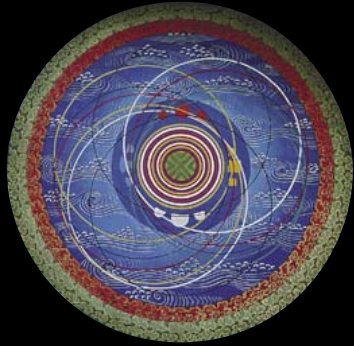


# amankora



Amankora offers guided treks and excursions by car or on foot throughout the pristine valleys of Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Phobjikha and Bumthang. This circular journey of discovery, your *kora*, is an odyssey of the spirit enlightened.



PARO



THIMPHU



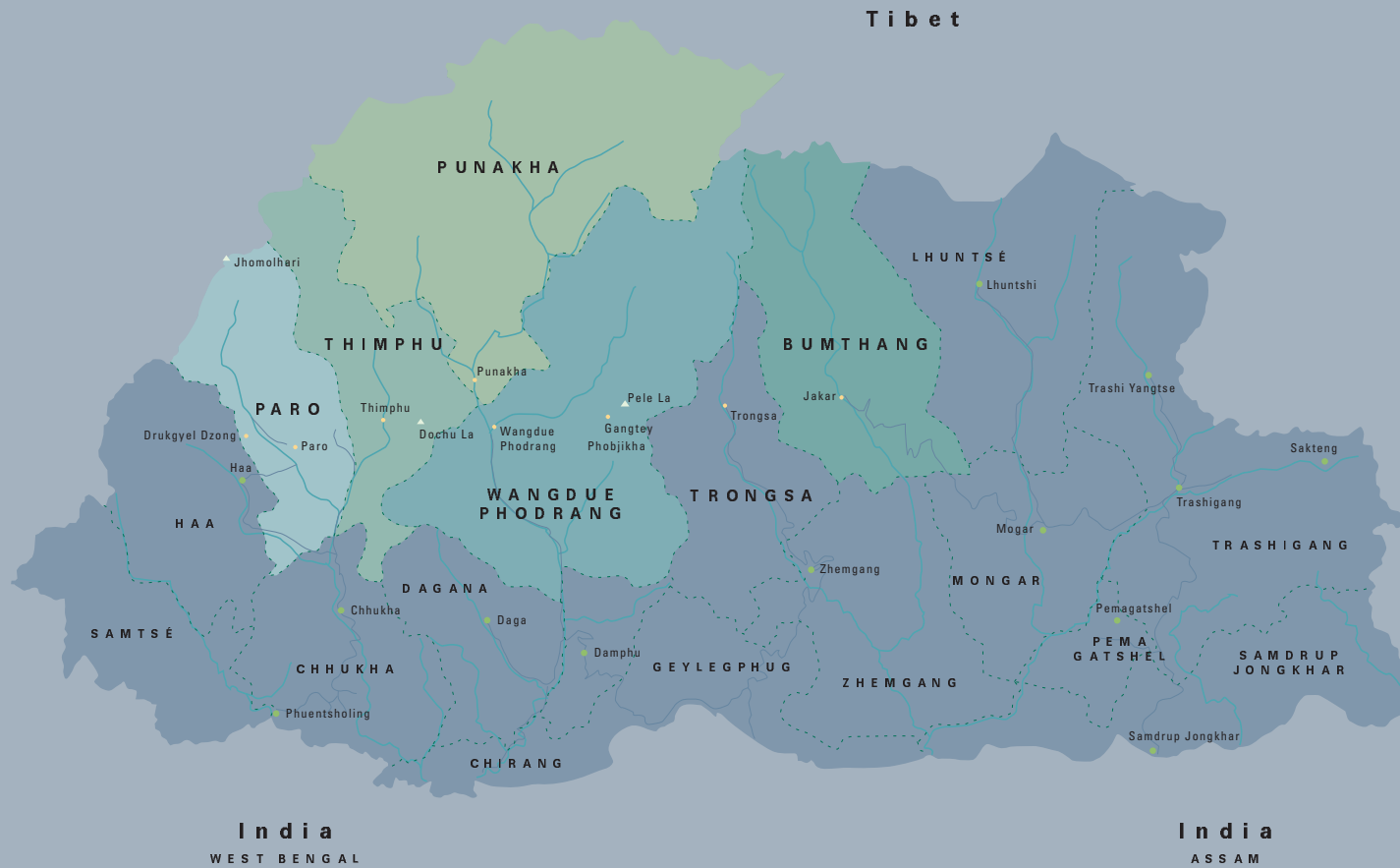
PUNAKHA



GANGTEY



BUMTHANG



Exterior of the lodge

Combining *aman*, Sanskrit for peace, with *kora* or circular pilgrimage in Dzongkha, the Bhutanese language, Amankora is a series of lodges in Bhutan's central and western valleys. A journey of discovery beneath the peaceful presence of soaring Himalayan peaks, Amankora's lodge locations have been designed to offer travellers the opportunity to experience in comfort Bhutan's rich cultural heritage and remarkable topography.

At an elevation of 2,250 metres, Paro Valley is the entry point for most journeys through the Kingdom. The airport is located approximately 30 minutes from Amankora Paro.



Lodge entrance



Living Room

The 24-suite pine forest retreat contrasts rustic with the contemporary. Its architecture features natural rammed-earth walls, gently sloping roofs and wood-panelled interiors. The floor-to-ceiling windows of the Living Room reveal a dramatic vista of the 17th century ruins of Drukyl Dzong and the snow-capped peak of Jhomolhari (*cover*).



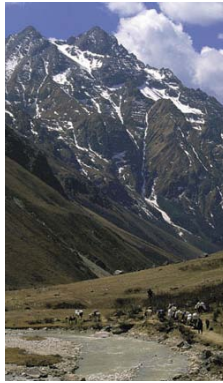
Lodge outdoor terrace and bonfire



National Museum



Tiger's Nest and Valley Treks



View from a Suite

Guest suites feature a combined lounge and bedroom furnished with a king-size bed, banquette window seat, reading chair and a traditional *bukhari* (wood-burning

stove). The spacious bathroom is dominated by a large terrazzo-clad bath with twin vanities, hanging space and separate shower and toilet.



