The Western Bhutan Tour

11 Days Itinerary

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu

Upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, you are welcomed by our representative and transferred to your hotel. After check-in, take some time to rest after your journey. Kathmandu is the cultural center of Nepal, known for its old temples, palaces, traditional architecture and busy streets. Depending on your arrival time, you can walk around the neighborhood or look at local shops and cafes. In the evening you meet your tour representative and have a welcome dinner of traditional Nepali food.

Max. Elevation	1,400 m
Duration	30 minutes airport transfer
Accommodation	3-Star Hotel
Meals	Welcome Dinner

Day 2: Kathmandu Valley Sightseeing

After breakfast you set out on a guided tour of the Kathmandu Valley. The day includes Pashupatinath Temple, one of the most sacred Hindu sites in Nepal, and Boudhanath Stupa, a major center of Tibetan Buddhism. You see how Hindu and Buddhist traditions live side by side in the valley. Entrance fees to the included sites are covered. The rest of the day is free to rest before your flight to Bhutan.

Max. Elevation	1,400 m
Duration	Approx. 5-6 hours sightseeing
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast

Day 3: Fly to Paro and Drive to Thimphu

After breakfast you transfer to the airport and fly from Kathmandu to Paro. On a clear day the flight offers views of the Himalayas, weather permitting. After landing in Paro and completing arrival formalities, you meet your Bhutanese guide and drive to Thimphu, the capital. The road follows the river valley through small villages and farmland. In the evening you check in to your hotel and rest.

Max. Elevation	2,350 m (Thimphu)
Duration	Approx. 1 hour flight and 1.5 hours drive
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Full-Day Sightseeing in Thimphu

Today you explore Thimphu, where traditional Bhutanese buildings stand next to a modern city. Sights can include the Buddha Dordenma Statue above the valley, the National Memorial Chorten and Tashichho Dzong. You also visit a local market to see everyday life and handmade goods. Thimphu is a good place to learn how Buddhism shapes daily life in Bhutan.

Max. Elevation	2,350 m
Duration	Approx. 6-7 hours sightseeing
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: Thimphu to Gangtey (Phobjikha Valley)

After breakfast you drive from Thimphu toward Gangtey, crossing Dochula Pass, where 108 memorial chortens stand on the ridge. On a clear day you can see the Himalayan peaks from the pass, depending on the route. The road then descends and climbs again before reaching Phobjikha Valley, a wide glacial valley with forests, hills and traditional villages. In the afternoon you visit Gangtey Monastery. In winter the valley is a habitat for black-necked cranes.

Max. Elevation	3,100 m (Gangtey)
Duration	Approx. 5-6 hours drive
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Gangtey to Punakha

You drive down from Gangtey to the warmer, lower valley of Punakha. Here you visit Punakha Dzong, one of the most impressive fortresses in Bhutan, standing where two rivers meet. The area is known for fertile fields, traditional villages and a long suspension bridge. The afternoon is for walking and for time in the valley.

Max. Elevation	2,900 m
Duration	Approx. 3-4 hours drive
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Punakha to Paro

After breakfast you leave Punakha and drive back toward Paro through the mountain roads you crossed earlier. In Paro you visit historic sites such as Rinpung Dzong and the National Museum of Bhutan. Paro Valley has traditional Bhutanese houses, rice fields and mountain views. You spend the evening resting before tomorrow's hike.

Max. Elevation	2,300 m (Paro)
Duration	Approx. 4-5 hours drive
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Paro and Hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery

This is the main day of the tour. After an early breakfast you hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taktsang), built on a cliff high above Paro Valley. The trail climbs through pine forest and gives wide views over the valley. Vehicles cannot reach the monastery, so the hike is on foot, and you walk at an easy pace. After visiting the monastery you walk back down and return to your hotel.

Max. Elevation	3,120 m
Duration	Approx. 5-6 hours hike
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: Fly from Paro to Kathmandu

After breakfast you transfer to Paro Airport for your flight back to Kathmandu. On arrival you are met by our representative and taken to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to rest, shop or walk around Thamel. The flight depends on weather and flight schedules.

Max. Elevation	2,235 m (Paro)
Duration	Approx. 1 hour flight
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast

Day 10: Free Day in Kathmandu

This is a free day in Kathmandu. You can rest, shop for souvenirs, or visit places you did not see during the first sightseeing day. It is also a good day to repack for your journey home. In the evening you join a farewell dinner.

Max. Elevation	1,400 m
Duration	Free day
Accommodation	Hotel
Meals	Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

Day 11: Departure from Kathmandu

After breakfast you are transferred to Tribhuvan International Airport for your flight home. If you want to stay longer in Nepal, our team can arrange more tours or treks.

Max. Elevation	1,400 m
Duration	30 minutes airport transfer
Accommodation	No
Meals	Breakfast

Cost Include

- Airport pick-up and drop-off in Kathmandu and Bhutan.
- Welcome dinner and farewell dinner.
- Flights to and from Paro.

- All sightseeing in Kathmandu and Bhutan as listed in the itinerary.
- Entrance fees for sightseeing sites, monuments, and museums.
- Required permit fees for monuments and museums.
- Hotel accommodation in Kathmandu and Bhutan.
- Breakfast in Kathmandu and full-board meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) in Bhutan.
- All ground transportation by private coach.
- English-speaking guide throughout the tour.

Cost Exclude

- Nepal entry visa fee.
- International airfare to and from Kathmandu.
- Bhutan visa fee and Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), unless confirmed at booking.
- Travel insurance.
- Lunch and dinner in Kathmandu, except the welcome and farewell dinners.
- Personal expenses such as bar bills and laundry.
- Tips for guides and drivers.
- Single room supplement.
- Any services or expenses not specifically mentioned under the cost includes section.