

# BHUTAN HERITAGE TOUR - 8 DAYS

**Explore the cultural heart of Bhutan. Step into ancient dzongs, enter the sacred lakhangs and interact with cheerful locals....**

Trip Level: Easy/Moderate | Group Size: Min. Max 2-16 | Min. Age: 6 | Altitude : 3988 m

Arrival on: Paro, Bhutan | Departure from: Paro, Bhutan

## OVERVIEW

**Take this Bhutan Holiday packages and journey across the cultural hotspots of this fascinating Himalayan kingdom. Explore old cities filled with traditional buildings, hilltop monasteries and nesting sites of the endangered Black-necked cranes. Spend a night at a local farmhouse and enjoy traditional Bhutanese hospitality. With zero pollution and abundant greenery, a trip to this serene Himalayan country will leave you energised and recharged...**

Our **Bhutan heritage Tour** lets you discover the best of Bhutan, a Himalayan kingdom. Journey across western and central Bhutan, the country's chief tourism hotspots. Explore centuries old *dzongs* (traditional fortresses) and *lakhangs* (Buddhist temples) built by Bhutanese kings and spiritual leaders. Step inside monasteries that are the centre of important religious and social ceremonies. Walk through the bustling local markets and shop for souvenirs. This is one of the **best tours in Bhutan (Bhutan holiday Packages)** which will let you to experience the rich culture and heritage of the Bhutanese.

## TAKE A RIDE ACROSS THE PICTURESQUE BHUTANESE COUNTRYSIDE

Visit ancient cities and drive past the picturesque Bhutanese countryside to sparsely populated small towns. Your itinerary includes tours to the oldest surviving Buddhist temple and palace in the country - Kichu Lhakhang and Simtokha Dzong. Drive to the highest motorable pass in Bhutan Chelela Pass(3988m) and hike up to the Sky Burial ground, where Bhutanese bring their dead. This **Bhutan holiday package** also takes you to Phobjika (Gangtey Valley), the roosting site of the endangered black-necked cranes that migrate to Bhutan from Tibet during winter. Learn more about Bhutanese lifestyle by spending a night at a traditional Bhutanese home. Walk through paddy fields and enjoy a relaxing soak at a traditional hot stone bath. Your **trip to Bhutan** finally ends with an adventurous hike to the clifftop [Taksang Monastery](#) (Tiger's Nest) in Paro.

## DO EXPLORE THESE INTERESTING ALTERNATIVES

If you want to experience the cultural highlights of both Bhutan and Nepal then you can book our [Nepal and Bhutan Cultural Tour](#). If you are on a short holiday you can book our [5-day Bhutan Tour](#).

Note:

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Bhutan's cultural hotspots - Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Haa and Gangtey (Phobjika) Valley
- Step into ancient traditional *dzongs* (fortresses) and *lakhangs* (Buddhist temples) that dates back to as early as 7<sup>th</sup> century
- Stay with a local family and experience Bhutanese traditional lifestyle
- Visit the roosting site of the endangered Black-Necked Cranes
- Interact with monks at monasteries
- Hikes to Tiger's Nest, Sky Burial Ground and Kila Gompa
- Enjoy a relaxing soak at a traditional hot stone bath

## MEALS

Your vacation is an important investment. While planning a holiday, you have to research and make some major decisions. You need to decide, where and how you will spend your money. To avoid the stress, many opt for the services of a tour company and leave it to the experts to plan their holiday. By choosing to book with an agency, you can enjoy peace of mind knowing that everything has been taken care of by professionals. In order to cater to the needs of different types of travelers, we have on offer two packages – Standard and Deluxe. A Standard Package cost a little less and is ideal for that traveler who is traveling within a budget. The Deluxe Package is for those looking for a higher level of service and facilities. If you have already decided to book this tour, do select the package that best suits your budget and the kind of experiences you want to explore, and secure your spot.

## BEST TIMES

The best seasons to take this trip are Spring, Autumn and early Winter. During these seasons the days are pleasant and temperatures are just right - neither too hot nor cold. It may turn a little chilly during the early mornings and evenings in Autumn and early Winter. In springtime, the flowers bloom and it is a delight to visit the Bhutanese countryside.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

In Paro your address will be the fine-looking Tashi Namgyal Resort overlooking the Pa Chu River. The resort lies near the international airport and offers comfortable deluxe rooms, cottages and executive sites with attached bathrooms. At Thimpu your address is the Namgay Heritage Hotel. This hotels offer luxurious deluxe rooms and premium suites. At Gangtey you will accommodated at Hotel Dewachen and in Punakha at Drubbchu Resort.

