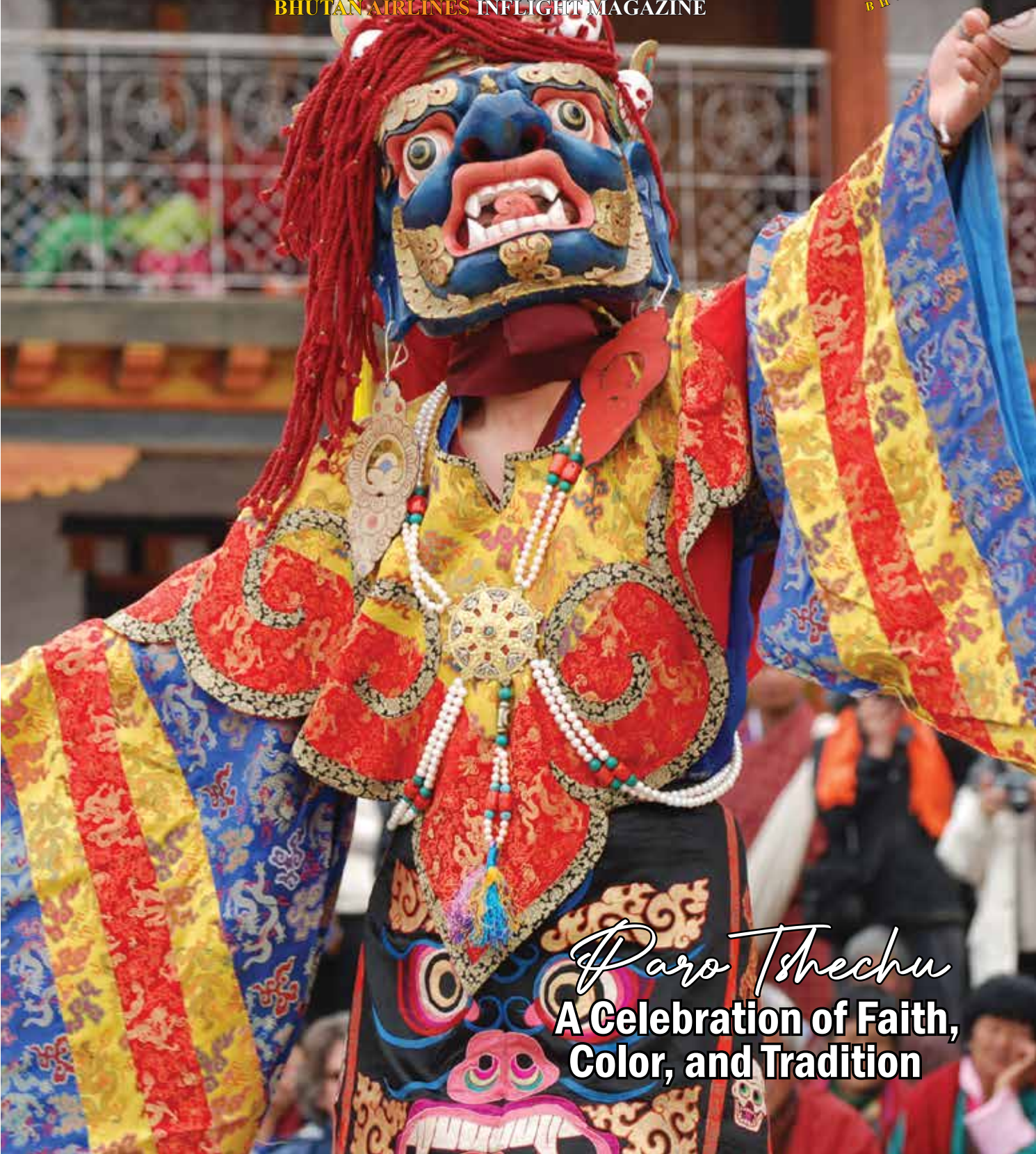


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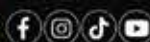


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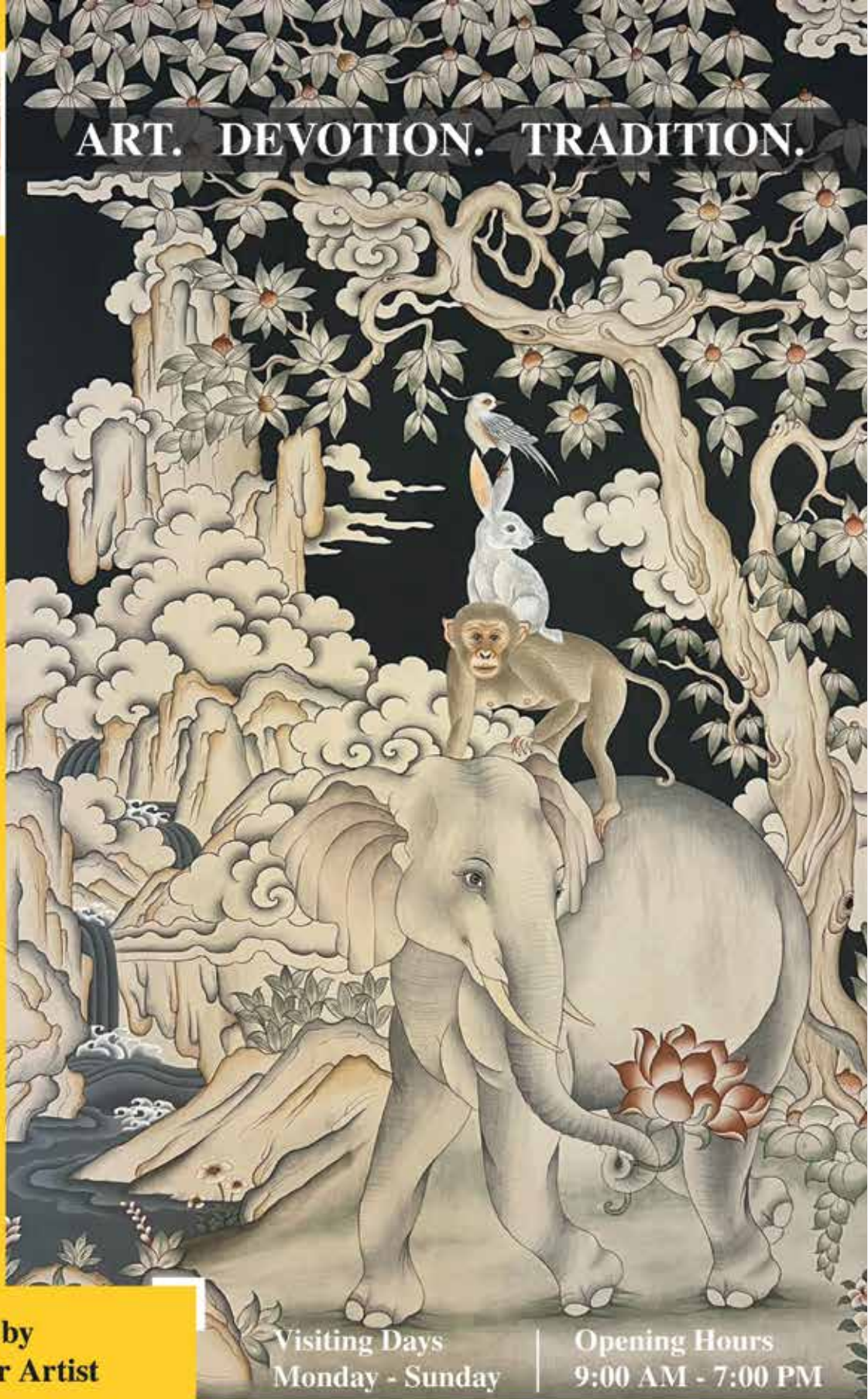


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Russian Café and Bakery Brusnika



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Brusnika, a charming café with a beautiful menu, is a testament to the passion of its owners, Tashi and Natalia.

Inspired by the wonderful bakeries and cuisines of their homelands, Bhutan and Russia, Tashi and Natalia realized the need for organic Artisan type breads in Bhutan.

The café had humble beginnings, with Natalia practicing a fusion of Russian style pastries using local grains, including Bhutan's favourite grain, rice! She started to bake for family and friends, and soon dreamed of opening her own bakery.

When Natalia and Tashi found a beautiful place with the most amazing view in town, Russian Cafe and Bakery Brusnika was born. Natalia trained Bhutanese ladies how to bake bread, cakes, and pastries. Now, the cafe and bakery serves a charming menu of continental cuisine infused with Russian flavors.

The bread and pastries are a mix of Russian and German, a simple homage to the Bhutanese-Russian family's personal history. Natalia was born and brought up in Russia, and the couple spent 10 years in Germany.

The concept of food at Brusnika is simple: eat local, eat healthy. The café uses local milk and butter, homemade cheese, jams by Brusnika, organic vegetables and fruits, and avoids processed food as much as possible.

Brusnika is more than just a café; it is a place where people can come together to enjoy delicious food, stunning views, and the warmth of Russian-Bhutanese hospitality.

Come and enjoy healthy, homemade food and incredible views at Brusnika!

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Open hours: 8AM to 7PM
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Average bill for coffee and cakes: \$5

Average bill for Breakfast: \$8

Average bill for lunch: \$15

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At Hotel Riverview, every stay is designed to feel like home—only better. From bespoke concierge services to specialized room setups and VIP treatment strategies, every detail is meticulously curated to align with individual preferences. Whether it's a customized welcome gift or an exclusive itinerary designed just for you, the hotel ensures that no two stays are ever the same.

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Comfort is not just a standard here—it's a way of life. Guests are welcomed into a world of plush bedding, and thoughtful in-room amenities, ensuring an indulgent retreat after a long day of exploration. Every moment is elevated with warm Bhutanese hospitality, where trained staff respond promptly and attentively to ensure you feel not just accommodated, but genuinely cared for. Our luxurious hotel spa and salon offer rejuvenating treatments and stylish makeovers, providing guests with ultimate relaxation and beauty care in a serene, elegant setting.

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What to Expect:

1. **Spiritual Blessing** – Begin with a sacred butter lamp lighting ceremony before Guru Rinpoche's statue.
2. **Insight into CTAS** – Learn about the school's mission over a cup of CTAS signature mint tea.
3. **Explore the Living Museum** – Step into a 340-year-old heritage site with hands-on experiences:
 - Traditional snack making (Zaw)
 - Prayer flag woodblock printing
 - Calligraphy and ritual cake (Torma) making
 - Butter tea tasting and altar room visit
4. **Meet the Artisans** – Witness students and masters at work in woodturning, sculpture, embroidery, bamboo craft, painting, weaving, and more.
5. **Hands-on Painting Workshop** – Create your own Bhutanese art piece to take home.
6. **Shop Authentic Crafts** – Support artisans by purchasing unique handmade souvenirs.
7. **Relax at Our Café & Restaurant** – Enjoy local and international cuisine with breathtaking views of rice terraces, Wangchu River, and Changtagang cliff.



Why Visit Choki Artisans?

- **Immersive Cultural Experience** – Live demonstrations, hands-on workshops, and meaningful interactions.
- **Support a Noble Cause** – Your visit helps sustain free traditional arts training for underprivileged Bhutanese youth.
- **Authentic & Unique** – Experience Bhutan's heritage firsthand in an intimate setting.



