



Ura Yakchoe Tshechu (Festival) - 8 Days

The **Ura Yakchoe Tshechu** stands as a quintessential embodiment of **Bhutanese cultural heritage**, renowned for its rich tapestry of **traditional dances**, **religious rituals**, and **colorful masked performances**. This revered **festival** serves not only as a celebration of **Buddhist tradition** but also as a time-honored **community gathering**, where locals and visitors alike come together to partake in **prayer ceremonies**, witness the **unveiling of sacred relics**, and receive **blessings from monks**. With its vibrant array of **folk music**, **costume parades**, and **local crafts exhibitions**, the Ura Yakchoe Tshechu offers a captivating insight into the heart and soul of Bhutanese culture, making it an essential experience for those seeking an authentic immersion into the kingdom's cultural legacy.

At Amen Bhutan Tours and Treks, we are honored to be recognized as the top choice for experiencing the **Ura Yakchoe Tshechu (Festival)** in Bhutan. With our unparalleled expertise and deep understanding of the region, we offer unmatched opportunities to immerse yourself in this lively **cultural event**. Our carefully designed itineraries ensure not only witnessing the **traditional dances**, **religious ceremonies**, and **colorful masked performances** of the festival but also engaging with local communities, participating in **prayer rituals**, and receiving **blessings from Buddhist monks**. Allow us to lead you through this unforgettable journey, providing an authentic and enriching experience of the Ura Yakchoe Tshechu that will create lasting memories of Bhutan's distinctive cultural heritage.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival in Paro then transfer to Thimphu City - 1:30 hours (55km) drive

Arrival in Paro: Your journey begins with your arrival in Paro, a picturesque town nestled in the lush valleys of Bhutan.

Transfer to Thimphu City: After arrival, you will proceed to Thimphu City, the capital of Bhutan, which is approximately 55 kilometers away from Paro.

Duration and Distance: The transfer from Paro to Thimphu City typically takes around 1 hour and 30 minutes, covering a distance of 55 kilometers by road.

Scenic Drive: Enjoy a scenic drive through the breathtaking landscapes of Bhutan as you travel from Paro to Thimphu City, passing by verdant hillsides and quaint villages along the way.

Comfortable Transfer: Sit back, relax, and soak in the sights as you are transferred to your destination in Thimphu City, where your Bhutanese adventure awaits.

Arrival in Thimphu: Upon reaching Thimphu City, you will have the opportunity to explore the vibrant capital, known for its blend of modernity and traditional Bhutanese charm.

Check-in and Rest: Upon arrival in Thimphu, you may check into your accommodation and unwind after your journey, ready to embark on your exploration of the city the following day.

Day 02: Sightseeing tour in Thimphu

Exploring Thimphu: Day 2 is dedicated to a sightseeing tour in Thimphu, allowing you to immerse yourself in the cultural and historical treasures of Bhutan's capital city.

Memorial Chorten: Begin your tour by visiting the Memorial Chorten, a sacred Buddhist monument built in memory of the third king of Bhutan. Explore the intricately adorned interiors and witness locals engaged in prayer rituals.

Bhutanese Handicrafts: Discover the rich heritage of Bhutanese arts and crafts at the National Institute for Zorig Chusum, where skilled artisans create traditional paintings, sculptures, and woodwork.

Buddha Dordenma Statue: Marvel at the majestic Buddha Dordenma Statue, one of the largest bronze statues of Buddha in the world. Enjoy panoramic views of Thimphu Valley from this iconic landmark.

Takin Preserve: Visit the Takin Preserve to see the national animal of Bhutan, the Takin, a unique and rare mammal known for its distinctive appearance.

Tashichho Dzong: Explore the grandeur of Tashichho Dzong, a fortress-monastery housing the throne room of the King of Bhutan, government offices, and religious chambers.

Local Markets: Wander through Thimphu's bustling markets, such as the Centenary Farmers Market, to experience the vibrant atmosphere and sample local produce and delicacies.

Cultural Performances: If time permits, attend a traditional cultural performance showcasing Bhutanese dances, music, and folklore, providing insight into the country's rich cultural heritage.

