



# THE BEST OF BHUTAN

Himalayan Farms & Forests, Mountains & Villages,  
Rare Birds & Temples

- A GRAND 13-DAY JOURNEY WITH DAY HIKES -

Hosted by Anthropologist & Travel Writer Don Messerschmidt

November 08 -- November 20, 2018

Perched high in the eastern Himalayas, the Kingdom of Bhutan has defied globalization and chosen to remain a hidden (almost) treasure. Here's one place on earth that even the seasoned traveler considers a privilege to visit, a place where travelers want to go repeatedly. Bhutan's sacred monasteries, the fluttering prayer flags that line the high ridges, and the red robed monks chanting their prayers exude the aura of another time. Travelers often romanticize their Bhutan experience and justly so: it's the trip of a lifetime.



- ☞ **Events:** The Black-Necked Crane Festival at Phobjikha. Villagers are celebrating the arrival of the cranes over the Himalayas from Tibet, with colorful dances, costumes, and ritual. Enjoy local celebrations as the long-distance winged travelers arrive at their winter home
- ☞ Experience the twin treasures of Bhutan's Natural History & Traditional Culture.
- ☞ Enjoy an historic, feudal manor house and lifestyle museum high up in the forest of Tang Valley.
- ☞ **Visit the Amazing Tiger's Nest'** - Bhutan's famous cliffside Taktsang Monastery. Cameras ready!

This is a trip created for "travelers who have been everywhere" - but never in a place as magical as this. Travelers, photographers and writers, young and old, will find this an inspirational adventure. Camera? For sure! -- to capture inspiring images and memories. Whether you are a traveler who wishes to explore and experience colorful cultures, a photographer, or perhaps you enjoy writing an ezine or a blog, you'll enjoy this special tour led by a veteran Himalayanist-&-Writer.

**Meet your guide** - Your adventure across Bhutan is led by **Don Messerschmidt**, PhD: cultural anthropologist, writer, editor, university professor, and rural development specialist. Don has spent most of his life in the Himalayas (Nepal, Bhutan & north India). His deep knowledge of the region and cultures is a key asset to any visit to Bhutan.



Don is an author of articles and books on Himalayan cultures, natural history, travel, biography

and memoir. His book *Big Dogs of Tibet and the Himalayas* won him the coveted 'Maxwell Medallion for Excellence' from the Dog Writers Association of America, and a biography called *Against the Current*, about a prominent Himalayan artist, art historian and novelist, brought him local acclaim. One of Don's current writing projects is what he calls 'What is "a Bhutan"~?' (You can bet there's a story *there* to tell.)



With over 40 years of academic and professional experience, Don is an exceptional Himalayan tour and trek leader. Seemingly around every bend in the trail, he knows someone: a villager, a monk, a cheese-maker, or a shop keeper. It's this intimate knowledge that will literally open doors for your own explorations of Bhutan.

More information about Don's unique background and life in the Himalayas can be glimpsed on his blog, "Himalayan Snows," at [dmesserschmidt.blogspot.com](http://dmesserschmidt.blogspot.com). (Scroll down to find articles and photos of Bhutan.)

## Let's Go!

~~ Important Note for Travelers ~~

The flight from Bangkok Thailand into Paro Bhutan is on the wings of a Dragon {Druk Airways}. There are only two flights per day and they are sold out many months prior to trip dates in November. This is a good reason to reserve your adventure sooner than later, several months prior to trip departures.



### Arrive into Bangkok on or before November 07

Your Bangkok-to-Paro flight on Druk Air may depart as early as 5:00 a.m. on November 08th. Therefore, arriving into Bhutan may require departure from home one or more days **prior to the trip's start date of November 08th**. Remember, you've lost a day when flying to Asia. Your air tickets need to state "arrival in Thailand is November 07 (or before for sightseeing Bangkok). Consider arriving a day or two early into Bangkok as this helps with jet-lag and provides an opportunity for additional rest and extra fun. Please contact Rusty at Ri Adventure Travel to confirm your dates of travel prior to purchasing your international flights. Ri Adventure Travel will be happy to assist you with your questions regarding flight arrival and departure timings for this adventure.

