



amankora

Your Journey Begins

Guest Name

Date

The Amankora journey

The ultimate discovery of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Amankora Journey is the original exploration by land and air that first unveiled the Land of the Thunder Dragon's iconic sights and less-travelled corners to the world.

Traversing the western and central valleys of Paro, Thimphu, Punakha and Gangtey as well as Bumthang – the nation's gateway to the east, this journey covers the breadth of the diversity of this Himalayan realm as the landscapes, climate, flora, fauna and even the culture changes as the elevation shifts. Uncover the worlds of the planet's last Himalayan kingdom through the Amankora Journey and your stays in the five Amankora lodges.

Rate Inclusions

- Accommodation in Amankora Thimphu, Punakha, Gangtey, Bumthang and Paro lodges
- All meals and picnics enroute to Amankora lodges
- House Beverages including selection of wines and spirits
- Activities, hikes and visits as stated in the programme
- One complimentary 60 mins Amankora Holistic Massage per person once during stay and Hot stone bath per room in Gangtey
- One-way complimentary flight between Bumthang & Paro in economy class for single or double occupancy
- Private English-speaking guide, driver, and vehicle for the entire journey
- Roundtrip airport transfers, laundry and wifi
- Monument passes and long road permits
- Stay 13 nights and receive one complimentary night (stay 13, pay 12)

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)
- Druk Air & Bhutan airlines tariff & 5% handling fee

Reservations

Amankora

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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](#).

13-Night Itinerary

A summary for your 13-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	Visit to Cheri Goemba Monastery, Pangri Zampa and Tashi Chhoe Dzong
Day 3	Thimphu	Hike to Phajoding (2,800m elevation)
Day 4	Thimphu / Punakha	Scenic drive to Punakha
Day 5	Punakha	Hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten and visit to Punakha Dzong
Day 6	Punakha / Gangtey	Scenic drive to Gangtey (2.5hrs) before visiting Gangtey Village
Day 7	Gangtey	Choice of nature trail walk or Tongpushing hike
Day 8	Gangtey / Bumthang	Scenic drive to Bumthang (5hrs)
Day 9	Bumthang	Visit Jambay Lhakhang and Kurje Lhakhang
Day 10	Bumthang	Excursion to Tang Valley
Day 11	Bumthang / Paro	Flight to Paro
Day 12	Paro	Visit National Museum, Paro Dzong and cross the Nyamai Zampa Bridge
Day 13	Paro	Hike to Taktsang Goemba Monument
Day 14	Departure	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