CONTACT INFORMATION



- chokiartisans@gmail.com



- +975 17627369 / 17603135 / 17739397



- www.chokischool.org



- Kabesa School



- [chokiartschool_ctas](https://www.instagram.com/chokiartschool_ctas)

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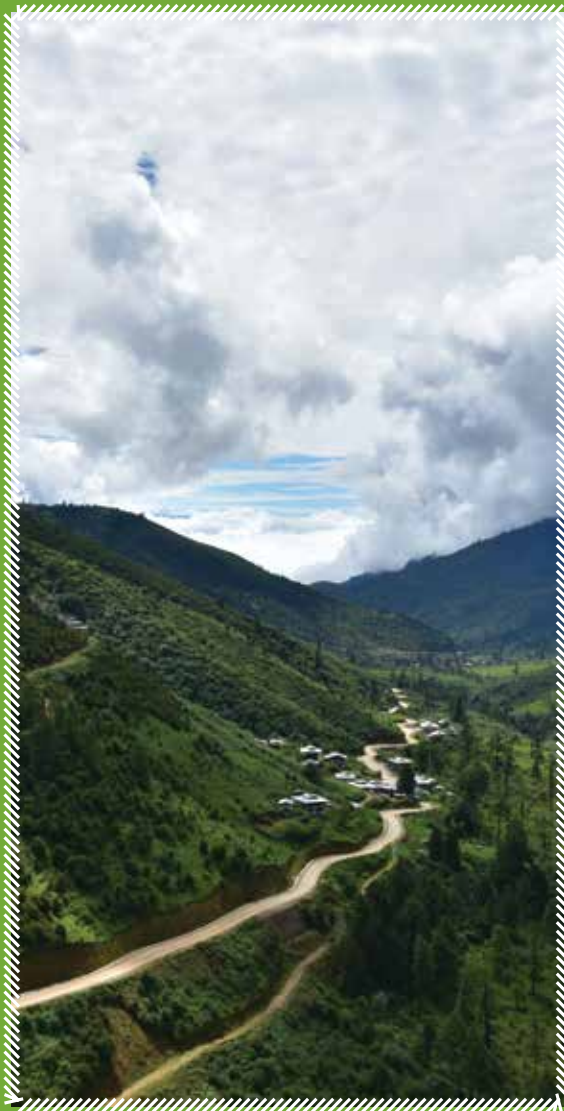
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NEWSPAPER

ROAD Distance Information of Bhutan



Paro to Thimphu	55 km
Paro to Haa (via Chelela)	70 km
Thimphu to Haa(via Chuzom)	112 km
Thimphu to Phuentsholing	151.5 km
Thimphu to Punakha	77 km
Thimphu to Wangdue	70 km
Thimphu to Tsirang	173 km
Thimphu to Sarpang	233 km
Thimphu to Gelephu	266 km
Wangdue to Phobjikha	64 km
Thimphu to Trongsa	199 km
Thimphu to Bumthang	267 km
Bumthang to Trongsa	68 km
Trongsa to Zhemgang	111 km
Trongsa to Gelephu	244 km
Bumthang to Mongar	193 km
Mongar to Lhuentse	75 km
Mongar to Trashigang	91 km
Trashigang to Trashiyangtse	54 km
Trashigang to Samdrup Jongkhar	180 km
Samdrup Jongkhar to Phuentsholing	356 km
Phuentsholing to Samtse	50 km

Samdrup Jongkhar to Guwahati (Assam, India)	-	100 km
Phuentsholing to Siliguri (West Bengal, India)	-	150 km
Phuentsholing to Bagdogra (West Bengal, India)	-	165 km

NATIONAL SYMBOL



NATIONAL FLAG

Divided diagonally from the lower hoist-side corner to the upper fly-side corner; the upper triangle is yellow and the lower triangle is orange, with a white dragon holding four jewels in its claws centered along the dividing line and facing away from the hoist.



NATIONAL EMBLEM

"Druk Khatap" or the Royal Crest of Bhutan has two dragons with a thunderbolt in the centre. It is the official seal and the National Emblem of Bhutan.



NATIONAL FLOWER

The National Flower (*Blue Poppy*) of Bhutan, is known locally as 'Euitgel Metog Hoem'. Its biological name is *Meconopsis grandis*.



NATIONAL TREE

The National Tree of Bhutan is locally known as 'Tsenden'. It is also referred to as Bhutan Cypress or Himalayan Cypress.



NATIONAL SPORT

Archery is the national sport in Bhutan. It is played by men; but women do participate in this festival by dancing; accompanying the game and supporting their teams.



NATIONAL DRESS

The 'Gho' is the National Dress for men in Bhutan. National Dress for Bhutanese women is 'Kira'.



NATIONAL ANIMAL

The Takin has been chosen as the National Animal because it is unique, rare and native to Bhutan. It is closely associated to religious history and mythology of the country.



NATIONAL BIRD

The Common Raven is Bhutan's National Bird. It represents one of the most powerful deities of the country, *Jarog Dongchen*. Raven is thus known in the local language as 'Jarog'.

Greetings from the editorial team of Kuzuzangpo La and Business Bhutan!

The months of April and May in Bhutan mark the heart of spring, bringing mild temperatures, blooming landscapes, and vibrant cultural celebrations. This period is considered one of the best times to visit Bhutan, offering clear skies, lush greenery, and ideal weather for outdoor activities.

Spring in Bhutan transforms the country into a colorful paradise. The Himalayan foothills and valleys are carpeted with wildflowers, including rhododendrons in shades of pink, red, and white. Forests come alive with chirping birds and fresh greenery. Rivers remain crystal clear, reflecting the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas.

April is also a festive month in Bhutan. Paro Tshechu, one of Bhutan's biggest religious festivals, held in Paro Dzong is conducted in April. Locals gather in traditional attire to witness sacred mask dances, rituals, and the unveiling of a giant Thangka (Thongdrel).

April and May in Bhutan offer a perfect blend of natural beauty, pleasant weather, and rich cultural experiences. Whether you're a nature lover, a trekker, or a cultural enthusiast, this season provides an unforgettable journey through the Land of the Thunder Dragon.

We extend our warmest wishes to our readers and travelers. Fly to Bhutan and immerse yourself in the euphoria of our land. Let there be joy in your steps and wings in your dreams.

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Bhutan Airlines



Message from the Chairman

Kuzuzangpola,

As we welcome you to Bhutan, we are humbled to inform you that this February, Bhutan Airlines took a bold step toward a greener future. As part of our commitment to a Greener and Sustainable World, Bhutan Airlines launched the Carbon Offset Program, offering you the chance to contribute to conservation efforts. While booking your ticket or through donations, you can help protect Bhutan's pristine landscapes.

Done in partnership with the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) Bhutan, your contributions will support climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. As a token of gratitude, donors receive free entry to the Black-Necked Crane Educational Center in Phobjikha and the White-Bellied Heron Conservation Center in Tsirang—places that preserve Bhutan's rarest species. Every donation, including carbon offsets, will be transparently accounted for and audited annually.

Meanwhile, as April and May unfold, Bhutan awakens in full splendor. The air turns crisp, the valleys burst into color, and the nation celebrates its heritage. You can step into the heart of tradition at the Paro Tshechu (April 8-12), held within the sacred walls of Rinpung Dzong. Masks, monks, and mysticism intertwine in a spectacle of devotion and centuries-old spiritual performances. The festival's energy will linger long after you depart.

Beyond the monasteries and masked dances, Bhutan's 46 species of rhododendrons burst into bloom, painting the hillsides in brilliant hues. These months also offer the finest trekking conditions—crystal-clear skies, pleasant temperatures, and the grandeur of the Himalayas calling you to explore.

Thank you for choosing Bhutan Airlines. May your journey be as extraordinary as this kingdom itself.

Kadrinche!

Wangchuk Dorji
Chairman
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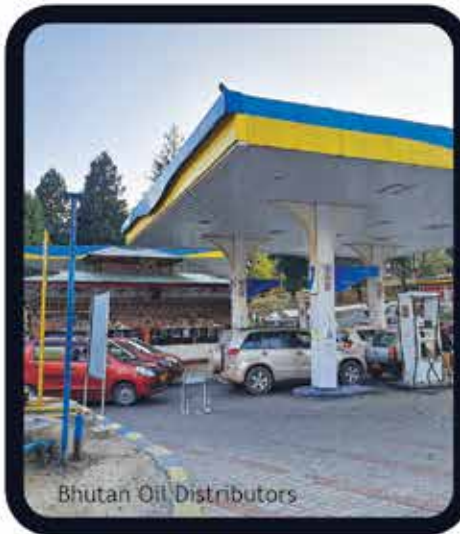
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Message from the CEO



Dear Esteemed Passengers,

I take pride in sharing my reflections with you as the CEO of Bhutan Airlines. I have complete confidence in all the dedicated professionals of our airline, who will not leave any stone unturned to make your journey a memorable one, as spring approaches and the majestic mountains of enchanting Bhutan beckon you.

I welcome you to this country that mesmerises visitors with its stunning visuals steeped in mysticism. Bhutan is a land of happiness, and with its amazing people and rich culture, visitors often wish to extend their stay indefinitely or return time and again. Let your spirits soar with Bhutan Airlines as we dance through the skies, merrily gliding amongst the clouds.

April and May are among the best seasons to visit Bhutan. It is a time of lushness, with flowers in full bloom and the serenity of magical monasteries. We would be delighted to assist you in having a memorable stay during all these adventures.

By choosing to visit Bhutan, you have significantly enhanced tourism in the country. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your support and hope you continue to engage with us so that our mutual relationship is forged in deep faith.

Kadrinche la!

Pema N Nadik
CEO, Bhutan Airlines

Inside

A photograph of a Bhutan Airlines aircraft in flight, ascending from a runway. The plane is white with a red and yellow livery. In the background, a steep, green mountain rises under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The foreground shows a concrete runway and some green grass.

29

Paro Tshechu:

A Celebration of Faith, Color, and Tradition

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Paro Tshechu
**A Celebration of Faith,
Color, and Tradition**

Paro Tshechu:

A Celebration of Faith, Color, and Tradition

By Tashi Namgyel



People at the Tsechu

The vibrant tradition of *Tshechus* traces its origins to the mystical valleys of Bumthang, where history and legend intertwine in a tale of divine intervention. A kingdom stood on the brink of despair, its ruler, Sindhu Raja, gravely ill, his fate hanging by a thread.

Then came Guru Padmasambhava, the Lotus-Born Master—a figure of unparalleled wisdom and supernatural power. With chants that echoed through the mountains and a sacred dance that stirred the very soul of the land, he performed a miracle. His divine movements, a celestial offering to the gods, shattered the king's suffering, restoring him to life.

In gratitude, Sindhu Raja pledged himself to the Guru's cause, vowing to spread the light of Buddhism across the kingdom. And thus, the first Tshechu was born—a sacred festival where the Dance of the Eight Manifestations of Guru Rinpoche was performed, marking the dawn of a spiritual revolution in Bhutan.

Centuries later, in 1644, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal and Ponpo Rigzin Nyingpo consecrated the mighty Paro Dzong—a fortress that would stand as a sentinel of Bhutanese identity. The occasion was marked with an extravagant display of masked dances and ancient melodies, a celebration that would evolve into one of Bhutan's most magnificent festivals—the Paro Tshechu.

For five glorious days each year, the town of Paro transforms into a spectacle of devotion, color, and joy. Monks and laymen alike don elaborate masks, their movements embodying timeless legends, while the faithful gather in thousands, their hearts alight with reverence for Guru Rinpoche, the Second Buddha.

More than just a festival, Paro Tshechu is a journey into Bhutan's soul, where the past meets the present, where faith finds expression through dance, and where every beat of the drum resounds with the undying legacy of a master who changed the fate of a nation.



1. The Enchanting Cham (Dances)

At the heart of Paro Tshechu lies the mesmerizing Chams (dances), a celestial performance where monks, adorned in elaborate brocade costumes and fearsome masks, bring ancient Buddhist teachings to life. Each movement is more than just a dance—it is a sacred storytelling, a dramatic retelling of the eternal battle between good and evil, where the righteous always prevail. The air reverberates with the rhythmic beat of drums and the deep, haunting notes of longhorns, pulling every spectator into a trance of devotion and wonder.

2. The Sacred Unfurling of the Thongdrel

As the first light of dawn pierces the Himalayan sky, the most sacred moment of the festival unfolds—the unfurling of the Thongdrel, a colossal silk thangka depicting Guru Rinpoche in all his divine glory. Measuring several stories high, this masterpiece is carefully unveiled only once a year. Devotees gather in hushed reverence, believing that a mere glimpse of this sacred artifact washes away a lifetime of sins and bestows boundless blessings. For many, this fleeting yet profound moment is the pinnacle of their spiritual journey.

3. Tradition and Togetherness

Draped in their finest ghos and kiras, Bhutanese men and women grace the festival grounds like a sea of vibrant silk and intricate weaves. Families reunite, old friends embrace, and generations come together in joyous celebration. Laughter, prayers, and the echoes of sacred chants blend seamlessly, making Paro Tshechu not just a religious festival, but a grand social affair where bonds are strengthened, and the spirit of Bhutanese unity thrives.

4. Divine Blessings and Rituals

Throughout the festival, monks engage in powerful rituals of purification and blessings, invoking divine energies that cleanse the soul. The air is thick with the fragrance of juniper incense, and the murmuring of sacred mantras creates an ambiance of deep spirituality. Visitors, locals, and pilgrims alike immerse themselves in these ancient ceremonies, seeking enlightenment, protection, and good fortune for the year ahead.



