



TRAVEL ITINERARY: 6-DAY TRIP TO BHUTAN – BRIEF ITINERARY

Bhutan is one of the best countries to visit for Indians for four reasons:

- a) It's right next door
- b) All you need is a valid passport or a voter id
- c) The weather is lovely, and the views are amazing
- d) The trip is quite affordable—a round-trip to Bhutan can be done in around Rs.45,000 per person.

OVERVIEW OF YOUR BHUTAN ITINERARY

First, a quick overview of the places and activities this itinerary covers. The starting point is Bagdogra in West Bengal, because usually you would go there from your city first and then cross to Bhutan by car.

DAY 1: BAGDOGRA TO PHUENTSHOLING

- **Distance:** 165 km
- **Travel time:** 3.5 hours to 5 hours
- **Stay** in Phuntsholing
- **Places to see** on day 1:
 - Zangto Pelri Lhakhang
 - Phuentsholing Viewpoint (Alapan's Viewpoint on Google Maps)
 - OR Karbandi Monastery (Rinchending Goemba)
 - **Optional**
 - Palden Tashi Chholing Shedra
 - Amo Chhu Crocodile Breeding Centre (you can cover these on your return journey via Phuentsholing too)

DAY 2: PARO

- **Distance:** 145 km
- **Travel time:** 5-6 hours
- **Stay** in Paro
- **Places to see** on day 2:
 - Rinpung Dzong
 - Zuri Dzong,
 - Namgay Artisanal Brewery and Bistro
- **Things to do** in Paro over two days:



- Shop around Main Street
- Shop at the Paro weekend market (if you're staying on Sunday)
- Watch an archery competition (if there's one going on at the Archery Grounds)
- Visit Tashi Gongphel Handmade Paper factory and Sangay Wood Turning Factory
- **Special mentions:**
 - Haa Valley
 - Drive or trek to Chelela Pass
 - Jomolhari Mountain Festival
 - Paro Tshechu

DAY 3: PARO

- **Places to see on day 3:**
 - Tiger's Nest/Taktsang Goemba
 - National Museum of Bhutan AND one of the following:
 - Jangtsa Dumtseg Lhakhang
 - Kyichu Lhakhang
 - Tamchoe Lhakhang

DAY 4 AND 5: THIMPHU

- **Distance** from Paro to Thimphu: 51 km
- **Travel time:** Around 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Places to see:**
 - Motithang Takin Preserve
 - Sangaygang Viewpoint
 - Simply Bhutan OR Folk Heritage Museum
 - Jungshi Handmade Paper Factory
 - National Memorial Chorten and Tashichho (Trashi Chho) Dzong
 - Changangkha Lhakhang
 - Bhutan Textile Museum and Buddha Dordenma Statue
- **Things to do:**
 - Shop at Norzin Lam Street
 - Thimphu Weekend Market
- **Special mention:**
 - Dagala Thousand Lakes Trek and festivals such as Rhododendron Festival
 - Matsutake Mushroom Festival
 - Thimphu Tshechu



- Druk Wangyel Tshechu
- Dechenphu Tshechu.

DAY 6: BACK TO PHUENTSHOLING AND YOUR CITY

- **Distance from Thimphu to Phuntsholing:** 149km
- **Travel time:** 4 hours to 7 hours

***Pro Tip:** If you have only 5 days for the trip instead of 6, you can still follow the same itinerary. Just book a direct flight to Paro instead of going via Bagdogara and Phuntsholing. But remember, flights to Paro are fewer and more expensive.*

HOW TO GET YOUR BHUTAN ENTRY PERMIT

Get your entry permit at the Phuentsholing Regional Immigration Office (or at Paro airport if you're directly flying in). The requirements are:

- Adults: passport with minimum 6 months' validity OR Voters Identity Card
- Children below the age of 18: valid Birth Certificate in English (or a certified copy from regional language into English) AND school ID Card
- Suggested to have all hotel booking copies at hand
- Daily Sustainable Development Fee: Rs.1,200 per day for persons aged above 12, Rs.600 for children aged above 5 up to 12, and no fee for children aged 5 or below

IMPORTANT BHUTAN IMMIGRATION AND ENTRY-RELATED INFORMATION:

- Bhutan Gate open hours: 6am to 9pm every day
- Phuentsholing Regional Immigration Office timings: 6am to 8pm on weekdays (lunch time: 1pm to 2pm); closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and local holidays
- Entry Permit valid for 7 days, can be extended further for tourists with valid reasons
- Entry Permit valid only for visit to Paro and Thimphu
- For travel to other places from Thimphu, additional Route Permit required from the Immigration Office at Thimphu
- No need of entry permit to stay in Phuentsholing in case you reach outside immigration office hours
- Thimphu Immigration Office timings: 10am to 4pm from Monday to Friday; closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and local holidays
- For online Entry Permit, 3 things are mandatory:
 - Valid passport (Voter's ID won't do)
 - Must be done through a registered Bhutanese Tour operator
 - Stay must be with a hotel certified by the Tourist Council of Bhutan (TCB)



Get a temporary Bhutanese SIM card (Tashicell or Bhutan Telecom) from Phuntsholing, because while Indian networks might work well, international roaming charges are steep.

Also remember that Bhutan time is half an hour ahead of Indian time, so don't forget to reset your watch.

HOW MUCH WILL 6 DAYS IN BHUTAN COST?

Here's an estimate of how much a 6-day Bhutan trip would cost:

Item	Cost in Rs. *
Permit**	Rs.7,200 (Rs.1,200 per day x 6)
Cab (hatchback for 4 travelers)	Rs.18,000 (Rs.3,000 per day x 6)
Hotels**	Rs.14,500 (Rs.2,900 per day x 5)
Rinpung Dzong**	Rs.300
Taktsang Goemba**	Rs.1,000
National Museum of Bhutan, Paro**	Rs.25
Kyichu Lhakhang**	Rs.300
Motithang Takin Preserve**	Rs.300
Folk Heritage Museum**	Rs.50
Simply Bhutan**	Rs.300
Jungshi Handmade Paper Factory**	Rs.50
National Memorial Chorten**	Rs.300
Tashichho Dzong**	Rs.300
Bhutan Textile Museum**	Rs.100
Grand total	Rs.42,725

**calculated as per current rates, subject to change. Check out the latest prices before fixing your budget.*

***Cost per person for the entire trip*

Food costs not included