

JOURNEY TO “BHUTAN”

Photography as practice, travel as transformation.

The image features two Bhutanese masked dancers, likely representing the deities Dorje Lhamo and Dorje Namgyal, performing at the Dochula Festival. They are wearing highly ornate, multi-layered costumes in deep red, purple, and gold, with intricate floral and geometric patterns. Their masks are large, expressive, and painted in a reddish-orange hue, with prominent eyes and a large nose. The dancers are positioned against a blurred background of a mountainous landscape under a clear sky. The text 'DOCHULA FESTIVAL' and 'DEC. 06 - 16 2026' is overlaid in white, serif font across the center of the image.

DOCHULA FESTIVAL
DEC. 06 - 16 2026

An immersive experience of Bhutan culture and mystic adventure with Roberta Marroquín, Karma Lotey, & Yangphel team.

EMBARK ON A JOURNEY TO RECONNECT WITH YOUR SENSES AND CREATIVITY

Experience Nature, Spirituality and Adventure in Bhutan



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Traveling to Bhutan with Roberta, Karma and Yangphel team has been sublime."

- Barbara Savage (Founder Tribal Trust Foundation) -

These Photography Workshops offer a rare opportunity to sharpen your creative and photography skills while exploring the stunning Himalayan kingdom. Over ten days, participants will delve into Bhutan's rich culture, breathtaking landscapes, and spiritual heritage, guided by expert instructors.

Led by acclaimed photographer Roberta Marroquín, Karma Lotey and Yangphel team, this journey invites you to explore Bhutan's breathtaking, untamed landscapes. Roberta brings her expertise in capturing compelling stories through expressive imagery, while Karma and Yangphel team offers deep insights into Bhutan's rich culture, traditions, and natural beauty, creating a truly unparalleled experience.

WELCOME TO BHUTAN

Bhutan is a mystical kingdom nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. It is home to majestic peaks, ancient monasteries, and vibrant festivals, offering a glimpse into a unique blend of tradition and spirituality in one of the world's most serene landscapes.

Whether it is the enchanting Tigers Nest, the vibrant festivals, or the serene Himalayan landscapes that calls you to mystical Bhutan, you are in for the adventure of a lifetime.

Roberta and Karma first met in Bhutan in 2018, a pivotal moment that sparked a shared passion for this unique country, its people, and its culture. Since then, Roberta has returned four times, deepening her connection and expertise. This shared enthusiasm will enrich your workshop experience, offering you an unforgettable journey into the heart of “The Land of the Thunder Dragon”.

During the 10-day photography workshop, you will explore various parts of Bhutan, shooting, collaborating, discussing, and learning. Roberta, Jigme and Karma will guide you through different photography and cultural themes, offering practical lessons on how Roberta approaches visual storytelling, including her workflow process and shooting regimen, to help you enhance your skills and refine your craft while Karma and Jigme will share all about this majestic country.

The highlight of the October trip is the Royal Highland Festival, where we'll meet the Laya Indigenous community. In December, we'll journey to Jangbi to spend time with the Monpa Indigenous community. On both trips, we'll enjoy unforgettable hikes and explore the country deeply—through landscape, culture, and connection.

With a small group, the experience stays intimate, personal, and truly immersive. Bhutan is a remarkable place—rich in tradition, spiritual depth, and warmth—and its people's hospitality makes it the perfect setting for a photography and cultural adventure.



WHO IS THIS WORKSHOP FOR



This workshop is designed for both amateur and professional photographers, with a passion for culture, adventure & photography who wants to enhance their abilities to create stunning images. Participants should have a basic understanding of their cameras (digital SLR or mirrorless) and equipment, including basic post-production software.

Traveling through Bhutan requires a sense of adventure, flexibility, stamina, and, most importantly, curiosity. You will need to be comfortable adapting to situations beyond anyone's control (such as weather) and other conditions that may affect the team while traveling. Patience is also essential, as you will be engaging with local cultures and traditions that may be very different from your own. We will be in a constant move so not everything will be controlled. Roberta, Karma and the Yangphel team will discuss these aspects with participants prior and upon arrival to provide an understanding of the local people and traditions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is not a conventional photography or cultural tour, nor a typical travel experience. We are not simply chasing iconic viewpoints or planning sessions around "perfect" sunrise and sunset shots.

While we'll witness extraordinary landscapes, light, and cultural moments, this workshop goes deeper. It's for creative, adventurous souls who want to slow down, observe, and truly engage—with the people, the culture, and the land—using photography as an immersive practice, not a checklist of shots.

WORKSHOP MISSION



INSPIRATION, CREATIVITY, AND VISUAL LEARNING THROUGH DOING, LEARNING AND CREATING

Roberta & Karma's mission is to help you find your grounding and distinct vision as a storyteller by sharing their extensive knowledge and years of professional experience in a country they both love. Whether you are new to photography, a serious amateur, or a professional, we will help you define your style by tapping into what inspires you and strengthening your creative process and goals. Throughout the workshop, Roberta will demonstrate and teach in a casual, hands-on style, allowing ample time for practice and shooting, with personalized feedback for each participant while Karma will walk you through Bhutan in a fascinating cultural, mystical and spiritual way.

