



BHUTAN

Discover a different world...

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Bhutan

Bhutan, the small Himalayan Kingdom of “Gross National Happiness” is about splendid natural beauty, unspoiled environment, amazing landscape, invigorating climate, simple hospitality of its people, and its rich cultural heritage. It is a must visit place for discerning travellers who wish to see something different from the usual touristy spots in the world.

It is a place where the charm and pageantry of glorious by-gone eras still linger to enchant visitors. Indeed, it is truly a place far removed in space and time where man and nature live in perfect harmony.

Why must you visit the Kingdom of Bhutan now?

- Because it is the Last Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom.
- The pristine environment with amazing Himalayan landscape.
- Living culture; enchanting sacred rituals and colourful festivals.
- 600 species of orchids, 675 of birds and 178 species of mammals
- Ancient monasteries, its imposing architecture and humbling ambiance.
- Strong spiritual influence and a place of happiness.

Hidden away high amongst the mighty Himalayan range, the hidden kingdom of Bhutan is a destination that even the most seasoned traveller considers a privilege to visit. Sacred monasteries sit precariously on sheer cliffs, fluttering prayer flags line high mountain ridges, red robed monks chant in distant temples, and colourful masked dancers perform ancient rituals on sacred Dzong (fortress) grounds during Buddhist festivals. The people of Bhutan have drawn a rich culture from this heritage and made it the essence of their timeless identity.

It only opened its doors to tourism in 1974, with the number for tourists visiting Bhutan kept to an environmentally manageable level through government regulated tourist tariff. A totally Buddhist kingdom, Bhutanese are renowned for their happiness, and are a proud people who wear their national costume with pride. Travel to Bhutan with Always Bhutan and we will expose you to the awe-inspiring mysteries that this land has to offer. From the landscapes of snow-clad mountains, lush valleys, dense forests and rushing streams, to hidden rituals in remote monasteries and the daily life in far flung rural communities. Always Bhutan will open the door to your Himalayan dream.

For the traveller who knows the value of escaping the ordinary and usual tourist destinations, Bhutan is the ideal choice.



Why choose us

Always Bhutan Travel is an inbound tour operator, based in Thimphu, the capital city. The company was founded in the year 2011. It is owned and managed by Bhutanese travel professional who has long experience in organising experiential holidays for foreign guest. We know every details of our exotic country and the requirements of our foreign guest. All our trips are one of a kind and unique.

Always Bhutan is licensed by the Tourism Council of Bhutan. Tourism Council of Bhutan is a Royal Government Agency monitoring all tourism activities in the country. TCB also plans tourism policy and lays guidelines for tour operators.

Why choose Always Bhutan Travel?

Because we are dedicated and committed to give you a memorable Experience. Our trips offer more interaction with local people, thus intensifying the experience. With us, you get better service with an honest pricing. You are assured the finest quality service.

Note: We compete only in terms of “the quality of service”. Price, we adhere strictly to the Tourism Council of Bhutan.

What do you get by choosing Always Bhutan travel?

Our trips offer you the best value for your money; all our trips are all inclusive, honestly priced, well-paced and one-of-a-kind. Your visit encompasses the best of all the places, stay in the most charming local accommodations or best campsites and meets fascinating people. Through our long experience, we then add more value by including a host of features, like a special prayer ceremony with Buddhist monks, a visit to a Bhutanese family home or a traditional Bhutanese dinner.

We practice Responsible Tourism:

Royal Government of Bhutan had a clear vision, right from the introduction of Tourism. The enlightened policy of “**High Value, Low Impact**” is very well suited for a small and fragile ecosystem like Bhutan.

Because of the enlightened policy, Bhutan has managed to keep itself, not only as an exclusive tourist destination but a much admired place. As a responsible tour operator, we take great care not to spoil the local cultures and the environment. All our guests are well sensitized about the local cultures and etiquettes.

Types of service provided:

Cultural Tours: Cultural tours comprise of sightseeing and visits to places of both cultural and religious interests in the country.

Luxury Tours: Enjoy once in a lifetime luxury treatment in Bhutan, we offer small group tours and individual travellers a taste of ultimate luxury in Bhutan with out luxury packages.

Photography Tours: Escorted journeys with professional photographers and experience one of the most unique photographic experiences in Asia.

Himalayan Treks: Trekking in the various routes in the Bhutanese Himalayas. Our treks range from three days cultural trek to the Snowman Trek, graded as one of the toughest trek in the world.

Cycling/biking tours: Riding across the amazing Himalayan landscape. The winding road up and down the mountains offers breathtaking views and offers lifetime experience.

Corporate Trips: We offer special packages for corporate trips such as incentive tours, conferences etc.

