



THE ETERNAL HIMALAYAS

AN EXPLORATION OF RISHIKESH

AND THE

KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

**A 16-Day Custom-Designed Journey fashioned by
Wendy Rothkopf, Regent Tours, Inc.**

in assoc. with

Dalerie Wilson Travel, Inc.

together with the creative team of &BEYOND

BOOKING CONTACT INFORMATION

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&BEYOND ITINERARIES

The Eternal Himalayas -16 Days / 15 Nights (with one night extension to Agra)

Thank you for choosing to travel with &Beyond. We are a leading luxury experiential travel company and we take exceptional care of our guests in order to make a difference. Our commitment to sustainable responsible travel, community empowerment and conservation is world renowned. By embarking on this journey with us, you are helping us realise our vision.

Our private tailor-made journeys offer complete freedom of choice. The itinerary below has been carefully designed to give you a taste of the exciting, endless possibilities and can be tailored to suit your exact preferences.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ITINERARY:

- Yoga in the Himalayas
- Breath-taking mountain views from Do chu La pass
- The spectacular fortress of Punakha and Thimphu
- The iconic hike to 'Tigers Nest' and Khamsum Yuelley Templa

SPECIALLY CREATED FOR: WENDY ROTHKOPF

- Yoga enthusiasts
- Active holiday seekers
- Cultural enthusiasts

THE ETERNAL HIMALAYAS**AN & BEYOND CUSTOM-DESIGNED ITINERARY**

DATE	SERVICE	ACCOMMODATION
25 March	Arrive Delhi. Check into hotel	
	One overnight in JW Marriot Aerocity	Deluxe room on FB
26 March	Fly Delhi to Dehradun. Drive to Rishikesh	
	Afternoon visit Hardwar for sightseeing and evening aarti	
	3 overnights in Hotel Atali Ganges, Rishikesh	Cottages on FB
27 March	Yoga in the morning. Optional rafting/kayaking	
28 March	Yoga in the morning. Optional rafting on Ganges	
29 March	Drive to Dehradun airport for flight to Delhi	
	Half day sightseeing of Delhi. Evening dinner at The Ricks' in Taj Mahal hotel	
	1 overnight in Hotel Vivanta by Taj Amabassador.	Superior room on FB
30 March	Fly Delhi to Bhutan. Arrive in Paro and evening sightseeing of Paro	
31 March	Drive to Haa valley for sightseeing	
01 April	After breakfast drive to the Paro Dzong to witness the second day of the Paro festival. Later drive to Thimphu.	
	3 overnights in Hotel Taj Tashi	Deluxe room on FB
02 April	AM hike to Cheri Monastery. Afternoon blessing ceremony at the nunnery	
03 April	Day sightseeing in Thimphu	
04 April	Drive to Punakha. Enroute sightseeing	
	2 overnights in Dhensa Resort Punakha	Suite on FB
05 April	Sightseeing of Punakha Town	
06 April	Drive Punakha to Paro. Sightseeing of town	
	2 overnights in Hotel Nak Sel	Deluxe room on FB
07 April	Hike to Tigers Nest	
08 April	Fly to Delhi.	
	1 overnight in Hotel Trident Gurgaon	Superior Garden view room on HB
06 April	Drive Punakha to Paro. Sightseeing of town	
POST TOUR EXTENSION TO AGRA		
09 April	Early morning drive to Agra (4 hours). Sightseeing of Taj Mahal and Agra Fort	
	1 overnight in ITC Mughal hotel.	Royal Mughal Suite
10 April	AM visit to Fatehpur Sikri. Drive back to Delhi	
	1 Overnight in The Imperial Hotel Delhi	Heritage room
11 April	Departure	

GLOSSARY

- BB = Room + breakfast only
- HB = Room + breakfast + dinner only
- FB= Full board basis (please check itinerary for specific includes & excludes per property)

ENTRY / VISA REQUIREMENTS

As of all international travel, the visitor to India, Nepal and Bhutan is required to be in possession of a valid passport and visa. Travelers from all countries need a visa. Please enquire about this from the Indian and the Nepalese diplomatic representative abroad for travel within India and Nepal. Visa for Bhutan will be arranged by andbeyond South Asia (Bhutan) office on receipt of the full payment for the tour.