We will approach photography and culture through travel, nature and portrait perspectives, working primarily with available ambient light. Discussions will cover sources of inspiration, ranging from everyday life to art, nature, and colors. This workshop emphasizes an organic approach to photography, fostering creativity and vision through immersive, real-world experiences culture, adventure and spirituality.

LECTURE TOPICS*

CREATIVITY & DEFINING YOUR STYLE

Roberta will guide you in discovering your personal creative voice and help shape it into a distinct visual aesthetic. Through a mix of compositional techniques and creative exercises, you will develop a stronger artistic identity in your photography.

LANDSCAPES & SACRED SPACES

Bhutan's dramatic landscapes, misty valleys, and centuries-old monasteries provide an ideal setting for mastering landscape photography. We will explore light, composition, and weather conditions, using locations such as the Paro Valley, Punakha, and the remote highlands of Laya as our canvas. The interplay of nature and spirituality in Bhutan's Dzongs (fortresses), temples, and stupas also offers stunning architectural photography opportunities.

VISUAL STORYTELLING

Roberta will walk you through the step-by-step process of crafting a compelling visual narrative with your images. Bhutan offers rich storytelling opportunities, from monks engaged in prayer rituals to bustling markets and vibrant Tshechu festivals (if the workshop coincides with one). You will learn how to sequence images effectively and develop a documentary-style approach to photography.

PORTRAITURE (LAYA/MONPA PEOPLE & MONKS)

Roberta will share her personal process for capturing authentic, emotive portraits and teach techniques for approaching and interacting with the Laya people as well as Bhutan's monastic communities. You'll learn how to work with natural and artificial light, master environmental portraiture, and create storytelling images that highlight culture and tradition.

EDITING & POST PRODUCTION

Before arriving in Bhutan, Roberta will host virtual classes via Zoom to cover essential editing techniques, ensuring that participants are well-prepared. These sessions will focus on digital processing, color grading, and refining your photographic style. While in Bhutan, we will have opportunities to review and critique our work in the evenings, fine-tuning our images to maximize impact.

*The classes will be taught via Zoom before the workshop begins, allowing us to focus on the practical side of photography while in Bhutan. During the trip, we will have opportunities to review material as needed, ensuring a fully immersive learning experience.

* ALL LECTURES WILL BE TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

ITINERARY 2026 - PHOTO WORKSHOPS

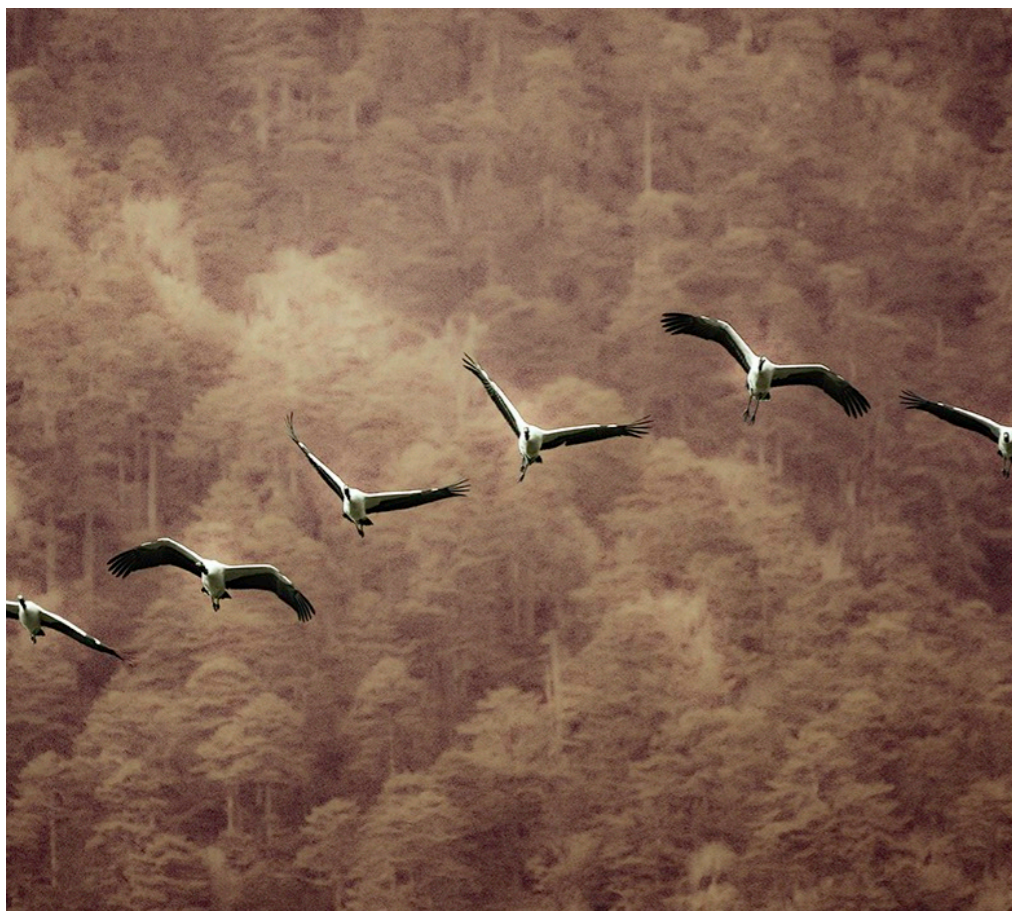
DEC. 06 - 17 - DOCHULA FESTIVAL & MONPA INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN JANGBI *

