



Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



BHUTAN: THE HIDDEN KINGDOM



MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- Travel to one of the most remote countries on Earth to uncover a civilization stuck in time
- Uncover the epic Tiger's Nest Monastery tucked into the Himalayan Mountains
- Experience Bhutan's traditional Buddhist roots in a session with a Buddhist master guru
- Uncover the breathtaking Bhutanese countryside where traditional villages meet snow-capped mountains
- Learn to cook tasty Bhutanese cuisine in a cooking class alongside a local chef
- Visit a community school and learn exactly why Bhutan is considered the happiest country on Earth

A behind-the-scenes guided journey through one of Earth's last kingdoms.

TRIP AT A GLANCE

9 Days / 8 Nights

GROUP SIZE Average 6, Maximum 12

LODGING Premier

PHYSICAL DEMAND Moderate

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrive in New Delhi, India. Relax at a 5-star hotel next to the airport before your journey to Bhutan.

Day 2 - Take a 2.5 hour flight to Bhutan. Meet your guide and explore Thimphu's art scene.

Day 3 - Visit Thimphu's famed giant Buddha. Venture to the Gross National Happiness Center to see how Bhutan became the "World's Happiest Country"

Day 4 - Engage in an exclusive session with a Buddhist guru. Visit a traditional tea house and meet with a group promoting women's rights in Bhutan.

Day 5 - Venture to the magical Phobjikha Valley to explore the Bhutanese countryside.

Day 6 - Visit traditional monasteries and meet with children at a local village school. Uncover Bhutan's rich cultural traditions.

Day 7 - Take a cooking class with a Bhutanese master chef and head back to Paro for some free time to explore the markets in town.

Day 8 - Visit the stunning hillside monastery known as Tiger's Nest. Enjoy a relaxing Farewell Dinner together.

Day 9 - Depart Bhutan back to New Delhi for your flights home or continue on the Post-Trip Extension.



SIGNATURE JOURNEY

BHUTAN: THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

OUR PURPOSE

For any world traveler, Bhutan is the ultimate destination. Nestled in the snow-capped Himalayan Mountains, this is a country that has withstood the pressures of modernity. Bhutan is the last great Himalayan kingdom and a place where traditional Buddhist culture meets a society that prides happiness and sustainability as their central philosophies. This is a land where ornate monasteries and traditional villages sit amongst a landscape of pristine Himalayan forests.

A trip to one of the world's most culturally protected civilizations would not be complete without spending time with the locals. Our journey will take us to a village school where you'll meet with students and teachers to see how modern the education system is in Bhutan. Meet with a master guru to see how important spirituality is in Bhutanese culture. In the capital, Thimphu, visit the Gross National Happiness Center and learn why Bhutan is deemed the Happiest Country on Earth. Along the way, we'll share meals with some of the most inspiring thought leaders in the country today – from rising artists and musicians to a group promoting women's empowerment through the country's first and only women's magazine.

The Discover Corps journey through Bhutan is also one that will take you through Bhutan's culture, history and stunning natural landscapes. Experience the breathtaking Phobjikha & Punakha Valleys where meadows, mountains and serene wildlife all come together. Explore traditional villages meeting with Buddhist monks, visiting local schools and learning to make Bhutanese cuisine with a local chef. Gaze in awe at Tiger's Nest, a stunning monastery built into a cliff. Each night, rest in our portfolio of luxury lodges and experience true Bhutanese hospitality.





HIGHLIGHTS



TIGER'S NEST

Known locally as Paro Tasktang, Tiger's Nest is the most iconic monastery in Bhutan. A small collection of buildings tucked into a cliff over 3000 feet off the ground, Tiger's Nest is one of the most sacred Buddhist sites in the country. In fact, legend says that the guru who introduced Buddhism to Bhutan from Tibet was carried on the back of a Tiger hence the temple's name.



PHOBJIKHA VALLEY

A bowl-shaped glacial valley tucked against towering mountains, the Phobjikha Valley is nature lover's dream. This valley is home to a range of wildlife including Bhutan's famous Black Necked Cranes, barking deer and red foxes. The region also boasts the Gangtey Monastery, one of the most important religious sites in the country. During our visit, we'll also immerse ourselves in a local village meeting with children & teachers at a local school.



BHUTANESE COOKING CLASS

Bhutan's distance from the spice trade of the Silk Roads means the country's gastronomic culture is simple, but delicious. Join a Bhutanese master chef as you learn about the Bhutanese trinity of cooking, the chilli, the cheese, and the salt. Learn to cook the famed ema datsi, kewa datsi and copi datsi. And more importantly, taste the various flavours that are gaining international attention all the way from the heart of the Himalayas.



