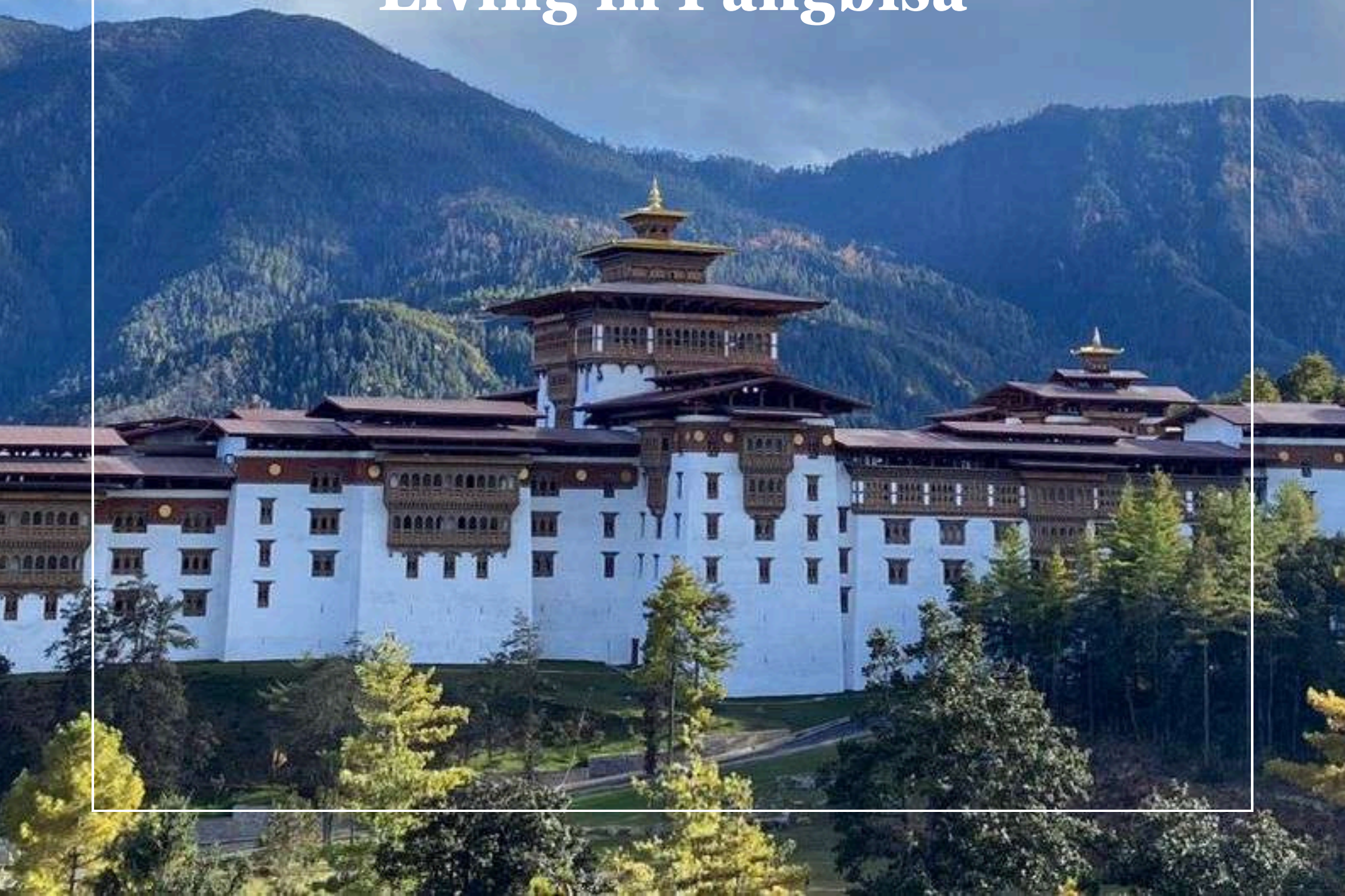


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DRUK GYALPO'S
INSTITUTE
Pangbisa, Paro, Bhutan