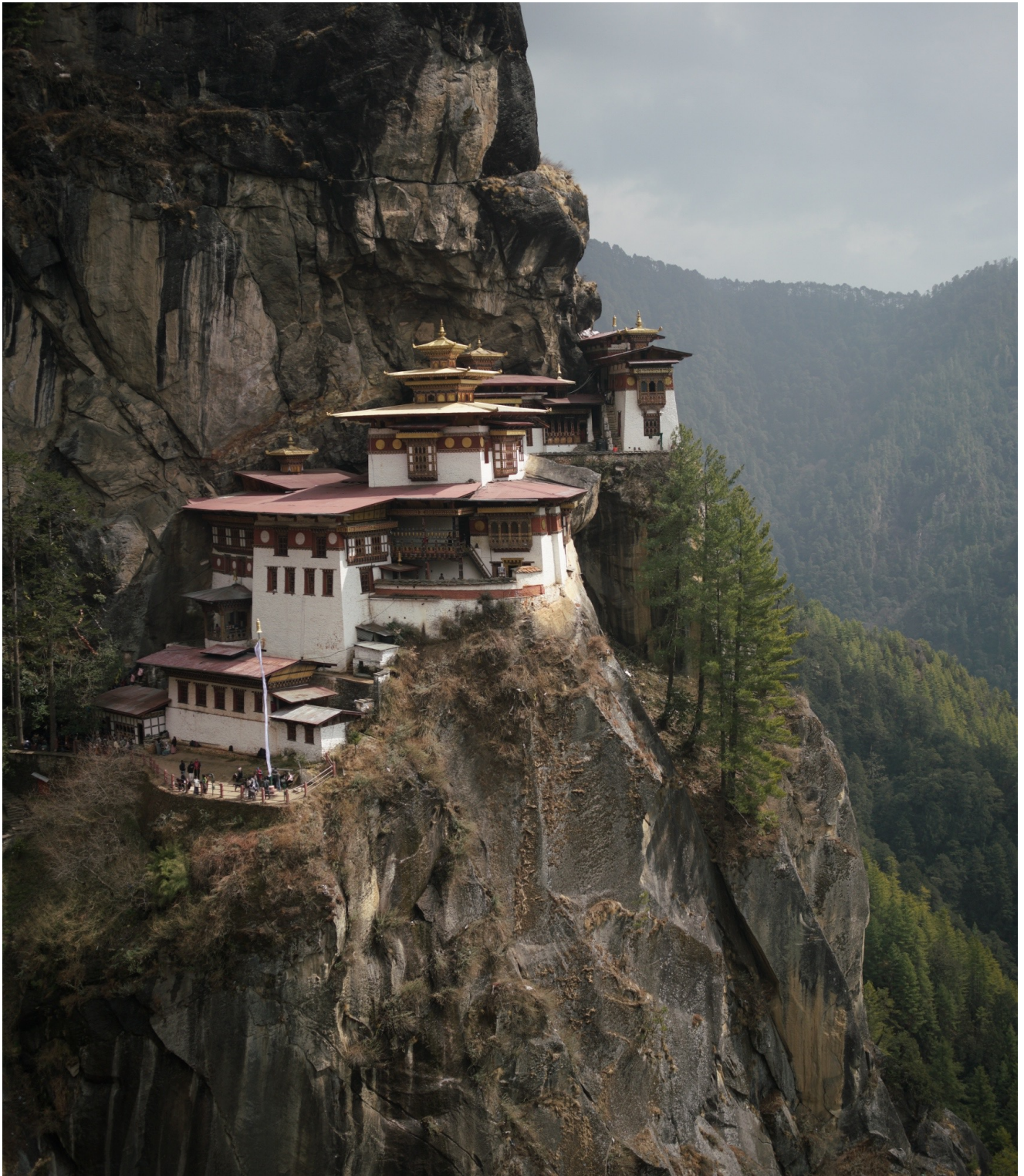
- Living room, dining room, and outdoor terrace
- Aman Spa with three treatment rooms, steam room, and changing areas
- Library

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



The Amankora journey

A bespoke adventure across the entire Kingdom, the Ultimate Amankora Journey draws deeply on Aman's intuitive understanding of Bhutanese culture, offering the only way to seamlessly experience five different valleys in seven to thirteen nights. As well as all meals, picnics and in-house beverages, the seven-day Amankora Journey also includes transfers, daily excursions with a private car, driver and guide, all monument passes and road permits, and a 60-minute Holistic Massage per person. Those journeying for 10 nights also enjoy a traditional hot stone bath at Amankora Gangtey in Phobjikha, while 13-night itineraries receive one complimentary night in addition to all the other inclusions mentioned.



13-Night Itinerary

Day 1 – Paro / Thimphu

Upon arrival at Amankora Thimphu, you will have time to settle in before exploring the Textile Museum, the Weaving Centre, the Buddha Dordenma and the National Memorial Chorten in the Kingdom's only city. Depending on your arrival time, you may also have time to visit the Institute for Traditional Medicine, the School of the 13 Arts, the Folk Heritage Museum and Simply Bhutan. No matter how many of these fascinating cultural centres you choose to visit, you will find yourself immediately immersed in the natural beauty and unique atmosphere of this capital like none other.

Day 2 – Thimphu

A short morning hike will take you to Cheri Goemba monastery. On the way back, pay a visit to the 16th-century Pangri Zampa, which now houses a monastic training school for astrologers. Back in Thimphu, explore the capital's cottage industries including traditional paper making and hand-rolled incense; browse Himalayan artefacts along the main street; and make your own stamp at the post office. At weekends you can visit the Craft Bazaar and colourful vegetable markets. After lunch, head to the north end of the valley to visit the Tashi Chhoe Dzong, the seat of Bhutan's government and royal offices. As the sun sets, take a stroll past the Motithang Takin Preserve for a beautiful view over the Thimphu Valley and the chance to spot Bhutan's national animal, the large bovid known as the takin.

