

# Bumthang Extension Bhutan



## Bhutan - Extension



The region of Bumthang in central Bhutan is often thought of as the cultural heartland of the country. If your holiday to Bhutan does not include a visit to Bumthang, domestic flights now enable us to offer a five night visit to see the best of what the region has to offer. The region is of great cultural importance and is a centre for Bhutanese weaving. Some of the country's most important and spectacular temples and fortresses are found in this region. Bumthang encompasses four major valleys, Chokhor, Ura, Chumey and Tang. The township of Jakar, where you stay, is located in the main valley of Chokhor. The other valleys are the Ura Valley to the east, the Tang Valley which is slightly more off-the-beaten-track to the northeast and the Chumey Valley which is west of Jakar.

Domestic schedules in Bhutan vary from season to season so, although a 6 day extension is illustrated here, you may need to adjust your visit to fit the available flight dates.

### Day 1 - Fly to Bumthang. Sightseeing in town.

In the morning you will transfer to the airport in Paro for your flight to Bumthang. On arrival you will be met by your guide and a driver and will drive the short way to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time you should have time for sightseeing in the valley today. Firstly you could walk or drive to Jambay Lakhang from your hotel. This is a lovely temple and one of the country's oldest having been built in the mid-7th century. From Jambay Lakhang you can walk to several interesting temples in the valley. Firstly, you reach Kurjey Lakhang, a series of three large temples. Descending you cross a suspension bridge and walk downstream to Tamshing Lakhang, the most important Nyingma Gompa in the Kingdom, established in 1501 by Pemalingpa. Your transport can meet you outside this gompa and you could then visit the township of Jakhar on the way back or visit Jakar Dzong, a picturesque dzong also known as the 'Castle of the White Bird', supposedly because a white bird was said to have indicated the most auspicious place to build.



Overnight: Hotel Ugyenling or similar

(Meals: B, L, D)



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### Day 2 - Sightseeing round Bumthang - Swan Lakhang and Chumey Valley.

In the morning you may visit Swan Lakhang an ancient temple situated up the valley from Jakar Town. If you would like to walk to the temple there is a pleasant, gentle route that takes around 3-4 hours or you could drive both ways. Later you may drive west out of Jakhar to visit the Chumey Valley where your first port of call is the Nyimalung Monastery, home to over 100 musically talented monks. From here you can walk down in 10 minutes to visit Prakhar Monastery a quaint village temple. Then, re-joining your vehicle you may also visit Zugney, a famous centre for weaving where you will see the industry that is an integral part of Bhutanese society. Finally you may drive up to visit the cluster of temples at Tharpaling - a sacred spot and place of meditation.



Overnight: Hotel Ugyenling or similar (Meals: B L D)

### Day 3 - Sightseeing round Bumthang.

There are various excursions you might make today into the more remote areas of Bumthang - discuss what you would like to include with your guide. Initially you could drive east out of Jakar and up to the so-called 'Burning Lake', an atmospheric spot where a Buddhist mystic was said to have recovered some important ancient texts or 'treasures'. After this you could either travel further up into the Tang valley, to visit an ancient temple and the ancient Ugyenling Palace or alternatively continue along the main highway to cross a pass to visit the village of Ura with its picturesque houses and fine gumpa. Return to Jakar for the night.



Overnight: Hotel Ugyenling or similar (Meals: B L D)

### Day 4 - Fly to Paro.

You will transfer to the airport for your flight back to Paro. Later you might like to do some further sightseeing in the Paro Valley such as an excursion to the Chele La pass for fine views west to the border with Tibet or drive up the Paro valley to visit the picturesque ruins of Drukgyel Dzong.

Overnight at the Hotel Olathang or similar (Meals: B L D)

### Day 5 - Sightseeing around the Paro Valley or day trip to the Haa Valley.

Today is either a 'buffer day' in case of delays to flights back from Bumthang or a further opportunity to explore the many attractions of the Paro Valley. Alternatively, you may want to visit the Haa Valley to the west. You can discuss your preferences and options with your guide.



Overnight at the Hotel Olathang or similar (Meals: B, L, D)

### Day 6 - Depart Paro.

Today you will drive to the airport and check in for your departure flight. (Meals: B)

#### Prices\*:

£1,450 per person based on a minimum of 2 persons travelling and sharing a room.

£1,475 per person based on a single traveller.

Prices include: Flights Paro/Bumthang/Paro; an English-speaking guide and driver; 5 nights' hotel accommodation; private transport; all meals and sightseeing as shown above.

Price does not include any additional nights in Bhutan which might be needed before or after your scheduled trip to fit in with domestic and international flights.

*\*Prices in this leaflet are valid to spring 2020*