Featured amenities at all the above mentioned establishments include en suite bathrooms, free Wi-Fi, multi cuisine restaurant, bar, spa, fitness centre etc.

In Paro you will be spending one night with a local family at a traditional Bhutanese home. You will be dining with the family and sleeping in their guest room. If you don't want a local homestay, accommodation can be arranged at a hotel. Just let us know when you book this trip.

## **MEALS**

Most Bhutanese restaurants serve continental, Indian and Bhutanese dishes. Traditional Bhutanese dishes include yak cheese, chilies, meat, mushrooms, red rice and buck wheat. All meals are included in the trip price.

## **ITINERARY**

### **1: ARRIVE PARO. SIGHTSEEING IN PARO.**

Take an international flight to Paro. Bhutan has only one international airport located in Paro. The airport lies at a scenic location surrounded by rolling green hills. Enjoy the sight of the verdant mountains before the plane lands at the runway. Your guide will be waiting for you at the airport's terminal. Head to a restaurant for lunch/refreshment. Later visit two of Paro's historic landmarks - Rinpung Dzong and Kichu Lhakhang. Rinpung or Paro Dzong is an ancient fortress built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century on the foundation of a monastery built by Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche. The fortress is also known as the 'Fortress on a Heap of Jewels'. It now houses a government office and a monastery. Some portion of the Hollywood movie 'Little Buddha' was shot in at Rinpung Dzong. Kichu Lhakhang is one of the oldest Buddhist temples in Bhutan. Built by the Tibetan emperor Songtsen Gampo, the temple dates back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century. Kichu Lhakhang houses some of Bhutan's oldest and priceless religious relics. After your sightseeing tour, head to your hotel. Overnight in Paro.

Meal Included : | Lunch | Dinner

### **2: DRIVE PARO TO THIMPHU. SIGHTSEEING IN THIMPHU**

Have an early start and drive to Thimphu. A short drive from Paro of brings you to the capital city. Your sightseeing tour commences as soon as you reach the city. Visit the Memorial Chorten (built in memory of the third King of Bhutan, Jigme Dorje Wangchuk) and a Buddhist nunnery, Thangton Dewachen Nunnery. Later head to Changangkha Lhakhang, an ancient Buddhist temple dating back to 12<sup>th</sup> century. The temple sits atop a hill overlooking the city. Parents of newly born babies come here to have their babies blessed and named by the

monks residing at the temple. Also visit Simtokha Dzong, the oldest surviving traditional palace and fortress in Bhutan built by Zabdrung Ngawang Namgyal( the ruler who unified Bhutan). Amble through the colourful Crafts Bazaar and shop for souvenirs. You can buy Bhutanese textiles; bamboo, traditional paper and wooden items; traditional Bhutanese jewelry; *thankha* (traditional scroll painting) etc.

In this **Bhutan Holiday Package** tour, your visit to Thimphu is incomplete without a trip to Taschichho Dzong. Step inside this impressive building and witness the regal splendor of the palace. The *dzong* houses the government's secretariat and the king's throne room. Wind up your sightseeing tour with a short drive to the hilltop vantage point where a large statue of Buddha watches over the valley. The statue known as Buddha Dordenma is 51 metres tall and is built on the ruins of an old palace Changri Kuensel Phodrang. After the sightseeing tour you will be driven to your hotel. Take a well-deserved rest. Overnight in Thimphu.

Meal Included : | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

### **3: DRIVE THIMPHU TO GANGTEY (PHOBJIKA) VALLEY**

Start of early and drive to Gangtey Valley, the nesting site of the endangered Black-Necked Cranes. Your drive takes you past the picturesque Dochula Pass from where you can enjoy a 360-degree panorama of the Himalayan peaks. The pass is decorated with *chortens* or Buddhist memorials dedicated to the Bhutanese army-men who lost their lives in the line of duty. Drive downhill to Wangduephodrang, a sleepy town filled with terraced farms and few houses. Phobjika is a glacial valley located in central Bhutan. Every winter hordes of black-necked cranes (an endangered bird species) fly into this valley from Tibet. These birds are sacred to the Bhutanese who regard them as the symbol of longevity. According to local legend the first of these birds which enter Bhutan during their annual migration circle the Gangtey Monastery thrice before heading to the marshlands. After reaching Gangtey head to your hotel, freshen up and take rest. Afternoon, take a stroll down the village. Afterwards head back to your hotel for a well-deserved rest. Overnight in Gangtey