Dinner: Conclude your day with a delicious Bhutanese dinner at a local restaurant, savoring traditional dishes and flavors unique to the region.

Rest and Relaxation: After a full day of exploration, return to your accommodation in Thimphu to relax and reflect on the captivating experiences of the day, preparing for more adventures in Bhutan tomorrow.

Day 03: Drive from Thimphu to Punakha and sightseeing - 2 to 3 hours (74km) drive.

Departure from Thimphu: Begin your day by departing from Thimphu and embarking on a scenic drive to Punakha, a journey that spans approximately 74 kilometers.

Duration of the Drive: Anticipate a travel time of 2 to 3 hours to reach Punakha, allowing for ample opportunities to admire the breathtaking landscapes and picturesque vistas along the route.

Dochula Pass: En route to Punakha, make a stop at Dochula Pass, situated at an elevation of 3,100 meters. Marvel at the panoramic views of the Himalayan mountain ranges, adorned with fluttering prayer flags.

Chimi Lhakhang: Upon reaching Punakha, visit Chimi Lhakhang, also known as the "Temple of Fertility," dedicated to the eccentric Buddhist saint, Drukpa Kunley. Explore the temple's unique architecture and tranquil surroundings.

Punakha Dzong: Next, immerse yourself in the grandeur of Punakha Dzong, one of Bhutan's most iconic fortresses. Admire the stunning architecture, intricate murals, and serene courtyards of this historic landmark.

Mo Chhu River: Take a leisurely stroll along the banks of the Mo Chhu River, which flows gracefully beside Punakha Dzong. Enjoy the serene ambiance and scenic views of the surrounding countryside.

Local Cuisine: Indulge in a delicious Bhutanese meal at a local restaurant in Punakha, savoring the flavors of traditional dishes prepared using fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

Exploration and Relaxation: Spend the remainder of your day exploring the charming town of Punakha at your leisure. Relax amidst the tranquil surroundings, or engage in optional activities such as hiking or exploring nearby villages.

Accommodation: Check into your accommodation in Punakha, where you can unwind and rejuvenate after a day of exploration. Enjoy the comfort and hospitality of your chosen lodging before continuing your Bhutanese adventure tomorrow.

Evening Reflection: Reflect on the memorable sights and experiences of the day, as you prepare for more adventures in Punakha and beyond during the remainder of your Bhutanese journey.

Day 04: Drive from Punakha to Bumthang - 6 to 7 hours (216km) drive

Early Departure: Start your day with an early departure from Punakha, gearing up for a scenic drive to Bumthang, covering a distance of approximately 216 kilometers.

Duration of the Journey: Anticipate a travel time of 6 to 7 hours to reach Bumthang, allowing for breaks and opportunities to soak in the stunning landscapes along the route.

Wangdue Phodrang: En route to Bumthang, pass through the town of Wangdue Phodrang, known for its majestic dzong and bustling markets. Take a moment to admire the architectural beauty of Wangdue Phodrang Dzong before continuing your journey.

Peaks and Valleys: Traverse through winding mountain roads, offering panoramic views of snow-capped peaks, verdant valleys, and cascading waterfalls. Keep your camera ready to capture the breathtaking scenery that unfolds before you.

Chendebji Chorten: Make a stop at Chendebji Chorten, an ancient stupa believed to contain the remains of a demon subdued by the Buddhist saint, Guru Rinpoche. Take a stroll around the chorten and soak in the spiritual ambiance of the surroundings.

Yotong La Pass: Ascend to Yotong La Pass, situated at an elevation of over 3,400 meters, offering sweeping views of the Himalayan mountain ranges. Pause to stretch your legs and breathe in the crisp mountain air at this scenic vantage point.

Bumthang Valley: Descend into the picturesque Bumthang Valley, renowned for its natural beauty, historical significance, and cultural heritage. Marvel at the lush forests, fertile farmlands, and traditional Bhutanese architecture that characterize the valley.

Arrival in Bumthang: Upon reaching Bumthang, check into your accommodation and unwind after the long journey. Take some time to explore the charming town of Bumthang and acquaint yourself with its unique charm and attractions.

Local Cuisine: Treat yourself to a delicious Bhutanese meal at a local restaurant in Bumthang, sampling regional specialties and flavors unique to the area.

