

DeRiemer Adventure Kayaking
Land Tour
October 18 – 30, 2026
Sample Itinerary

We first traveled to this enchanted Himalayan, Buddhist Kingdom in 2006 and have returned nearly every year since. Each time feels like a gift. Our aim for you is two fold; that you paddle in the Himalaya and that you are exposed to as much of the people, culture and surrounding countryside as possible. We want you to experience the magic of Bhutan and the kindness of these people we have come to know and deeply appreciate.

Our Land Tour runs concurrent with the Class III+ Kayak Trip where you experience Bhutan through your own, unique itinerary. There are some opportunities for rafting along with the kayakers as well.

We are very excited about this itinerary. It is customized so we can attend the Jakar Tsechu in the Chumkar Valley, Bumthang. This is an annual religious festival held in a centuries old Dzong (think fortress). Bumthang Province is halfway across the country from the arrival town of Paro. 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 spend each night in nice, comfortable accommodations.

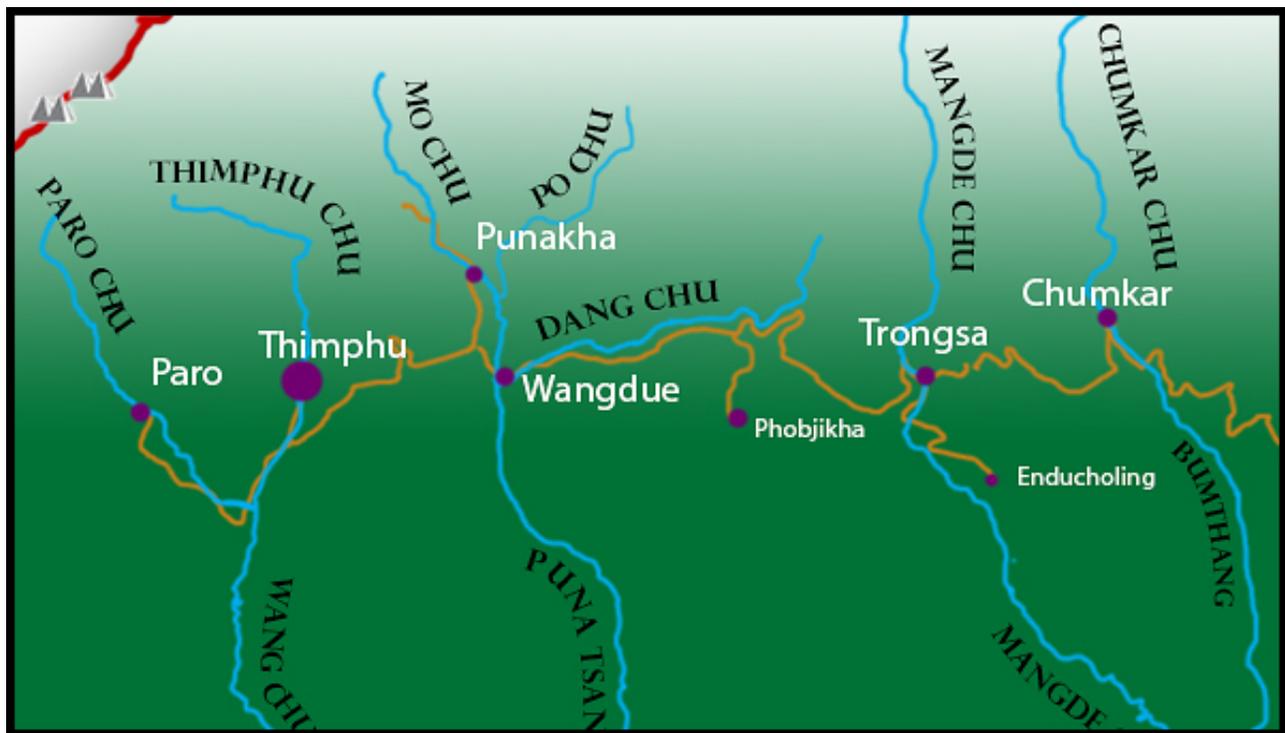
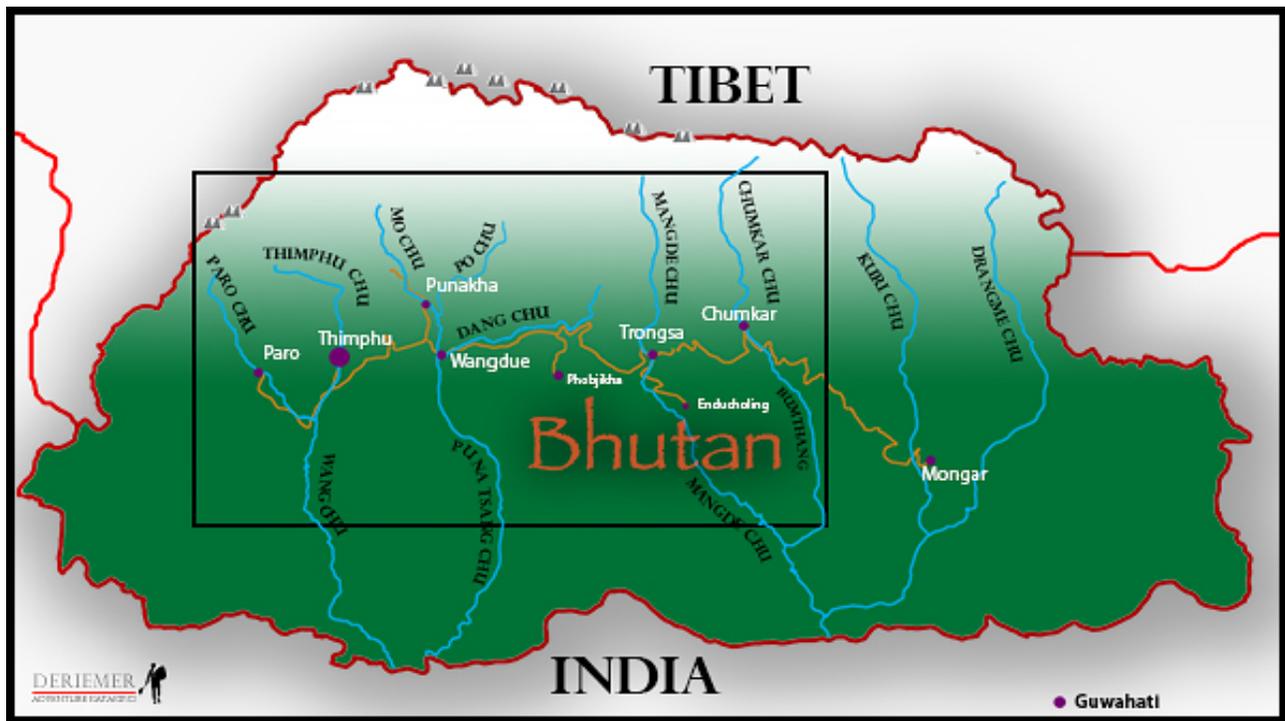
We know your vacation time is precious. Rest assured that your journey to the other side of the world is well worth the effort. I look forward to sharing with you this country we find so special.