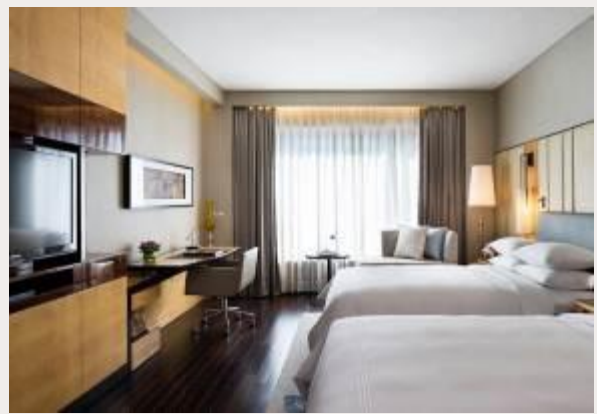
DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH 2015 : ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in to Delhi by international flight (TBA).

Following customs & immigration formalities and baggage collection, you will be met by an &Beyond representative, as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building. You will be escorted to your hotel - JW Marriott, Aerocity.

Spend one overnight in Hotel JW Marriott, New Delhi. Your accommodation will be in Deluxe rooms with ensuite facilities. Your stay is on bed and breakfast basis



DAY 2 - THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 2015 : DELHI / DEHRADUN / RISHIKESH

This morning transfer from Hotel to Delhi Airport to connect flight to Dehradun

Depart: Delhi at: 1110 hrs by: 9W 824

Arrive:Dehradun at: 1200 hrs

Upon arrival you will be met and driven to Rishikesh. (**34 Kms / 45 minutes**).

On arrival check-in at Hotel *Atali Ganga*

Rishikesh: The birthplace of yoga, is a popular place to come and meditate, do yoga, and learn about other aspects of Hinduism. It's situated on the banks of the Ganges River, surrounded by hills on three sides, not far from Haridwar in Uttarakhand. The whole town is considered to be sacred and it's believed that meditation there leads to salvation.

After lunch, you will be chauffeured to Hardwar (45 to 60 minutes drive approx) for short sightseeing of the Hardwar town and witnessing the aarti at Har Ki Pauri.

As you drive towards Haridwar, stop at Sapt Sarovar where seven great sages meditated here and river

Ganges split herself in seven streams to allow peace to the meditating sages.

Stop at Bharat Mata temple where each of 8 floors has idols of various gods, goddesses, kings, leaders & revolutionists of India

Continue your drive into Haridwar to Dakshprajapati where you will visit the Daksheshwar Mahadev Temple, which is dedicated to lord Shiva.

Enroute to the aarti on the banks of river Ganges, stop to see the genealogy registrars - Hindu priests who maintain books on family ancestry! Hindus who visit Hardwar have family priests who maintain the family details, a system that still is prevalent in most devout hindu families!

Afterwards proceed to Hark ki Puari to witness the evening 'aarti'. Aarti - a ritual with the help of light (lamp) and music (bell) is an important part of Hindu worship. Hindus consider Ganges as a goddess and in this holiest of holy cities of Hindus, goddess Ganges is given a wake-up call in the morning and ceremonial fare well in the evening. This ceremony begins at dusk when the light of lamps removes the darkness as the five priests chant the mantras accompanied by the drums and the bells. The spectacle lasts for about 20 minutes

After the aarti, you will be led to the bazaars of Hardwar and later to the local restaurant for a dinner. Here you can see the hindu chefs (called 'Maharaj') cook traditional meals on wood fired stoves!

Later return to the hotel

Spend Three nights at Hotel Atali Ganga. Accommodation will be in Cottages. Your stay is on full board basis.



DAY 3 & 4 - FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 28 & 29 MARCH 2015 : RISHIKESH

You will have 02 days of practicing Yoga and Meditation in Rishikesh.

You will be taken to Parmarth Ashram (25 minute drive from the hotel) for 90 minute yoga practice, each morning. The yoga begins at 6:30 AM each morning.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast and a short rest, you have a choice to participate in activities like river rafting, Kayaking, rock climbing, mountain biking or even bird watching

Yoga lessons can also be organized early in the morning in the resort, exclusively for the group, for these two mornings.



