

The Trekking Company



Bhutan: Chomolhari Trek



14 day trip 8 day trek ex-Bangkok Cost: \$5170.00
15 day trip 8 day trek ex-Sydney Cost: \$6470.00

Departure 25 April to 09 May 2009



23 day trip 15 day trek Everest View Trek and Chomolhari \$6695.00 ex- Bangkok or \$7985.00 ex-Sydney (airfare included)

Special departure 16April to 09May 2009:

Prices in Australian dollars

email mohan@trekking.com.au for details Trip DC040

Trek a less travelled path

Our Chomolhari trek takes you close to Mt. Chomolhari (7,314 m) Bhutan's sacred mountain. We did our first trek here in 1993 and even today it remains as beautiful as ever. The local people are friendly and hospitable - the Blue Sheep roam wild and the Snow Leopards remains protected.

Much of the trail is through pristine forest. The trek begins in the picturesque town of Paro and ends in Thimphu the present day capital of Bhutan. On the trek you cross Bhongtela 4900m and Thombula 4520m passes. At our highest campsite at Jangothang 4050m, Chomolhari seems to tower over us. On our rest day at Jangothang, we have an option to take a walk to the nearby unnamed valley at 5250m, from where we have a spectacular view of Chomolhari and Khungphu. It is also the day when you are likely to see herds of blue sheep.

During our stay in Paro, we walk up to the Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery, a monastery situated on the edge of a rock face. The Paro valley is also home to Bhutan's oldest temples, National Museum and the country's only airport. In Thimphu you have time to shop for some of Bhutan's exquisite handicrafts and hand woven cloth.

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The Trekking Company

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Bhutan - Chomolhari Trek BH301

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14 day trip 9 day trek ex-Bangkok Cost: \$5170.00 - includes cost of flight from Bangkok to Paro return and one night in Bangkok.

15 day trip 9 day trek ex-Sydney Cost: \$6470.00 - includes cost of flight from Sydney (exclusive of airport taxes and charges)

25-Apr Fly to Bangkok

26-Apr Fly to Paro

27-Apr Sightseeing in Paro

28-Apr Shana: Trek to Shana.

29-Apr Trek to Thangthangkha

30-Apr Jangothang. Trek.

1-May Jangothang - excursions

2-May Linghsi

3-May Shodu

4-May Barshong

5-May Dolamkencho

6-May Thimphu

7-May Sightseeing in Thimphu: Evening drive to Paro

8-May Fly to Bangkok - connect with flight home 3 Nov

9-May Arrive Sydney

Option to Extend your trip to a 23 day trip

23 day trip 15 day trek Everest View Trek and Chomolhari \$6695.00 ex- Bangkok or \$7985.00 ex-Sydney (airfare included)

Days 01: Fly Sydney to Bangkok - Transfer to the hotel for an overnight stay. Overnight in Bangkok.

Days 02:

The one advantage of flying out of Bangkok to Paro 2200m is that you have most of the day in Paro to take a day walk up to Taktsang Monastery - which lies at about 3000m. This spectacularly perched monastery was built in the 17th. Century and has a fascinating legend about it. This walk there and back takes about 4 hours and is a wonderful introduction to Paro and Bhutan.

The flight from Bangkok to Paro is spectacular. You begin by flying over the Bay of Bengal then across the Gangetic Plains heading straight for the Himalaya. During the flight you should have a marvellous panoramic view of 4 of the 5 world's highest mountains stretching from Mt. Everest to Kangchenjunga. On arrival in Paro, you transfer to your hotel and after lunch drive to the base of the Taktsang Monastery and begin a walk uphill at a leisurely pace. Return to your hotel for a well earned rest.

Days 03:

A full day of sightseeing in Paro. There are lots to do and see in Paro. Little has changed here since my first trip to Paro over 30years ago. It remains as charming as ever. Some of the places you will be visiting will be the Paro Dzong (Fortress), built in 1646. It houses the office of the civil administration and the Paro monastic school for young monks. The Ta Dzong, which stands high on a hill - overlooking the Paro Valley. It is the National Museum now and has a vast collection of Bhutanese Art, artifacts, traditional weapons and stamps. The markets are always fascinating. Here locals come from the surrounding villages to trade their local produce. It is also an opportunity to meet the locals. Most young Bhutanese speak English and are always happy to practice it. Unlike other tourists destinations, they are not likely to ask for sweets, pencils etc. Infact on a number of occasions, it is they who have offered me sweets and apples.

