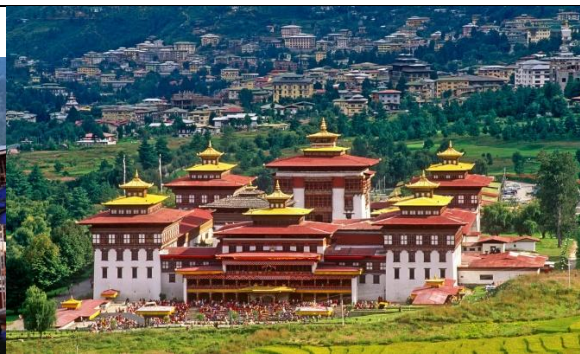
Continue our **Thimphu City tour:**

THIMPHU TASHICHLO DZONG



National Textile Museum / Jungshi Handmade Paper Factory/ National Folk Heritage Museum, Thimphu Clock Tower Square etc.





Lunch & dinner at local restaurant.
Overnite : THIMPHU



Paro Rinpung Dzong



Ta Dzong

DAY 06

THIMPHU- PARO (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Today, we shall enjoy a scenic drive to **PARO Valley**.

Explore the **Paro Rinpung Dzong** (Fortress on a Heap of Jewels)

Rinpung Dzong, popularly known as, **Paro Dzong**. Built in 1646 by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal on a hill above **Paro** valley, it houses the district Monastic Body and government administrative offices of Paro Dzongkhag. It is listed as a tentative site in Bhutan's Tentative List for UNESCO inclusion.



Nearby is **Ta Dzong**, a cylindrical seven-story **watchtower** built in 1649 that is now the **National Museum of Bhutan**. This museum houses artifacts, weapons, textiles, and fine Bhutanese art from 4000 BCE to the present. The building is a conch shape with spiral construction inside and out.

After lunch, continue to the north to visit the **Kyichu Lhakhang** where there is a magic orange tree which bears fruits all year around.

Kyichu Lhakhang is located in the north of Paro town. It is the oldest and one of the most beautiful temples in Bhutan. It also goes by the names Lho Kyerchu or Kyerchu, and it is considered to be the **sacred Jewel of Bhutan**. The main temple of Jowo Lhakhang has roots as far back as the 7th century.

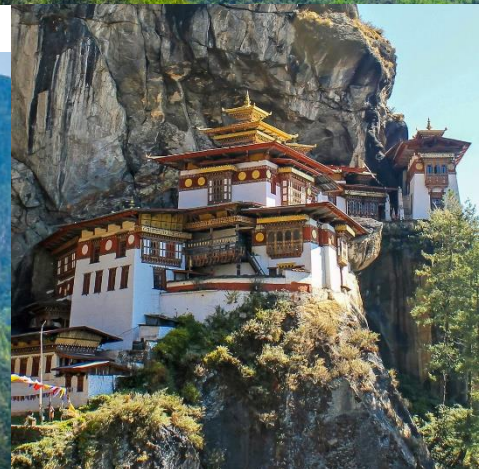


Evening walking around Paro shopping streets if time permit.
Check into our hotel @ Paro
Dinner at the hotel or local restaurant.

DAY 07

PARO – TIGER’S Nest (Tatsang Monastery) (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel.



Morning drive to **TIGER’S Nest** also known as **Tatsang Monastery**.

A trek to the Tiger’s Nest @ Tatsang Monastery is a once in a lifetime experience as it leads you to one of the most unusual & beautiful spots on earth.

Located 900 metres above the upper cliff in the Paro Valley, this monastery is undoubtedly an architectural marvel, not to mention the beauty of the location itself.

The trek takes between 2 to 3 hours (one way). During the pandemic borders’ closing period a group of guides spent weeks reconstructing the new trail. With the improvement of the trail, trekking time has now shortened compared to the previous trail.

The steps have also been developed using wooden logs to prevent one from slipping. Aside from that, benches, resting places, and canopies have been built along the trail.



There is a cafeteria (also renovated recently) at the halfway mark, where you can take a break. From this point, you can see a clear view of the monastery and take some beautiful photos of it. Some people choose to make this their finishing point and return back down after seeing the view. *You are encouraged to continue the trek as the second half is easier plus there is an excellent photo point along the second half of the trek where you can see a closer view of the entire monastery as it perches on the steep cliff.*

The temples inside the monastery are just as spectacular as the view of it from the outside. Stepping inside the temple will give you a jaw-dropping moment. You will be astonished by the interiors: statue, painting, art, and architecture. No photography inside the temple.

It is every visitor's dream to come up close with this beautiful spiritual place.

Enjoy your trek down.

Return to our hotel to rest. You may opt to enjoy Bhutanese Hot Stone Bath on your own account.

In the evening enjoy your farewell dinner.

Overnite : Paro

DAY 08

PARO, BHUTAN departure (B)

Breakfast at the hotel.

Free & Easy until transfer time for our departure flight to Bangkok.



ETA Bangkok airport in the late afternoon (depending on flight schedule).

It is advisable to book your flight home or to your next designation on the next day, in case of flight delay from Bhutan.

Itinerary may be subject to change according to local conditions at the time of visit.

**Best
Season**

Bhutan is a year round travel destination.

Spring (March/April/May) and **Autumn** (Sept/Oct/ Nov) are generally regarded as the best season to visit Bhutan for their favourable temperature (average between 10C – 28C) and weather conditions.

Also, **spring** is the time to experience the stunning blossoming of a wide range of flora in Bhutan, while **Autumn** is the perfect time to witness the ripening of rice crops and harvesting.