City	Overnight Hotel	Room	Nights	Check in	Check out
Paro	Zhiwaling Heritage	Deluxe	1	Dec.06	Dec.07 2026/27
Fly to Bumthang	Rinchenling/ Similar	Dekuze	1	Dec.07	Dec.08 2026/27
Jangbi	Tented Camp	Tented Camp	2	Dec.08	Dec.10 2026/27
Gangtey	Phobjikha Resort/ Similar	Deluxe	2	Dec.10	Dec.12 2026/27
Thimphu	Ascent	Deluxe	2	Dec.12	Dec.14 2026/27
Paro	Zhiwaling Heritage	Junior Suite	2	Dec.14	Dec.16 2026/27

* Detailed itinerary & schedule page 13.

* For those seeking a more private experience, we offer bespoke journeys curated around your preferred dates and interests. Whether traveling solo or with a private group, we'll design an itinerary that reflects your vision. Contact us for a custom itinerary and pricing options.

PHOTOGRAPHY, CULTURAL & ADVENTURE WORKSHOP AT A GLANCE



DATES: Dec. 06 - 16 / 2026 (10 nights & 11 days)
EARLY BIRDS: Save \$400 if you book before JUNE 25, 2026

COST: **DOCHULA FESTIVAL**
- 1 to 4 participants: **\$15,200 per person**
- 5 to 8 participants: **\$14,500 per person**

1. The above cost is based on double or twin room occupancy.
2. On the above cost, if opted for single room the additional supplement \$1,745.00 US.

DEPOSIT: Non refundable 31% booking deposit paid upon booking in order to hold your seat.


GROUP SIZE: Max. 8

- The final cost per person will depend on the total number of participants. This way, they understand that if there are more than 4 participants, they will benefit from a lower cost per person.

EXPERIENCE LEVEL: Amateur and professional photographers, whether you come wanting to improve your photography skills, ignite your creativity or simply want to go on a one-in-a lifetime wildlife Safari experience.

TO ALL PARTICIPANTS Initially, the payment will be based on the higher rate for 1 to 4 participants. However, if more than 4 participants join, we will happily adjust the final amount and refund the difference. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to sharing this experience with you

SIGN UP & PAYMENT DETAILS

 **RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW:** Send your name and email to robertamarroquin@gmail.com or sonam@yangphel.com

We understand that investing in this life-changing workshop is a big decision. To make it easier, we offer a **structured payment plan** with flexible installments:

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Payments can be made via bank transfer.

Bank Name: Chase Bank

Account Name: Kamin Macomber DBA Yangphel USA

Account Number: 589555173

Routing: #322271627

Bank Address: 185 Railroad Avenue Danville, California 94526

SWIFT CODE: CHASUS33

✓ DEPOSIT: A deposit of **\$5,000 USD**. The deposit is non-refundable.

✓ INSTALLMENT 1:


☆ **\$5,000 USD** is due by **End of Sep. 2026**

✓ FINAL PAYMENT:

☆ **Oct. 20 2025**

CANCELLATION POLICY

- Cancellations **before** the final payment deadline: Partial refund available if we fill your spot.
- Cancellations **after** final payment deadline: Non-refundable unless we find a replacement.
- ~ *Travel insurance is highly recommended. Contact us for guidance or referral options.*

 **BONUS:** The participants will receive a free 1- hour private Zoom session with Roberta to discuss photography goals before the trip!

