

Indagare

INDAGARE
JOURNEY

MAGIC OF BHUTAN

FEBRUARY 24 – MARCH 6, 2026 11 DAYS | 10 NIGHTS



THIMPHU | PUNAKHA | GANGTEY VALLEY | PARO

Magic of Bhutan

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026 (10 NIGHTS)

Sitting at the foot of the Himalayas, Bhutan has long been considered the last Buddhist Kingdom and has remained isolated from the modern world for centuries. On this journey, explore this captivating place with daily hikes through rural towns and lush forests, as you make your way to the legendary Tiger's Nest and relax at some of the area's most incredible lodges. Discover ancient monasteries and rustic farmhouses as you are welcomed for meals and meditations and take in the beautiful, wild landscapes. Plus, experience the Punakha Tshechu, a unique cultural festival to celebrate Buddhist teachings.

BEST FOR



TRAILBLAZING

ACTIVE/ADVENTURE

WELLNESS

FROM \$14,000 (PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY); \$18,500 (SINGLE OCCUPANCY)

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL EXPERIENCES



Experience Bhutan's unique culture, architecture and history, as you journey from Thimphu to Punakha, Gangtey and Paro through visits with local farmers, hikes past hilltop monasteries and stops for scenic picnics along the way.

Challenge yourself and marvel at the natural beauty of Bhutan on hiking trails that wind through forest-covered mountains dotted with ancient temples and rural villages—including the trek up to the awe-inspiring Tiger's Nest.

Immerse yourself in the spirituality of one of the world's oldest Buddhist countries—and the happiest on earth—with visits to monasteries and sacred sites, where you will meet Buddhist monks and experience private meditations and blessing ceremonies.

Attend the Punakha Tshechu, one of Bhutan's most vibrant and meaningful festivals, held within the impressive Dechenphodrang Dzong. Here, watch masked monks perform sacred dances to the sounds of traditional horns, drums and cymbals.



Cover photo courtesy COMO Hotels & Resorts; This page courtesy Indagare

Your Accommodations

ZHIWALING ASCENT

Situated on the roof of Thimphu Valley, amid verdant woodland, Zhiwa Ling Ascent is a tranquil escape. The wooden details give the property a minimalist feel, and the panoramic views over the valley are breathtaking.

PEMAKO PUNAKHA

A Bhutanese-owned tented villa retreat in the lush Punakha Valley, designed by Bill Bensley to blend traditional dzong architecture with modern luxury. Each of its private pool villas features serene Himalayan views, Bhutanese fabrics and copper accents.

GANGTEY LODGE

Overlooking the vast Phobjikha Valley, near the 17th-century Gangtey Monastery, this farmhouse-style lodge designed by Mary Lou Thompson has 12 homey rooms with large copper bathtubs that look out over the sweeping valleys.

COMO UMA PARO

The first luxury property in Bhutan offers a sumptuous base from which to explore one of Bhutan's most interesting valleys. The main building houses 20 guest rooms, a cozy bar, a tree house-like circular dining room and the Shambhala spa.

Ready to experience Bhutan?

Click the link below to reserve your spot:

[BOOK NOW](#)



Courtesy Indagare

INDAGARE IMPACT

At Indagare, we believe that travel can and should have a positive impact on the destinations we visit. We are proud to operate as a 100 percent carbon-neutral company, and you can rest assured that the unavoidable emissions from your trip have been offset through trustworthy carbon projects. And through the Indagare Impact Fund, we donate an additional percentage of our annual revenue to carefully vetted non-profits committed to helping preserve culture, heritage and the environment.



Itinerary



DAY 1, FEB. 24: WELCOME TO BHUTAN

- Arrive at the Paro International Airport and meet your dedicated guide and driver for your one-hour transfer to Zhiwaling Ascent hotel.
- On the way, stop at the Buddha Dordenma for gorgeous views overlooking Thimphu.
- Relax or go on a stroll through town with a guide. You may visit the VAST Art Gallery, a creative hub supporting Bhutanese contemporary artists, and the Memorial Chorten, one of Thimphu's most revered religious monuments.
- Enjoy a festive welcome dinner with your fellow travelers.

OVERNIGHT: ZHIWALING ASCENT | MEALS: D

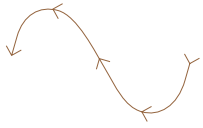
DAY 2, FEB. 25: THIMPHU TO PUNAKHA

- Check out of the hotel and spend the morning sightseeing and shopping in Thimphu. Visit the Textile Museum, home to exquisite examples of traditional weaving, browse the stalls at the Centenary Market and stop by the Royal Takin Preserve.
- Depart Thimphu for a scenic two- to three-hour drive to Punakha. En route, stop at Dochula Pass and walk up to the Druk Wangyel Monastery for astounding views and a picnic lunch. Lama Nima will provide a blessing for a safe continuation to Punakha.
- Upon arrival at Pemako Punakha, check in and enjoy the evening and dinner at leisure.

