

amankora

Your Amankora Journey

Guest name

Stay dates

Amankora Journey

Incorporating stays at four out of five of Amankora's lodges in the Kingdom of Bhutan, this 8-night Amankora Journey will unveil the Land of the Thunder Dragon's most iconic sites and cultural nuances in four different valleys.

Traversing the western and central valleys of Paro, Thimphu, Punakha and Gangtey – this journey covers the breadth of the diversity of this Himalayan realm as the landscapes, climate, flora, fauna and even the culture changes as elevation shifts. Staying two nights in each lodge, the rhythm of this journey will naturally alternate between days of travel and days when you arise and go to sleep in the same lodge. Both will be filled with exploration and moments of discovery and wonder as you uncover the secrets of this last remaining Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom with Aman.

Inclusions:

- Accommodation at Amankora Thimphu, Punakha, Gangtey and Paro lodges
- All meals and picnics en route to Amankora lodges
- House Beverages
- 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
- One 60-minute massage per person enjoyed at any of the lodges
- 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: USD 200 per person per night (Indian passport holders only: INR1,200 per person per night)
- A Sustainable Tourism Fund: USD 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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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](#).

8-Night Itinerary Summary

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 / Gangtey	Scenic drive to Gangtey (2.5hrs), Gangtey Village
Day 6	Gangtey	Choice of nature trail walk or Tongpushing hike
Day 7	Gangtey / Paro	Scenic drive to Paro (6hrs), Kyichu Lhakhang, Farmhouse Lunch
Day 8	Paro	Tiger’s Nest Visit, Gross National Happiness Lecture
Day 9	Departure	Departure from Paro International Airport

Terms and Conditions:

- The above itinerary is an illustrative example of what is possible when exploring the Kingdom of Bhutan with Aman.
- Itineraries are bespoke and subject to change depending on mountain and weather conditions.
- Preferred hikes and expeditions can be discussed with guide and driver before departure.
- Meals are tailored to personal preferences, with Amankora chefs offering Bhutanese, Asian and Western menu options.
- Guests may extend their journey before or after at one or more of Amankora's five lodges.
- For more information, contact our reservations team.

Amankora's Lodges

Designed by Kerry Hill, five intimate lodges have allowed Amankora (peaceful pilgrimage) to offer unique journeys of discovery across the Kingdom's spectacular central and western valleys since 2005. 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.

Amankora Paro

Close to the famous cliffside Tiger's Nest Monastery, Amankora Paro shelters within a blue-pine forest with dramatic views of the snow-capped peak of Jhomolhari, a 20-minute drive from Bhutan's international airport.

- 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

Amankora Thimphu is situated in the forested Thimphu Valley, ideally placed for exploring the capital's museums, traditional shops and cultural sites.

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

Amankora Punakha

Overlooking rice paddies and orchards from its infinity swimming pool, Amankora Punakha lies east of the Dochula Pass and just north of the resplendent Punakha Dzong.

- 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)

Amankora Gangtey

Amankora Gangtey is located in the spacious, seldom-visited valley of Phobjikha and claims panoramic views of the magnificent Gangtey Goemba, a 16th-century monastery.

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

Amankora Bumthang

Amankora Bumthang is set adjacent to the King of Bhutan's Palace in a region of sloping pine forests and fertile farmland known for its cottage industries.

