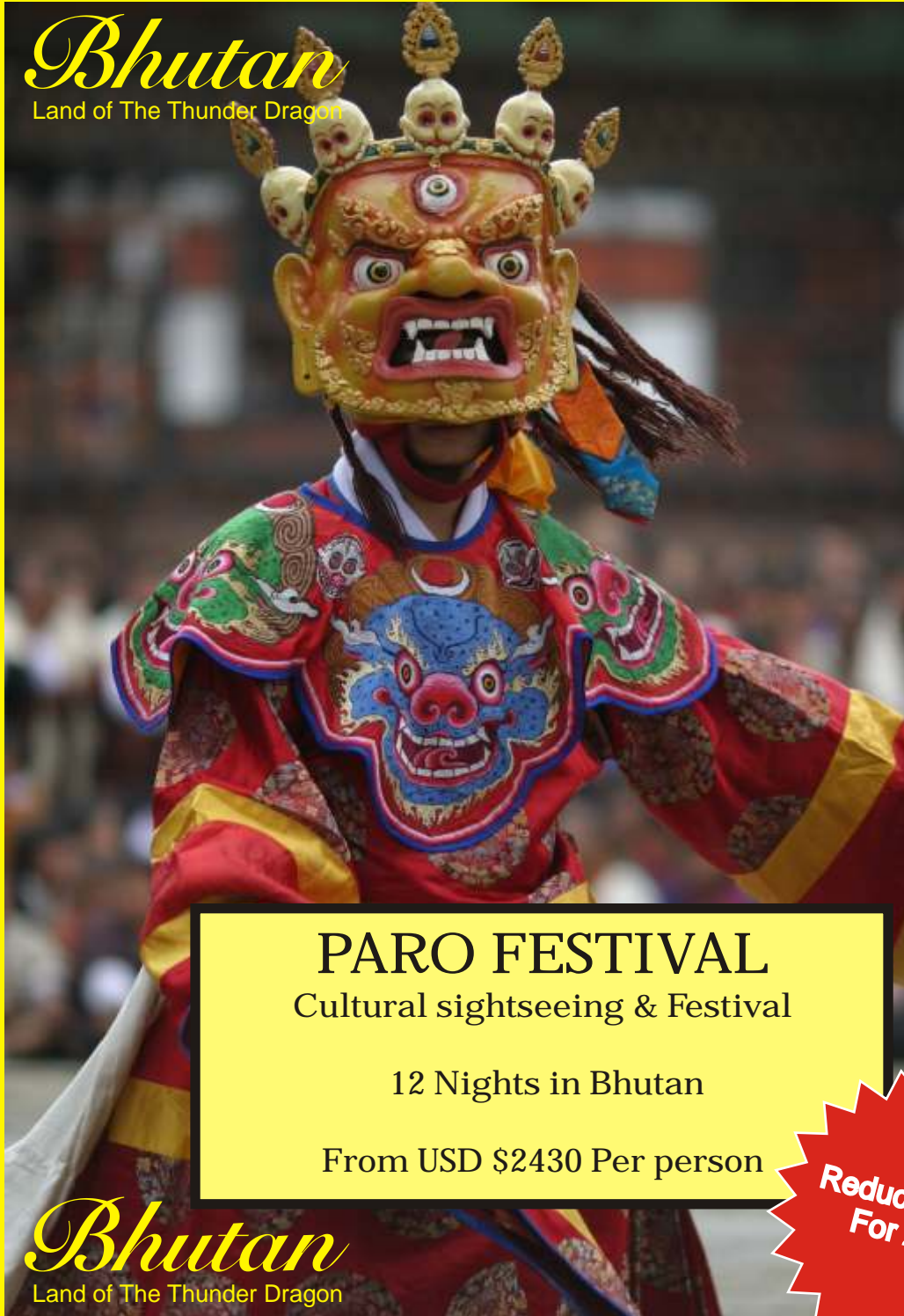




Bhutan

Land of The Thunder Dragon



PARO FESTIVAL
Cultural sightseeing & Festival

12 Nights in Bhutan

From USD \$2430 Per person

Bhutan

Land of The Thunder Dragon

**Reduced Price
For 2009**

1371 Woggzin Lam . Thimphu . Bhutan

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email: chris@khamsabhutan.co.uk www.khamsabhutan.co.uk



Bhutan was opened to tourism in 1974 with the government operating as the only agent, with tourism growing year on year, now Bhutan has become the most exclusive tour destination in the world. Khamrsa Bhutan Tours began operating in 2003 from a humble beginning, with our aims and goals achieved and maintained by our dedicated team, we are now very proud to provide a complete range of tours in Bhutan regardless of interest age or ability, Khamrsa Bhutan tours can cater for your needs. Our imaginative itineraries will take you to places of historical importance and scenic beauty. You will be visiting the massive Dzongs, sacred temples, picturesque villages and the museums. Our guides will be with you from breakfast to dinner, or as required by you and will take care of all requirements while in Bhutan.

