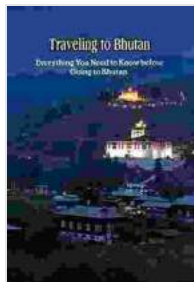


Everything You Need to Know Before Going to Bhutan



Traveling to Bhutan: Everything You Need to Know before Going to Bhutan : Bhutan Travel Guide by Gary Troia

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Bhutan is a small country nestled in the Himalayas between China and India. It is known for its stunning scenery, rich culture, and friendly people. Bhutan is also a very spiritual country, and its people place great importance on Gross National Happiness (GNH), a concept that measures the overall well-being of the population.

Visa requirements

Citizens of most countries do not need a visa to enter Bhutan. However, you will need to obtain a visa if you are from one of the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, or Thailand. You can apply for a visa online or at your nearest Bhutanese embassy or consulate.

Getting to Bhutan

The only way to get to Bhutan is by air. The national airline, Druk Air, operates flights from several cities in Asia, including Bangkok, Delhi, Kathmandu, and Kolkata. You can also fly to Bhutan from Paro International Airport, which is located about an hour's drive from the capital city of Thimphu.

Accommodation

There are a variety of accommodation options available in Bhutan, from budget guesthouses to luxury hotels. If you are on a tight budget, you can find guesthouses for as little as \$10 per night. If you are looking for a more comfortable stay, you can find hotels for around \$50 per night. For a truly luxurious experience, you can stay at one of Bhutan's many five-star hotels, which offer stunning views of the Himalayas.

Food

Bhutanese cuisine is influenced by Tibetan and Indian cuisine. The staple food is rice, which is often served with a variety of curries and stews. Other popular dishes include momos (dumplings), thukpa (noodles), and ema datshi (chili cheese). If you are a vegetarian, you will find plenty of options available in Bhutan. However, if you are a meat-eater, you may want to bring some of your own dried meat or jerky, as it can be difficult to find in Bhutan.

Things to do

There are many things to see and do in Bhutan. Here are a few of the most popular attractions:

- **Tiger's Nest Monastery:** This iconic monastery is perched on a cliff face 3,000 feet above the Paro Valley. It is one of the most sacred

sites in Bhutan and is a must-see for any visitor.

- **Punakha Dzong:** This massive fortress is located at the confluence of two rivers and is a stunning example of Bhutanese architecture. It is also the winter residence of the Je Khenpo, the spiritual leader of Bhutan.
- **Taksang Monastery:** This monastery is located in the Paro Valley and is known for its stunning views of the Himalayas. It is a popular destination for hikers and trekkers.
- **Dochula Pass:** This mountain pass is located in the Himalayas and offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains. It is also a popular spot for birdwatching.
- **Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary:** This sanctuary is home to a variety of wildlife, including snow leopards, blue sheep, and takins. It is a popular destination for wildlife enthusiasts.

When to go

The best time to visit Bhutan is during the spring or fall, when the weather is mild and the skies are clear. However, Bhutan is a year-round destination, and you can enjoy the country's beauty no matter when you visit.

Budget

Bhutan is a relatively expensive country to visit. However, there are ways to save money on your trip. Here are a few tips:

- Travel during the off-season.
- Stay in guesthouses or budget hotels.

- Eat at local restaurants.
- Take advantage of free activities, such as hiking and trekking.

Packing tips

Here are a few packing tips for your trip to Bhutan:

- Pack light clothing, as the weather in Bhutan is mild year-round.
- Pack a raincoat or umbrella, as it can rain in Bhutan at any time of year.
- Pack comfortable hiking shoes, as you will be doing a lot of walking in Bhutan.
- Pack a hat and sunscreen, as the sun can be strong in Bhutan.
- Pack a camera to capture the stunning scenery of Bhutan.

Cultural tips

Here are a few cultural tips for your trip to Bhutan:

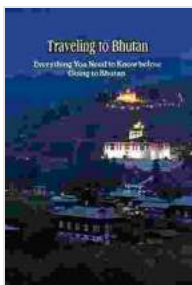
- Be respectful of Bhutanese culture and customs.
- Dress modestly, especially when visiting religious sites.
- Remove your shoes before entering a temple or monastery.
- Do not touch people's heads, as this is considered disrespectful.
- Learn a few basic Bhutanese phrases, such as "hello" and "thank you." The Bhutanese people are very friendly and will appreciate your effort to speak their language.

Safety

Bhutan is a very safe country to visit. However, it is always important to take precautions to protect yourself from crime. Here are a few safety tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings and take precautions against pickpockets.
- Do not walk alone at night.
- Keep your valuables in a safe place.
- If you are hiking or trekking, be sure to let someone know your itinerary.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol at high altitudes.

Bhutan is a truly unique and special country. With its stunning scenery, rich culture, and friendly people, Bhutan is a destination that should be on everyone's travel list. If you are planning a trip to Bhutan, be sure to do your research and plan your itinerary carefully. With a little planning, you can have a safe and unforgettable experience in Bhutan.



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