



# All Bhutan Odyssey

## 14days

### Itinerary Overview

**Day 01:** ARRIVE PARO – PARO



**Day 02:** PARO – PARO



**Day 03:** PARO - THIMPHU



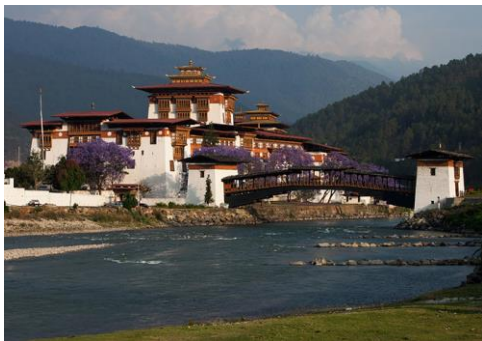
**Day 04:** THIMPHU – THIMPHU



**Day 05:** THIMPHU– PUNAKHA



**Day 06:** PUNAKHA – TRONGSA



**Day 07:** TRONGSA – BUMTANG





**Day 08:** BUMTANG – BUMTANG



**Day 09:** BUMTANG – MONGAR



**Day 10:** MONGAR – MONGAR



**Day 11:** MONGAR – TRASHIGANG



**Day 12:** TRASHIGANG – TRASHIYANGTSI



**Day 13:** TRASHIYANGTSI – SAMDRUPJONGKHAR



**Day 14:** SAMDRUPJONGKHAR – GAUHATI(FLY OUT)



Bhutan has one foot in the 21st century and the other planted right back in the medieval ages. As such, the country draws much of its identity from its ancient culture, customs and traditions, the kind of which the rest of the world has lost a long time ago. Culture is Bhutan's biggest tourist attraction.

Starting this year, Nortor Adventures has combined its cultural itinerary with other finer aspects of Bhutanese way of life, which are enthralling but little known to the outsiders.



One such aspect is the ancient wisdom behind phallus symbols and fertility worship. This tour will introduce our guests to this age-old belief and the role it plays in modern-day Bhutan while also providing glimpses into the mainstream Bhutanese culture as in the Buddhist influences, art, craft and architecture, food and cuisine, language, customs, etc.

### HIGHLIGHT OF THE GLIMPLSE OF BHUTAN TOUR

- ✓ Spectacular views of Mt Everest (8,848 m), Kanchenjunga (8,586m) and Lhotse (8,414 m); and a literal adrenaline-pumping landing on the roof of the world.
- ✓ A panoramic view of the snow-capped eastern Himalayas and a multitude of alpine flowers and birds; Bhutan's ancient capital and Temple of Fertility.
- ✓ Hike to the Tiger's Lair, the most famous Buddhist monastery in the Himalayas, built on a sheer rock face.

### ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES

- ✓ Each guests receives traditional Bhutanese dress to wear during the course of the stay
- ✓ Visit a farmhouse for dinner with a Bhutanese family
- ✓ A specially cultural show to see Bhutan's finest performing art traditions
- ✓ Use of meditation facility in company's altar room
- ✓ Buddhist teaching, if required, by a renowned master
- ✓ Try traditional archery, Bhutan's national sport, and dart throw

### VALUE ADDED OPTIONS

- ✓ GNH talk by expert
- ✓ Bhutanese foods Cooking lessons
- ✓ Textile dyeing process
- ✓ A farming experience and homestay program with a family

### BHUTAN PACKAGES INCLUDES:

- ✓ USD 65 Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) and Taxes
- ✓ Bhutan Visa fees and permit fees
- ✓ Accommodation at 3 star hotels on twin sharing base
- ✓ All meals and bottled water daily
- ✓ A professional English speaking tour guide.
- ✓ Private luxury Transport with air - conditioned throughout your journey.
- ✓ All entrance fees and sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- ✓ Trekking equipment, yaks and ponies are included.

## NOT INCLUDED:

- Travel Insurance, Personal equipment, telephone calls, internet, laundry
- Personal expenses such as a drinks, beverages, tips and gratitude
- Supplement for trekking is not includes
- Single room Supplement

Name of the tour: All-Bhutan Odyssey

Starting Point: Paro, western Bhutan

Exit Point: via SamdrupJongkhar, southeast Bhutan, for onward flight from Guwahati, Assam

Best Season: March through May, & September through November

Highlights: Festivals, History, Culture, Lifestyle, GNH, Flora and Fauna, Landscape

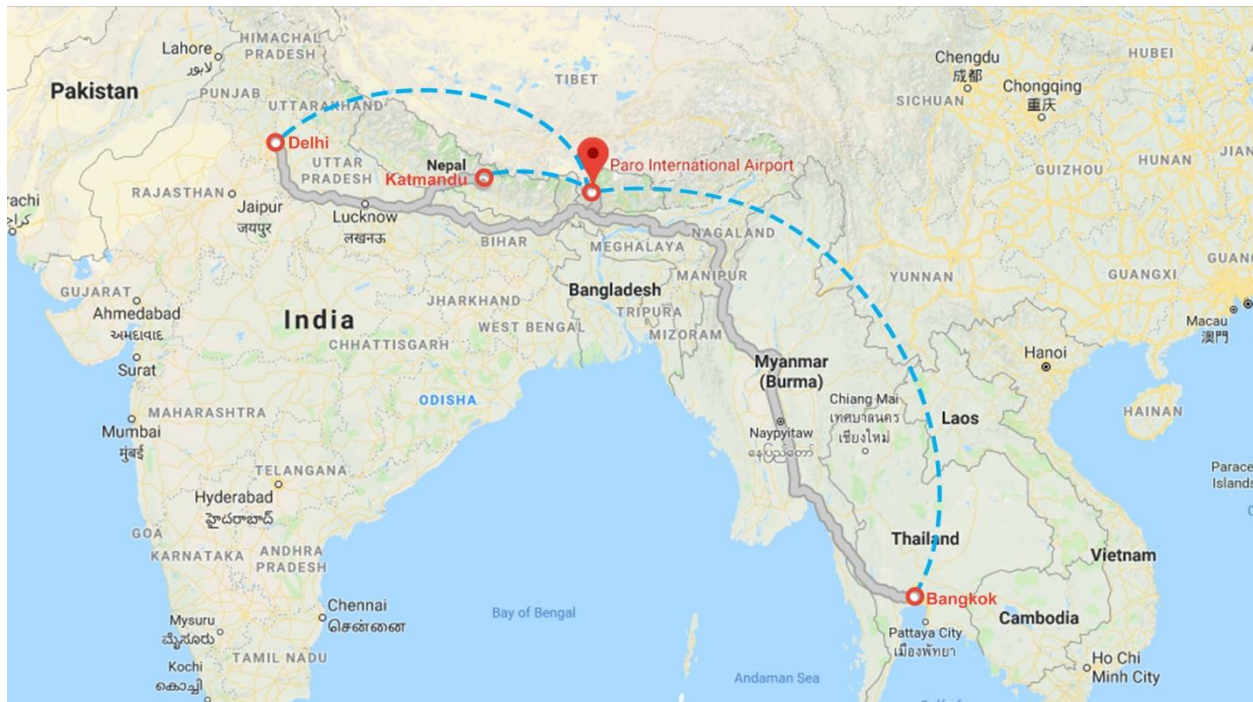
### Highlight for this trip:

- \* Our company provides gho and kira for the group
- \* Traditional farmhouse and dinner at farmhouse with family
- \* Cultural show
- \* We arrange the traditional sport archery of Bhutan to our clients
- \* We have meditation room for guest in our office; we can arrange Buddhist teaching by inviting Rimpochhes
- \* We arrange fortuneteller master if our guest want to see their future and pass

## Summary

This is a cultural-tour equivalent of Bhutan's most challenging trekking route, the Snow Man Trek in the high Himalayas. In 16 days, the tour will traverse through the historical and cultural bastions of the Kingdom, starting from the entry in western Bhutan and all the way to the east, descending to the Indian plains via south-eastern districts and finally exiting via Guwahati, the capital of the Indian state of Assam. The beauty and majesty of this tour is that it provides a very comprehensive picture of the Kingdom – apart from history and culture, the different lifestyles of the people in each valley not to speak of immeasurable natural beauty and a plethora of flora and fauna along the way.

