

A scenic view of a valley in Bhutan. In the foreground, there are several traditional houses with white walls and dark roofs, some with balconies. The houses are surrounded by lush green fields and trees. In the background, there are rolling green hills and mountains, with a river winding through the valley. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds.

AMANKORA

Himalayan journey

Through the seasons

Embark on a winter or summer journey with Amankora, and discover the wildly differing characters of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Bhutan – majestic, spiritual, wild, and until recently off-limits to foreigners – is for many the definition of heading off the beaten path.

Soaring Himalayan peaks add to the aura of impenetrability – and yet the country enjoys a surprisingly mild climate that makes it accessible all year long. Whether visiting in the depths of winter, when cobalt skies prelude spectacular starscapes, or in the height of summer, when the mountains host a kaleidoscope of wildflowers, Bhutan holds its beguiling sway over visitors in search of adventure, tranquillity, or both.

Visit in Summer

A colour show of mountain flora on high-altitude treks, and the spectacle of cotton-wool clouds descending into valleys where rivers rage and terraces brim with emerald rice plants.

Temperatures range between 20 - 30C (70 - 90F) with sunny days and the potential for some showers later in the day and overnight. As a result, the landscape is particularly lush with farmers busily tending to crops and wildlife drifting across the valleys. Forage for wild strawberries, asparagus and the prized matsutake mushroom, then let an Amankora chef whip them into a private meal; or head to the markets for indigenous delicacies, from wild orchid blossoms and fiddlehead fern tips to an abundance of stone fruits. Sip on the local ara (wine) while watching iconic mask dances at the vibrant festivals that take place during the summer.

Visit in Winter

Brilliant skies by day, incredible starscapes by night and the crispest, cleanest mountain air.

Temperatures segue between 7 - 20C (45 - 70F) by day, dropping to around freezing at night – so guests can explore the landscape at leisure before returning to roaring fires, hot cider and spiced milk tea in a cosy Amankora lodge. Enjoy the crunch of virgin frost underfoot on an early-morning walk; spot yaks on the mountain passes and migrating birds by crystal-clear rivers; and catch a glimpse of the endangered black necked crane in Gangtey.

Discover Amankora

Amankora's five distinct lodges - Thimphu, Paro, Punakha, Gangtey and Bumthang - cover the breadth of Bhutan.

Hidden in forest, Paro lodge is nearest the airport, providing an atmospheric start or end to an Amankora journey.

Thimphu lodge lies within reach of the capital's shops and sights; Gangtey overlooks a valley in the Black Mountain National Park; and Punakha lodge, reached by a suspension bridge lined with prayer flags, lies in a subtropical valley where the central monastic body spends their winter.

Further east, Bumthang lodge resides next to a palace in the country's most historic and sacred region.

Each has a distinctive style, referencing the natural setting and traditional architecture. Suites are warmed by bukhari wood burners on winter nights, and are open to the elements via soaring windows in summer; spa treatments shift seasonally too, using local, fresh ingredients to infuse oils, scrubs and scented baths. Dining is equally adaptable, with ever-changing menus focused on the country's abundant organic produce - foraged, grown, or sourced at market. Provided with a driver for seamless transfer between lodges, guests can construct their own itinerary, or consult with Aman to create a tailor-made schedule.

