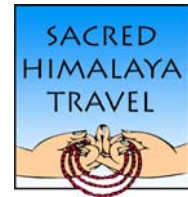


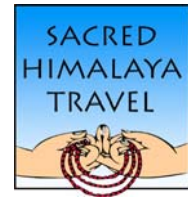
## Journey to Bhutan: Festival & Community



Join Sacred Himalaya Travel for a unique journey into Bhutan and experience the Black-Necked Crane Festival in the peaceful Phobjikha Valley. Trek to the remote village of Adha to befriend villagers and students and help them with a project at their community school. Throughout the journey enjoy the unique kindness of the Bhutanese people, see amazing landscapes and flora, and search for rare and endangered wildlife, including golden langurs, red pandas, and more.

As part of this trip a donation on behalf of each guest will be made to the conservation programs of the Snow Leopard Trust, the leading wildlife organization working to study and protect the endangered snow leopard.

## Itinerary



### **9 November: Bangkok**

Group members need to arrive in Bangkok, Thailand by this day. In the evening we will gather to discuss the details of our early morning departure to Bhutan.

### **10 November: Day 1 - Bangkok to Bhutan**

Flying on Drukair, the national airline of Bhutan, we will have a spectacular view of the great Himalayan peaks, and catch our first glimpse of Bhutan. Descending into the striking Paro valley at 7,000 feet, we land in a world apart. Crystal clear Himalayan air, the scent of pines, and the greetings of Bhutanese in their traditional dress of ghos and kiras, will signal that our journey, rare in time, place, and spirit, has begun. Our Bhutanese guide will warmly receive us, and after lunch we will cross a tradition wooden bridge with fluttering prayer flags to explore Paro Dzong, known as the "fortress on a heap of jewels."

(1 hr drive. Overnight in Thimphu)

### **11 November: Day 2 - Thimphu to Phobjikha**

Leaving Thimphu the road climbs through a forest of pine and hemlock, festooned with hanging lichens and we stop at Dochula pass (10,142 feet) that offers panoramic views of the Himalayan mountain ranges. We will stop for lunch at the tea house at the pass. Then we will continue on to the broad glacial valley of Phobjikha (9,300 feet), the winter roosting home of the endangered black-necked crane, and have a relaxing dinner at our comfortable lodge that is beautifully decorated in traditional Bhutanese style.

(6 hr drive. Overnight in Phobjikha)

### **12 November: Day 3 - Phobjikha Valley – Crane Festival**

Today we will attend the annual Crane Festival, and see a variety of colorful traditional masked and folk dances. Held in the courtyard of Gangtey Monastery, the festival was created by the community to raise awareness for the black-necked cranes that winter in the valley. Approximately 350 cranes visit the valley every year. Later we will visit a rug-weaving workshop run by a family just down the hill from our lodge. After dinner we may visit a family farmhouse nearby, and do some stargazing under the broad night sky of this peaceful valley. (Overnight in Phobjikha)

### **13 November: Day 4 – (Adha Kamichu Trek) Gonphel to Tarana (8 mi, 7 hr hike; ascent 400 ft, descent 2,000 ft)**

Today we start our four-day trek through a remote area with a diversity of ecosystems. Birds like laughing thrush, sunbird, hornbill, and vultures inhabit this terrain, as well as mammals like the red panda, common leopard, barking deer, and rhesus macaque. This is a beautiful area that no tourists other than us take the opportunity to visit. The trail winds through a combination of mountain outcroppings with beautiful views, through dense cloud forest to reach our camp in the forest high above a rushing stream.

(Camp in Tarana)

### **14 November: Day 5 - Tarana to Adha Village (9 mi, 6 hr hike; ascent 200 ft, descent 2,000 ft)**

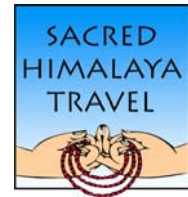
We will now be moving into subtropical to tropical vegetation, including bamboo forest. Nearing the village we will cross a stream on a cantilevered bridge made of logs. After gathering at our camp on the school ground in Adha, some may choose to take the short walk to a nearby sacred lake full of fish and learn the elaborate story of its origin.

(Camp in Adha)

**15 November: Day 6 - Adha School Project**

We will join the students, teachers, and Principal Yeshey at their remote community school to help them with a project for the day. As we work together, we will share our stories, and later they will entertain us with traditional Bhutanese songs and dances.

