



Nabji – Korphu Ecotourism Trek 16 days/6 days trekking

Tour JTT-BT03: Guwahati – Samdrup Jonkhar - Donmong Chu - Merek - Jornkhar Teng - Guwahati

Nabji – Korphu Trek

On this tour we combine a beautiful trek at medium altitude through a national park with some of the cultural highlights of West and Central Bhutan.

The trek is set out in the Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park. Ideal time to trek is between October - March. During this time you can avail



of the off-season, lower tariff for traveling in Bhutan.

The park is located in central Bhutan, and apart from having a rich wildlife and bird life, it is also home to several culturally rich agricultural villages. The trail is a six day, low altitude trek between 693m and 1,636m travelling through six different villages located inside the park. It is the first community-based trek in Bhutan. The local villagers have a system for profiting from the services of home-stay, guiding and transport (horses) which makes sure that all villages in the area profit equally from the revenues that trekking generates.

You have the possibility of sighting the rare golden langur (a monkey), red pandas and many bird species and even the endangered rufous-necked hornbill. One of the cultural highlights is the commemorative pillar in the temple of Nabji. The pillar symbolizes the occasion that peace was negotiated between two kings (King Nauche from India and King Sindu from Bhutan) intermediated by Guru Rimpoche in the eight century. You will also pass through the homeland of the Monpas people.

The Monpa people are thought to be the first settlers in Bhutan. They were originally hunters and food gatherers and their culture, tradition & practices are intrinsically linked to the forest around them.

Festivals

This trip could well coincide with one of colorful religious festivals where we will spend time to attend the masked dances, which attract thousands of villagers from far and wide. Mingling with the locals in this joyous celebration — a highlight of their

social calendar - is an honor, bestowed to only a limited number of visitors each year. (ask us for festival dates).

Itinerary

Day 1: Gelephu - Zhemgang

On arrival at Gelephu, the representative of our Bhutanes partner will meet you and accompany you to the Hotel for lunch.

After lunch we drive to Zhemgang, in the Black Mountain Range. It's a wild drive about 4-5 hours through the dense tropical forest rich in different species of trees and wild animals and flowers too. Overnight at Zhemgang.

Day 2: Zhemgang - Riotala to Nimshong, distance 6.5kms, time 3-4 hours

Zhemgang – Nimshong Village 1,319m Travel by car/mini bus to Riotala the start of the Nabji trail. Keep an eye open for deer and macaques along the way while enjoying the beautiful view over the Mangde Valley. The trek starts with a steep descent of 693m, to the bed of the Mangde River following the river bed until you see the chorten that indicates the entry to Nimshong village. A steep climb up the village which has 58 households with a population of approximately 465 people. Overnight at tented campsite at 1319m.



Day 3: Nimshong to Nabji, distance 13kms, time 5 hours

Early this morning you will visit a local temple. Today you will hike through a lush broadleaf forest alive with abundant bird and mammal life , with possible sightings of Golden Langurs and Rufous-necked Hornbill. The trail moves up and down through a dense forest. Nabji consists of 44 households with approximately 400 people. The village is situated on a foothill above terraced fields of rice. The temple of Nabji which means 'promising' or 'oath harbors the stone pillar to mark the peace between Bumthang & Assam Kings. In the village a rock remains of the blacksmith. (One of the reincarnations of Pema Lingpa). Overnight at tented campsite at 1300m.

Day 4: Nabji – Korphu – Nabji, distance 12kms, time 4-5 hours

Nabji Village 1300m – Korphu 1636m From Nabji base camp this morning enjoy a day hike to Korphu village. Korphu is situated on a mountain top at 1500m altitude. It has 76 households and approximately 600 people. It is a spectacular hike uphill, and the view from the clustered village of Korphu is breathtaking. It is possible to visit Korphu's

temple, which houses the sacred relics of Pema Lingpa. Stop in Korphu for lunch and return to Nabji mid afternoon. Overnight at tented campsite at 1300m.

Day 5: Nabji – Kubdra, distance 13kms, time 6-7 hours

Nabji Village 1300m – Kubdra Campsite 1636m. Our trek today starts on a trail to Kubdra village. The trail leads you through a dense forest, with big trees with clippers, orchids and small bamboo. You will lunch overlooking the waterfall at Zhelyung. Continuing along the trail you will come the Monpas inhabited in Kubdra in the middle of the forest. Kubdra only has three households but the few Monpas living there are very happy to welcome you. Watch out for tigers and leopards the local inhabitants in this area although they are rarely seen droppings and spores can be found. Overnight at tented campsite at 1636m.

Day 6: Kubdra – Jangbi, distance 14kms, time 6 hours



Kubdra 1636m – Jangbi Village 1368m The hike continues to Jangbi Village you will see traces of the Guru Rimpoche along the way (foot print, dagger and hat) Visit the small visit of Phrumzur with its temple from here you can see right over the valley. Further along the trail you will see great vista and pristine forest. Tonight your campsite near Jangbi has a beautiful view over the valley and Mangde Chuu. Overnight at tented campsite at 1368m.

Day 7: Jangbi – Tongtongphey, distance 9kms, time 3-4 hours

Jangbi 1368m – Tongtongphey 1061m. This morning you have a steep descent of 950m which will bring you to a bridge crossing Mangde Chu, after which is the last climb, to Tongtongphey where your driver will be waiting to transport you to your overnight accommodation at Trongsa. Time permitting we visit Kuenga

Rabten Palace and the Nunnery on the way to Trongsa.

