

Tour: Chomolhari Base Camp Trek (11 Nights 12 days)

This trek offers you a wonderful variety of Bhutanese landscapes and is without doubt one of the most beautiful and unspoiled trekking areas in the entire Himalayas. The trek begins at Drugyel Dzong passing through beautiful villages, scattered hamlets and farmland.

Vegetation zones differ from richly forested valleys to high alpine pastureland where Yak herders graze their animals. Trout fishing in the sky blue lake with magnificent views of three majestic peaks are some activities, which can be done on a rest day. You will also encounter rare species like the blue sheep, and with any luck, possibly even the snow leopard!

DAY 1: Arrive Paro Bhutan by Druk Air

Arrive Paro by Druk Air BAe 146 jet, the national carrier. The flight offers you beautiful views of mountains on your approach. On arrival and after visa formalities you will be received by our representatives and transferred to your very comfortable hotel.

In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to explore Paro town a little and visit Paro Dzong. A Dzong is part fortress, part castle, part monastery and part administration building. Paro Dzong is one of Bhutan's most impressive and well-known dzongs, and the finest example of Bhutanese architecture we'll see. The inward-sloping walls form a massive structure that towers over the town and is visible as a great white monolith from vantage points throughout the valley. Paro is at 2280 metres (7500 ft).

DAY 2: Day Hike To Taktsang Monastery

Day hike to Taktsang monastery, the famous "Tiger's Nest". Horses can be arranged for an extra \$35 usd. The hike which is all up hill takes about 2 /3 hours through villages and pine forests. The monastery which clings to a huge granite cliff 800 meters above the Paro valley was devastated by fire in 1998 but the Royal Government has taken immediate steps to restore the monastery to its original structure. It is believed that the Buddhist saint Padmasambhava came in the 7th century on a flying tigress and meditated in a cave for 3 months. The demons were subdued who were trying to stop the spread of Buddhism and converted the Paro valley to Buddhism. During the end of the 17 century, a monastery was built on the spot where the saint meditated and it is a pilgrimage site for every Bhutanese to visit once in their life time. Stroll back to hotel.

DAY 3: Drive To Drugyel Dzong And Trek To Shana Camp

Drive to Drugyel Dzong where the trek begins. The path goes upstream along the Pachu river through villages gradually ascending to 2800 meters at Shana camp. Walking time 5/6 hours.

DAY 4: Trek From Shana To Soi Thangthangka

Shana to Soi Thangthangka. The trail again follows the Pachu river ascending through pine, oak and spruce forest. Lunch will be served near a wooden bridge. The camp is at an altitude of 3800 meters near a stone shelter. Walking time 7/8 hours.

DAY 5: Trek From Soi To Jangothang

Soi to Jangothang. Climb slowly for a while till you reach an army camp. Then follow the river above tree line with stunning views of the surrounding peaks. Hot lunch will be served inside a Yak herders camp. A easy walk will reach you to Jangothang at an altitude of 4050 meters. The view of Chomolhari (7320 meters) and Jichu Drake (6900 meters) is superb. Both the mountains are still virgin peaks. Walking time 4/5 hours.

DAY 6: A Rest Day At Jangothang

Rest at Jangothang. Explore the surrounding areas like Tshophu lake, visit Yakherders or simply relax.

DAY 7: Trek From Jangothang To Lingshi

Jangothang to Lingshi. The trail follows the stream for half hour and crosses the bridge to the right side. Climb up the ridge and enjoy stunning views of Chomolhari, Jichu Drake and Tshrim Khang mountains. Then walk through the wide open valley sometimes coming across herds of blue sheep. The climb up to the Nyele la pass 4700 meters is not too difficult and the view is breathtaking. After the pass its a gradual descent through the valley with beautiful views all around. Nearing the camp you will see the Lingshi Dzong perched atop a hill with commanding views of the valley. Arrive camp at 4100 meters near a stone shelter. Walking time 6/7 hours.

DAY 8: Trek From Lingshi To Shodu

Lingshi to Shodu. Today is the most difficult day so you start early. Begin walk opposite the dzong gradually through the valley until the stiff climb to Yale la pass at 4950 meters the highest point of the trip. The panoramic view of Mt.Chomolhari, Jichu Drake and Tshrim Gang is fantastic. After the pass it's a long descent to the camp at 3750 meters. Walking time 7/8 hours.

DAY 9: Trek From Shodu To Barshong

Shodu to Barshong. The path follows the Thimchu river descending through rhododendron, juniper and pine forests. The view of the huge cliffs and water falls are stunning. The trail gradually ascends after 3/4 hours to the ruins of Barshong Dzong reaching the camp at 3500 meters. Walking time 5/6 hours.

DAY 10: Trek From Barshong To Dodina And Drive To Thimphu

Barshong to Dodina. The path descends for a while joining the Thimchu river and gradually ascending and descending through thick bamboo and pine forests. From Dolemkencho the trail descends all the way to Dodina where the bus will be waiting for your return. Walking time 7/8 hours. Drive 1 and half hours to Thimphu (capital city). Overnight at a comfortable hotel.

DAY 11: Sightseeing In Thimphu And Drive To Paro

AM stroll around the market and drive 2 hours to Paro. PM Paro sightseeing. Overnight at a comfortable hotel.

DAY 12: Transfer To Airport For Departure

Transfer to the airport for departure to your onward destination..

Cost includes:

Camping staff; food and camping equipment
Accommodation on twin sharing basis at Guest Houses & Two-man tent during camping, Dining & Toilet tents, Car, driver, all ground transports and transfers, English speaking Guide, All food breakfast - lunch - dinner, Bhutan Permit

Cost excludes: Travel Insurance, Extra cost in the event of landslide for hiring porter or arranging additional transportation and evacuation cost in case of emergency, expenses of personal nature and personal clothing like down jackets. KTM & BKK Airport tax, Visa for Nepal

Prices per person 2015:

1 PAX :US\$ 250 pax per night X number of nights + Usd 50 (visa)
2 PAX :US\$ 230 pax per night X number of nights + Usd 50
3 + PAX :US\$ 210 pax per night X number of nights + Usd 50

On top of that comes the flight either from Bangkok or KTM.

Flight: Kathmandu - Paro - Kathmandu is USD 475.00 per person (Flight
Prices are subject of change without any notice!)