BHUTAN HEADQUARTERS



Karma Gayley

Chief Executive officer

UK OFFICE

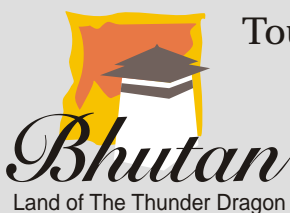


Khamrsa Tours now having opened the UK office to help you with your booking and offer advice on touring the region, visiting Bhutan has never been easier. Chris has many family members in Bhutan and has travelled Bhutan and the Himalayan region extensively. Feel free to

contact Chris at anytime for advice on travelling to Bhutan from the UK.

Chris Major

UK Office



Tourism Council of Bhutan

Land of The Thunder Dragon

Khamrsa Tours & Treks is licensed by the Tourism council of Bhutan which is the

Government body overseeing all tourism activities in Bhutan.



Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators

Khamrsa Tours & Treks is a proud member of the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators, ABTO, since its inception and is a very active member of the association.

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Origin and importance of Tshechu

The Tshechu is a festival in honour of Padmasambhava, "one who was born from the lotus flower", popularly known as "Guru Rinpoche", the Precious Teacher. This Indian saint contributed enormously to the diffusion of Tantric Buddhism in the Himalayan regions of Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan etc. Around 800 A.D. he is the founder of Nyingmapa, the "old school" of Mahayana Buddhism, which still has numerous episodes on the model of the Buddha Shakyamuni's life. The festival of sacred dances is held annually. It was Drukpa Kuenley's descendant, Tenzin Rabgye, the 4th Temporal Ruler, who established the tradition of Tshechu in 1670 on the 10th day of the 8th month of the Bhutanese calendar to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Rinpoche. The dates and the duration of the festival vary from one district to another but they always take place on or around the 10th day of the month according to the Bhutanese calendar.

During the festival, the monks as well as laymen perform the dances. The dancers take on the aspects of wrathful and compassionate deities, heroes, demons and animals. The dances known as cham, bring blessing upon the onlookers, instruct them in dharma (Buddhist teachings), protect them from misfortune and exorcise evil influences. The "tshechu" is a religious festival and by attending it, it is believed one gains merits. Deities are invoked during the dances. Through their power and benediction misfortunes may be destroyed, luck increased and wishes realized. It is also a yearly social gathering where the people come together to rejoice. People come for tshechu dressed in their finery.

On the last day of the tshechu, a large thongdrol (religious figures embroidered on brocade) is unfurled before sunrise from the wall of the dzong. Thongdrol literally means 'liberation on sight', and it is believed that simply viewing one of these large relics washes one's sins away. When the thongdrol is rolled up again to put back into the safety of dzong, the old people pray to ensure that they will live other year to see the thongdrol again the following year.



FESTIVAL TOUR

12 nights in Bhutan

PARO FESTIVAL

ITINERARY

Day 1. DEPART LONDON

Depart London, fly to either to Bangkok, Calcutta, Delhi or Kathmandu to catch connection to Paro Bhutan. Airport layover.

Day 2. ARRIVE PARO & TRANSFER TO THIMPHU

The flight to Paro will take you from the Plains of India to the mighty Himalayas. One can see breathtaking views of the world's tallest mountains, including Mt. Everest. On arrival at Paro International Airport, your guide from Khamsa Bhutan Tours will receive you and escort you to the local restaurant for refreshment. We then head to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan. The drive takes you on the winding roads for 1- 11/2 hours. On the way, visit the Simtokha Buddhist College where young monks are taught Buddhist philosophy and rituals. In Thimphu, check in to the hotel and you can explore the town on your own.



Day 3. THIMPHU

Day 4. THIMPHU



Day 5. THIMPHU - PUNAKHA

After breakfast drive to Punakha over Dochula pass at 3,100 mts. On a clear day, you can see stunning white capped Bhutanese Himalayas, towards Tibet. The pass is decorated with 108 traditional Bhutanese stupas and colorful prayer flags. We then descend to Punakha, the old winter capital of Bhutan for lunch and check in to the hotel. Visit the spectacular dzong built in 1637, that is still used by the Central Monastic Body and the Chief Abbot of Bhutan as their winter residence. Visit the Khuru Temple and Stupa. Today's highlights will be breathtaking landscapes and the Punakha dzong which has the best woodwork architecture in Bhutan.

Day 6. PUNAKHA - TRONGSA

Day 7. TRONGSA - BUMTHANG .

