

BIM 5-Day Itinerary

Land Dates in Bhutan: February 21 – 25, 2014

Day 1, Saturday, February 21: Arrival to Paro, Bhutan, and Transport to Punakha Hotel.

If the skies are clear you'll be treated to some breath taking views of the highest peaks in the world including Mt. Everest, Makalu and beautiful Kanchenjunga. Paro stands at 7,500 ft. above sea level. You'll be met by our Bhutanese hosts who will transfer you to the race site in Punakha via Dochula Pass. This will be about a 3 hour drive so sit back and enjoy the scenery! The most well known pass in Bhutan, Dochula Pass is located about 30 km away from the capital of Bhutan, Thimphu. The 108 chortens at Dochula were built by one of the Queen Mother's to honor the Bhutanese soldiers who were killed when fighting the Indian rebels in 2003. Though Bhutanese have wanted to build these chortens to mark the victory of the Bhutanese army, the King has rejected this offer and instead uses the chortens to commemorate the deceased.

Once you arrive in Punakha you'll have the rest of the day free to wander, go for a run, do some shopping, visit the Punakha Dzong, or rest. Dinner and overnight in Punakha. Summary:

- Airport pick up – transport to Hotel, Punakha
- Lunch enroute
- Hotel in Punakha
- Dinner in Punakha

Day 2, Sunday, February 22: THE KING'S BIRTHDAY celebration, packet pick up and pre-race briefing in Punakha.

The Kings Birthday is a national holiday from February 21-23, and we'll be celebrating with locals in the Punakha Dzongkhag before our pre-race briefing and packet pick up in Punakha with the Bhutan Olympic Committee. Packet pick up is from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM and the pre-race briefing is at 2:00 PM at Damchen Resort. In between race activities you can shop at the local market, rest or explore the beautiful Dzong. Summary:

- Breakfast in Punakha
- Lunch in Punakha
- Dinner in Punakha
- Hotel in Punakha

Day 3, Monday, February 23: Bhutan International Marathon and Half Marathon!

Staff of the Bhutan International Marathon event the Bhutan Olympic Committee and the county and citizens of Punaka are honored to host you for this unique event. Our event will be capped off with an Awards Celebration, dinner, bonfires and traditional dance and music right at the stunning Punakha Dzong. Summary:

- EARLY Breakfast in Punakha
- Travel to shuttle bus pick up at Damchen Resort by 6:00 AM
- Shuttle busses leave to the start line at 6:00 AM
- Half Marathon starts at 7:30 AM and Marathon starts at 8:00 AM
- Lunch at Punakha Hotel after the race
- 6:00 PM Event Awards Ceremony and dinner, traditional dance, music and entertainment next to the majestic Punakha Dzong.
- Hotel in Punakha

Day 4, Tuesday, February 24: Morning hike to Khamsum Yulley Temple. Transport to Thimphu in the afternoon.

We'll start our day with a brief trek to the Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Temple which stands majestically on a strategic ridge above the Punakha valley. It is a splendid example of Bhutan's fine architectural and artistic traditions and the only one of its kind in the world. Built over a period of 9 years, Bhutanese craftsmen including carpenters, painters, and sculptors consulted holy scriptures rather than engineering manuals, to construct this four-story temple. Offered by Her Majesty the Queen Mother, this temple is dedicated for the well being of the kingdom and the benefit of all sentient beings. After a picnic lunch you'll depart to Thimphu. Summary:

- Breakfast in Punakha
- Morning Excursion to Khamsum Yulley Temple
- Picnic Lunch
- Dinner in Thimphu
- Hotel in Thimphu

Day 5, Friday, February 25: Paro Departures
Summary:

- Breakfast in Thimphu
- Transport to Airport