DAY 5 - SUNDAY, 30 MARCH 2015 : RISHIKESH / DELHI

Post breakfast transfer from Rishikesh to Dehradun Airport to connect flight to Delhi.

Depart: Dehradun at: 1235 hrs by: 9W 817
Arrive: Delhi at: 1325 hrs

Upon arrival in Delhi, transfer to Hotel Vivanta by Taj Ambassador (approx. 40 minute drive from the airport).

Enroute to the hotel you will be taken on a sightseeing visit to Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO world heritage site. *Built in the mid-16th century by Haji Begum, senior wife of Humayun's, the second Mughal emperor, this is an early example of Mughal architecture. The elements in its design - a squat building, lighted by high arched entrances, topped by a bulbous dome and surrounded by formal gardens - were to be refined over the years to the magnificence is thus of great interest for its relation to the later Taj.*

Also drive past -

India Gate: This 42m high stone arch of triumph stands at the eastern end of the Rajpath. It bears the names of 85,000 Indian Army soldiers who died in the campaigns of WW I the North West frontier operations of the same time and the 1919 Afghan fiasco.

Rajpath: The Kings Way is another focus of Lutyens New Delhi. It is immensely broad and is flanked on either side of ornamental ponds. The Republic Day parade is held here every 26th January, and millions of people gather to enjoy the spectacle. At the eastern end of the Rajpath lies the India Gate, while at the western end lies Rashtrapati Bhavan, now the president's residence, but built originally for the viceroy. The two large Secretariat buildings flank it, and these three buildings sit upon a small rise, known as Raisina Hill.

Rashtrapati Bhawan: The official residence of the President of India stands at the opposite end of the Rajpath from India Gate. Completed in 1929, the palace like building is an interesting blend of Mughal and western architectural styles, the most obvious Indian feature being the huge copper dome. To the west of the building is a Mughal garden, which occupies 130 ha. This garden is only open to the public in February. Prior to independence this was the viceroy's residence.

In the evening, time and energy permitting, you will be taken to The Rick's, a stylish, urban lounge bar named after Rick Blaine, the star of the classic black and white movie 'Casablanca'. The in-house DJ goes live from 10 PM onwards.

Rick's serves innovative cocktails along with great music and delicious Southeast Asian cuisine. The city's smart set brushes shoulders at this bar, made famous by its innovative cocktails of star bartenders.

(Dinner is prepaid, but all drinks will be payable directly)

Spend **One night at Vivanta by Taj Ambassador, Delhi**. Accommodation will be in Deluxe rooms with ensuite facilities. Your stay is on full board basis.



DAY 6 - MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2015 : DELHI / PARO (BHUTAN)

Late this morning you will be chauffeured from Hotel to Delhi Airport to connect flight to Paro.

Depart : Delhi at: 1410 hrs by: KB 205
Arrive: Paro at: 1630 hrs

The flight into Bhutan takes you close to the great Himalayas; offering dazzling scenic views of some of world's highest glacial peaks. As you enter the Paro valley, you will pass forested hills with the slivery Pa Chu (Paro River) meandering down the valley below with the Paro Dzong (fortress) and Ta

Dzong (watch tower) on the hill above the town.

Paro is a historic town with many sacred sites and historical buildings scattered through the area. It is home to many of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries, National Museum and country's only airport. Mount. Chomolhari (7,314m) reigns in white glory at the northern end of the valley and its glacial water plunge through deep gorges to form Pa Chhu (Paro river). Paro is also one of the most fertile valley in the Kingdom producing a bulk of the locally famous red rice from its terraced fields

As you arrive into Paro, you will be met by your guide and chauffeured to your hotel - Nak Sel

Spend Two overnights in Hotel Zhiwaling , Paro. Your accommodation will be in Junior suites with ensuite facilities. Your stay is on full board basis



DAY 7 - TUESDAY, 1 APRIL 2015 : PARO / HAA / PARO

You start the day early for the drive to Haa via Chele-la pass. After driving 4 km. to Bondey village, you take a side road and begin the steep climb up the hillside to Chele-la (3,810m/12,573ft), reaching the pass after a 45 km. drive upwards through blue pine & rhododendron forest. On a clear day there is a superb view of Mts. Chomolhari and Jichu Drake from this point, so if the weather is favorable you will stop here briefly to stroll around and enjoy the lovely mountain scenery. Then continue on to Haa (2670m/8,811ft), descending all the way for another 22 km., finally reaching Haa after about an hour's drive.