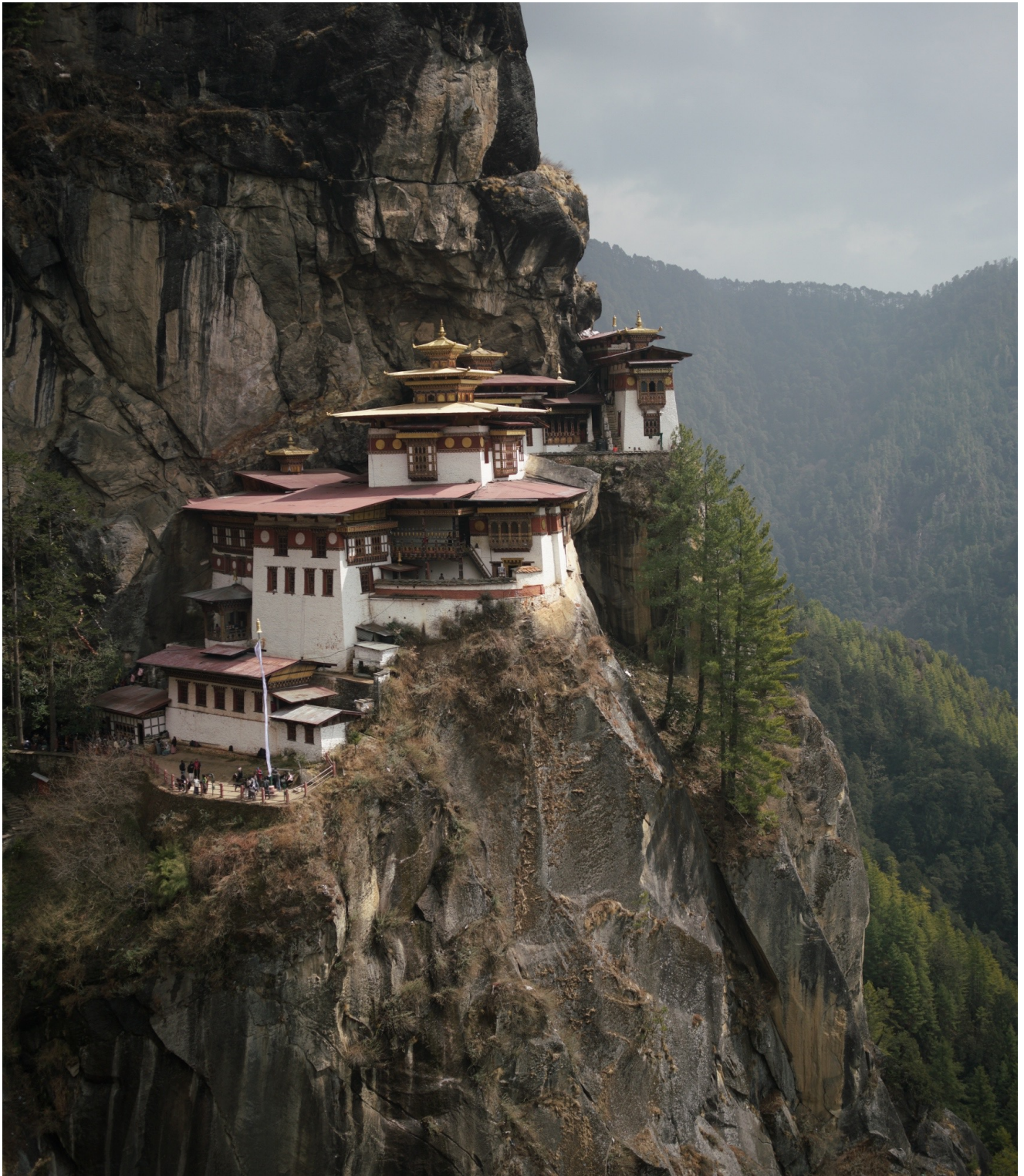
- Living room, dining room and outdoor terrace
 - Aman Spa with three treatment rooms, steam room, and changing areas
 - Library
- Our multilingual reservations team is adept at arranging multi-lodge itineraries to suit your time and travel requirements.



Your Journey Begins

Enjoy one of the world's most spectacular descents as your flight arrives at Paro, which rests amid breathtaking Himalayan peaks. On arrival you will be greeted by your local Amankora guide, who will remain with you throughout your journey. A 1.5-hour drive away, the Bhutanese capital of Thimphu lies in a steep valley at an altitude of 2,350m (7,709ft). It is here that you will begin your adventures.

