



Trongsa Dzong

## **Redbird's escorted small group tour to Bhutan 2020**

17<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

From £4,000 per person  
Including economy return flights from a choice of UK airports

Our guided itinerary takes us to Paro – Thimpu – Gangtey - Punakha – Trongsa, and Jakar in Bumthang Province in time for the 'tsechu' religious cultural festival.  
We stop for a night in Delhi on the outbound and return journeys.



Sharon Evans  
India & Indian Subcontinent Travel Specialist  
Mystic India Ltd  
B22 - Medway Bridge Marina  
Manor Lane  
Rochester  
Kent ME1 3HS



24 hrs: 07823 777 948  
Tel: 02079318273  
Freephone: 0800 1777 770  
Email: [info@mysticindia.co.uk](mailto:info@mysticindia.co.uk)



**Redbird's small group Bhutan 2020 - itinerary**

17 Oct'20 Depart from the UK from one of the following airports: Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London Heathrow, London Gatwick, or Manchester. We will discuss flight options with you.

18 Oct'20 On arrival at Delhi airport by flight [TBA], you will be met by the Redbird representative and then you will be transferred to your hotel (Standard check in time is 1400 hrs).

The rest of the day will be at leisure.

Colonels Retreat

19 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

In time, you will be transferred to the international airport to connect with your flight Paro. Flight timings are not yet available

Departs	Delhi	TBA	ETD TBA Hrs
Arrives	Paro	Economy	ETA TBA Hrs

Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to Thimphu (approx. 55 kms – 1.5 hrs), the modern capital of Bhutan. Enroute take a short stop at Chuzom, the confluence of the Paro & Thimphu rivers.

On arrival in Thimphu, assisted check into your hotel.

After lunch, visit Trashichhodzong, the beautiful medieval fortress/monastery. Later explore the weekend market of Thimphu.

Overnight in Thimphu



20 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, visit Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang), and the National Textile Museum.

After lunch visit to Taking Preserve & Druthob Nunnery, Changangkha Temple, and King's Memorial Chorten.

Overnight in Thimphu

21 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, drive to Gangtey (approx. 150 kms – 5+ hrs) enroute taking a short stop at Dochula pass (3080m) that heralds one of the most enchanting views of Bhutan.

The journey continues over the 3,050m mountain pass where on a clear day, the towering Himalayan peaks are clearly visible. The highway follows the scenic Dang Chhu before climbing through forests of bamboo and oak.



On arrival, check in at the hotel.

Overnight in Gangtey

22 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, visit Gangtey Gompa, one of the largest Nyingmapa sect monasteries in Bhutan.

Then embark on a fascinating walk on the Gangtey Nature Trail (approx. 2 hrs walk) to explore Phobjikha Valley which is famous for Black Necked Cranes that migrate here in the winter months from the Tibetan plateau. Also visit the Black Necked Crane Information Centre.

Overnight in Gangtey



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23 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, drive to Bumthang (approx. 153 kms – 7 hrs). Enroute cross 3300m Pelela pass and later visit Chendbji Chorten, the stupa patterned on Swayambhunath in Kathmandu.

Driver further and stop at Trongsa for lunch.

After lunch in Trongsa, drive onward to Bumthang across Yutongla pass (3400m). Arrive and check in at the hotel.

Overnight in Bumthang

24 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

Full day exploring the beautiful valley of Bumthang; visiting Jakar Dzong, Jambay Lhakhang, Kurje Lhakhang, Tamshing Lhakhang and Lhodrak Kharchu monastery.

25 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

Attend the Jakar Festival today.



Overnight in Bumthang

26 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, drive to Trongsa (approx. 68 kms – 3 hrs). Upon arrival check in at the hotel.

Later in the afternoon visit Trongsa Dzong, built in 1648 it was the seat of power over central and eastern Bhutan.

Followed by visit of Ta Dzong (Closed on Weekends), recently opened fort in Trongsa. The Ta Dzong, a cylindrical stone structure rising five stories, was built in 1652 by Chhogyel Minjur Tempa, after more than 350 years, it has been resurrected into a museum, that represents a tasteful blend of tradition and modernity.

The evening is at leisure to explore.

Overnight in Trongsa

27 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

Morning after breakfast drive to Punakha (approx 145 kms – 7+ hours under present road conditions)

Enroute take a short excursion to Chimi Lhakhang (from hotel it is about 15 minutes' drive till motorable road and then walk starts through paddy fields and villages. This is total about 1.5 hour walk, including both way). The Chimi Lhakhang, situated on a hillock in the centre of the valley, also known as the temple of fertility. It is widely believed that couples who do not have children and wanting one, if they pray at this temple, they are usually blessed with a child very soon. The trail leads across rice fields to the tiny settlement of Pana, meaning 'field'. A walk through the village near the temple will give you rare glimpses into the daily life and lifestyle of the villagers



The evening is at leisure.