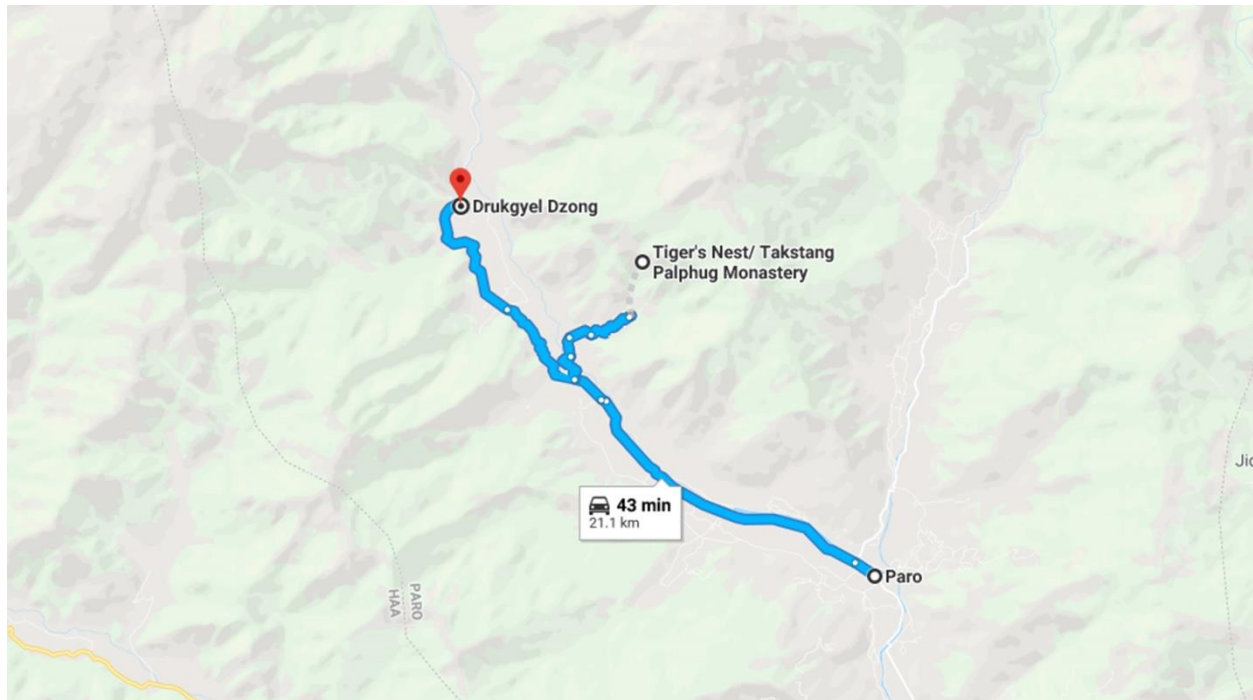
## Day 01: Bangkok/Delhi/Katmandu – Paro



Highlights: Spectacular views of Mt Everest (8,848 m), Kanchenjunga (8,586m) and Lhotse (8,414 m); and a literal adrenaline-pumping landing on the roof of the world.

Travel by Druk Air, Bhutan's national airline, to Paro, the country's only international airport. The flight is exhilarating to say the least, as the route traverses parallel to the mighty Himalayas enabling passengers to see the world's highest peak, Mt Everest, and many more. The descent affords a panoramic view of Bhutan's foothills culminating into a thrilling landing at what is considered one of the world's most challenging airports. Meet your guide at the airport and head to the hotel for lunch. Devote the afternoon to sightseeing around the Paro valley famed for its natural beauty, historical monuments, agricultural farms and quintessentially Bhutanese village communities. Visit the National Museum, formerly a watchtower, and then the Castle on a Heap of Precious Jewels or Rinpung Dzong. Wind up the day with a stroll around Paro town. Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 02: Discovering Paro Valley



Highlights: Hike to the Tiger's Lair, the most famous Buddhist monastery in the Himalayas, built on a sheer rockface.

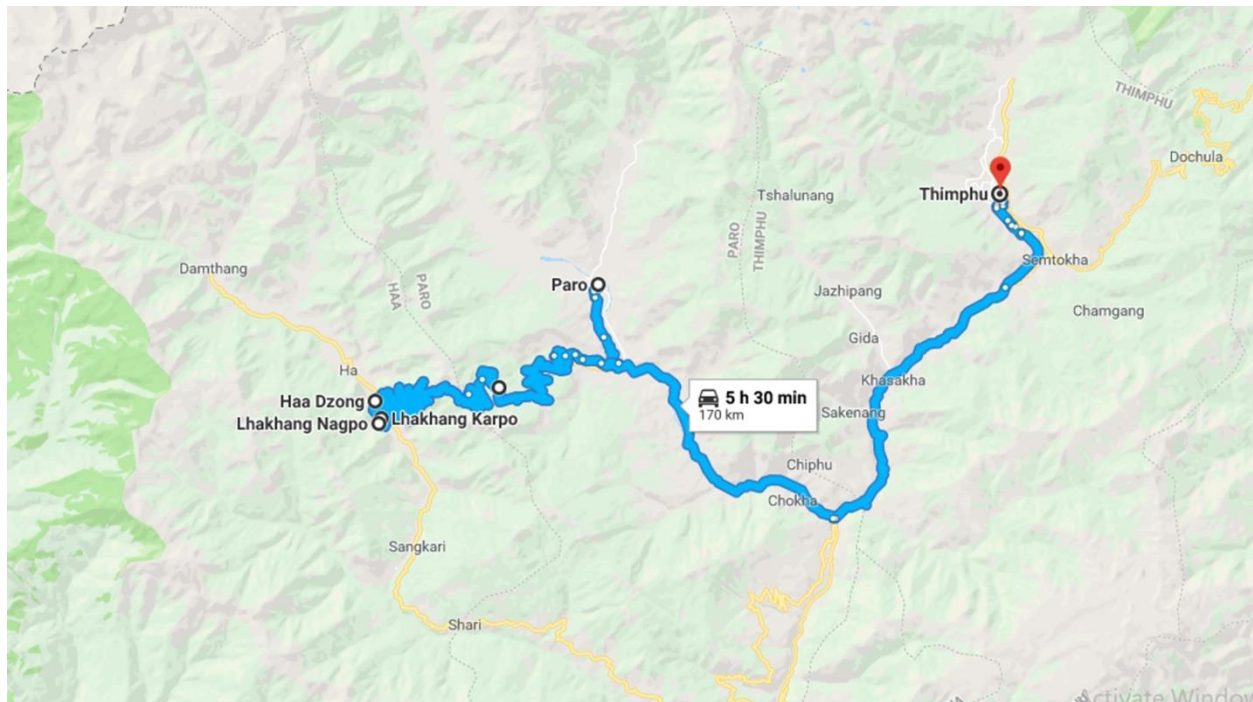
After breakfast, drive for half an hour and start hiking up to the temple that is renowned in the Himalayan Buddhist world as one of the most popular sites of pilgrimage. The five-hour round trip follows an ancient but oft-trodden footpath flanked by water-driven prayer wheels.