Women singing with the Thongdrel in the backdrop.



Mask dances



The lord of death (Dreythagchung)

5. A Feast for the Senses: Bhutanese Food and Handicrafts

As the festival reaches its zenith, the ground pulse with a vibrant energy that is both intoxicating and exhilarating. The air is thick with the irresistible aromas of Bhutan's culinary treasures—steaming plates of ema datshi, the fiery blend of chili and cheese, filling the atmosphere with its spicy warmth, while plump momos, delicate dumplings stuffed with flavorful fillings, beckon with their soft, inviting embrace. The rich, golden warmth of suja, the traditional butter tea, seeps into the air, offering a comforting reprieve from the excitement, its earthy aroma a welcome balm to the senses. Every corner, every stall, is a celebration of the senses—flavors that dance on the tongue, and scents that linger in the soul.

The streets are a kaleidoscope of colors, as vibrant stalls brim with the finest of Bhutanese handicrafts. Handwoven textiles, each thread a testament to the skill of the artisan, drape gracefully across tables, their intricate patterns telling stories of generations past. The fluttering prayer flags, imbued with spiritual significance, catch the wind as if whispering ancient blessings to the heavens. Exquisite souvenirs, from carved wooden statues to delicate jewelry, each item carries within it the soul of Bhutan—a tangible piece of its rich cultural tapestry, carefully crafted and lovingly offered to those who seek a connection to this land.

As you move through, you realize that this festival is not merely a feast for the eyes, the stomach, and the spirit—it is a celebration of Bhutan itself, a living, breathing embodiment of the nation's history, its culture, its faith, and its indomitable spirit. It is an invitation to step into the heart of Bhutan, to embrace its warmth, to savor its richness, and to carry a piece of it with you long after the festival has ended.

The Grand Finale: A Day Like No Other

The final day of Paro Tshechu is a spectacle that transcends mere description, a living testament to the depth of Bhutanese spirituality. As the first whispers of dawn stretch their golden fingers across the valley, the air hums with anticipation—for this



is no ordinary morning. Thousands of devoted souls converge at the foot of the Paro Dzong, their hearts beating in unison, drawn by an invisible thread of reverence and devotion.

In the stillness of the pre-dawn hour, the Thongdrel, a monumental silk painting of Guru Rinpoche, is carefully unfurled, its sacred threads shimmering in the soft glow of the morning light. The sight is breathtaking, almost otherworldly—an image so vast and profound that it seems to stretch beyond the very limits of human comprehension. The Thongdrel's divine presence is not merely seen, it is felt—a tangible force that sweeps over the crowd, enveloping them in a profound sense of awe and serenity.

For those who gather, this moment is sacred—a fleeting window to purify their souls, cleanse their sins, and feel the power of divine grace flowing through the land. The murmurs of prayers blend with the rustle of the thangka, and a deep, collective sigh

rises from the crowd as they stand united in devotion. To behold this sacred unveiling is to witness a ritual so pure, so ancient, that time itself seems to stand still.

It is not simply a spectacle of sight—it is a profound communion with the divine, a spiritual journey that leads every individual to a place of renewal and rebirth. In that sacred moment, every soul is both humbled and elevated, a part of something far greater than themselves—part of a timeless tradition that speaks to the very essence of Bhutanese identity.

This is the soul-stirring climax of Paro Tshechu, a celebration of faith and devotion so intense, it cannot be contained in words. It must be lived. It must be experienced to be believed.

Paro Tshechu 2025 Dates - When and Where does it take place?

Dates: Tuesday, April 8, to Saturday, April 12, 2025

Venue: The courtyard of Rinpung Dzong, Paro district



Zhey dance



The Atsara



Offering khaddar during His Majesty's 45th Birthday celebration

A Fleeting yet Timeless Moment with a Guest

Bhutan has preserved not only its culture but the very essence of humanity itself- says an American tourist

By Ugyen Tenzin

The 21st of February stands as one of Bhutan's most sacred and significant days — the birthday of His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. This year, as the nation marked the 45th anniversary of His Majesty's birth, we gathered in reverence and gratitude, offering prayers and butter-lamps at the National Memorial Chorten. The air was thick with devotion, and as the ceremonies unfolded, we began to share the warmth of our culture with all who had come — tea, Bhutanese porridge, and snacks for everyone present, including the dozens of Thai tourists and a few from America, who had come to the memorial chorten.

The sight of the cake being cut was met with gleaming eyes and eager hands. Every Thai visitor, with their joyful smiles, clamored for a slice of the cake. It seemed not just a simple act of indulgence, but a symbol of their deep respect and affection for our King. They lined up to take photographs, posing with His Majesty's portrait in the background — a powerful gesture of their connection, admiration, and attachment to the royal figure, who is the heartbeat of Bhutan.



Offerings within the National Memorial Chorten

Amidst the camaraderie, a healthy elderly man approached. “Hi, Lawrence from Michigan,” he introduced himself with a broad smile. “Ah, a Republican?” I responded playfully, my curiosity piqued. “Let’s keep politics out on this auspicious day,” he quipped, his eyes twinkling with good humor.

And so, we gracefully steered our conversation toward deeper and more profound matters. This was, after all, Lawrence’s inaugural visit to Bhutan — a long-held dream that had lingered on his bucket list for years, patiently awaiting its moment to unfold. Driven by curiosity, he had come to explore a land untouched by the shadows of negative press and the relentless swirl of global unrest. He sought to witness firsthand a country that, to his astonishment, appeared to live in an extraordinary harmony, untouched by the usual discord and strife that plague so much of the world. He was out on a mission – to find and experience this sacred land, a stark contrast to the turbulent narratives that so often dominate the headlines elsewhere.

I asked, “Is Bhutan really like what you read and heard about?”

“Not entirely,” Lawrence confessed. “I had heard of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and Bhutan’s commitment to maintaining 60% of its land under forest cover forever. I also knew that the Fourth King abdicated young, transforming Bhutan from an absolute monarchy into a democracy. But,” he added, “I didn’t know much about Your King.”

When I pressed further about his understanding, he didn’t mince words. “If you didn’t respect, love, and revere your King, you wouldn’t be here today, celebrating in this very moment,” he said with certainty. “If the King weren’t noble, if he weren’t good, none of this would be happening. Your respect for him speaks volumes about his greatness.”

Lawrence had also heard much from his guides, including the construction of the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC), which he called an “amazing vision.” But

what moved him the most was the Bhutanese people themselves. “Though you may not always be seen smiling, it’s clear that people here are happy, content, and at peace,” he observed with a knowing smile.

He went on to share his awe of Bhutan’s landscape — the breathtaking descent into Paro International Airport, the majesty of the Giant Buddha, and the unmistakable air of a carbon-negative country. “Everywhere you look, you see beauty, culture, and harmony,” he said.

What would Lawrence take back from his journey to Bhutan?

“There are many experiences I’ll carry with me,” he said, “but this conversation, this moment of celebrating His Majesty’s 45th birth anniversary, will stay with me forever. I may forget this beautiful monument, but I will always remember the tea you served.”

But Bhutan was far more than just the National Memorial Chorten. Lawrence and his group had also ventured to the mystical Taktshang, the towering Giant Buddha, and other breathtaking landmarks of Western Bhutan. Each site was a marvel, a testament to the nation’s rich heritage and timeless beauty. Yet, as Lawrence pondered over these awe-inspiring monuments, he shared an insight that resonated deeply: the true grandeur of these iconic places did not lie solely in the magnificence of their structures, but in the living energy that surrounded them — the people who breathed life into them.

“The majesty of these sacred sites,” Lawrence mused, his voice carrying the weight of genuine reverence, “is not merely found in the stone or the structure, but in the warmth and spirit of your people, like

petals unfolding with grace, reaching out to embrace the first light of day.” As his words hung in the air, there was a palpable sense of awe in his reflection. He had come seeking the beauty of a land steeped in tradition, yet what had truly captivated him was the deeper truth he had discovered — Bhutan was not just a country that had preserved its culture, but one that had cultivated something far more profound: the very essence of humanity itself.

In Bhutan, love was not an abstract ideal but a living force that pulsed through every interaction; humility was not a virtue but a way of being that connected hearts across generations. Dedication was not just for the monumental tasks but for the quiet acts of care and respect that flowed through the land. These were not mere values — they were the very threads that wove together the fabric of Bhutanese life, creating a culture that inspired and uplifted all who had the privilege of encountering it. “And it is because of the leadership you are blessed with.”

He said that as he stood in the presence of “these remarkable sites he visited”, he could not help but be moved. He had come seeking beauty, but he found something far more profound — a living, breathing testament to humanity at its finest. “It is,” he said with a deep, heartfelt conviction, “an astounding display of humanity at its best.” And in that moment, the words felt as much a tribute to Bhutan’s enduring spirit as they were to the hearts of its people.

As our conversation drew to an end, we could hear the jubilant chorus of Thai visitors. Their voices rang out, holding slices of cake in their hands, almost shouting, “Happy Birthday, King Jigme! We love King Jigme!”

Lawrence, before he turned to join his group, smiled knowingly and said, “There you go.”



Tourists from Thailand at the National Memorial Chorten



The writer with Lawrence

Friends of Tourism

Uniting Every Bhutanese Soul for a Shared Legacy

By Damcho Rinzin, Director Department of Tourism (DoT), Bhutan



His Majesty the King awarded the Druk Thuksey (Heart Son of Bhutan) Medal to stakeholders of the tourism industry on December 17, 2024, as Bhutan celebrated its 117th National Day.

Tourism is the lifeblood of Bhutan's socio-economic development, an industry that weaves together tradition, culture, and modern aspirations. Its significance is undeniable. Yet, beyond the grand figures of economic contribution and global allure, the true essence of Bhutan's tourism lies in the hands of those who shape every visitor's experience—the agents of hospitality, the architects of memories.

It is easy to assume that the responsibility rests solely with agencies and stakeholders of the industry, such as the Department of Tourism (DoT), the Guides Association of Bhutan, or the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO). However, this is a misconception. The duty to uphold Bhutan's image and ensure an unforgettable journey for every traveler belongs to every Bhutanese citizen.

Each person, from the seasoned tour guide to the humble villager offering a warm smile, plays a part in this grand endeavor. Every Bhutanese is an ambassador of the kingdom, a custodian of its heritage, a bridge between the mystical past and the unfolding future.



The Druk Thuksey Medal



The DoT director with a guest.



The Department of Tourism (DoT) team- on a mission to take Bhutanese tourism to greater heights

In this land of happiness, every traveler is not just a guest but a cherished friend. Hospitality is not merely a service; it is a sacred tradition.

Let us not relegate the responsibility of tourism to a select few. Let us recognize that every act of kindness, every story shared, every gesture of warmth contributes to an experience that lingers long after a visitor departs. In Bhutan, tourism is not just an industry—it is a national calling.

With this profound realization, the Department of Tourism (DoT) has ushered in a transformative initiative—Friends of Tourism—a clarion call to every Bhutanese to step forward as guardians of one of the nation's most treasured industry. This is more than just a program; it is a movement, a unifying force that recognizes the boundless potential of collective effort. Through Friends of Tourism, we fling open the gates of opportunity, inviting every citizen to become a

proud host, a storyteller, an ambassador of Bhutan's unparalleled beauty and culture. It is a call to arms, a reminder that when an entire nation moves as one, the power of togetherness becomes an unstoppable force, capable of shaping destinies and redefining experiences.

As mentioned earlier, tourism is not the responsibility of a select few—it belongs to all. Every warm greeting, every shared legend, every moment of kindness extended to a traveler reinforces the image of Bhutan as a land of hospitality and happiness. And when a nation embraces this duty with unity and pride, the impact is immeasurable.

With Friends of Tourism, we do not merely welcome visitors—we forge lasting friendships, we build bridges of understanding, and we ensure that Bhutan remains not just a destination, but a home away from home for all who journey here.

Tourism has long been a pillar of Bhutan's prosperity, but its profound significance was etched into history on December 17th, 2024, when His Majesty the King, in a moment of unparalleled honor, bestowed the Druk Thuksey (Heart Sons of Bhutan) medal upon the tourism industry. This was more than just recognition—it was a call to action, a solemn reminder that the path ahead demands resilience, courage, and an unyielding commitment to excellence.

