

Trekking & Culture in Bhutan

Mountainlakes & Yak Herders at the Dagala-Trek

This extraordinary hiking and cultural journey is specially designed for the nature lover. We will take them into the magic land of Bhutan, in the beautiful valleys of Paro, Haa and Punakha. Come along on hikes to traditional villages and in places full of spirituality, meet the people of Bhutan and learn more about their lives.



Fixed departure: Culture and Dagala-Trek

Price: 3.890 EUR / 4.660 USD

Date: 25. October-09. November 2018 with festival in Thimphu

Status: **available**



As individual tour at your desired date

Best time of travel: March-May & October-December

Price for 1-2 persons: on [request](#)

Price for 3-6 persons: 4.190 EUR/person / 5.020 USD/person

Price for 7-10 persons: 3.890 EUR/person / 4.660 USD/person

Price from 10 persons onwards: on [request](#)



14-days wonderful culture and hiking travel with the 5-days long Dagala Trek (also known as Thousand lake trek). Category: easy - moderate trekking), plus visit of monastery festivals

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In Haatal you will stay overnight in a Heritage Lodge surrounded by a small farming village, everywhere else in comfortable hotels or resorts. You will also visit the capital of Bhutan - Thimphu - with its colorful shops and the huge Buddha statue high above the city. But probably the greatest highlight of the trip will be the 5-day Dagala Trek, along the Dagala Ranch, from Geynikha to Thimphu.

Deep blue lakes, camps of yak herders with their yaks grazing on the mountain slopes, an exceptional flora and fauna and beautiful views of the surrounding valleys and mountains await you on this tour. The unobtrusive friendliness of the people will enchant you and make your journey to a very special experience.



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- [Prices & Dates](#)
- [Services](#)
- [As individualtour](#)

Itinerary

Day 1

Depart from home

Day 2

To Bhutan on the winds of dragons

Arrival in Delhi. Before the flight to Paro, we'll bring you to a hotel in the vicinity of the airport where you can rest and recover. And then it's time for a spectacular flight along the highest mountains of the world and into this small kingdom at the foot of the Himalayas. The Drukair airplane dives slowly into the picturesque valley, in which the small town of Paro is surrounded by a colorful mosaic of rice fields. After a warm welcome by the local guide there's a quick drive to the nearby hotel. Then, a short refreshment break while we admire the first sights from the Paro Valley, like the mighty Rinpung Dzong. Overnight stay in Paro.

Day 3

An enchanted valley

It is already time to leave Paro and continue up to the 3,988 m high Chele La mountain pass, from where you can clearly see the 7,344 m high Jomolhari. After crossing, we descend into the scenic Haa Valley, where we spend the night in a heritage-lodge in the middle of a tiny village. We stop briefly in the small town of Haa and then enjoy a nice walk to the traditional farmhouses of the valley. Overnight stay in Haa.



Day 4

The mystic valley of the guardians and monastery festival

In the Haa Valley we will be protected by three sacred mountains that embody the Boddhisattvas. Ap Chhundu is the local guardian deity of the valley. A festival takes place every year in his honor, where many stories are told about his character. Buckwheat and barley are grown in the fields of the valley. We have also the opportunity to taste some of the local specialties. Today, the guide tells us more about the characteristics of the region and its inhabitants. But the true highlight of this day is the Monastery Festival, where we will all participate (Only when part of a group trip!). Overnight stay in Haa.

Day 5

At the feet of Buddha

On the 5th day we head towards Chusum, where we will take a short hike to the former prison of Dzong. Here is where the local criminals were held in the past. Nowadays there is a small monastery next to the prison.

At the crossroads in Chusom we take the road to Thimphu and walk through wild, rugged canyons until we reach the capital of the country. Thimphu lies in a valley surrounded by high mountains. A 51-meters-high statue of Buddha is perched on a hillside above the town, and we will naturally visit it over the course of the day. We will also visit the Memorial Chorten and mingle with the many pilgrims that pray forming a circle around the stupa.

Overnight stay in Thimphu.

Day 6

Thimphu Tsechu

Another highlight of the trip takes place on the next morning: the yearly Thimphu Tsechu celebration in the mighty Trashi Chhoe Dzong. The program is varied and interesting, and consists of many religious and traditional songs, colorful dresses and fearsome masks, folkloric dances and several different performances. Beautifully dressed Bhutanese women strut in high heels, proudly flaunting their precious Kiras; colorfully disguised clowns (called Atzaras) entertain the children and have fun on the dance floor. (The Monastery Festival is only available for those part of a group trip!) In the afternoon we say goodbye to the festival and continue up to Dochu La, where 108 Chorten and countless prayer flags mark the pass. After a short stop it's all twists and loops down into the valley of Wangdue Phodrang, at the bottom of which a wide river meanders lazily. Overnight stay in Wangdue Phodrang.



Day 7

Mediterranean Punakha

Today we explore the Punakha Valley, one of the warmest valleys of Bhutan, as it is “only” 1,400 meters above sea level. After a bend in the road, we are suddenly in the presence of the imposing Punakha Dzong, a masterpiece of local architecture. We approach the Dzong walking over a traditional wooden bridge. The vast prayer hall is decorated with numerous carvings and huge Buddha statues. After the temple, the road leads us deeper into the valley, and we begin a hike up to the small mountain village of Chorten Nebu. On the way there we make a stop for picnic on a secluded spot. In the late afternoon we walk back to the hotel with a head full of wonderful memories.