(Camp in Adha)

**16 November: Day 7 - Adha to Kamichu (7 mi, 7 hr hike; ascent 700 ft, descent 3,400 ft)**

We start early and after bidding farewell to the people of Adha, descend through a subtropical forest and cross three suspension bridges along the route. As we hike through among the chir pine and silk cotton trees, hopefully we will spot a palm civet or laughing thrush along the way, or if we are really lucky, a golden langur. We complete our trek crossing a final suspension bridge spanning the Kamichu river. After the short drive to our riverside lodge we will relax and reflect on our adventures so far.

(Overnight in Wangdue)

**17 November: Day 8 - Punakha**

After the short drive from Wangdue we will arrive in Punakha and visit the impressive Punakha Dzong situated in the beautiful spot where the Pho Chu and Mo Chu (male and female rivers) converge. We will have a picnic lunch at the riverside and enjoy the semi-tropical climate that enables two rice-growing seasons each year.

(Overnight in Wangdue)

**18 November: Day 9 - Punakha to Thimphu**

Today we make our drive back to Thimphu and stop to take the short walk to Chimi Lhakhang temple on a small hilltop. This temple is dedicated to the great yogi in 14th century known as Drukpa Khenpo, also known as "Divine Madman" to Westerners. It is believed that this temple blesses women who seek fertility.

(3 hr drive. Overnight in Thimphu)

**19 November: Day 10 - Thimphu to Paro**

This morning will be free to explore Thimphu, including the Weekend Market, and to shop for souvenirs and crafts in the many unique shops of the city. We will then head for Paro and get settled into the beautiful Zhiwa Ling Hotel where we will enjoy our last two nights in Bhutan. The hotel offers a variety of amenities including several types of massage and Bhutanese traditional hot stone bath.

(1 hr drive. Overnight in Paro)

**20 November: Day 11 - Tiger's Nest**

We will start the day with a short drive in Paro's upper valley to visit Taksang Monastery or "Tiger's Nest", the most famous monastery in Bhutan. The monastery perches miraculously on a cliff nearly 3,000 feet above the valley floor. Those who would like to hike up to a scenic viewpoint or continue on to the monastery will be free to do that. We will have lunch at the teahouse next to the trail. Later we will celebrate the adventures we have shared together in Bhutan with a farewell dinner.

(Overnight in Paro)

**21 November: Day 12 - Paro to Bangkok**

We return to Bangkok on Drukair and bid fond farewell to the special Kingdom of Bhutan. On our return flight we may be lucky and have a clear view of some of the tallest peaks in the world, including Kangchenjunga and Mount Everest.

## Trip Cost

Per person, double occupancy: \$3300 USD  
Single supplement: \$600 USD

**Included:** All activities listed in the itinerary. All meals and beverages while in Bhutan. 11 nights twin sharing accommodations. All transportation, sightseeing, taxes and monument fees in Bhutan. Fees and processing for Bhutan visa. Expert leadership with English speaking Bhutanese guide and American trip leader.  
Greeting and orientation in Bangkok the night before travel to Bhutan.  
Donation on behalf of each guest to the snow leopard conservation programs of the Snow Leopard Trust ([www.snowleopard.org](http://www.snowleopard.org))

**Not included:** International airfare to Bangkok, Thailand  
Any visas necessary for entry into Thailand (not needed for many guests)  
Group flights between Bangkok and Bhutan (Round-trip Drukair airfare between Bangkok and Bhutan will be approximately \$825 USD)  
Tips for guide, driver, trekking staff, and hotel staff in Bhutan

Maximum number of guests: 10

## Reservations

To reserve your space or if you have questions, please contact trip leader Jeff Brown at [jeff@sacredhimalayatravel.com](mailto:jeff@sacredhimalayatravel.com) or **206.769.8698**. To complete your reservation a deposit of \$500 will be required along with signed copies of the Acknowledgement of Conditions/Obligations and the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement enclosed with this brochure. Deposits can be made by check, and sent along with the two signed documents to the following address:

Sacred Himalaya Travel  
P.O. Box 31515  
Seattle, WA 98103 USA

Payment of the balance of the trip cost, including the cost for the round-trip airfare between Bangkok and Bhutan can be made by credit card or check (please note that credit card payments will require an additional 3% processing fee).

**Important:** The trek portion of this trip includes hiking of up to 9 miles per day at elevations of up to 9,000 feet with descents of 2,000-3,500 feet over the course of a day. Guests on this trip will be asked to provide information about their level of physical fitness and health insurance.

## Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made prior to 60 days before departure will be reimbursed all fees, minus the \$500 deposit. Cancellations made 60–30 days prior to departure will be reimbursed 50% of trip fees, minus the \$500 deposit. We regret that cancellations made within 30 days of departure cannot be reimbursed.