Overnight in Punakha



28 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, walking excursion to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten (approx. 2 hrs walk).

After lunch, visit magnificent Punakha Dzong.



Following the dzong visit there will be an excursion to Talo village, which is scattered along the hill slopes and known for its cleanliness and hygiene among Punakha villages. Talo is the seat of the mind incarnations of the Zhabdrung. Talo Sangnacholing Dzong is built on a plateau and has majestic view of surrounding villages. The beautiful farmhouses of the village have its own flower gardens and on the hill slope corns and sweet peas are grown in abundance. Spend time at Nobgang and Talo villages visiting farmhouses and meeting families, experiencing Bhutanese rural life.

Overnight in Punakha

29 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

After breakfast, drive to Paro (approx. 125 kms – 4 hrs) enroute visiting Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress of the country which now houses School for Buddhist studies.

On arrival in Paro, check into the hotel.



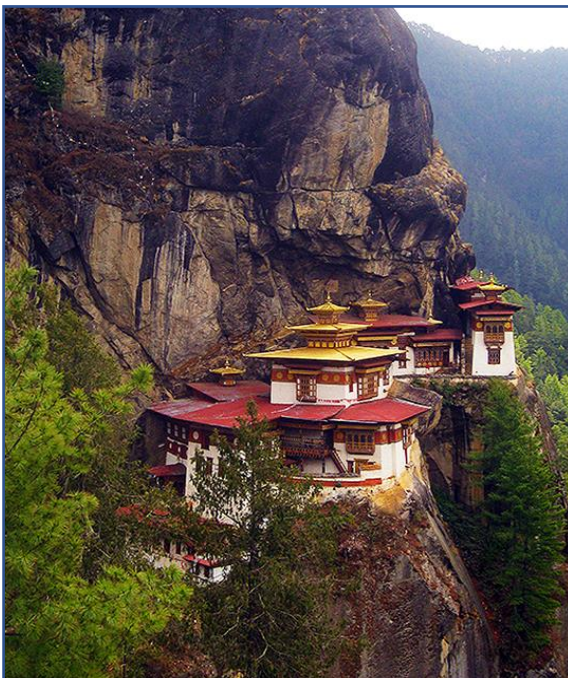


After lunch, visit Ta Dzong (national museum) and Rinpung Dzong

Overnight in Paro

30 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

Later embark on an excursion to Taktsang Monastery or Tiger's Nest (approx. 5 hrs round trip walk)



Taktsang (Tiger's nest) and the easy option

Then visit Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest and most sacred shrines of the country.

Overnight in Paro

31 Oct'20 Breakfast at the hotel

In time, you will be transferred to Paro international airport to connect with your flight to Delhi.

Departs	Paro	TBA	ETD TBA Hrs
Arrives	Delhi	Economy	ETA TBA Hrs

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.



Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

For the rest of the day you will be at leisure. A car and driver can be arranged.

Colonels Retreat

01 Nov'20 Breakfast at the hotel

In time, you will be transferred to the international airport to connect with your flight home.



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**YOUR ACCOMMODATION**

Dates	Nts	City	Hotel	Room Category	Meal
18-19 Oct'20	01	Delhi	Colonels Retreat	Standard Room	BB
19-21 Oct'20	02	Thimphu	Hotel in Thimphu	Standard Room	FB
21-23 Oct'20	02	Gangtey	Hotel in Gangtey	Standard Room	FB
23-26 Oct'20	03	Bumthang	Hotel in Bumthang	Standard Room	FB
26-27 Oct'20	01	Trongsa	Hotel in Trongsa	Standard Room	FB
27-29 Oct'20	02	Punakha	Hotel in Punakha	Standard Room	FB
29-31 Oct'20	02	Paro	Hotel in Paro	Standard Room	FB
31 Oct-01 Nov'20	01	Delhi	Colonels Retreat	Standard Room	BB

The price per person is from £4,000 (flight prices may change up to the point of ticketing)  
Single supplement £480

The price includes:

International return flights UK/India and India/Bhutan  
14 nights' accommodation on twin sharing basis as per the hotel grid;  
Meal plan as stated above; [BB: Bed & Breakfast; FB: Full board];  
Bhutan Sustainable Development Fee & Taxes;  
Bhutan Visa Fee;  
Sightseeing and activities in Bhutan as mentioned in the itinerary;  
Services of an accompanying English-speaking accompanying guide in Bhutan for sightseeing tours as per the itinerary;  
All transfers, sightseeing and excursions as per the itinerary will be by;  
In India: Mini coach  
In Bhutan: Toyota Coaster Bus  
Entrance fees, road taxes, parking fees, fuel charges, interstate taxes and portage at all airports;  
All currently applicable taxes, including the service tax applicable on the total invoice amount.

