

Your Journey Begins

Cultural Sojourn

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Uncover the western valleys – the beating heart of Bhutan where half its population reside and where the kingdom straddles one foot in its unchanged medieval past and another foot fully anchored into the arms of modernity. In this journey, embark on discoveries of Bhutan’s colourful history and cultural layers – from the birthplace of the kingdom’s Buddhist monastic body to the institutions bringing the country’s heritage to the forefront of its new generations, and the many iconic sites that embody its distinct culturalscapes.

Bhutan is a destination that demands not only to be seen but to be felt, heard, tasted, savoured and experienced within the context of cultural immersions. There is no journey long enough that can truly give justice to the heart and soul of this fascinating Himalayan kingdom, but this Cultural Journey is a good start.

Inclusions

- Accommodation in Amankora Thimphu, Punakha, and Paro lodges
- All meals and picnics enroute to Amankora lodges
- House Beverages
- All special sustainable travel and community experiences
- Activities, hikes and visits as stated in the programme
- Private English-speaking guide, driver, and vehicle for the entire journey
- Roundtrip airport transfers, laundry and wifi
- Monument passes and long road permits

Supplementary Costs

Visitors to the Kingdom of Bhutan are subject to additional government charges which include:

- Government sustainable development fee: US\$200 per person per night (Indian passport holder at INR 1200 per person per night)
- A Sustainable Tourism Fund: US\$10 per person, one time only
- Visa Fee USD 40 per person, one time only (non-refundable once visa is processed)

Reservations

Amankora
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amankora@aman.com

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or if we may be of further assistance.
For the full terms and conditions [click here](#).

6-Night Itinerary

A summary for your 6-night itinerary around the Kingdom of Bhutan. A detailed breakdown of each day and additional experiences can be found across the following pages.

Day	Location	Key Activity
Day 1	Paro / Thimphu	Arrival at Amankora Thimphu
Day 2	Thimphu	Cheri Goemba Hike, Pangri Zangpa Astrology School
Day 3	Thimphu / Punakha	Scenic drive to Punakha, The Fertility Temple
Day 4	Punakha	Khamsum Chorten Hike, Punakha Dzong
Day 5	Punakha / Paro	Scenic drive to Paro, Kyichu Lhakhang, Paro Dzong
Day 6	Paro	Tiger’s Nest Visit, Paro Old Town
Day 7	Paro	Departure from Paro International Airport

Terms and Conditions

The above itineraries are illustrative examples of what is possible when exploring the Kingdom of Bhutan through the Amankora Journeys. Itineraries are bespoke and subject to change depending on mountain and weather conditions. Preferred hikes and explorations can be discussed with the guide and driver before departure.

Meals are also tailored to personal preferences, with the chef offering both Bhutanese, Asian and Western menu options. Guests may extend their journey before or after the expedition at one of Aman's five lodges. For more information, contact the reservations team.

Other facilities and services

Amankora Paro

- Living room and dining room
- Aman Spa with five treatment rooms, sauna, steam room, outdoor baths, changing areas, yoga studio
- Boutique and library
- Multi-use meeting room for private events

Amankora Thimphu

- Living room, dining room, and outdoor terrace
- Aman Spa with three treatment rooms, steam room, and changing areas
- Boutique, gallery and library

Amankora Punakha

- Living room, dining room, courtyard terrace and tea room
- Aman Spa with two treatment rooms, steam room, changing areas, yoga and meditation space
- Game room, library and private rooms at the farmhouse
- Heated outdoor infinity swimming pool (28.5 x 5.2 metres, 1.4m deep)

Amankora Gangtey

- Living room, dining room, and outdoor terrace
- Aman Spa with two treatment rooms and changing areas
- Traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath

