

# BHUTAN & SIKKIM

20 DAYS - AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND

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MYSTICAL LANDS OF THE HIMALAYAS

**20 DAYS - AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND**

IMAGINE FLYING OVER THE LOFTY HIMALAYAS. TO YOUR LEFT PIERCING THE CLOUDS, THE MIGHTY PEAKS OF EVEREST AND KANCHENJUNGA. TO YOUR RIGHT THE LOW WOODED HAMLET DOTTED HILLS GIVING WAY TO VERDANT PLAINS STRETCHING SOUTHWARDS INTO THE DISTANCE. YOU HAVE ARRIVED IN THE MOST MYSTICAL AND SECRET LAND AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD.

# YOUR JOURNEY

## DAY 1 AUSTRALIA - BANGKOK

Depart today on our flight to **Bangkok**.

## DAY 2 BANGKOK - PARO - THIMPHU

Fly to **Paro**, Bhutan, then drive to the capital **Thimphu**. **BLD**

## DAY 3 THIMPHU

During sightseeing excursions in Thimphu you will marvel at the colour, design and beauty of the temples, monasteries and *dzongs*. **BLD**



## DAY 4 THIMPHU - PUNAKHA

We continue to **Punakha** which served as the capital of Bhutan until 1955 and is still the winter seat of the *Je Khenpo* (Chief Abbot). Afternoon sightseeing includes the Punakha Dzong. **BLD**

## DAY 5 PUNAKHA - GANGTEY

After breakfast, we drive up a winding mountain road through rhododendron forests and down into the Phobjikha valley. We visit **Gangtey Gumpa** (monastery), the only *Nyingmapa* monastery in western Bhutan. **BLD**



## DAY 6 GANGTEY - TRONGSA

We drive across Pele-la pass, considered the boundary between western and central Bhutan. We will visit **Chendebji Chorten** constructed by a Tibetan lama to cover the remains of an evil spirit that was subdued at this spot. **BLD**

## DAY 7 TRONGSA - BUMTHANG

Sightseeing in **Trongsa** includes Ta Dzong and Trongsa Dzong. After lunch we continue to **Bumthang**, in one of the most spectacular valleys in Bhutan and also the holy heartland of Buddhism. **BLD**

## DAY 8 BUMTHANG

The day's excitement starts when we drive to the **Ura Valley** to witness all the colour and magic of the festival. **BLD**

## DAY 9 BUMTHANG

Tales of Guru Padmasambhava and the Tertons (religious treasure-discoverers) still linger in this sacred region. We enjoy a day's sightseeing. **BLD**

## DAY 10 BUMTHANG - PUNAKHA

Today we set off on the drive back to Punakha enjoying a picnic lunch en-route at the famous Chendebji Chorten. **BLD**

## DAY 11 PUNAKHA - PARO

The **Paro valley** is home to many of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries, the country's only airport and the National Museum. **BLD**



## DAY 12 PARO, TIGER'S NEST

Today visit **Taksang**, perched on the side of a cliff 900m above the Paro valley floor. It is said the Guru Rinpoche arrived here on the back of a tigress, hence the monastery is also called 'Tiger's Nest'. **BLD**

## DAY 13 PARO - PHUNTSHOLING

We drive to **Phuntsholing**, the frontier at the foothills of the Himalayas. It serves as the exit point to cross into India. **BLD**



## DAY 14 PHUNTSHOLING- DARJEELING

Drive to **Jaigaon** for immigration formalities and then to **Darjeeling** enroute passing through Assam Tea and rice fields. **BD**

## DAY 15 DARJEELING

An excursion to Tiger Hill, Ghoom Monastery and Batasia Loop. From Tiger Hill we will see the magnificent sunrise over the Himalayas. After breakfast we continue to **Ghoom** on the UNESCO World Heritage Listed 'toy train'. **BLD**

## DAY 16 DARJEELING - GANGTOK

Today we move on to **Gangtok**. In 1975 the monarchy was abrogated and Sikkim became India's twenty-second state, with Gangtok as its capital. **BLD**

## DAY 17 GANGTOK

Visit **Rumtek Monastery**, built by Gyalwa Karmapa the 14<sup>th</sup> upon his migration from Tibet in 1962. We visit the Buddhist Institute which is a treasure, trove of rare manuscripts, statues and ancient *Thankas* (tapestries). **BLD**



## DAY 18 GANGTOK - KOLKATA

This morning we drive to **Bagdogra** to join our flight to **Kolkata**. **B**

## DAY 19 KOLKATA - AUSTRALIA

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Australia via **Bangkok**. **B**

## DAY 20 ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive back into Australia today.

# HIGHLIGHTS

INSTITUTE OF ZORIG CHUSUM

TAKTSANG MONASTERY - PARO

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CHORTEN

RHODODENDRON FORESTS

TA DZONG, NATIONAL MUSEUM

GHOOM MONASTERY - DARJEELING

HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINEERING INSTITUTE - DARJEELING

