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### Bhutan Cultural Tour

Bhutan's tradition and culture are very much alive in its language & literature, arts & crafts, drama, music, architecture, and basic social interactions. Traditional age-old ceremonies, religious festivals, and belief systems continue to have a special significance in the daily lives of the people. The best way to relish the rich flora and fauna, culture and etiquette, people and lifestyle and to get a taste of the real Bhutan is through a cultural tour. In the comfort of your personal car or coach you drive scenic towns, villages and forests with comfortable nights in clean quality hotels approved by the Tourism Department for their standards. We will give you the best of Bhutan in comfort. Wherever possible we can organize cultural shows for you to heighten your experience and letting you get a feel of the Bhutanese hospitality. Better still, we can arrange for you to attend real festivals which are witnessed by many Bhutanese. The best way to do a cultural tour is to time your trip with the many festivals that take place all over Bhutan, all year round. Bhutanese festivals are truly unique. The religious dances at these festivals are attended by hundreds of devoted Bhutanese dressed in their beautiful multi-colored dresses. The Tshechus in Paro, Thimphu and Bumthang (including the Jambay Lhakhang Drub) are the some of the most popular ones.

Price:

Trip Start:

Trip Ends:

Duration: 4 Days

Grade: Easy

Altitude:

Destination:

Trip Style:

Transport:

Group Size: 1 - 40+

Best Time: Whole Year

### **Itinerary**

Day	Title	Description
1	<u>Paro – Thimphu</u>	The flight to Bhutan offers scenic views of some world's highest peaks. Paro is at an altitude of 2280m above sea level and this valley serves as an ideal area for rice, apple, wheat, potatoes and vegetable growing. Our representative will receive you at Paro airport, and after completion of arrival formalities we take a scenic drive to Bhutan's capital, Thimphu, which is about 90 minutes drive.

- 2      Thimphu Sightseeing in Thimphu valley      National Library, which holds a vast collection of ancient Buddhist texts and manuscripts, some dating back several hundred years, as well as modern academic books mainly on Himalayan culture and religion; Institute for Zorig Chusum (commonly known as Painting School) where students undertake a six-year course on the 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan; Textile and Folk Heritage Museum: These museums, both of which opened in 2001, provide fascinating insights into Bhutanese material culture and way of life. National Memorial Chorten: The building of this landmark was envisaged by the third king, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, as a monument to world peace and prosperity. Completed in 1974 after his untimely death, it is both a memorial to the Late King (“the Father of modern Bhutan”) and a monument to world peace. The paintings and statues inside the monument provide a deep insight into Buddhist philosophy. Trashichhodzong: This impressive fortress/monastery houses Secretariat building, the throne room of His Majesty, the King and various government offices. It is also the summer residence of Chief Abbot and central monk body. Handicrafts Emporium: This government-run enterprise displays a wide range of beautifully hand-woven textiles and craft products. It also carries a small collection of books on Bhutan, Buddhism and Himalayan culture. Bhutan Posts: Bhutan is much known for its colorful stamps on varying themes, The display gallery offers a good opportunity to pick up postcards and stamps. In the evening explore the vibrant Thimphu Bazaar. Weekend add-ons Visit Thimphu weekend market where farmers from all over Bhutan come to this market place to sell their products. It’s an interesting place to visit, where village people jostle with well-heeled Thimphu residents for the best bargains on vegetables and foodstuffs.
- 3      Thimphu-Paro      Early morning drive towards Paro. Then visit Ta Dzong which houses the National Museum and visit Paro Rimpung Dzong. On the way down cross the 16th century cantilever bridge. Drugyel Dzong(victory fortress ), built in 1647 is 18 kilometers away from Paro town. Explore the magnificent ramparts of the erstwhile fortress which defended the country against several incursions. On a clear day one can also view the sacred Mount Jomolhari, (24,000 ft) from the northern battlements. Visit to a farm house and observe the traditional Bhutanese way of life & living
- 4      Paro- Airport      Transfer to Paro Airport. Check in two hours prior to flight departure to ensure the best seats on board. Our representative will escort you upto Paro Airport.