Meal Included : | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

### **4: GANGTEY SIGHTSEEING – DRIVE TO PUNAKHA**

Wake up early and head to Gangtey Monastery. The monastery, built in traditional Bhutanese style of architecture is located atop a hill. The beautiful monastery is a photographer's delight. The artful façade, ornamental balconies and multi-tiered roof appear splendid. The monastery lie surrounded by a traditional village inhabited by *Gomchens*, caretakers of the monastery. Each winter the monastery's courtyard becomes the venue of the Black-Necked Crane Festival. The festival held annually is observed to celebrate the arrival of the black-necked cranes from Tibet. The monastery was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and is the biggest Nyingmapa monastery in Bhutan. Visit the inner shrine and interact with the little monks. Afterwards take a couple of hours drive to Punakha. The drive takes you past verdant forests of birch and pine and pristine rivers snaking down past the green hills. Your **Bhutan Tour itinerary** also includes a visit to one of the most sacred temple dedicated to the 'Divine Madman'. Head to Chimi Lhakhang, a temple dedicated to Drukpa Kuenley (the Divine Madman), a 14<sup>th</sup> century Buddhist saint known to bless women with fertility. As Drukpa Kuenley is regarded as the patron saint of Bhutan this is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Bhutan. Overnight in Punakha

Meal Included : | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## 5: DRIVE PUNAKHA TO PARO

Visit the famous Punakha Dzong before driving towards Paro. The traditional fortress lies at the confluence of Po(Father) Chhu and the Mo(Mother) Chhu rivers. To reach the *dzong* one has to cross the wooden cantilever bridge. The fortress houses government offices, sacred Buddhist relics and temples. Punakha Dzong serves as the winter capital and the country's religious head and his assistants reside at the *dzong* during the winter months. After the sightseeing tour take a scenic drive to Paro. Once you are in Paro you will be driven to a local farm. Meet your host family and interact with them. Tonight you will be enjoying a local 'home-stay'. Spending time with a local family in a traditional home offers you an authentic experience of Bhutanese lifestyle and culture. Overnight in Paro.

Meal Included : | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## 6: DAY TRIP TO HAA VIA CHELE LA PASS –RETURN TO PARO

Take a day trip to the sky burial ground at Haa via one of the highest motorable high mountain pass in Bhutan, the Chele La Pass. Visit the sky burial ground, a place where the Bhutanese leave the dead. According to Buddhist (Vajrayana) belief the corpse is an empty vessel and should be disposed off in a way that benefits the other living creatures. The dead body fulfills a need when the scavengers (vultures and wild beasts) feed on it. Enjoy panoramic vistas of Jomolhari and other Himalayan peaks from Chele La Pass and the burial ground. Afterwards hike down to Kila Gomba, an ancient nunnery. Meet the *Anis*(Buddhist nuns) living there before finally descending to the highway. Board the vehicle and drive back to Paro. Once in Paro head to a hotel where you will be staying overnight. Overnight in Paro.

Meal Included : | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## 7: PARO - HIKE TO TIGER'S NEST MONASTERY

Wake up early in the morning and drive to the trail head that leads to Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery. Perched high on the side of a rocky cliff, the monastery is an iconic Bhutanese landmark. It is believed that Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche (known as the Second Buddha in the Himalayas) flew on the back of a tiger to the site where this monastery now stands. The trail follows a steep incline. If you wish you can ride on a pony. But please be informed ponies are not allowed beyond the halfway point and you may have to walk the rest of the way to the monastery. Once you reach the top, the awe-inspiring views of the monastery as well as the surrounding mountains will make you forget all your aches and pains. Explore the monastery. Take photographs and selfies and hike down to the highway where your vehicle will be waiting for you. Head to a local farmhouse and enjoy a relaxing soak at the traditional hot stone bath. Overnight in Paro.