Day 04: Trek to Shana 2870m.

We drive from Paro along the paved road to the Drukgyel Dzong 2580m, a fortress where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. At Drukgyel Dzong the trek commences, following the course of the Paro Chu (river) towards Chomolhari. The trail begins with a gentle climb through terraced fields of millet and rice. Along the way you will pass apple orchards and a school for the local children and an army checkpoint at Gunyitsawa. It is the last checkpoint before Tibet. Your campsite is close to a river and at the edge of a forest. This is approximately a 17km. Walk and takes about 6 hours.

Day 05: Thangthangkha: 3750m.

After breakfast, we begin our walk through a forest of oak, pine, spruce and continue uphill along the Paro Chu valley. It is a beautiful walk along the banks of the Paro Chu. We walk out of the forest to a clearing where our camp will be set up at 3606m. We will have our first view of Chomolhari - just a short distant, before arriving at camp. 20km approximately 8 hour walk.

Day 06: Jangothang 4075m.

Early in the day the trail leaves the tree line and angles upwards across alpine pastures towards Chomolhari. After a kilometre we pass a village called Jampu. From here you will be above the tree line and will have stunning views of the Rocky Mountains. Along the way you are likely to pass nomadic yak herders before you finally arrive at the remnants of an old fort at Jangothang. Just before the last part of the climb to Jangothang, 4075m, a trail to the left follows the old caravan route to the Tibetan town of Phari Dzong. This campsite is also the base camp for Chomolhari. It is approximately an 8hour walk.

Day 07: Free day in Jangothang: 4075m.

It is a free day at Jangothang, but you would not want to miss the optional day walk up to unnamed valley, which stands at 5250m. On this excursion, you pass a few traditional farmhouses, and when in the high valley you will find a beautiful lake and spectacular views of Chomolhari and Khunghpu. You are also likely to see herds of blue sheep. They are shy animals and so a good telephoto lens would be useful for a good photograph.

Day 08: Dumzo: 3800m.

The walking distance is 18 kilometers which takes 6/7 hours crossing a pass known as Bhonte la at an altitude of 4900m. This day offers beautiful views of Mt.Chomolhari, Kungphu, Jichu Drake from the Two lakes and wonderful landscape. The ascent is about 800m in altitude, the descent 1,090m in altitude. Before reaching the camp you will pass the Soi Yaksa village and one kilometer further cross a bridge to reach the campsite at an altitude of 3800m.

Day 09: Thombu Shong 4180m

The walking distance is 13 kilometers about 5/6 hours walk. This stage offers a lot of scenic beauty. You will have good views into the valley and from the Thombu la pass at an altitude of 4520m views of Chomolhari and Jichu Drake can be seen. From the pass its all the way down hill till camp at an altitude of 4180m situated above tree line. The difference in altitude (ascent) is 700m.

Day 10: Shana Zam 2800m

Walking distance 15 kilometers about 5/6 hours walk. The first part especially the walk on the ridge offers beautiful views partly to the mighty ice giants in the Chomolhari region. The second part consists of a steep descent which lacks interesting views. At end of the descent you will come across the same military camp as you entered. Many possible camps can be found if you walk further down.

Day 11: Drugyel Dzong 2562m

We retrace our walk through terraced fields and small villages to the village of Drugyel Dzong. Here transport will be waiting for transfer to Thimphu. Rest of the day free.

Day 12: Full day Sightseeing in Thimphu: Riverside Hotel

Day 13: Full day sightseeing in Thimphu: evening transfer to Paro - overnight Kichu Resort

Day 14: 3 November: Transfer to Airport for the flight to Bangkok. Fly Druk airways to Bangkok.

Day 15: 4 November: Connect with flight to Sydney: Arrive in Sydney.

THE ITINERARY AND ROUTE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER AND OTHER UNFORE-SEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.

To ensure a place on this trip please make a booking as soon as possible with a non refundable deposit of AUD\$500.00. The full payment is due 90 days before departure.

Cancellation charges applies as follows:

Airfare cancellation charges - as charged by the airlines.

The \$500.00 booking deposit is non refundable.

AUD\$1500.00 within 45 days of the beginning of the trip.