The temple, precariously perched on a hair-raising ravine about 1,000 metres above the valley floor, is considered sacrosanct as it was in a cave within this temple that the eight century tantric saint, Padmasambhava, subdued the evils who obstructed the teachings of the Buddha. The saint is believed to have come to Taktshang in a fiery wrathful form riding a tigress. Over the years, many Buddhist saints have meditated in and around the temple and discovered numerous hidden treasure teachings.

Visit the ruins of DrugyelDzongenroute. The fortress known as the "Castle of the Victorious Drukpa", is a symbol of Bhutan's victory over the Tibetan invasions in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. We can also get a view of the sacred mountain, Jumolhari, along the way. On the way back to our hotel, we will visit the 7<sup>th</sup> century Kyichu Temple, believed to have been built on a place that resembled a knee of a giant ogress. Overnight at hotel.



## Day 03: Paro – Haa Valley - Thimphu



**Highlight:** Haa remains one of the least visited areas in the country and retains the air of an unspoiled, primeval forest. This valley only opened to foreigners in 2002 due to its proximity to the border with Sikkim and Tibet. This unspoiled valley harks back to a simpler, more traditional time, and its wooded hills give us an ideal setting for hiking and mountain biking. There are several pleasant walking trails in Haa and biking on the virtually traffic free valley to visit local areas of interest and village homes is an enjoyable way to spend the day.

We start the day early for the drive to Haa via Chele-la pass. After driving 4 km. to Bondey village, we take a side road and begin the steep climb up the hillside to Chele-la (3,810m/12,573ft), reaching the pass after a 45 km. drive upwards through blue pine & rhododendron forest. On a clear day there is a superb view of Mts. Chomolhari and Jichu Drake from this point, so if the weather is favorable we will stop here briefly to stroll around and enjoy the lovely mountain scenery. Then continue on to Haa (2670m/8,811ft), descending all the way for another 22 km., finally reaching Haa after about an hour drive.

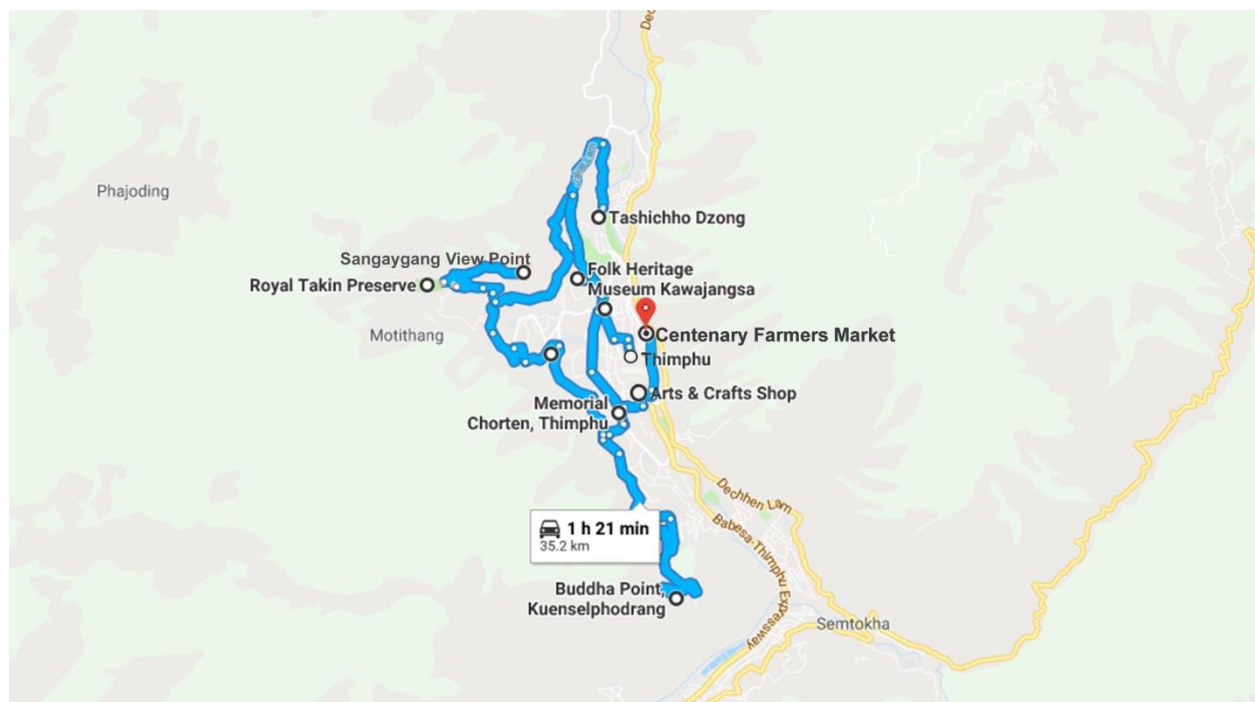
After a picnic lunch by the river near the new Haa Dzong, we visit two famous monasteries, Lhakhang Karpo (White Temple) and Lhakhang Nagpo (Black Temple). The central shrine in Lhakhang Nagpo is said to be almost identical to that of the Jowo temple in Lhasa. Legend has it that local deities assisted in the construction of Lhakhang Karpo. As a result, the place came to be locally known as “Ha” (meaning “surprise”) which later became a due to varying interpretations and pronunciations over time.

The three giant hills looming over the fringes of Haa valley were called “Me Rig Puen Sum” especially after the event of the LhakhangKarmo construction. Today the three hills are popularly known as ‘RigSumGonpa signifying three deities, Jambayang, ChanaDorji and Chenrezig (known in Sanskrit as Manjushri, Varjapani and Avalokiteshvara, respectively). These are the three principal bodhisattvas (Buddhas to be) among the thousand future Buddhas to come, and representations of them are to be found in every Lhakhang (temple) and household shrine room.

Later, other Buddhist saints like Guru Rinpoche and ‘MachiLabdorn’ came to this place, Jungney Drag, in Haa and blessed the locality. After ShabdrungNgawangNamgyal unified the country under the Drukpa Kagyupa sect of Mahayana Buddhism in the early 17th century, the chief guardian deity of Haa became ApChundu.

We leave for Thimphu (109 km.) in the late afternoon, traveling by the lower road which follows the river and passing two dzongs en route, at Betikha (34 km. from Haa) and at Dobji (65 km. from Haa). We reach Thimphu in the evening, and overnight at hotel