Meal Included : | Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

## 8: DEPART PARO

Your incredible Bhutanese adventure ends today. Bid goodbye to this beautiful country and the people you have befriended. You will be driven to the international airport on time to catch your flight.

Meal Included : | Breakfast

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## **Note on itinerary**

## **WHAT'S INCLUDED**

### **PRICE INCLUDES**

- Airport pick up & drop off service for international and domestic flights
- All ground transportation by comfortable private vehicle as per the itinerary
- Professional English-speaking tour guide with government license.
- All Local and Government taxes, administrative charges
- Accommodation at government approved 3 star hotels in Bhutan
- Special permit and Bhutan Visa fee.
- In Bhutan, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner and bottled mineral water during the trip.

### **PRICE EXCLUDES**

- Travel and medical insurance.
- Personal expenses (laundry, drinks, beverages, snacks, phone calls, extra porters, battery recharge, bottle or boiled water, souvenirs, hot showers etc.)
- International flights
- Extra night accommodation in Kathmandu in case of early arrival or late departure.
- Any unseen expenses due to circumstances beyond our control (natural calamities, strike etc.)
- Expenses not listed in the 'Price Includes' section
- Tips for guide and driver

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### **Note :**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Passport and Visa - Bhutan**

Except for India, Maldives and Bangladesh, all other visitors need to obtain a visa for Bhutan. Visas are obtained through an online system by your licensed Bhutanese tour operator directly or through a foreign travel agent. Tourists are required to send the photocopy of their passports to their tour operator, who will then apply for their visa. Once the full payment of the holiday (including your visa fee of USD 40) is made, the tourism council of Bhutan will process the visa within 72 working hours.

## **Best time to visit Bhutan**

Spring (mid February- March – April), Autumn (September – October) and early Winter (November) are the best seasons to visit Bhutan. Northern Bhutan lies close to the Himalayan Mountains and this makes it much colder than the rest of the country. The region receives snowfall during winter. Southern Bhutan with its tropical climate is the warmest. During the monsoon season (June to August) there is heavy rainfall and humidity. The endangered Black-Necked Cranes migrate to Phobjika Valley from Tibet during late October. October to mid-February is the ideal time for bird-watching tours.

## **Climate in Bhutan**

Bhutan's climate ranges from hot and humid in the tropical belt (southern and central Bhutan) to freezing in the north. Spring and Autumn (popular tourist seasons) are generally pleasant with clear skies and mild temperatures. There is heavy rainfall during monsoon or summer season. While the north remains shrouded in clouds the rest of the country gets drenched with heavy rainfall during this time. In winter there is heavy snowfall in the northern parts, while the southern and eastern regions enjoy pleasant weather.

## **Meals-Bhutan**

The national dish of Bhutan is 'Ema Datshi' (chili with cheese sauce) and 'Zow Shungo' (rice with mixed vegetables). 'Jasha maru' (chicken stew), 'Phaksha Paa' (pork prepared with vegetables and spices), 'Hapai Hanteu' (Bhutanese meat dumplings), 'Kewa Datshi' (baked potatoes and yak cheese), 'Tshoem' (beef with mushrooms) etc. are some of the important local dishes. Bhutanese widely consume rice (red rice grown locally), meat items (yak meat, pork, chicken, beef and mutton), chili peppers, dairy products (milk, cheese) and organic vegetables. Popular beverages include butter tea or Pho cha, 'Ara' an alcoholic drink and beer.

## **Tourism Policy- Bhutan**

Bhutan tourism policy is based on sustainability and environmental protection. According to the Bhutanese government tourism in the country must be "ecologically friendly, economically viable and socially and culturally acceptable". The government strictly regulates the number of tourists visiting the country annually. Independent traveling is not allowed and it is mandatory for all foreign tourists to book their tours with a government registered tour operator in Bhutan.

## **Banking and Forex In Bhutan**

Bhutan's unit of currency is Ngultrum (NU). Once you fly into Bhutan, you can exchange currency at the money exchange counters at Paro International Airport. Bank of Bhutan accepts foreign currency as well as travelers' cheques. Foreign currencies that are accepted include US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, Indian Rupee, Swiss Franc, Canadian Dollar, Australian Dollar, Japanese Yen etc. Since banking and ATM facilities are available only in the major cities it is advisable to carry local Ngultrum while traveling in the rural areas. Only a few upscale establishments (hotels and handicraft stores) accept credit cards. When you shop for items or exchange currency you will be given receipts. Hold on to these as you may need to show the same while leaving

the country. If you purchase antique items, you will be asked to show the receipt (of purchase) at the customs checkpoint. Receipt of foreign exchange (that you had received while exchanging currency on entering the country) may also be needed while **exchanging the local currency** to USD or other currencies.

