

# Majestic Jomolhari Trek

## Itinerary:

### Day 1 Paro

Kuzuzangpo and warm Welcome to Bhutan! On arrival at Paro International Airport, your guide will greet you upon exiting the arrival hall.

**Paro Valley** (2,200 meters) is home of many old monasteries, temples and sacred sites. In the afternoon we visit [Paro Rinpung Dzong](#) (Fortress of Jewels). Located at the edge of Paro Town, this impressive Bhutanese architecture now serves as the local government centre of Paro.

We then visit nearby [Ta Dzong](#) (Watchtower) which was built in 1649 and converted into the **National Museum of Bhutan** in 1968. Here we can view antiques, art, textiles, weapons and household items offering a glimpse of Bhutan's fascinating history.

We end the day with a visit to [Kyichu Lhakhang](#), one of the oldest in Bhutan. According to legend, a giant demoness laid her body across the Himalayas to prevent the spread of Buddhism. Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo built 108 temples to subdue and pin down demoness that was obstructing the spread of Buddhism and with Kyichu Lhakhang built to hold down her left foot.

Next to the temple is the house that is turned into a museum dedicated to the late Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche.

## Day 2 paro- Gunitsawa

Morning we will hike to **The Tiger's Nest (Taksang)**, the most iconic landmark and holy site in the Kingdom, is located 900 meters above the Paro Valley. It was first built in 1692 at the site of a cave where Guru Rinpoche meditated in the eighth century. Located approximately 10 km north of Paro town at 3,100 meters altitude, Taksang is reached after an approximately two and a half hour hike through beautiful, shady pine forests.

After lunch drive to **Drukyel Dzong**. This used to be a place where the trek started before. See ruins of the old dzong (castle) which is reconstructed into iconic structure and continue further to military camp of **Gunitsawa** on the new built road. First night camping just above military camp at the elevation of 2890 m

## Day 3 Gunitsawa- Thangthangkha

**Distance** 16 km  
**Time** 7-8 hours  
**Ascent** Ascent 770 m, descent 10 m  
**Camp Altitude** 3,610 m

On this long day there is a lot of up and downs, mostly through the forest along the **Paro Chhu River**. As we go up the valley becomes narrow, wilder and steeper. The trail winds up and down along the drainage. We pass a junction en route, where another path leads over the Tremo La to Tibet. After about half hour; you will reach to **Thangthangtha** campsite. If weather permits, you might glimpse the first great view of Jomolhari and perfect time to take photos. Camp is cold and it gets dark early.

## **Day 4 Thangthangkha – Jangothang**

**Distance**            10 km  
**Time**                 5-6 hours  
**Ascent**              Ascent 480 m,  
**Camp Altitude** 4080 m

We will start trek with a great view of Jomolhari peak and continues up the Paro chhu valley which widens into patches of alpine meadow and scanty growths of forest. You will cross an army checkpoint along the way and enjoy a spectacular view of high mountain ridges and snow-capped peaks. In this area yaks and their herder's homes become a regular feature of the landscape. Passing the villages Soe, Takethang and Dangochang is another asset on this day. After reaching Jangothang, one of the most beautiful campsites of the Himalayas, you can enjoy most spectacular view of Jomolhari over the ruins of ancient temple or fortress.

## **Day 5: Jangothang Halt.**

The rest day in Jangothang provides plenty of possibilities for day hikes with great views of lakes and snowcapped mountains such as Jomolhari and Jichu Drake. There are good chances to spot some blue sheep on the upper slopes of the valley. Jangothang is a perfect environment for your acclimatization. You can also trek up to Tosoh or hike around the area. There are good short hiking trails in three directions. Jomolhari and its subsidiary mountain chains lay directly west, Jichu Drakey to the north and there are a number of unclimbed peaks to the east.

## **Day 6: Jangothang to Soi Yaktsa**

**Distance** 16 km  
**Time** 6-7 hours  
**Ascent** Ascent 810 m, descent 1,090 m  
**Camp Altitude** 3,800 m

The trail leads to a last settlement in the valley and drops to the Paro Chhu. Passing the lake of Tshophu (4,380m) you will climb up steeply to Bhonte La pass at 4,890 m, the highest point of this trek route. Reaching the Dhumzo Chhu river, you trek downstream passing the few houses of Soi Yaktsa (Dhumzo) to arrive at your camp soon after.

## **Day 7: Soi Yaktsa to Thombu Shong**

**Distance** 11km  
**Time** 4-5 hours  
**Ascent** Ascent 720m, descent 340 m  
**Camp Altitude** 4,180 m

The trail climbs 100m over a ridge to drop to another stream then. After crossing the Takhung La pass (4,520m) you descent to Thombu Shong, three yak herder huts with your campsite next to them.

## **Day 8: Thombu Shong to Gunitsawa Village**

**Distance** 13km  
**Time** 4-5 hours  
**Ascent** Ascent 200 m, descent 1,650 m  
**Camp Altitude** 2,850 m

Crossing Thombu La pass (4,380m) you will finally reach Gunitsawa and the vehicle will be waiting to take us to hotel in Paro.

## **Day 9 Paro-Thimphu-Paro**

Morning drive to **Thimphu** with stop at **Tachog Lhakhang** to see the bridge reconstructed with old chains smithed by ancient saint and bridge builder Thangton Gampo. Drive to the beautiful sacred site, **Buddha Dordenma (Buddha Point)** in Kuenselphodrang Nature Park, overlooking Thimphu City. We join the cheerful throng of local worshippers who gather at **National Memorial Chorten (stupa)** to circumambulate and socialize at the end of the day. Walk in Norzin Lam Street and see the traffic police signaling in junctions. **Thimphu** is only capital in the world without the traffic lights. We walk at handicraft market where many interesting Bhutanese souvenirs can be seen and bought for reasonable price. We visit Thimphu's famous Textile Museum, where both ancient and modern examples of this traditional craft are on view. Visit of **Tashichho Dzong**, the fortress, which serves as seat of the king and government. Late afternoon we will drive back to **Paro**, in the evening there is time for shopping and we gather for our farewell dinner.

## **Day 10 Departure**

Boarding a morning flight from Paro International Airport, we bid a fond farewell to this beautiful Himalayan country, taking with us cherished memories of Bhutan! We wish you a safe and happy journey and look forward to meeting again in Druk Yul – a land of endless Enchantments! Tashi Delek!