Overnight stay in Wangdue Phodrang

Day 8

Back to Thimphu

First thing in the morning we start the drive back to Thimphu, crossing again the Dochu La mountain pass. On this weekend, the farmer's market offers us with a colorful and fragrant maze in which to stimulate our senses. We will also visit the Takin enclosure, where we can take a close look to these normally very shy animals, and then stop by at the archers show in the stadium. After this, you still have plenty of personal time today to use as you see fit: explore, write postcards, relax and rest before the Dagala hike...

Overnight stay in Thimphu.

Day 9-13

Dagala Trek

Today we begin the 5-days-long Dagala hike. Are you ready?

This trek requires good physical condition and overall fitness, since it goes up to heights over 4,000m, crossing some mountain passes and snaking its way through high pastures for yak herds. Dagala is the mountain god who watches over this area (that's the reason for the name of this trek). Innumerable small mountain lakes are spread in the otherwise barren landscape, and due to this the trek has also the nickname "Thousand Lakes Trek". The beautiful trekking path was used in former times mainly to bring cows all the way from southern Dagana to Thimphu for sale. Now the plateaus are basically used by yak herders, who let their animals graze unmolested.

Rare flowers (in May the slopes are full of blossoming rhododendrons, and in autumn the famous Edelweiss and other beautiful mountain flowers bloom profusely here) and various birds can be found on the mountain sides. We are continuously surrounded with stunning views of the snowy peaks of Jomolhari and Jichu Drake, and even sometimes the Kanchenjunga massif in Sikkim. Crystal clear lakes with numerous fish are the hallmark of this trip.

Walking time: 4 to 7 hours / several campsites over 4.000m / Overnights in camping tent

On day 13 we return first to Thimphu and finally to Paro.



Day 14

Tiger's nest

It is time to put the trekking shoes on once again, because the last highlight of the tour is the beautiful walk up to Taktshang monastery. After walking by water-driven prayer wheels and next to a roaring waterfall, the path leads up to the monastery, spectacularly located on a 400-meters-high promontory that overlooks the Paro Valley. After the trek, the approximately 2 hours we have to explore and admire the monastery will feel way too short (it's easy to lose track of time when enjoying the stunning views it offers). After filling our eyes with the view, we'll also fill our bellies in one of the restaurants on the way! Depending on your mood, you can use the rest of the day to stroll again through Paro, or just settle for a quiet evening at the hotel.

Day 15

Goodbye Bhutan

Transfer to the airport and flight back to Delhi. Pick up and transfer to a hotel nearby the airport, to relax until the flight home.

Day 16

Flight back home

Prices & Dates

Basic data for Culture & Dagala Trek as **fixed departure**:

- Date: **25. October-09. November 2017** with Festival in Thimphu
- Max participants: 12
- Price: **3.890 EUR / 4.660 USD**
- Single Supplement: 590 EUR / 700 USD

Basic data for Culture & Dagala Trek as **individual tour**:

- Best time of travel: March-May & October-December
- Price for 1-2 persons: on [request](#)
- Price for 3-6 persons: 4.190 EUR/person / 5.020 USD/person
- Price for 7-10 persons: 3.890 EUR/person / 4.660 USD/person
- Price from 10 persons onwards: on [request](#)
- Single Supplement: 590 EUR / 700 USD

Services included

- Services from/to Delhi
- Hotel in Delhi upon arrival and departure
- In Bhutan: Accommodation in Standard hotels with full board / Accommodation in double rooms
- Camps with tents during the trek (double tents)
- Tour guidance by an experienced local english speaking Guide from Bhutan
- Full board in Bhutan
- All transfers/transport as per programme
- All entrances and permits incl. of Visa for Bhutan
- Trekking team and camping equipment excl. of sleeping bag
- Royalty charges for Bhutan

Not included

- Flights to and/from Delhi and Paro (but we can arrange them for you)
- Travel insurance
- Tip
- Drinks except the ones served
- Visa for india
- Vaccinations
- Additional costs caused by illness, accident, route changes due to acts of nature beyond control, etc.
- Additional costs caused by cancelled or delayed flights

As individual tour

You can choose your own date, but we will happily assist you if you need some help.

Of course this travel can be modified according to your wishes: **extend, shorten or change!** We are open to (almost) anything.

In general we'd like to arrange this tour also for single travelers. Only during the very busy times in high season we might have to refuse. Simply ask for possible dates!

Book this tour

This tour might be interesting for you as well



[Bhutan: Lingshi-Laya-Trek](#)

Challenging Trekking with culture; max. 10 participants

Check for dates & prices via this [link](#).

If you have questions regarding this tour, don't hesitate to contact us:

Name (required)

Email (required)

Phone

Subject

Message

*I agree that the data entered will be stored during the period of processing - namely to answer my request and information about requested products and services. My data will not be stored for more than three months. And should the processing of my request take longer than three months, my data will be deleted at the latest upon completion of the processing.

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