After a picnic lunch by the river near the new Haa Dzong, you visit two famous monasteries, Lhakhang Karpo (White Temple) and Lhakhang Nagpo (Black Temple). The central shrine in Lhakhang Nagpo is said to be almost identical to that of the Jowo temple in Lhasa. Legend has it that local deities assisted in the construction of Lhakhang Karpo. As a result, the place came to be locally known as 'Hay' (meaning 'surprise') which later became 'Haa' due to varying interpretations and pronunciations over time.

The three giant hills looming over the fringes of Haa valley were called 'Me Rig Puen Sum' especially after the event of the Lhakhang Karpo construction. Today the three hills are popularly known as 'RigSum Goenpa' signifying three deities, Jambayang, Chana Dorji and Chenrezig (known in Sanskrit as Manjushri, Varjapani and Avalokiteshvara, respectively). These are the three principal bodhisattvas (Buddhas to be) among the thousand future Buddhas to come, and representations of them are to be found in every lhakhang (temple) and household shrine room.

Later, other Buddhist saints like Guru Rinpoche and 'Machi Labdorn' came to this place, Jungney Drag, in Haa and blessed the locality. After Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal unified the country under the Drukpa Kagyupa sect of Mahayana Buddhism in the early 17th century, the chief guardian deity of Haa became Ap Chundu.

You will be chauffeured back to Paro later this afternoon

This evening the curator of Paro museum will be invited to speak exclusively to the group about Buddhism and the concepts of 'Gross National Happiness'.

Bhutan is the only existing Mahayana Buddhist kingdom in the world that has adopted the Tantric form as its official religion. A majority of the Bhutanese people are Buddhist while people of Nepalese and Indian origin are Hindus. The teachings of this school of Buddhism are a living faith among its people. The air of spirituality is pervasive even in urban centers, where the spinning of prayer wheels, the murmur of mantras and the glow of butter lamps are still commonplace features of everyday life. Bhutan's religious sites and institutions are not museums, but the daily refuge of the people.

Three decades ago, the term Gross National Happiness (GNH) was coined by the fourth King His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck. The concept of GNH was articulated to indicate that development has many more dimensions than those associated with Gross National Product. The GNH philosophy places the individual at the centre of all development efforts and thus recognizes that people not only have material needs but also spiritual and emotional needs as well. It asserts that spiritual and emotional needs cannot and should not be defined exclusively in material terms. GNH is an economic and development philosophy that serves Bhutan's unique culture based on Buddhist spiritual values.



DAY 8- WEDNESDAY, 2 APRIL 2015 - PARO / THIMPHU

Today is the second day of the Paro Tsechu (festival).

After an early breakfast you will be met this morning and chauffeured to the Paro Dzong (about 30 minutes drive) to witness the festival.

Tsechus are festivals extolling the great deeds of the Buddhist Saint, Padmasambhava, popularly known as "Guru Rinpoche" in our mountain kingdom. All of Guru Rinpoche's great deeds are believed to have taken place on the 10th day of the month, which is the meaning of the word tsechu, and all tsechus do in fact take place/begin on 10th days. All the districts, dzongs and a

large number of villages in the east, hold annual tsechus, which attract people from far and wide.

Tsechus are celebrated for several days (usually between three and five, depending on where it is taking place) and are the occasion for dances that are clearly defined in religious content. They can be performed by monks, laymen or gomchens and the repertory is more or less the same everywhere.

Certain tsechus end with the veneration of a huge appliqué thangka, called a “thongdroel”. The thongdroel is unveiled at dawn to bring enlightenment to all who view it. Festival goers believe that by simply viewing this thongdroel, they can be delivered from the cycle of birth and rebirth, which is the ultimate aim of Buddhism.