## **Bhutanese Language**

‘Dzongkha’ is the national language of Bhutan. Other than the national language, Sharchop, Nepali and Lepcha are widely spoken in Bhutan. English is used as the medium of instructions in most of the country’s educational institutions.

## **People and Traditional Dress of Bhutan**

The Sharchops, living in the eastern part of Bhutan are believed to be the earliest inhabitants of Bhutan. In the western part of the country live the Ngalongs, descendants of Tibetan settlers. Southern Bhutan is populated by Lhotsampas, settlers who came from Nepal during the nineteenth century. Brokpa, Dhakpa, Lepcha, Doya, Layap and Lhopu make up the indigenous tribes.

When you visit Bhutan you will rarely find Bhutanese wearing western clothes. Almost all of them will be attired in their traditional attire. While the men wear a kilt-like garment called ‘Gho’, women are seen wearing the traditional robe known as ‘Kira’, a blouse called ‘Wonju’ and a light jacket - ‘Taego’. These traditional dresses are made with textiles woven on traditional looms. Accessories worn by the women include brooches and necklaces and earrings made of precious stones.

## **Shopping in Bhutan**

If on a trip to Thimpu, don’t forget to visit the lively ‘Weekend Market’. A local farmer’s market which is held during the weekends (from Friday afternoon till Sunday), the Weekend market has sellers from the rural areas selling handicraft items, cheese, honey, meat, vegetables, fruits, incense and an assortment of other goods. You can buy souvenir items at the market or the handicraft shops. Items worth buying include thangkas, traditional handloom items, handmade wooden bowls (Dappa), bamboo baskets (Bangchung), wooden masks, handmade paper products, Bhutanese traditional jewellery, rugs etc. Paro, Thimpu and Phuentsholing are the best cities for shopping.

## **Emergency Contact Information**

Please do not forget to provide your emergency contact information while filling out the form to book this trip. You can give the contact details of a family member or someone close to you.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **TERMS & CONDITIONS AGREEMENT**

## Third Rock Adventures Private Limited

Please read the following Terms and Conditions that governs the relationship between you (client) and Third Rock Adventures Private Limited (hereinafter referred as the 'The Company') with the registration number **184629/074/075**. Please note that while booking a trip you are agreeing to the terms and conditions as well as the cancellation policy and certain limitations of liability set by the company. Both parties agree to these terms and conditions to resolve any legal or other disputes that may arise during the trip.

### **1. THE BOOKING CONTRACT:**

Once your booking has been confirmed, the tour operator or the travel agent issues a written confirmation after you have deposited the amount for your trip. Do go through the confirmation details thoroughly and report any incorrect or incomplete information to the company immediately. Please ensure that your names are stated exactly as in your passport.

If you book on behalf of other participants, then you are deemed to be the designated contact person for every participant included on that booking. This also means that you are responsible for making all payments due in connection with your tour booking. You will have to notify us if changes or cancellations are required and you will be solely responsible for keeping your group informed.

If you book on behalf of others, then you represent and warrant that you have obtained all required consents. It is your responsibility for verifying the information that you provide on behalf of other people is complete and accurate and the company will under no circumstances be liable for any errors or omissions in the information provided to complete a booking.

### **2. BOOKING A TRIP:**

- A 'trip' refers to any product itinerary or activities that you buy from us including Trekking, Tours, Expeditions and / or other adventure tour programs.
- The contract between the Company and the Client comes into existence only when the company sends a confirmation invoice or email to the customer.
- The company has the right to increase or decrease product (trip/tour) prices before booking are confirmed and the contract comes into force.
- The company will not be liable for any warranty, collateral agreement, prior agreement, and description of services or conditions other than expressed herein

### **3. BOOKING DEPOSIT, FINAL PAYMENT REQUIREMENT, AND LIFETIME DEPOSIT:**

While booking a trip the non-refundable deposit should be sent to the company. The same amount (non-refundable deposit) is levied for standard as well as customized trips.

