The Treasure Vase (bumpa) represents the contents of Buddhist teachings and stands for long life and prosperity.

The best known of Bhutan’s many local festivals are tsechus, which occur in most of the inhabited valleys at different times of the year. Tsechus honor the life and teachings of Guru Rinpoche, who spread Buddhism throughout the region. Monks and laypeople come together for several days of festivities, which include sacred rituals and secular performances.

Atsaras, whose expressive masks and provocative postures are suggestive of clowns, challenge monks and other religious elders, while entertaining crowds with their humorous tricks. The atsaras inspire Buddhist values and poke fun at characters depicted in Bhutanese drama and dance.

Bhutanese dress in their finest clothes, ready to rejoice in recent successes and recall the life of Guru Rinpoche. Festival-goers enjoy picnics, and engage in light-hearted flirting and flaunting. The event reflects the peaceful nature of the Bhutanese and their sense of humor.