You may wish to schedule your international flights to allow for a visit to Thailand, India's Taj Mahal, or other destinations before or after Bhutan. Ask Rusty about suggestions, options and/or arrangements...

## Trip Itinerary

### DAY 1: November 08 Bangkok to Paro Airport, Bhutan ~ to Thimphu (Capital of Bhutan)

Himalayan summits, including Mt Everest (at 29,035 feet) can be seen as your flight begins the descent to the Paro Valley at 7364 feet. The landing approach allows one to see farmers in the fields and

children waving. On early arrival, pass through customs and immigrations, and meet your gracious Bhutanese guides and 'Dr. Don', as he is sometimes called (though he doesn't encourage it).

The airport architecture follows the unique artistic traditions of Bhutanese iconography. And be prepared, for Bhutan is proud of its clean environment. One of Don's friends wrote this on arrival:

**"When the plane doors open in Paro, the blast of pure oxygen that greets you is called air in Bhutan, and after you step onto the tarmac and see the crystal clear skies above and smog-less terrain—You know you have arrived."**

After some morning tea, a bit of freshening up, and delicious lunch, we'll set off to explore the imposing Rimpung Dzong of Paro. (A dzong is a secular administrative fortress and a monastery combined: *pho-to-gen-ic!* This Dzong is particularly impressive with huge Buddhist iconography in excellent condition and an active teaching and training center for monks. We may also see some huge wild honeybee hives under the eaves. If time allows (we'll make it!), a visit to the White Lotus Art Gallery in downtown Paro is interesting. Nice art work to see and enjoy, and a Bhutanese artist to meet.

It's about an hour and a half drive from Paro to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan. After checking into our hotel in Thimphu we'll visit the old-world market of Thimphu where people from the city come to bargain and haggle for spices, incense, produce, and other daily needs with traders and farmers, and Tibetans from the villages.

The Bhutanese are dressed in their colorful traditional woven costumes, selling yak bells, turquoise, amber beads, skeins of wool, prayer wheels, saddles, and carpets with dragons and snow lions woven into them. The markets and street corners are always great places to pause, to watch, to photograph a scene, or to jot down an inspiration; in short, to see and learn a bit of what life is like. Tonight, we'll share our evening with a few Bhutanese friends, authors, and natural history specialists whom we can ask questions about Bhutanese culture and daily life. We'll hear their perspective about imagery, composition and the opportunities that we should watch out for in the coming days as we travel farther into Bhutan. ~ *One night in Thimphu (7,493feet). Driving time 1.5 hours.*  
(From this afternoon until breakfast on Day 13 all meals and hotel nights are included.)



## **Day 2: November 09 Thimphu**

Let's begin this morning by visiting the National Memorial Chorten (shrine). Many Bhutanese come here for daily worship, particularly in early morning hours. Bhutanese monks, nuns, wizened elders, and others circumambulate the chorten while reciting prayers while spinning prayer wheels. You are welcome to join them circling the monument (clockwise, in Buddhist tradition).

Later this morning we'll make our way to the Society of Artisans, or Zorig Chusum, which (with its tongue-twister name), specializes in teaching the thirteen forms of Bhutanese art. The students are always welcoming to visitors, and usually a little shy.

This afternoon is left loose to allow for quality time, time zone catching up, and personal exploration. The "Queens Museum" of textile and culture is nearby and is well worth a self-guided visit. We'll meet

this evening with specialists to hear their perspective on life in Bhutan, it's peoples, challenges, and cultures, and something about Bhutan's GNH - 'Gross National Happiness' - the subject of serious international study. We'll gather for dinner and try some of the habit-forming delicacies available in the capital of Bhutan. ~ Overnight hotel in Thimphu



### Day 3: November 10 Thimphu to Phobjikha Valley (today is a big day, a lot happens)

After a continental and Bhutanese breakfast, we'll board our bus and wind our way north through pine, magnolia, hemlock, and rhododendron forests draped in lichens. Cresting nearby Dochu-La pass at 10,142 feet, we'll find a huge chorten with 108 small ones (count them!). The pass is traditionally decorated with tens of thousands of colorful prayer flags flying in the wind. The views here at the pass offer panoramic images of the lofty Himalaya.