Tashi Delek,

Phil DeRiemer

Cost: Land Cost \$7100 US for double occupancy with a \$495.00 single occupancy surcharge for those that wish this option.

- Price **includes** domestic flight from Paro to Bumthang, in country meals, lodging, transportation, cultural guide, rafting equipment and guide, visa, Sustainable Development Fee and entry fees to all sites we tour.
- Price does **not include** international flights to and from home country to Paro, Bhutan.
 - Current cost for the Bangkok-Paro round-trip is \$975 US. These reservations are made by our Bhutanese outfitter.
 - We recommend using Bangkok, Thailand as your gateway city into Bhutan.



Day 1: Oct 18, Sunday

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 where the farmers use harvest techniques that 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 the town and shops and visit the national museum and/or Paro's majestic Dzong (fortress). We lodge in Paro (approx elevation 7800 ft.).

Day 2: Oct 19, Monday

Today we board a flight to Chumkar, located in Bumthang Province, halfway across the country. The views of the Himalaya during this flight are spectacular. We fly over much of the route that will take us the next 11 days by road to return, sight-seeing and rafting along the way. The Jakar Tsechu takes place during our stay and is attended by Bhutanese from far and wide. We arrange our day to attend this colorful pageantry of masked dances. The remainder of the day we spend exploring sites in the beautiful Chumkar Valley. We stay 2 nights in Chumkar (approx elevation 8000 ft.).