LOCAL BHUTANESE IMMERSION

The Discover Corps difference lies in the access and connections fostered through community ties on the ground in Bhutan. Each departure will differ slightly depending on who is available, but will include the likes of Choeying Jatsho, the producer behind some of Bhutan's most popular music, Kezang Doriji, a famous Bhutanese rapper and singer, or Dr. Karma Phuntsho, a historian who wrote the iconic History of Bhutan. We'll also make visits to a community school, meet members of the Gross National Happiness Center and practice stillness with a Buddhist Master Guru.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in New Delhi

Begin the journey to Bhutan with an evening in India's capital New Delhi. Since flights are limited into Bhutan, the overnight stay is necessary to ensure that we all are able to board the group flight to Bhutan the following day. If you arrive early, opt for an independent day tour of the city or simply relax at your five-star hotel next to the airport.

DAY 2: Fly to the Kingdom of Bhutan

After breakfast, head to the New Delhi Airport with your representative for our group flight to Paro, Bhutan. This short two-hour flight will take us to one of the most remote corners of Earth where time seems to have stood still. Enjoy a traditional welcome to Bhutan from your dedicated expert Bhutanese guide. We'll begin our journey from the stunning Paro Valley to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital. Along the way, we'll have an introduction to Bhutanese food at one of the area's best restaurants followed by a visit to the National Institute of Zorig Chusum, or local crafts. Witness some of the beautiful art that is being designed by these Bhutanese locals. We'll continue on to the Zilukha Nunnery, a small temple that became a fortress in the 1600's.

We'll settle into our hotel for the evening, a four-star property intricately designed to reflect Bhutanese culture and charm. Enjoy dinner together at the hotel or a local restaurant in town. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Explore Thimphu & Learn about Gross National Happiness

We'll have a relaxing breakfast together before setting out to explore Thimphu, Bhutan's modernizing capital "city". Begin the exploration with a visit to the Memorial Chhorten, a giant stupa that is a center for morning prayer for the local Bhutanese. Continue to the Kuensel Phodrang, the world's largest seated Buddha statue that overlooks the entirety of the lush Thimphu Valley. Mix in with the locals as they thank this deity for protection and explore the nearby 12th Century monastery.

After lunch, we'll make a special visit to the Gross National Happiness Center in Thimphu. Bhutan is the pioneer of this metric which, unlike GDP, captures the collective happiness of the nation. We'll meet with staff and learn about how Bhutan became the "happiest country on Earth" as well as speak candidly about the future of the country. On our way back into town, we'll visit the local markets and meet the small-scale vendors and artisans before dinner at a local restaurant in town. (B, L, D)





DAY 4: Buddhism with a Master Guru & a Modernizing Bhutan

After breakfast, we'll venture into Thimphu for a day exploring the ancient and modern sides of Bhutan. Begin with an exclusive spiritual session with a local Buddhist Master. As one of the last places on Earth that practices the ancient form of Vajrayana Buddhism, we'll have the extremely unique opportunity to experience these rituals from a guru including a traditional Lhap Sa, or purification ceremony.

Following this visit, we'll continue on to visit Bhutan's national animal, the Takin and see why this creature is considered divine in the country. After lunch in town, we'll dive into the modern side of Bhutan. First stop by a teahouse to try some of Bhutan's famous cordyceps tea then continue to the offices of Yeewong Magazine. As Bhutan's first and only women's magazine, the publication is driving technological change in the country while contributing to women's rights. Meet with the staff and get an insider's perspective on these issues. Tonight, enjoy a relaxing dinner together in town. (B, L, D)



DAY 5: Thimphu to Gangtey – Phobjikha Valley

Today, we'll make our way to Gangtey Valley. Bhutan is a country of mountains and passes, and there is no pass more famous than the Dochu La (La means pass in Dzongkha). Dochu La sits above and has a good view of both Thimphu and Punakha. As we descend down into the Punakha valley, we'll stop for lunch at Lobesa, a charming Bhutanese town. (B, L, D)

Our final destination will be the magical Phobjikha Valley. This is one of Bhutan's most beautiful sites, and the winter home of the rare Black Necked Crane. The people of Phobjikha and Gangtey are known as being friendly and polite, and are eager to tell visitors all of their favorite stories about the Black Necked Crane. We'll settle into our hotel for the evening and enjoy a traditional Bhutanese dinner together. (B, L, D)



DAY 6: Phobjikha to Punakha Valley

Enjoy a relaxing morning breakfast and tea at our hotel. Afterwards, we'll set off for the stunning Phobjikha Valley, a dreamland of meadow, marshes, nature and Bhutan's famous Black Necked Cranes. Along the way, make a visit to the famous Gangtey Monastery, a temple on a hill that is home to one of Bhutan's most important religious leaders. Upon arrival to Phobjikha, we'll make a special visit to a local school to the rhythms of day-to-day life. Meet with some of the students and get a tour of the facilities from the school staff.