Evening Relaxation: Spend the evening relaxing and rejuvenating in the serene ambiance of Bumthang, reflecting on the day's journey and looking forward to the adventures that await in this enchanting region of Bhutan.

Day 05: Enjoy Ura Yakchoe Festival in Bumthang

Festival Day: Day 5 is dedicated to experiencing the vibrant Ura Yakchoe Festival in Bumthang, one of the most significant cultural events in Bhutan.

Cultural Celebration: Immerse yourself in the colorful festivities of the Ura Yakchoe Festival, which showcases a rich tapestry of Bhutanese traditions, religious rituals, and masked dances.

Thongdrol Unveiling: Witness the ceremonial unveiling of the Thongdrol, a large religious tapestry depicting Buddhist deities, which is displayed to the public for blessings and spiritual merit.

Masked Performances: Marvel at the mesmerizing masked performances known as Cham dances, performed by monks and local dancers, depicting ancient legends, religious stories, and symbolic rituals.

Religious Offerings: Observe the offering of butter lamps, prayer ceremonies, and chants conducted by Buddhist monks, creating an atmosphere of reverence and devotion.

Community Gathering: Join the local community and festival attendees in celebrating the Ura Yakchoe Festival, fostering a sense of unity, camaraderie, and cultural pride.

Local Crafts and Cuisine: Explore stalls and exhibitions showcasing local crafts, textiles, and artisanal products, as well as sampling delicious Bhutanese cuisine and snacks offered at food stalls around the festival grounds.

Photography and Souvenirs: Capture memorable moments of the festival with your camera, and browse for souvenirs such as traditional Bhutanese handicrafts, textiles, and religious artifacts to commemorate your experience.

Interactions and Immersion: Engage with locals and fellow festival-goers, learning about Bhutanese culture, customs, and traditions firsthand, and immersing yourself in the spirit of the festival.

Reflection and Appreciation: Reflect on the significance of the Ura Yakchoe Festival and appreciate the opportunity to witness and participate in this unique cultural celebration, leaving with cherished memories of your time in Bumthang.

Day 06: Flight from Bumthang to Paro and sightseeing - 35 minute flight

Morning Flight: Begin your day with a short flight from Bumthang to Paro, enjoying a convenient and scenic journey that lasts approximately 35 minutes.

Scenic Views: Take advantage of the aerial perspective offered by the flight, allowing you to admire panoramic views of the Himalayan mountains and lush valleys below as you soar through the skies.

Arrival in Paro: Upon landing in Paro, disembark from the plane and proceed to begin your sightseeing adventures in this historic town.

Paro Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery: Visit the iconic Paro Taktsang Monastery, also known as the Tiger's Nest, perched dramatically on a cliffside overlooking the Paro Valley. Embark on a trek to reach this sacred site, or simply admire its breathtaking beauty from afar.

Historical Landmarks: Explore other historical landmarks in Paro, such as the Paro Dzong (Rinpung Dzong) and the National Museum of Bhutan, which offer insights into the region's rich cultural heritage and architectural marvels.

Shopping and Souvenirs: Stroll through Paro's bustling markets and shops, where you can browse for souvenirs, handicrafts, and locally made goods to take home as mementos of your Bhutanese journey.

Local Cuisine: Indulge in a delicious Bhutanese meal at one of Paro's restaurants or cafes, savoring traditional dishes and flavors that reflect the culinary diversity of the region.

Natural Beauty: Take time to appreciate the natural beauty of Paro, with its pristine landscapes, flowing rivers, and verdant forests providing the perfect backdrop for outdoor exploration and relaxation.

Cultural Interactions: Engage with locals and fellow travelers, learning about Paro's history, customs, and way of life through interactions and cultural exchanges.

Evening Relaxation: Wind down your day with a leisurely evening in Paro, reflecting on the sights and experiences of your journey so far, and preparing for more adventures in Bhutan in the days to come.

Day 07: Sightseeing Hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery (3,120m/10,236ft) - 3 to 4 hours (6.4km) hike

Early Morning Start: Begin your day with an early start to embark on a sightseeing hike to the iconic Tiger's Nest Monastery (Paro Taktsang), one of Bhutan's most revered religious sites.

