

MAREMMA SAFARI CLUB

offbeat, on foot



Bhutan Safari

22 March - 1 April 2027

A ten-day trip exploring the world's last Buddhist kingdom, combining walks in a variety of stunning Himalayan landscapes with cultural immersion in Bhutan's unique traditions and spiritual heritage. We'll go east-to-west from Bumthang to Paro via Phobjikha and Punakha, including a stay at Ugyen Choling Heritage House and a night in Bumdra Camp. Along the way we'll visit ancient Buddhist temples, rural villages and local farmhouses, a Tschechu festival, and hike to the iconic Tiger's Nest Monastery.





Itinerary

Day 1 / Mon 22nd March

Arrival in Bhutan / Paro airport. Today we'll have a chance to see the last day of the impressive Paro Tshechu Festival, and then hike to Zuri Dzong, a 14th-century fortress overlooking Paro Valley. Our luggage will be sent on to Bumthang by bus. Dinner and overnight in Paro at Rema Resort (remaresort.com). [walk totals: about 1.5 hours]

Day 2 / Tue 23rd March

Morning 30-minute flight from Paro to Jakar in Bumthang, Central Bhutan. After lunch at a local farmhouse we transfer to the Tang Valley and then we walk up to Ogyen Choling Heritage House (olingheritagehouse.com)—a historic manor showcasing Bhutanese culture and nobility—where we will stay for 2 nights. [walk totals: about 2 hours]

Day 3 / Wed 24th March

Today we'll do a full-day hike up to Thowadrak Goempa, a remote cliff-side temple. The trailhead for the up-and-back route is about a 50-minute drive from the hotel. Packed lunch at the temple. Dinner and overnight at the Heritage House. [walk totals: 8km; 550m ascent, 550m descent]

Day 4 / Thu 25th March

After a relaxed morning at the Heritage House with time to visit its impressive museum we'll transfer to Jakar, followed by a temple-to-temple hike along the Bumthang valley taking in 7th Century Jambay Lakhang and Kurjay Lhakang temples. Dinner and overnight in Jakar at Gonkhar Guesthouse (bhutanhotel.bt/gongkhar-guest-house). [walk totals: about 2-3 hours]

Day 5 / Fri 26th March

Our drive to Phobjikha Valley (about 5 hours drive) goes via historic Trongsa, Chendeji Chorten and the Pele La Pass (3,370m). Upon arrival we'll walk along the valley floor via a nature trail from Gangtey to our hotel (about 6km walk). Dinner and overnight in Phobjikha at Dewachen Hotel (hotel.bt/hotels-in-wangdue/hotel-dewachen).

Day 6 / Sat 27th March

This morning we'll do a loop walk from the hotel up to a pass on the edge of the Phobjikha Valley, and return for lunch at a local farmhouse. Late afternoon transfer (about 2.5 hours drive) to Punakha and check-in at Meri Puensum Resort (www.mpr.bt) where we stay for two nights. [walk totals: 12km; 500m ascent, 500m descent].

Day 7 / Sun 28th March

Morning walk along the banks of the Pochu River to the famed Suspension Bridge, followed by a visit to the impressive Punakha Dzong (about 8.5km walk), a masterpiece of Bhutanese architecture. In the afternoon we'll transfer up the Mochu River and then walk along its forested banks up to Khamsun Yueley Namgyal, the Queen's Temple (about 4.5km walk). Dinner in Punakha and overnight at Meri Puensum Resort.

Day 8 / Mon 29th March

This morning we'll drive (about 1.5 hours) to the Dochu La pass where we start our hike to Lunchutse temple. Packed lunch at the temple before we continue our walk down to Tashigang temple. Transfer from Tashigang on to Paro. Dinner and overnight in Paro at Rema Resort. [walk totals: about 3 hours ascent and about 1.5 hours descent]

Day 9 / Tue 30th March

After a 30 min transfer we'll start our full-day hike up to Bumdra; packed lunch along the way. Upon arrival we'll have some down-time at the camp to enjoy the views of the Himalayas (weather permitting); optional sunset walk up to the sacred sky burial sites above the camp. Dinner and overnight at Bumdra Campsite (3,900m above sea level; shared standup tents with beds, and a communal dining tent). [walk totals: 7.5km; 1000m ascent]

Day 10 / Wed 31st March

This morning after breakfast at Bumdra we'll hike down to the iconic Tiger's Nest Monastery (about 3 hours downhill)—a fitting climax to your sojourn in Bhutan. After visiting the remarkable cliffside temple we'll continue down to the valley floor (about 2 hours downhill), before transferring to Paro town. Dinner and overnight in Paro at Rema Resort. [walk totals: 7.5km; 1200m descent]

Day 11 / Thu 1st April

Departure flights from Paro airport.