For a time, we'll be in rich forests, then back among terraced fields with villages dotting the landscape. We'll be passing the ruins of Wangdi Dzong (fortress) as the road climbs steadily through semi-tropical vegetation up to Lawa-La Pass at **10,400 feet**. With clear weather we'll see a different set of Himalayas including the pyramid sharp summit of sacred Mt. Jomalari (23,355 feet).



We're truly out in the countryside now and with enough elevation to be comfortable for Yaks. You may spot them grazing near the road. These big shaggy creatures provide many services to villagers (wool, milk, load carriers) - but some are not all that friendly (though photogenic), so take photos from a safe distance. We're now in a high alpine environment with rhododendron trees and dwarf bamboo - a great environment for wildlife including Red Panda, and Mountain Rhesus and Capped Langur Monkeys. We're on edge of Black Mountain National Park.

At Phobjikha, we have comfortable eco-farm-house accommodations tonight. The elevation is 9800 feet so we're going to be drinking lots of fluids and taking it easy as we walk to explore villages. Focus our binoculars and cameras on all sorts of feathered and furry targets. A traditional hot Bhutanese stone bath, in a big wooden tub, is an extra feature here. ~ Overnight at a local farm house /guest house, 2 nights.

### Day 4: November 11 Black-necked Crane Festival

Black-necked Cranes - commonly known locally as '*Thrung Thrung Karm*' - have a sacred identity in Bhutanese culture. Each year in November, the community of Phobjikha (in Phobjikha Nature Reserve) follow the Buddhist reverence for life in all forms, and in support of community-based, ecologically-sound development. The **Black-necked Crane festival** celebrates the arrival of hundreds of these birds that winter over in the valley. (They spend their summers on the Tibetan plateau.) The festival is attended by

local people, pilgrims, birdwatchers, and other curious and interested visitors, and is considered an important community and national event. Cameras and binoculars get a workout here; bring yours!

The center of the festival is Phobjikhas' Gangteng Monastery. Leading up to the festival, Buddhist monks pray for the return of the birds and for the festival. Local villagers (especially children) gather wearing crane costumes to perform choreographed crane dances, as well as folk songs and other dances. During this period, the birds are easily seen in the valley and flying overhead.

The festival is organized by the Phobjikha Environmental Management Committee, comprised of local leaders (many are women), government representatives, local business people, monks, and members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature. The valley of Phobjikha is both beautiful and sacred, and the annual festival provides a strong link between environmental conservation and the economic well-being of the local people. The Crane Festival is a national highlight, attracting international attention.

By coming to the festival visitors reward the local community for their conservation stewardship. In return, the Bhutanese enjoy sharing some of their rich religious and social traditions with outsiders. Funds raised through the festival and related activities are banked and managed by the committee for year-round activities benefiting the entire community. Adding to the natural attractions of the Valley is that it borders Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park. Curiously, the cranes tend to arrive and depart by circling three times above Gangteng (Gangtey) Monastery, where the oldest and most mystical of the four schools (Nyingmapa) of Tibetan Buddhism is practiced.

We will be able to interact with the local folks from the Valley as well as other Bhutanese who have traveled many days to arrive here to celebrate the Black-necked Crane Tshechu (dance festival). Cameras, binoculars, walking shoes, and broad smiles, will be put to good use all day.

*~ Overnight at a local farm house /guest house*

### **Day 5: November 12 Phobjikha Valley to Bumthang**

This morning we'll take our bus to the next leg of our journey across Bhutan to the fabled valley of Bumthang, the cultural heart of Bhutan. Today we will cross high passes wreathed in prayer flags, big furry yaks, and a backdrop of Himalayan peaks, chir pine, rhododendron, and magnolia tree forests.

Bumthang is composed of several small valleys that in centuries past were independent kingdoms with their own distinctive cultural and linguistic features. This afternoon we'll see the small downtown, then tour a few holy sites and a cheese factory for a mixture of past and present. We have a lovely place to stay this evening, to shower and settled in.

