



WashU

Kingdom of Bhutan

HIDDEN GEM OF THE HIMALAYAS

October 23 – November 3, 2026

Discover a land like no other on this adventurous journey through Bhutan, hidden gem of the Himalayas. Take an included flight from Bangkok, Thailand to Paro, Bhutan, where you will begin your authentic encounter with storied cultural traditions, lush natural vistas and warm, welcoming people. Hike through pristine green forests; visit temples, fortresses and a palace. Take in scenic views of verdant valleys and the snow-capped Himalayas. Learn about rural life and art at the fascinating Folk Heritage and National Textile Museums. During a visit to the Arts and Crafts school observe locals at work and learn about their trades; enjoy a traditional home-cooked lunch with a Bhutanese family. Through it all, immerse yourself in Bhutan's serene environment and experience Gross National Happiness. Over the 11 nights, stay in four different first-class and deluxe hotels. Optional Pre-Tour Extension in Bangkok available.

Exclusive Highlights

- In this remote Himalayan land, experience age-old local traditions, Buddhist culture and warm, welcoming people.
- Engage in a sustainable and authentic travel experience while contributing to the local economy.
- Take a scenic drive through Dochula Pass, a mountain pass 10,171 feet above sea level with 360-degree views of the snow-capped Himalayas (on clear days).



Here: View of Tashicho Dzong and Thimpu Valley
Cover: Tiger's Nest Monastery



WashU

Washington University Alumni and Friends:

Travel with a wonderful group—on a remarkable journey.

We invite you to join fellow Washington University alumni and friends for an extraordinary 12-day journey to Bhutan, one of the world's most remote destinations at the foot of the Himalayas. This enchanting country offers sublime vistas, lush green valleys, and a rich cultural heritage. Over 10 days, you'll explore the rugged countryside—hiking to shrines and monasteries and crossing swaying bridges adorned with colorful prayer flags. Throughout the journey, enjoy first-class and deluxe hotels, savor included meals, and take part in this adventurous, one-of-a-kind program.

Why travel with Washington University?

At the heart of every journey is the community—thoughtful, curious travelers united by a love of learning and exploration. From taking in the sweeping view at Tiger's Nest Monastery to discovering the 13 traditional arts taught at the Arts and Crafts School, participants not only experience remarkable sites but also share meaningful conversations and forge lasting connections.

Who travels with Washington University?

Alumni, parents, friends—and their friends—are all welcome. Our journeys are open to anyone who values enriching travel experiences. Many travelers return year after year, drawn by the welcoming spirit and shared curiosity that define our program.

Don't miss your chance to join this one-of-a-kind journey. Space is limited, and our special savings offer—up to \$2,000 per couple—is available only through January 23, 2026. Complete program details and pricing can be found in the enclosed brochure.

We look forward to welcoming you on this exceptional journey.

David E. Webb

Director, Travel Program and Education
Washington University in St. Louis

P.S. The WashU Travel Program recommends that you purchase travel insurance to protect yourself and your investment from unforeseen circumstances. For more information, please contact the WashU Travel Program office at (314) 935-0474 or email the program director at davidewebb@wustl.edu.

Rinpung Dzong



**For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088
or visit wasstl.gohagantravel.com**



Day 1 | October 23

Depart your home city for Bangkok, Thailand.

Day 2 | October 24

Cross International Dateline

Day 3 | October 25

Bangkok, Thailand
Arrive in Bangkok, Thailand.
Check in to your hotel and make your own plans for dinner.

Day 4 | October 26 B-L-D

Bangkok | Paro, Bhutan | Thimphu
Take an included flight to Paro, Bhutan, which showcases a spectacular view of the Himalayan peaks from above. On a scenic drive to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital city, discover a mix of ancient and modern that feels truly unique. Visit the National Memorial Chorten, built in 1974. A chorten (also called a stupa) is a Buddhist shrine or monument. Next, stop for a group lunch and check in to your hotel. This afternoon, visit the Great Buddha Dordenma, one of the largest

Buddha statues in the world. Enjoy a group dinner at the hotel.