The price excludes:

Expenses of personal nature like tipping, laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fees at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure taxes where not included in the ticket price, etc.;;  
Meals other than those specified above;  
Any insurance;  
Indian visa fees;  
Any air-fare unless mentioned above;  
Any other services not mentioned in the inclusion.

Special Notes:

UK, US, EC and citizens of most other countries require a visa to visit India and you will require a minimum of 6 months validity remaining on your passport from date of arrival.  
You are responsible for obtaining visas yourselves but we will of course provide any guidance or assistance you may require. For single entry visits of up to 30 days UK, US and some EC citizens



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can us the e-TV online visa on arrival system which has simplified the application process and reduced the cost. Details can be found at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

Journey times are approximate and may vary considerably due to adverse traffic or road conditions and the number and duration of stops along the way.

Air and train fares are indicative and are subject to confirmation at time of booking.

Check in time at the hotel is 1400 Hrs and check out time is 12 Noon

In case of any currency fluctuations, amendments to Government taxes, or any fuel price rises we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly.

Any change in hotel or room category may attract a supplement or reduction in the tour cost.

### **Hotels envisaged (3\*+)**

**PARO:** Tashi Namgay Resort ([www.tashinamgayresort.com](http://www.tashinamgayresort.com)) / Tenzinling Resort ([www.tenzinling.com.bt](http://www.tenzinling.com.bt)) / Hotel Drukchen ([www.hoteldrukchen.com](http://www.hoteldrukchen.com)) / Hotel Olathang ([www.bhutanhotels.com.bt](http://www.bhutanhotels.com.bt)) / Kichu Resort ([www.kichuresorts.com](http://www.kichuresorts.com)) / Tiger Nest Resort ([www.tigernest.bt](http://www.tigernest.bt)) Yewong Eco Lodge ([www.bhutanecolodges.com](http://www.bhutanecolodges.com))

**THIMPHU:** Thimphu Tower ([www.thimphutowers.com](http://www.thimphutowers.com)) / City Hotel ([www.cityhotelthimphu.com](http://www.cityhotelthimphu.com)) / Hotel Gakyil ([www.gakyilbhutan.com](http://www.gakyilbhutan.com)) / Hotel Jumolhari ([www.hoteljumolhari.com](http://www.hoteljumolhari.com)) / Hotel Galingkha ([www.hotelgalingkha.com](http://www.hotelgalingkha.com)) / Hotel Phuntsho Pelri ([www.bhutanhotels.com.bt](http://www.bhutanhotels.com.bt)) / Namgay Heritage Hotel ([www.nhh.bt](http://www.nhh.bt)) / Zhingkham Cottages ([www.zhingkhamcottages.com](http://www.zhingkhamcottages.com))

**PUNAKHA:** Meri Puensum Resort ([www.meripuensum.bt](http://www.meripuensum.bt)) / Hotel Zangtho Pelri / Khuru Resort / Zhingkham Resort ([www.bhutanhotels.com.bt](http://www.bhutanhotels.com.bt)) / Y.T Hotel ([www.bhutanecolodges.com](http://www.bhutanecolodges.com))

**GANGTEY:** Hotel Dewachen ([www.dewachenhotel.com](http://www.dewachenhotel.com)) / Gakling Lodge / Wangchuk Lodge ([www.wangchukhotel.com](http://www.wangchukhotel.com)) / Theckchenphodrang Lodge / Yue Lo Ki Lodge / Gangtey Guest House / Phuentsho Yangkhil Lodge / Dhangsa Resort / Kichu Resort

**TRONGSA:** Yangkhil Resort ([www.yankhil.bt](http://www.yankhil.bt)) / Phuenzi Lodge

**BUMTHANG :** Wangdicholing Resort ([www.wangdicholingresort.com](http://www.wangdicholingresort.com)) / Hotel Jakar View / Mountain Resort / Hotel Peling ([www.hotelpeling.com.bt](http://www.hotelpeling.com.bt)) / Yu-Gharling Resort ([www.yugharling.com](http://www.yugharling.com)) / Hotel Ugyenling ([www.bhutanhotels.com.bt](http://www.bhutanhotels.com.bt)) / Swiss Guest House ([www.swissguesthouse.bt](http://www.swissguesthouse.bt))



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