*~ Driving time about 5 to 6 hours. Overnight hotel in Bumthang, two nights*

Bhutan for many travelers is a living museum with active 15th century monasteries where monks rise to chant and sip yak-butter tea at 5:00 a.m. (we'll take their word for what time prayers begin each day).

*~ Overnight hotel in Bumthang. Driving time about 5 hours*

### **Day 6: November 13 Bumthang**

This morning we'll pay a visit to the Castle of the White Bird, Zakar Dzong. Perhaps we can find some

lamas finishing up their prayers. There is much to do in Bumthang, and we'll be walking a bit following the pilgrims' footsteps through part of the Valley. Bumthang has numerous temples and that's why it is among the holiest of places to the Bhutanese.

We'll also visit Jambay Lhakhang. (Lhakhang means "god-house" or temple). This fabulous **Lhakhang** is believed to have been built in the year 659 AD by the Tibetan King Songtshen Gambo on the same day as 108 other temples were built, including Kychu Lhakhang in Paro.

At Jambay Lhakhang there are three stone steps that represent the ages; the first represents the past when Buddha walked the earth. This step is below ground level and is covered by a wooden plank. The second step is the current age represented by **Guru Rinpoche** (the venerable sage who brought Buddhism to the Himalayas centuries ago). It is followed by the highest step into the future. A new age begins when the last step sinks into the ground, and then it is said that the gods will descend to earth and a great age will follow. (We won't wait around long for that third step to disappear!)



The sights and sounds of the Bumthang Valley will fill your mind and your camera with images to last a lifetime. ~ entry fees are included, hotel nights in Bumthang

### **Day 7: November 14 Bumthang to the Tang Valley and Ogdien Chholing**

Today is an interesting adventure; we'll stay in a remote guest house with wood stoves and thick quilts.

In the morning, we'll depart Bumthang for this overnight adventure. We've a couple of hours drive through pine forests and along a sparkling river valley in nearby Tang Valley. Along the way we'll visit **Mebartsho, the 'Flaming Lake,'** which boasts a fascinating mythology. Then we'll drive on, cross a suspension bridge and walk 45 minutes up gently sloping land, through a small village, and fallow fields along a path to a feudal manor house/museum/guesthouse few travelers know to visit. Built in the 16th century, this is **Ogyen Choling**. Our hostess is Ashi Kunzang, a noted Bhutanese writer whose ancestors lived here.

In the late afternoon, as sun leaves the valley the only sounds you might hear are a nearby villager chopping wood. There is also the wind coursing through the forests of the Tang Valley, and crows singing as they land on the ancient gompa stupa. After a Bhutanese dinner, watch a recently produced film about great women Buddhist practitioners and directed by Dechen Roder, You will likely meet these artists and have a chat with them. Among the artisans is Ashi Kunzang, a friend of Don's that we hope to meet.  
~ Overnight in rustic guest rooms with wood stoves and thick quilts.

### **Day 8 November 15 Ogdien Chholing**

We have 2 nights in Ogyen Choling to enjoy the true ambiance of Tang Valley, the manor house, and

nearby farms, as they are not to be missed. We'll tour the museum and do a day hike in the surrounding fields and forests. We'll take quality time to rest up and walk quietly in an idyllic setting... It's also a great place for peaceful meditation.

### **Day 9: November 16 Ogden Chholing to Trongsa Dzong**



Today is a "highlight" day of great views and cultural experiences, so don't forget a large fresh memory card for your camera. We'll cross Yotong-La pass from which we can see Himalayan peaks within Tibet, Time allowing we'll visit yathra weavers along the way. Yathra weavings are highly prized both within Bhutan and now by the few foreign visitors to this central region of Bhutan. Yathra is yak hair or yarn, naturally dyed, and in the hands of these skilled crafts-people it is warm and beautiful. This afternoon we'll arrive at Trongsa Dzong.