Visit Trongsa dzong after breakfast, Trongsa dzong is the largest Dzong in Bhutan and is of significance to the Royalty family. Trongsa Dzong is in the central Bhutan and controlled a large area extending to the plains of India. Visit the Watchtower of the Dzong and transfer to Bumthang Valley across the Yotongla pass at 3400m.

Day 8. BUMTHANG

Morning visit Jambay Lhakhang, which was built by the Tibetan King Songston Gyenpo in the 7th century which was among his 108 monasteries that he had built across the Himalayan region namely in Tibet and two in Bhutan. Visit Kurjey Lhakhang, which is one of the most sacred sites in Bhutan. Walk to Tamshing Lhakhang, visit the Swiss farm, and later drive to Mebartsho or the burning lake. This place is of pilgrimage importance to all Buddhists. It is believed that Guru Rimpoche hid treasures all around the country and subsequently there were saints that discovered them over time and history. One particular saint was called Terton Pema Lingpa and he discovered treasures from this river, that has a mystical aura around it. After lunch visit the Jakar Dzong, which houses the district administrative office of the Bumthang valley and the Monastic body. Visit the Wangdicholing Palace that is no longer in use, then be at leisure to visit the Chamkhar town for handicrafts and local market area.

Day 9. BUMTHANG - PHOBJIKHA

Drive to Gangtey/Phobjikha, this valley is the winter home of Black Necked Cranes, which was a highly endangered bird, that migrates from Tibet every winter to Phobjikha. Due to conservation efforts of the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature (RSPN), the birds are increasing year on year. Explore the Valley and visit the Gangtey Monastery.

Day 10. PHOBJIKHA - PARO





Day 11. PARO.

Visit the Dzong where the colorful Paro festival will be in progress, the local will be in their best silk attire, 'gho' for the men and 'kiras' for the women. We shall attend the festival, and observe the people gather watch the colorful mask dances, have picnic lunches and just catch up with friends and families. Attend the festival all day.

Day 12. PARO

After an early breakfast attend the Tshechu, which is held in the ground of Rinpung Dzong, there will be many mask dances in progress. Your Khamsa guide can inform you about some very impressive and colourful dances that are in the schedule. Later can visit the Famous Taktsang Monastery. This is a steady hike which takes about 2 hrs the Taktsang monastery is a very Religious site for Buddhists all over the world as Guru Rimpoche is said to have done his meditation in a cave where the present Monastery is built. Later visit the ruined Drugyal Dzong and the Kichu Monastery which is the oldest monastery in Bhutan, built in the 8th century by the Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo. Evening as you wish.

Day13. PARO

Today is the last day of the Paro Festival. The highlight of the festival is the unfurling of the huge Thangka or scroll of the Guru, this is also called the Thongdrol- meaning liberation by sight. The mere sight of the amazing thongdrol is believed to bring about good karma and blessings. This ceremony takes place before the dawn, you have to get up very early to attend. Local people from miles around come to witness this sacred event and to pray with devotion. Later you can visit the Chelila pass at near 4000m and is about a 1 hour drive from Paro valley, there are stunning views of Mt. Jhomolhari and other peaks from this pass. The Haa valley below is also visible from Chelila with other rugged Himalayan landscape. The rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to relax as you wish.

Day 14. DEPRAT PARO

The Khamsa team will ensure that you have had a tour of a lifetime while in Bhutan, as we prepare you for your homeward flight and International connection. Your guide and driver will take you to Paro airport in plenty of time, so you can relax before your flight home. Normally a very emotional moment! Tashi Delek.

Day 15. INTERNATIONAL CONNECTION

Day 16. ARRIVE LONDON





Tour Registration

Tour		Tour Date	
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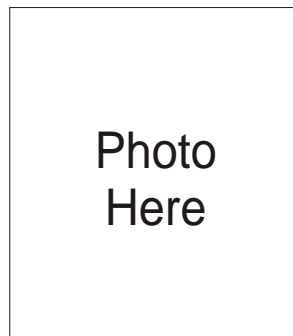
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Address	
Post Code	

Tel Home	
Tel Work	
Tel Mobile	
Fax	
Email	

Details As Your Passport	
Title	
Surname	
Forename	
Nationality	
Passport Number	
Code of Issue	
Date of Issue	
Date of Expiry	
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	
Profession	

Quick Check List	
Form Completed	
Passport Copy	
Terms Read & Signed	
Deposit Submitted*	

*Cheques payable to: *Himalayan Adventures.*



Khamza Use Only			
B F C		BV	
P C		IV	
L C		NV	
T R & S		TV	
D R		FB	
UK Confirmed:			





