



ITINERARY NEPAL and BHUTAN May 3 to 12, 2027

May 3rd: Kathmandu (Nepal) / Arrival Day

Upon arrival in Kathmandu's airport, you'll be met by a private driver and taken straight to our hotel, located right in the center of town. If you arrive early, our team will be available to help with suggestions or arrangements. In the evening we'll meet up for our orientation meeting, followed by a great local dinner for a first taste of Himalayan cuisine.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Dinner

May 4th: Kathmandu

After breakfast today, we'll head out for a half-day introduction to Kathmandu, a city where temples, shrines, traffic, daily rituals, and old architecture all sit side by side. We'll ride by tuk-tuk to Durbar Square, the old royal center of the city, where palace courtyards, carved wooden windows, and multi roofed temples give a strong first sense of Kathmandu's long history. From there we'll continue on foot through nearby streets and market areas, passing neighborhood shrines, small shops, spice stalls, flower sellers, and the everyday movement that makes this part of the city feel so alive. For lunch we'll stop at a momo place to try one of Nepal's best loved dishes in the city where it has become such a staple. Afterwards there will be free time, with options

such as joining a Nepali yoga class, treating yourself to a massage, or continuing to explore more of the city at your own pace.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

May 5th: Kathmandu / Paro (Bhutan) / Thimphu

This morning we'll leave Nepal behind and take the short flight to Paro, arriving in Bhutan and stepping into a very different rhythm of the Himalayas. From the airport we'll drive about an hour to Thimphu, the country's capital, where wooded slopes, traditional architecture, and a calmer pace create a very different first impression. After checking into the hotel and having some time to rest, we'll head out to a local ceramic studio for a pottery experience. Pottery has a quieter place in Bhutan's craft traditions than weaving or painting, but it still offers an interesting look at the materials, forms, and practical objects that have long been part of daily life. Later we'll visit the School of Astrology for a personal astrology reading, offering a particularly fascinating introduction to a practice that still plays an important role in Bhutanese life.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 6th: Thimphu

We'll begin the day with a short and easy walk up to Wangditse, a small temple and lookout set on a ridge above Thimphu. From here, the views open across the valley and toward the hills beyond, making it a wonderful place to ease into the day. We'll enjoy breakfast in this peaceful setting before preparing and offering butter lamps, an ancestral Buddhist ritual that remains part of everyday spiritual life in Bhutan. After lunch we'll

take part in a weaving and natural dye workshop, where we'll get a closer look at one of Bhutan's most important artistic traditions and the way natural colors, patterns, and handwork still shape textile making today. In the evening, we'll be welcomed into our friend's home for dinner, a warm and personal experience that offers a lovely glimpse into Bhutanese hospitality.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 7th: Thimpu / Phobjikha Valley

We'll depart Thimphu this morning and make our way farther into the mountains, with the landscape gradually opening into a very different side of Bhutan. As we climb higher, we'll stop at Dochula Pass, one of the country's most memorable mountain crossings, where 108 white chortens stand against the backdrop of forested slopes and, on clear days, distant Himalayan peaks. From there, we'll enjoy a light walk along part of the Trans Bhutan Trail, an old route that winds through woodland and occasional viewpoints, giving us a feel for the paths that once connected communities across the country. After lunch, we'll visit Richtenang Village, where we'll spend time walking through the community, meeting locals, and getting a closer look at daily life in rural Bhutan. Later in the day, we'll continue on to the broad glacial valley of Phobjikha, known for its open landscapes, scattered farmhouses, and tranquil atmosphere. In the evening, we'll attend prayer at Gangtey Shedra, adding another special moment to the day before checking into our lodge and settling in for the night.

Hotel: 3.5* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 8th: Phobjikha Valley / Punakha

This morning we'll explore the Phobjikha Valley, an open landscape of rolling hills and small villages that feels calm the moment you arrive. We'll start at Gangtey Monastery, a spiritual center for the valley, where you'll learn why this place matters locally and how it continues to shape community life. From there we'll take an optional leisurely hike into the valley, with steady walking, fresh air, and wide views that make you slow down. After lunch we'll drive over Lawala Pass and through changing mountain scenery as we make our way toward Punakha, arriving in the evening to check into our hotel, followed by dinner in one of Bhutan's most scenic regions.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 9th: Punakha

