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Jumolhari Trek - 11 Days

Jumolhari Trek in Bhutan is the most captivating adventure trek in the Himalayas of Bhutan. Mount Jumolhari (or Chomolhari) also celebrated as "the bride of Kangchenjunga", is a gorgeous mountain in the Himalayas, spanning the border between Yadong County of Tibet and the Thimphu district of Bhutan. This beautiful mountain is the source of Paro Chu (Paro River on the south side) and Amo Chu (Chu means river) on the north side.

After your arrival in Paro, you spend two nights in Paro for acclimatization. You hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery for acclimatization and start the trek the next day from the historic Drukgyel Dzong ruins. The first three days of this trek follow the Paro river valley to Jangothang Base Camp from where you will have a spectacular view of 7315m Mount Jumolhari, the second-highest unclimbed peak in the world. After spending two nights at Jangothang Base Camp campsite you trek to the high settlement of Lingshi

Jumolhari trek provides an excellent opportunity to immerse you in the mountain wilderness and cultural exposure of Bhutan. The trail goes through high farmlands, pastures where yak herders graze their animals and Lingshi, the highest settlement in the north with unique mountain culture. The next high pass after Lingshi is the Neyle La Pass at 4830m. The pass offers astonishing views of Mount Jichu Drake (6989m) and Tsherim Gang (6789m).

Trek during April to May and September to November provides you with best weather and views.

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PRICE INCLUDES

- All ground transfers in comfortable private vehicle including airport/hotel transfers
- Bhutanese Visa Fee
- Accommodation in The government approved 3 star category hotels in the cities and camping (tents) during the trek on twin- shared basis
- Three meals per day, including, tea, water (bottled and boiled) and snacks
- Camping services (camping equipments, tents, kitchen equipments, cook, helper, services of horsemen who will look after the ponies that transport luggage and camping gear)
- English speaking, trained and experienced local guide and staff
- All entrance and permit fees for visits to monuments and museums
- Company services and all required Bhutanese government taxes/royalties

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Airfare for international flights to and from Bhutan
- Items of personal nature (personal trekking gear, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, internet, laundry, etc.)
- Personal camping gears (sleeping bag, torch etc.)
- Travel/trip cancellation and medical/evacuation insurance
- Tips for staff
- Any optional activities besides the itinerary during free time
- services not mentioned in the ‘Trip Cost Included’ section

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ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Day 1: Arrive Paro (2280m/7478ft)

On arrival at Paro airport, you will be greeted by our representative and transferred to your hotel in Paro. After lunch, you will visit the 17th century fortress Rimpung Dzong. This building is an ancient fortress and center of civil and religious government in the Paro valley. From the Dzong, you can walk down to the road head crossing a traditional wooden bridge. Now time permitting, you will also take a visit to Kichu Lhakhang, one of the oldest and the most sacred shrine in the country. In the evening, you can leisurely walk around the town of Paro. Overnight hotel in Paro.

Day 2: Acclimatization hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery (3180m/10430ft)

5km | 4-5 hours | 900m Ascent

Today we hike to the famous Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) Monastery which is a great trip to acclimatize yourself and prepare yourself for your trek as it takes you to the altitude of 3180m. According to myth, Guru Rimpoche, an 8th century spiritual master flew to this place on the back of a tigress to meditate. After exploring the Taktsang Monastery you hike back to Paro. Overnight hotel in Paro.

Day 3: Trek starts: Trek from Drukgyel Dzong to Shana (2850m/9348ft)

17Km | 5-6 hours | 300 Ascent

Today we trek to Shana starting from the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong. We walk through wide trail first and following the Paro river the tack goes through farmlands, tiny picturesque villages and forests, inhabited by numerous faunas. The route later enters an area of apple orchards and forests. Soon the valley widens and you reach Gunitsawa village where you pass the army post. The campsite is on the opposite side of the river, not far from Gunitsawa. Camp at an altitude of 2850m.