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE 'TOY TRAIN', DARJEELING

RUMTEK & ENCHEY MONASTERIES



**B** BREAKFAST (18)

**L** LUNCH (15)

**D** DINNER (16)

**—** AIR

**—** LAND

## TOUR COST

EX SYDNEY, MELBOURNE, BRISBANE, PERTH

THIS TOUR IS AVAILABLE YEAR-ROUND WITH A MINIMUM OF 2 PEOPLE TRAVELLING. A PERSONALISED ITINERARY CAN BE ARRANGED. THE COST MAY VARY BASED ON DEPARTURE DATE AND TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION. CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Economy class air tickets required as per the itinerary - Airport charges, fuel levies and taxes (approx \$470\*)
- Bhutan Visa Fee
- Accommodation based on twin/double share with private facilities at first class hotels or best available
- Meals as specified in the detailed itinerary
- All transfers, sightseeing, train journeys and touring as indicated in the specific detailed tour itinerary
- Porterage at airports/hotels only
- Tour Leader from Australia (subject to minimum 10 passengers travelling), local English speaking guides throughout the tour
- Entrance fees as required throughout sightseeing tours/park entry fees as applicable
- All currently applicable service charges and taxes.

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED:

- Excess baggage on any flight, vaccination costs, passport or visa fees for India and Sikkim, travel insurance
- Any other meals or sightseeing not specified in the detailed itinerary
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone and other communication charges, personal gratuities to Tour Leaders, Local Guides and Driver(s)
- Any other item not specifically mentioned as being included.

\* Subject to variation without notice.

CALL US FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ITINERARY OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE

## HOW TO BOOK

All tour costs are inclusive of economy class international airfares and taxes. Ask us for prices from other cities and Business or First Class up-grades. Group tour costs shown are per person quoted in Australian dollars and are subject to change due to exchange rate variations and other factors. Please check with us at the time of booking.

### TRAVELLER'S NOTES

Should you be travelling alone and wish to share, we will endeavour to match you with a roommate of the same gender. However, if this is not possible or the allotted roommate cancels you will be required to pay the single room supplement. The number of single rooms available on this tour is strictly limited. In order to benefit from the Group Airfares incorporated in these tours, all passengers must depart from Australia on the allotted day of departure. Should you wish to extend your stay and return on a different date, this is permitted subject to availability and airline approval.

**Early Booking discount of AU\$250 per person applies for bookings deposited before 30 November 2010. Past tour or cruise passengers with Adventure Associates will be eligible for an AU\$200 per person discount. The discount will also be made available to your travelling companion - only if you are booking and travelling together. These discounts are not combinable and apply to direct client bookings only.**

Space on our Small Group Tours is limited to allow for ease of movement for an in-depth, smaller group experience. To ensure your place on this exciting adventure, please contact us to reserve a place, then complete a Booking Form and return to us with your deposit. Reservations are established when you receive written confirmation and acceptance of the deposit and Booking Form.

## DEPOSIT AND PAYMENTS

**DEPOSIT REQUIRED: AU\$2,000 PER PERSON AT TIME OF BOOKING**

**BALANCE DUE: 75 DAYS PRIOR TO ALLOTTED DEPARTURE DATE**

**IF BOOKING ON OR WITHIN 75 DAYS OF DEPARTURE: FULL PAYMENT MUST BE MADE**

## CANCELLATIONS

Written instructions only will be accepted by Adventure Associates to cancel a reservation. Cancellation charges are subject to regulations of airlines, coach and tour operators, hotels/boats/trains and other principals involved in the specific Land Tour. If it is necessary to cancel your arrangements, the following non-refundable charges will apply.

**MORE THAN 100 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE: AU\$1,500 PER PERSON**

**BETWEEN 99-75 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE: FULL LOSS OF DEPOSIT PER PERSON**

**BETWEEN 74-35 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE: 75% OF TOUR COST PER PERSON**

**ON OR WITHIN 34 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE: NO REFUND**

All cancellation charges will be strictly applied. If the cancellation charge is more than your advance payment you remain liable for the difference. For these and other reasons mentioned above you are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance. Once the Land Tour has departed there will be no refund for any unused portions of the trip.

## GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR AUSTRALIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS

A visa is required for Bhutan (included in the tour cost). A visa is also required for India and Sikkim. Please note that your passport must be valid for a minimum six months from the date of arrival back into Australia at the conclusion of your tour. Please check with us for any changes to the above and for entry requirements for other countries or for non-Australian passport holders who may also require a re-entry visa for Australia. Note information current at time of brochure publication and subject to change.

### TOUR ESCORTS

Local English speaking Tour Guides are provided for the sightseeing/touring section of the selected tour. When a tour leader is provided ex Australia this is subject to a minimum 10 passengers travelling.

### PARTICIPATION & HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

These are NOT trekking tours. However, on some days there are planned walks. Participants should have good mobility and be in good health to ensure that their participation does not restrict their fellow travellers. We regret that these tours are not considered suitable for participants over 80 years unless they forward to us medical certification as to their fitness to participate and they are accompanied by a younger companion who will be responsible for assisting them. If you are on prescribed medications, please bring an adequate supply for your journey. As situations are constantly changing, please consult your doctor of travellers medical centre for current requirements and personal recommendations. We will forward nearer to departure further guidelines regarding clothing, packing etc, for your chosen tour/cruise.

