

BHUTAN FACTSHEET

About Bhutan

Bhutan is a small, landlocked Himalayan country with India to the south and Tibet to the north. The vast majority of the less than one million Bhutanese still live a rural existence in largely unspoilt villages and towns. The kingdom transitioned from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy in 2008, and has a calm political life. With a mere 15'000 people visiting Bhutan every year, culture and tradition remain so intact that its population continues to wear national dress.

Winter in Bhutan, that is the months of December, January, and February, is characterized by crisp sunny days and cold dry nights, with daytime temperatures reaching up till a comfortable 20°C. This is the ideal season for the best mountain views – gorgeous blue skies and amazing light. Snow may fall but won't settle for long at Uma Paro.

Passport, Government Fees and Visas

All foreign travellers are required to apply for a Visa before entering Bhutan. **Asian Yoga Holidays** in cooperation with Uma Paro will handle the visa application for you. We require a scanned copy of the photo page of each guest's passport (this must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay) plus a completed copy of the visa form, to be emailed to you after booking. Visa application takes 2 to 3 weeks. Please note that our package prices are inclusive of all taxes and fees.

The Kingdom of Bhutan requires that every foreign national (except Indian nationals) to pay a Daily Government Royalty of USD 65 per person per day, an FIT ("Free Independent Traveler") surcharge of USD 40 per person per day. Additionally, foreign nationals (except Indian nationals) are required to pay a non-refundable Visa fee of USD 20 per application, and a USD 10 Tourism Development Fund Fee per person.

Airline Information

Bhutan's national airline, Druk Air is the only airline flying to Bhutan. Druk Air flies from Bangkok to Bhutan (via Calcutta or Dhaka and Bodhgaya) or Delhi to Bhutan (via Kathmandu).

Return Druk Air ticket prices start from USD 1'120* for Bangkok – Bhutan in Business Class, and USD 950* in Economy. Prices from Delhi differ only marginally: 1'070* USD in Business Class, and USD 800* in Economy.

Please note that Druk Air tickets are non refundable and non transferable.

*(*Prices are inclusive of departure tax, insurance, fuel surcharge and handling fee. Prices quoted are approximate and subject to change without notice.)*

Tips for Passengers

As Paro airport is “daylight restricted” and totally dependent on weather, flights can sometimes be delayed. Passengers should keep at least 24 hours transit time for connecting flights out of Paro.

Flights into Paro are also sometimes disrupted by the weather. To be prepared for such an event, it is advised to carry essential personal items like medicines, toiletries, minimum change etc. in your hand baggage (in a clear plastic bag).

Hand Baggage Allowance

Druk Air requests that passengers limit their hand baggage to one piece, the size not exceeding 45+35+20 cm (17 ½ +13 ½+8 inches) and the weight not exceeding 5 kg (11lbs).

Checked Baggage Allowance

Economy Class: 20 kg (44 lbs)

Business Class: 30 kg (66 lbs)

For details on international connections and timetables, visit Bhutan's national airline, Druk Air, at www.drukair.com.bt

Guests Flying via India

All passengers flying to and from Bhutan via Calcutta or Delhi must apply for an Indian Visa prior to their departure if they intend to stay overnight – if they remain in transit no Indian visa is required.