Your itinerary will be tailored to remain as flexible as possible, and you will be able to discuss every detail of it in advance.



8-Night Itinerary

Day 1 – Paro / Thimphu

Upon arrival at Amankora Thimphu, you will have time to settle before exploring the Buddha Dordenma where you'll begin your discovery of the kingdom. On the way back, we will explore Thimphu, the country's only urban centre – a unique capital city where not a single traffic light exists.

Enjoy one of our evening activities back at the Amankora Lodge or book a much-needed Jet Lag Reviver Treatment (chargeable activity) at the Aman Spa before heading to the Dining Room for dinner.

Day 2 – Thimphu

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 back at the lodge (chargeable activity).

Day 3 – Journey to Punakha

After breakfast, travel to Punakha Valley. As you make your way out of Thimphu, stop at the Semtokha Dzong, the country's first fortress. Dochula Pass also warrants a pause with its spectacular memorial of 108 chortens

As we enter Punakha, 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

We begin our day with a hike to the stunning Khamsum Chorten. From the lodge the trail takes you through farmland and rice paddies and offers a wonderful opportunity to experience local farming traditions. Enjoy the superb views of the valley from the chorten roof top.

After lunch, head to Punakha Dzong, one of Bhutan's biggest fortresses. It is said to have been envisioned by its architect in a dream in 1637 - its design, imprinted in his memory. Visit its sacred halls, courtyards and cantilevered bridge, then walk towards another handcrafted marvel in the valley – the longest chain link suspension bridge in the world.



8-Night Itinerary

Day 5 – Journey to Gangtey

The drive to Gangtey takes around 2.5 hours, initially following the Mo Chhu River. The highway then continues eastwards, following 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 (Gangtey) Valley 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 6 – Gangtey

Today, put on your hiking boots for our Nature Trail Walk or the Tongpushing Hike, or even both, if you'd like to do a complete loop of the valley.

The Nature Trail is a pleasurable walk through Phobjikha Valley from the small hilltop down through flower meadows to Semchubara Village, and from here through beautiful forests into the open valley. After passing Khewa Lhakhang, the trail ends at the Tabeding Football grounds. If time permits, visit the Black Neck Crane Centre. Depending on the season, spend time on the deck to spot these rare birds that migrate from Tibet in winter to breed.

The Tongpushing Hike is a leisurely 1.5- to 2-hour walk through pine forests, farmland and villages. The hike starts from the lodge (or after the Nature Trail) and continues through Tokha Village before heading uphill to reveal a vast open meadow.

The hike ends near the RSPN campsite, a 15-minute drive from the lodge. Alternatively, begin at the RSPN campsite and hike to the lodge.

Day 7 – Journey to Paro

Today, we journey back to Paro after a hearty breakfast.

Upon arrival in the valley, taste the authentic flavours of Bhutanese cuisine with a traditional farmhouse lunch, prepared by a family that used to cook for the royal family of Bhutan.

After lunch, start your explorations of the valley through the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the first Buddhist temples built in the Kingdom.



8-Night Itinerary

Day 8 – Paro

In the morning, visit one of Bhutan's most dramatic monuments, the Taktsang Goemba. More commonly referred to as the Tiger's Nest, it is built on a sheer cliff face at an altitude of 2,950m (9,678ft). The journey offers spectacular views of this sacred monastery perched on the rocks, 900m above the valley floor.

For an unforgettable lunch, we suggest an alfresco BBQ (chargeable activity) at the base of the cliff where you can admire the monastery while enjoying your meal.

