

DeRiemer Adventure Kayaking Bhutan Kayaking

Class IV only Nov 7-18, 2026

(Participants must be solid at the class IV level)

or

Class IV+/ with Kuri Chu River Extension

November 7–22, 2026

Sample Itineraries

Thank you for your interest in joining us in Bhutan. We first traveled to Bhutan in 2006 and returned nearly every year to this enchanted Himalayan, Buddhist kingdom. Each visit 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 culture 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.

Whether you choose the 13-day Class IV or the 16-day Kuri Chu Extension, this tour of Bhutan's rivers has us really excited. 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. Two such moments are the celebration of the IV King's birthday on day 5 and a visit to the Trongsa Tsechu (festival) on day 8.

Adding the Kuri Chu Extension gives you an incredible kayaking and cultural experience. It is our most complete tour of Bhutan's rivers we offer, culminating with the second descent of the lower Kuri Chu as it flows into India. We catch day one of the three-day festival in Mongar as well.

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. I look forward to sharing with you this country that we find so special.

Tashi Delek, *Phil DeRiemer*

Cost:

- 13-day Class IV+: \$7100.00
- \$495.00 single occupancy surcharge for those that wish this option.

- 16-day Class IV+ with Exploratory Extension: \$8600.00
- \$595.00 single occupancy surcharge for those that wish this option.

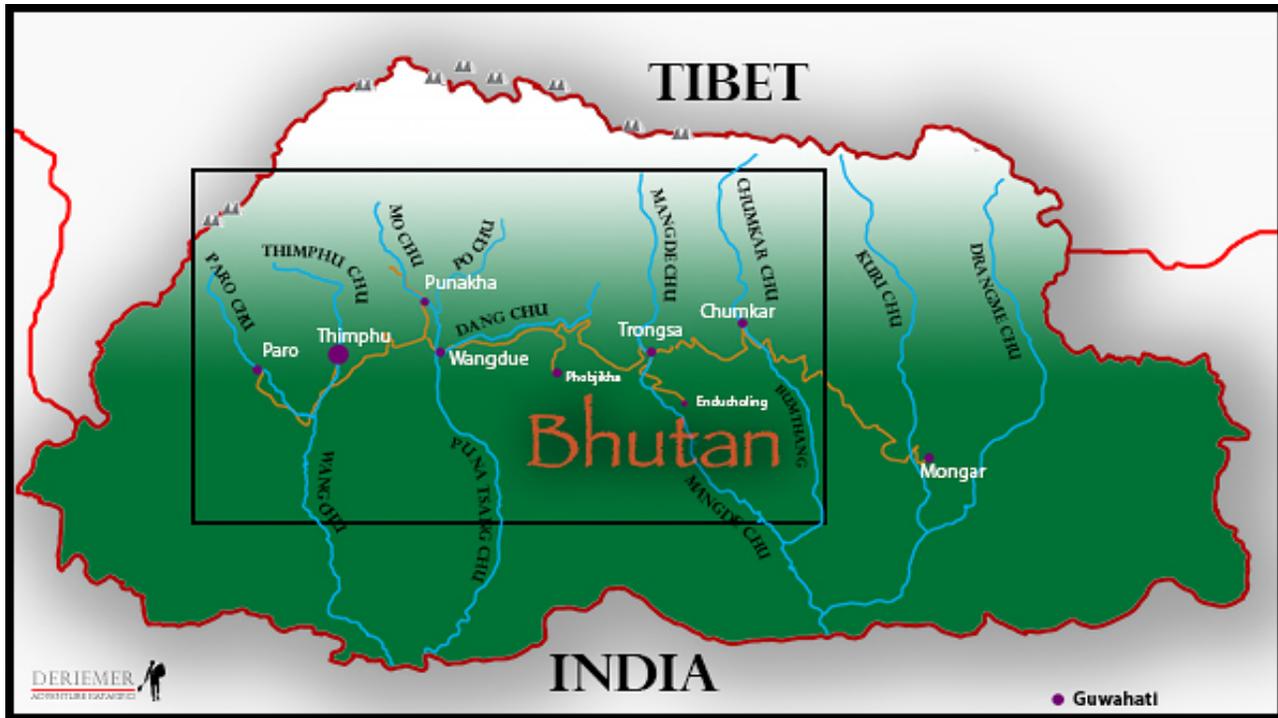
- Price **includes** domestic flight from Bumthang to Paro if doing Class IV only portion, in country meals, lodging, transportation, cultural guide, kayak, kayak guides, visa, Sustainable Development Fee and entry fees to all sites we tour.