Atsaras are clowns whose expressive masks and postures are an indispensable element in any religious festival. They confront the monks, toss out salacious jokes, and distract the crowd with their antics whenever the religious dances begin to grow tedious. Believed to represent Acharyas, religious masters of India, they are the only people permitted to mock religion in a society where sacred matters are treated with the highest respect. For a few days, these popular entertainers are allowed the freedom to express a formulaic challenge within an established framework that does not, however, upset the social and religious order.

For the Bhutanese, attendance at religious festivals offers an opportunity to become immersed in the meaning of their religion and to gain much merit. The festivals are also occasions for seeing people, and for being seen, for social exchanges, and for flaunting success. People bring out their finest clothes, their most beautiful jewelry, and enjoy picnics with abundant alcohol and meat. Men and women joke and flirt with one another. An atmosphere of convivial, slightly ribald good humor prevails.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant.

Afterwards you will be chauffeured to Thimphu (1 hour 30 minute drive).

On arrival in Thimphu check in to your hotel - Taj Tashi.

The hotel hosts an hour of cultural dance performances in the hotel courtyard, which is open to all residents.

Spend the next three overnights in Hotel Taj Tashi, Thimphu. Your accommodation will be in Deluxe rooms with ensuite facilities. Your stay will be on full board basis.



DAY 9 - THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2015 - THIMPHU

This morning you will be met by your guide for a visit Cheri Goemba. Situated north of Thimphu, the hike upto to the temple is a one hour thirty minutes' walk through shaded rhododendron forests. Situated at an altitude of 2600m the monastery was built in 1620 by the great Tibetan saint Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyel and established the first monk body here. The trail commences by crossing a traditional wooden bridge that spans the Thimphu Chhu, and then climbs steeply to the monastery. Cheri is still an important place for mediation retreats, where monks meditate in complete isolation for the standard three years, three months and three days!

Return later to the hotel for lunch.

After an early lunch you will be taken to the Zilukha nunnery for a blessing ceremony of the group by the nuns. *Zilukha nunnery in Drubthob Goemba, once belonged to the Drubthob (Realized one) Thang Thong Gyalpo often referred to as The King of the open field. In the early 15th century with his multiple talents he popularly became the Leonardo da Vinci of the Great Himalayas.* Here the head nun will meet the group and will begin the blessing ceremony. **Thrisel**, as this ritual blessing ceremony is called, uses holy water to cleanse the mind, spirit and soul under the guidance of a revered lama.

Following this ceremony, light 108 butter lamps at the temple in the nunnery. The lighting of Butter Lamp or offering of light is a means of dispelling the darkness of our own ignorance, giving rise to clarity and wisdom. The lighting of butter lamps is an offering of light to the deities and is one of the common means of increasing one's merit.

Prayer flags will be consecrated by the nuns and these flags will be later strung by you on your trek to Tigers Nest (on Day 14)

After the visit drive back to your hotel in Thimphu, for dinner and rest.



DAY 10 - FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2015 - THIMPHU

Today, after an early breakfast you will be taken by your guide into the town for sightseeing activities, beginning with the visit Buddha Dordenma - a gigantic Shakyamuni Buddha statue. The statue is filled with over one hundred thousand smaller Buddha statues, each of which, like the Buddha Dordenma itself, but made of bronze and gilded in gold. At a height of 51.5 metres, it is one of the tallest Buddha statues on the world

Later visit the National Memorial Chorten. This landmark of Thimphu was built in 1974 in the memory of third King, Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, who is popularly regarded as Father of Modern Bhutan. It is a four-storey tall white building, containing statues and iconography of deities from complex tantric teachings and serves as an important place of worship for Thimphu residents, as well as from other parts of the country. This landmark would be an interesting photo spot if you were looking for

different faces, as here you will encounter people from all walks of life.

Continue with visits to the Institute for Zorig Chusum (where students learn the 13 traditional arts and crafts of Bhutan).

This can be followed by a visit to the Folk Heritage Museum - a three storied, 19th century traditional house which provides a glimpse of the Bhutanese lifestyle, and artifacts from the rural households. One can come across typical household objects, tools and equipments.