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Drop us a line at robertamarroquin@gmail.com & karma@yangphel.com

PRACTICAL NOTES*

GENERAL PACKING LIST (DETAILED LIST TO COME LATER)

Comfortable, outdoor clothing is recommended. In April, Bhutan offers pleasant weather with clear skies and blossoming landscapes, making it an ideal time for exploration. Layers are a basic in Bhutan, as mornings and evenings can be colder, along with a light jacket for during the day. Daytime temperatures are typically mild, reaching up to 20°C (68°F), while nighttime temperatures can drop to around 10°C (50°F), so packing some warm layers is essential. Light trekking shoes are ideal for navigating Bhutan's picturesque trails. Don't forget to bring a swimsuit, sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses for protection against the sun, as well as a raincoat or umbrella, as occasional light showers can occur during this month.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT LIST

- ♦ Digital Camera (SLR or mirrorless) and lenses (fix or zoom) ranging from 17mm to 100/120mm. Or for Wildlife up to 500mm. Feel free to bring an analog camera + lenses, rolls of film and a light meter as well.
- ♦ Memory cards, card reader and cables
- ♦ Batteries & battery chargers
- ♦ Tripod
- ♦ Backpack (to carry your equipment and some light snacks, water, etc...)
- ♦ Laptop (with protective case or bag to protect from dust and vibration) with Adobe Photoshop, Lightroom, and Bridge installed. Most of these softwares are possible to download a 7 day free trial.
- ♦ International adapters. In Tanzania, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type D and type G are used. The standard voltage is 230 V at a frequency of 50 Hz.

*** It is highly recommended that each participant has a basic technical knowledge of the general settings of his/her camera.**



PRACTICAL NOTES II

HEALTH

Make sure all of your vaccinations are up to date. We recommend you check with your doctor regarding recommended vaccinations and precautions against diseases.

Your trip will be an active participatory experience. Regular exercise prior to your departure will certainly add to your enjoyment. Take the time to get into shape with a consistent fitness routine.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a valid passport and visa to enter Bhutan. Please ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your departure date and has at least two blank pages for entry stamps. To process your visa, we require a clear copy of your valid passport along with a passport-style photograph. The visa is an e-visa, which must be readily available for immigration upon arrival.

FOOD

Bhutanese food will be available at every stop and place we will be staying. If you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies, please inform us in advance so we can arrange accordingly.

JET LAG & TIMEZONE DIFFERENCE

If possible, it is advised to arrive a day or two in BKK before to we meet in Paro, especially if you are arriving from the America or Europe, so you may be able to rest and get on local time so as to optimize your energy to start the journey. We can help with logistics on the ground if you intend to arrive earlier. Please let us know.

INSURANCE

For your protection, we recommend that all participants have travel and evacuation insurance. A policy including trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended to cover your non-refundable payments, in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip due to illness or injury. As with most major travel arrangements, there are cancellation fees that will apply regardless of why or when you might need to cancel.

PLEASE NOTE

- All images used in this document were shot in Bhutan.
- More detailed trip information, travel and lecture itinerary, packing and equipment list will be sent to you as the workshop dates get closer.



FAQ



WHAT'S OUR AVERAGE DAY LIKE?

Each day in Bhutan offers a unique opportunity to experience and capture the country's breathtaking beauty and rich cultural heritage. We'll start our days at sunrise, capturing the mystical morning light over the Himalayan landscapes and ancient monasteries. We'll conclude our day at sunset, allowing us to photograph the stunning variations of light and shadow as the day fades into evening.

A typical day will include a hands-on photography workshop and cultural sessions, exploring Bhutan's landscapes, and capturing the vibrant energy of local festivals or the serene beauty of the countryside. We'll spend one day focusing on on-location portraits with local communities, delving into Bhutanese culture and daily life. Meals will be shared at local eateries or during our travels, as we move between locations, stopping whenever something captures our attention. Traveling in a small group ensures an intimate workshop experience, allowing each participant to receive personalized guidance and insights.

In the afternoons, we'll return to our accommodations, where you can review your work, relax, or meet with Roberta to discuss your photography. At the end of the day we'll head back for a relaxing evening with a hot shower and dinner.

HOW MUCH INSTRUCTION CAN WE EXPECT FROM ROBERTA & KARMA?

Beyond time together in the field where you can ask Roberta and Karma anything, Roberta will also make time for anyone interested to join her at tech location in order to review the day's shots and camera settings or discuss anything else regarding creating great images. During the activities Roberta will be on hand to help maximize angles and perfect your settings, as well as how to not just take great photos but craft incredible images.

WHAT KIND OF VEHICLE WILL BE EXPLORING?

We will take our tours in customized vehicles for viewing Bhutanese landscapes and for photography. We will have 6-8 guests, plus Roberta and Karma on the vehicle. Charging sockets, cold beverages, blankets, and bean bags will be available in the vehicle. There are no assigned seats.

WHAT ARE THE ROOMS LIKE? SHARING OR PRIVATE ROOM?

Each location offers shared double rooms with separated single beds and private bathrooms. We will pair guests according to their gender unless a request is made otherwise. You can also pay an additional fee for your own private room with a double bed.

A NOTE ON WILDLIFE

We will do everything in our power to maximize our time amongst the wild animals. Despite the knowledge of the area and our local contacts, we can in no way guarantee sightings. We are in mother nature's hands.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ◆ All Government Taxes, Sustainability Development Fee (SDF), Visa Fees
- ◆ Cost of the guide
- ◆ Permits, Museum, sightseeing's and Institutional Fees applicable
- ◆ Listed overnight hotels in the itinerary
- ◆ Transportation for entire trip
- ◆ All meals in hotel or local restaurants
- ◆ Water in the vehicle
- ◆ All cultural activities
- ◆ Mineral water during the trip.

