

DeRiemer Adventure Kayaking
Bhutan Class IV
Nov 8 –20, 2020
Skill Level: Solid Class IV
Sample Itinerary

Thank you for your interest in joining us in Bhutan. This year represents our eleventh year into this enchanted Himalayan, Buddhist Kingdom. Each visit feels like a gift. Our aim for you is twofold; that you paddle in the Himalaya and, 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, not only because of the places we visit and the areas of the country in which we travel, but it will take place during the celebration of the 4th Kings' birthday which is celebrated throughout the country. Our travels will take us from Paro in the west, to the Chumkar valley, Bumthang province, located in the center of the country. 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,

Phil and Mary DeRiemer

Cost: \$5680 includes domestic flight from Bumthang to Paro.
Does not include international flights to and from home country to Paro, Bhutan.





Day 01 Nov 8th, Sunday

Flying into the beautiful valley of Paro at 7500 ft, you will glide over the tops of snow and pine-covered ridges that are dotted with remote monasteries. Located in western Bhutan, the valley is a patchwork of rice fields where the harvest techniques haven't changed for hundreds of years. We'll meet you at the airport and go to lunch. The rest of the day we'll **wander the town** and shop, and/or visit Paro's majestic Dzong (fortress). At our lodge we'll outfit boats for the following day's paddle. Lodge Paro.

Day 02 Nov 9th, Monday

We drive down valley to the put-in for our run on the **Paro Chu** (Chu means river and/or water). Locally called the Pa Chu, this low volume river starts with Class II-III and transitions to Class IV. Upon taking out at the confluence with the Thimphu Chu, we'll load up and drive 45 minutes to Bhutan's capital town of Thimphu. After a late lunch we'll use the remainder of the day to **explore town**. Lodge Thimphu.

Day 03 Nov 10th, Tuesday

There's an optional pre-breakfast trip to one of the largest sitting Buddhas in the world, Dordenma Buddha, located on a hill overlooking the town. From its vantage point, we'll watch the sun rise over the Thimphu Valley and the surrounding mountains. After breakfast we pack up and drive to the put-in of the Thimphu Chu (also called **Wang Chu**), another low volume, technical Class III+ run. We take out at the confluence with the Paro Chu and begin our **3-hour drive** to Punakha Valley, the religious center of Bhutan. We'll stop for lunch along the way. This leg of the journey takes us over the stunning pass at Dochu La at 10,302 feet. If we have clear skies, there will be views of the snowcapped Himalayan range that separate Bhutan from Tibet. From the pass we begin our descent into the Punakha Valley at 4000 ft, home of the Mo (mother) and Po (father) Chus. Lodge in Punakha Valley.

Day 04 Nov 11th, Wednesday

We drive up river to our put-in for the **Mo Chu**. We'll be shifting gears from our earlier runs as the Mo and Po Chu are both large volume and pool-drop in character. Our take out and lunch spot are the start of a hike to Khamsum Yulley Chorten, a hilltop temple with extraordinary

views overlooking the Mo Chu valley spotted with terraced rice fields in mid-harvest. Night 2 in Punakha Valley.

Day 05 Nov 12th, Thursday

After a short drive up valley, we'll be dropped off for the start of a casual hike that will take us past the Punakha Dzong to the longest footbridge span in Bhutan, over our run for the day, the **Po Chu**. Our vehicle will meet us on the other side and take us up the valley where we'll transfer into a 4WD vehicle to get to our put-in. The run finishes floating past the Punakha Dzong at the confluence with the Mo Chu. The Dzong was built by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, who is credited with unifying the country. At take-out we'll change into temple worthy clothes so we can tour this impressive 16th century structure. This one-time center of Bhutan's government is now the winter religious center of the country, and still serves as administrative offices of the government. This will be our last night in Punakha.

Day 06 Nov 13th, Friday

Today's run is on the **Dang Chu**, a delightfully continuous Class 4 creek. It is short in length, yet big on fun. If time permits we'll get in two runs on this classic. Lodge near Dang Chu.

Day 07 Nov 14th, Saturday

This is a **travel day** to the village of Trongsa, the old capital of Bhutan. Our route takes us over Pele la (pass) 11,230 ft. If time permits, we'll visit the watchtower museum and the impressive Trongsa Dzong. Lodge in Trongsa.

Day 08 Nov 15th, Sunday

This will be a long day as we drive south from Trongsa to the Lower Mangde Chu for the famous **Ema Datsi Canyon**. Ema datsi is the *spicy* national dish of chilis and cheese. This exciting Class 4 stretch lies in a stunning canyon.

Lodge our second night in Trongsa.

Day 09 Nov 16th, Monday

Driving upstream from the town of Trongsa we'll reach the trail that leads down to the put-in for the Class IV **Upper Mangde Chu**. This sweet, short section of river has beautiful water quality and rapids. After we take out we'll **drive** to our lodge in Chumkar, in the Bumthang district.

Day 10 Nov 17th, Tuesday

Today's run is a class IV section of **Chumkar Chu** above town. This continuous, low volume, technical run has an isolated feel to it. Night 2 in Chumkar

Day 11 Nov 18th, Wednesday

This part of Bumthang province is steeped in religious history and contains numerous temples and significant religious sites. We can spend the day touring this beautiful valley and all it has to offer or do a repeat run on the classic **Upper Chumkar Chu**. Last night in Chumkar

Day 12 Nov 19th, Thursday

We'll take a quick morning **flight** back to Paro. The views of the Himalaya are outstanding as we fly over much of the route we traversed during our drive east to the Bumthang area! Once in Paro we'll drive to the trailhead for the most famous monastery in the country, Takstang, known as "Tigeress' Nest". It was here that Guru Rimpoche, the living Buddha who brought Buddhism to Bhutan, is said to have arrived on the back of a flying tigress. This **vigorous hike** of 2000 vertical feet on a well-worn path is well worth the effort! It has fantastic views of the monastery and the Paro valley below. After the hike, a late lunch is followed by the final chance to wander Paro and do last minute shopping. A **celebratory dinner** will be in order for our last night in country here in Paro.

Day 13 Nov 20th, Friday

After breakfast, we'll take you to the airport for your early morning **departure**, a farewell to the Land of the Thunder Dragon!