Living in Pangbisa

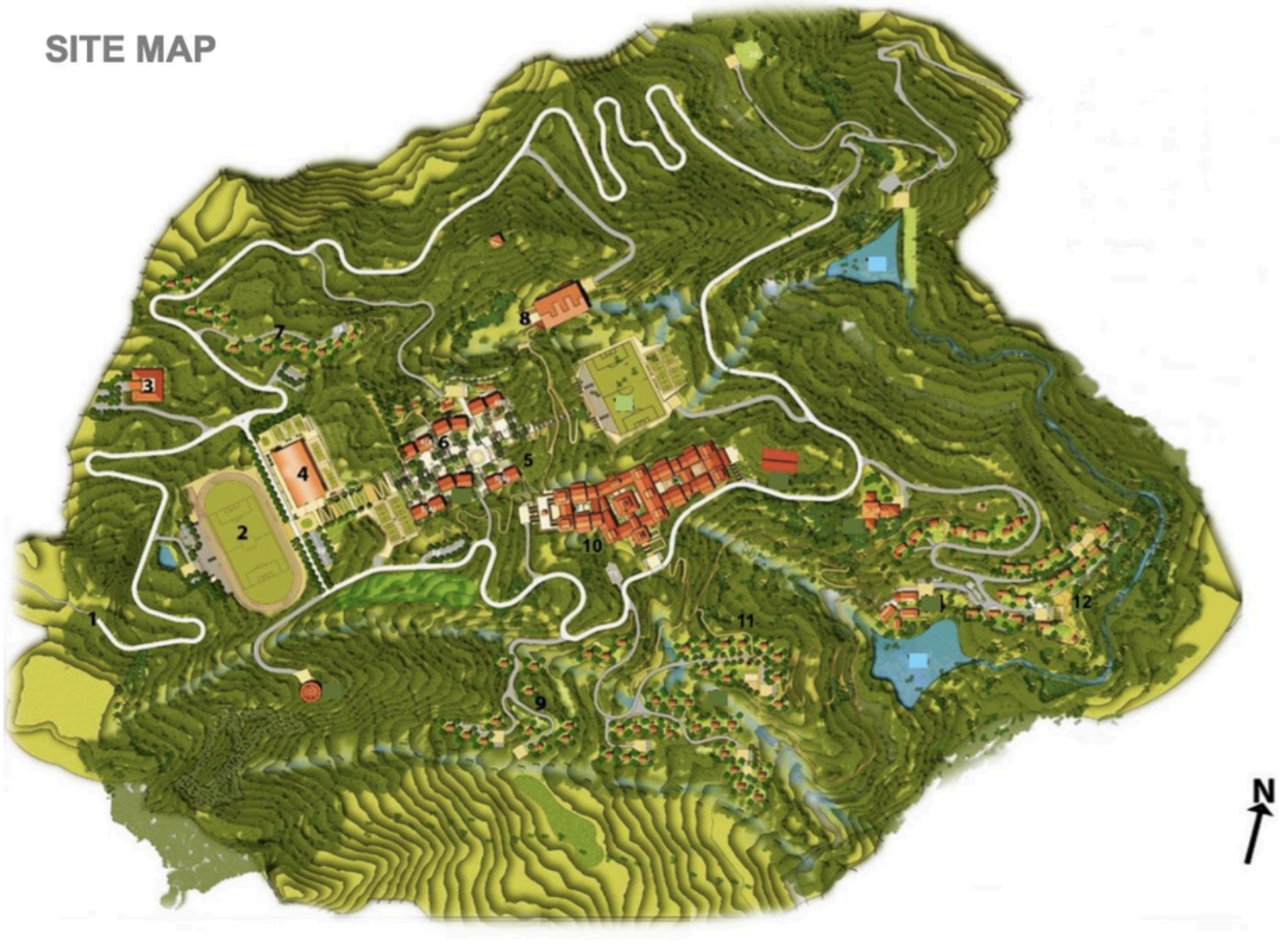


The Campus

Perched atop a hill in Pangbisa, Paro, The Royal Academy sits at an altitude of about 2,900 metres above sea level. It is located within the grounds of the Dungkar Estate, a 600 acre compound that features the Dungkar Dzong, Bhutan's largest dzong (a fortress-like structure unique to the country). In addition to housing the three centres of the Druk Gyalpo's Institute—The Royal Academy, the Education Research Centre, and the Teacher Development Centre—the Dungkar Dzong is also home to part of the monastic body. It also serves as a venue for high-level conferences and events, including the Bhutan Innovation Forum.



SITE MAP



1. Site Entry Point 2. Stadium 3. Health Centre, BHU 4. Multi-purpose Hall
5. Student Housing (Girls) 6. Student Housing (Boys) 7. Faculty Housing I 8. Prajna Hall
9. Faculty Housing II 10. Dungkar Dzong 11. Faculty Housing III 12. Faculty Housing IV

Tn addition to state-of-the-art facilities within the Dungkar Dzong, the broader campus environment includes a stadium, an indoor sports centre, a health centre or BHU, student and faculty housing, and a dining hall.