Special interest tours: Wellness tours, Textile tours, Art tours, Student study tours and Spiritual tours.





Tours Information

Tourist Tariff Rate; as fixed by the Tourism Council of Bhutan:

I. PEAK SEASON RATE:

Cultural Tour /Trekking - US\$ 250/- per person per night halt.
(March, April, May, September, October and November)

I. LEAN SEASON RATE:

Cultural Tour /Trekking - US\$ 200/- per person per night halt
(January, February, June, July, August and December)

II. FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS' SURCHARGES:

1. Single individual - US\$ 40/- per night halt.
2. Group of 2 pax - US\$ 30/- each per person per night halt.
3. Group of 3 pax and above: NO SURCHARGE APPLICABLE

B. Entitlements:

I. THE ABOVE RATES INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

1. Accommodation on twin sharing basis in the tourist standard hotels.
2. All meals and evening tea.
3. Full time services of a professional tour guide.
4. All land transport within Bhutan with dedicated (exclusive) vehicle.
5. All entry fees/permits to museum, monuments and parks.
6. Royal Government Royalty of USD 65 per person per night halt.

C. Services not included in the set tariff.

I. THE ABOVE RATES DOES NOT INCLUDE:

1. Bhutan Visa fee; Currently USD \$ 20/ to be billed along with the tour invoice).
2. Room single; (USD \$ 40 for standard room and USD \$ 70 for deluxe room).
3. Air Fare; both Druk Air and International flight.
4. Laundry bill, phone bill and other bills of personal nature.
5. Bar bill.
6. Tipping.

II. OTHER EXTRA COST:

1. Hire of knowledgeable resource person; (rate differs from person to person).
2. Room and hotel upgradation.

III. DELUXE HOTELS:

•The tariff is not valid for stay in the 5 star resorts and new deluxe hotels. For stay in these resorts, you will be charged extra on pro-rata basis.



D. Visa Formalities.

- On confirming the trip. We will raise an invoice and ask for scanned passport copy.
- After transferring the payments, you can mail the scanned passport copy. We will process the visa approval on behalf of the guest and mail it to you.
- We will also book, purchase and deliver the Air tickets on your behalf.
- Actual visa is stamped on the visitor's passport on arrival at the port of entry.

Note: (The Government will process the visa only on depositing the full tour payment with them.)

E. Payment Procedure & Bank Address:

Full payment should be made at least 21 days in advance. All payments should be deposited in Favour of Bhutan National Bank with ultimate beneficiary as Always Bhutan Travel. The account number of Bhutan National Bank (BNB) maintained with Standard Chartered Bank Ltd or Bank of America in New York, USA. The details are attached in another attachment.

The fund for Druk Air/Bhutan Airlines has to be sent in advance so that we can purchase air tickets in deadline. We will inform you the deadline as soon as we get a confirmed seat. Usually, all the seats on Airlines during the high season are sold out much in advance.

F. Weather and Clothing.

During summer, days are normally warm but the nights can be little chilly especially if it rains. In the spring and autumn, days are pleasant and nights are little cold. In winter, days can be little chilly and the night temperature can be below freezing point. June, July and August is the monsoon season with heavy rains. Having a rain coat handy throughout the year on both trek and cultural tour is recommended.

We would advice layer-able cotton clothing for summer. If the temperature drops due to rain you can add more layers to keep yourself warm. In the spring and autumn, layer-able light woollen cloths are recommended and thick down jackets in the winters and high altitude treks.

G. Hotels

The hotels used for tourist in Bhutan are approved by the Tourism Council of Bhutan. Most hotels have a nice blend of traditional architecture and modern amenities. The hotels standard varies from place to place. Hotel standard tends to get more basic towards central and eastern Bhutan.

All hotels have attached bathrooms with western style toilet pots and hot shower. Most western tourists seem to like the accommodations which have very colourful Bhutanese paintings. While we use the best available hotels, early booking of the tour with us will help us to get the best hotels.

We also make arrangement for "Five Star Deluxe" hotels like Aman Resorts of the Aman chain of resorts or Uma Resort of the Como groups of hotels from UK at a different rate which will be advised to you later in the process of correspondence along with the entitlements.



I. Festivals:

The festivals or “Tsechu” as locally called means the 10th day of the month. The dates and the duration of the festival vary from one place to another but they always take place on or around the 10th day of the Bhutanese calendar’s month. During Tsechus, the dances are performed by monks as well as by laymen and folk dance village girls. The Tsechu is a religious event and by attending it, it is believed one gains merit. It is also a yearly social and family gathering for the Bhutanese with people coming together to rejoice dressed in all their finery.

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