1. A booking will only be constituted by the return of a completed booking form accompanied by a remittance for the sum of £400 per person or the total cost of the holiday as advised by us. The balance of the holiday is required no later than 60 days before the commencement date of the tour. The company reserves the right to levy an administrative charge in respect of late bookings, should the balance not be paid by the due date. Khamsa reserves the right to cancel the reservation and no refund will be made.
2. All cancellations must be received IN WRITING at our office and will be effective from the date of RECEIPT of the cancellation letter. In this event, the following terms will apply. Bookings cancelled before the balance due date (60 days before tour date) the company will refund all sums paid less £400 minimum deposit paid. Any bookings cancelled more than 30 days before the commencement of the tour shall be entitled to return of 50% of the total holiday price (if paid) less the deposit and any bookings cancelled less than 30 days before commencement of the tour shall forfeit all sums paid. Exceptions to this policy will not be made for any reason. There is no refund for arriving late or leaving a tour early.
3. Cancellation of the tour. The company shall use its best endeavors to ensure that there are no cancellations but reserve the right to cancel the tour. In that event all sums paid by the prospective customer shall be refunded. It is understood that any event or act of war, civil or political unrest, flood, general act of God, or other force majeure shall constitute a sufficient reason for the company to cancel the tour. The company is not responsible for additional expenses incurred by you in preparing for the trip (e.g. non-refundable air tickets, visa fees if applicable, gear or medical expenses)
4. Price Guarantee. Prices stated in the Khamsa Tours and Treks website are per person. Prices do not include airfares unless stated. The information provided on the website attempts as far as possible to provide details of the tour, its duration, route, nature, details of accommodation and food. Further details will be provided as known to the company, but if the applicant becomes aware at any stage that the information does not coincide with the understanding of the position the onus will be upon the applicant to intimate their intention to cancel the booking in WRITING before the 30 days before the tour date.
5. Travelling as a single. Our prices are based on double occupancy. If you require a single room you will be charged a single supplement regardless of when you book. However due to some of the remote areas visited, single rooms are limited and therefore subject to availability. Single room supplement when available is to be confirmed.
6. Insurance. It is a condition of joining our tours, and is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they are adequately insured against medical and personal risks covering the tour, including repatriation, ambulance and air rescue and trip cancellation. Due to the nature of adventure touring you must make sure your insurer is aware of your activity.
7. Complaints. If during the tour, you have a complaint please discuss the matter immediately with the tour leader who will take the appropriate action. Should you be dissatisfied with the result and feel that it has severely affected your enjoyment of the tour please write to us at the Bhutan office within 28 days of your return. We will respond and endeavor to resolve the matter to our mutual satisfaction.
8. It is expressly confirmed that the company cannot accept responsibility for loss or injury to the applicant arising directly through failure by the applicant or of equipment provided. The company shall be responsible only in the event that the loss or injury to the applicant has been directly occasioned by an error by the company or on its behalf by its representative. You are recommended to insure yourself against any possible risk, which you may incur while on the trip. The company shall not be liable for damages in the event of cancellation of the tour in relation to any foregoing matter as specified herein. The Company reserves the right to alter the route as conditions prevail to accommodate changes in weather, terrain and physical condition of participants. The tour leader's decision is final.
9. By their acceptance hereof the applicant agrees and accepts that he has read and understood the terms of these booking conditions and agrees to be bound by them. The applicant also confirms that he considers himself medically fit to participate in the tour and that no warranty has been given by the company as to the medical condition of the applicant. Any information provided by the company in relation to travel details or requirements in respect of passports, visas, vaccinations or other which should be required for trips from the U.K. is provided on a voluntary basis and is not to be relied upon by the applicant.
10. Sight seeing/ historical sights. Entry to most of these is free while with the tour, however where you choose to visit yourself if a charge is applicable you are liable to pay.
11. Payment protection. The government of Bhutan in accordance with Bhutan tourism regulations holds all eligible payments until tours are complete.
12. It is the responsibility of all applicants to meet at the time and designated start point. Participants failing to connect with the courtesy vehicle are liable for their own expenses to catch up with the tour.
13. Delays in the Journey. We cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen delays in your flights prior to, during, or after the tour, either caused by weather or other unforeseen circumstances. In the event of a delay you will be responsible for providing your own meals and accommodation.
14. Khamsa Tours and Treks reserves the right to alter the itinerary at any time for the convenient operation of the tour, also to substitute hotels and resorts, date of departure or return, or withdraw the trip if deemed necessary at any time, for any reason.
15. Name Transfer. Transfer can take place no later than 30 days before tour date. After 30 days name transfer may not be possible. Name transfer will be subject to all administration fees. The fees will need to be confirmed depending on the tour booked.
16. Your tour booking is undertaken with Khamsa Tours and Treks, based and registered in the kingdom of Bhutan. All legal aspects will be dealt with in the High court, Thimphu Bhutan. Khamsa Tours and Treks, 1371 Wogzin Lam Thimphu Kingdom of Bhutan

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