

# BHUTAN PHOTOGRAPHY

## WORKSHOP



**Thangbi-Mani**  
Dancers at the National  
festival

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*f11project and G Adventures proudly present:*

## Bhutan Festivals & Folklore

Featuring photographers Louis Au and Paul A. Teolis

## September 22 - October 4, 2012.

### Workshop Details

Few regions of the world can captivate a photographer like Bhutan. Nestled in the mountains, this Himalayan Kingdom has retained much of its charm through its preservation of culture, heritage, dress and folklore.

Religious Festivals are held throughout the year, revolving around the Tibetan Calendar. This workshop is an opportunity to witness and document two local sacred festivals, plus the National Thimpu Teschu in all its grandeur. Colour, dance, and music will be on display.

This workshop is designed to be both active and fun. Both Louis and Paul will be alongside providing daily instructions to help hone technical precision and push one's creative skills

in an exotic environment that will offer multiple opportunities to focus on individual photographic themes. Digital post-production sessions will also be held to aid participants to take control of the digital capture workflow. This workshop is designed for photographers of all levels.

Photographers should be in good health and able to carry their own equipment as we will be visiting villages on foot and spend much of our time walking around hillside Monasteries.

Space is limited to 10 photographers who must provide a DSLR and laptop. An equipment list will be provided to all those who joining this photography workshop.



## Brief Itinerary:

### 22 Sep Bangkok to Paro to Thimphu

Fly from Bangkok to Paro in the morning. Welcome to Bhutan! After your included flight from Bangkok to Paro your group will be met at the airport and transferred into Paro town for lunch. After lunch transfer to Thimphu and enjoy an evening visit to Tashi chhoedzong. After this visit the Handicrafts Emporium before returning to your hotel for Dinner.

### 23 Sep Thimphu Sightseeing - Punakha

After breakfast visit the National Memorial Chorten and the weekly outdoor market. Enjoy panoramic views while you travel from Thimphu to Punakha. In the evening visit Punakha Dzong, the old capital of Bhutan. Return to your hotel for the evening.

### 24 Sep Wangdue Festivals - Punakha

Today join in the celebration of the Wangdue Tsechu, one of the biggest events of the year. Also visit the impressive Wangdue Dzong, which houses the monastic body and the local government. Later in the afternoon drive back to Punakha for dinner and overnight.

### 25 Sep/Tue Wangdue Festival – Thimphu

In the morning join in the last day of the festival and witness the mask dances and then after lunch drive back to Thimphu via Dochula pass. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

### 26 Sep Full day witness Thimphu Tsechu

In the morning a short drive from your hotel will take you into the ground of Tendrel Thang at Tashi Chhoedzong, and full day witness the Thimphu Tsechu which consist of mask dances and folk songs. This is also a very special day to interact with the local people who all come dressed up in their finery and jewelleries and one will be amazed how a local people were dressed up with picnic lunches. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

### 27 Sep Thimphu Tsechu - Wangdue

After breakfast a short drive will take you to Tendrel Thang behind Tashi Chhoedzong to witness the last day of the festival and there will be unfurling of the Thongdrel (Religious Banner) to the public. Lunch served at a restaurant in Thimphu and then depart to Wangdue over the Dochola pass. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

#### Thipu Tshechu

Dancers at the National festival volley themselves into the air to achieve maximum height.

Our Bhutanese guide Tshering Penjor explains the Tibetan Wheel of Life mural found on the Main Tsong in the city of Paro



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### 28 Sep Wangdue - Trongsa - Bumthang

The drive to Bumthang via Trongsa is about 7 hours crossing over Pele La Pass (3300m) and Yotongla Pass (3400m). En route we cross Chendebji Chorten built many centuries ago to suppress a demon. After lunch, we go out to view the impressive Trongsa Dzong, ancestral home of the ruling dynasty. We then drive to Bumthang valley (described as “one of the most beautiful spot in the Himalayas” across the Yotongla Pass (3400m). Dinner and overnight at hotel.