A short hike on the historic cross-country royal trail is possible here, as is the sighting of rare golden langur monkeys. ~ *Driving time is about 4 hours, not including distractions.*

### **Day 10: November 17 Trongsa to Punakha**

Drive to Punakha through a forest of rich flora and fauna with beautiful scenery as we cross Pele-La (pass) with thousands of prayer flags and drop down to the fertile valley of Punakha. There's a fairly short, quiet, forest hike down from the pass, which we might take to meet our bus on the road below. Within a few miles of the pass, the vegetation changes again to pines, rhododendron, and fir. Frequently we spot grey langur, as well as brown rhesus monkeys.

Binoculars are really an asset when visiting Bhutan. With its large tracks of old growth forest and light population, Bhutan has a rich diversity of flora and fauna to enjoy. Though the distance to travel is not far, the winding road and probable encounters with wildlife and Himalayan views will eat up much of the day's journey. ~ *Overnight at our hotel in Punakha, driving time 5 hours or more, 142km*

### **Day 11: November 18 Punakha ~ Paro**

This morning we'll visit the majestic Punakha Dzong built in between Pho-Chu and Mo-Chu rivers, one of the most impressive Dzong's in all of Bhutan. This is the winter home of the Kings of Bhutan. Photogenic! (Bring more memory for your camera than you think you need.) There's also a short easy hike in the valley to Chime Lhakang temple, renowned as a fertility shrine. This walk across fields and through a typical village will include some *not so typical* souvenir opportunities (*you'll see!*).

We'll soon start our drive up to the great Dochu-La pass (10,142 feet). Many peaks over 23,000 feet can be seen from Dochu-La Pass including Teri-Gang (23,957feet), Table Mountain (23,268feet), and Masagang (23,596feet). Oh..., forgot one; Gnagkar Punsum (24,809feet). Dochu-La Pass is truly a "Ri" — a high place where you'll want to sit and absorb nature. We may skirt the busy streets of Thimphu and end our day at a quiet hotel in the Paro Valley. ~ *Driving time is 5 hours, not including distractions (7493 feet)*

### **Day 12: November 19 Paro and Taksang Monastery ("The Tiger's Nest")**

*This is a very fun day.* The sky promises to be a sunny "Montana blue." We'll be there in early winter, with crystal clear, dry weather. Let's start early with a short drive to Paro's upper valley and the Tiger's Nest trail-head. The hiking distance is not far in miles, but it's a steep walk that will take about 3+ full hours.

Take your time, enjoy the scenery. The pay-off of smiles, and *ahhh's* and *ooh's*, and *wows!* are well worth the effort.

On the trail you will likely see little old frail Bhutanese nuns (they are amazing) alongside travelers from many countries, lamas, pilgrims, and horses with supplies or with saddle riding travelers. All are heading up to the famed monastery. You'll pause often to take photos of prayer wheels and prayer flags with a backdrop of the monastery perched on a cliff. Rather than looking at magazine photos book covers and calendar views of Taksang Monastery, you can take the images yourself, and write or sketch your impressions into your diary.



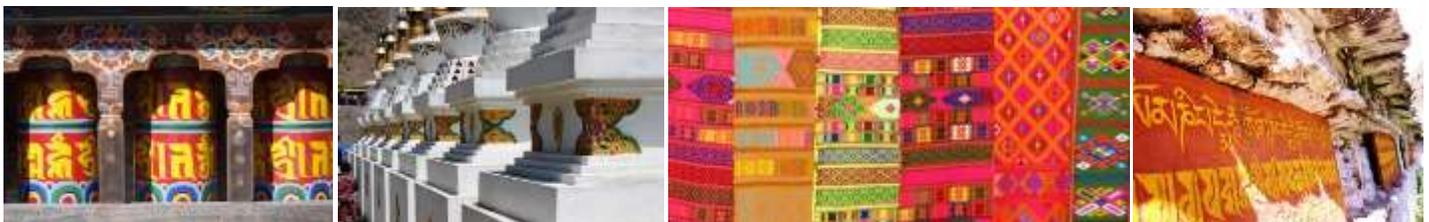
**Taksang Monastery is the "Tiger's Nest."** It is so named because Guru Rinpoche allegedly flew up to this cliff side a powerful tigress, back in the early 8th century AD. Between blue pines and blue sky, the monastery perches miraculously on a sheer cliffside nearly 2,700 feet above the Paro Valley. We'll cross a bridge festooned with countless prayer flags just prior to entering this monastery perched on the side of a cliff. This is a sacred site, passionately revered among Buddhists. The wood inside is dark and polished with age, as incense fragrantly wafts among the holy relics. It's a special place—sacred,

picturesque with prayer-flags fluttering, and fun to visit. (The upper portion of the trail to the monastery is wide and fenced for your safety. If you have questions about the exposure element, feel free to call and chat with Rusty at RiAdvTvl.)