We'll spend the day getting to know Punakha through some of its most important places and everyday traditions. Our morning will begin at Punakha Dzong, the great fortress monastery set at the meeting point of two rivers, where whitewashed walls, tiered roofs, painted woodwork, and inner courtyards make it one of the most striking buildings in Bhutan. As we explore, we'll get a better understanding of what a dzong is and why these spaces remain so important in both religious and public life. From there we'll continue to a nearby nunnery, where we'll have the chance to learn more about the women who live and study there, and enjoy lunch with the nuns, a special opportunity to experience a quieter and more personal side of Bhutanese Buddhist life. In the evening, dinner will become part of the experience with a cooking class focused on traditional Bhutanese food, giving us the chance to learn how local dishes are prepared before sitting down to enjoy them together.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 10th: Punakha / Dochula Pass / Paro

After breakfast we'll leave Punakha behind and return to Paro, following one of Bhutan's classic mountain roads as it threads through valleys, over passes, and past villages that seem to appear and disappear along the hillsides. This is a drive that gives a fuller sense of the country, with rivers running below, prayer flags stretched across ridgelines, whitewashed houses perched above terraced fields, and small temples and chortens marking the route. We'll stop for lunch along the way and continue through a landscape that keeps shifting as we go, before arriving in Paro in the late afternoon. Once there, we'll settle in and have time to rest, making for a gentler evening before tomorrow's hike to Tiger's Nest.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 11th: Paro / Tiger's Nest / Paro

After an early breakfast we'll set out for one of Bhutan's most unforgettable experiences, the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery, also known as Paro Taktsang. Clinging dramatically to a cliffside high above the Paro Valley, this sacred Buddhist site is tied to the story of Guru Rinpoche, who is believed to have arrived here on the back of a tiger and meditated in the caves that later became the monastery. The hike is around 4 miles round trip and moderate in difficulty, with a steady climb that rewards you with ever wider views as you go. For those who prefer a lighter option, a pony ride can take you part of the way up to the viewpoint, where there is a café and an extraordinary look across to the monastery itself. The walk can be done at your own pace, with support along the trail, and once at the top we'll enjoy a guided visit through the temples built into the cliff.

For those who prefer not to do the hike, we'll also organize an excursion to some archery grounds, where we'll experience Bhutan's national sport and local traditions firsthand. Here, the target stands an impressive 145 meters, or about 476 feet, away, which makes every successful shot even more remarkable. Even more fun is the atmosphere around it, as each hit is celebrated with singing, laughter, and regional dances that bring a lively energy to the whole scene. Afterward, we'll regroup and there will be time to rest before coming together for our farewell dinner, accompanied by a special cultural performance. We'll also have the chance to join a traditional dance class, a fun and memorable way to end our time in Bhutan.

Hotel: 4* hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

May 12th: Paro / Kathmandu (Nepal) / Departure Day

We'll begin the day with an early morning 1.5-hour flight back to Kathmandu, where the tour will officially come to an end. From here, you can connect with your onward flight home, taking with you the unforgettable memories of our journey through Bhutan and Nepal!

***IMPORTANT: Please make sure your departure flight out of Kathmandu is later than 1:00 PM in order to have enough time to transfer to the International Departures area of the airport.**

Included meals: Breakfast

Included

- Full private tour throughout
- Bhutan's visa fee
- All accommodation (9 nights - 3.5* and 4* hotels)

- **Round trip flights from Nepal to Bhutan**
- **Transportation in Nepal and Bhutan (Private comfortable van when needed, Tuk Tuks for the Kathmandu Tour)**
- **Breakfast every day, 8 lunches and 8 dinners**
- **Local English-speaking guides throughout the trip**
- **All activities, entrance fees and experiences mentioned in the itinerary**
- **Arrival airport transfers**
- **Gratuities at hotels/included meals**
- **Travel service (we can assist with organizing any pre-trip or post-trip accommodation or travel needs for any of the guests)**

Not Included

- **Flights to/from Kathmandu**
 - **Passport/Nepal's visa fees**
 - **Meals and activities not mentioned**
 - **Travel insurance (mandatory)**
 - **Other gratuities**
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Physical Level: Medium

While the tour is not particularly strenuous. However, the tour may involve long days, optional hikes and long drives with multiple stops. May offers crystal-clear weather for Himalayan landscape viewing and blooming spring flowers. Some rain showers are expected. Elevation can reach up to 10,000 feet (3,100 meters) above sea level.

Accommodation

On this trip, accommodation includes a selection of conveniently located, comfortable and welcoming 3*/4* hotels and atmospheric guesthouses. Rooms in remote locations may be more basic, but all rooms are equipped with private bathrooms and hot water. *Please note: If you book a shared room and we cannot find another traveler to share that room, there will be an extra surcharge for having a single room.

Transport

We'll travel in complete comfort with our spacious private vans, providing access to areas that larger vehicles simply can't reach. Additionally, a round-trip flight from Kathmandu, Nepal to Bhutan is included.