

Each private luxury tour is custom to the wishes of each client. This itinerary is a sample. Our Sister Company, TRAVNET, may provide assistance with mileage points conversion. Do not hesitate to call Randy to create your custom tour.

Overview

Temperature Range

Highs: High 80's

Lows: High 50's

Area

38,364 SQ KM

14,812 SQ MILES

Population:

750,000 Million

Language:

Dzongkha

Capital:

Thimpu

Currency:

Bhutanese Ngultrum

Indian Rupee

Why Choose Bhutan

Bhutan is somewhat similar to Botswana in that it seeks high value/low-impact, high-end tourism (rest assured you will see no big tour groups or backpackers here!). The approx. size of Switzerland with a population the size of Fort Worth, Texas (750,000), Bhutan enjoys a pollution free idyllic environment, in contrast to its neighbor, Nepal. Similar to Tibet and perhaps Burma, Buddhism is all pervasive here, with brightly-colored prayer flags and golden-rooted monasteries sprinkled throughout the country (in Bhutan's case the tantric form of Mahayanna Buddhism). We feel traveling through the narrow/winding roads of Bhutan truly evokes the spirit of Shangri-la, as depicted by James Hilton's "Lost Horizon."

Day 1

Fly to Bangkok

Through our sister company, Premium Air Provider Travnet, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Day 2

Arrive Bangkok

Upon arrival, you will be assisted to the Novotel Bangkok Airport Hotel for your forced overnight stay.

Novotel Suavarnabhumi Airport Hotel

Located directly adjacent to Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, we feel the 612-room Novotel Hotel is a step above most other Southeast Asia airport hotel properties. The sound-proof rooms here are spacious, with particularly large bathrooms. We feel the 24-hour meal service/free Wi-Fi are a big plus here, especially for late arrivals. Though here for only a short time, we recommend taking a nice dip in the Novotel's outdoor pool.

Meals: —

Accommodations: Novotel Suavarnabhumi Airport Hotel

Day 3

Fly Bangkok/Paro + Drive Thimphu

Upon arrival in Paro, you will be privately transferred to Amankora in Thimphu.

Amankora Thimpu

Aman's presence in Bhutan consists of five luxury lodges, collectively known as "Amankora" (which combines the Sanskrit word for peace and kora, or "circular pilgrimage" in Dzongkha), carefully chosen in the cultural hubs of central and western valleys of the country. Situated in a blue pine forest in the upper reaches of the Motithang area of the Thimphu Valley, we feel the 16-suite Amankora Thimphu is the highest quality lodge in the surrounding area. Though close to the cultural shopping attractions of the capital (approx. 7 km. away),

you feel as though you are a world away in this quiet luxury enclave. The lodge's dzong-inspired architecture features white-washed stone buildings accessed through an enclosed arrival courtyard. We love the delicious multi-cultural dining options and the comforting traditional bukhari wood heaters.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodations: Amankora Thimphu

Day 4

Thimphu Touring

After a sumptuous breakfast, you will visit the capital's rich Buddhist sites including the King's Memorial Chorten, where you can see practicing Buddhists circling the structure murmuring chants and spinning their prayer wheels. Other stopovers include the National Museum, the Institute for Zorig Chusum, and Handicrafts Emporium – a crafts bazaar.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Amankora Thimphu

Day 5

Drive Thimphu/Punakha

You will be driven to Punakha via the Douchu-la Pass, with magnificent vistas of the Himalayan Range. Your drive includes a stop at the Chimi Lakhand Temple, set amongst verdant terraced rice fields.

Uma Punakha

With a stunning, remote location on the bend of the Mo Chu river of the far western end of the lush Punakha Valley, Uma consists of eight deluxe valley rooms and two villas. The Punakha Valley is among our favorite picturesque destinations in all of Bhutan, and we feel the Uma is a perfect high-touch gateway for your daily explorations. Unlike Aman's policy of shunning TV's in its various resort properties, Uma proudly accommodates our addiction to TV daily news/entertainment with 32" satellite TV's in all rooms. Similar to Amankora, Uma offers various spa choices in two treatment rooms. All of Uma's vegetable/fruit/dairy products come from the bounty of the fertile Punakha Valley.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Uma Punakha

Day 6

Drive Punakha/Bumthang

You will be driven to Bumthang via Trongsa across the Pele-Pass at nearly 11,000 feet, Bhutan's traditional boundary between the East and West. While on your drive, you will visit extraordinary Buddhist shrines amidst higher altitude bamboo forests and winding roads.

Amankora Bumthang

We love the Amankora's location in the picturesque Choekhor Valley surrounded by fields of buckwheat, millet and potatoes, with apple orchards on nearby slopes. Situated next to the Wandichholing Palace, each of the 16-suites are situated around a bukhari and views of the courtyard and palace. Amenities here include a dining room with delicious and fresh cuisine, a library and study room with Wi-Fi, and a luxury spa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Amankora Bumthang

Day 7

Bumthang Private Touring

Bumthang is the name given to a combination of four valleys: Chumey, Choekhor, Tang, and Ura. The respective altitudes vary from 8,500 to 13,200 ft. Considered the “Switzerland of the East”, you will embark on a full day excursion through temples, monasteries, and possible festivals for a rich cultural and spiritual experience.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Amankora Bumthang

Day 8

Drive Bumthang/Punakha

After breakfast at the AMANKORA, you will be driven to Ta Dzong, followed by a drive to Punakha via Wangdue. Ta Dzong is 5-story cylindrical structure containing an impressive collection of cultural and natural history.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Uma Punakha

Day 9

Drive Punakha/Paro

You will be driven to Paro with an enroute stop at Simtokha Dzong, Bhutan’s oldest fortress, which now houses the school of Buddhist studies. In the afternoon you will arrive in the wondrously idyllic valley of Paro. We feel this verdant, heavenly area is truly among the most beautiful settings in the world.

Amankora Paro

Made up of six accommodation blocks (each with four suites), we feel Aman’s Paro property is the highest quality hotel/lodge in the greater Paro area. Designed with rammed earth walls and wood paneled interiors, the lodge incorporates Aman’s signature minimalist aesthetics. Located in a forest near Balakha village (30 min. from Paro Town), this property offers views of the 17th century Drugyel Dzong ruins, as well as Mt. Chomolhari. Like other Amankora properties, there is no fitness center or pool, though we do enjoy the very nice two-level spa with glass-walled sauna and yoga studio. The lodge’s restaurant offers large glass window-walls for idyllic views of the outside valley and forest.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Amankora Paro

Day 10

Paro and Tiger’s Nest

You will take a morning excursion to Bhutan’s most famous and visually-stunning monastery, Taktshang Lhakhang. Hugging the side of cliff 3000 feet above Paro Valley, this is Bhutan’s most sacred site and a most surreal image. Your day will end at an ancient Bhutanese fortress.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Amankora Paro

Day 11

Fly Paro/Bangkok

Upon arrival in Bangkok, you will be assisted to the Novotel Bangkok Airport for your forced overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel

Day 12

Fly Bangkok/Home

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: —