Both seasons also have the highest concentration of local festivals called the Tshechu.

Festival	BLACK NECKED CRANE FESTIVAL If you are a bird watcher, perhaps you like to join in the locals for the once in a year, one day only, the Black Necked Crane Festival (11Nov 2023), In order to witness this festival, suggest your departure date ex-BKK to be on Wed, 08Nov. (Note: must pre-book in advance at least 9 months in advance as flights to Bhutan plus accommodation in Wangdue Phodrang – Gantey is very limited). <u>Major festivals:</u> Paro Tshechu 01April – 05April 2023 Thimphu Tshechu 24 Sept – 26 Sept 2023 Note: Paro & Thimphu will be teeming with travellers. Hotels & services may be overwhelmed as the better 3* hotels and guides would have been pre-booked. Air tickets would be fully sold out by December / January. There might be a crowd at most of the places of interest during these festivals.
Flexible 2 to go	There is no fixed group departure date for this tour as you may form your own group (min. two to go) and fix your preferred dates to travel. However, in order to visit the weekend market, you are advisable to start the tour with the flight from Bangkok to Bhutan either on a Mon/Tue/Wed only. Currently, there are daily flights to Bhutan from Bangkok except Sunday.
Points to take note: Closed To foreign tourists	Most monuments and sacred sites will only be opened to locals on Six auspicious dates in the Bhutanese Calender. So, best to avoid travelling dates fall on :- (dates subject to change) 5th of the 1st month (Chotrul Duchen) Solar Calender = 24Jan 2023 10th day of the 3rd month (Zhabdrung Kuchoe) = 30 April 2023 15th day of the 4th month (Saga Dawa Duchen/ Lord Buddha Parinirvana)= 02June 2023 10th day of the 5th month (Birth anniversary of Guru Rinpoche) = 28June 2023 4th day of the 6th month (Chokor Duchen/ first sermon of Lord Buddha)= 21/22July 2023 22nd day of the 9th month (Lha Bab Duchen/Descending day of Lord Buddha) 04Nov 2023
Package COSTING Inclusive	1) Return Flights between Bangkok and Paro (on Royal Bhutan Airlines) – Air fare/schedule subject to change. 2) Visas for Bhutan 3) A qualified & licensed English speaking local guide in Bhutan 4) An experienced driver in Bhutan 5) A tour vehicle (Toyota Hiace high roof / Coaster bus depending on number of tour members in the group. 6) Meals on tour (B/L/D as per itinerary) 7) 7 night Accommodations at 3-star tourist hotels 8) Taxes, surcharges, the government contribution and Tourism Development funds 9) Mineral water for the duration of stay 10) One traditional costume set – Gho / Kira – for use throughout your stay in Bhutan. To be returned to the guide on the last day of the tour.

	11) Entry to heritage and cultural importance site as per itinerary 12) Private group tour arrangement as per itinerary.
Package Costing Excluding	1) Flight to Bangkok from Malaysia/your home country to connect to your flight to Bhutan 2) Hotel Stay in Bangkok (e.g. to catch a flight to Bhutan) if any 3) Travel Insurance (All travellers must have a valid travel insurance applicable covering Bhutan). 4) Lunch & Dinner outside selected restaurants (e.g. 5-star resorts) 5) Tips for the guide and driver 6) Alcoholic drinks 7) Expenditure of personal nature (e.g. shopping and hot stone bath etc) 8) Private site/any items not mentioned in the itinerary (e.g. Namgay Beer Factory, White water rafting, horse riding etc) 9) Festival season surcharges (if any)
	

Bhutan through your eyes : “the Land of the Thunder Dragon”

8D/7N ex-Bangkok



COSTING	Per person in USD	MIN 2 TO GO	4 – 10 pax	>11 pax
	Ground Arrangement Twin Sharing	USD 3,100/pax	USD 2,960/pax	USD 2,750/pax
	Air Ticket : BKK-PARO-BKK *(including taxes & surcharges) <i>Airfare and taxes are subject to change without prior notice</i>	USD 895/pax	USD 895/pax	USD 895/pax
	Total 1 person on Twin-sharing	USD 3,995.00/p	USD 3,855.00/p	USD 3,645.00/p
	Payment In MYR Twin sharing per person using USD 4.5**	MYR 19,238.00	MYR 17,367.00	MYR16,403.00
	Single supplement surcharge	+USD 280/pax	+USD 280/pax	+USD 280/pax
	** exchange rate subject to change. Will re-calculate upon payment in due course. The ground & air ticket costing are correct at the time of printing and may be subject to change by Bhutan counter-part if there is any increment in the entrance fees/government taxes/hotel charges etc. Booking Deposit : Full air ticket cost + 50% Ground Cost upon booking confirmation. Balance : within 60 days before tour date.			
Travel Insurance	Travel Insurance ex-Malaysia 10 days AREA 2 @MYR 148.00 < 65 years old @MYR 246.00 >=65 – 79 years old /Please contact us for further details on the travel insurance coverage			
Transit in Bangkok	Flexible on your own arrangement. There are a few airport hotels very near to BKK Suvarnabhumi Airport where they provide free airport-shuttle services: https://www.bkkairporthotel.com/ If you like to extend your stay in Bangkok or another part of Thailand and need a tour package, kindly update us upon your booking/we will be pleased to work out a package for you ☺			
Booking	laura@elsoltravel.com / office@elsoltravel.com			06/08/22



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