

## Welcome to Bhutan.

Bhutan is known as the “**Land of the Thunder Dragon**”, Bhutan is a remote Himalayan Kingdom located east of Nepal and west of Burma, Between Tibet and India. On its Northern border, Bhutan is flanked by some of tallest mountains in the world.

Unified in the 1600s, Bhutan is the only existing vajayana Buddhist kingdom in the world. It is also one of the few countries in Asian that was never colonized. The vajrayana branch of Buddhism dates back saint Padmasambhava, known in Bhutan famous today for the preservation of its traditional culture, its pristine Environment, and its official policy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) in contrast to other countries focus on Gross National product(GNP).

Travel ahead of the masses and let yourself be immersed in a bath of beauty and wonder in the world’s last **Shangri-La**.

## Places to Visit in Bhutan

- 1) Paro
- 2) Thimphu
- 3) Punakha
- 4) Wangduephodrang
- 5) Trongsa
- 6) Bumthang
- 7) Mongar
- 8) Trashigang
- 9) Trashiyangtse
- 10) Haa



## TRONGSA

The Vanguard of the Warriors - Trongsa Dzongkha is located near the center of Bhutan and was considered crucial to controlling the kingdom in earlier years due to its strategic position.

This town is situated on a steep ridge and offers spectacular views of the deep valleys surrounding it. The various hotels, guesthouses and restaurants all offer stunning views from their balconies. Trongsa Dzong is easily visible from anywhere in the town and is always an impressive sight as it is situated atop a steep ridge that drops off into the clouds on its south side.

Trongsa also boasts an impressive museum. The watchtower of Trongsa has been converted into a museum dedicated to the Wangchuk dynasty and is a good place to learn about the history of the kingdom.



### Place to Visit in Trongsa

**i. Ta Dzong :** This watchtower, which once guarded Trongsa Dzong from internal rebellion, stands on a promontory above the town. It was built by Chogyel Minjur Tempa, the 1st Governor of Trongsa in 1652. It has four observation points resembling Tiger, Lion, Garuda, and Dragon. Climb up the path to visit Ta Dzong which now houses a shrine dedicated to the epic hero, King Gesar of Ling. A visit to this former watchtower provides visitors with an insight into the significance of Trongsa in Bhutan's history. As of date the Ta Dzong of Trongsa is the most fascinating museum of the nation.

### ii. Thruempang Palace

This two storied simple palace situated just above the highway in the town is the birth place of our Late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. It was here that on 2nd May 1928, His Majesty was born to King Jigme Wangchuck and Ashi Phuntsho Choden. He spent most of his early childhood days here in this Thruempang Palace. The other palace of interest is the Eundu Choling Palace which was the winter residence of the 1st King Ugyen Wangchuck.

**Kuenga Rabten Palace:** The 23 km. drive from Trongsa to Kuenga Rabten takes about an hour and passes through open countryside high above a river gorge. The land slopes quite gently in this region, and farming is well developed, so there is much of interest to observe in the fields and in the villages as one speed along.

As one approaches Kuenga Rabten, the Palace is clearly visible just below the road on the right. It was the winter palace of the second king and is now looked after by the National Commission for Cultural Affairs. This pleasant afternoon excursion from Trongsa offers further insights into the early days of Bhutan's monarchy.

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### iii. Chendebji Chorten

En route to Trongsa is Chendebji Chorten, patterned on Kathmandu's Swayambhunath Stupa, with eyes painted at the four cardinal points. It was built in the 18th century by Lama Zhida, to cover the remains of an evil spirit that was subdued at this spot. Legend says that the evil spirit manifested as a gigantic snake.

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Distance</b>	<b>Driving Time</b>
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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