Day 3: Oct 20, Tuesday

Today the Jakar Tsechu continues. We attend the best of the Tsechu activities and watch the religiously symbolic Masked Dances and other ceremonies. Leaving the festival, we head up river for a picnic lunch alongside the Chumakr Chu (river). There is much to see and do in the Chumkar valley and we'll spend the rest of the day seeking out some of these interesting sites. Afterward, it's your choice to explore more of what this beautiful valley has to offer, or shop, or return to the hotel to relax. Lodge in Chumkar.

Day 4: Oct 21, Wednesday

In the early morning we'll return to the Dzong one last time to watch the unfurling of the giant tapestry that covers the wall on one side of the inner courtyard. From there we drive to Trongsa, the one-time center of government under the first king, Ugyen Wangchuck. Highlights during our stay include a visit to the sprawling Trongsa Dzong and/or the Watch Tower Museum. We spend the night in Trongsa (approx elevation 6800 ft.).

Day 5: Oct 22, Thursday

This is a driving day that takes us to the beautiful Phobjikha Valley. Known as the Valley of the Black-Necked Cranes, it is the winter home of these majestic, migratory birds. To get there we drive over Pele La (pass) at 11,122 ft. En route we have lunch and finish our day with a hike on the valley trail. We spend the night in Phobjikha (approx elevation 9500 ft.).

Day 6: Oct 23, Friday

Some of the morning we spend in the valley, including a visit to the Gangtey Gompa Monastery. After which we begin our drive to the Punakha Valley and our lodging there.

Day 7: Oct 24, Saturday

A drive up the Mo Chu (Mother River) valley brings us to a short hike to a hilltop temple; the Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. There is a commanding view of the valley's rice terraces and meandering river. We descend for lunch then paddle the Mo Chu. There is an afternoon option to paddle raft our way down to the most significant Dzong in Bhutan, Punakha, winter home of the head religious leader and many monks. A late afternoon visit to the Sangchen Dorji Lhuendrup nunnery perched high above the valley is the end to a full day. Lodge Punakha (approx 4500 ft.).

Day 8: Oct 25, Sunday

Today we paddle the Po Chu (Father River). This begins with a tour of the Punakha Dzong, an impressive 16th century structure and center of Buddhist learning. From here we walk the countryside, cross over the longest footbridge span in Bhutan. There is a riverside trail we can take to our put-in, and a picnic lunch. There is a paddle raft for the non-kayakers here. The run ends floating past the Punakha Dzong at the confluence with the Mo Chu. This will be our last night in Punakha.

Day 9: Oct 26, Monday

An early morning start begins the drive to Thimphu, the Capitol. This leg of the journey takes us over the stunning pass at Dochu La at 10,302 feet. If we have clear skies, there are views of the snowcapped Himalayan range that separates Bhutan from Tibet. We lunch and sightsee in Thimphu. Lodging in Thimphu (approx 7600 ft.).

Day 10: Oct 27, Tuesday

There is an optional, pre-breakfast visit to the Buddha Dordenma statue, at one time the largest sitting Buddha in the world. Here, we enjoy sunrise over Thimphu valley and the city before returning to the hotel. After breakfast we can sightsee, wander and shop until lunch. There are many site seeing/ walking options like a visit to the Takin Preserve (national animal of Bhutan, found only in the Himalaya) and the textile museum. Lodging Thimphu

Day 11: Oct 28, Wednesday

We travel up the Paro Valley stopping at sites of interest, including the Temple of Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche. "Brilliant Moon" was one of the most significant Buddhist teachers of this century. Rinpoche was born in Tibet. In exile from the Chinese invasion, Rinpoche was welcomed into Bhutan by the Queen mother, who became his student. The Dalai Lama is Rinpoche's most famous student. Known as a scholar, poet, teacher, Rinpoche headed the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism until his death in 1991 at age 81. Lodging Paro (approx 7800 ft.).

Day 12: Oct 29, Thursday

Our early start to the day sees us at the trailhead for the most famous monastery in the country, Takstang, known as "Tigeress' Nest". The monastery is the most sacred in the country and a must-make pilgrimage for all Bhutanese. A fully enlightened being, Guru Rinpoche, or Padmasambava, first came to Bhutan in 810 AD, bringing Buddhism to the country. He meditated here in a cave that is now a temple within the Dzong.

This **vigorous hike** of 2000 vertical feet on a well-worn path is 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: Oct 30, Friday

After breakfast, and depending on the timing of your departure flight, we'll tour some more then say our goodbyes before leaving the Land of the Thunder Dragon!