Scenic Trail: Set off on the picturesque trail leading to Tiger's Nest, which winds through lush forests, across babbling streams, and amidst the tranquility of the surrounding mountains.

Elevation Gain: Ascend gradually along the trail, reaching an elevation of 3,120 meters (10,236 feet) as you approach the monastery, offering stunning views of the Paro Valley below.

Historical Significance: Learn about the rich history and spiritual significance of Tiger's Nest Monastery, which is believed to be the site where Guru Rinpoche meditated in the 8th century, introducing Buddhism to Bhutan.

Monastery Complex: Explore the monastery complex, comprised of several temples, prayer halls, and meditation caves, adorned with intricate paintings, statues, and sacred relics.

Tiger's Nest Legend: Discover the legendary tale behind the monastery's name, which is said to derive from Guru Rinpoche riding to the site on the back of a tiger, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil.

Challenging Sections: Navigate through some challenging sections of the trail, including steep inclines and stone staircases, which add to the sense of adventure and accomplishment upon reaching the monastery.

Rest Stops: Take breaks at designated rest stops along the trail, where you can catch your breath, hydrate, and admire the breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes.

Guided Experience: If desired, opt for a guided hike to Tiger's Nest, where knowledgeable guides provide insights into the monastery's history, cultural significance, and local folklore.

Spiritual Reflection: Take time for spiritual reflection and contemplation as you explore the sacred grounds of Tiger's Nest, soaking in the serene ambiance and offering prayers for blessings and well-being.

Return Journey: After spending time at the monastery, begin your descent back along the trail, taking in the sights and sounds of the natural surroundings as you make your way back to the trailhead.

Celebratory End: Conclude your hike with a sense of accomplishment and awe at having experienced the beauty and spirituality of Tiger's Nest Monastery, leaving you with lasting memories of this unforgettable Bhutanese adventure.

Day 08: Transfer to the Paro International airport – Departure

Check-Out: Begin your day by checking out of your accommodation in Paro, ensuring that all belongings are packed and accounted for before departure.

Transfer Arrangements: Coordinate with your tour operator or hotel staff to arrange transportation to Paro International Airport, ensuring a timely departure for your onward journey.

Travel Logistics: Confirm the details of your departure flight, including the airline, flight number, and departure time, to ensure a smooth and hassle-free transfer to the airport.

Travel Time: Allow sufficient time for travel to the airport, taking into account factors such as traffic conditions and security procedures, to arrive well in advance of your scheduled flight departure.

Airport Check-In: Upon arrival at Paro International Airport, proceed to the check-in counter of your airline to complete the check-in process and obtain your boarding pass for your departing flight.

Security Screening: Prepare for security screening procedures, including baggage checks and passenger screening, adhering to airport regulations and guidelines to expedite the boarding process.

Immigration Formalities: Complete immigration formalities, including passport control and customs clearance, ensuring that all necessary travel documents are in order before proceeding to the departure gate.

Final Goodbyes: Take a moment to bid farewell to Bhutan, reflecting on the memorable experiences and cultural discoveries made during your visit, and expressing gratitude for the hospitality of the Bhutanese people.

Boarding Announcement: Listen for boarding announcements and proceed to the designated departure gate for your flight, allowing ample time to board the aircraft and settle into your seat for the journey ahead.

Departure: Board your departing flight from Paro International Airport, bidding farewell to Bhutan as you embark on your journey back home or to your next destination, carrying cherished memories of your time spent in the Land of the Thunder Dragon.

Cost Details

What's Included

- ✓ Bhutan Royalties, tourists fees, Visa fees and taxes.
- ✓ Accommodations in listed or similar hotels (pleasant hotels 3 star) during the tour.
- ✓ All meals, including evening tea/coffee etc through-out the trip.
- ✓ All land transfers, sightseeing with entrance fees
- ✓ Bottled water in the vehicle and other camp services.

What's Not Included

- ✗ Luxury hotel upgrades available at additional cost.
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Expenses of personal nature
- ✗ Drinks like beer, whisky, coke, fanta and Mineral water
- ✗ Telephone and internet

⊗ Tips for guide and driver.

