

amankora

Your Amankora Journey

Guest name

Stay dates

The Ultimate Amankora Journey

With five unique lodges across Bhutan's vast and varied valleys, Amankora has always offered the most comprehensive, enlightening and soul stirring experience of the only remaining Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom. The first hotel brand to welcome international guests in 2004 and the only one offering a seamless five-valley pilgrimage, Aman invites you to embark upon the Ultimate Amankora Journey.

This 14-night adventure takes in all five Amankora lodges – Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Gangtey and Bumthang – providing an odyssey of discovery that will reveal not only the Kingdom's most beautiful scenes and iconic sites, but also the spirit of its people and their enviable culture. Follow the rising sun as you explore east over mountain passes, discovering the wonders of the capital Thimphu, practicing archery on the banks of the Mo Chhu River, and pausing in awe at the majestic Gangtey Goemba. Hike through pine forests and taste the delights of fertile Bumthang Valley before flying back west to Paro, where the cliff-top Tiger's Nest awaits.

Rate Inclusions

- Accommodation at Amankora Thimphu, Punakha, Gangtey, Bumthang and Paro lodges
- All meals and picnics en route 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: USD 200 per person per night (Indian passport holder at INR 1200 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)
- 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](#).

14-Night Itinerary Summary

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	Visit to a nunnery overlooking the Toebesa, Punakha and Wangduephodrang Valleys
Day 7	Punakha / Gangtey	Scenic drive to Gangtey (2.5hrs) before visiting Gangtey Village
Day 8	Gangtey	Choice of nature trail walk or Tongpushing hike
Day 9	Gangtey	Longtey Hike
Day 10	Gangtey / Bumthang	Scenic drive to Bumthang (5hrs)
Day 11	Bumthang	Visit Jambay Lhakhang and Kurje Lhakhang
Day 12	Bumthang	Excursion to Tang Valley
Day 13	Bumthang / Paro	Flight to Paro Visit National Museum, Paro Dzong and cross the Nyamai Zampa Bridge
Day 14	Paro	Hike to Taktsang Goemba Monument
Day 15	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, 1.4m deep)

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.

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



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.



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Day 1 – Paro / Thimphu

Upon arrival at Amankora Thimphu, you will have time to settle before exploring the Textile Museum, the Weaving Centre, the Buddha Dordenma and the National Memorial Chorten. 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.

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 town, explore the capital's cottage industries, from traditional paper making to 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 or 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 Takin animal sanctuary for a beautiful view over Thimphu Valley.

Day 3 – Thimphu

After a hearty breakfast, hike to Phajoding (elevation: 2,800m) located on the hill overlooking the entire Thimphu Valley from the west. There are 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 small streets lined with shops in central Thimphu to discover the city's coffee and dining scene or browse for Himalayan arts, crafts and curiosities.

Day 4 – Journey to Punakha

An early departure takes guests on a dramatic drive over the mountain pass of Dochu La and on to 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 subtropical environment allows the cultivation of rice and exotic fruits.

On the way you can visit Chimi Lhakhang, the auspicious fertility monastery built in 1499, to which many couples come to pray for pregnancy and receive a wang (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, home to the remains of Bhutan's first ruler and the winter residence of the monastic order's leader and his entourage of monks.

A popular option for lunch or dinner is the Private Riverside BBQ. Just below the lodge, guests sit in the shade of pine trees and enjoy the sounds of the river, 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. We have a bow and arrows ready for you.

Day 6 – Punakha

Begin your day with a visit to Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhan, a hilltop nunnery, approximately 15 minutes by car from the lodge. Perched on a ridge amid pine trees, it overlooks the valleys of Toebesa, Punakha and Wangduephodrang. Visit Khuruthang Temple on your return journey.

In the afternoon, choose to explore Wangduephodrang Valley with its distant views of Wangdue Dzong. Alternatively, you may further explore Punakha Valley on foot or by car or bicycle, including its magnificent suspension bridge.

Back at the lodge, relax beside the pool or take some time out in the Aman Spa.

Day 7 – 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.



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Day 8 – 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 9 – Gangtey

After a hearty breakfast, we drive 30 minutes towards Trongsa to begin the stunning Longtey Hike. From the trail head, the hike takes you through the rhododendron forest and on reaching the top of the ridge, you will have breathtaking views of the Gangtey Valley beneath. Climb down to Kumbu Village where your car and driver will be waiting for you.

Back at the lodge, enjoy a Potato-Shed Dinner (chargeable activity). Set in a stone hut, enjoy a delicious Bhutanese meal surrounded by hundreds of flickering candles and warmed by a traditional bhukari wood-burning stove. Due to the popularity of the Potato-Shed Dinner, pre-booking is strongly recommended.

Day 10 – Journey to Bumthang

Today guests embark on 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. Here, you can stroll the village and perhaps visit the large Trongsa Dzong. The drive onward to Bumthang takes you over the picturesque Yotong La Pass and down into the Chhume Valley, home of Bhutan's famous Yathra weaving.

At 2,580m (8,464ft), Bumthang Valley is covered with fields of buckwheat, millet and potato, with apple orchards climbing up the slopes to mix with the deep pine forest. Across the valley lie many of the Kingdom's most auspicious and revered houses of worship and ancient monasteries. Upon arrival at the lodge, you will have time to explore our neighbouring palace, Wangdichhoeling, previously home to the second King and renowned for its auspicious prayer wheels.

Day 11 – 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 considered 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 the sin-alleviating 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, home to a number of distinctive spirits. Red Panda's local beer and cheese tasting session is highly recommended (**chargeable activity**).