DAY 3, FEB. 26: PUNAKHA TSHECHU & SPIRITUAL SITES

- Enjoy a riverside hike to the magnificent Punakha Dzong, or the "Palace of Great Happiness" for the annual Punakha *Tsechu* (festival). Witness a spectacle of masked dances, elaborate costumes and sacred rituals that have been passed down through generations.
- Visit the Buddhist temple of Chimi Lhakhang and see the Khamsum Yuley Namgay Chorten, an ornate and elaborate shrine built by the royal family, with views of Punakha Valley's lush rice paddies and orange groves.
- Dinner afterwards will be at a local restaurant.

Itinerary



DAY 4, FEB. 27: PUNAKHA EXPLORATION & RAFTING

- Hike over the kingdom's largest suspension bridge to a quiet picnic spot by the Pho Chhu river for lunch before a rafting experience back down past the Punakha Dzong fortress.
- Return to the lodge for time to relax—perhaps practice your archery skills among locals or enjoy a spa treatment.
- Those who wish to continue exploring may make the pilgrimage up to the Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang Nunnery, perched high on the mountainside.
- Dinner is at leisure.

OVERNIGHTS (X3): PEMA KO PUNAKHA | MEALS (X3): B, L, D

DAY 5, FEB. 28: PUNAKHA TO GANGTEY

- Check out of Uma Punakha and embark on a four-hour scenic drive into Bhutan's Black Mountains, winding through a yak herder village, rhododendron and dwarf bamboo forests and local farms. A picnic lunch will be provided.
- A warm welcome awaits you upon arrival at Gangtey Lodge.
- Set off on a hike to visit the 15th-century Kewa Temple. At the temple, you will be welcomed by the head Lama to hear the story of this sacred site.
- This evening, unwind with a warm drink or hot stone bath—either at the lodge or a nearby farmhouse. Dinner is at leisure.

DAY 6, MAR. 1: GANGTEY VALLEY HIKE & ARTIST STUDIO

- Start the morning with the Longtey Lomey Hike, a rewarding walk through high-altitude yak country with stunning views of Gangtey Valley. Along the way, pass by a Buddhist *shedra*, a school for young monks. Return to the lodge for lunch.
- See the valley's Black Neck Crane Center, a bird sanctuary, and visit a local artist studio.
- As the sun sets, head to the Gangtey Monastery for the monk's evening prayers.
- Return to the lodge for dinner at leisure.



Courtesy Indagare





Itinerary

DAY 7, MAR. 2: GANGTEY VALLEY

- Your third day in Gangtey Valley is for rest and relaxation—or time to explore more hidden gems within the valley, by bike or foot, with or without your guide. You can head out on another hike, have tea with locals or find a quiet spot to admire the beauty around you. At the lodge, enjoy a traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath, partake in some archery or cozy up to a *Bukhari* (wood-burning stove).

OVERNIGHTS (X3): GANGTEY LODGE | MEALS (X3): B, L, D

DAY 8, MAR. 3: GANGTEY TO PARO

- Check out of Gangtey Lodge and embark on an early-morning drive on the Dochula Pass towards Paro (*four to five hours with stops*).
- Upon arrival, stretch your legs with the Zurig Hike—a gentle trail that winds along a forested ridge and leads to Paro's Rinpung Dzong (known as the “Fortress on Heaps of Jewels”). Continue to one of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred temples, Kyichu Lhakhang, to make an offering. Afterwards, enjoy a bit of window shopping or café hopping in Paro Town, where you'll find shops selling local textiles and Bhutanese handicrafts.

Please note: The drive to Paro is long and the roads are windy. If preferred, Indagare can provide a quote for a helicopter transfer from Gangtey to Paro at an additional cost. The helicopter charter is approximately \$9,000 and can accommodate up to 8 people.

DAY 9, MAR. 4: PARO CHELE PASS HIKE

- Adventure on the Chele La Pass through a blue pine and rhododendron forest, where you may encounter yaks among the flora and fauna. You may wish to continue to the Kila Goenpa Nunnery, the oldest in Bhutan.
- Cars will be waiting to take you back to the lodge for dinner and the evening at leisure. For those interested, a Bhutanese astrologer will be available at the hotel for private sessions (*at an additional cost*).