After lunch browse through the Handicrafts Emporium and the Textile Museum - this displays a wide assortment of colorful hand-woven textiles, thangka paintings, and other craft products. You may browse through the smaller handicrafts shops along the main street, if time permits.

Visit the Tashichho Dzong Bhutan's administrative and religious center (opens at 5:00 PM for visitors). It houses the throne room of His Majesty the King of Bhutan, government ministries, the nation's largest monastery and headquarters of His Holiness the Je Khenpo (the chief abbot) and the central monk body.

Later return to the hotel.



DAY 11 - SATURDAY, 4 APRIL 2015 - THIMPHU / PUNAKHA

Early this morning, post breakfast, you will be chauffeured to Punakha (3 hour 30 minute drive). The road climbs steeply through a scenic forest of pine and cedar trees, to Dochula pass (10,000 feet). The pass offers panoramic views of the Himalayan mountain ranges, and then descends into the fertile valley of Punakha (4,430 feet).

Stop on Dochu La to visit the 108 stupas built on this 3,150 metre high pass in honor the fallen Bhutanese soldiers. Later visit the Druk Wangyel Lhakhang, built by Queen mother Her Majesty Ashi Dori Wangmo Wangchuk and was built in honor of His Majesty the fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck

Afterward continue your drive to Punakha

Well before reaching Punakha stop en route and hike about 30 minutes to the Chimi Lhakhang on a small hilltop. The temple was dedicated to the great Yogi in the 14th century, known as Drukpa Kuenley, as well as the “Divine madman.” He dramatized Buddhist teachings using songs. It is believed that this temple blesses women who seek fertility.

Drive to your hotel for check-in and relax

Spend two overnights in Dhensa, Punakha. Your accommodation will be in a suite with ensuite facilities and your stay will be on full board basis.



DAY 12 - SUNDAY, 5 APRIL 2015 - PUNAKHA

After breakfast, drive to the suspension bridge from where begin a hike to the Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten: This three storey lhakhang was built by Her Majesty the Queen Ashi Tsering Yangdon for the protection of the country. It has an impressive view of Punakha valley. The deities represented here belong to a teaching cycle of Dudjom Rinpoche, a great Nyingmapa master (1904-87). The functions of the deities are to subjugate enemies and harmful influences and also to spread peace and harmony. The lhakhang is a 45 minute hike from the main road.

Enroute back to the hotel stop to visit the Punakha Dzong. Placed strategically at the junction of the Pho Chu and Mo Chu rivers, the dzong was built in 1637 by Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal to serve as the religious and administrative center of the region. Damaged over the centuries by four catastrophic fires and an earthquake, the dzong has been fully restored in recent years by the present monarch.

Return to the hotel for lunch.

In the evening visit Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang (temple) located near your hotel. The temple houses a 14-foot main bronze statue of Avalokiteshvara (Chenrigzig chagtong chentong). Other statues include those of Guru Padmasambawa, Gautama Buddha, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, Tsela Namsum, the 21 Taras and Tsepamay (Buddha of longevity). The Avalokiteshvara statue, one of the biggest in the country, was the handiwork of entirely local Bhutanese artisans. The temple complex also houses a permanent higher learning and meditation centre for nuns where, apart from religious trainings, it provides life skill training such as tailoring, embroidery, statue making and thanghka painting.



DAY 13 - MONDAY, 6 APRIL 2015 - PUNAKHA / PARO

This morning you will be met and chauffeured to Paro (4 hours 30 minutes).

On arrival in Paro, visit National Museum of Paro which houses the rich collection of Buddhist painting, Statues arms and armour along with a numereous stamp collection.

Drive down hill to visit the Paro Dzong. The original 15th century, five storied fortress (Dzong) which stood in this escarpment, was dismantled in 1644 by Shabdrung who then laid the foundations of the present fortress. In 1646 the Dzong was reconsecrated and established as the administrative and monastic centre of the western region and it became known as Rinpung Dzong. The fortress now houses the district Monastic Body and government administrative offices of Paro Dzongkhag (district).

Afterwards continue your drive towards hotel for check in.