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WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- ◆ Items of personal nature, drinks, laundry, telephone calls, spa, trekking clothing, etc.
- ◆ International (flight in & out of Bhutan) & domestic sector (quoted)
- ◆ No helicopter services.
- ◆ Liability for change in itinerary due to reasons beyond our control like change in flight schedules, cancellation in flights, political disturbances, natural phenomenon, etc.
- ◆ Tips for all service provider and Travel Insurance.

DOCHULA/DRUK WANAVEL FESTIVAL

DEC. 06 - 16 2026/2027



The Dochula Festival is a colorful cultural celebration held at Dochula Pass, where traditional dances, music, and rituals unfold among the iconic 108 chortens, offering a powerful expression of Bhutanese identity set against sweeping Himalayan views.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - BKK / DELHI / KATHMANDU TO PARO

We As we approach Bhutan, the eastern Himalaya rises dramatically beneath us—revealing legendary summits such as Kanchenjunga, the world’s third-highest peak, and Jhomolhari, Bhutan’s sacred mountain. After landing in the Paro Valley and completing visa formalities, your Bhutanese guide and driver will be waiting outside the terminal to warmly welcome you and escort you to our accommodation for the evening.

We begin our journey with a deeply meaningful butter-lamp lighting ceremony at the 8th-century Kyichu Temple, one of Bhutan’s oldest and most revered sanctuaries. This tradition is performed to invoke blessings and safe passage as we travel through the Kingdom. Afterwards, we enjoy a gentle walk back to the hotel along quiet farm roads—an unhurried first immersion into Paro’s serene landscape.

Time permitting, we may visit the Paro Organic Farmers Market and/or Drukgyel Dzong, set against sweeping mountain views.

In the evening, we gather for a brief orientation followed by a welcome dinner, setting intentions and finalizing details for the days ahead.

Overnight Paro (7,710 ft.) - Zhiwaling Heritage

DAY 2 - BUMTHANG

Workshop lecture #1: CREATIVITY & DEFINING YOUR STYLE

We embark on a breathtaking flight to Bumthang (2,600 m / 8,530 ft), soaring over Himalayan peaks, winding rivers, and the Black Mountain Range (4,922 m / 16,145 ft). Upon arrival in Jakar Valley (2,800 m / 9,186 ft), the spiritual heart of Bhutan, we explore centuries-old temples and monasteries closely tied to Guru Rinpoche, who brought Buddhism to the region.

A scenic hike through Chamkhar Valley (6–8 km / 3.7–5 miles) takes us to Jambay Lhakhang, a 7th-century temple built to subdue an ogress, and Kurjey Lhakhang, where Guru Rinpoche meditated, leaving his body imprint in the rock. Seeking further exploration we can take an optional 2 km (1.2-mile) hike to Tamshing Monastery, a 16th-century Nyingma monastery founded by Pema Lingpa, home to ancient murals and a sacred chainmail vest used for purification rituals.

In the afternoon, we visit the Swiss Project, a 1960s development initiative, to sample locally produced cheese, Red Panda beer, apple juice, and honey. If time permits, we take a leisurely stroll through Chamkhar Town to explore local handicrafts before retiring to our lodge for the night.

Overnight in Bumthang (9,185 ft / 2,800 m) - Rincheling Resort.

DAY 3 - JANGBI

Workshop lecture #2: LANDSCAPES & SACRED SPACES

Early this morning, we depart Bumthang and drive toward Trongsa, crossing Yutong La (“la” meaning mountain pass) at 11,300 ft. The route is beautifully scenic, winding through forested slopes and mountain vistas, with the possibility of wildlife sightings along the way. After approximately two hours, we reach the lively town of Trongsa before continuing south for roughly three more hours, traveling along a rural farm road to the village of Jangbi—home of the Monpa community and our base for the next two nights.

Upon arrival, we settle in with a brief camp orientation and are warmly welcomed by the Monpa community, led by the resident Buddhist monk. The Monpa people practiced Bon (shamanic traditions) long before the arrival of Buddhism, and elements of these ancient beliefs remain woven into local life. The resident monk—appointed by the government—serves the village through spiritual guidance and support, while a small number of shamanic masters still visit periodically, offering ceremonies that honor the Monpa’s longstanding connection to the spirit world and their traditions of healing and protection.

Overnight Jangbi Camp (3,500 ft.) - Tented Camp



DAY 4 - JANGBI

Photo workshop lecture #3: VISUAL STORYTELLING

Today is a deeply immersive and visually rich day in the Monpa community—a rare opportunity to step into daily life with openness, respect, and curiosity. Through firsthand experiences, we'll document intimate moments of routine and tradition, capturing the quiet details that reveal a place from the inside out. Activities may include visiting family homes, participating in seasonal farm tasks, and spending time in genuine conversation and interaction with the Monpa people.