### 29 Sep Bumthang Sightseeing - witness Thangbi Mani Festival

After breakfast walk through the suspension bridge to the valley of Thangbi Mani in order to witness the unique dance of the valley. The dance begins with a big “Fire Dance” where the people all over the country come to witness the dance in order to wash away their sins from jumping and crossing the fire. Whole day witness the mask dances and folk songs performed by the laymen and monks. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

### 30 Sep Bumthang - Ura - Bumthang

Following breakfast, we will take an excursion to the Ura Valley. Here we will have an opportunity to hike down through a lush forest and through the village of traditional homes to meet our



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bus. We visit Ura Lhakhang and then return to Bumthang. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

### 01 Oct Bumthang - Gangtey - Wangdue

After breakfast drive to Gangtey via Trongsa. Gangtey. There is an old monastery of Gangtey Goempo dating back to the 17th century. A few kilometers past the Goempo on the valley floor are the fascinating valley of Phobjikha. The gentle sloping hill sides of Phobjikha is described as “the most beautiful valley in the Himalayas”.

### 03 Oct Paro sightseeing - Hike to Taktsang

In the morning drive towards the north of Paro valley to visit the ruins of the Drukgyal Dzong. Drive to Satsam Chorten to hike to Paro Taktsang, the hike up to the cafeteria will take around one and half hour. We then walk back to the road point and then drive your way back to visit Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest temples in Bhutan. Lunch served at a restaurant in Paro. After lunch drive to visit Ta dzong, an ancient watchtower, which now houses the National Museum. In

### A Black Hat Dancer at the Thangbi-Mani Festival

in Bumthang. This 3 day festival begins with a purification ceremony where locals will run through fire to wipe away the years sins. Dance and music from locals comprises the remainder of the festival in the courtyard of the local monastery in Bumthang Valley

Later in the afternoon drive to Wangdue for overnight. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

### 02 Oct Wangdue - Thimphu - Paro

After breakfast drive to Paro via Thimphu and Dochula pass. Your lunch will be served at Dochula Cafeteria and then drive to Thimphu. In Thimphu we do the last minute shopping's and then continue your drive to Paro via confluence. Evening ends with a walk through Paro's main shopping district. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

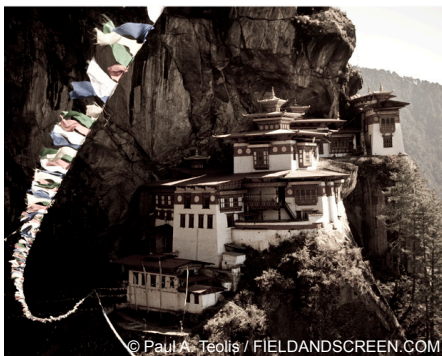
the evening there will be a “FREE DRINKS” and 1 hour cultural program hosted by ABC. Overnight at hotel.

### 04 Oct Paro - Departure

After breakfast at your hotel a short drive will take you to the airport where your guide will bid you farewell at Paro airport. Good-bye and happy journey back home. Fly to Bangkok.

### Itinerary Disclaimer

Please note that a minimum of 10 passengers are required to guarantee this trip.



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### Taktsang Goemba

The Taktsang Goemba Monastery also known as Tiger's Nest is a site to behold after a two hour trek up the mountainside near Paro.



## CONTACT US

Please contact us, for any questions regarding the workshop portion of this trip and equipment needs.

Contact: [phototrips@f11project.com](mailto:phototrips@f11project.com)

To reserve your spot please contact:

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## Rates

price per person: \$4899.00 CND

**\*Based on Double/Twin Occupancy**

**\*\*Based on Minimum 10 passengers in the group**

All-Inclusive Insurance \$316.00 CAD per person  
(combines both medical and cancellation/interruption insurance with an insured amount of \$4899.00 protected)

\*\*\*Please note rates are approximate and can change based on length of stay, date of birth & sum insured.\*\*\*

\*\*\*Medical Only and Cancellation/Interruption Only packages available\*\*\*

\*\*\*Please note that G Adventures requires all passengers to be ensured a minimum of \$200,000 which covers you for medical expenses including emergency repatriation.\*\*\*

\*\*\*DID YOU KNOW: That G Adventures Insurance Policies include a "Change of Mind" benefit?