Humbled yet emboldened, this honor carries with it a message of immense responsibility. The tourism industry must not merely sustain itself—it must rise, undaunted and determined, to confront challenges and emerge as the guiding light of Bhutan's economic strength. Yes! We can do it! But if the heart and soul

of every Bhutanese unites, if we move forward as one people with one purpose, we can be better, greater and stronger.

Thus, to every Bhutanese, the call is clear—be a Friend of Tourism. This is not just an industry; it is a national endeavor, a shared dream woven into the very fabric of our identity. Let us stand together in service of our King's noble vision, working hand in hand to build a future where every Bhutanese thrives.

Let us show the world the true Bhutanese spirit—the spirit of unity, of unwavering dedication, of selfless service. Let us make Bhutan not just a destination, but a living testament to the power of a nation united in purpose and pride.



LEADING - Personal touch and engagement with tourists is a powerful marketing tool.

Beyond the Journey: A Tour Operator's Reflection on Bhutan

By Kinley Wangmo



Tourists at a home stay

As a student, I often pondered: What drew travellers to Bhutan? What was it about this small Himalayan kingdom that captivated the hearts of those from distant lands? Life moved on, and as fate would have it, I found myself in the world of tourism. It was then that I began to understand—tourism was not merely an industry; it was a bridge, a storyteller, a force that kept Bhutan relevant in the consciousness of the world.

Yes, tourism is a pillar of Bhutan's economy, but its true essence transcends mere numbers and revenue. It is the lifeblood of Bhutan's presence on the world stage, a light that illuminates our identity, our values,

and our way of life. Through tourism, we whisper to the world:

“Amidst the towering Himalayas, where prayer flags flutter in the crisp mountain air, there exists a kingdom unlike any other. A land, small in size yet vast in spirit; ancient in wisdom yet brimming with youthful aspirations; secluded in geography yet profoundly connected to the pulse of humanity—this is Bhutan.”

Every traveller who steps onto our soil does more than explore a destination; they become a witness to a nation that measures prosperity not in wealth, but in

happiness, harmony, and purpose. Through their eyes, the world discovers a realm where monasteries cling to cliffs, rivers carve through untouched landscapes, and a King leads not with authority, but with service and compassion.

Tourism is more than an industry—it is Bhutan's voice, echoing across continents, whispering to those who seek something beyond the ordinary, calling out to hearts yearning for meaning, serenity, and a glimpse of a world where tradition and modernity walk hand in hand.

As a tour operator, I have had the rare privilege of welcoming souls from every corner of the world—each arriving with their own stories, their own expectations, yet departing with something far greater than they ever imagined. Time and again, I have witnessed transformations that words struggle to capture.

I will never forget Hanna, who arrived as a traveller but left as something more—her heart forever entwined with the spirit of Bhutan. On the day of her departure, she stood in silent reflection, tears streaming down

her face, as if parting with a beloved home she had only just discovered. Ten days in Bhutan had changed something within her—something deep, something irreversible.

Nor can I forget Matias, whose world view was shaken by the simplest of gestures. An elderly Bhutanese woman, weathered by time yet radiant with kindness, reached out to him with nothing but a humble cucumber—an offering of pure generosity, untainted by expectation. In that fleeting moment, he understood the soul of Bhutan—a land where wealth is measured not in possessions, but in the richness of the human heart.

Yes, Bhutan is its majestic monasteries, its untouched forests, its grand festivals steeped in tradition—but to believe that these alone define Bhutan is to see only the surface. At its very core, Bhutan is its people. Their quiet dignity, their boundless warmth, their ability to touch the hearts of strangers in ways both simple and profound—that is the true essence of this kingdom.

For those who come seeking beauty, Bhutan offers landscapes beyond imagination. But for those who



Ceilia, a tourist with children of Sakteng



Hiking, a popular tourism product



come seeking meaning, Bhutan offers something far more rare—a glimpse into a world where humanity still thrives in its purest form.

Where do we, as tour operators, stand in the grand design of Bhutan's story? Are we merely architects of itineraries, bound by schedules and logistics? Do we confine ourselves to transactions, to the cold arithmetic of revenue and numbers? Absolutely not.

We are the custodians of experiences, the silent narrators of a tale that unfolds not just in landscapes and landmarks, but in emotions, in moments, in revelations. We hold in our hands the sacred duty of unveiling Bhutan's soul—of guiding our guests not just through its valleys and dzongs, but through its heartbeat, its spirit, its very essence.

Every visitor who sets foot in Bhutan must leave with more than photographs; they must leave with something far deeper—a feeling, an awakening, a piece of Bhutan etched into their very being. It is our duty to ignite wonder, to open their eyes to the quiet magic woven into our prayer flags, the whispers of wisdom carried by the mountain winds, the profound serenity

in the smile of a monk, the unspoken kindness in the gift of a simple meal.

We are not just hosts; we are storytellers, bridge-builders, keepers of Bhutan's legacy. We shape the journey that transforms a mere trip into a pilgrimage of the soul, one that lingers long after departure, calling them back in dreams and memories.

To the world, Bhutan may be a destination. But to those of us who hold the key to its wonders, it is a gift we must share with reverence, with purpose, and with the unwavering promise to make every journey one that changes lives.

We must offer them not just guides, but storytellers—guardians of Bhutan's past and present—who do more than navigate roads and trails. They must unveil the soul of this land, decoding the silent poetry of our dzongs, the whispered prayers carried by fluttering prayer flags, and the profound symbolism woven into our timeless traditions.

We must narrate the story of a King who does not rule with power, but with service—a leader who



In awe with Bhutan's landscape

walks among his people, who listens, who embodies compassion and wisdom, who stands as the very heartbeat of a nation that measures prosperity not in riches, but in the well-being of its citizens.

We must show them why our rivers remain pristine, our forests untouched, our mountains sacred—not by chance, but by choice. We must help them understand that in Bhutan, peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but a philosophy, a way of life, a deep-rooted harmony that binds our people, our land, and our spirit as one.

Ultimately, we are the gatekeepers of Bhutan's legacy. The experiences we craft, the stories we tell, the emotions we stir—these determine whether a traveller will return, whether they will carry Bhutan in their hearts long after they leave, whether they will become ambassadors of our land, whispering its magic to the world.

Tourism is not just about bringing visitors to Bhutan—it is about awakening them to its essence. It is about offering them something beyond mere sightseeing, something intangible yet unforgettable—a glimpse into a nation where happiness is a way of life, where traditions breathe, where nature is revered, and where every traveller departs not just as a visitor, but as a part of Bhutan's unfolding story.

And that, I have come to realize, is the greatest responsibility of all.

Am I doing this? Is Thuenphel Bhutan Travels fulfilling this sacred duty?

Yes! We may be small, but in every journey we craft, in every experience we create, we give nothing short of our absolute best. We do not just follow the path of traditional tourism—we redefine it.

Our itineraries are not dictated by us; they are shaped by our guests, by their dreams, their curiosities, their longing for something real, something profound. We are, in every way, like our country—small but extraordinary, humble yet unforgettable.

Not one of our guest has ever left Bhutan with regret. Not a single traveller has departed without feeling the warmth of our people, the depth of our culture, the awe of our landscapes. We may not be the largest, but we are relentless in our commitment.

Why do travellers choose Thuenphel Bhutan Travels? Because we deliver excellence—not just in service, but in emotion, in meaning, in moments that stay with you forever.

So, if you seek more than just a trip, if you yearn for an experience that will stir your soul, move you to tears like Hanna and leave an imprint on your heart long after you leave, Thuenphel Bhutan Travels is here.

Come, let us show you Bhutan—not just as a destination, but as a feeling, a revelation, a journey unlike any other.



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Hanna's email to DoT

A Testimonial from Hannia E.Buentemeyer to the Department of Tourism (DoT)

"From March 28 till April 6th, I made a trip to Bhutan. This is a long story, but I will make it short. When I was 14 years old I read some books about Mustang, Sikkim, Mongolia Tibet and Bhutan. Since then I wanted to visit Bhutan, I read a lot about Buddhism. At that time it was not possible to visit Bhutan. But now in my old age, I made it.

I reserved through Thuenphel Tours Agency. It was really a very complete trip, the guide and driver spoiled me.

There are many things I have to say about Bhutan, sure according to my perspective:

- 1) I am so impressed with the architecture: just arriving at that wonderful airport in Paro.
- 2) How good Bhutan keep the buildings; so it is like we can see through photos.
- 3) The national costume is worn by men and women every day, that is something that none of the many countries I have visited to does. Hopefully you will never lose this because that give an identity and it is beautiful. That is unique.
- 4) The education and respect the Bhutanese in Bhutan have for the foreigners is also something I have to mention.
- 5) The respect in the traffic is notable. No horns, no trying to overhold just because someone is in a hurry. Rules are respected.
- 6) All wonderful ancient buildings, and an incredible museum; it is in one combining everything you have in Bhutan, I was very impressed about it. I could see some fauna that I thought was found only in few countries, but they are also in Bhutan.
- 7) Hotels and restaurants are very good.
- 8) Cities are clean and calm, wonderful. Bumthang is unique, I never expected that a whole village is build in such a way,
- 9) Thimphu, Paro Punaka are also very good distributed cities, but Bumthang for me is really unique.
- 10) I like very much the control about how many tourists can visit the country. That is a great idea, that the tourist have to have a driver and a guide. Or a group no more than 6 people. In this way all the agencies have work. That is really a very good way to keep the balance
- 11) I hope that Bhutan due to the changes, do not become like Macau for certain groups of Tourists, that bring a negative energy to the country.

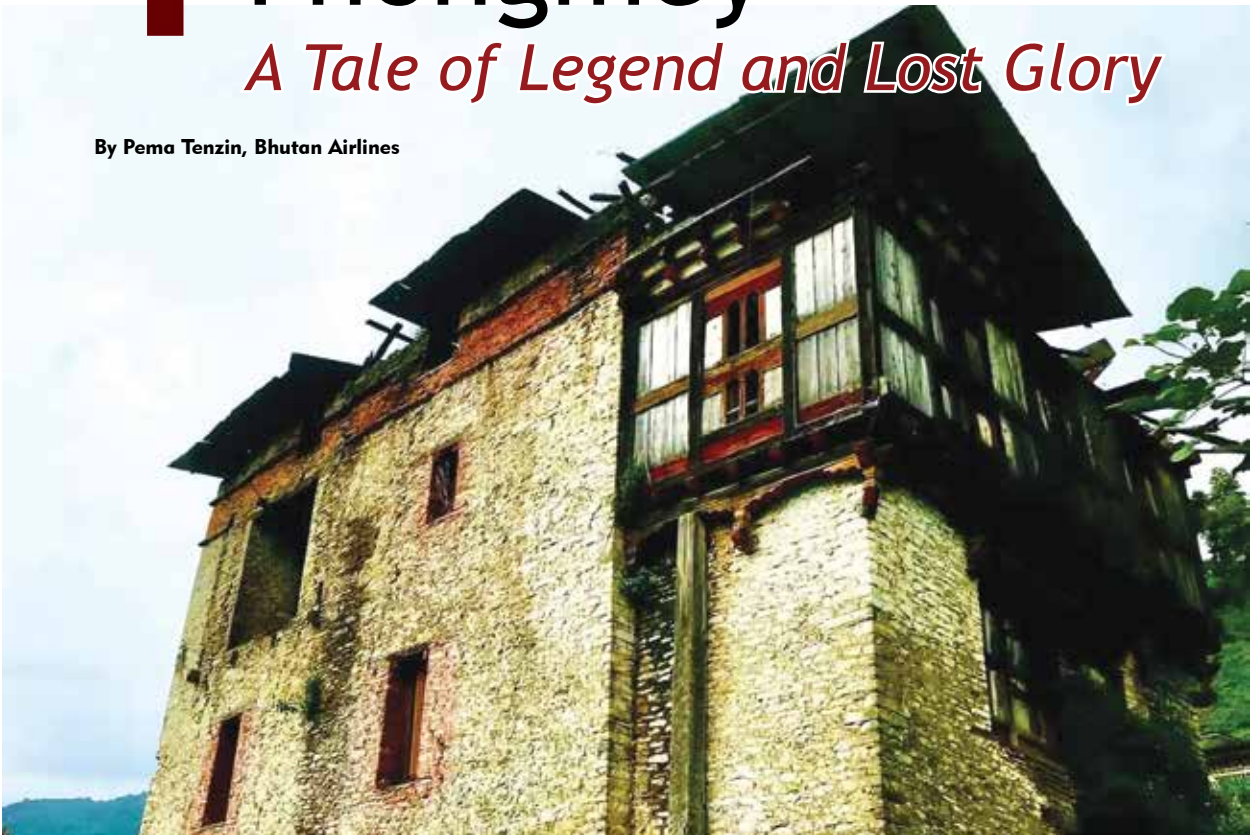
This a long review but I wanted to express my thanks to the people in Bhutan, specially to Mrs. Kinley ,owner of Thuenphel Tours and Sonam the guide and Jigme the driver. Also to Immigration and Bhutan Airlines I had to communicate with them about my visa and assistance, and I was very well treated with all respect and they are efficient in what they do.