Suite interior



Sauna

A welcome return from challenging treks is the Amankora Spa in Paro which overlooks the surrounding blue pine forest and herb garden. A glass-walled sauna, treatment rooms with hot stone baths, yoga and meditation room are among the spa facilities.



Treatment Room



Reception



Hot Stone Bath



Lodge exterior

Set in the upper reaches of the Motithang area, Amankora Thimphu is a 16-suite lodge close to the capital's sights and shopping while remaining a quiet retreat. The dzong-inspired architecture incorporates high stone, white-washed buildings.

Visits to Thimphu's folk-heritage and textile museums and festive ceremonies offer engaging insights into Bhutan's cultural and spiritual traditions.



Lodge Living and Dining Room



Monks at the Semtokha Dzong in Thimphu



Prayer flags in Bhutan

Features in guest suites include a king-size bed, *bukhari* and a terrazzo-clad bath.

Dotted with ancient monasteries and *lhakhangs* (temples), Thimphu is home to many attractions including the Taschichoe Dzong which houses the seat of government and the office of His Majesty, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.



Bhutanese craftsman and art of xylography (top)



Lounge area in a Suite



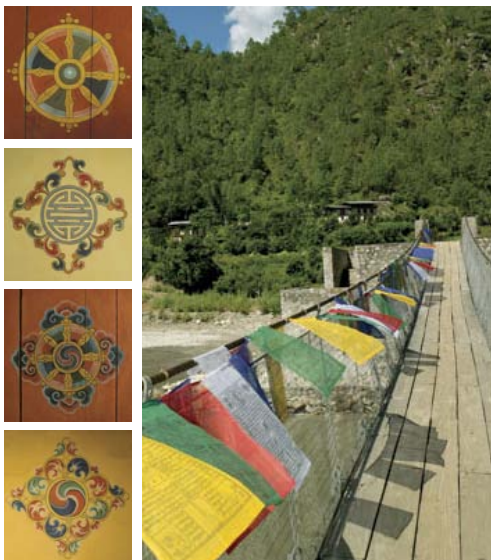
The Dance of the Fearsome Gods in Tashichoe Dzong



Suite



Amankora Punakha's Farmhouse



Bhutanese motifs and suspension bridge leading to Amankora Punakha

Reached by crossing a suspension bridge over the Mo Chhu (river), the Amankora Punakha lodge includes a traditional Bhutanese farmhouse built by a former Je Kempo (Chief Abbot of Bhutan). The farmhouse houses the Dining Room and intimate relaxation areas. The courtyard offers outdoor dining during Punakha's temperate months.