Spend two overnight in Hotel Nak Sel , Paro. Your accommodation will be in a Deluxe room with ensuite facilities and your stay is on full board basis



DAY 14 - TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 2015 : PARO

After an early breakfast, we take a short drive to the north of Paro Valley to Ramthankha, from where we start our hike to the Taktsang monastery (Tiger's Nest). The trail climbs through beautiful pine forest, many of trees festooned with Spanish moss and an occasional grove of fluttering prayer flags. Legend has it that Guru Rimpoche, founder of Buddhism flew from Eastern Bhutan on a tigress, bringing Buddhist teachings and meditated here in this cliff. This is one of the most venerated and sacred of all Buddhist sights around the world.

Afterwards, walk down to Taktsang cafeteria for a short break and tea. Walk downhill to the road where our car has been parked and return to the hotel for rest and lunch.

Rest of the day is free



DAY 15 - WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 2015: PARO/ DELHI

Post breakfast transfer to Paro Airport to connect flight to Delhi.

Depart: Paro	at: 1030 hrs	by: KB 204
Arrive: Delhi	at: 1235 hrs	

Upon arrival in Delhi, transfer to Hotel Trident, Gurgaon (*NCR of Delhi*) Located close to International Airport.

Late evening departure transfer from Hotel International flight back home.

Spend One night at Hotel Trident, Gurgaon. Accommodation is in **Superior garden View room**. Your stay is on full board basis.

DAY 16 - THURSDAY, 9 APRIL 2015: DEPART DELHI

This morning you will be met by a andbeyond representative and chauffeured to the Delhi international airport in time to board your outbound flight (flight details to be confirmed by you)

POST TRIP EXTENSION TO AGRA

DAY 16 - THURSDAY, 9 APRIL 2015- DELHI / AGRA

After breakfast you will be chauffeured to Agra (4 hours drive approx). On arrival in Agra you will be chauffeured to your hotel - The Luxury Collection ITC Mughal.

The city of Agra flourished under the patronage of the emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan and attracted artisans from Persia and central Asia. Agra is where Emperor Shah Jahan engraved his immortal love for his Empress in marble, the Taj Mahal. Agra is still famous for handicrafts products such as inlay work on marble, carpets, jewellery, zari and embroidery work.

Since the check in time is at 2 PM, you can use the facilities of the hotel, enjoy a cup of tea before you are met by your guide and be taken for a sight seeing visit to Agra Fort.

The red sandstone Agra Fort was renovated and converted into a palace during Shah Jahan's time, and reworked extensively with marble and pietra dura inlay. Notable buildings in the fort include the Pearl Mosque, the Diwan-e-Am and Diwan-e-Khas (halls of public and private audience), Jehangir's Palace, Khaas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal (mirrored palace), and Musamman Burj.

After lunch you will be taken for a sightseeing visit to Taj Mahal where you will stay till sunset. Said to be one of the most elegant and harmonious buildings in the world, Taj Mahal is the manifestation of the wealth and luxury of Mughal art as seen in its architecture, garden design, painting, and calligraphy.

Spend one overnight in The Luxury Collection ITC Mughal Hotel, Agra. Your accommodation will be in a Royal Mughal Suite with ensuite facilities. Your stay will be on room + breakfast basis.



DAY 17 - FRIDAY, 10 APRIL 2015 - AGRA / DELHI

Early this morning you will be taken on a sightseeing visit to the ancient abandoned city of **Fatehpur Sikri**. Fatehpur Sikri is a fine example of a Mughal walled city with defined private and public areas and imposing gateways. Its architecture, a blend of Hindu and Islamic styles, reflects Akbar's secular vision as well as his style of governance.

Return to the hotel by noon for check out and lunch.

Afterwards you will be chauffeured back to Delhi (4 hours drive).

On arrival in Delhi, you will be chauffeured to your hotel - The Imperial Hotel.

Spend one overnight in The Imperial Hotel, Delhi. Your accommodation will be in a Heritage room with ensuite facilities. Your stay is on bed and breakfast basis.



Day 18- Saturday, 11 April 2015 - DELHI/ DEPARTURE

Today you will be chauffeured to the airport in time to board your international flight to return home!