Again to the country of Bhutan, Thanks. Tashi Delek and Kuzuzangpola.

The Ancient Manor of Phongmey

A Tale of Legend and Lost Glory

By Pema Tenzin, Bhutan Airlines



In the heart of Phongmey, where the mighty Gamri Chu weaves its way through the valley, stands an ancient relic of time—the grand yet forsaken Nagtshang Manor. This once-majestic estate shrouded in mist and mystery, echoes tales of power, betrayal, and divine intervention. Watching over the land across the river, looms Mt. Memey Ralang, a mountain of strange and fabled shape, its table-like summit bearing witness to a legend as old as time itself. This is where the prodigy about the curse of Memey Ralang comes in.

Long ago, in the shadows of Memey Ralang, there lived a formidable and wealthy being—Chukpo

Jampay Zangpo, known to the villagers as Memey Ralang. It is said that his riches came not from gold or jewels, but from an ancient pact with the spirits of the land. Yet, wealth alone could not shield him from fate, for across the mountains, in the lands of present-day Arunachal Pradesh, ruled a fearsome warlord—Shar Dunglay Gyelpo of Tawang.

A feud between these two great forces arose over something seemingly trivial—a stolen chicken. Memey Ralang, in his arrogance, had taken the sacred fowl of Dunglay Gyelpo, unaware that the act would unravel the very balance of the realm. An enraged Dunglay Gyelpo summoned his wrath and struck the peak of





Memey Ralang's mountain abode with a mighty sword, cleaving the summit clean. Thus, the mountain took the shape of a table—a silent testament to their battle, frozen in time.

Among the many who came to seek the power of Memey Ralang's sacred grounds was the enlightened master Dupthob Donga Rinchen, also known as Lopen Khejay. He was a being of immense wisdom who cast aside all earthly needs, sustaining himself solely on meditation and, as whispered in hushed tones, his own excrement. He wandered the slopes of the severed mountain, drawing forth divine energy from the sacred sites that surrounded it. To this day, pilgrims tread his path hoping to glimpse the enlightenment that once graced its soil.



The Manor of Shadows

Not far from the severed mountain, nestled amidst the great village of Phongmey, stood the Nagtshang Manor. Built as the seat of power for the Drungpa, the Sub-Administrator, it was once the nerve center of the eastern domain. Under the reign of Trongsa Penlop Ugyen Wangchuck, the manor was a stronghold, its walls sheltering warriors, prisoners, and treasures alike. Its three-tiered structure bore witness to both grandeur and grief—a residence for the Drungpa, a prison for the condemned, a treasury for the people's dues, and even a stable for the beasts that bore the burden of empire.

Legend has it that the manor was once encircled by towering walls, its great iron gates guarded by the Drungpa's fiercest warriors. The winds carried whispers of those who dared to defy the rulers and found themselves bound within its cold chambers. The echoes of past judgments still linger in its empty halls, waiting for the ears of the brave to listen.

The Vanishing Legacy

But time is a merciless keeper of stories. The once-proud manor now stands abandoned, its walls wrapped in the creeping grasp of wild vines, its windows peering hollow into the endless night. The great voices that once commanded armies and ruled lands have been swallowed by silence, replaced by the rustle of the overgrown forest.

The villagers of Phongmey speak of dreams in which the manor calls out for restoration, pleading with those who still remember. They fear that if left to decay, the tale of Nagtshang and the legend of Memey Ralang will fade into the abyss of forgotten lore. And so, as the seasons pass and the storms batter its aging stones, the manor waits—perhaps for a new ruler, a new purpose, or for the return of Memey Ralang himself.

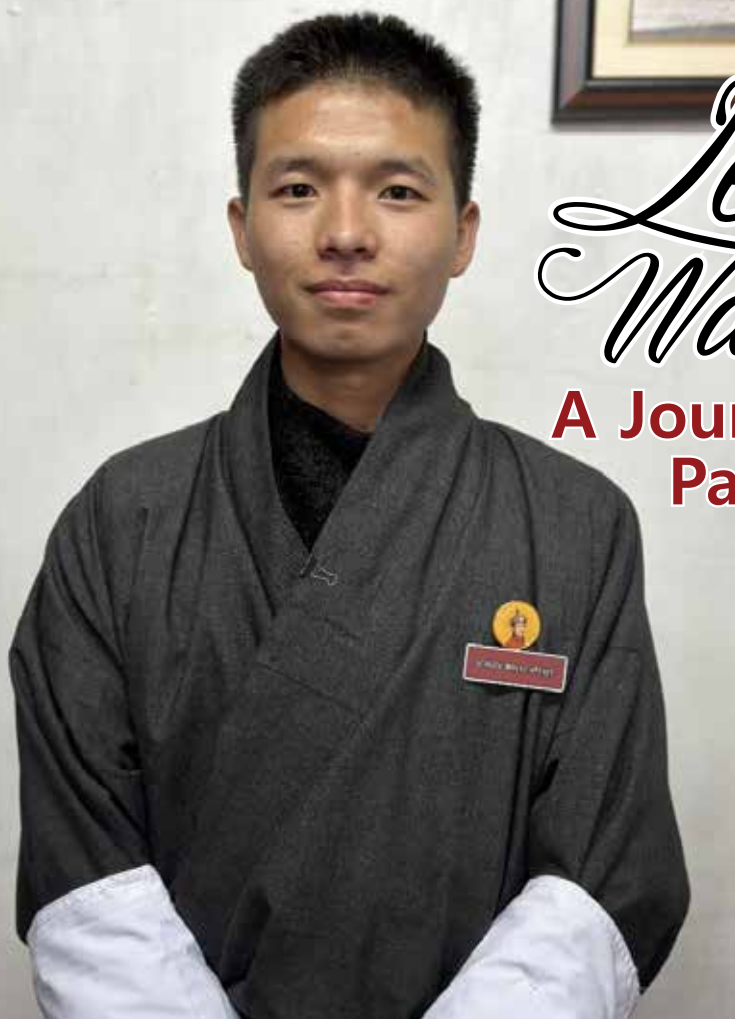
For those who dare to venture 33 kilometers from Trashigang town, past the whispering forests and across the meandering Gamri Chu, the Ancient Manor of Phongmey still stands, a relic of a time when legends walked the land and mountains bore the scars of celestial battles.

The writer works at Bhutan Airlines. He loves reading, writing and photography.

Leki Wangdi

By Sonam Choki

A Journey of Resilience, Passion, and Art



Born in a humble family of farmers from Chaskar in Monggar, a quaint village in eastern Bhutan, Leki Wangdi's life in the village was simple yet demanding, defined by the rhythm of the seasons and the unyielding toil of those who worked the land. His parents labored tirelessly under the scorching sun and relentless monsoon rains, ensuring their children had food on the table and a place to call home. Their unwavering dedication instilled in Leki a profound sense of perseverance and gratitude.

Despite the hardships, Leki's childhood was filled with moments of pure joy—playing with his siblings, chasing dragonflies in the fields, and learning the art of patience from his father as they tilled the land together. However, an ordinary school trip in the fifth grade would set the course of his life in an unexpected direction.

A Spark of Inspiration

One day, during a visit to a nearby monastery, young Leki stood transfixed before a series of intricate mural paintings. The vibrant colors, delicate brushstrokes, and divine expressions on the monastery walls spoke to him in a way nothing else had before. It was in that moment that a dream took root—he wanted to become an artist.



From this humble beginning rose Leki Wangdi



Leki received the inspirational Award 2024—one of the most prestigious honors at CTAS.





Leki Wangdi at work

But dreams often face the test of reality. Financial constraints loomed over his family, making it increasingly difficult for Leki to continue his education. By the time he reached the eighth grade, he made a heart-wrenching decision: he dropped out of school to support his parents. He began working at construction sites, doing hard labor to help ease his family's struggles. Though his hands grew calloused from carrying bricks instead of paintbrushes, the dream of becoming an artist never truly faded.

A Fateful Return to Art

Years later, fate led Leki back to the very monastery that had once ignited his passion. The monastery was undergoing renovations, and as he watched the artists carefully restoring the ancient paintings, a long-lost part of him stirred. It was here that he met Karma Gally, a skilled artist and a fellow villager, who introduced him to the Choki Traditional Art School (CTAS)—an institution dedicated to providing underprivileged youth with opportunities to pursue art.

Determined to give his dream another chance, Leki resolved to join CTAS, despite having no formal training. With guidance from his relatives, including

an alumnus of the school, he prepared himself for the competitive admission process. Against the odds, he secured a spot at the school, marking the beginning of a new chapter in his life.

Mastering the Art of Tradition

At CTAS, Leki flourished. He was introduced to the intricate world of Lhadi (traditional Bhutanese painting), where discipline, patience, and skill were essential. Guided by experienced mentors, he honed his craft, often spending long hours perfecting his brushwork and learning the sacred meanings behind each artistic element. His unwavering dedication and passion quickly set him apart—he consistently ranked at the top of his class, earning recognition from both peers and teachers alike.

Beyond academics, Leki took on various responsibilities, serving as store in-charge and later, school captain. His contributions extended to school initiatives, where he actively helped in organizing exhibitions and competitions. His talent was soon recognized on a larger platform when he won first place in a modern art competition for his captivating painting of a Snow Leopard.



Leki Wangdi with his family

Recognition and Honor

Leki's journey of resilience and determination was ultimately recognized with the Inspirational Award 2024—one of the most prestigious honors at CTAS. Instituted in 2023 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the school's establishment, the award is conferred upon students who exemplify exceptional dedication, leadership, and artistic excellence.

Receiving this award was not merely an acknowledgment of his talent—it was a testament to his perseverance, symbolizing how far he had come from the young boy who once stood mesmerized by monastery murals. The honor was even more profound as the award was presented in memory of the school's late founder, Dasho Choki Dorji, a visionary dedicated to preserving Bhutanese art and empowering young artists.

A Vision for the Future

Today, Leki Wangdi stands as a living testament to the power of resilience and dreams. He envisions a future where Bhutanese traditional art is preserved and celebrated, and he hopes to pass down his knowledge to future generations, ensuring that the rich cultural heritage of Bhutan remains alive. Moreover, he aspires to extend the gift of art to others, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, just as CTAS had once done for him.



Reflecting on his journey, Leki remains deeply grateful to Choki Traditional Art School, not just for nurturing his talent, but for giving him the courage to believe in himself once more. His story is a powerful reminder that no dream is too distant, and that with perseverance, even the most challenging paths can lead to greatness.



Living with the big cats in Trongsa

By Nima, WWF-Bhutan

Times are changing for the community of Jongthang village in Nubi, Trongsa.

The community characterized by traditional structures and terraced paddy fields sits amid a vast expanse of forests and towering peaks. These forests and peaks are critical components of biological corridor eight that connects Wangchuck Centennial Park, Jigme Dorji National Park and Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve.

The reverence for nature and wildlife continues to have a stronghold on the community's culture and tradition, but with increasing loss of livestock to the tigers their faith is challenged.

Often referred to as Mem Pham and revered by generations, the tigers have unlike in the past started preying more on cattle, coming into the community for the hunt.

Trongsa reported close to 600 cases of livestock depredation by tigers between 2020 and 2024. Nubi gewog alone reported 360 cases in the same year. It is one of the highest numbers of human-tiger conflict cases reported by a community in the country.



Sharing the space with tigers

Sonam, 58, has spent most of life herding cattle, and has encountered a tiger and seen countless tiger pug marks. He recalls an unexpected encounter with the tiger. “It is a giant animal but a swift one. The furs on its forehead glow like a gold, whiskers are longer than our palm,” said Sonam.

Sonam and his friend escaped the scene unhurt as the tiger jumped off the path within seconds. “Unlike in the past, tigers have started attacking our livestock frequently,” he said, adding he was not sure why the incidents were increasing.