Day 5 | October 27 B-L-D

Thimphu
Start the morning with a weaving workshop with local artisans. Next, gain insights into rural Bhutanese life and art as you tour the fascinating Folk Heritage Museum and the National Textile Museum. After lunch at a local restaurant, set off for another unusual and memorable destination – the Arts and Crafts School. The students here are enrolled in courses that teach the 13 traditional arts of Bhutan — carpentry; masonry;

carving; painting; sculpting; bronze casting; blacksmithing; ornament making; cane and bamboo weaving; weaving; tailoring, embroidery and appliqué; woodturning; and papermaking. During your visit, learn the history of these practices, observe talented artisans and see their work.

Day 6 | October 28 B-L-D

Punakha
During a scenic drive to Punakha, stop at Dochula Pass (elevation 10,171 feet) for an unforgettable panoramic view of the Himalayan mountain peaks (weather permitting). The breathtaking scenery here makes it a popular stop





Buddhist nun

with travelers. Check in to the hotel in Punakha this afternoon. Then attend a prayer ceremony at the striking Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Nunnery complex, perched on a ridge overlooking the scenic Punakha valley.

Day 7 | October 29 B-L-D

Punakha

This morning, hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten, standing proudly on a hilltop. Cross a thrilling suspension bridge draped with fluttering flags and ascend a narrow track up the hill. Upon reaching the chorten, marvel at the beautiful iconic shrine and soak up the views of the lush

Pho Chhu Suspension Bridge, Punakha



valley below — a uniquely peaceful experience. After lunch, visit Punakha Dzong (Palace of Great Happiness), an iconic ancient fortress built in 1637 at the confluence of two rivers. Cross a famous landmark, the Pho Chhu Suspension Bridge. The swaying bridge is 525 feet long and draped with colorful prayer flags. As you stroll, take in the marvelous view of the fortress and the surrounding green landscape.

Day 8 | October 30 B-L-D

Paro

Take a scenic drive to Paro, a lovely riverside town that is home to some of the world's

oldest monasteries and temples — dating back to the seventh century. Visit Paro Rinpung Dzong, whose name translates to Fortress on a Heap of Jewels. Perched above the dzong is its round, thick-walled watchtower, built as a defense in 1649. Some 300 years later, it was turned into the National Museum of Bhutan and filled with art and arcana that ranges from the quotidian to the surreal. Tour the museum and part of the fortress. Marvel at the stunning architecture and views. Spend the next three nights at the deluxe *Le Meridien Paro*.

Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten





Large prayer wheel at Tiger's Nest



Paro

Day 9 | October 31 B-L-D

Paro

Tour Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the country's oldest and most beautiful temples. Next, at a local family's farmhouse, learn about regional dishes, ingredients and cooking techniques as they prepare lunch for you. Savor this delicious home-cooked meal of popular Bhutanese dishes. Spend the late afternoon strolling Paro's main streets and market.

Day 10 | November 1 B-L-R-D

Paro

Choose an included excursion today. Hike to Taktsang Monastery (more famously

known as Tiger's Nest).

This monastery, one of Bhutan's holiest destinations, is perched on a precipitous cliff above the Paro Valley, about 10,236 feet above sea level. Take in the gorgeous view of the lush Paro Valley and breathtaking Himalayan mountains. Or, visit Dzongdrakha, a string of cliff-side chapels and temples overlooking the valley. Immerse yourself in the beauty and tranquility of this less-visited site. Spend time exploring on your own this afternoon. Join your fellow travelers for a Farewell Reception and Dinner this evening.

Prayer wheels at Kyichu Lhakhang



Day 11 | November 2 B

Paro | Bangkok, Thailand | Return to home city

Transfer to the airport in Paro and fly to Bangkok on an included flight. Once in Bangkok, enjoy dinner on your own. Check into the airport hotel, which you'll remember from your arrival.

Day 12 | November 3 B

Arrive in home city

Following breakfast at the hotel, set off on a walking transfer to the airport, where you'll board your international flight for home.