Amankora Bumthang

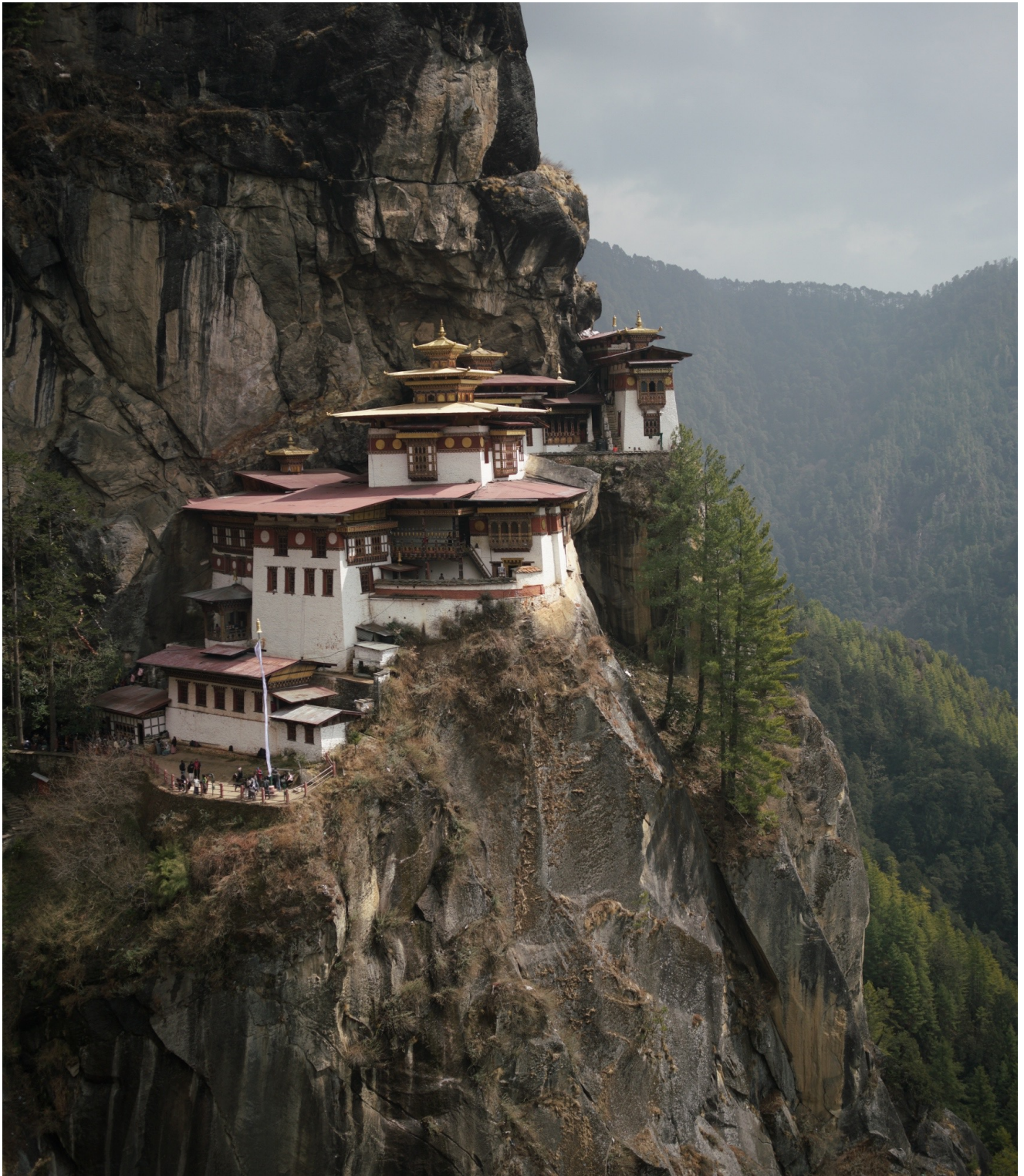
- Living room, dining room, and outdoor terrace
- Aman Spa with three treatment rooms, steam room, and changing areas
- Library