### What's Included

WAITING ON LIST

### Excluded

International air  
Incidentals  
Insurance  
Applicable Visa's  
Airport taxes  
Tips or gratuities  
Beverages  
Meals not mentioned above  
Optional Tours or optional admissions  
Entrance fees not listed



# G Adventures

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### 1) Booking

In order to confirm this space, we require a non-refundable deposit of xxxx per traveller or FULL payment if within 60 days of travel, along with the following passenger details:

- Full name as it appears on passport
- Date of Birth
- Passport number
- Passport expiry date
- Nationality
- Existing Medical Conditions
- Meal Requirements
- Emergency contact/ Next of Kin

### 2) Final Payment

Remainder of payment is due to G Adventures no later than 60 days prior to departure.

### 3) Cancellation

- \* Cancellation 60 days or more prior to departure = Loss of deposit
- \* Cancellation between 30 and 59 days prior to departure = 50%
- \* Cancellation within 30 days of departure = 100%

**4) Changes:** Once deposit has been made, amendments to the file, including itinerary changes, name changes, passport updates may be subject to an administration fee of \$50 per file. This fee would be in addition to any charges incurred for the change should they be levied by our local suppliers.

### PLEASE READ THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BEFORE REQUESTING CONFIRMATION:

[gadventures.com/terms-conditions-policies/booking/](http://gadventures.com/terms-conditions-policies/booking/)

Anyone with a pre-existing medical condition needs to have the following form completed by their physician and submitted to G adventures no less than 60 days prior to departure.

[gadventures.com/medical\\_form/download/](http://gadventures.com/medical_form/download/)

### DOCUMENTATION/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It remains the responsibility of the traveler to ensure that proper documentation is in place. All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy, or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements. Please refer to the following websites for information:

Canadians: [www.voyage.gc.ca](http://www.voyage.gc.ca)

Americans: <http://travel.state.gov>

International: Please contact your local consulate or embassy

Assistance in obtaining your tourist visas is available through Visa Connections, a service that provides

tourist visas to over 150 countries. Contact them at [www.visaconnection.com](http://www.visaconnection.com) or 1.866.566.VISA (8472), and mention these visas are required for a G Adventures tour.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel medical insurance including personal medical as well as emergency evacuation and repatriation up to US \$200,000 of coverage is compulsory. You will not be permitted to participate in the trip until your group leader/local representative has seen evidence of travel insurance coverage. You can purchase insurance through your G Adventures representative – Please note that any type of insurance purchased that includes a cancellation coverage component must be purchased at time of deposit.

### HEALTH / SAFETY AND SECURITY

We recommend you contact your family physician, or your local travel clinic for the most up-to-date health information. Travelers should also carry a basic first-aid kit. It is your responsibility to know if you require any vaccinations or precautions for the country that you are visiting. More information can be found at: <http://www.istm.org> or contact your country's Health or Foreign Affairs department.

Travelers must exercise common sense and caution at all times. Tourists should stick to set travel arrangements and avoid unknown areas. Always keep a photocopy of your passport, airline tickets and a record of your travelers' checks and credit card numbers separate from where you keep the originals and ideally with your emergency contact person back at home.

### A WORD ON SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

*We hope that one of the joys of travelling with G Adventures will be in meeting the local people and travelling to more remote areas. Unfortunately, tourism can radically alter what it was that inspired the industry in the first place. It is for this reason that we as travelers have a responsibility to minimize our impact on the people and environments we enjoy. Through our examples and attitudes we can ensure that our visits have minimal impact on the environment and that we foster positive cultural exchanges between our local hosts and ourselves. Please see the Responsible Travel section of our website for guidelines you can follow to help us in our efforts to conserve the places and cultures we love to visit, and to ensure similar experiences for future travelers. We thank you for your efforts in helping us act responsibly in our travels and hope that these guidelines assist you in having a wonderful trip!*