- Price does **not include** international flights to and from home country to Paro, Bhutan. Current cost for the Bangkok-Paro round-trip is \$975.00 US. These reservations are made by our Bhutanese outfitter.

We recommend using Bangkok, Thailand as your gateway city into Bhutan.

Paddling ability: Paddlers on either trip should be very solid at the class IV level. Kuri Chu Extension requires Class IV+ to V-.

*Note final three days of Kuri Chu Extension are self- support



Day 01 Nov. 7, Saturday*

Flying into the beautiful valley of Paro at 7500 ft, you 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 and the harvest techniques haven't changed for hundreds of years. We meet you at the airport and go to lunch. The rest of this day we wander the town, and/ or visit Paro's majestic Dzong (fortress). At our lodge we outfit boats for the following day's paddling. Lodge in Paro.

Day 02 Nov 8, Sunday

Drive down valley to the put-in for our run on the Paro Chu (river), a low volume run that starts with a Class III-IV warm-up until reaching the confluence with the Wang Chu. After taking out we load up and drive to Bhutan's capital town, Thimphu. Lodge Thimphu.

Day 03 Nov 9, Monday

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 high vantage point of the sitting Buddha. After breakfast we drive to a different put-in of the Thimphu Chu, this stretch is a low volume, technical Class III+ run. We take-out at the confluence with the Paro Chu then begin our 4-hour drive to Punakha Valley, the religious center of Bhutan. We lunch en-route. 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. From the pass we begin our descent into the Punakha Valley at 4000 ft, home of the Mo (Mother) and Po (Father) Chu (rivers) and the stunning Punakha Dzong. Lodge Punakha Valley.

Day 04 Nov 10, Tuesday

We drive up river to our put-in for the Mo Chu to a section that few get the chance to paddle. We shift

gears a bit from our earlier runs, the Mo and Po Chu are both larger volume, pool-drop in nature. Partway through the run we have a picnic lunch riverside. After taking out and changing out of paddling gear and into temple-worthy clothing, we start a hike through terraced rice fields in mid-harvest arriving at a hilltop temple overlooking the Mo Valley. We spend a second night in Punakha.

Day 05 Nov 11, Wednesday

Today we paddle 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 load up, heading up-river. We transfer into a 4-wd vehicle to get to the put-in. Right off the bat there are some great rapids, the first is IV+ and the rest settle into nice class IV. After an hour of paddling we reach the lower put in where we'll have lunch. We finish this exciting run floating past the Punakha Dzong at the confluence with the Mo Chu. At the take-out we change into temple-worthy clothes and visit this impressive 17th century structure, once the center of government. The Dzong was built in the early 1600's by Shabdrung, the leader who is credited with unifying the country. While still housing administrative offices of the government, Punakha Dzong is now the religious center of the country. This auspicious day also happens to be the birthday of the fourth king, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, father of the present King. He is credited with creating the philosophy of Gross National Happiness. Lodge Kichu Resort

Day 06 Nov 12, Thursday

Today we paddle a short but continuous class IV stretch of the Dang Chu. After our run we'll drive to Trongsa, lunching along the way. We'll pass over Pele La (pass) with a chance of getting views of the mountains. Lodge near Trongsa

Day 07 Nov 13, Friday

Emma Datsi is Bhutan's national dish made of spicy chilis in a cheese sauce. Emma Datsi Canyon on the Mangde Chu is downstream from Trongsa. This is today's run, it too can be quite spicy! We put in just below the former winter palace at Enducholing and paddle class IV+ and IV rapids. We return to Trongsa at the end of the day. Lodge in Trongsa.

