

Bhutan Black Necked Crane Festival

07 Nights / 08 Days 不丹 · 黑頸鶴節

The annual Black Necked Crane festival is celebrated at the courtyard of Gangtey Goenpa in Phobjikha valley, a happy occasion for locals to celebrate the arrival of this endangered and majestic bird which becomes an inseparable part in their daily lives during the winter months.

The annual blacknecked crane festival is organized to generate awareness and understanding on the importance of conserving the endangered Black-Necked Cranes. The festival includes cultural programs such as folk songs and dances (some with black-necked crane themes) and mask dances performed by the local people, crane dances and environmental conservation-themed dramas and songs by school children.

The festival will be held on MON 11 NOV 2019.

Day 01 THU 07 NOV Hong Kong – Bangkok

Depart Hong Kong (HKG) arrive Bangkok (BKK), approx. flying time 03hrs, hotel transfer, overnight Bangkok.

Day 02 FRI 08 NOV Bangkok – Thimphu

Early morning airport transfer, depart Bangkok (BKK) 0500hrs on KB153, arrive Paro (PBH) 0700hrs (approx. flying time 02hrs) your visa will be stamped on your passport at immigration, your guide and driver shall meet and greet you at the exit gate, they shall assist with your luggage and drive you to Thimphu (55km / 1.5hrs).



Buddha Point

Buddha Point at Kuensel Phodrang will be open once completed, this 169 foot bronze statue will symbolize indestructibility. Drive up to the Buddha point and view the tallest Buddha statue, the view of Thimphu valley is spectacular and beautiful, especially at night.

Continue to the **Heritage Museum**, dedicated to connecting people to the Bhutanese rural past through exhibitions of artefacts and rural households. See the **National Memorial Chorten**, built in honor of the late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk.



National Memorial Chorten

Your final point of interest is the **Centenary Farmer's Market**, every SAT and SUN most of the population congregates on the banks of the river where the weekend market is held. Villages from near and far come to sell their agriculture products.

Hotel transfer, overnight Thimphu.

Day 03 SAT 09 NOV Thimphu



Phajoding Monastery

Enjoy breakfast in the comfort of your hotel, your private guide shall escort you on a trek up to **Phajoding Monastery** (approx. 03hrs) followed by a shorter trek down (approx. 02hrs), if time allows you can also trek up **Thuje Dra** and enjoy the possibility of seeing Skull Mountain.

The view from **Phajoding Monastery** and **Thuje Dra** is breathtaking, from Thuje

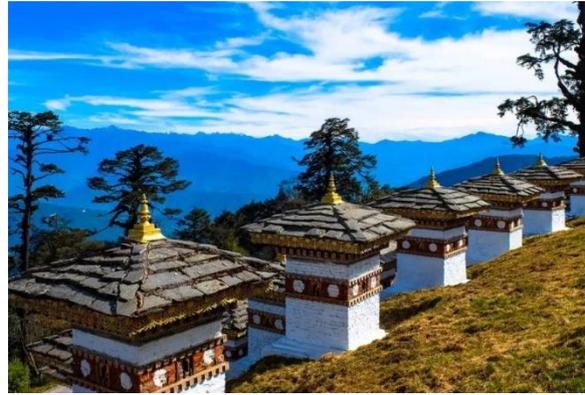
Dra, you can see the Rhododendron bushes stretching into the distance. This trek is part of the Druk Path Trek.

After trekking, you will be transferred back to Thimphu, your private tour takes you to the 12th century **Changangkha Monastery**, the oldest temple in Thimphu. Lama Phajo Drukgom Zhipgo who came to Bhutan from Tibet chose this site to build, housing Chenrizig; an eleven headed, thousand-armed manifestation of Avolokitesawara as the central statue.

In the evening enjoy the art of traditional weaving at the **Textile Museum**. Hotel transfer, overnight Thimphu.

Day 04 SUN 10 NOV Thimphu – Punakha

Breakfast at hotel, transfer to Punakha, on the way visit **Dochula Pass**, an incredible mountain pass in the snow covered Himalayas on the road where 108 memorial chortens or stupas stand.



Dochula Pass

Hike through the deep forest of Rhododendrons, Magnolia and Juniper (approx. 2.5hrs) on your **Dochua La Nature Hike**. Journey to the Botanical Garden at the bottom, see all the wonderful flora and surrounding nature.



Punakha Dzong

See **Punakha Dzong** from the 17th century, the winter home for clergy, a stunning example of Bhutanese architecture, sitting at the fork of two rivers, portraying the image of a medieval city from a distance.

The dzong was destroyed by fire and glacial floods over the years but has been carefully restored and is, today, a fine example of Bhutanese craftsmanship.

Head to **Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten** a splendid example of Bhutanese architecture and art, built over eight and a half years.

Hotel transfer, overnight Punakha.

Day 05 MON 11 NOV Punakha – Gangtey

After breakfast you will be guided to **Valley of Phobjikha**, famous for being home to the Black Necked Crane (Grus Nigricollis). Bhutan is home to around six hundred Black Necked Cranes, Phobjikha is popular for birds migrate to in the winter months from the Tibetan plateau. The elegant and shy birds can typically be observed from early NOV to end MAR. Overlooking Phobjikha Valley is **Gangtey Goenpa**, an old 17th century monastery.



Valley of Phobjikha



Black Necked Crane Festival

Experience and join the annual **Black Necked Crane Festival** celebrated at the courtyard of Gangtey Goenpa. A happy occasion for locals to rejoice and celebrate the arrival of the endangered bird, arranged to generate awareness and understanding of the important of conservation. Cultural programs such as folk songs, dances, marked performances

and more all take place during this celebration.