### PRICE AND ITINERARY AMENDMENTS

Prices shown in this brochure are per person (Land Tours in Australian dollars), based on tariffs current at time of printing and are subject to price increases, tax increases, fuel surcharges, rate of exchange variations and other imposts and these costs will be passed on to the tour member. In the event of flight re-scheduling or unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary to alter or re-route some or all of the published itinerary and any increased costs resulting therefrom will be passed on to the tour member. Alterations will be done with as little inconvenience as possible to the tour member and include, to the best of the tour operator's ability, tours and other items in the itinerary selected. Wherever possible, sightseeing tours will include the features specified, however, we accept no responsibility for features not included or changed, or should day or half day sightseeing tours not operate or museums or sightseeing attractions be closed, due to public holidays or other circumstances. Where advice is received by Adventure Associates (herein referred to as AA), we will endeavour to make alternative arrangements prior to departure. We can accept no responsibility for itinerary changes after departure which are beyond the control of AA.

### INSURANCE

Travel insurance is strongly recommended which may protect you against loss of deposit or payment, cancellation fees, illness, injury or death, baggage or personal items loss, delays, strikes, war, force majeure, or default by any suppliers or Principals. In certain circumstances within the Terms and Conditions of the Insurance Policy document, tour members may be covered for contingencies such as these.

### RESPONSIBILITY

Please read this important information carefully. Payment of a deposit of any part or full payment for a reservation on this tour shall constitute consent to all the provisions contained herein.

AA, incorporated in New South Wales, operators of the package tours outlined herein, give notice that they act only in the capacity of Booking Agents for the tour member in all matters of transportation, tour operation, accommodation and other services. AA, its directors, representatives, or their subsidiaries and/or associated Agents shall not be held responsible, directly or indirectly, for property loss or damage and/or any damages resulting from illness, personal injuries or death which may be sustained by reason of, or during any tour, whether due to the ownership, maintenance or operation of any aircraft, helicopter, vehicle, bicycle, boat, hotel, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours. These terms and conditions extend to protect all persons who are or might be servants of AA.

AA can assume no liability due to any cause whatsoever for failure or delay or other irregularity, acts or omissions of any person or firm occurring during a tour under which the means of transportation or other service provided thereby is offered or supplied by owners, operators or public carriers for whom AA acts only as agent. AA shall not be responsible for any injury or death to person or property damage arising out of any act of nature, war, insurrection, revolt or other civil uprising or military action occurring in the countries of origin, destination or passage. Furthermore, AA cannot be held liable for default by any of their suppliers or Principals. These are rare events and tour members are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance.

Without limiting the foregoing, AA shall have no liability to the tour member in the event of such person's dissatisfaction with any such service or accommodation, or for any transportation delay, including but not limited to liability for inconvenience, shortened vacation time, additional expense, or any other kind of damage. No monetary or other allowance can be made where a tour member departs from the itinerary or does not utilise any of the services described in a brochure. In the event of any tour cancellation, AA cannot be held responsible for any costs incurred by a tour member's purchase of any special or non-refundable air, tour, accommodation or other transportation tickets. The expression "tour member" where used in these terms and conditions includes

the person who signed the booking form and all persons on whose behalf it is signed.

By forwarding of deposit, the tour member certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other tour members. AA reserves the right to cancel or withdraw any person as a member of the tour at any time. AA reserves the right to alter or omit any part of the itinerary or change any reservation, feature and/or means of conveyance without notice and for any reason whatsoever. AA reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on its part.

A booking will only be held on receipt by AA of its Booking Form and of all money due at the time of booking and of all subsequent monies as they fall due. Monies shall not be deemed to have been received by or on behalf of AA until actually paid to it and AA has issued its receipt. Payment of money to AA shall be a direction and authorisation for it to disburse the money. Should the passenger deal through a travel retailer other than AA, that travel retailer is the booking agent for the traveller. It is the passenger's responsibility to check with their booking agent as to whether any variation to itinerary, price or other aspects have occurred. It is also the responsibility of the passenger to make sure that they are in possession of the proper travel documents and that they are in compliance with the current government and transportation companies' regulations. No contract shall be entered into until a completed Booking Form is received and accepted by AA.

AA has done all it can to ensure that its AA are accurate but it cannot accept any liability for any inaccuracy in, or departure from, what is described in the brochure. Maps illustrated in this brochure are for general information and may not necessarily reflect actual routings or services provided. Photographs show places in the geographic area but may not be included in the tours.

The transportation companies concerned are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the tour members are not aboard their carriers or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage. Coupons, tickets and vouchers are issued and accepted by the tour member subject to the service provider's or transportation companies' terms and conditions. All legal questions and actions against AA must be brought in New South Wales, Australia, and by payment of monies to AA and embarking on the tour the tour member waives the right to bring an action against AA into any other forum. Nothing in these terms and conditions shall in any way detract from rights and privileges given to consumers by the Trade Practices Act or similar consumer protection legislation where such rights cannot according to the terms of that legislation be amended, varied or modified.

Law Governing Contract New South Wales.



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Council of Australian Tour Operators



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