Day 12 – 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 path. En route, stop off at the Burning Lake (Membartsho), where the story goes that Pema Lingpa (a famous Buddhist saint from Tang) had a dream that he dove into the river pool carrying a burning butter lamp in his hand and returned with treasures and the lamp still burning. Guests can also visit the nunnery as well as Ta Rimochen Lhakhang, built by Pema Lingpa in the 14th century, 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 via a short hike, stopping along the way for a traditional picnic with breathtaking views of the pristine surroundings.

Day 13 – Flight to Paro

Today we will take a domestic flight from Bumthang to Paro. After the scenic 45-minute flight, guests will be driven through the town towards the north end of the valley. Here, Paro lodge lies hidden in pine forest.

After settling in, visit the National Museum. Here, 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 where one of the most important monastic bodies and cultural treasures reside. From the fortress, we will cross the Nyamai Zampa, a traditional cantilevered bridge, from where you will be driven to the town temple. Built in 1525, the temple is home to ancient wall paintings.

Paro lunch options include a picturesque picnic spot or a traditional lunch in a farmhouse. After lunch, we visit the unique stupa-shaped Dumtse Lhakhang followed by a stroll around Paro's old town.

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Day 14 – 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, it is 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 for the climb up, if so desired. Your guide will check with you in advance if you prefer this.

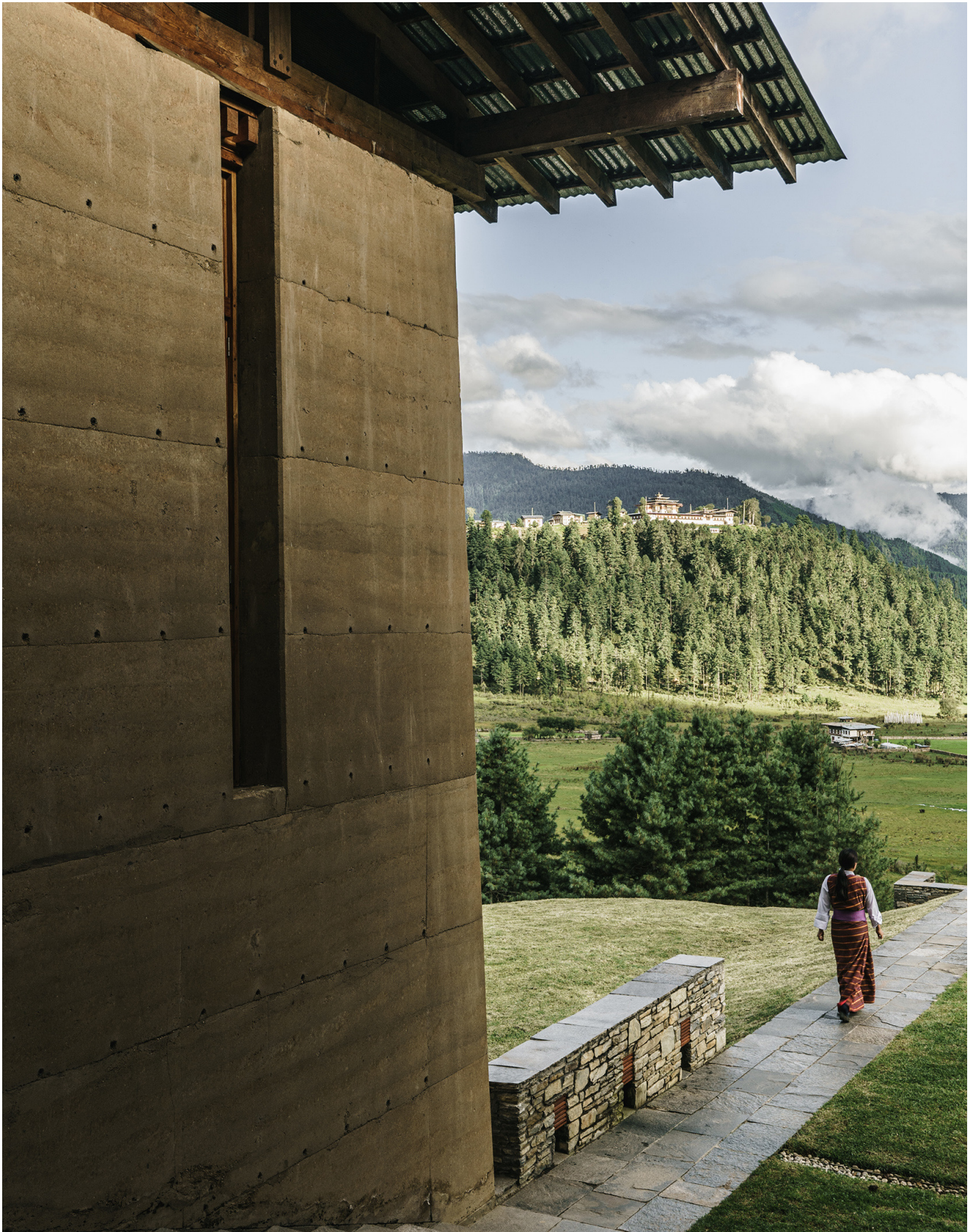
After lunch in the lodge, you can drive to the outskirts of Paro town where you will find the 7th-century twin temples of Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the first Buddhist temples built in the country. Spend time lighting 108 butter lamps (chargeable activity) and learn about the ancient Buddhist traditions that are still practised today.

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

Day 15 – 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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