In the late afternoon, we create an extraordinary light-painting session inside a local home, blending craft, portraiture, and atmosphere in one of the most authentic settings imaginable. Before dinner, there is also the option to enjoy a traditional hot stone bath, a beautiful way to restore and reset after a day in the field.

In the evening, as a gesture of gratitude for the community's warmth and generosity, we come together to share food for the Monpa families to enjoy. After dinner, the Monpa proudly present their traditional tribal dance—an unforgettable cultural moment and a wonderful opportunity for night photography, where movement, light, and story merge into powerful images.

Overnight Jangbi Camp (3,500 ft.) - Tented Camp



DAY 5 - GANGTEY

We bid a warm farewell to our Monpa hosts in Jangbi and retrace our route back to Trongsa. Here, we visit the Monarchy Museum, housed in the historic Trongsa Ta Dzong (watchtower)—dramatically perched above the town. Built in the 17th century to protect Trongsa Dzong from internal rebellion, the watchtower also contains a shrine dedicated to the epic hero King Gesar of Ling. Today, as a thoughtfully curated museum, it offers a fascinating window into Bhutan's royal lineage and the pivotal role Trongsa has played in the nation's history.

From Trongsa, we continue onward to the breathtaking Phobjikha Valley, traveling through an ever-shifting landscape—from subtropical greenery to cool alpine terrain lined with sweeping hemlock and rhododendron forests. This glacial valley is one of Bhutan's most important wildlife sanctuaries and is especially renowned as a winter haven for the endangered black-necked cranes. Thanks to Bhutan's conservation initiatives and long-term efforts supported by partners such as WWF, Phobjikha remains a protected refuge where these extraordinary birds return each year to roost in the marshy wetlands.

After arriving and enjoying a delicious lunch, we set out on a gentle hike across the valley, taking in its expansive beauty, rural life, and—season permitting—opportunities to observe the cranes in their natural habitat. We also visit the Black-Necked Crane Centre, where we learn about the species and conservation work, and (in winter months) may spot the cranes through telescopes.

Overnight Gangtey (9,510 ft.) - Gangtey Lodge

 **DAY 6 - GANGTEY**[Photo workshop lecture #4: PORTRAITURE](#)

Enjoy a full day immersed in the serene beauty of the Gangtey (Phobjikha) glacial valley, one of Bhutan's most pristine and atmospheric landscapes.

We begin with a visit to Gangtey Monastery (Gangtey Goemba), a 17th-century hilltop monastery offering sweeping views over the valley. Here, we take part in a moment of prayer and meditation, followed by an hour-long cultural program held in the monastery's courtyard—an intimate expression of local tradition set within this historic sacred space.

We continue on to Khewang Lhakhang and Khumbu Lhakhang, two ancient temples steeped in legend and mythology, offering insight into Bhutan's spiritual narratives and devotional life.

In the afternoon, we set out on a gentle nature hike through the valley, eventually reaching a local farmhouse where we are welcomed for tea and conversation with villagers, providing a warm, personal glimpse into rural life. We also visit the Black-Necked Crane Research Center, learning about these graceful and endangered birds whose seasonal migration has made Phobjikha a symbol of Bhutan's commitment to conservation.


Overnight Gangtey (9,510 ft.) - Gangtey Lodge

 **DAY 7 - THIMPHU**[Photo workshop lecture #5: EDITING & POST PRODUCTION](#)

We begin our journey in Thimphu, Bhutan's capital and largest city, where tradition and modern life coexist in quiet harmony. After completing arrival and visa formalities, our Bhutanese guide and driver will be waiting outside the terminal to warmly welcome us and escort us to our accommodation. We then gather for a relaxed meet & greet with Roberta, along with introductions to the Yanghpel crew.

In the afternoon, we visit the majestic Tashichho Dzong and the iconic Buddha Dordenma, offering a beautiful first immersion into Bhutanese spirituality, architecture, and scale. In the evening, we come together for a welcome dinner, where we review the itinerary and finalize details before an early start the next morning.

Overnight Thimphu (7,710 ft.) - Zhiwaling Ascent

 **DAY 8 - THIMPHU**

After breakfast we will drive to Dochula Pass to attend the Druk Wangyel Tshechu, a distinctive one-day festival set high in the Himalayas. More intimate in scale than Bhutan's major valley tshechus, this celebration features a unique blend of traditional and contemporary masked dances performed by the Royal Bhutan Army, created to honor Bhutan's peace and stability. On clear days, sweeping mountain views provide a powerful and contemplative backdrop for photography and reflection.

In the afternoon, we return toward Thimphu, concluding the day with a light-hearted cultural moment: outdoor archery, Bhutan's national sport—an energizing and playful window into local life.

Overnight Thimphu (7,710 ft.) - Zhiwaling Ascent

DAY 9 - PARO

Today we embark on one of Bhutan's most iconic and awe-inspiring experiences: a hike to Taktsang Monastery, famously known as the Tiger's Nest, dramatically perched on a cliffside high above the Paro Valley. The journey is both physical and deeply contemplative, offering extraordinary photographic perspectives and a powerful sense of pilgrimage as we approach this sacred site.