#### Day 04: A Sojourn in Thimphu

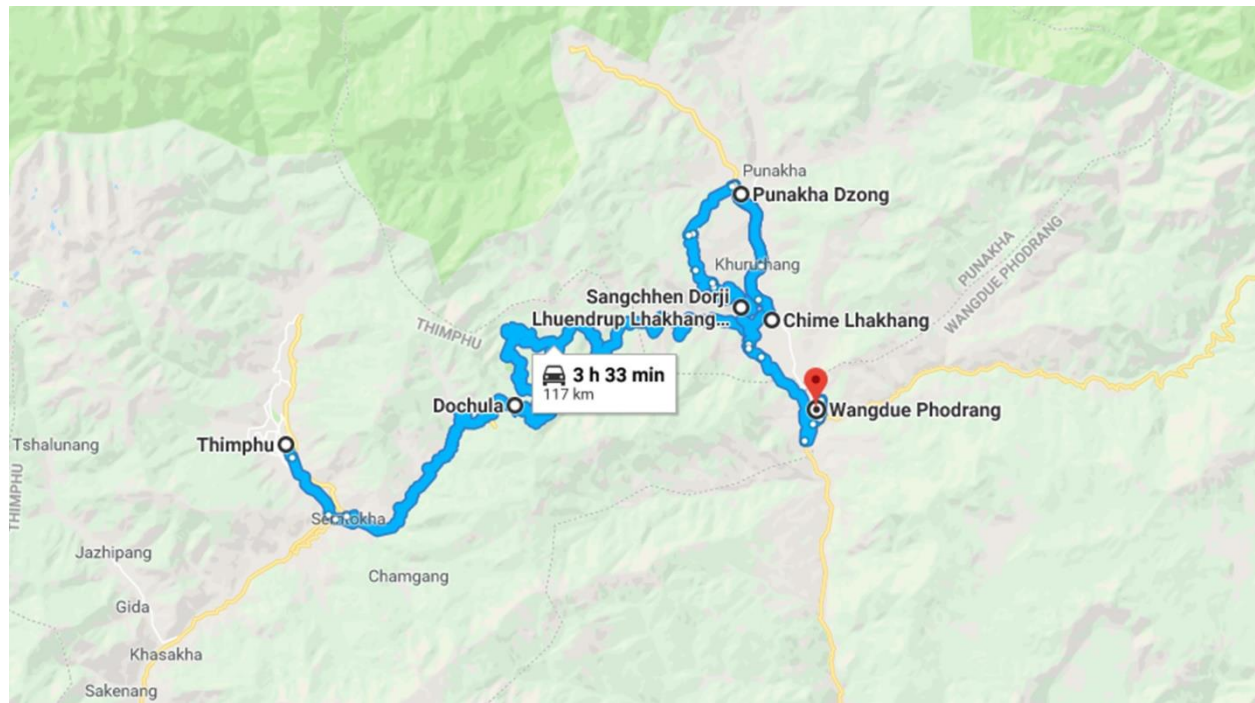


Highlights: The power centre and the capital city of the Happy Kingdom. Also the hub of commerce and culture.

There are great many places to see in Bhutan’s capital. In the morning we will drive to Buddha Point which provides a spectacular 360 degree close-quarter view of entire Thimphu and the adjoining areas. This is the site of the world’s tallest statue of Shakyamuni Buddha. Our next destination is the 12<sup>th</sup> century Changangkha Temple, Takin Zoo and the viewpoint at Sangaygang. On our way back, we stopover at a nunnery, the Folk Heritage Museum and the Textile Museum.

After lunch, we will proceed to TashichhoDzong, a 17<sup>th</sup> century castle-fortress which today houses the offices of the King, Chief Abbot and government ministries. We will also take the opportunity to see the nearby parliament complex, the School of Arts and Crafts, vegetable market, and then spend the rest of the day watching an archery match and strolling around the town.

### Day 05: Thimphu – Punakha/Wangdi



Distance: 77 kilometres, Time: 3 hours

Highlights: A panoramic view of the snow-capped eastern Himalayas and a multitude of alpine flowers and birds; Bhutan's ancient capital and Temple of Fertility.

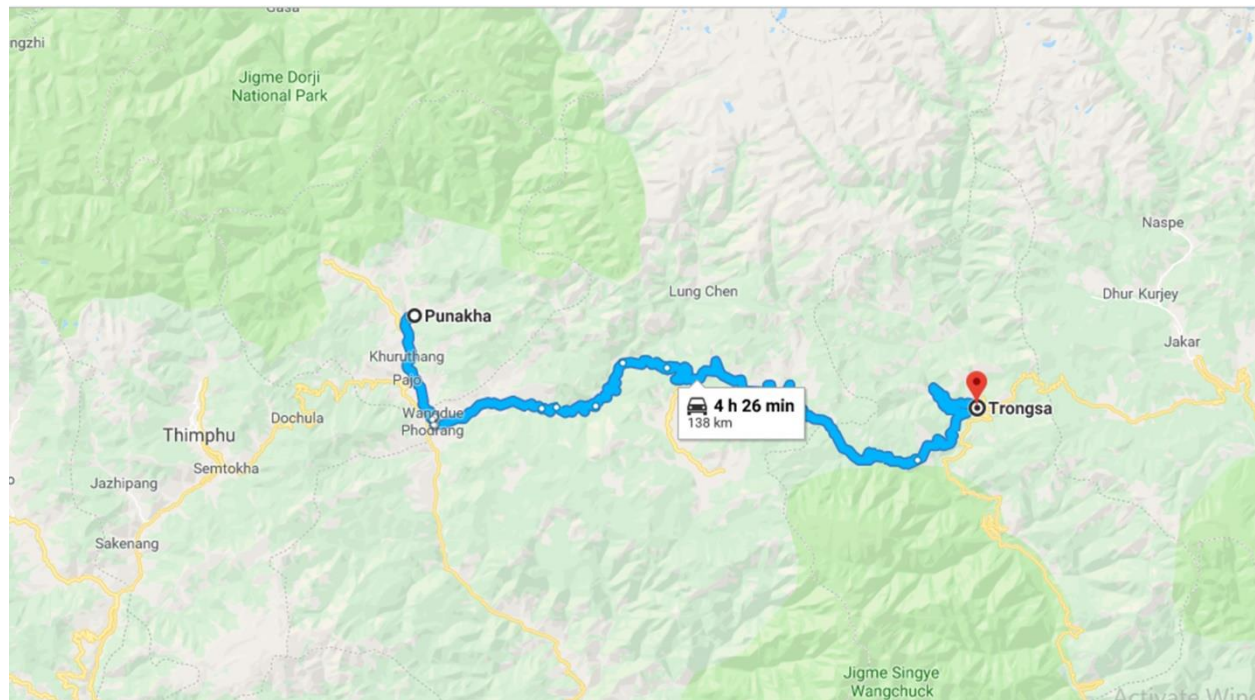
The three to four-hour drive from Thimphu traverses through a constantly changing kaleidoscope of vegetation, waterfalls, flowers, mountains and meadows. In about 45 minutes we will reach the famous Dochula pass (3,100m) where on a clear day we can see the entire eastern Himalayan range, teeming with 6,000m to 7,554m snow-capped mountains. The pass also known for its abundant species of extremely beautiful flowers has 108 Buddhist stupas exquisitely built around a mound, adding to the natural splendor of the place.

From the pass we descend to the sub-tropical valley of Punakha. Punakha served as the ancient capital of capital and still possesses the country's main treasures in the form of Buddhist relics. Resembling a gigantic ship on an ocean floor from afar, and girdled by two (Male and Female) rivers, the castle-fortress also represents the best specimen of Bhutanese architecture.



After lunch in a small nearby village together with a rural farming household, we will walk along a footpath flanked by an endless view of ripening paddy fields to the Temple of Fertility – ChimiLhakhang. This temple, built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century to honour the “Divine Madman”, a saint iconoclast who is also associated with phallus worship, attracts barren couples from all over to receive fertility blessings from an anointed phallus.  
Night halt in Punakha

