

Amankora

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Amankora is a series of five lodges spread across the central and western valleys of Bhutan, the Himalayas' last Buddhist Kingdom. The lodges – in Paro (24 suites), Thimphu (16), Punakha (12), Gangtey (8) and Bumthang (16) – enjoy pristine natural settings and combine to offer unique journeys of discovery between them.

80

Combining the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' with *kora*, or 'circular pilgrimage' in Dzongkha, Amankora is a series of five lodges spread across the central and western valleys of Bhutan. The Himalayas' last surviving Buddhist Kingdom, Bhutan is located between the Tibetan Plateau and India, making it one of the most remote and pristine environments on earth. The lodges – in Paro (24 suites), Thimphu (16), Punakha (12), Gangtey (8) and Bumthang (16) – enjoy breathtaking natural settings and combine to offer unique journeys of discovery between them.

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Combining the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' with *kora*, or 'circular pilgrimage' in Dzongkha, Amankora is a series of five lodges across the central and western valleys of Bhutan. The Himalayas' last surviving Buddhist Kingdom, Bhutan is located between the Tibetan Plateau and India, making it one of the most remote and pristine environments on earth. The lodges – in Paro (24 suites), Thimphu (16), Punakha (12), Gangtey (8) and Bumthang (16) – enjoy breathtaking natural settings and combine to offer unique journeys of discovery between them. Guided excursions are part of every Amankora journey, allowing guests to take in such sights as the famous Tiger's Nest.

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Combining the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' with *kora*, or 'circular pilgrimage' in Dzongkha, the Bhutanese language, Amankora is a series of five lodges spread across the central and western valleys of Bhutan.

The last surviving Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom, Bhutan is located between the Tibetan Plateau and India, making it one of the most remote and pristine environments on earth. Descending from 7,000-metre-high peaks in the north to the low-lying plains of the south, Bhutan's glacial rivers have forged deep valleys separated by high mountain passes. To best experience all that Bhutan has to offer, Amankora tailors personalised journeys that include a combination of its lodges located in the valleys of Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Gangtey and Bumthang.

The 24-suite **Amankora Paro** is sheltered within a blue-pine forest of glistening conifers, a 20-minute drive from Bhutan's international airport and

Paro town. The lodge lies beneath the ruins of the 17th-century Drukyel Dzong (fortress-monastery). **Amankora Thimphu** is a 16-suite lodge situated on a forested ridge in Thimphu, home to Bhutan's capital city. It is ideally placed for exploring Thimphu's museums, traditional shops and numerous cultural sites. **Amankora Punakha** lies east of the Dochu La Pass and just north of the resplendent Punakha Dzong. The twelve-suite lodge is surrounded by rice paddies and fruit plantations, and offers a heated outdoor infinity pool. The eight-suite **Amankora Gangtey** is located in the pristine, seldom-visited valley of Phobjikha, near the quaint village of Gangtey, with panoramic views of the magnificent Gangtey Goemba, a 16th-century monastery. Adjacent to the King of Bhutan's former palace, the 16-suite **Amankora Bumthang** is set in a region of sloping pine forests and fertile farmland known for its cottage industries.

Each of the five lodges offers elegant dining and lounge areas with beautiful views, an intimate spa and expansive outdoor areas for relaxing in the sun or beneath the stars.

500

Combining the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' with *kora*, or 'circular pilgrimage' in Dzongkha, the Bhutanese language, Amankora is a series of five lodges spread across the central and western valleys of Bhutan. Aman is the first international hotel group that offers its own accommodation and services in five valleys of the Kingdom.

The last surviving Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom, Bhutan is located between the Tibetan Plateau and India, making it one of the most remote and pristine environments on earth. Descending from 7,000-metre high peaks in the north to the low-lying plains of the south, Bhutan's glacial rivers have forged deep valleys separated by high mountain passes. Historically isolated, each valley's scenic beauty and topography affords visitors an opportunity for unique journeys of discovery between them. To best experience all that Bhutan has to offer, Amankora tailors personalised journeys that include stays at a combination of its lodges located in the valleys of Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Gangtey and Bumthang.

The 24-suite **Amankora Paro** is sheltered within a blue-pine forest of glistening conifers. A 20-minute drive from Bhutan's international airport and Paro town, the lodge lies beneath the ruins of the 17th-century Drukyel Dzong (fortress-monastery) at approximately 2,250 metres above sea level. As with each Amankora lodge, Amankora Paro offers elegant dining and lounge areas with beautiful views, an intimate spa with an extensive treatment menu, and expansive outdoor areas for relaxing in the sun or beneath the stars.

Amankora Thimphu is a 16-suite lodge situated on a forested ridge in Thimphu, home to Bhutan's capital city. Tucked into the blue-pine forests of the Motithang area, it is ideally placed for exploring Thimphu's museums, traditional shops and numerous cultural sites. The lodge also acts as a quiet retreat, removed from the city's activities.

Amankora Punakha lies east of the Dochu La Pass and just north of the resplendent Punakha Dzong, which dominates the confluence of the Mo Chhu and Po Chhu rivers. The twelve-suite lodge is surrounded by rice paddies and fruit plantations and occupies a restored traditional Bhutanese farmhouse. Guest suites are set in the adjacent orange orchard with a heated outdoor infinity pool right below.

The eight-suite **Amankora Gangtey** is located in the pristine, seldom-visited valley of Phobjikha near the quaint village of Gangtey. Set on a forested knoll, the lodge boasts panoramic views across the gorge to the magnificent Gangtey Goemba, a 16th-century monastery.

The 16-suite **Amankora Bumthang** rests adjacent to the first and second King of Bhutan's palace, Wangdicholing, within the town of Jakar in the Choekhor Valley. This region of sloping pine forests, apple orchards and fertile farmland is known for its cottage industries that produce the sought-after Bumthang jams, Gouda and Emmenthal cheeses, honey and a variety of fruit spirits and brandies.

Guided excursions by car and on foot are part of every Amankora journey, allowing guests to take in such sights as the famous Tiger's Nest, the 7th-century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the first Buddhist temples built in the country, and Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park, one of the country's most important wildlife sanctuaries.