

# BHUTAN AMANKORA

A Journey through the Land of the Thunder Dragon  
Validity: 01 April 2010 ~ 31 August 2010 Stay

Combining 'aman', the Sanskrit word for 'peace' and 'kora' meaning 'circular pilgrimage' in Dzongkha, the Bhutanese language, **Amankora** is a series of lodges sited throughout Bhutan's principal western and central valleys. Each valley and lodge has its own character, setting and experience. Guest may either visit one of the lodges or, to best experience all that Bhutan has to offer, Amanresorts can plan a tailor-made journey, including one or more of the Amankora lodges located in Paro, Punakha, Gangtey or Thimphu.

*Price per person in SGD (Twin Sharing basis)*

NAME OF TOURS		Economy Class	Business Class
<b>5D/4N</b>	<b>Amankora Adventure</b> (1 Nite in Bangkok + 3 Nites in Bhutan)	\$6,288	\$7,498
<b>9D/8N</b>	<b>Amankora Journey</b> (1 Nite in Bangkok + 7 Nites in Bhutan)	\$10,868	\$12,078

### Package Includes

#### (Economy Class Package)

- ~ Return economy airticket Singapore/Bangkok/Singapore on Singapore Airlines ( E class)
- ~ 01 Night accommodation at Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airprot Hotel (Superior room only)
  - ~ Return economy airticket Bangkok/Paro/Bangkok on Druk Air
  - ~ Accommodation on a full-board basis (excluding beverages) in Bhutan
- ~ All land arrangement/sightseeing with English speaking tour guide in Bhutan
- ~ Visa Fee, Tourism Development Fund, Royalty, Tax & Service charge

#### (Business class Package)

- ~ Return business class airticket Bangkok/Singapore/Bangkok on Singapore Airlines (J class)
- ~ 01 Night accommodation at Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airprot Hotel (Superior room only)
  - ~ Return business class airticket Bangkok/Paro/Bangkok on Druk Air
  - ~ Accommodation on a full-board basis (excluding beverages) in Bhutan
- ~ All land arrangement/sightseeing with English speaking tour guide in Bhutan
- ~ Visa Fee, Tourism Development Fund, Royalty, Tax & Service charge

### Package Excludes:-

- ~ Airport Tax in Singapore and Bangkok
- ~ Airline Fuel Surcharge & Security Tax
  - ~ Travel Insurance
  - ~ Tips for guide and driver

### SUGGESTED ITINERARY

Please refer overleaf

**Price is subject to change without notice**



15 Cairnhill Road, # 06-05 Cairnhill Place, Singapore 229650  
Tel: 6238 2858 / 6238 2899 (English) 6735 5002 (Japanese)  
[www.holidaytours-sin.com](http://www.holidaytours-sin.com)

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# Amankora

## 3 NIGHTS PARO - THIMPHU - PUNAKHA

### AMANKORA ADVENTURE

(SUGGESTED ITINERARY IN BHUTAN)

Day 1	Arrive Paro and transfer to Thimphu, overnight at Amankora Thimphu (3hrs drive)
Day 2	Transfer to Punaka, overnight Amankora Punakha (2hrs drive)
Day 3	Transfer to Paro, overnight Amankora Paro (4hrs drive)
Day 4	Departure

#### Program

##### Day 01: Arrival Paro - Thimphu

Arrival in Bhutan is scenic as the plane weaves through the valley before landing in Paro Airport.

The journey to the capital is fortunately brief as the treasures that await are to be much anticipated.

Upon arrival in Thimphu you will visit have a choice to first enjoy the festivities of the Thimphu festival or perhaps visit the National Textile Museum, Folf Heritage Museum, and perhaps even "kora" the Memorial Chorten.

Dusk permitting, a short drive up to the BBS tower affords magnificent view across the Thimphu Valley.

**Amankora Thimphu** is a 16-suite lodge which lies in a steep valley at an altitude of 2,350 meters (7,709 feet)

##### Day 02: Thimphu - Punakha

An early departure and a dramatic drive following the course of the Wang Chu (Wang River) on to the high mountain pass of Dochu La. Sights on the way include one of Bhutan's first fortress monasteries, the 17th century Simtokha Dzong, and ancient wall paintings at the Hongtsho Goemba monastery. The journey continue over the 3,050m mountain pass where on a clear day, towering Himalayan peaks are clearly visible. The descent into Punakha Valley along the Kingdom's only east-west highway, loops above the Punak Chhu before dropping to the valley floor. At an altitude of 1,300 meters (4,265 feet), Punakha Valley is one of the lowest lying valleys in Bhutan. **Amankora Punakha** is accessed via a suspension bridge over the Mo Chuu.

A short drive or walk takes you to the lodge with its royal farmhouse and 8-suite accommodation set amongst the paddy fields and fruit plantations. Depending on your preference on the day, an option is to visit the Punakha Dzong (30 minutes away by car) either prior to arriving at Amankora Punakha, or after a rest in the lodge.

##### Day 03: Punaka - Paro

The final leg of your journey takes you back to Paro Valley which is a 5-hour drive from Punakha. A few steps at the end of a village road lead you through a pine forest. Across a small brook, the carpet of pine needles leads to a clearing and the cluster of buildings that house **Amankora Paro**, a 24-suite lodge. The spa offers a range of unique healing and rejuvenating treatments.

##### Day 04: Paro

A car will be ready to take you to Paro Airport. Transfer time is approximately 30 minutes and you are advised to arrive at the airport an hour before your international flight departure.