## Day 06: Punakha/Wangdue – Trongsa



Distance: 120 km; Time: 6 hours

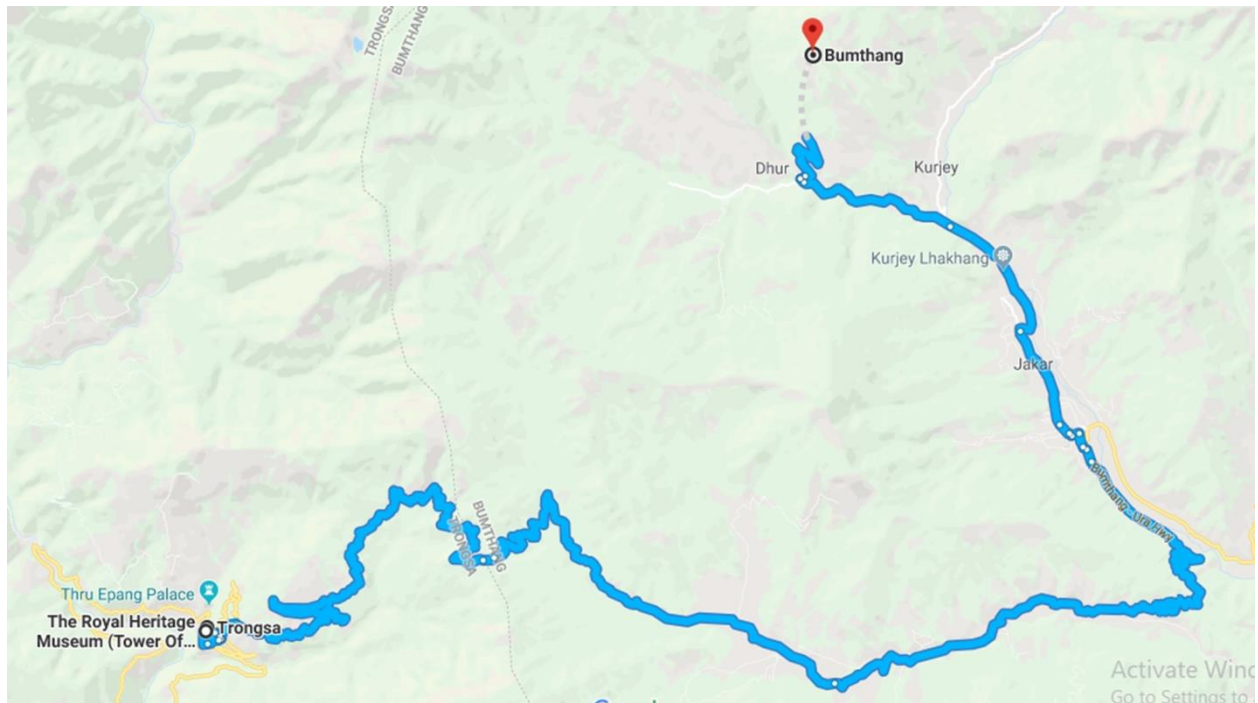
Highlights: Landscape, semi-nomads, diverse vegetation, and sighting of high altitude birds and animals enroute

Before heading for Trongsa in central Bhutan, we will visit the ruins and reconstruction work underway at Wanduephodrang, a fortress which was built in 1638 but was gutted in 2012. We take a short leisurely stroll in Wangdue town. If lucky, we might be able to sight the White-Bellied Heron cavorting on the river bank. This is one of the rarest birds in the world.

The journey to Trongsa is a gentle climb, from the sub-tropical to the sub-alpine region with the highest point at Pelela Pass (3,300m) Consequently, we will notice the vegetation transform right before our eyes. To reach the pass, we will be skirting the periphery of the world’s largest winter habitat of the exotic and the rare Black-Necked Crane. Pelela pass itself is historically significant as the boundary between eastern and western Bhutan before the country was unified. From Pelela we drop to the slightly lower valleys inhabited by the semi-nomads who live off yaks and whose lifestyles have largely resisted the forces of modernization.

After lunch at the 18<sup>th</sup> century Chendebji, a replica of the Boudanath Stupa in Nepal, we continue eastward to Trongsa proper, the bastion of the powerful governors in ancient Bhutan who eventually unified the country and became the progenitors of Bhutan's hereditary monarchy.  
Night Halt in Trongsa.

## Day 07: Trongsa – Bumthang

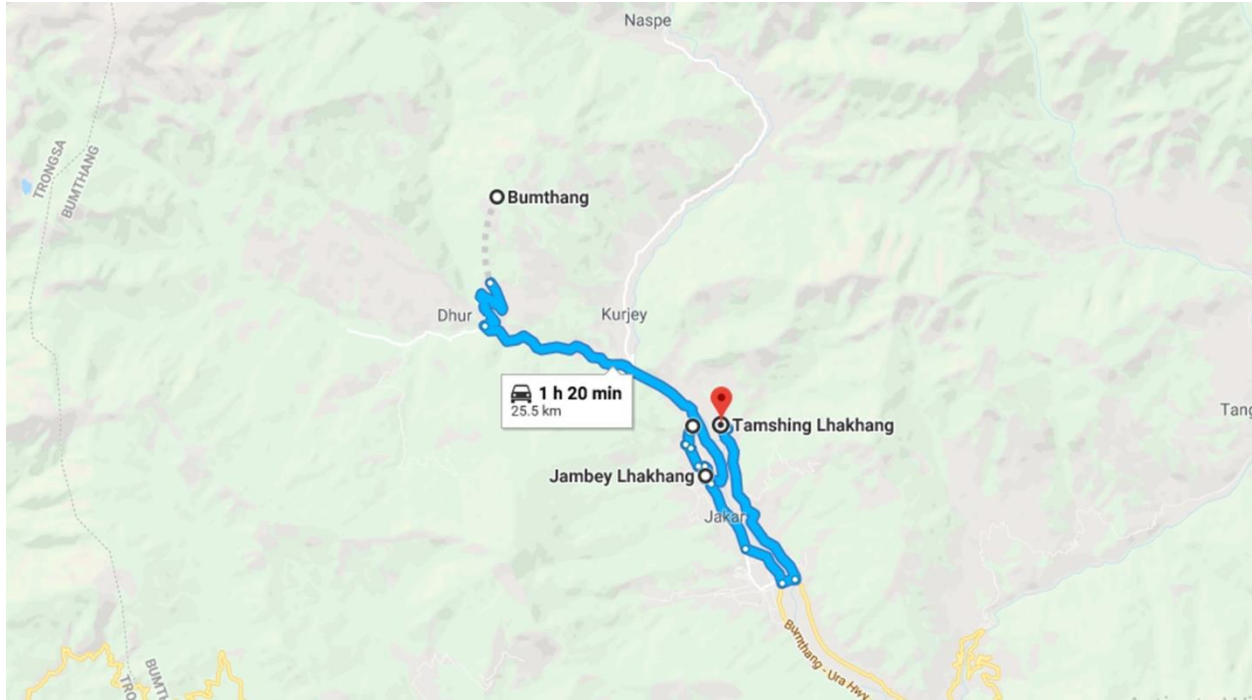


Distance: 70 km; time: 3 hours

Highlights: Trongsa palace-fortress, Black Mountain range, and local textile  
We begin our day with a visit to Trongsa Dzong, the biggest palace-fortress in the Kingdom reputed to have been built without using a single iron nail. This fortress has for centuries been the vanguard of powerful warriors, one of whom even led successful expeditionary forces against British-Indian army in the southern boundaries of his domain. We complete our Trongsa sojourn with a visit to the Watch Tower, Ta dzong, which is today preserved as the Museum of Bhutanese Kings.

The drive to Bumthang is initially an upward ascent for nearly half the journey till we reach the highest point at Yotong La pass (3,400 m). After a brief stopover to view the Black Mountain range, we drive towards Chumey entering the country's most expansive and beautiful valley known as Bumthang or a Meadow of Beautiful Vase. The women of Chumey are known for their skills in weaving the exquisite Yathra – a clothing with intricate floral patterns woven out of sheep's wool.  
Night halt in Bumthang.

## Day 08: Stopover in Bumthang



Highlights: Monuments and structures which bring alive the exploits of saints and kings. This is the valley of myths and legends. One of the oldest surviving man-made structures in Bhutan, a temple dedicated to Buddha Shakyamuni, Jambay Lhakhang, was built in 639 AD as part of an oath by Tibetan emperor Songsten Gampo to subdue a demoness who lay spread-eagled across the Himalayas obstructing the teachings of the Buddha. Our next visit will be the Castle of the White Bird (Jakar Dzong) whose central tower (utse) is the tallest in Bhutan. The castle currently serves as the administrative centre for the district.