Lodge Dining Room

Identical in design to those of Amankora Paro, Amankora Punakha's eight suites are set in an orange orchard with views across the rice terraces. Facilities include spa treatment rooms, steam room and a yoga/mediation room, as well as a tea pavilion.



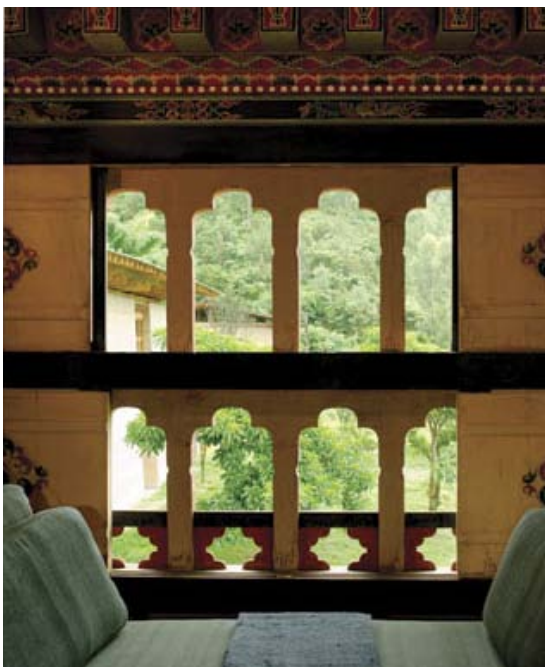
Entrance lights at the lodge



The Punakha Dzong and blooming jacaranda



Suite



Lodge Lounge



Lounge Reading Room



Bhutanese in their finest festival outfits

An excursion to the Punakha Valley reveals one of Bhutan's most impressive monastery fortresses, the Punakha Dzong, straddling the confluence of the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu.



The Punakha Dzong and Mo Chhu



View from lodge Living Room

In the little-visited Phobjikha Valley near the village of Gangtey, the eight-suite Amankora Gangtey is set on a forested knoll with scenic views of the valley floor and the 16th century

Gangtey Goemba (monastery). Part of one of Bhutan's most important wildlife reserves, the valley is home each winter to a flock of 300 rare and endangered black-neck cranes.



Wangdue



Black-neck cranes



Suite



Suite bathroom

Suite interiors are identical to those of Amankora Thimphu. Lodge accommodations and guest facilities are housed in one structure with a combined living and dining room offering views of the valley through floor-to-ceiling windows. Amankora Gangtey also offers two massage treatment rooms.



Suite Lounge area



Lodge exterior



A village girl in the morning light



Yak herds

Stays often begin with a walk through the Gangtey village before visiting the altars and ramparts of the massive Goemba. Numerous nature walks and treks are offered throughout the valley's varied terrain.



Suite and main entrance (top)



Jampa Lhakhang, one of the first Buddhist temples in Bhutan

Consisting of four valleys — Chhume, Choekhor, Tang and Ura — Bumthang is home to no less than 29 temples and monasteries, a museum and a treasure-trove of Bhutan's art and painting traditions.

The 16-suite Amankora Bumthang rests adjacent to the Wandichholing Palace, within the town of Jakar in the Choekhor Valley.



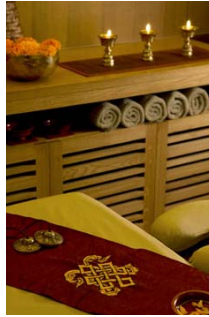
Wandichholing Palace (left) and Amankora Bumthang (centre) overlooking Bumthang Chhu



Lodge courtyard and Spa (right)

Suites are housed in four separate dwellings and the Spa offers three treatment rooms and a steam room.

Visits to organic farms and local cottage industries can be arranged. Bumthang produces a variety of products including butter, cheese, honey, spirits and brandies.



Kurjey Lhakhang and Chhume Valley Yatra shop (below)



*amankora™*

Paro, Thimphu, Punakha,  
Gangtey and Bumthang,  
Kingdom of Bhutan

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