*Tashi Delek !*

# Amankora

## 7 NIGHTS PARO - PUNAKHA - GANTEY - THIMPHU

### AMANKORA JOURNEY

(SUGGESTED ITINERARY IN BHUTAN)

Day 1	Arrival Paro, overnight Amankora Paro
Day 2	Paro - Valley - day hike to Taktsang Monastery (round trip 5hrs walk), overnight Amankora Paro
Day 3	Transfer to Punakha Valley, overnight Amankora Punakha (4hrs drive)
Day 4	Punakha Valley Exploration, overnight Amankora Pukakha
Day 5	Morning transfer to Gantey, overnight Amankora Gantey (3hrs drive)
Day 6	Gantey Valley Exploration, overnight Amankora Gantey
Day 7	Transfer to Thimphu Valley, overnight Amankora Thimphu (5hrs drive)
Day 8	International departure to Paro Airport (2hrs drive)

#### Program

##### Day 01: Arrival

From the flight in, weaving through the valley, arrival in Bhutan is like no other. A short transfer to brings guests to Amankora and its spa, set inside a forest of pine. The spa offers a range of unique healing and rejuvenating treatments. In the afternoon, visit the National Museum, housed in the Ta Dzong (watchtower). Here, an intriguing collection of artifacts provide a wonderful introduction to the rich culture and heritage of the Kingdom.

Just a short walk downhill lies the dominating Paro Dzong, a fine example of Bhutanese historic architecture. From the Dzong, the tour crosses Nyamai Zampa, a traditional cantilever bridge, and guests are then driven to the town temple, built in 1525, to view ancient wall paintings. Paro options include picturesque picnic spots or, perhaps, a visit to a traditional farmhouse to lunch with family.

(Overnight: Amankora in Paro)

##### Day 02: Excursion to Taktsang Goemba

Start the day with a pleasant hike up to view one of Bhutan's most revered monuments, the Taktsang Goemba, more commonly referred to as the "Tiger's Nest". The four-hour trek offers spectacular views of this sacred monastery perched on a cliff face 900m above the valley floor.

Picnic lunch at the view point of the monastery.

In the evening, there is an opportunity for a quick stroll to the nearby ruins, a visit to some of the valley's oldest and holiest religious monuments or a ramble down Paro's main street.

(Overnight: Amankora in Paro)

##### Day 03: From Paro to Punakha

An early departure and a dramatic drive following the course of the Paro Chu (Paro River) and Wang Chu (Wang River) on to the high mountain pass of Dochu La. Sights on the way include one of Bhutan's first fortress monasteries, the 17th century Simtokha Dzong, and ancient wall paintings at the Hongtsho Goemba monastery. The journey continues over the 3,050m mountain pass where on a clear day, towering Himalayan peaks are clearly visible. The descent into Punakha Valley along the Kingdom's only east-west highway, loops above the Punak Chu before dropping to the valley floor. A short drive onward to the Amankora bridgehead affords guests access to the lodge with its royal farmhouse and accommodations set amongst the paddy fields and chili plantations.

(Overnight: Amankora in Punakha)

##### Day 04: Punakha Valley

The day in Punakha Valley begins with a drive through the town of Khuruthang and continues along the banks of the Mo Chu river, passing the Punthsho Pelri Palace and several other winter homes of the royal family. At the upper end of the valley, a hike across a footbridge through terraces of rice, chillies and cabbage, takes guests to the Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten, a monument recently built by the four queens of Bhutan. The impressive Punakha Dzong, the winter residence of the monastic order's head, can also be viewed.

A picnic lunch is served on the banks of the Punak Chu, before visiting the village of Lobesa where a short walk ends at Chimi Lhakhang, the auspicious fertility monastery built in 1499.

(Overnight: Amankora in Punakha)

##### Day 05: Gangtey Valley

Today's onward journey begins with a stop in the picturesque Wangdi for a visit to the Wangdiphodrang Dzong and Radak naktshang, the village temple. Carrying on the highway follows the scenic Dang Chu before climbing through forests of bamboo and oak, and just before crossing the Pele La pass, a small side road splinters off to the hidden Phobjika Valley.

On arrival guests will have time to take lunch at Amankora Gangtey before visiting the striking Gangtey Goemba, sitting at the head of the valley, and perhaps strolling through the quaint Gangtey village.

(Overnight: Amankora in Gangtey)

##### Day 06: Day Excursion

This morning will start with a visit to the Black Neck Crane Centre and dependent on the season, time spent in the Centre's nearby hide is a must to view the breeding cranes. Various walks or a mountain bike ride are also recommended for the afternoon.

Soaking up the beauty of the valley from the Lodge or returning to the revered Goemba for an audience with the Tulkul may be attractive, relaxing alternatives for the day.

(Overnight: Amankora in Gangtey)

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**Day 07: Transfer to Thimphu Valley**

Today's journey back to the capital is lengthy, but the treasures that await are to be much anticipated.

Upon arrival in Thimphu you will visit the National Textile Museum, Folk Heritage Museum, and perhaps even "kora" the Memorial Chorten. Dusk permitting, a short drive up to the BBS tower affords magnificent views across the Thimphu Valley.

After lunch, drive head north up to the Thimphu Valley stopping to view Trashi Chhoe Dzong, the seat of Bhutan's government and Royal offices, and continuing on past Dechenchoeling, residence of the Queen Mother to Pangri Zampa, two 16th century buildings that were once the home of the Shabdrung and now house a monastic astrologer training school.

(Overnight: Amankora Thimphu)

**Day 08: Departure Day**

Early morning transfer to airport for international departure.

*Tashi Delek !*