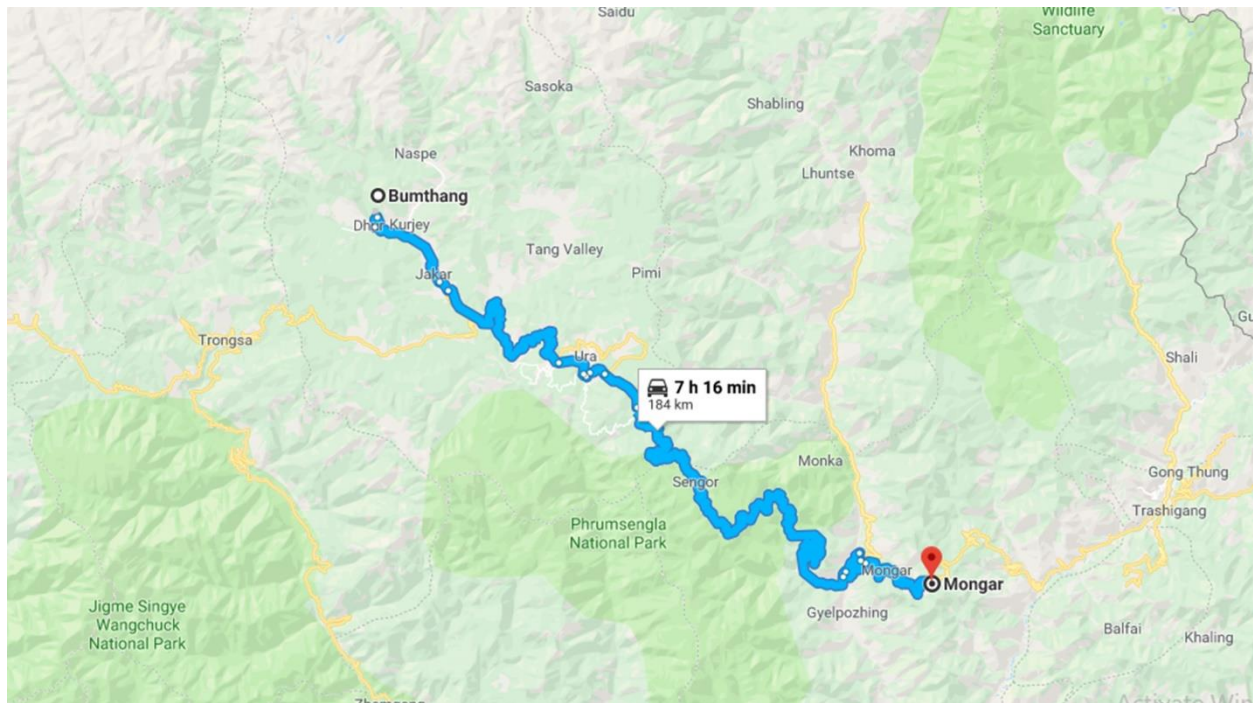
From Jakar, we drive a short distance to Chakhar and then to Kurjey Lhakhang. Albeit oblivious today, Chakhar is the site of the legendary “Nine-Storied Iron Castle” built by Sindhu Raja (king) in the 8<sup>th</sup> century and the innumerable myths surrounding it. Kurjey, meaning “Body Imprint on Rock”, has temples built against a wall of cliff. The imprint belongs to the 8<sup>th</sup> century saint Padmasambhava who meditated in a rock cave and, using his tantric powers as well as guile and guise, subdued the evils who tormented the people in the vicinity.

After lunch at our hotel, we drive to Tamzhang monastery which preserves the remains of the works of Tertön Pema Lingpa who, in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, discovered many secret tantric teachings hidden by Padmasambhava. Pema Lingpa was an artist and sculptor extraordinaire but, more importantly, one of the five “King Tertons” – treasure revealers – of Vajrayana Buddhism. Our last visit for the day is the “Burning Lake” in Tang where Pema Lingpa, challenged by a local warlord, took a dive into a pool with a lighted butter lamp on his head and re-emerged from the lake with the lamp intact and holding a hitherto unknown statue in his hands.



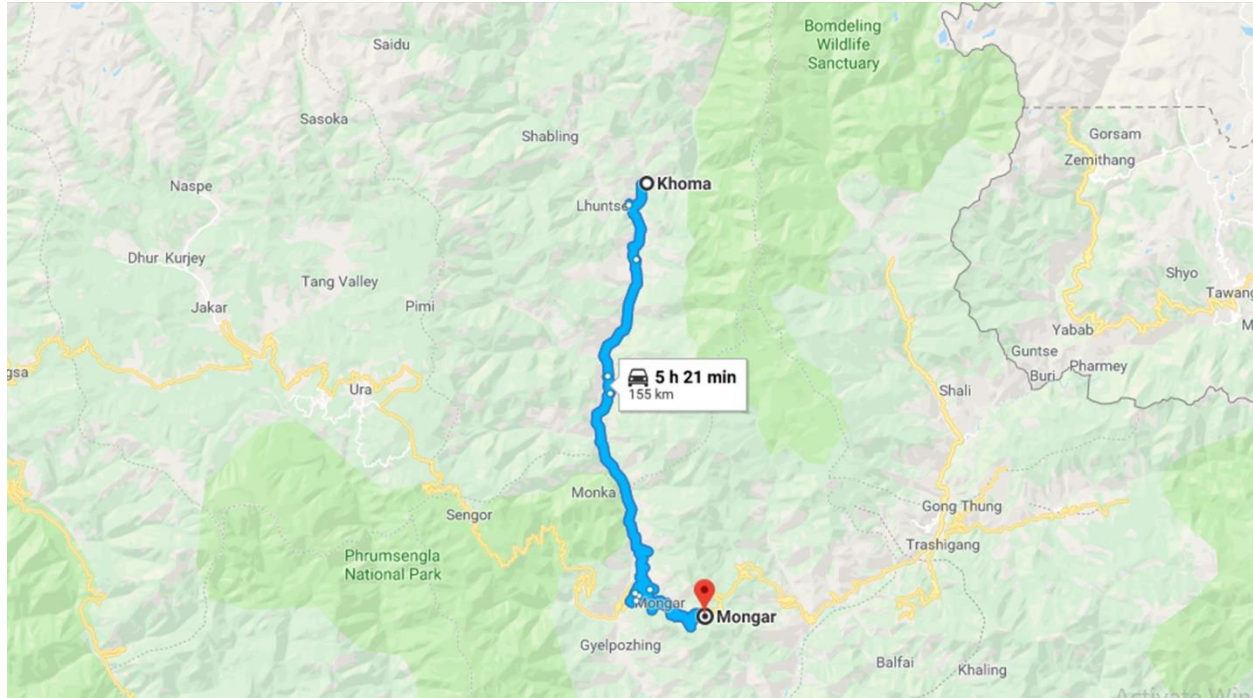
Night halt in Bumthang.

