Signature Bhutan 2019
9 days from $8,395
Private Journey

Immerse yourself in welcoming Bhutan, known for its friendly people, stunning scenery and fascinating culture. On this independent journey, see breathtaking dzongs and monasteries, attend a local Buddhist festival and hike to sacred Taktsang ("Tiger's Nest") Monastery.

A&K Advantages

- Experience all the highlights of Bhutan including Thimphu, Paro and Punakha
- Witness an exciting tsechu, or Bhutanese religious festival, with its colorful, masked dancers and bustling markets
- Stay in some of the country’s most intimate accommodations, including Uma by COMO in Paro and Punakha
- Savor a celebratory Champagne picnic lunch after hiking to the scenic Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery
- Enjoy pre- and post-night stays in Bangkok, with VIP arrival service
Itinerary

**DAY 1 ARRIVE BANGKOK, THAILAND**
Arrive in Bangkok, where you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport | Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 2 PARO, BHUTAN/THIMPHU | LAND OF THE STUPAS**
Transfer to the airport and fly to Paro. On arrival, you are met with a tashi khadda (traditional welcome), and transferred to your hotel in Thimphu. En route, stop to see the Simtokha Dzong, one of Bhutan’s oldest fortresses, and its iron mesh suspension bridge. After settling into your hotel, visit the National Memorial Chorten, designed in the style of a classical stupa, with a pyramidal pillar crowned by a crescent moon and sun. Later, see Tashichho Dzong, a 13th-century Buddhist monastery and fort.

Taj Tashi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 3 THIMPHU | UNIQUE WILDLIFE**
See one of Bhutan’s most unique creatures today when you visit the Takin Sanctuary, a wildlife reserve set on forested slopes above the city. See the Folk Heritage Museum, which offers insight into the lifestyle, culture and artifacts of Bhutanese villages as well as life in rural households.

Taj Tashi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 4 PUNAKHA | TEMPLE OF THE DIVINE MADMAN**
After breakfast, proceed to Punakha, the former capital of Bhutan. Drive over the Dochula Pass at an altitude of 10,200 feet, travelling through forests of pine festooned with hanging lichen. Stop to enjoy a cup of tea while taking in panoramic views. Continue to the yellow-roofed Chimi Lhakhang (Temple of the Divine Madman), built in 1499 by the cousin of Lama Drukpa Kunley; it was constructed in his honor after the lama subdued the demoness of the nearby Dochu La with his “magic thunderbolt of wisdom.”

Uma by COMO, Punakha | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 5 PUNAKHA | PALACES & TEMPLES**
Visit the majestic Punakha Dzong (the “palace of great happiness”). Situated at the confluence of two rivers, the dzong was originally built in 1637. Damaged over centuries by fires and an earthquake, it has been beautifully restored by the king.

Uma by COMO, Punakha | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 6 PARO | SPIRITUAL SURROUNDINGS**
Drive to Paro. Visit Rinpung Dzong, a monastery and fortress along a mountain river. It houses the district Monastic Body and government administrative offices of Paro Dzongkhag.

Uma by COMO, Paro | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 7 PARO | ASCEND TO THE TAKTSANG (“TIGER’S NEST”) MONASTERY**
Hike to cliff-side Taktsang (“Tiger’s Nest”) Monastery, a sacred Himalayan Buddhist site and temple complex. After your adventure to this sacred pilgrimage site, enjoy a celebratory Champagne picnic lunch.

Uma by COMO, Paro | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 8 BANGKOK | RETURN TO THAILAND**
Transfer to the airport and board your flight to Bangkok. Check in to your hotel and enjoy time at leisure.

Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport | Meals: Breakfast

**DAY 9 DEPART BANGKOK**
Transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.
Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

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<td>Oct 06 - Oct 14, 2019</td>
<td>$8,395</td>
<td>$2,895</td>
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Journey Details

Internal Air: Economy class from $975
Bangkok/Paro/Bangkok

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: Flight from Bangkok to Paro at 6:50 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: Flight from Paro to Bangkok at 10:50 a.m. on Day 8.

Solo traveller prices are available upon request.

NOTE: Each departure of this journey has been specially timed to include a tsechu, a Bhutanese religious festival and social gathering. Held in each dzongkhag (district) on the tenth day of the month during the lunar Tibetan calendar, they feature colorful, masked Cham dancers, religious images and vibrant markets.

Festivals by departure:
Feb 11, 2019 - Tsechu Festival takes place Feb 14 & 15 in Punakha
Mar 13, 2019 - Tsechu Festival takes place Mar 18 & 19 in Paro
Oct 6, 2019 - Tsechu Festival takes place Oct 8 in Thimphu

First Event: Flight from Bangkok to Paro at 6:50 a.m. on Day 2
Last Event: Flight from Paro to Bangkok at 10:50 a.m. on Day 8

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions here.