Itinerary

DAY 10, MAR. 5: PARO TIGER'S NEST

- On your last full day in Bhutan, depart to see the most famous monument: Paro Taktsang, the monastery known as Tiger's Nest, nearly 3,000 feet above Paro Valley. It will take about two hours to reach the viewpoint—your guide will share stories and history as you climb through pine forests that are decorated with moss and colorful prayer flags.
- Enjoy a tour of Drukgyel Dzong before a special farewell dinner at Uma Paro, accompanied by revered spiritual artist and teacher Lama Sonam Penjor, a monk from Rinpung Dzong.

OVERNIGHTS: COMO UMA PARO (X3) | MEALS: B, L, D (X3)

DAY 11, MAR. 6: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at leisure
- Transfer to Paro International Airport for your departure flight homeward.

MEALS: B

**Please Note: Elements of the itinerary are subject to change.*

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[BOOK NOW](#)

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Courtesy Indagare



Journey Inclusions

- All accommodations as detailed in the itinerary. Indagare can arrange higher category accommodation upgrades, subject to availability.
- All meals and beverages, as detailed in the itinerary
- All guided touring, admission fees and activities, as detailed in the itinerary
- Bhutan visa and processing fees, plus Government Taxes and Royalties (including the new Sustainable Development Fee Levy of \$100 per person, per day)
- Scheduled group airport arrival and departure transfers, as well as group transfers throughout to all included activities, in small luxury vehicles
- Baseline gratuities for drivers on touring days and guides
- Expert guides and drivers, including the 24/7 support of Indagare's partners on the ground
- The services of Indagare's expert travel team to plan all trip details and international flights (costs not included)
- Complimentary Indagare Self-Planner Trial Membership (valued at \$395)
- 24/7 access to Global Rescue emergency medical, security and evacuation services for the duration of the trip (see p. 9)
- Carbon Neutrality: Offsetting 100 percent of unavoidable emissions through certified carbon projects

Courtesy Indagare



JOURNEY EXCLUSIONS

- International air transportation to and from Bhutan
- Airport transfers outside of scheduled group arrivals and departures
- Optional activities and personal items and expenses
- Meals not specified and premium beverages other than those included in the meals
- Gratuities for arrival / departure representatives, transfer drivers, porters, and housekeeping
- Trip insurance (Required in order to receive Bhutanese visa—please let us know if you would like quotes)
- Custom trip-planning for add-on travel to destinations not included in the Journey is available; please inquire
- Liability for change in itinerary due to reasons beyond our control (such as flights, cancellations, natural phenomena)



Know Before You Go: Global Rescue & Trip Insurance

Complimentary International Global Rescue Services Coverage

*To help you travel more safely, responsibly and seamlessly, as part of your signup and registration, **all guests on International Indagare Journeys receive Global Rescue coverage for the dates of their journey as an added benefit.*** Global Rescue is not travel or trip insurance, but in the event that an emergency occurs during the trip, guests have access to a variety of services, including medical assistance and evacuation assistance. Indagare also strongly recommend that you purchase additional travel insurance for your trip, in case an unforeseen emergency arises or you need medical treatment while traveling. See below for more information.

Global Rescue Overview

Global Rescue was founded in 2004 and has five operations centers and offices in five countries, with 200-plus medical centers of excellence worldwide and 20,000-plus operations globally. Global Rescue operations centers are staffed by experienced nurses, paramedics and military special operations veterans.

For the duration of any Indagare Journey you have access to:

- **24/7 medical assistance and advisory services for natural disasters, terror attacks and civil unrest**
- **Evacuations from the point of injury / illness to home country hospital (pending the type of care and level of care needed)**
- **Travel intelligence services, including alerts and real-time destination reports for 215 countries**

Additional services include: symptom triage, referral to local hospital or clinic, urgent/emergency message relay, telephonic support, health information services, replacement of lost medical supplies & medical triage.

For more on Global Rescue, go to globalrescue.com.

Additional Trip Insurance Recommendation

It is important to note that the **Global Rescue coverage that comes with every purchase of an Indagare Journey is not the same as travel or trip insurance**, which—among other features—offers financial protection concerning situations that occur before a trip begins and require a change or cancellation of travel plans. These can include a personal or family illnesses or other unexpected factors such as lost luggage, flight disruption, illnesses or accidents that require emergency medical treatment and/or hospitalization.

So that guests can plan and undertake travel with the minimum possible financial risks, **Indagare also strongly recommends that guests joining Indagare Journeys trips purchase travel insurance to cover their trip(s).** Travel insurance may be obtained from any of a number of providers that specialize in such insurance, and as a courtesy to guests, **Indagare can arrange for a quote for coverage with our preferred providers to be prepared and emailed directly to you at your request.**

Note: Plans from some providers can be purchased up to 24 hours prior to departure; others require 14 days notice. Indagare recommends opting in to a plan well in advance of your trip. Please be advised that Indagare is not a licensed insurance company or advisor.