Note: This is an ACTIVE program. The itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.

Craftsman showing his carving handiwork on a traditional dance mask





Gross National Happiness

In the 1970s, Bhutan's king proclaimed, "Gross National Happiness is more important than Gross Domestic Product." This philosophy guides the Bhutanese government, and led policymakers to create an index to measure the happiness level of its citizens. The index considers nine equally weighted categories: living standards; psychological well-being; health; time use; education; cultural diversity & resilience; good governance; community vitality; ecological diversity & resilience.

The idea that a country might focus on the harmony and joy of its citizens captured the world's imagination. Discover Bhutan's serene environment and calm, contemplative lifestyle for yourself.

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION



Bangkok

October 21 to 25 (Program Begins: October 23)

Spend three days exploring Bangkok, Thailand, the "City of Angels." Embark on a cruise along the Chao Phraya River. See the city's highlights, including the Grand Palace, the sacred Temple of the Emerald Buddha, and Wat Po, which houses the Reclining Buddha. Savor a delicious dinner at the landmark Blue Elephant restaurant. Explore Jim Thompson's House and Chinatown on guided tours. Accommodations are for two nights at the deluxe *Peninsula Bangkok*.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,295

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,495

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

INCLUDED FEATURES



- 2 nights at the first-class *Hyatt Regency Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport*.
- 2-night stay at the first-class *The Pema by Realm*.
- 2-night stay at the first-class *Dhensa Boutique Resort*.
- 3-night stay at the deluxe *Le Meridien Paro*.
- Farewell Reception.
- Included Meals | 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program.
- During included excursions, our experienced, English-speaking local guides will teach you about the history, culture and natural splendor of the destination.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

GOHAGAN & COMPANY AIR | Your Air, Your Way

Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
- Free group transfers and luggage handling for arrivals and departures during the designated transfer window.
- 24-hour emergency support throughout the program to handle any schedule changes and unexpected delays.
- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.

TERMS *The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 1/23/26 and paid in full at booking.

These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.

- Single occupancy has limited availability.
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person.
- Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time.
- Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

Hyatt Regency Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport | Bangkok, Thailand

This first-class hotel is connected to the Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok — the most conveniently located place to stay before or after a flight. The hotel features eight restaurants and bars, a spa, a fitness center, an outdoor tropical swimming pool with pool bar, and more.



The Pema By Realm | Thimphu, Bhutan

The Pema by Realm is a vibrant, first-class boutique-design hotel in Thimphu. It offers an authentic experience of the Bhutan of today—a balance of traditional and modern—and a staff known for their attentive service. Simple yet elegant, the guest rooms offer cozy comfort with luxurious amenities. Also on the property are a fitness center, a spa with steam and sauna, a concierge and laundry and shoeshine services.



Dhensa Boutique Resort | Punakha, Bhutan

The first-class *Dhensa Boutique Resort* sits in the heart of the tranquil and lush Punakha Valley. Flanked by thick pine forests, it overlooks the Punakha River and hundreds of paddy fields that descend to the valley floor. We hope that the peace and tranquility you experience at Dhensa will help you reconnect with yourself.



Le Meridien Paro | Paro, Bhutan

At the deluxe *Le Meridien Paro*, all rooms face the Paro River and offer striking views of the river and the iconic Himalayan mountains. This luxury hotel also features a spa, an indoor heated pool, a sundeck, fitness center and two restaurants. Each chic hotel room or suite boasts a signature *Le Meridien* bed and a soaking bathtub. Located close to Paro's important sights.

2026 DEPARTURE DATE | October 23 to November 3 | Tour Begins: October 25

Occupancy	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
Double	\$8,995	\$7,995
Single	\$11,245	\$10,245

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, including taxes (unless otherwise stated)

The Gohagan Difference – An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Gratuities & Portage
- All Taxes, including V.A.T.
- Travel Director(s)



For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit wasstl.gohagantravel.com



SPECIAL SAVINGS* AVAILABLE
SAVE \$2,000 PER COUPLE!

Traditional Bhutanese dance



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