Day 3 – Thimphu

After a hearty breakfast, hike to Phajoding, a beautifully decorated, hilltop Buddhist monastery overlooking the entire Thimphu Valley from the west. There are also several little monasteries spread out on the plain below. It is a steep climb, taking about 3½ hours up and about two hours down, passing through wooded areas of chir pine and rhododendron. In the afternoon, you may want to explore the charming lanes of central Thimphu to discover the city's coffee and dining scene and browse for Himalayan curiosities.

Day 4 – Journey to Punakha

Today's early departure takes guests on a dramatic drive over the mountain pass of Dochu La and into the Punakha Valley. Sights on the way include one of Bhutan's first fortress monasteries, the 17th-century Simtokha Dzong, and ancient wall paintings at the Hongtsho Goemba Monastery. The journey continues over the 3,050m mountain pass, from where towering Himalayan peaks are visible on clear days. After a stop for a picnic lunch, we continue on to Punakha, which lies at an altitude of 1,250m (4,100ft) in a warm, fertile valley at the junction of the Mo Chhu (Female River) and Pho Chhu (Male River). The valley's subtropical environment allows the cultivation of rice and exotic fruits, making it an apt setting for Chimi Lhakhang, the auspicious fertility monastery built in 1499. Many couples hoping to start a family come here to receive a blessing from the saint with the 'magic thunderbolt of wisdom'.

Day 5 – Punakha

Start the morning with a hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten, a stunning monument built by the Bhutanese Queen Mother and consecrated in 1999. Following the hike you can visit the impressive Punakha Dzong, which houses the remains of Bhutan's first ruler and is the winter residence of the monastic order's leader and his entourage of monks.

Choose to enjoy a private riverside barbecue for lunch or dinner, held just below the lodge in a grove of pine trees with views of rice fields and mountain peaks and the aromas of food sizzling on the charcoal grill. Dinner is especially romantic, lit by candles and lanterns and warmed by a bonfire (chargeable activity – pre-booking advised). In the afternoon, try your hand at archery, Bhutan's national sport.

Day 6 – Journey to Gangtey

The drive to the lofty village of Gangtey takes around 2½ hours, following first the Mo Chhu River and then the scenic Dang Chhu River before climbing through forests of bamboo and oak. Just before reaching the Pele La Pass, a small side road leads to the hidden Phobjikha Valley, home to Gangtey which is perched at an altitude of 3,000m (9,842ft). On arrival you will have time for a stroll through Gangtey Village before visiting the ancient altars and ramparts of the vast Gangtey Goemba, which overlooks the valley. Should the Gangtey Trulku be in residence, an audience for a blessing can be arranged.

Day 7 – Gangtey

Today, you have the choice of joining our Nature Trail walk, hiking to Tongpushing or combining both to complete a full loop of the valley. The Nature Trail winds through wildflower meadows to Semchubara Village, and then through beautiful forests to Tabeding Football ground via Khewa Lhakhang. If time and season permit, visit the Black Neck Crane Centre to spot these rare birds that migrate from Tibet in winter to breed.

The Tongpushing Hike is a leisurely 1½ - 2 hour walk through pine forest and farmland, starting from the lodge and continuing through Tokha Village. The trail then ascends to a magnificent open meadow and ends near the Royal Society for Protection of Nature campsite (a 15-minute drive from the lodge). Alternatively, do this hike in reverse or after completing the Nature Trail.

13-Night Itinerary

Day 8 – Journey to Bumthang

Today you will undertake the five-hour drive to Bumthang – a journey along the country’s only east-west highway. Following a brief stop at Chendebji Chorten, which according to legend was built to cover the remains of a demon spirit, you will carry on to Trongsa, the original home of the royal family. Explore the village and perhaps the Trongsa Dzong, then continue over the picturesque Yotong La Pass into the Chhume Valley, home to Bumthang and Bhutan’s famous Yathra weaving.