Day 8: Trongsa – Bumthang, distance 68 kms, time 3 hours

Visit Trongsa Dzong and drive to Bumthang via Yotong la Pass (3400m). (Bumthang is the general name given to a complex of four valleys – Chumey, Cheorkor, Tang and Ura – with altitude varying from 2600m to 4000m).

Day 9: Jakar – Halt

Jampa Lhakhang built in 7th Century one of the oldest monasteries of the kingdom then Kurje monastery, built in the 17th century to mark the place where Guru Padmasambhava had meditated in the 8th century, leaving his body imprint on the rock, Tamshing monastery. Lhodrakharu monastery. Visit the 17th century Jakar Dzong. Overnight hotel at Bumthang (2750m).

Day 10: Jakar – Phobjikha

Visit the Ta Dzong, built as a watchtower to guard Trongsa Dzong and then visit to striking Trongsa Dzong, ancestral abode of Bhutan's royal family. Drive to Phobjikha, on the way stop at Chendebje Chorten which is replicate of the Napalese stupa called shyambunath & Pelela Pass (3300m). Night halt at Phobjikha (2900m).

Day 11: Phobjikha – Punakha

Visit Black Necked Crane Information Center. Hike Gangtey Nature Trail & visit Gangtey Goemba, the biggest Nyingmapa Monastery in western Bhutan. On the way visit Wangdi Dzong, this dzong was built in 17th Century and presently it's under renovation. Drive to and overnight at Punakha (1300m).

Day 12: Punakha – Thimphu

After breakfast visit Punakha Dzong, the winter residence for the Chief Abbot, the head of the monastic body and the old capital of the Bhutan. Hike to the Chimmi Lhakhang, the fertility temple, people today get here in the temple to get the blessing for the



couples without children, miscarriage, and early death of the children. After lunch drive to Thimphu the modern capital of Bhutan. Overnight at Thimphu. (2300m).

Day 13: Thimphu – Halt

Local sightseeing in Thimphu. Visit as time permits: National Memorial Chorten (built as a memorial to Bhutan's third king and as a monument to world peace); Changangkha Lhakhang, built in 13th century, Takin Zoo, the national animal of Bhutan; the National Institute of Traditional Medicine (Museum only) where herbal medicines are made up and dispensed and traditional medicine practitioners are trained; the Institute for Zorig Chusum, where students learn the 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan; the National Library, with an extensive collection of Buddhist literature including many ancient Buddhist texts in block-printed format; Folk Heritage Museum, which connects the ancestral Bhutanese way of living; Tashichhodzong, ('the fortress of the glorious religion'), which houses the His Majesty's throne room and office for the cabinet secretariat, and the central monk body. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 14: Thimphu – Paro

Visit Hand Made Paper Factory, Buddha Point, and the view point of Thimphu Valley. Visit the national Weaving Center. Visit Simtokha Dzong, the first and oldest Dzong in Bhutan. In the afternoon visit National Museum. Overnight in the Hotel. (2250m).

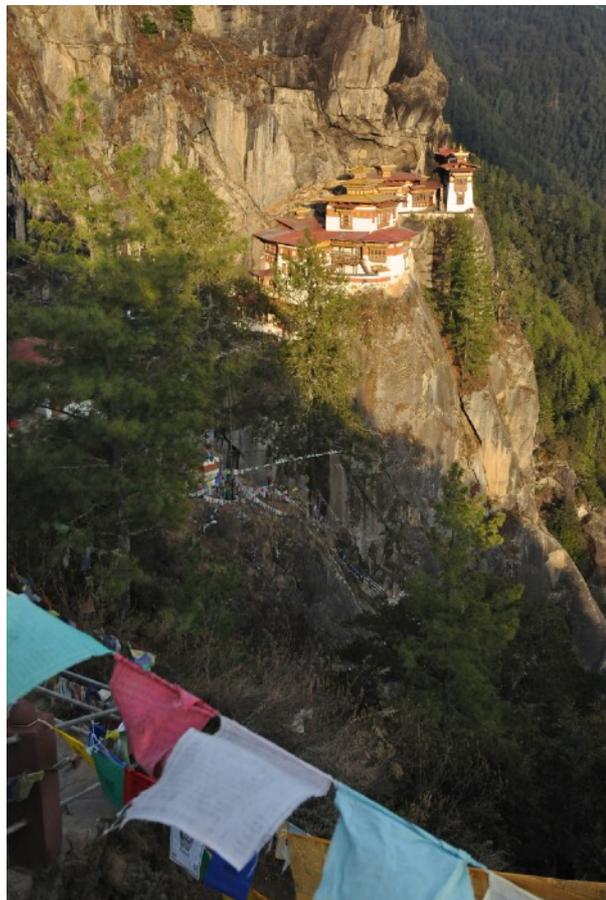
Day 15: Paro – Halt

Drive up till the road end and then hike to the Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Clinging 900m above the Paro Valley where once upon a time the great saint called Guru Rinpoche meditated for three months. In the afternoon drive up the valley to Drukgyel Dzong, built in 1646 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to commemorate his victory over Tibetan invaders. We may also have time to visit the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest monasteries of the kingdom. Overnight at the hotel in Paro. (2250m).

Day 16: Paro – Guwahati or Delhi

Drive to the airport for flight to onward destination.

Note: This itinerary can be shortened or extended. From Bumthang you can proceed to eastern Bhutan, exiting from Samdrup Jongkhar. Also you can exit from Gelephu after visiting Bumthang.



Price: USD 250 per day (high season: March, April, May, Sept, Oct. Nov) or USD 200 (low season: Dec, Jan, Feb, June, July & Aug), all-inclusive. USD 40 surcharge per day for individual travelers, USD 30 per day for parties of two. Travel from and to India not included. Please ask for quotation.