### **Deposit Payment:**

To book a trip, a non-refundable deposit of 20% along with due airfares (if the client wants the company to arrange it) 30 days before the trip departure is required. If your booking is done 30 days or less prior to departure, then you must pay the full amount at the time of booking.

### **Final Payment:**

For standard as well as customized trips the non-refundable deposit should be made 30 days prior to your trip's departure. The balance (final payment) should be paid within 30 days of the departure date. In case a booking is made less than 30 days before the departure date, then full payment is required at the time of booking.

### **Lifetime Deposit**

When you are forced to cancel your booking due to unavoidable circumstances, you can rest easy. Your deposit will not go to waste. Your deposit can be retained, provided the reason for the cancellation can be taken as an emergency or an unavoidable circumstance (like illness etc). You should furnish plausible proof (documents like doctor's certificate etc.) for canceling the trip to retain your deposit. You can use the deposit later on to book the same trip or another trip of the same value at a later date.

Please note if the trip has been cancelled for non-payment or violation of these Terms & Conditions your deposit will not be counted as a Lifetime Deposit. Only one Lifetime Deposit is issued per cancelled booking per person. If the value of the Lifetime Deposit is greater than the value of the new trip (per person) then the company will not refund or credit the difference. You can also transfer or regift your Lifetime Deposit to a friend or family to book a trip with us by notifying us.

## **4. PAYMENT METHODS:**

The company receives a booking deposit through the online payment system. We accept all major credit and debit cards. Kindly follow the instructions provided on the booking form.

### **Prices:**

The prices quoted on [our website](#) are the current prices. The quoted price is for per person and is subject to minimum group size. If the minimum numbers are not met by the payment date, a small group surcharge will be levied to ensure the trip's operation. To check the price validity, inclusions and exclusions please do go through the trip notes. If the departures are past the validity date, there will be a likely increase on the trip cost due to a rise on operational costs. There may also be a reduction in trip prices in the instance of a drop in local service charges. Once the deposit amount is paid for your trip any subsequent discounts or price reductions that are advertised may not be applicable.

Third Rock Adventures reserves the right to amend tour prices at any time. Amendments may be done for many reasons including, but not limited to, increases in ground operator services, exchange rate fluctuations, increased fuel costs, airfares, airport charges, or the need to engage alternative air or ground operators. If there is an increase in the tour price, it must be paid prior to the departure date.

## **5. CANCELLATION BY THE CLIENT:**

Any cancellation by a client must be made in writing and acknowledged by the company. The date on which the request to cancel is received by the company or its agents will determine the cancellation charge applicable. The cancellation charges are expressed hereafter as a percentage of the total tour price. Please note these charges are levied when you don't furnish plausible proof (documents like doctor's certificate etc.) for canceling the trip.

- Cancellation 30 days or more before departure: Loss of deposit.
- Cancellation 7-29 days before departure: 50% of the cost of services booked.
- If you neither show up on the starting day of the tour nor inform the company about your absence: 100% of the cost of services booked.

The client is strongly advised to take out cancellation insurance at the time of making the booking.

Please note that no refunds will be made if you voluntarily leave a trip for any reason after the trip has begun.

No refunds will be made for any accommodation, transport, sightseeing, meals or services not utilized.

## **CANCELLATION BY THE CLIENT DURING AN EMERGENCY**

When you cancel your booking at the last moment due to an emergency, there won't be any refund of your initial deposit. But if you inform us(via email) at least 7 days before the trip starts, stating the reason for the cancellation and furnishing valid documents as proof we will retain your deposit after deducting 20% from the initial deposit. You can use the remaining 80% to book a tour (added charges applicable for the chosen trip) for yourself, your family or friends.

## **6. CANCELLATION OF A TOUR BY THE COMPANY:**

- The company reserves the right to cancel any trip you booked unless guaranteed to run.
- Third Rock Adventures reserves the right to cancel any trip, including a guaranteed trip, prior to departure in the event of natural disasters, flight cancellation, strikes, industrial action, wars, riots, sickness, quarantine, government intervention, weather conditions, or other untoward occurrences beyond its control. In such a case, the company will refund the trip price only. If the company cancels a departure which is guaranteed to run, the trip price will be refunded, or you will be entitled to take an alternative trip of the same value.

