



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



BHUTAN: THE HIDDEN KINGDOM

A behind-the-scenes journey through the world's last Buddhist kingdom



MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Uncover a civilization stuck in time in this remote destination
- See the epic Tiger's Nest Monastery tucked into the Himalayan Mountains
- Experience Bhutan's traditional Buddhist roots in a session with a master guru
- Learn to make tasty Bhutanese cuisine in a cooking class
- Visit a community school and learn exactly why Bhutan is considered the happiest country on Earth
- Meet with a variety of local people: This could be musicians, writers, public figures or other Bhutanese folks who are making an impact on the culture



TRIP AT A GLANCE

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.

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 - Hike to 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

Nestled in the snow-capped Himalayan Mountains, Bhutan is a country that has withstood the pressures of modernity, as the last great Himalayan kingdom and a place where traditional Buddhist culture melds with a society that prides happiness and sustainability as their central philosophies.

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 and 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 - including rising artists, musicians and activists.

Experience the breathtaking Phobjikha & Punakha Valleys where meadows, mountains and serene wildlife all come together. We'll learn to make Bhutanese cuisine with a local chef and gaze in awe at the Tiger's Nest, a stunning monastery built into a cliff. Each night, rest in our portfolio of unique lodges and experience true Bhutanese hospitality.

Arrive on group flight
from New Delhi, India



B H U T A N



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HIGHLIGHTS



TIGER'S NEST

Known locally as Paro Taskstang, 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 IMMERSION

The Discover Corps difference lies in the access and connections fostered through community ties on the ground. 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 visit 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

Your journey begins with an evening in New Delhi. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport and transferred to a nearby five-star hotel. This day is unguided, allowing you to unwind and enjoy dinner at the hotel's restaurant. Because flights into Bhutan are limited, this stay ensures everyone is ready for our group departure early the next morning.

DAY 2: Fly to the Kingdom of Bhutan

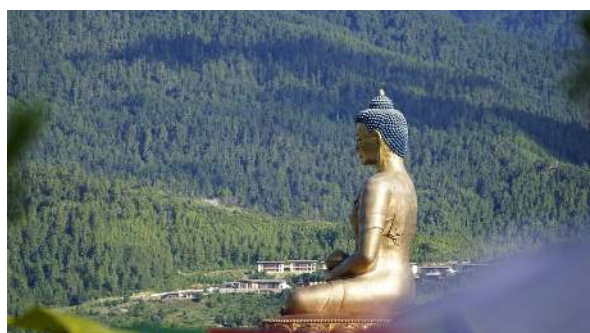
After breakfast, head to the New Delhi Airport with a representative for our group flight to Paro, Bhutan. This two-hour flight will take us to one of the most remote corners of Earth, where time seems to have stood still. Enjoy a traditional welcome to Bhutan from your dedicated expert Bhutanese guide. 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.

Settle in to your 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

After breakfast, we'll set 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 & Modernizing Bhutan

Today's itinerary takes us 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 unique opportunity to experience these rituals with a guru.



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 stop by a teahouse to try some of Bhutan's famous cordyceps tea. In the afternoon, we'll meet with local change-makers for some engaging conversation. 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. Dochu La sits above both Thimphu and Punakha, giving amazing views. As we descend down into the Punakha valley, we'll stop for lunch at Lobesa, a charming Bhutanese town.



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. 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 on a two hour hike through 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 dinner. *(B, L, D)*



DAY 7: Punakha to Paro Valley

Get ready for a treat for your tastebuds! This morning we'll have the chance to learn how to make several traditional Bhutanese dishes from a master chef. Bhutan is close to the spice trade of the Silk Road, which led to a simple, tasty (and sometimes spicy) style of cooking. Next, 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)

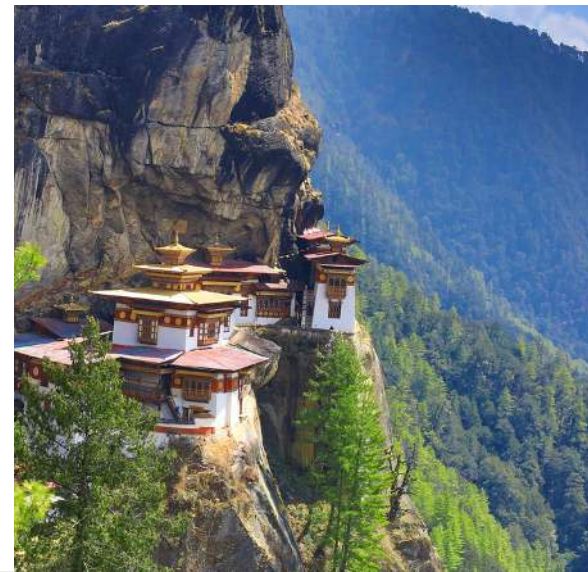
DAY 8: Tiger's Nest Excursion

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. 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)

Please note: Tiger's Nest can only be reached by foot and requires a challenging 5-7 hour round-trip hike. You'll be accompanied by a trek leader and will have stops along the way. For those that opt out of the hike, a set of alternate activities will be arranged which may include village visits, a tour of the Paro fortress, the National Museum of Paro, a meal at a local farmhouse and shopping in Paro.

DAY 9: Depart for Home

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 unique, boutique lodges for your stay in the kingdom. Where you'll stay will depend on the season and availability. Begin the journey at the 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 4-star boutique Zhingkhom Resort in Punakha and end the trip in Paro's Tiger's Nest Camp. Experience true Bhutanese hospitality in this high-end glamping retreat nestled on the edge of a national forest. On our pre-night in New Delhi, we'll stay at a 5-star property next to the airport.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.





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9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: \$5,495

CHILD: \$4,995

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplement is \$895. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. 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 over-tourism. We've decided to lump all of these fees into the trip price so you can travel with peace of mind.

**SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF
DEPARTURE DATES**

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 8+
- Travelers who are comfortable with HIGH physical activity

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 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

CUSTOM / PRIVATE 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.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Double-occupancy lodging in Bhutan at 4-4.5 star hotels for 7 nights & 1 night lodging at 5-star hotel near airport in New Delhi
- \$750 round-trip flight between India and Bhutan and Bhutan Visa (included in supplement)
- All meals throughout the journey in Bhutan
- Expert guide to support and inform you throughout the trip
- All transportation with experienced drivers
- The mandatory Sustainable Development Fund tariff required by all tourists entering Bhutan
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Meals during the New Delhi portion of the trip
- International Airfare to and from New Delhi, India
- India Visa
- Mandatory Travel Insurance for Bhutan

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.

PAYMENT PLANS

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:

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



Our Mission

Discover Corps' mission 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	JAMAICA
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
BALI	KENYA
BAJA	MOROCCO
BHUTAN	OAXACA
CHILE	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA
GREECE	VIETNAM
GUATEMALA	



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