

**DeRiemer Adventure Kayaking
Photo Tour with Betty Sederquist
October 3- 15, 2017
Sample Itinerary**

Thank you for your interest in joining us in Bhutan. 2017 represents our 9th year into this enchanted Himalayan, Buddhist Kingdom. Each visit feels like a gift. Our aim for you is that you are exposed to as much of the culture, people and surrounding countryside as is possible. We want you to experience the magic of Bhutan and the kindness of these people that we have come to know and appreciate.

We are very excited about this itinerary as our dates coincide with two festivals! These festivals are held at two of the oldest monasteries in Bhutan. Our adventurous journey is designed to take full advantage of each day, while still being open to the special moments that always present themselves in this unique land.

We know your vacation time is precious. Rest assured that your journey to the other side of the world, where you step back in time, is well worth the effort. We look forward to sharing with you this country that we find so special.

Tashi Delek,
Betty Sederquist, Phil and Mary DeRiemer

Day 1, Oct 3, Monday:

Fly into Paro

Lodge Paro

Flying into the beautiful valley of Paro, you glide over the tops of snow and pine covered ridges that are dotted with remote monasteries. Located in western Bhutan, this valley is a patchwork of rice fields. The harvest techniques used haven't changed for hundreds of years! We meet you at the airport and, depending on your arrival time, go to lunch. The rest of the day we wander town to shoot and shop, and visit Paro's majestic Dzong (fortress). At the end of the day we settle into our hotel. [Lodging in Paro](#)

Day 2, Oct 4, Tuesday:

Fly to Chamkhar

Attend Thangbi Mani Festival

Lodge Chamkhar

We board an early morning flight into Chamkhar (also called Jakar) located in the Bumtang district in the center of the country. This short yet scenic flight parallels the Himalaya Mountains separating Bhutan and Tibet. We have timed our arrival to coincide with the Thangbi Mani festival taking place further up the Chamkhar valley. We will split our time in the area with visiting the festival as well as taking in the many interesting sights found in the valley. The festival will be a great opportunity to photograph traditional dance and other ceremonies. Locals who attend these festivals can be seen in their finest Bhutanese dress. [Lodging in Chamkar 2 nights.](#)

Day 3, Oct 5, Wednesday:

Attend Thangbi Mani Festival

Lodge Chamkhar

Another opportunity to attend the Thangbi Mani Festival. Afterwards we will use the time to photograph and visit sights around the valley. [Lodging in Chamkar.](#)

Day 4, Oct 6, Thursday:

Travel to Trongsa

Lodge Trongsa

Leaving Chamkhar our drive takes us over the Yotong La (11,234 ft.). Once the center of government, Trongsa plays an important role in Bhutan's history. While there we will visit the Trongsa watchtower museum and the spectacular Dzong built high upon a ridge overlooking the Mangde Chu River. [Lodging in Trongsa.](#)

Day 5, Oct 7, Friday:

Travel to Phobjikha

Lodge Phobjikha

We'll leave Trongsa in the morning and travel to Phobjikha, a side valley located near the Pele La (11,220 ft). This quaint and beautiful high valley is a gathering area for the black-necked cranes that migrate here from the north. Upon arrival we can walk the length of the valley in search of photographic opportunities. It is also home to the Gantey Gumpa, a privately owned Monastery that sits at one end of the valley with the small town of Phobjikha leading up to its entryway. There is no guarantee the cranes will have arrived, but the valley is spectacular and well worth the time there. [Lodging in Phobjikha.](#)

Day 6, Oct 8, Saturday:

Travel to Punakha

Lodge Punakha

After spending part of the morning in the Phobjikha valley we will drop down along the Dang Chu River toward its confluence with the Puna Tsang Chu, one of Bhutan's largest rivers. Near the town of Wangdue Phodrang we will enter the Punakha Valley. The photographic opportunities abound here between the majestic Punakha Dzong located at the confluence of the Mo (mother) and Po (father river), timing of the local rice harvest, the hilltop temple of Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten which overlooks the Mo Chu River. It is also home to Chimi Lhakhang (small temple) in honor of Drukpa Kunley, the divine madman. [Lodging in Punakha area 3 nights.](#)

Day 7, Oct 9, Sunday:

Raft Mo Chu

Tour

Lodge Punakha

This day has a rafting option on the Mo Chu. Before putting on the river we will do the hike to hilltop temple with stunning views up and down the Mo Chu valley. The run finishes up floating past the Punakha Dzong at the confluence with the Po Chu. Upon taking out we have a picnic lunch with a view of the Dzong then tour this impressive 16th century structure, once the center of government. [Lodging in Punakha area.](#)

Day 8, Oct 10 Monday:

Raft Po Chu Punakha

Tour

Lodge Punakha

Today we raft the Po Chu (Father river). We start with a walk in the countryside that takes us over the longest footbridge span in Bhutan. We cross the lower Po Chu onto a country road through rice fields in mid-harvest, allowing us to interact with the locals working the fields. Our vehicle meets us along the way and we drive to the put-in. The run finishes up floating past the Punakha Dzong at the confluence with the Mo Chu. [Lodging in Punakha.](#)

Day 9, Oct. 11, Tuesday:

Travel to Thimphu

Lodge Thimphu

This day we travel over the pass at Dochu La (10,302). If it's clear we may be treated to views of the Himalaya to the north. We'll spend some time walking amongst the 108 chortens that are located there and can visit the small Druk Wangyal Lhakhang temple as well. Afterwards we will drive on to Thimphu, the capital. Once there we can tour the town and all that it has to offer. [Lodging in Thimphu 2 nights.](#)

Day 10 Oct 12, Wednesday:

Tour Thimphu

Lodge Thimphu

There's an optional pre-breakfast trip to (one of) the largest sitting Buddhas in the world. A short drive allows us to experience sunrise over Thimphu and the surrounding mountains from the vantage point of the sitting Buddha. On our return for breakfast we can also visit the Memorial Chorten built to honor the 3rd King. Each morning locals gather here to pray reciting mantras while walking clockwise circles around the base of the chorten. While in Thimphu we can visit the Textile Museum, the School of Traditional Arts, Takin Reserve (Bhutan's national animal) and do some shopping. [Lodging in Thimphu.](#)

Day 11 Oct 13, Thursday:

Travel to Paro

Tour Paro

We'll leave Thimphu for our final destination of Paro. There are many options of sites to visit: Dzong, a variety of Lhakhangs (small temples) and we might be able to catch an archery match if we haven't witnessed one yet. Once in Paro we spend the rest of the day around town and relax a bit in preparation for our hike to the Tigers Nest the following day. [Lodging in Paro 2 nights.](#)

Day 12 Oct 14, Friday:

Hike Tigers Nest

Lodge Paro

An early start to the day sees us at the trailhead for the most famous monastery in the country, Takstang, known as "the tigers' nest". After the hike, our late lunch is followed by one last chance to wander Paro and do last minute shopping. We finish off the evening with a farewell dinner. [Lodging in Paro.](#)

Day 13, Oct 15, Saturday:

Today we take you to the airport for your early morning departure and farewell to the Land of the Thunder Dragon!

DeRiemer Adventure Kayaking

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