Our multilingual Reservations team are always available to help you with your travel planning from booking a single night to multi-resort itineraries



Himalayan Cultural Immersion

This four-to-six-night journey through the Kingdom's western valleys reveals the beating heart of Bhutan with stays at Amankora's Thimphu and Paro lodges. Discover Bhutan's colourful history and wealth of traditions while exploring the capital Thimphu, visiting Tashichho Dzong at dusk and hiking to the Cheri Goemba, a picturesque temple and monastery where the Kingdom's first monastic body was established. Your time in Paro will be spent exploring the town and countryside, and of course, climbing to the lofty Tiger's Nest. Perched cliffside with astounding views, the famed temple complex was first built in 1692 around the cave where a revered Guru was said to have meditated in the 8th century.



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Day 1 – Paro / Thimphu

Upon arrival at Amankora Thimphu, you will have time to settle in before exploring Bhutan's only city – a capital unlike any other. Visit the Simply Bhutan Museum, the Textile Museum, the Weaving Centre and the Paper Factory to learn more about Bhutan's cultural heritage in all its diverse forms.

Day 2 – Thimphu

After a hearty breakfast, hike to Cheri Goemba, a stunning temple and monastery where the Kingdom's first monastic body was established. After a picnic lunch, visit the Choki Art School, an institution focused on teaching traditional Bhutanese art (only open on weekdays) and the Pangri Zampa, a collection of 16th century temples that now houses a monastic astrology school. If you wish, we will have one of the monks read your astrological fortune or you can schedule a private astrology reading (chargeable activity) back at the lodge.

Day 3 – Journey to Punakha

While travelling to Punakha Valley, we will stop at the Semtokha Dzong, the country's first fortress and later pause at Dochula Pass with its striking memorial of 108 chortens. As we enter Punakha, we will visit the intriguing Chimi Lhakhang Temple, a site known all over Bhutan as the Fertility Temple, where the faithful gather to pray for the gift of a child. The adjacent village is an interesting place to wander about and see local crafts and folk art.

Day 4 – Punakha

Today begins with a hike to the extraordinary Khamsum Chorten, a route that takes you through farmlands and rice paddies and offers a wonderful opportunity to experience local farming traditions. Enjoy superb views of the valley from the chorten roof top, then savour a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, explore Punakha Dzong, one of Bhutan's largest fortresses said to have been envisioned by its architect in a dream in 1637. Visit its sacred halls, courtyards and cantilevered bridge, then stroll to another handcrafted marvel in the valley - the longest chain link suspension bridge in the world.



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Day 5- Journey to Paro

Today, we journey back to Paro, arriving in time for a traditional farmhouse lunch showcasing the authentic flavours of Bhutanese cuisine, prepared by a former cook of Bhutan's royal family. After lunch, start your exploration of the valley with the 7th-century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the Kingdom's first Buddhist temples. Then, wander through Bhutan's history with a visit to the Paro Rinpung Dzong and the National Museum, housed in a historic watch tower above the fortress. As evening falls, join a prayer flag printing workshop, an astrology reading or a talk on Gross National Happiness at Amankora Paro before heading to the Dining Room for dinner.