After our descent, we enjoy lunch at Flying Tigris, followed by a relaxed afternoon to shop locally and savor Paro's charm. Later, we gather for a meaningful visual recap of the journey, reflecting on key moments and images, complemented by a traditional astrological reading—a beautiful way to integrate the experience through Bhutanese wisdom.

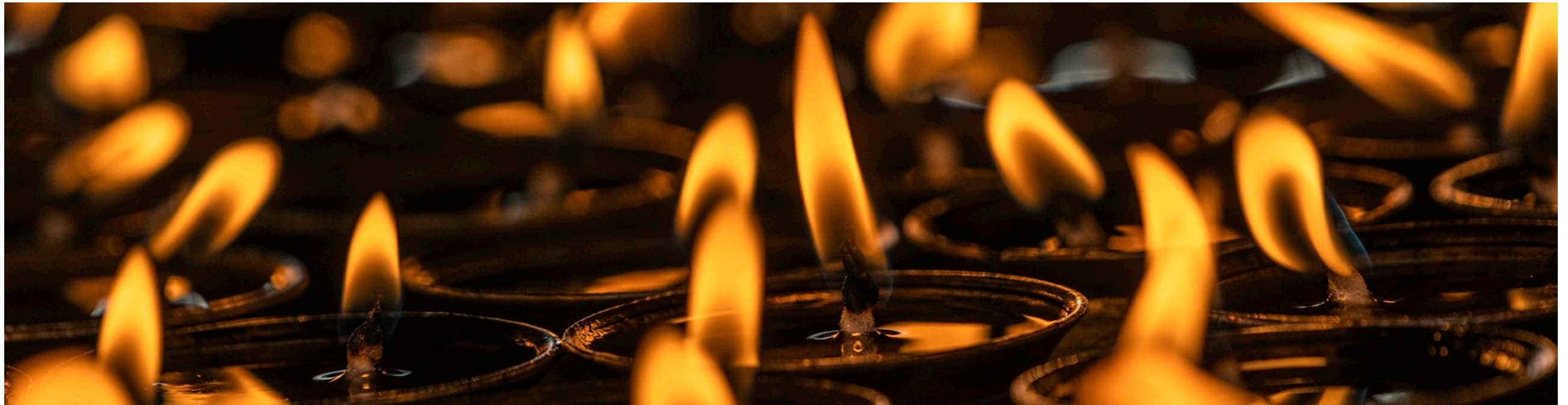
In the evening, we come together for a heartfelt farewell dinner, celebrating new friendships, creative growth, and the unforgettable stories we've shared.

Overnight Paro (7,832 ft.) - Zhiwaling Heritage

DAY 10 - PARO

After breakfast, we gather for a Tsa Tsa (miniature stupa) making ceremony held upstairs in the temple—a quiet, meditative ritual symbolizing intention, impermanence, and blessings carried forward beyond the journey.

Following the ceremony, we transfer to the airport for departure and check-in, bringing this immersive experience to a close with images, reflections, and connections that will continue to resonate long after leaving Bhutan.



SEE YOU SOON BHUTAN!

ABOUT WHERE WE REST & RECONNECT



PARO



ZHIWALING HERITAGE

is a luxurious five-star hotel that seamlessly blends traditional Bhutanese architecture with modern comforts. Set amidst stunning natural surroundings, the hotel offers breathtaking views of the Paro Valley and is conveniently located near some of Bhutan's most iconic cultural sites, including the famous Tiger's Nest Monastery.

The hotel's design is inspired by Bhutanese dzongs (fortresses), featuring intricate woodwork, hand-painted murals, and traditional decor, all crafted by local artisans. Zhiwa Ling Heritage offers spacious rooms and suites that provide a serene retreat with modern amenities, combining cultural authenticity with luxury.

Guests can enjoy farm-to-table dining with Bhutanese and international cuisine, a wellness spa with traditional Bhutanese therapies, and a meditation room for spiritual reflection. The hotel's location and services make it an ideal choice for travelers seeking a deep cultural experience with comfort and elegance.

BUMTHANG



RINGCHENLING RESORT

Located in Tashigatshel, Jakar, offers a tranquil and traditional Bhutanese experience in the scenic Bumthang Valley. The resort is designed to reflect the rich culture and heritage of Bhutan, with its architecture and decor incorporating local craftsmanship and style. Surrounded by lush greenery and mountains, Rinchenling Resort provides a peaceful environment for guests looking to explore the spiritual and cultural treasures of the region.

The resort features comfortable rooms with modern amenities, blending convenience with traditional Bhutanese aesthetics. Guests can enjoy Bhutanese cuisine at the resort's restaurant, along with other international dishes made from fresh, locally sourced ingredients. The resort also offers wellness services, such as traditional Bhutanese hot stone baths, to enhance relaxation.