### Day 09: Bumthang to Mongar via Ura valley (Central to East)



Today we have a long drive about 193 km, it take 8 to 9 hours drive. Enroute visit MembarTsho (Burning Lake), where some of Guru Rimpoche's treasures were found in the 15th century by the famous treasure discover PemaLingpa. It's a good place to meditate. On the way you will really enjoy the scenery of nature beauty of Snowcap Mountains, flowers, yak and deep forest, you'll make a stop in URA valley for view of temple and village. Ura Village has a medieval look to it because of the cobblestone streets, and the typical clothing of the women includes a sheepskin shawl. Sengor Valley separates Central from Eastern Bhutan. Eastern Bhutan is the least traveled area of the country and is where many of the kingdom's most ancient spiritual sights are found. Begin your journey to the East is one of the most beautiful. Out of Ura, the highway climbs steeply to Thrumshing La (the second highest pass, 3,800m-12,465ft.) along the West to East highway. The descent from Thrumshing La to Lingmithang is amazing for a number of reasons. The road drops from 3,800 meters to 650 meters in only a few hours passing from pine forest through semi-tropical forest to orange groves. Arriving at Mongar marks the beginning of your eastern Bhutan experience. Many towns in eastern Bhutan are built on the sides of the hills which contrast to the west where they develop on the valley floor. MongarDzong was built in 1953 by the orders of the Third King, JigmeDorjeWangchuck. Overnight at the hotel.

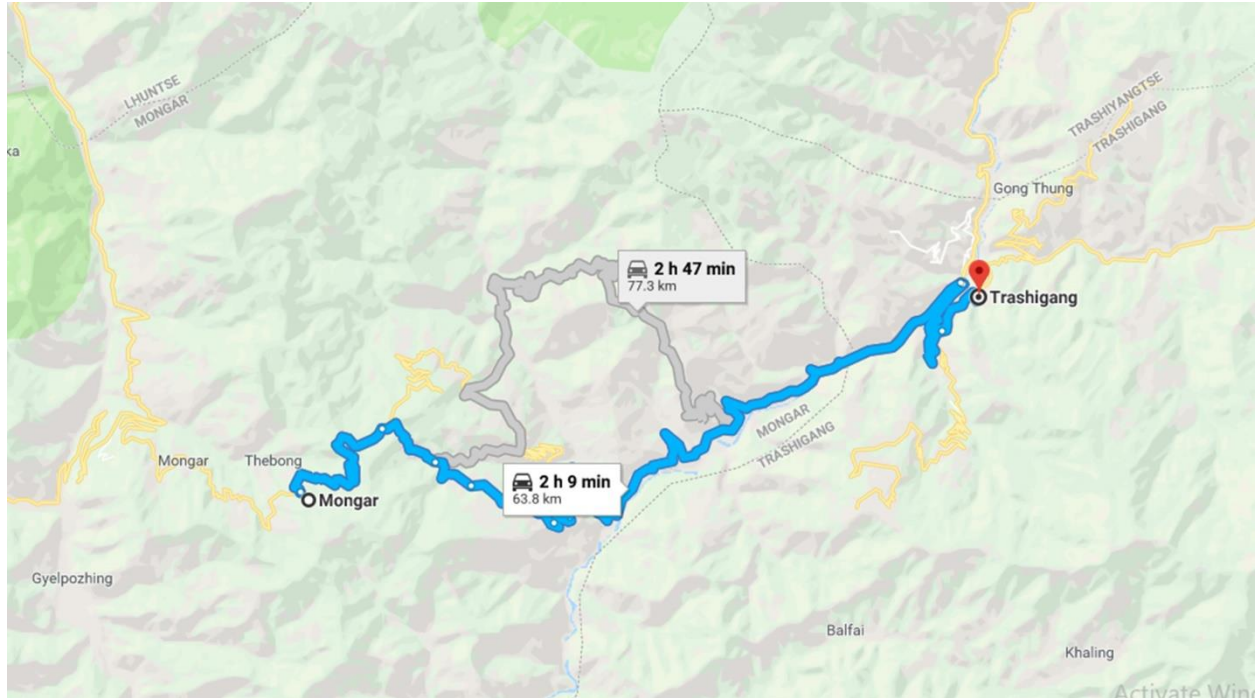
## Day 10: Excursion to Lhuntse (KHOMA VILLAGE).



Lhuntse is one of the most rural and isolated districts in Bhutan. The landscape is spectacular with stark cliffs and gorges, beautiful conifer and pine forests, and remote villages with rice, millet and cornfields. Kurtoe region of Lhuntse is the ancestral home of kingdom's royal family. An hour's brisk walk from the bridge on the main Lhuntse-Mongar road will bring us to Khoma, the best-known weaving village in the country.

Visit Khoma, the best-known weaving village in the country. This region is also famed for its weavers and special textiles, considered to be the best in the country. The living art of Bhutanese weaving done with the same technologies and applications as the weavers of earlier centuries, have the degree of sophistication to match any weaving tradition in the world. We will explore some of the very interesting small villages and ancient temples by foot. Enjoy picnic lunch in Lhuntse and drive back to Mongar for overnight halt. Total drive for about 5-6 hours. Overnight at Guest House, Mongar.

## Day 11: Mongar to Trashigang



After breakfast drive about 93 km it take 3 hour drive, morning visit the Mongar Dzong. Begin your trip to Trashigang, passing through several villages. In the afternoon, you can visit Trashigang Dzong and stroll through the town, absorbing the culture of eastern Bhutan. lunch at Trashigang. Afternoon drive to Ranjung and visit the Yoesel Choeling monastery and process further up to Radhi villages

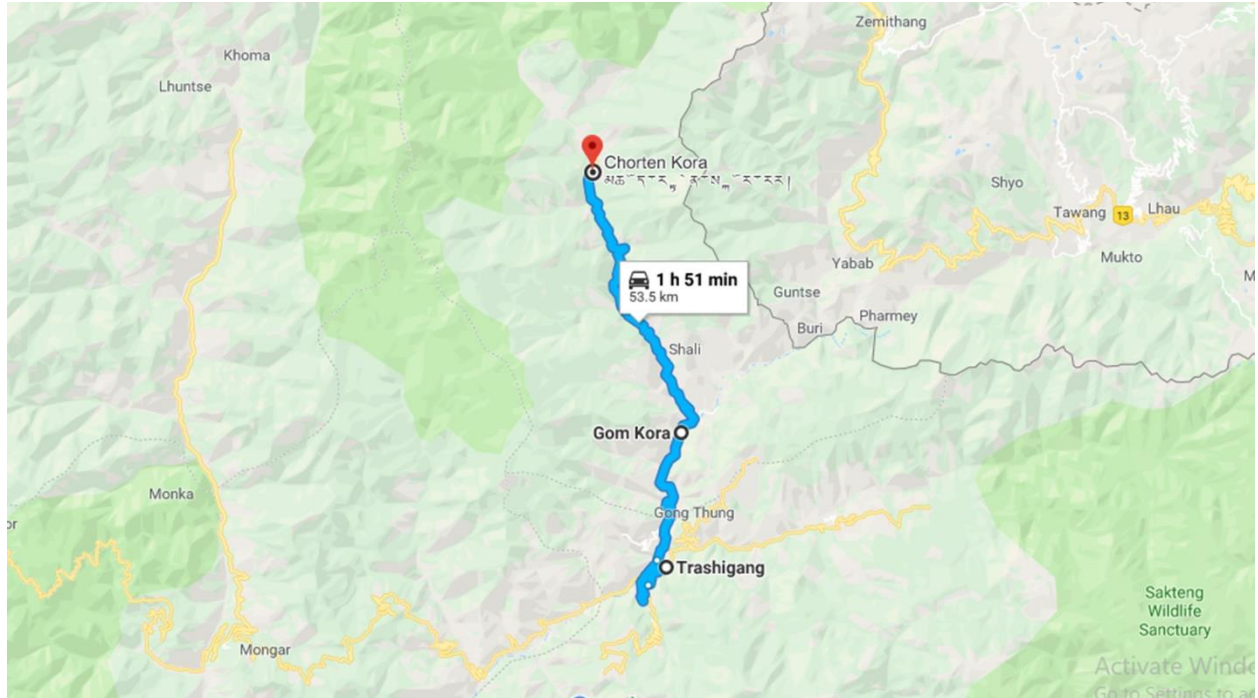
AM: Radhi is a well-known community in the east for the production of bura (raw silk) textiles and also known *rice bowl of the East*. Textile production has become a major income source for the people of Radhi, especially in the off-agricultural seasons. Around 200 households here are dependent upon bura weaving and all use the traditional back-strap loom.