AUD\$2500.00 within 20 days of the beginning of the trip.

AUD\$3500.00 within 07 days of the beginning of the trip.

Total amount paid is non refundable within 03 days of the beginning of the trip.

We suggest that you take out a travel insurance to cover yourself.

The most convenient method to make payment is to make a deposit into our bank account.

Payment by Credit Card will attract an additional 3.5% Bank Charge.

What is included in the Trip Package Price:

Cost:

Chomolhari trek: BH301

14 day trip 9 day trek ex-Bangkok Cost: \$5170.00 - includes cost of flight from Bangkok to Paro return and one night in Bangkok.

15 day trip 9 day trek ex-Sydney Cost: \$64700.00 - includes cost of flight from Sydney (exclusive of airport taxes and charges)

Single Supplement: \$700.00

Price in Australian dollars.

The Trekking Company will provide:

- International airline ticket where this is a part of the package.
- Transfer: Airport / Hotel / Airport
- Tour costs and entrance fees where these are specified in the itinerary
- Accommodation on twin share basis in Bhutan where Breakfast, lunch and dinner is provided.
- Bhutan visa and Permit for Trekking and environmental charges and fees.
- Camping equipment for the trek such as sleeping tent, mattresses, toilet tent, kitchen tent, dining and kitchen utensils.*
- Daily wages of support staff
- Service of pack animals and portorage for the camping equipment.
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- * Down jackets and sleeping bags can be hired from The Trekking Company at AUD\$75.00 per item for the duration of the trek.

Some of the things you will need to pay for:

- Visas for India - if you wish your trek to Darjeeling.
- Drinks - mineral water, soft drinks and alcoholic drinks.
- Lunch and dinner in the various towns you stay in - expect where mentioned above.
- Laundry,postage,extra portage if required etc.
- Travel insurance
- Airport taxes fuel surcharges etc and other charges applied to your airline ticket.
- Personal tips. Please budget approximately AUD\$150.00 per person. This amount to be divided amongst the staff.
- Excess baggage.
- Medical expenses.

23 day trip 15 day trek Everest View Trek and Chomolhari \$6695.00 ex- Bangkok or 24 days \$7985.00 ex-Sydney
(airfare excludes taxes and charges)

This trek is a combination of a trek in the Darjeeling region, bordering Nepal and Sikkim and with panoramic views of 4 of the 5 highest mountains with a trek in Bhutan to Chomolhari. Please ask for detailed notes if it interests you.

16-Apr	Fly to Bangkok overnight Bangkok
17-Apr	Fly to Bagdogra drive to Darjeeling
18-Apr	Walking tour Tibetan Centre, HMI,
19-Apr	Trek to Siri Khola
20-Apr	Trek to Gorkhey through forest.
21-Apr	Trek to Phalut. 3600m.Panoramic views.
22-Apr	Sandakphu 3636m. views of Mt. Everest
23-Apr	Trek to Tonglu
24-Apr	Trek to Manebhanjang drive to Siliguri
25-Apr	Drive to Phuntsholing
26-Apr	Drive to Paro
27-Apr	Paro : Sightseeing Paro
28-Apr	Shana: Trek to Shana.
29-Apr	Trek to Thangthangkha
30-Apr	Jangothang. Trek.
1-May	Jangothang - excursions
2-May	Linghsi
3-May	Shodu
4-May	Barshong
5-May	Dolamkencho
6-May	Thimphu
7-May	Sightseeing in Thimphu evening drive to Paro
8-May	Fly to Kolkata connect with flight home
9-May	Arrive home

The Trekking Company

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Australia

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Travel Agents Licence 18800225 ABN 73008648959

Ph: (61 -2) 62576494 Fax: (61-2) 62572963 Mobile: 0416116494 email: mohan@trekking.com.au

To make a booking kindly fill in the following details and mail it to us.

Trek Tour: _____ Tour reference _____ Date Joining Tour _____ at _____

Booking for: _____ Person / Persons

Name as in passport

Title _____ First Name _____ Middle name _____ Surname _____

Name as in passport

Title _____ First Name _____ Middle name _____ Surname _____

Mailing address: _____ Postcode _____ State _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____ Mobile Phone _____ email address _____

Once we confirm your booking we shall send you a request for a non refundable deposit of \$500.00 per person. At the same time we shall also request you send us passport details etc.

