

# Amankora, Bhutan

Amankora Bhutan is involved in several projects helping the local community, all of which you as a visitor can involve



## CGAWALING HAPPY HOME

Providing a home for children without parents and girls rescued from unfortunate circumstances or broken families, Gawaling Happy Home is both a shelter and an orphanage of the organization RENEW based in the capital Thimphu. The vulnerable women and children in the center are given a home, cared for and offered opportunities to slowly assist them in re-integrating themselves to the community.

## DHDRAKTSO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

Draktsho Vocational Training Centre for Special Children and Youth has become a safe haven and important learning institution for disadvantaged children and youth as they steer their journeys in living a normal life. Here they are given education, life skills training and vocational courses to help them become productive or financially independent. The courses taught to the students range from tailoring, embroidery, weaving, basket making, traditional art & painting, pottery, carpentry & wood carving.

**MONKS AT TWILIGHT** .When monks reach past 60 in age, they are encouraged to retire and rejoin their families so they can enjoy their twilight years to the fullest, after years of serving the Buddhist faith. Many of them, however, no longer have families or are unable to integrate themselves in secular life. In 2014, an Aman guest built Bhutan's first ever retirement home for elderly monks in Punakha where they now live together in the care of the community. The home however is still an ongoing project which can only thrive through the kindness of donors and initiatives.

## HERMIT MEDITATION CENTRE

Vajrayana Buddhism is a deeply-rooted faith in the heart and soul of every Bhutanese. Part of their practices is for some individuals who fully commit to this journey by becoming Buddhist hermits, where they give up almost all worldly possessions and desires to deeply engage in meditation, prayers and spiritual learning for months and sometimes, years. The venerable Gangtey Trulku heads this meditation centre in Phobjika Valley where these Buddhist faithfuls spend their time



Species conservation



Local training and employment

### BAYTA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Located in the heart of a natural protected zone in the middle of Phobjika Valley, the Bayta Community School hangs on a delicate balance between the wildlife and local residents of the nature reserve. The school is where young villagers learn about the importance of ecology and the endangered black-necked cranes that often make their way in the school yard. Amankora Gangtey and the school have worked together for years in creating opportunities for learning and conservation.



### THREADS, TEAS & BEES

Food and fabrics constitute two of the most important industries in Bumthang. From the widowed yathra weavers of Dorjibi Village to the herbal tea growers of Choekor to the vilage honey bee farms - these cottage industries are important livelihoods for many citizens of Bumthang but are always in the cusp of challenges, needing assistance in updating and upgrading their systems and techniques. Visitors who have expertise in these fields can offer a valuable contribution to their trades.

### FUTURE FARMERS

Not far from Amankora Paro Lodge, the Drukgyel Central School is the main educational institution where many of the young children from around Drukgyel Village go to study - most of them coming from generations of rice and vegetable farmers who make their living cultivating crops that are the primary source of incomes for their families. The school is small but agriculture is a big component of their learning and their community, and this is an opportunity where many can share their support by helping hone the future farmers of the country by introducing modern farming techniques from other countries and to encourage the students through educations and interaction.



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