After lunch at a local restaurant overlooking the valley, we'll visit Punakha Dzong, one of Bhutan's most beautiful and storied landmarks. We'll tour the grounds before settling into our hotel for the evening and dinner together. (B, L, D)





DAY 7: Punakha to Paro Valley

Ever wondered what Bhutanese cuisine is like? Well, this morning we'll have the chance to learn how to make several traditional Bhutanese dishes from a master chef (and of course try some of it too!). Bhutan is close to the spice trade of the Silk Road which led to a simple, tasty (and sometimes spicy) style of cooking. After the cooking class, we'll make a visit to Rinchengang Village, a traditional adobe village on the side of a hill. We'll then make our way back to Paro stopping at a botanical park along the way.

Back in the Paro Valley, an exquisitely beautiful town with a monastery on nearly every hill, we'll settle in and have some free time to explore before dinner together at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

DAY 8: Tiger's Nest Excursion

No trip to Bhutan would be complete without visiting Paro Taktshang, also known as Tiger's Nest. A stunning monastery built into a cliff nearly 3000 feet above the Paro Valley, this is a place of myths and legends where it is said Buddhism was first introduced to Bhutan. Tiger's Nest is, without a doubt, one of Bhutan's most sacred, most beautiful holy sites. There's a cafe midway we can stop at for lunch and snacks. You'll spend your day with a trek leader, who will also tell you all about the legends and history of this famed temple complex.

Return back to Paro later in the day for a special Farewell Dinner together. (B, L, D)

DAY 9: Depart the Kingdom

After a final breakfast together, head to the airport for onward travel to New Delhi and back home. (B)



PREMIER LODGING

We have hand-picked a portfolio of high-end, boutique lodges for your stay in the kingdom. Begin the journey at the luxury, 4-star Hotel Druk nestled in the relaxed and elegant capital of Thimphu. Continue on to the verdant Phobjikha Valley where we'll stay at the Dewachen Hotel & Spa, a property encircled by pine forests in the heart of the valley. Continue to the 24-suite luxury Dhensa Boutique Resort in Punakha and end the trip in Paro's Naksel Boutique Hotel. Experience true Bhutanese hospitality in this 4-star high-end retreat nestled on the edge of a national forest adjacent to a small Bhutanese village. On our pre-night in New Delhi, we'll stay at a 5-star property next to the airport.





BHUTAN:

9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

DATE	ADULT	CHILD
April 6-14, 2024	\$5,995	\$5,695
June 15-23, 2024	\$5,995	\$5,695
August 3-11, 2024	\$5,995	\$5,695
November 16-24, 2024	\$5,995	\$5,695

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are \$995 per person for the trip. You are required to pay the SRS if we cannot find you a suitable roommate.

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger at the time of travel sharing a room with an adult.

Bhutan's Trip Fees Explained

Travel in Bhutan is unlike anywhere else in the world. Bhutan requires several mandatory fees including a Sustainable Development Fee, Tourist Surcharge and Minimum Daily Spending Requirements. Bhutan designed these fees to encourage "high-end, low-impact tourism" - a model that aimed to limit the negative effects of overtourism. We've decided to lump all of these fees into the trip price so you can travel with peace of mind.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Double-occupancy lodging at 4-4.5 star hotels for 7 nights
- All meals throughout the journey
- Expert Bhutanese guide to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- All reliable transportation with experienced drivers
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks and other scheduled events throughout the trip
- Meetings with interesting local and cultural leaders throughout the trip
- The mandatory Sustainable Development Fund tariff required by all tourists entering Bhutan
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Discover Corps pre-departure support including full service visa processing
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- International Airfare
- \$750 round-trip flight and visa supplement into Bhutan

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 12 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: info@discovercorps.com

THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner

Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.



Our Mission

The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAPAN
AUSTRALIA	KENYA
BELIZE	MEXICO
BHUTAN	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	THAILAND
EGYPT	UGANDA
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	



FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a \$395 deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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