Rinchenling Resort is an ideal base for travelers seeking to explore Jakar's monasteries, temples, and beautiful landscapes, while enjoying a serene, culturally immersive stay.

JANGBI



TENTED CAMP

The Monpa live in the Black Forest and are considered the first inhabitants of Bhutan. Our Bhutanese guide will present a camp orientation.

We will be received at Jangbi by the villagers (Monpas) in a traditional *chipdrel* procession to arrive at the camp. The camp is on a beautiful ridge set amidst the pine grooves. Our camp is among fields with stunning views of terraced farmlands and ancient farm houses. After settling in, we can enjoy a chat with the village headman and others about the Monpa life. Enjoy the traditional hot stone bath before a sumptuous dinner cooked by our camp crew.

We will visit homes to see how the locals brew the moon shine drink called "ara". Villagers will also demonstrate cane weaving & other village activities. Those who feel energetic can embark on a short excursion to the surrounding villages too. Also we will take a chance to visit the village shaman and witness him performing the shamanistic rituals.

There will be a celebration in our honor with traditional songs and dances by our new villager friends.

PUNAKHA



PUNAKHA RIVERSIDE DELUXE TENTED CAMP

Four Boutique Hotel in Punakha, Bhutan, offers an intimate and stylish experience in the heart of Bhutan's Punakha Valley. With a blend of modern comfort and traditional Bhutanese architecture, this boutique hotel provides a peaceful escape surrounded by lush landscapes and views of the Himalayan foothills.

The hotel features thoughtfully designed rooms, each reflecting the local culture while offering modern amenities. Guests can enjoy a serene atmosphere, perfect for relaxation, with easy access to nearby cultural landmarks, such as the iconic Punakha Dzong. Four Boutique also offers dining options that highlight local Bhutanese cuisine made from fresh, organic ingredients.

Ideal for travelers seeking a balance of luxury, tradition, and nature, Four Boutique Hotel delivers an authentic and immersive experience in one of Bhutan's most picturesque regions.

THIMPHU



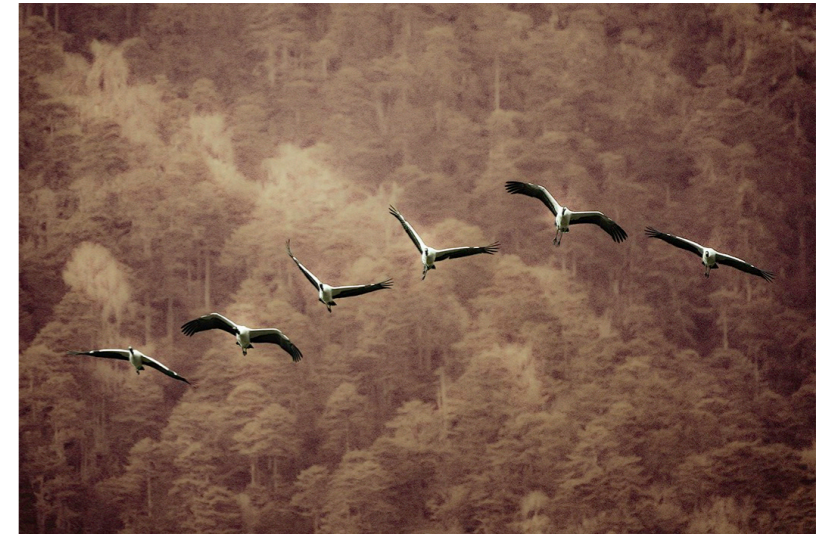
ASCENT THIMPU

Is a contemporary boutique hotel located in Thimphu, Bhutan. The hotel blends modern design with traditional Bhutanese elements, offering guests a serene and luxurious retreat. Zhiwaling Ascent is known for its stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valleys, providing a peaceful environment for relaxation and contemplation.

The hotel emphasizes sustainability, using eco-friendly materials and practices throughout the property. Its minimalist architecture is designed to harmonize with the natural landscape, and the hotel offers a range of wellness-focused amenities, including yoga sessions and traditional Bhutanese therapies.

The hotel also features a farm-to-table dining experience, with fresh, organic ingredients sourced locally, making it a unique choice for those seeking comfort, culture, and a connection with nature during their stay in Bhutan.

GANTEY



DEWACHEN HOTEL

Is encircled by pine forests in the hidden valley of Phobjikha, home of the very rare Black Necked cranes. The hotel boasts fantastic valley views and a hot stone bath to ensure a relaxing and tranquil stay. The 28 double rooms have beautiful wooden interiors heated by an iron stove and hot water bags in the bed. The restaurant has the best views of the valley, paired with professionally prepared Bhutanese cuisine. From the hotel, cultural and horse-riding activities can be arranged.



EXPECT THE
UNEXPECTED
AND WE HOPE TO
SEE YOU IN 2026!

Roberta
Marroquin

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YANGPHEL