



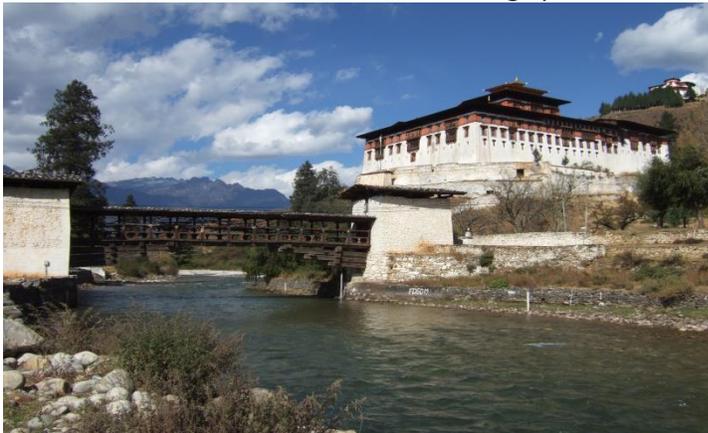
## **Paro**

Normally, Paro is both entry and exit point of Bhutan. As you climb down from the aircraft and take your first breath of Bhutanese air, you will be struck by the silence and peace of Paro's valley. A destination all of its own, Paro is home to the national museum and watchtower to one of the oldest and most celebrated dzong in all Bhutan. At 7,382 ft Paro is the site of Bhutan's only airport and is the most beautiful western valley.

Paro Town is small but one of the most beautiful town in Bhutan. This beautiful valley is home to many of Bhutan oldest monasteries and temples. Mt. Jhomolhari (7,300 M) reigns in white glory at the northern end of the valley whose glacier water forms the Pachu flowing through the valleys.

Apart from commanding a slightly elevated strategic point overlooking the longest stretch of the Paro Valley, Paro Dzong is symbolic as the religious and secular centre of all affairs of the valley. The dzong itself was conceived in the 15th century and finally consecrated in 1646. Above the dzong is the old watchtower which is now home to Bhutan's national museum. The museum's collection includes ancient Bhutanese arts and artifacts, weapons and stamps, birds and animals.

Visitors to Paro can take a closer look at the Taktshang Lhakhang monastery or Tiger's Nest by ascending either on foot or by pony for about three hours. Walkers can enjoy a well-earned rest at a BTCL coffeeshop situated at a wonderful vantage point of the monastery.



## **Places of interest in Paro**

### **I. Rinpung Dzong**

Rinpung means "Fortress on a Heap of Jewels". It was built in 1646 AD by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal. A walk through the bridge to the Dzong, over a stone inlaid path, offers a good view of the Dzong

### **II. Ta Dzong**

Built in 1951, was once the watch tower for the defence of Rinpung Dzong during inter-valley wars of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The visit to the Ta Dzong will provide an insight into the rich and unique cultural heritage and tradition of Bhutan

### **III. Drugyal Dzong**

Drugyal means "Victorious". It was built in 1646 by Zhsbdrung Ngawang Namgyal to commemorate his victory over Tibetan invaders, led by the Mongolian Warlord.

### **IV. Kila Goenpa**

It is a peaceful home for Buddhist nuns who have dedicated their life to spiritual fulfillment and lead undisturbed lives of religious studies, prayer and meditation

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**V. Druk Choeding Lhakhang**

It is also known Tshongdoe Naktsang, it is the town temple. This temple was built in 1525 by Zhabdrung Chhogyel.

**VI. Dungtse Lhakhang**

This Lhakhang was built in 1433 by the iron bridge builder Thangton Gyalpo.

**VII. Taktsang Monastery:** Popularly known as the Tiger's Nest. It is Bhutan' most venerated temple. It is located on the side of a 900m cliff above the Paro valley.

From	To	Distance	Driving Time
Paro	Thimphu	65kms	1hr
Paro	Haa	65kms	1.5-2hrs
Thimphu	Haa	115kms	3-4hrs
Thimphu	Punakha	77kms	3hrs
Thimphu	Wangdue Phodrang	70kms	3hrs
Trongsa	Bumthang	68kms	2hrs
Bumthang	Mongar	198kms	7-8hrs
Mongar	Trashigang	91kms	3-4hrs
Trashigang	Trashiyangtse	55kms	2hrs

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