The significant alterations do not include a change of airline carrier, flight timetables or itineraries, provided the departure and arrival dates remain unchanged. Change in cabin category or hotel accommodation provided is of the same category.

- The company is not responsible for any incidental expenses or consequential losses that the client may have incurred as a result of the booking such as visas, vaccinations, non-refundable flights or rail fares, non-refundable car parking or other fees, loss of earnings, or loss of enjoyment etc.

## **7. MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

In case of any medical condition, do inform the company at the time of the booking. A physically challenged condition or any other mental or physical debility which may hinder your ability to travel should be notified at the time of booking. Failure to notify the company may result in the client being refused to travel. It may also result in the loss of deposit amount or 100% of the trip cost.

There may be some trips that may be unsuitable for clients of a certain age, physical (mobility, pregnancy etc.) or mental conditions. It is the client's responsibility to check prior to booking. The company will not provide any special facilities unless it has agreed to do so in writing. The company will also do its best to meet the clients' special requests including dietary. Please note that such requests do not form part of the contract and therefore the company is not liable for not adhering to these requests.

The medical facilities vary from country to country and the company makes no representations and gives no warranties in relation to the standard of such treatments.

## **8. TRAVEL INSURANCE:**

All travelers must travel with adequate and valid travel insurance. Your travel insurance must cover accidents, injuries, illnesses, death and medical expenses (including any related to pre-existing medical conditions), emergency repatriation (including helicopter rescue and air ambulance where applicable) and personal liability. It will be helpful if your insurance covers trip cancellation, curtailment, and loss of luggage and personal effects. You must carry proof of insurance with you and produce it when requested by the company employees or suppliers. If you are unable to provide proof of insurance when requested, the company reserves the right to cancel or suspend your participation on a trip or in certain activities that comprise part of a trip, at any time, including after the commencement of your trip, with no right of refund.

## **9. FLIGHT DELAYS AND CHANGES IN THE ITINERARY:**

Please understand that mountain adventure is always unpredictable due to weather. Bad weather in the mountain regions can cause domestic flight delays. If the domestic flights get delayed or cancelled, the company will

arrange accommodation (guest house) and food (lunch and breakfast) at the request of the client. However, the client is responsible to bear all additional expenses including food and accommodation costs. If you wish to make an alternative arrangement such as a Helicopter flight to avoid flight delays, all additional cost would be your responsibility.

Third Rock Adventures will not be held responsible if the client misses his/her international flight. However, we would try and assist to make alternative arrangements wherever possible. Please also note that during outdoor activities, we may have to make some changes in the itinerary owing to bad weather conditions or events outside our control.

## **10. TRIP AMENDMENT:**

If the booking amendment request is received by Third Rock Adventures 30 days or more prior to your original trip departure, the company will make the necessary amendment with a charge of US\$100 per person. In case you wish to make amendments within 30 days of the trip departure, the cost of an amendment may be higher depending upon the company's arrangements with other parties such as hotels, teahouses, ground operators or airlines.

## **11. VISA & PASSPORT:**

You must carry a valid passport and visa when traveling with Third Rock Adventures. Please ensure your passport is valid for 6 months beyond the duration of the trip. Nepal Visa is available on arrival in Nepal. For Tibet & Bhutan, the company can make the necessary arrangements upon request. For India, the client will have to acquire the Visa from their own home country.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of the correct visas for the countries you are traveling to. Third Rock Adventures will not accept responsibility if you are refused entry to a country or places because you lack the correct visa documentation.

## **12. INJURIES AND EVACUATION:**

Third Rock Adventures will not be liable for any injury, health conditions, emotional or other conditions suffered by the client during the trip. Similarly, our package cost does not include any personal insurance. Hence, we advise the clients to take adequate travel insurance package, including medical emergencies and evacuation by Helicopter.

### **13. SERVICES MISSED OR UNUSED:**

There will be no discounts or refunds for missed or unused services. These include voluntary or involuntary termination/departure from the tour due to sickness, the death of a family member etc, late arrival on the tour, or premature departure either voluntarily or involuntarily.

### **14. UPDATING OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

The company reserves the right to update and amend these terms and conditions at any time. It is the responsibility of the client to keep himself/herself updated with any changes. The current version of terms and conditions will always be found on the website [www.thirdrockadventures.com](http://www.thirdrockadventures.com) and will be the terms referred to in any dispute.