The government and relevant authority are working with the community, helping them coexist peacefully with tigers. Several nature-based interventions that allow farmers to rear livestock are being implemented.



However, herding cattle and living a life of a farmer in a remote village such as Jongthang is limited to ageing parents today. The young and educated ones leave for better opportunities in urban areas or abroad.

There are drastic changes in livestock rearing. Migrating with cattle during summer and winter is non-existent now. As tigers prey more and more on cattle, the tigers attack from near the village are becoming more frequent.

In all these daily struggles and discomfort, Jongthang is prospering each day. Roads have reached the village, mechanized farming is here and a new way of guarding cattle from wildlife depredations are put in place.

The Department of Forests and Park Services have developed a community pastureland that allow cattles to graze inside a fenced grazing land. This allow farmers to focus on other works without having to look after the cattle.

Other innovative technologies are also being explored.

In gratitude

As a communications officer working with a conservation organization, I also visited another community, Draagteng, which has developed community pastureland through a project.

The community leaders said there are benefits the project brought to the community. Tending to cattle is made easier and safe with paddy fields serving as a grazing land after the harvest. By the time the paddy fields become fallow, the community pastureland located above the village is ready to serve as another safe grazing area.

The community pastureland was developed with support from the Department of Forests and Park Services and WWF-Bhutan to address the problem of tiger and wildlife attacking livestock in the community.

Farmers say that the number of human tiger conflict in Draagteng is decreasing. More and more farmers are choosing to insure their cattle. The pastureland has allowed farmers to focus on other important farming works in the village. However, there are also other wild animals preying on the livestock such as leopard cats, hyenas and more.





The Future

The efforts to help people and wildlife share space in harmony continues. Officials work together with communities, designing and developing interventions that can help farmers share space with tigers peacefully.

The pastureland development and insurance schemes were developed after receiving suggestions from the people on ground.

The number of human wildlife conflict cases are falling. However, there is a need to understand that conservation interventions are more than securing the lives of people. It's about creating a space where wildlife flourish and people prosper.

Draagteng falls near the biological corridor, rich in biodiversity values and landscapes that are home to critical species with high ecological values which supports the lives of both people and wildlife.

WWF-Bhutan and the Department of Forests and Park Services recently launched C2C: Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) Strategy for Trong gewog (block), Zhemgang. The strategy paves a hollistic approach to addressing the pressing challenges of human-wildlife conflict while fostering a harmonious relationship between communities and rich biodiversity.

As we seek better homes for ourselves, I hope we get to celebrate the harmonious coexistence of nature and people.



MOUNTAIN CAFE & Bhutan Mountain Coffee

A Sustainable Farm-to-Cup Experience



herbs, and the most exquisite seasonal vegetables thrive under the tender care of master cultivators, untainted by the touch of harsh chemicals or synthetic intrusions. Instead, the earth is nurtured with the purest gifts of nature—forest manure, rich with life, and composted remnants of vibrant vegetables and aromatic coffee grounds—completing a timeless cycle of renewal and abundance. Each dish that graces our tables is more than a meal; it is a tribute to this unwavering dedication, an ode to Bhutan’s unspoiled landscapes, bursting with flavors as pure and untamed as the mountains themselves.

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Imagine a haven where the pristine essence of nature is lovingly infused into every steaming cup of coffee and every exquisitely prepared dish. A place where the intoxicating aroma of freshly roasted Bhutanese coffee dances through the air, harmonizing with the crisp, earthy fragrance of lush organic greens flourishing just a breath away. Welcome to Mountain Café & Bhutan Mountain Coffee—a sanctuary where sustainability is not merely an aspiration but a cherished way of life. Here, the philosophy of farm-to-table and farm-to-cup transcends mere words, unfolding as a heartfelt commitment to purity, authenticity, and the celebration of Bhutan’s bountiful land.

From the Earth to Your Plate

At Mountain Café, freshness is not a mere indulgence—it is an unbreakable vow, a sacred promise woven into the very fabric of our philosophy. Here, verdant greens, fragrant



Crafting Coffee, Elevating Experience

Bhutan Mountain Coffee is not merely a beverage—it is an odyssey, a sensorial voyage through the mist-laden valleys and sun-drenched hills of Bhutan. Each precious bean is a labor of love, nurtured by dedicated Bhutanese farmers who pour their passion and precision into every stage of cultivation. Handpicked at the peak of perfection, these beans embark on a transformative journey, roasted in-house with unwavering care to unlock their deepest, most intricate flavors. Whether you crave the bold intensity of a dark roast or the velvety smoothness of



a medium blend, each sip is a revelation—an intimate encounter with Bhutan’s untouched soil, where the purity of nature is captured in every drop. And for the true connoisseur, our speciality: Organic Coffee, single origin and hand crafted, grown at 1300 altitude. Indulgence—a seamless fusion of tradition and innovation, where ancient wellness wisdom meets the artistry of fine coffee, creating an experience that transcends the ordinary.



A Commitment to Sustainability

Sustainability is not just a guiding principle—it is the very heartbeat of all that we do. At the core of our philosophy lies an unyielding commitment to nature’s delicate balance, where every element is honored and nothing is cast aside. Our circular approach breathes life into the land itself, as nutrient-rich coffee grounds and vibrant vegetable scraps are lovingly returned to the soil, replenishing it in a timeless dance of renewal. In this sacred cycle, waste ceases to exist, transformed instead into sustenance for future harvests. By championing local farmers, embracing ethical sourcing, and treading lightly upon the earth, we have created more than just a café—we have forged a sanctuary where conscious dining and uncompromising quality exist in perfect harmony, inviting you to savor each bite and sip with the knowledge that every choice here nurtures both people and planet.



An Authentic Taste of Bhutan

Mountain Café & Bhutan Mountain Coffee is not merely a café—it is an experience, a symphony of flavors and ideals, a living tribute to Bhutan’s untouched splendor. Here, nature’s bounty is not just served; it is celebrated, woven into every farm-fresh meal and every meticulously brewed cup of coffee. Each bite, each sip, is an invitation—an opportunity to taste the soul of Bhutan, to honor the hands that nurture its fertile lands, and to partake in a movement where sustainability is not just a choice, but a way of life.



This is more than dining—it is a journey, a connection to the land, to the farmers who cultivate it with devotion, and to a future where mindful choices shape a better world. Step into our sanctuary of taste and tradition. Join us, and let Bhutan reveal itself to you—one exquisite plate, one transcendent cup at a time.

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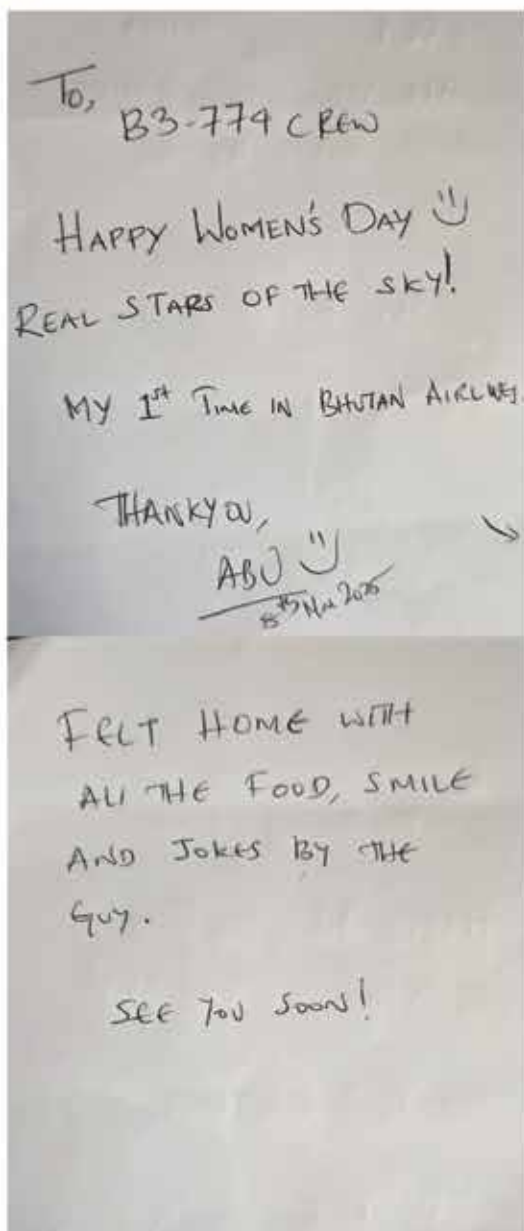
Route Map



About Bhutan Airlines

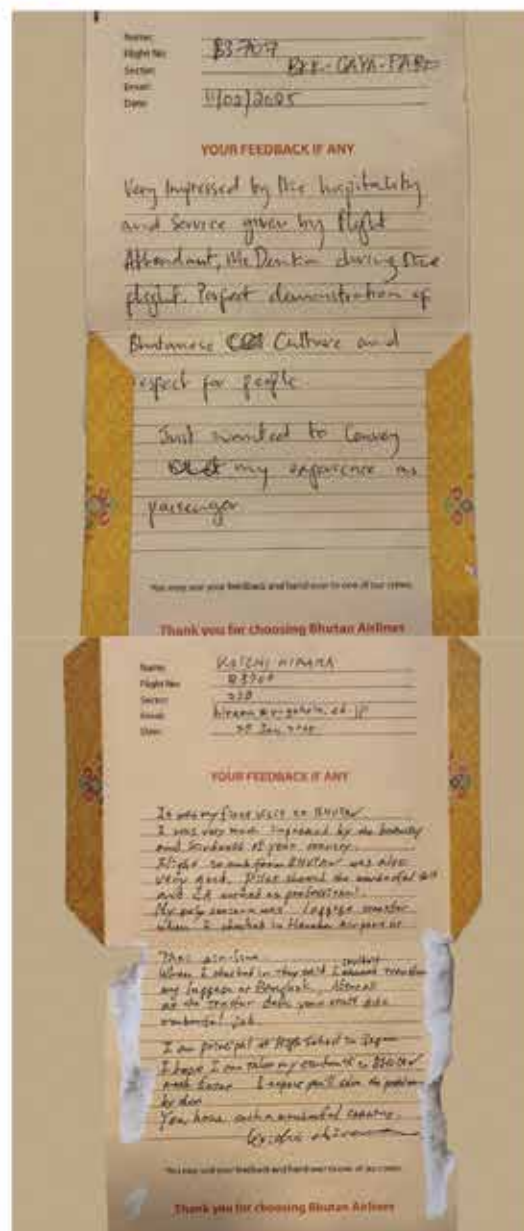
Bhutan Airlines, established in 2011, is a private airline based out of Paro, Bhutan. The airline operates a fleet of modern Airbus A319 aircraft with a seating capacity of 126 seats (12 Business & 114 Economy) and offers scheduled and charter flights to various international destinations.

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Seamless Journeys: Bhutan Airlines Launches Hanoi Fixed Departures



As Bhutan's first private airline, Bhutan Airlines played a vital role in promoting tourism and fostering cultural and economic ties between Bhutan and Vietnam. This expansion reaffirmed the airline's mission to connect travelers with Bhutan's rich heritage and stunning landscapes.

For more details, visit www.bhutanairlines.bt or contact : info@bhutanairlines.bt

Bhutan Airlines (Tashi Air Pvt. Ltd.) successfully expanded its Vietnam operations with the launch of Fixed Departure Flights from Hanoi. This milestone followed the airline's success with Fixed Departure Flights from Ho Chi Minh City, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing connectivity between Bhutan and Southeast Asia.

The official launch event in Hanoi on 11th February 2025 brought together travel professionals, airport handlers, and key industry stakeholders. The event received an overwhelmingly positive response, highlighting the strong demand for direct travel between Hanoi and Bhutan.

The Fixed Departure Flights from Hanoi will commence on April 30, 2025, the schedules were intended to align with peak travel periods, offering convenient options for travelers. Bhutan Airlines remained dedicated to delivering safe, comfortable, and reliable services while enhancing accessibility to Bhutan.



Expanded Horizons: First Flight from Ho Chi Minh City Took Off!



A new chapter in air connectivity was written as the first flight from Ho Chi Minh City (SGN) to Paro (PBH) departed on 31st January 2025. This milestone followed the official launch on 28th August 2024, marking a significant expansion in travel options between Vietnam and Bhutan.

The introduction of this route provided seamless travel opportunities for adventurers, spiritual seekers, and cultural enthusiasts eager to experience the Land of the Thunder Dragon. Strengthening regional connectivity, this addition also enhanced accessibility while maintaining exceptional service and comfort.