Returning from Taksang to your hotel you can anticipate a hot shower, perhaps a glass of wine, and relaxation to conclude another great day in the Kingdom of Bhutan. ~ *Overnight in Paro. Driving time about 1 hour (optional is the use of a mountain pony to make the steep trail climb to the monastery. Fee for pony extra.)*

### **Day 13 November 20 Depart Paro for Bangkok and Beyond...**

After an early breakfast, it's a short drive to Paro International Airport. The flight time departing Paro may well be very early in the morning. But for planning purposes, it's best to assume you won't arrive into Bangkok until the late afternoon. Should you need a flight from Paro into India or to Kathmandu, please speak with Rusty about those options and prices.



... Tashi Dalek ...

### **Important Details :: The Fine Print**

The Kingdom of Bhutan is a developing country and though we will do our best to follow the itinerary, there are many reasons why alterations beyond our control may occur. You will find **Reservation & Release Trip Application** on the Ri Adventure Travel website. Among these materials is your trips **Terms and Conditions**

**and Release of Liability Form** for Ri Adventure Travel LLC, please read through them, and ask questions when you have them. Your signature is required for participation in this adventure.

<b>Trip Dates:</b>	<b>November 08 – 20, 2018</b>
<b>Reservation deposit:</b> \$800	per person
<b>Land Cost:</b> \$4685	(6 to 10 travelers) per person double occupancy
<b>Single Traveler:</b> \$645	Requesting a single is available. Please see Single Option below.
<b>Paro / Bangkok RT Flight:</b> \$790	RiAdvTvl LLC will make your Paro flight reservation for you. <u>The Druk Airways flight is non-refundable</u>

### Reserving Your Adventure

Making your reservation is easy; Call Ri Adventure Travel LLC at **307.460.4404** and make your deposit using Visa or M/Charge card. Or mail your check to **RiAdvTvl, 10011 Bridgeport Way, Ste 1500-404, Lakewood WA 98499**. We will notify you the moment your check arrives.

### Reservations

Print the [Reservation & Release Application](#).

Your reservation deposit: \$800 per person.

Paro / Bangkok Flight payment due 90 days prior

Trip balance is due at 70 days prior to departure.

If you prefer to use a major credit card, please call us at 888.460.4404 pst to provide those details; Visa or Master/Charge via PayPal is an option.

### Cancellation Schedule

91 or more days prior to departure, no fee

71 to 90 days prior, the deposit and 100% of

Paro/Bangkok Flight payment are forfeited

70 to 31 days prior, 50% of Land Cost and 100% of

Paro/Bangkok flight payment are forfeited.

30 days or less, 100% of Land and Paro/Bangkok

flight payments are forfeited.

Cancellation notice is based on when it is received in writing by mail or email.



*Textiles are an expression of national pride and cultural identity... fun to wear, too. Images by Don M.*

### What Is Included

Experienced leadership of Professor Don Messerschmidt; Paro airport transfers, transportation by passenger bus or van and driver, all the mineral water you can drink, all meals starting with lunch November 08 to breakfast on November 20. All inn and hotel stays while in Bhutan, licensed professional and experienced English speaking Bhutanese translator and leader. All entrance fees for monasteries, museums and festival grounds, Bhutanese invitation and visa, internal travel permits, National Park fees, and government taxes.

### What Is Not Included

International transportation to/from Bhutan (RiAdvTvl will reserve your Paro flights for you), passport, meals outside of Bhutan, alcoholic beverages; personal laundry; inoculations you and your physician choose, personal gear (on making your reservation a departure information package will be provided that includes the trip and adventure gear list). Airport departure taxes from Bhutan. Trip evacuation and/or trip cancellation insurance (highly recommended, see below). Gratuities for Bhutanese guides.