### **Acknowledgment of Conditions/Obligations**

Please read the following statements and sign at the bottom to indicate your acknowledgement of same. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the statements below, please contact [jeff@sacredhimalayatravel.com](mailto:jeff@sacredhimalayatravel.com)

<b>Statements</b>
I have carefully read the Journey to Bhutan: Festival & Community materials provided to me, including the itinerary for the trip.
I understand that accommodations will be provided in a mixture lodges and hotels, some of which may only provide electricity and hot water during fixed hours of the day, and where electricity outages may occur.
I understand that this trip involves long drives in a 4-wheel drive vehicle along narrow, winding roads that vary in quality and can be bumpy. It involves crossing mountain passes approximately 11,000 feet in elevation. Although efforts will be made to ensure the comfort of participants, the travel will be difficult at times.
I understand that the trek portion of this trip includes hiking of up to 9 miles per day at elevations of up to 9,000 feet with descents of 2,000-3,500 feet over the course of a day, and I agree to provide information about my level of physical fitness and health insurance.
I understand this is an eco-friendly trip and I agree to conduct myself in an ecologically responsible manner (i.e. proper disposal of litter, conscientious use of available resources, etc.).
I understand and agree that it is the sole responsibility of the participants to obtain valid passports, and arrange all travel and any necessary visas to Bangkok, Thailand.
I understand that it is the sole responsibility of the participants to obtain any inoculations, vaccinations, or other medical attention that is necessary or recommended by travel health professionals for travel to Bhutan and any required transit destinations.

***I certify that I am aware of the nature of this trip as stated in this Acknowledgement of Conditions/Obligations, the Release and Hold Harmless Agreement, and the Trip Brochure. I further certify that all of these documents have been made available to me for review.***

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## Release And Hold Harmless Agreement

IN CONSIDERATION of the provision to me of logistical, transportation, lodging, meal, educational, and related services in connection with my participation in a tourist trip (the "Trip") to Bhutan in November 2010 offered by Sacred Himalaya Travel ("SHT"), I hereby make the affirmations and provide the release of liability and indemnification described below.

I understand that SHT is offering the Trip but that the services to be provided to me in Bhutan will be provided by various third party suppliers. SHT does not represent or act as agent for any other transportation carriers, hotels and other suppliers of services. SHT assumes no responsibility for loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or other irregularity, expense or liability caused by any such independent contractors, their employees, agents, or representatives engaged in providing services in connection with the Trip. It is understood that air, boat, ship or train tickets when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and carrier concerned.

I understand that there are certain risks inherent in my participating in the Trip. These risks include but are not limited to delays, property damage, property loss, personal injury, and death. These risks arise from the following facts among others: Travel within Bhutan where the incidence of travel-related injury and death exceeds that in developed countries; travel within remote regions of Bhutan where roads are poor to non-existent and most modern conveniences are unavailable; utilization of vehicles and other equipment which may be used, worn, or in need of repair; risks of theft; exposure to food, drink, and sanitary conditions not up to developed country standards; increased risk of various diseases; increased risk of actions by individuals providing services which would be considered negligent by developed country standards; unavailability in many locations of modern medical care or facilities; travel by foot over unimproved terrain for substantial distances; inclement weather; and encounters with both domesticated and wild animals. I assume all of the risks and dangers associated with my participation in the Trip and accept sole responsibility for my own safety and the safety of my possessions.

I irrevocably release SHT and its shareholders, officers, directors, employees, and agents (collectively, the "SHT Group"), from any claims of whatever nature, whether foreseeable or not, that may arise in connection with my participation in the Trip. I further agree to indemnify, defend, and hold the SHT Group harmless from any claims, obligations, costs, damages or expenses of whatever nature, whether foreseeable or not, including attorneys' fees, arising from or in connection with my participation in the Trip, without regard to the claimant, the source of the claim, or its nature.

This Release shall be binding not only on myself, but also on my estate, heirs, successors, assigns, and family members.

I understand that the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital. I affirm that I am over eighteen (18) years of age and legally competent to sign this Release and Hold Harmless Agreement ("Release") and that this Release is signed with the full knowledge and consent of my non-signing spouse (if any). If any portion or portions of this Release are held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, all of the other provisions shall be enforced to the maximum extent permitted by law. I agree: to pay all reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by any of the SHT Group in order to enforce the provisions of this Release; that this Release will be governed by the laws of the State of Washington; and that the jurisdiction and venue of any dispute in connection with this Release shall reside solely with a court of competent jurisdiction in the Western District of Washington.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS RELEASE BY READING IT BEFORE SIGNING AND HAVE SIGNED THIS RELEASE AS MY OWN FREE ACT.

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(Signature)

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(Print Name)

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(Date)