Day 08 Nov 14, Saturday

We drive upstream of Trongsa to run the Upper Mangde Chu. After a short hike downhill we arrive at a stunning pool. This fun Class III / IV run brings us back to just above the main road.. Luckily the Trongsa Dzong (fortress) festival starts this day. We'll take in some of the festivities then drive to Chumkar in the Bumthang district, located in the middle of the country. Lodge in Chumkar.

Day 09 Nov 15, Sunday

We travel up valley and paddle the continuous Class IV section of the Chumkar Chu. This is the class IV+ groups last day of paddling. Lodge in Chumkar.

Day 10 Nov 16, Monday Class IV+ *

Those doing just the Class IV+ trip will have a day to hike in the bucolic beauty of the Chumkar valley and tour some of it's important sites.

**The Kuri Chu River Extension to the class IV+ trip itinerary changes here. Skip ahead to the trip description beginning with Day 10, located on the next page.*

Day 11 Nov 17, Tuesday Class IV+

This morning the Class IV trip flies back to Paro. The travel that took many days overland is done in 20 stunning minutes. Be sure to have your camera ready! Once in Paro, we head up valley to hike up to the spectacular monastery of Takstang. Known as the Tigress's Nest, it is the most important monastery in Bhutan. Here Guru Rimpoche, the man responsible for bringing Buddhism to Bhutan, is said to have arrived on the back of a flying tigress. This vigorous hike is 2000 vertical feet and well worth the effort! After a late lunch we wander Paro for last minute shopping. We have a celebratory dinner our last night in Paro.

Day 12 Nov 18, Wednesday Class IV+

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

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR KURI CHU EXTENSION

Kuri Chu Extension

RESOURCES (paste these links into your browser):

In 2015 Phil DeRiemer, Ben Morton and Thinley Thobden lead a group of kayakers on the first descent of the Kuri Chu. Below are accounts from that trip.

Read a blog post from Ben here: https://kokatat.com/blog/exploring-bhutan?srsId=AfmBOoqxGI4rPJ4nXbJqg9_0Y_sUYQuFIA39IAZPvaHvrEVA5sIP-KcP

Listen to an interview with Ben here: <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-e&q=bhutan+kuri+chu+kayak#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:29a2bcd6,vid:Ut2m5KWQus4,st:0>
Start at minutes 24:52 for the Kuri Chu expedition

Read a blog post from Phil here: <https://adventurekayaking.wordpress.com/2016/01/08/a-first-descent-in-bhutan-the-sonam-section-of-the-kuri-chu/>

Day 10 Nov 16, Monday

We leave Chumkar and drive east toward the town of Mongar perched high above the Kuri Chu valley. Lodge before Mongar.

Day 11 Nov 17, Tuesday

We'll drive to where the road crosses the Kuri Chu and do a shorts section to the dam that will mark the beginning of our self-support trip in two days. Lodge Mongar.

Day 12 Nov 18, Wednesday

Attend the first day of the Mongar festival. We'll take a break to prep for our three-day, self-contained trip down the lower Kuri Chu that starts the following day. We can return to the festival to take in more sites before going to bed. Lodge Mongar

Day 13 Nov 19, Thursday

Begin our self- contained exploratory down the Kuri Chu, Yahoo! Camp on Kuri Chu

Day 14 Nov 20, Friday

Continue Self- contained exploratory on Kuri Chu. We confluence with the Drangme Chu this day. Camp Drangme Chu

Day 15 Nov 21, Saturday

Continue down river to Manas Park on the border with India. Exit the river where we will be met by our vehicles and cross into India. Lodge near Manas.

-Participants will need to apply ahead of time for a one-time visa for India

Day 16 Nov 22, Sunday

Morning in Manas. Travel to Guwahati, India where we each start travel home. There is a late afternoon flight to Bangkok on Druk Air.

For more information and reservations contact Phil DeRiemer

phil@adventurekayaking.com

+1 (530) 663-3014

www.adventurekayaking.com/bhutan/