

Tribal East Festival (Gomphu Kora)

“Go around Gomphu kora today for tomorrow may be too late” So goes the local song that attract devotees to visit festival, Daga tribe from adjoining Arunachal Pradesh (India)

Day1. **Guwhati-----S/jongkhar** (3hrs/110km): Interesting drive through the crowd of Guwhati, crossing the long Barmaputra Bridge and arriving finally at Samdrup Jongkhar (820ft/250 m). Overnight at hotel.

Day2. **S/jongkhar----- Tashigang:** Drive through Semitropical forests, climbing to a small pass of Alt: 2430m/7975ft. and descend down to the village of Khaling. From here it is only a short drive before you drop down to Kanglung and to Tashigang. Overnight at hotel.

Day3. **Attend Gomphu-kora:** Gomphu meaning “meditation cave” and Kora meaning “circumambulation” is derived from a cave formed out of a rock –face next to a temple that has been built as a tribute to this sacred site. The story of Gomphu Kora goes back to 8th century. Overnight at tent camp.

Day4. **Gomphu –kora** (Day excursion to Chorten Kora /Alt:6000ft, 2hrs/55km): Drive to Tashi yangtse, another place for the Black Necked Cranes especially found in Bomdeling wild life Sanctuary. We resume our drive back for overnight at Tashigang.

Day5. **Tashigang-----Mongar** (5240ft, 3hr/95km): Today we will have a leisure drive with lots of stop on the way and through endless switch backs to reach at the village of Yadi. Its popularly known by Yadi loops. Overnight at **Hotel**.

Day6. **Mongar-----Jakar:** Today, it is another nice drive, through small villages and great vegetation changes within this short distance. As you enter into the National park, you get to see large species of birds and mammals too. Cross Thrumsingla Pass at 3750m. Overnight at Jakar.

Day7. **Jakar-----Trongsa** (7150ft /2180m, 3 hrs/ 65 km): Morning, visit Jambay lakhang, the oldest Temple of Bhutan and the other 8th century temple known as Kurjay lakhang. Continue your drive up to Yotongla pass 11250ft/3425m. The road descends all the way to Trongsa. Overnight at hotel.

Day8. **Trongsa----- Punakha** (Alt: 4430ft, 5 to 6 hrs / 179km): Visit the impressive Dzong. Climb to the Pelela Pass 11046 ft., you may spot a Yak grazing by roadside. Halt overnight at **Hotel**.

Day9. **Punakha-----Thimphu** (3hrs / 98km): We start early to view the majestic Punakha Dzong (fortress) and then drive through **Dochula Pass Alt (10,135ft/3090 m)** to Thimphu. Alt: 7610ft. Halt overnight at **Hotel**.

Day10. **Thimphu sightseeing**: Walk to National memorial chorten (shrine), visit the Traditional Painting School, Stop in at National Library, Visit Textile weaving centre, Drive to takin reserve, visit the paper making centre and the Handicraft emporium. After that you can stroll around the streets of Thimphu. Halt overnight at **Hotel**.

Day11. **Thimphu-----Paro**: Start an early drive for an hour to Paro, Hike to **Taksang Monastery**, 2,700 feet above Paro valley's floor. **Light butter lamps**, break along the way for tea and snacks in small tea house. Descend in distilld afternoon light to eat a delicious dinner and stay overnight at Paro **Hotel**.

Day12. **Paro-----Bangkok** : Say goodbye to Bhutan and board a flight for Bangkok for onward destinations. We hope you'll carry this gentle kingdom in your heart. May it bring peace to you. Have a safe journey home.

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