With this expansion, Bhutan Airlines continues to bridge new destinations, opening doors for travelers to experience the unique charm of Bhutan while strengthening its presence in the Southeast Asian market.

A journey of new possibilities took flight, bridging destinations and cultures like never before.

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Increase climate resilience of vulnerable community through provision of safe and clean drinking water

Access to clean and safe drinking water is a basic necessity, yet emerging climate change poses risk to water security in many rural communities across the country. Rising temperature, erratic precipitation, prolonged dry spells and extreme weather events make it difficult and crucial to explore and test climate-resilient solutions. Rural Water Supply Schemes (RWSS) together with watershed management offer a sustainable solution to improving water security while enhancing the climate resilience of the communities.

The Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN), the Country's oldest Environmental Conservation NGO is increasing the rural communities' climate resilience by supporting 14 RWSS in the most water-stressed communities of 4 Dzongkhags of Wangdue, Trongsa, Tsirang and Zhemgang. Out of these community projects, one notable success case is the Matalungchhu RWSS under the Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag. Under the mainstream development, this water supply could not be pursued due to long-standing social disputes among the communities in sharing water by multiple communities from one source. With support from the Local Government, RSPN with its strong social capital and bonding with the grassroots, negotiated with the communities and finally managed to support and construct a much awaited 7.5 km Matalungchhu RWSS.

The water scheme now delivers safe and clean drinking and irrigation water to 25 households, benefiting 203 residents. With water accessibility, communities have now revived cultivation of 150 acres of farmland, improved health and sanitation, keen in taking-up ecotourism and homestay business to supplement their livelihood, instilled with environment-friendly and conscious behavior of appreciating close intertwinedness and mutual co-existence between nature and humans. Such a change and transformation is crucial for RSPN, particularly in conserving the critically endangered White-bellied Heron from the brink of extinction and ensuring a sustainable future for both people and nature. In partnership with Bhutan Airlines, RSPN is also working on implementing environmental and low carbon development projects through carbon offset programs.



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 - Enter your PNR or booking reference or reservation number and last name
 - From there easily go to manage your booking and add the services you need.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE (15 FEB 2025 - 15 APR 2025)

DAY	FLIGHT	SECTOR	DEP.	ARR.
MON	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1225	1340
TUE	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	0630	0815
		Kathmandu - Paro	0855	1010
WED	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1225	1340
THU	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	0630	0815
		Kathmandu - Paro	0855	1010
FRI	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1225	1340
SAT	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	0630	0815
		Kathmandu - Paro	0855	1010
SUN	B3701	Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1225	1340
	B3700	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3774	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605



FLIGHT SCHEDULE (16 APR 2025 - 15 MAY 2025)

DAY	FLIGHT	SECTOR	DEP.	ARR.
MON	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	0630	0815
		Kathmandu - Paro	0855	1010
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1225	1340
TUE	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	0630	0815
		Kathmandu - Paro	0855	1010
	B3738	Paro - Kolkata	1100	1140
		Kolkata - Bengaluru	1210	1450
WED	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3739	Bengaluru- Paro	0500	0840
	B3717	Paro - Kolkata	1100	1140
		Kolkata - Mumbai	1210	1450
THU	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3718	Mumbai - Paro	0500	0840
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
FRI	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	0630	0815
		Kathmandu - Paro	0855	1010
	B3738	Paro - Kolkata	1100	1140
		Kolkata - Bengaluru	1210	1450
SAT	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1225	1340
	B3739	Bengaluru - Paro	0500	0840
	B3717	Paro - Kolkata	1100	1140
		Kolkata - Mumbai	1210	1450
SUN	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1035	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3718	Mumbai - Paro	0500	0840
		Delhi - Kathmandu	0630	0815
	B3774	Kathmandu - Paro	0855	1010
		Paro - Kathmandu	1050	1145
	B3773	Kathmandu - Delhi	1225	1340

**FLIGHT SCHEDULE (16 MAY 2025 - 15 JUN 2025)**

DAY	FLIGHT	SECTOR	DEP.	ARR.
MON	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	0915	1005
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1045	1210
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	1310	1505
		Kathmandu - Paro	1545	1630
TUE	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3738	Paro - Kolkata	1100	1140
		Kolkata - Bengaluru	1220	1500
WED	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	0915	1005
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1045	1210
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	1310	1505
		Kathmandu - Paro	1545	1630
	B3739	Bengaluru - Paro	0500	0840
	B3717	Paro - Kolkata	1710	1750
THU	B3701	Kolkata - Mumbai	1820	2100
		Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
	B3700	Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
		Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
FRI	B3718	Mumbai - Paro	1050	1430
	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
SAT	B3738	Paro - Kolkata	1100	1140
		Kolkata - Bengaluru	1220	1500
	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	0915	1005
		Kathmandu - Delhi	1045	1210
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	1310	1505
		Kathmandu - Paro	1545	1630
SUN	B3739	Bengaluru - Paro	0500	0840
		Paro - Kolkata	1710	1750
	B3717	Kolkata - Mumbai	1820	2100
		Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
	B3701	Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
		Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
	B3700	Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
		Paro - Kathmandu	0915	1005
	B3773	Kathmandu - Delhi	1045	1210
		Delhi - Kathmandu	1310	1505
SUN	B3774	Kathmandu - Paro	1545	1630
		Mumbai - Paro	0500	0840
	B3718	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3718	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115



BHUTAN AIRLINES®

FLIGHT SCHEDULE (16 JUN 2025 - 20 SEPT 2025)

DAY	FLIGHT	SECTOR	DEP.	ARR.
MON	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	0705	0800
		Kathmandu - Delhi	0840	0955
TUE	B3701	Delhi - Kathmandu	1055	1240
		Kathmandu - Paro	1320	1435
	B3700	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3773	Kolkata - Paro	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
WED	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
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		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Kolkata - Paro	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
FRI	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955
	B3700	Kolkata - Paro	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
	B3773	Paro - Kathmandu	0705	0800
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	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
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	B3700	Paro - Kolkata	1055	1115
		Kolkata - Bangkok	1155	1605
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		Kathmandu - Delhi	0840	0955
	B3774	Delhi - Kathmandu	1055	1240
		Kathmandu - Paro	1320	1435
	B3701	Bangkok- Kolkata	0630	0745
		Kolkata - Paro	0825	0955

Note: Please check flight timings & days of operation by visiting our website www.bhutanairlines.bt or whatsapp us at +975-77106011 before planning your travel.

Festival Dates 2025

Festivals	Location	Dates
Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The King of Bhutan	whole Bhutan	Feb 21 -23
Lhamoi Dromche	Trongsa	Mar 6 -8
Punakha Drupchen	Punakha	Mar 6 -8
Punakha Tshechu	Punakha	Mar 9 -11
Bhutan International Marathon	Annual Event, Gasa-Punakha	Mar 4
Tangsibi Mani	Ura, Bumthang Annual Event Organised	Mar 15-17
Chorten Kora	Chorten Kora, Trashi Yangtse Trashigang	Mar 14 & 29
Tharpaling Thongdrol	Chumi, Bumthang	Mar 14
Gasa Tshechu	Gasa Dzong	Apr 5 -7
Zhemgang Tshechu	Zhemgang	Apr 5 -7
Talo Tshechu	Talo Village, Punakha	April 5 -7
Gomkora Tshechu	Gomkora, Trashi Yangtse	April 5 -7
Paro Tshechu	Paro Dzong	April 8 -12
Rhododendron festival	Lampelri Botanical Garden, Dochula	April 22 -24
Domkhar Tshechu	Chumi, Bumthang	May 7 -9
Ura Yakchoe	Ura, Bumthang	May 9 -13
Dolay Drupchen	Taktsang Pelphu, Paro	May 20-30
Nimalung Tshechu	Chumi, Bumthang	Jul 3 -5
Kurjey Tshechu	Choekor, Bumthang	Jul 5
Masutake Mushroom festival	Genekha, Thimphu	Aug 20 -21
Takila Cham	Takila Lhakhang, Lhuentse	Aug 29 -31
Tour of the Dragon-Bicycle Race	Bumthang-Thimphu	Sep 6
Thimphu Dromchoe	Tashichoedzong, Thimphu	Sep 28
Paro Dromchoe	Rinpung Dzong, Paro	Sep 30
Wangdue Tshechu	Wangduephodrang	Sep 30 -Oct 2
Haa Tshechu	Lhakhang Karpo, Haa	Sep 22 -24
Thimphu Tshechu	Tendrel Thang, Tashichoedzong	Oct 2 -4
Tamshing Phala Choepa	Tamshing, Bumthang	Oct 2 -4
Gangtey Tshechu	Gangtey, Phobjikha Valley	Oct 5 -7
Thangbi Mewang	Choekor, Bumthang	Oct 7 -8
Jhomolhari Mountain festival	Jangkothang, Jhomolhari Base	Oct 14 -15
Chukha Tshechu	Chukha	Oct 29 -31
Dechenphu Tshechu	Thimphu	Oct 31
Jakar Tshechu	Choekor, Bumthang	Oct 29 -Nov 1
Jambhay Lhakhang Drup	Choekor, Bumthang	Nov 5 -8
Prakhar Duchhoed	Chumi, Bumthang	Nov 6 -8
Black Necked Crane Festival	Phobjikha Valley	Nov 11
Yeshey Goenpi Drupchen	Trongsa	Nov 18 -20
Mongar Tshechu	Mongar	Nov 28 -30
Trashigang Tshechu	Trashigang	Nov 29 -Dec 1
Jambhay Lhakhang Singye Cham	Bumthang	Dec 4
Nalakhar Tshechu	Bumthang	Dec 4 -6
Druk Wangyel Tshechu	Dochula	Dec 13
Trongsa Tshechu	Trongsa	Dec 27-31 (Dec 27 is Chamjur)
Lhuentse Tshechu	Lhuentse	Dec 27 -31

NOTE : Religious festival dates are tentative, please confirm with your tour operator prior to booking your holiday.

Earth's Natural

- 1 Mt. Gauri Shangkar (7134m)
- 2 Mt. Everest (8848m)
- 3 Mt. Kangchenjunga (8586m)

1



2



The flight to and from Paro International Airport offers one of the rare opportunities to see the spectacular view of some of the tallest mountain peaks in the world. The skies are clear normally from Mid-September to early June allowing us to witness the magnificent towering peaks of the Himalayan range. The aircraft cruises at an altitude of 26,000 ft to 39,000 ft, which allows us to take in the breathtaking vistas of the Tibetan plateau-the roof of the world.

3



A few minutes after the take off from the Paro airport you will be able to see Mount Jomolhari (7,326m), the second highest mountain in Bhutan. As the aircraft enters the Indian airspace over the neighbouring state of Sikkim in India, the majestic Mt. Kangchenjunga (8,586m) appears high. Enroute to Kathmandu, Nepal, you will see a cluster of Mountains from the right side of the aircraft. The pyramid-shaped peak in the middle is Mount Everest (8,848m), the tallest mountain on the planet. The peaks in front of Everest are Lhotse (8,516m),

Sculptures



- 4 Mt. Makalu (8475m)
- 5 Mt. Jomolhari (7326m)
- 6 Mt. Everest with Mt. Nuptse on the left and Mt. Lhotse on the right



the fourth tallest mountain in the world and Nuptse (7,861m). The distinctive peak on the right is Mt. Makalu (8,475m), fifth highest mountain in the world.

As the aircraft descends to Kathmandu, you will see Mt. Guarishankhar (7,134m). The name of the mountain is derived from Sanskrit - Guari meaning Goddess and her consort Shankhar. The local name of the mountain is Jomo Tseringma.

On the flight between Kathmandu and New Delhi, you will come across three major mountain peaks. The first one is Mt. Manaslu (8,163m), the eight highest mountain in the world. It is also known as the "Mountain of the spirit". The name is derived from the Sanskrit word "manasa" which means intellect or soul. Further away on the flight, you will fly by the Mt. Annapurna (8,000m), the 10th highest peak in the world and Mt. Dhaulagiri (8,167m), the seventh highest mountain in the world.





General Information



FLIGHT TIMINGS

Due to the geographical location and operating challenges out of Paro Airport in Bhutan which is severely dependent on weather conditions, the schedule timings are subject to change without prior notice. Travelers are therefore, requested to check with Bhutan Airlines offices or its agent for the latest information. Bhutan Airlines reserves the rights without assigning any reason to cancel, reschedule, or overfly or delay the commencement or deviate from the route of the journey. Therefore, all passengers are advised to maintain a minimum of 24 hours connection time to avoid misconnection. All passengers are advised to maintain flexible tickets on connecting carriers.