Day 6 - Paro

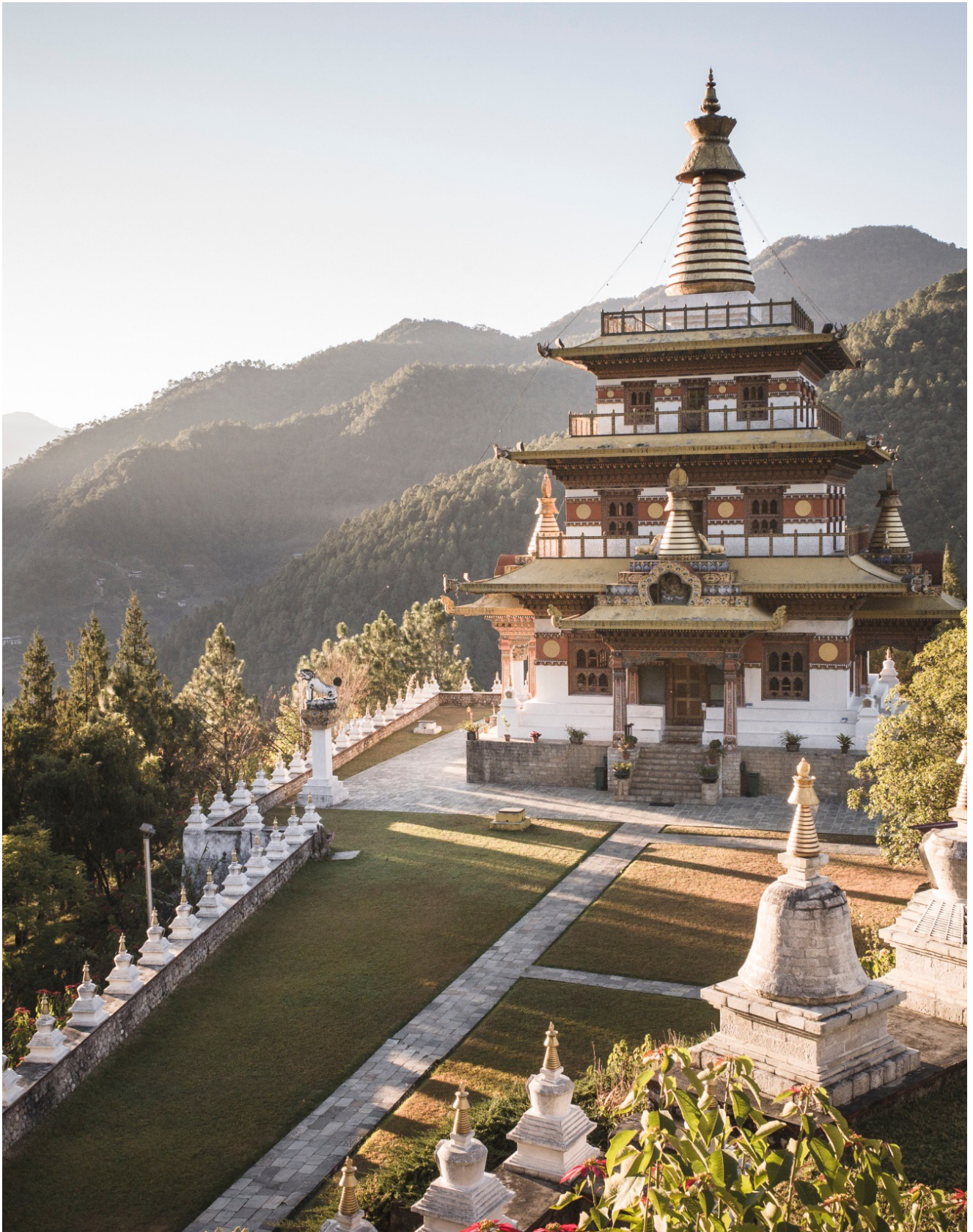
In the morning, visit one of Bhutan's most dramatic monuments, the Taktsang Goemba, more commonly referred to as the Tiger's Nest. Built on a sheer cliff face at an altitude of 2,950m (9,678ft), the monastery offers spectacular views of the valley 900m below.

Head back to the lodge for a late lunch and a well-deserved Holistic Massage. Then if time and energy allow, head to the old town of Paro to wander its streets lined with galleries, cafes and bookstores. A traditional Bhutanese dinner awaits back at the lodge, with traditional gho and kira garments available if you'd like to dress the part.

Day 7- Departure

This morning you bid farewell to Bhutan. Your driver will take you to Paro International Airport, a journey of around 30 minutes from the lodge. We recommend arriving two hours before the flight is scheduled to depart.





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Amankora
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