**The women will demonstrate how to make colours of the Bura (raw silk).**

Evening drives back to Trashigang and walk around town.  
(BLD) O/N at Trashigang



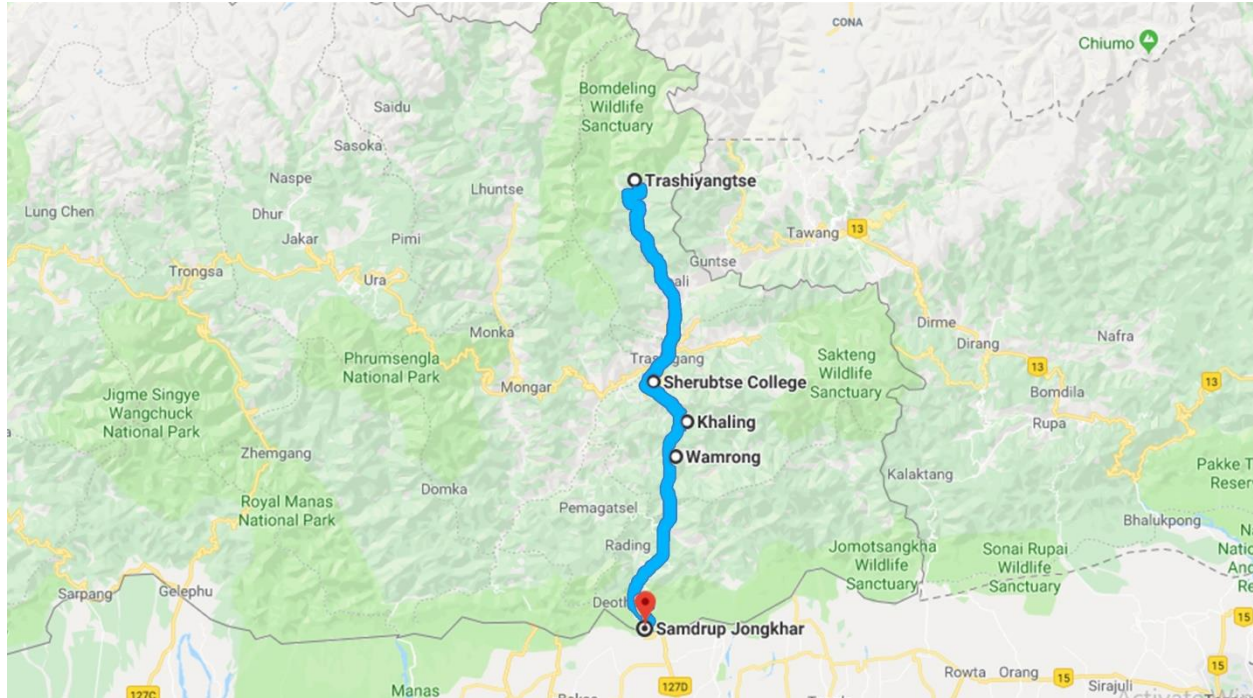
## Day 12: Trashigang to Tashiyangtse



After breakfast visit Trashigang Dzong and then drive 48km it's an hour more to Tashiyangtse is a small town rich in Bhutanese arts and legend. On the drive to Tashiyangtse you pass the small town of Duksum located on the DrangmeChhu and its tributary. It is a few kilometers past GomKora A large boulder sits in the garden of GomKora (GomKora) Temple and it is said that if anyone can climb below the rock and emerge from its summit, he will be forgiven of his sins. Duksum is nothing fancy but it is a small weaver's town where you can find a fair amount of weavers producing some very nice work.

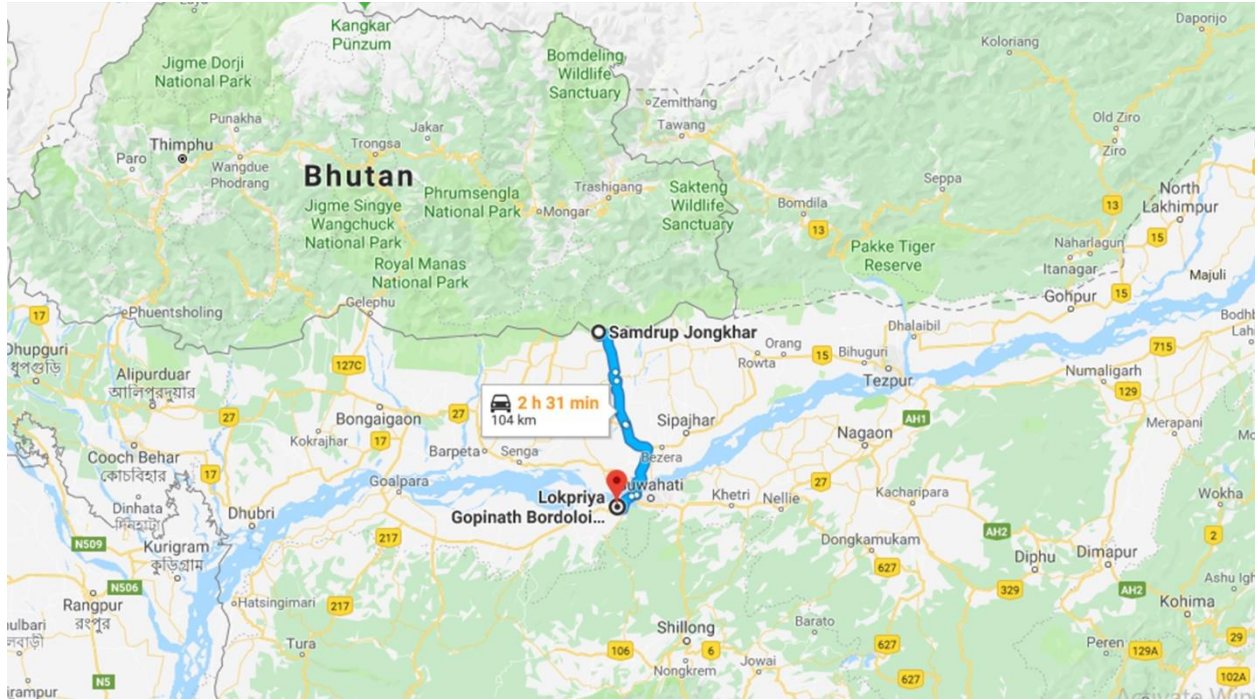
When you reach Yangtse visit Thirteen Art and craft school (Zorichozum) and visit the Chorten Kora is the sight of one of the most famous festivals in Bhutan. Although quite remote the Chorten Kora Tshechu attracts people from all parts of the country. Overnight at hotel.

## Day 13: Tashiyangtse – SamdrupJongkhar in the south



The 8 – 9 hours drive down south to the SamdrupJongkhar is about 180 km. the route takes you through Kanlung the University called (Sherubtse College – the only one in the Bhutan) town; pass the till village of Khaling where you will have a heartwarming experienced at the blind school and weaving center beside highway. Most of the road is built on ridges and lined in places by stone chortens; a common site is the dwellings raised on stilts and roofed with bamboo mats, the last ridges you will cross in the military camp at Deothang2850feet. Descend down into broader town SamdrupJongkhar. Overnight at hotel

## Day 14: Samdrupjongkhar – Gauhati and fly out



After breakfast drive 154km its take 3 hour to Gauhati Airport.  
Good bye! And fond memories from the Kingdom in the sky.