The reporting time for your flight is three hours prior to flight departure. All counters will close one hour prior to scheduled departure of the flight.



RESERVATION

For all travel requirements, please contact the nearest Bhutan Airlines booking office or a travel agent. International airlines, tour promoters and travel agents abroad are invited to communicate their reservation requirements to the info@bhutanairlines.bt



IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

For safety, passengers are required to fasten seat belts during take off and landing. However, passengers are advised to keep seat belt fastened during the entire flight. Smoking and chewing of tobacco and betel nut in the aircraft is strictly prohibited.



RECONFIRMATION

It is advised to reconfirm your bookings at least 72 hours before scheduled departure.



TICKET VALIDITY

Tickets issued against full fare are valid for a period of one year, except as otherwise provided in the ticket.



REFUND & CANCELLATION

Refund of ticket can be made by the issuing office only. For the conditions of refund and cancellation, please check with any Bhutan Airlines office.



CHECK-IN FORMALITIES

The reporting time for your flight is three hours prior to flight departure. All counters will close one hour prior to scheduled departure of the flight. Itinerary receipts and travel documents must be presented at the time of check-in. For all travel, it is the ticket holder's responsibility to ensure that all required visas have been obtained and presented at check-in. The Carrier reserves the right to refuse carriage to a passenger who fails to present the necessary travel documents. Time shown on the itinerary receipt is the departure time of the aircraft. If a credit card is used for purchase of this electronic ticket, the credit card must be presented at check-in.



BAGGAGE

The weight concept is applied to all areas. A checked baggage allowance of 40kgs in Business and 30kgs in Economy class is permissible.

An infant under 2 years of age and not occupying a seat is not entitled to baggage allowance. To comply with the security regulations, passengers may carry only one hand baggage. Its sum of three dimensions should not exceed 100 cms and the weight should not exceed more than 7kgs.

General Information



SECURITY

According to security regulations, passengers are advised:

Not to accept any baggage/ packet from unknown persons. Not to leave baggage unobserved at anytime especially within airport area. Unattended baggage may be removed by Airport/ Security staff as object of suspicion.

To declare before check-in, if carrying any arms or explosive substance. Concealment is an offence. Passengers are requested to remove battery cells/dry cells from radios, transistor sets, two-in-ones and other such electrical/ electronic items and hand them over to the airline staff before security check or carry them in registered baggage.



TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO ENTER BHUTAN:

Indian Nationals:

All Indian nationals visiting Bhutan can travel with their passport and voters card.

Bangladesh & Maldives Nationals:

All Bangladesh and Maldives nationals have to travel with their passport.

Other Nationality:

All foreigners visiting Bhutan must have a valid visa clearance letter issued by the Department of Immigration of Bhutan prior to boarding of flight and are required to produce a copy of the visa clearance letter at the time of check-in. The initial Reference Letter issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not valid for travel. Any passenger without valid visa will be denied entry at Check-in.



CUSTOMS: TOURIST ALLOWANCE:

1. Spirit bottle not larger than one liter

2. 800 sticks of cigarettes, 1200 sticks in bidis, 150 pieces of cigar or 750 grams of other tobacco and tobacco products (subject to 100 percent customs duty and 100 percent sales tax)

3. A tourist shall be allowed to import temporarily free of customs duty his/her personal effects and articles required for visit, provided the items imported are only for personal use and that the items will be re-exported with them when they leave the country.



FOOD & BEVERAGES ON BOARD

Meals are served after a flight is airborne for a reasonable duration. The timings are:

**Breakfast: 0730-1030 hours Lunch: 1030-1430 hours
Dinner: 1830-2130 hours**

On one hour sector flights, snacks are served. Refreshments and drinks are served throughout the duration of the flight.



INFLIGHT MEALS & REFRESHMENTS

Bhutan Airlines offers a multi-cuisine menu on board. Bangkok inflight services, Paro catering and the Taj Group provide most of our inflight catering.



FORBIDDEN ITEMS IN BAGGAGE

For safety reason, dangerous articles such as those listed below, must not be carried in passenger's baggage. Compressed gasses (deeply refrigerated, flammable, non-flammable and poisonous) such as butane, oxygen, liquid nitrogen, aqualung cylinders. Corrosives such as acids, alkalis, mercury and wet cell batteries. Explosives, munitions, fireworks and flares. Flammable liquids and solids such as lighter fuel, matches, paints, thinners, fire-lighters, radioactive materials, Brief-cases and attaché cases with installed alarm devices.

Oxidizing materials such as bleaching powder, peroxides. Poisons and infectious substances such as insecticides, weed-killer and live virus materials. Other dangerous articles such as magnetized material, offensive or irritating materials.

Medicines and toiletries in limited quantities which are necessary or appropriate for the passenger during the journey, such as hairsprays, perfumes, and medicines containing alcohol may be carried. Many of these listed can be carried as air cargo provided they are packed in accordance with the cargo regulations.

CUSTOMS INFORMATION: CUSTOMS DECLARATION

Passengers entering Bhutan have to pass through the customs checks. All passengers carrying baggage in excess of allowable limit (which is goods worth US \$1000), or, dutiable goods, or, restricted items, must make declaration in the prescribed form.

Should the passengers fail to make the declaration in whole, or, file incomplete declaration, as against the mandate of Section 96, Ch. 13 of the Customs Act of Bhutan, 2017 (CAB), it shall lead to invocation of Section 143 & 146, Ch. 19 of the CAB.

Note: Baggage or goods in commercial nature shall not be considered as free baggage allowance even if the value of the goods is less than US\$ 1000 or equivalent Ngultrum.

FREE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE FOR AIR PASSENGERS

Personal effects up to the assessed value of US\$ 1000 or equivalent in Ngultrum subject to the ceiling prescribed below:

- Alcohol/Spirits – 2 bottles, each bottle not larger than one litre
- Perfume: 1 bottle, not larger than 2 ounces
- Gold (including jewellery) – 50 gms
- Silver (including jewellery) – 1 kilogram
- Clothing items: A maximum of 10 pieces per type of clothing, whether stitched or unstitched.
- Other household or personal goods including electronics & bedding shall be limited to one piece each
- Items of gifts & presents shall be included in the above free allowance.

Note: Baggage or goods in commercial nature shall not be considered as free baggage allowance even if the value of the goods is less than US\$ 1000 or equivalent Ngultrum

FREE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE FOR FOREIGN TOURIST

Used personal effects and articles reasonably required for the visit provided items imported are for personal use and shall be re-exported upon leaving Bhutan.

Import free of Customs duty, articles up to Ngultrum 10,000/- or equivalent, for personal use or as gifts and travel souvenirs if carried on the person or in the accompanied baggage, including spirit of not more than two litres and perfume of not more than 100 ml.

High value articles and sports items as approved and imported in reasonable quantities shall be considered under temporary admission considering that the articles or items are re-exported on leaving Bhutan.

LIST OF RESTRICTED GOODS: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

- Arms and Ammunitions
- Gold and Silver in excess of free baggage allowance
- Explosives and explosives devices
- Medicinal products including narcotics and psychotropic substance for medical use
- Other narcotics and psychotropic substances and precursor
- Animal and their parts and products including food
- Plants, their parts (seeds/fruits/flowers/shoots/roots/tissues) and products
- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and their products
- Convertible currency exceeding US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent
- Industrial and toxic wastes and residues
- Wireless and remote sensing telecommunication and broadcasting equipment
- Scraps
- Used or second hand goods, vehicles, machinery and equipment
- Chemical and Fertilizers
- Plastic packing materials
- Valuable cultural properties
- Ozone Depleting substances
- Intellectual property rights
- Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)/ Drones

LIST OF PROHIBITED GOODS: GENERAL DESCRIPTION

- Narcotics and psychotropic drugs and substances
- Pornographic materials
- Animals and plants classified as endangered species and their parts and products
- Tobacco and tobacco products in excess of allowable limit



Department of Revenue and Customs
Ministry of Finance

UPCOMING FESTIVALS



April 5th -7th, 2025

The Gasa Tshechu is a significant three-day Buddhist festival held in the remote Gasa district of northwest Bhutan, known for its unique folk dances and mask dances performed by monks and locals, and is a major social event for the highlander communities.



April 3rd -09th, 2025

The Rhododendron Week, a first-of-its-kind festival in Merak Gewog, Trashigang, will take place from April 3 to 9, 2025, showcasing the Brokpa culture and the stunning rhododendron blooms, with a focus on community-driven tourism.



May 7th -9th, 2025

Domkhar Tshechu is a 3 days festival, which includes chams and dances which are performed by the local people of Domkhar village. The chams include mainly the Peling Chams (composition of Terton Pema Lingpa). On the last day of the festival, the lhakhang displays large thongdrols to bless the people of Domkhar village.

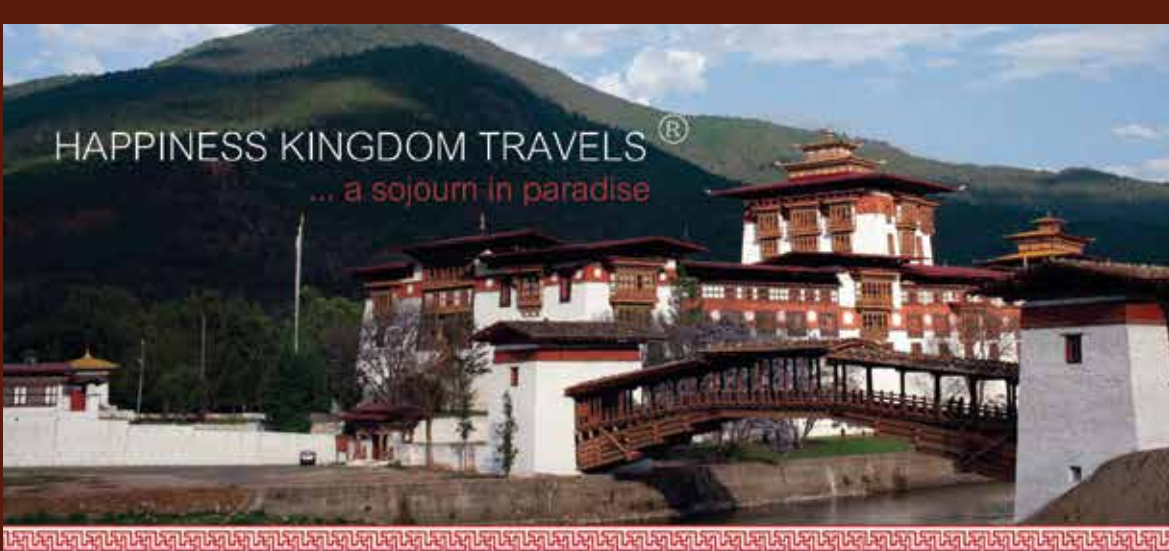


May 9th -13th, 2025

The Ura Yakchoe is an annual festival observed by the Ura Dozhi or Makrong village. A local village affair, it is said to have started as a commemoration of Guru Rinpoche's arrival in the village to help residents overcome an epidemic. The main part of the festival is comprised of five days of public performances.

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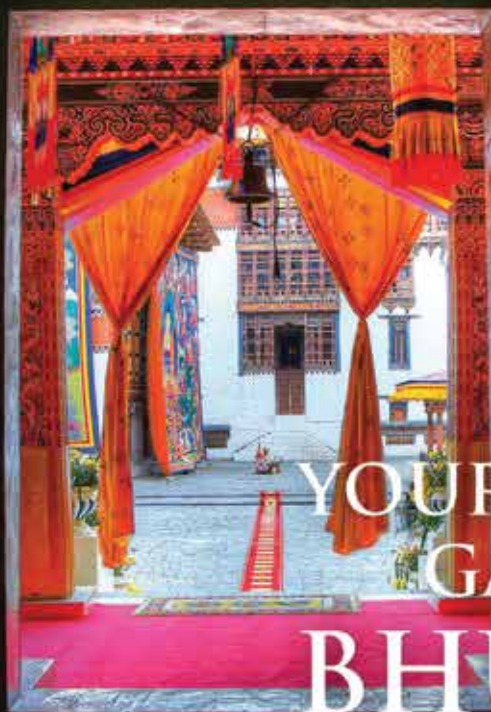
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