## Single Traveler

If you wish to be a single traveler, there is an additional charge of \$645. If you are single, but would like to have a roommate, we will assign a same gender roommate, first come, first serve. If there is no roommate available at 60 days of departure, we will contact you for payment of the single fee. Should we later find a roommate, we will promptly return those funds to you. There is usually a limit of two singles. If you wish to be a single, we will accommodate you if at all possible.

## Trip Cancellation Insurance

This is a fantastic trip! And it takes place in an exciting and interesting destination, but it's also a significant investment. We highly recommend that all travelers purchase trip cancellation insurance which includes provisions for emergency evacuation, trip delay, and luggage challenges. Ri Adventure Travel LLC will be happy to provide advice and/or get you signed up for travel insurance. You may purchase trip insurance at **RiAdventureTravel.com**, **click on Reservations**, and you may link to the **TravelEx Trip Insurance** site. The TravelEx website is user friendly, though if you have any questions please call us or **TravelEx 800.819.9004**.

## Trip Rating :: Caloric Burn Level 2

What is an "active adventure?" We enjoy walking trails and going into the back-country so as to experience the best features of the Kingdom of Bhutan. That means the adventure is going to be physically active with *occasional* walking *up to* 4 or so miles, and medical facilities may be many hours or days away. This adventure in Bhutan takes place between 7800 and 10,500 feet. There is quality time allowed for most travelers' bodies to acclimatize. All Day Hikes are optional. Further information about being at moderate to higher elevations will be sent with your *Prep-To-Go* departure information. The CDC is also an excellent resource, as is consulting with your physician. Physical conditioning and consistent exercise prior to the trip is essential. You will be burning calories while exploring temples, stone steps, walking trails that are muddy, or over hilly or uneven terrain. For a description of Trip Levels and Qualifications, please refer to our website and Reservations page on RiAdventureTravel.com.



Image: High Lama by Rusty



Image: Sacred mani's and flags by Don M



Image: Tigers Nest Bhutanese nun on pilgrimage

## Optional Fun

☸ Haa Valley 6 day trek following this adventure is an option. Call for more details  
☸ Additional days in Bhutan are also an option prior to or after the adventure.  
Call 307.460.4404, ask for Rusty to chat about options, ideas and costs.

## You've Made Your Reservation, What Happens Next

When you reserve your trip with a deposit, then an invoice confirming your reservation is promptly sent to you. A Prep-To-Go planning information package is mailed to you that includes suggested travel logistics, a complete gear list, visa and health information, as well as a suggested reading list. Prep-To-Go documents will answer many questions you have about the logistics and some of the options of your adventure.

Thirty days prior to departure you will receive trip final documents package with confirmation details, last minute hints and common "horse sense" reminders about travel, emergency contact numbers in Bhutan, and a trip roster of other travelers joining you on your adventure to the Kingdom of Bhutan.

## General Information :: Traveler Terms and Conditions

Once you have made a deposit for a trip, you agree to be bound by all our Terms and Conditions included in the Traveler Terms and Conditions and Release of Liability Form. Please read this information carefully. You will find this form on our website in **Reservation Form Materials**. Your participation in this active adventure tour is contingent on your signature on the full list of terms and conditions specified in the Reservation Application Form Materials. ([RiAdventureTravel.com/forms.pdf](http://RiAdventureTravel.com/forms.pdf)).

## Ready To Go?

Asking questions or reserving your adventure is easy; just give a ring to Ri Adventure Travel LLC, **888.460.4404**. Or fill out the online trip application and mail or email it to [traveler@rustytraveler.com](mailto:traveler@rustytraveler.com) to confirm availability and your reservation. Just ask, with over 34 years of experience throughout Asia, and most especially in Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet, we're sure to be an asset to your great adventure.

We look forward to having you join us for the trip of a lifetime! Why wait? Reserve your adventure today.

... Tashi Dalek ...  
Come to land of "Gross National Happiness"

Come to the Kingdom of Bhutan