At 2,580m (8,464ft), Bumthang Valley is a patchwork of buckwheat, millet and potato fields, with apple orchards climbing the slopes to meet deep pine forest. Across the valley lie many of the Kingdom’s most auspicious houses of worship and ancient monasteries. After getting settled at the lodge, explore our neighbouring palace, Wangdicholing, the birthplace of Bhutan’s first king renowned for its prayer wheels.

Day 9 – Bumthang

Heading up the valley, today we will visit Jambay Lhakhang, home to the early-winter festivals that draw thousands of Bhutanese for their annual blessings; and then the grand Kurjey Lhakhang, once the resting place of Guru Rinpoche and one of the country’s most auspicious monuments. A short walk away, enjoy a Bumthap farmhouse lunch, then head back into town and across the Bumthang Chhu to visit to the sin-cleansing Tamshing Monastery.

Don’t miss the chance to explore the valley’s unique cottage industries – the Red Panda Brewery, the Cheese/Dairy Facility and the Distillery, which is home to a number of distinctive spirits. Red Panda’s local beer and cheese tasting session is highly recommended (chargeable activity).

Day 10 – Tang Valley

Today we begin early for an excursion to Tang Valley, a seldom-visited area of temples and monasteries that are truly off the beaten track. Enroute, stop off at the Burning Lake, where legend tells of a famous Buddhist saint who dreamt that he dove into the river pool carrying a burning butter lamp and returned with treasures and the lamp still burning. Visit the nunnery as well as 14th-century Ta Rimochen Lhakhang, its temple dominated by an enormous rock at which Guru Rinpoche meditated.

Continue to the wonderful museum at Ogyen Chhoeling Palace. The exhibits offer a rare insight into Bhutanese culture, lifestyle, history and religion. The palace is reached by a short hike, stopping along the way for a traditional picnic with breathtaking valley views.

Day 11– Flight to Paro

After a scenic 35-minute flight from Bumthang, you will land in Paro and be driven through the town towards the north end of the valley. Here, Paro lodge lies hidden in pine forest. In the afternoon, there is time for a short stroll from the lodge, walking across open fields and past village houses. Before the sun sets, settle beside the big prayer wheel below the Drukgyel Dzong, and relax whilst admiring the rural scenery and changing sky.

Alternatively, enjoy an archery session using a set of traditional bows and arrows. Evenings at Amankora Paro may include informative lectures on Gross National Happiness, traditional cultural performances, prayer flag printing or an intriguing movie on the Himalayas.

13-Night Itinerary

Day 12 – Paro

Begin the day with a visit to the National Museum, housed in the former watch tower of the Rinpung Dzong fortress. An intriguing collection of artefacts provides a wonderful introduction to the rich culture and heritage of the kingdom. Just a short walk downhill lies the imposing Paro Dzong, home to one of the most important monastic bodies and countless cultural treasures. From the fortress, we will cross the Nyamai Zampa, a traditional cantilevered bridge, after which you'll be driven to the town temple. Built in 1525, it is renowned for its ancient wall paintings.

Choose between a picnic lunch or a traditional farmhouse meal then explore the 7th-century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the Kingdom's first Buddhist temples. Light 108 butter lamps (chargeable activity) and learn about the ancient Buddhist traditions still practised today. A visit to the unique stupa-shaped Dumtse Lhakhang will be followed by a stroll around Paro's picturesque old town.