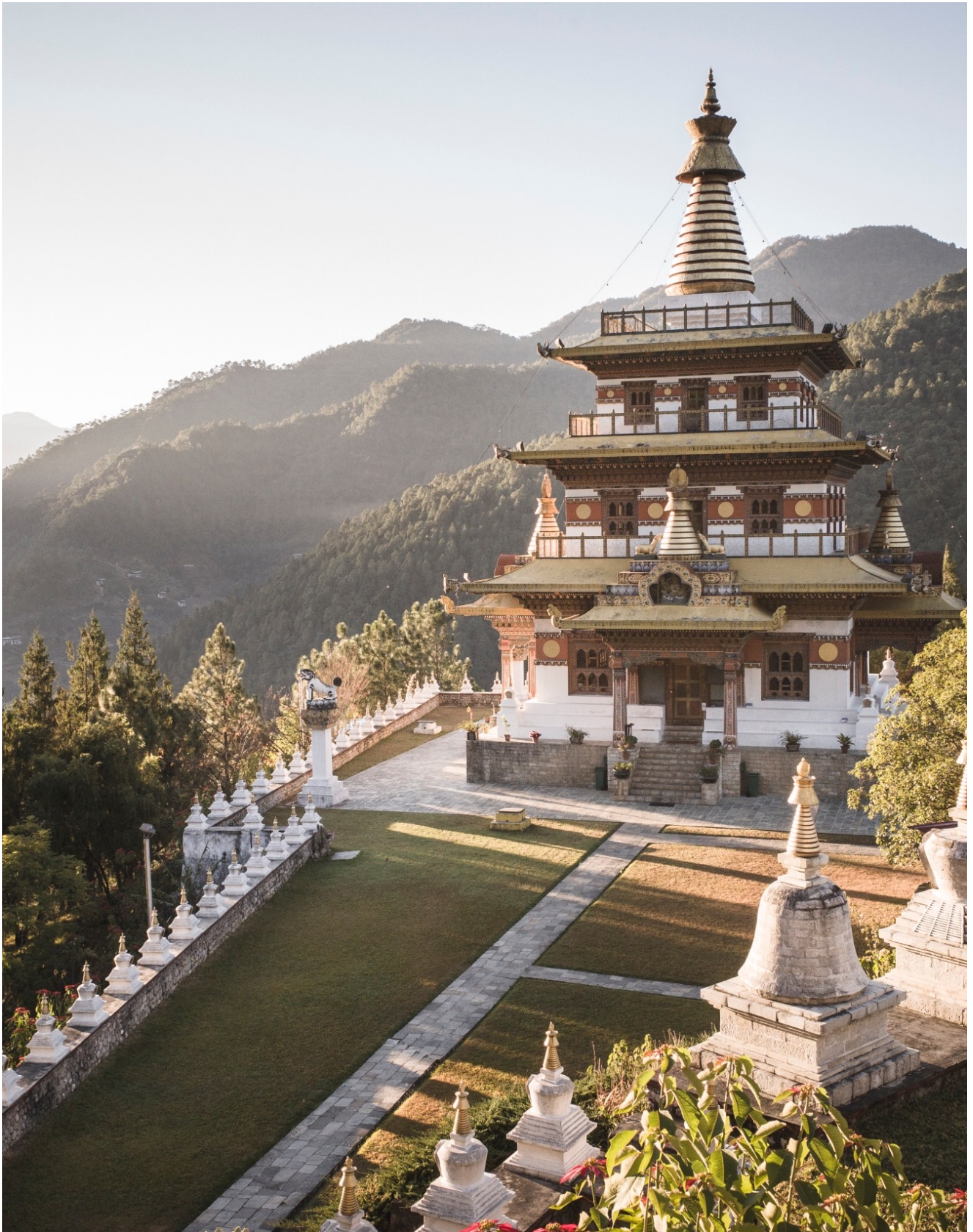
In the evening, cap off your journey with a lecture on Gross National Happiness, Bhutan's unique index of the country's intangible wealth.

For dinner, a traditional gho or kira will be available for you to wear, on loan from the lodge for your final evening while you enjoy a hearty Bhutanese meal.

Day 9 – 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 your flight is scheduled to depart.





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

Amankora
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