Day 4: Shana to Sio Thangthangkha (3750m/12300ft)

21Km | 6-7 hours | 900 Ascent

This is a long day. The trail has lots of small ups and downs. The trail follows the river through dense forests with a few isolated farmhouses. After going uphill through the river valley the valley progressively narrows to a mere trail, which descends to a meadow where a camp will be set up at the altitude of 3750m. From the campsite, you will have the first great view of Mt. Jumolhari (weather permitting).

Day 5: Sio Thangthangkha to Jangothang (4050m/13284ft)

19Km | 4-5 hours | 300m Ascent | Camp altitude 4050m

Today cross the tree line as leave back thick forest and walk through shrub-like bushes, its due to altitude affect. We come cross an army checkpoint along the trail. We cherish impressive views of high mountain ridges and snow-capped peaks. You will see yak herders herding their cattle along the meadows as we pass through the villages of Sio, Takethang and Dangochang. We reach Jangothang one of the popular and beautiful campsite of Jomalhari trek.

Day 6: Jangothang Rest and exploration day

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We spend a rest day today for acclimatization at Jangothang Base Camp. Jangothang base camp is flat grassy land with an old ruined fortress on a hillock beneath the massive Jumolhari and Jichu Drake. Jangothang is a beautiful junction from where we can do a day hike for more captivating views of Tsophu lakes and snow-capped mountains such as Jumolhari and Jichu Drake. You can trek further up to 16,059 feet (4895 m), for an amazing view of Mt. Jumolhari! You would possibly spot blue sheep, Himalayan rhubarb, griffon vultures, golden eagles and the famous blue poppy too today. You trek back to Jangothang Base Camp campsite.

Day 7: Trek from Jangothang to Lingshi (4,100 m/13448ft)

19Km | 6-7 hours | 800 Ascent | 730 Descent

The trail takes you to one of the last remote settlements in the area, at the village of Lingshi. Start the climb up to the first ridge with a breathtaking view of Jumolhari, Jichu Drake and Tshering Gang. After the stunning Tshophu Lake, you climb up to the highest point of the trek at Neyle La Pass at 4,830 meters. Then walk towards the valley, almost flat for a while, until the climb to the Ngye La pass at an altitude of 4820m. After the pass, it is a gradual descent to the Lingshi camp, enjoying the panoramic view of the peaks and Lingshi Dzong.

Day 8: Lingshi to Shodu (4,100 m/13448ft)

22Km | 8-9 hours | 940 Ascent | 920 Descent

The trek route climbs towards a remarkable white Chorten on a ridge above the camp, then turns south up the profound Mo Chhu valley. The trail follows the west side of the largely treeless valley, climbing steadily a short distance above Mo Chhu. After crossing the river the trail climbs steeply for two hours to Yeli la pass at 4820m. If the weather is clear, you will enjoy dramatic views of Jumolhari, Gangchen Ta, Tsheringang and Masangang from the top of the pass. The trail goes steep downhill from the pass to the campsite at Shodu.

Day 9: Trek Shodu – Barshong – Domshisa, (3400m/11,155ft) – 23 Km, 7-8 Hours

Today you will come back to tree line. The trekking route tracks Thimphu River, plunging via rhododendron, juniper and other alpine woods. You can now see the magnificent sceneries of overhangs and waterfalls. You can now rest by bank and have hot meal. After the yum lunch, you will slowly ascend to the ruins of Barshong Dzong. Continue the journey reaching your campsite, near a river of Domshisa which elevates at 3,400m.

Day 10: Trek Domshisa-Dodena-Thimphu, 17 Km, 4-5 Hours

Now the journey descends gently passing a dense forest of rhododendron, birch and conifers and then climbs unless you meet the dust road. Walking this dirt road a while, you will be picked up by our transport. On the way, you can spot Langur monkeys on the trees in the distance. Dodena, the exit point of Jigme Dorji National Park opens up to the main road that drives to Thimphu. Thimpu, the capital city of Bhutan is one of the modern cities around. Checking-in the hotel, you can have some refreshments. In the evening, you can walk around the town of Thimpu absorbing the life style of the city people of Thimpu. Overnight hotel in Thimphu.

Day 11: Thimphu to Paro and Depart

In the morning after breakfast, you will be driven to airport for your departure flight.