At the **Black Necked Crane Information Centre** you can find informative displays about the creature and environment. Housing powerful spotting scopes that can be utilized along with a rich library and handicraft shop that usually show videos from 10 AM – 3 PM.

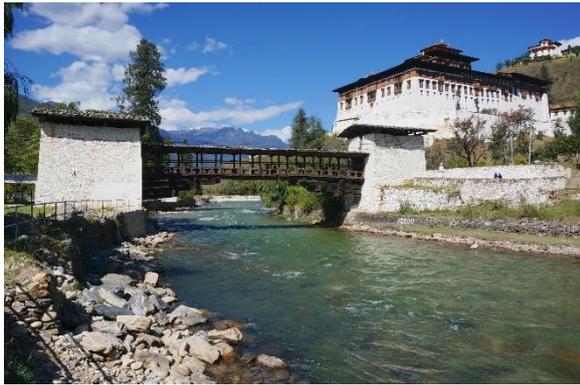


Black Necked Crane Festival

Hotel transfer, overnight Gangtey.

Day 06 TUE 12 NOV Gangtey – Paro

Hotel breakfast, your private tour commences with **Talo Village** located high on the hills above Punakha (elevation approx. 2,800 meters). Scattered along the hill slopes, built on a plateau with a majestic view of surrounding villages. Journey on foot (approx. 20mins) to **Chhimi Lhakhang** across terraced fields through the village of Sopsokha from the roadside to the small temple located on a hillock in the centre of the valley below Metshina.



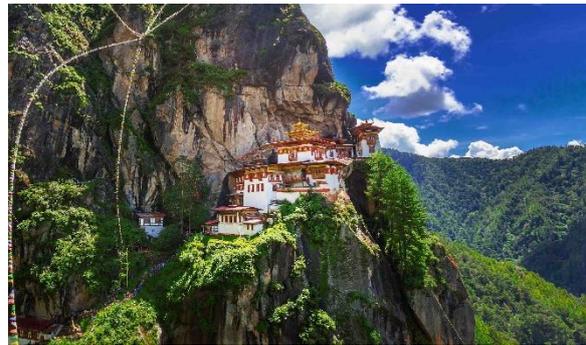
Ta Dzong

Upon your arrival in Paro, visit **Paro Dzong** also known as Rinpung Dzong, this 15th century massive fortress is also the administrative center of the dzongkhag. Explore **Ta Dzong** which was built as a watch tower and since has been converted into the National Museum. The museum boasts antique Thangka, textiles, weapons and more.

Hotel transfer, overnight Paro.

Day 07 WED 13 NOV Paro

Enjoy breakfast in the comfort of your hotel, your tour takes you to **Tiger's Nest** (Taktsang Monastery). Drive to Ramthangka, the base of Taktsang Monastery, the journey normally takes 02hrs to reach the monastery located on the face of a sheer 800 meter rock cliff, considered the most popular tourist attraction in Bhutan. The trail takes you through the ancient path shaded by pine trees, after about an hour of uphill hiking you will reach a cafeteria offering great views of Taktsang Monastery above and the beautiful valley below. Take a break with some tea and snacks.



Tiger's Nest



National Museum of Bhutan

For those who are up for it, hike uphill for approx. 01hrs to visit the monastery, afterwards retrace your steps back to the base where your driver shall be waiting to escort you to the 7th century **Kichu Lhakhang** and **National Museum of Bhutan**. **Kichu Lhakhang** is tucked away just a few minutes drive from the main town of Paro, one of the oldest monasteries in Bhutan.

Hotel transfer, overnight Paro.

Day 08 THU 14 NOV Paro – Bangkok – Hong Kong

After breakfast, hotel transfer, depart Paro (PBH) 0920hrs, arrive Bangkok (BKK) 1330hrs, connecting flight to Hong Kong (HKG).

Package Information

Period of Stay	Package Price Per Adult (HKD)
07– 14 Nov	33,800

Rate based on 02 people travelling together for the entire journey

Package Includes

Economy Class Round Trip Air Tickets to Bangkok by Thai Airway or Cathay Pacific

01 night hotel twin share at Bangkok near International airport

06 nights hotel twin share 4 stars Bhutanese hotel Full Board Basis (excluding beverage)

English speaking Bhutanese guide

Entry permits and fees (around USD40)

Transport including Airport / Hotel transfers

Mineral water on all days out

Bhutanese Government Visa Fees, Taxes and Royalties

Main luggage carried for you and you will only have to carry whatever you require for that days' walks or tours. All single travelers benefit from their own room throughout.

Throughout your stay you have the option to participate in a range of extra Outdoor Activities at an additional charge.

Reservation Conditions

HKD15,000 deposit per person required upon reservation, balance required 03 days after confirmation or deadline set by airline / hotel whichever is earlier, or deposit will be forfeited.

Booking within 07 days before departure, full amount required upon reservation.

No amendment, cancellations and refunds allowed once booking confirmed.

All visitors must apply Visa approx. 07 working days at least.

Passport must have min. 06 months validity, we will not be liable to any matters & losses arising from travel documents.

Remarks

Full payment required upon reservation , no change / refund allowed once confirmed.

Tax will apply for import of cigarette and tobacco even for personal use.

Please note this itinerary is intended as a guide. Local conditions and weather may necessitate variations to the program and can affect the availability of views and panoramas described. Be aware that all times stated are approximate, and may vary with individual and group fitness.

Package Does Not Include

Spending of a personal nature (eg: tips, extra meals, laundry etc.)

Anything else not mentioned under Package Includes