Accommodation for the Principal

The Principal's residence is a spacious, fully furnished home on campus, a short walk of 5-10 minutes from the main school buildings. The house has three bedrooms, each with an attached bathroom, an additional bathroom at the entrance, a kitchen, an open-plan dining and living area, a balcony, and a backyard.

The entire campus is connected to Wi-Fi. Day-to-day essentials are available through the school store on campus, and there are two cafeterias serving the school community. A stupa on campus offers a quiet space for reflection. There are also plans for a children's playground. Other teachers and their families live nearby, making it a close-knit residential neighbourhood within the campus.



Transportation

The Principal will be provided with an office vehicle and driver. The Principal and their partner may also choose to drive themselves, if preferred. Foreign nationals are permitted to drive in Bhutan with a valid driving license; application for endorsement of a driving license can be done at the local Paro branch of the Bhutan Construction and Transportation Authority.

Medical Facilities

Foreign nationals working in Bhutan have access to both public healthcare services and limited private medical facilities, particularly in Thimphu. For minor health issues, healthcare services in Bhutan are readily available and able to provide adequate care, with many public healthcare services offered free of charge by the Royal Government of Bhutan.

The Royal Academy has an infirmary on campus, and the larger district hospital in Paro is an approximately 30-minute drive away. The Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu, the country's main referral hospital, is about an hour and a half from campus by car.

Bhutan's healthcare system is well equipped to provide initial treatment and stabilisation, though access to highly specialised medical equipment and advanced care can be limited. Advanced treatments are commonly referred abroad, particularly to hospitals in India or Thailand.

Druk Gyalpo's Institute would be happy to discuss options for contributing towards the cost of continuing the Principal's international medical insurance coverage.

Paro Dzongkhag

Paro Dzongkhag is a district located in the western part of Bhutan. It lies at an elevation of 2,200 meters above sea level. The Royal Academy is just 30 minutes' drive from the main town in Paro Dzongkhag.



Climate

Paro has a cool temperate climate. Summers are mild (15–25°C) with monsoon rains, while winters are cold and dry, often dropping below 0°C at night. Spring and autumn are pleasant, with clear skies and moderate temperatures.

Accessibility and Connectivity

Paro is home to Paro International Airport, the only international airport in Bhutan. The airport connects Bhutan to India, Nepal, Thailand, Bangladesh, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates. By road, Paro is well connected to the capital city Thimphu and other parts of Bhutan.

Amenities and Essential Services

Paro has a variety of restaurants, cafes, and hotels serving Bhutanese, Indian, Asian, and international cuisine, ranging from local eateries to fine dining establishments. Thimphu offers a wider selection of choices. Accommodation options are widely available, including hotels, guesthouses, and homestays. Essential services such as pharmacies, banks, ATMs, and currency exchanges are accessible within the town.

Leisure, Culture and Shopping

Paro and Thimphu provide numerous opportunities to explore Bhutan's landscapes, cultural heritage, and local experiences. In Paro, popular destinations include the Tiger's Nest Monastery (Taktsang), historic temples, museums, hiking trails, and cycling routes. Thimphu offers cultural sites, art galleries, museums, hiking trails, wellness centres, and community events.



The close proximity between Paro and Thimphu allows easy access to both the quieter natural setting of Paro and the broader social and lively urban setting in the capital.

Family Considerations: Education and Employment Opportunities

Provisions will be made to support accompanying family members, particularly in relation to children's education and opportunities for spouses or partners.

Children's Education:

School-age children have access to education through both The Royal Academy (TRA) and a range of local schools in Paro. Children in grades 7–12 are enrolled directly at The Royal Academy, while for younger children, families can be assisted in identifying and enrolling in appropriate local schools. The medium of instruction across schools in Bhutan is English.

Some options for younger learners include institutions such as:

- Paro Elementary School and ECCD: ECCD–III
- Pangbisa ECCD: only ECCD
- Tshenden Primary School: PP – V
- Yoezerling School: Grades PP–VI
- Wochu Lower Secondary School: PP–VIII

Spouse/Partner Employment:

Where appropriate and based on qualifications and institutional needs, spouses or partners may be considered for employment at The Royal Academy. In addition, depending on their background and availability of roles, opportunities may exist in sectors such as education, non-governmental organizations, hospitality, or project-based work. Volunteering and community engagement opportunities are also available and can provide meaningful ways to contribute while residing in Bhutan.