Day 13 – Paro

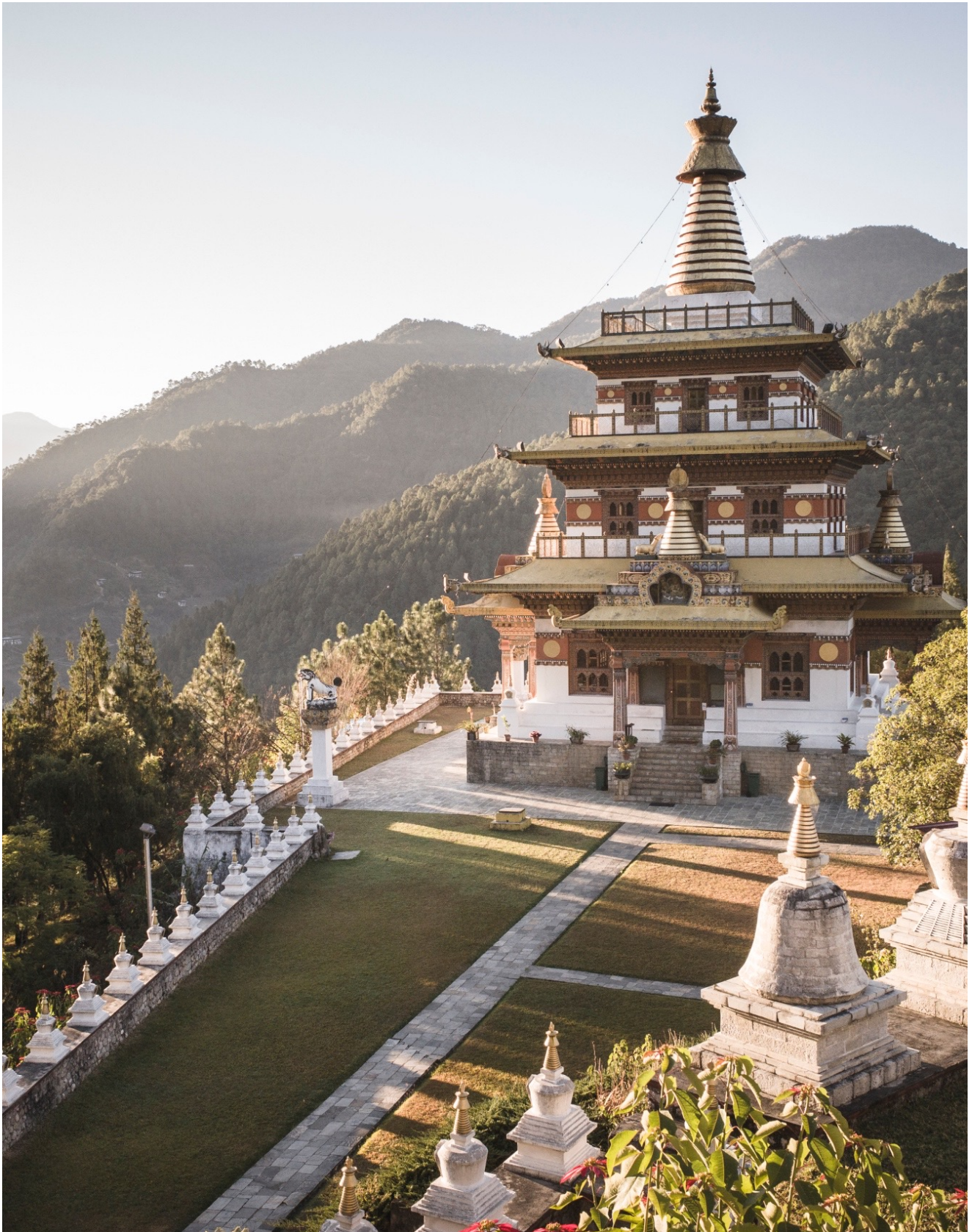
In the morning, hike up to view one of Bhutan's most dramatic monuments, the Taktsang Goemba (more commonly referred to as the Tiger's Nest), built on a sheer cliff face at an altitude of 2,950m (9,678ft). The four-hour trek offers spectacular views of this sacred monastery perched on the rocks, 900m above the valley floor. Accommodating mules and donkeys will be on hand to lessen the exertion of the climb, if so desired.

As this is your last evening with us, you may want to soak in our Hot Stone Bath and relax your body with a massage (chargeable activity).

Day 14 – 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
Paro, Thimpu, Punakha, Gangtey and Bumthang, Kingdom of Bhutan
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