

Other Travel Information

1. **Alcohol** - Alcoholic beverage up to 1 liter for personal consumption. Also Tuesdays is a dry day in Bhutan and no alcohol is served. Please refrain from drinking in religious or public places.
2. **Camping Facilities** - Camping facilities in Bhutan are very basic with simple Bhutanese food. Please do not expect international quality of camps in Bhutan.
3. **Cancellation Policy** – Read the cancellation policy of the hotels as well as of the tour operator.
4. **Cigarettes and Tobacco** - Tobacco & Tobacco products are banned in Bhutan. However, travellers may carry limited quantity for their personal consumption in payment of taxes as may be applicable the entry points. Import of cigarettes and any other tobacco related products up to 200 (ten packets) cigarettes on payment of 200 percent duty is permitted. Please refrain from smoking in public places. A fine of Nu 500 is applicable if you are caught smoking in public place. Also you will have to produce proof of payment of import duty and tax.
5. **Clothes** - Remember to carry clothing as per the season and temperature in Bhutan during the time of travel. Also remember to carry hiking shoes.
6. **Credit Cards** - There are no facilities for Credit cards although only few handicraft stores & very few hotels accept VISA card with 5% common charge. Further it is also recommended that you speak with your service provider to find out about the acceptability of credit card in Bhutan.
7. **Currency** - Indian travelers can carry Indian Currency in INR 100 denominations or smaller notes into Bhutan. Denominations of Rs 500 and above are legally banned in Bhutan. Please note that Ngultrum (Nu) is at par with Indian Rupee. Indian Rupee is widely accepted in Bhutan.
8. **Documents** - All guests must carry original valid identity proof. Adults must carry original & valid Passport or original Voter ID card. Children must carry original & valid Passport or original birth certificate & school photo ID card. It is seen that guests very often instead of carrying original documents either carry the scanned copy of the document or photocopy of the original. Please remember that Bhutan is a foreign country. Anyone not carrying original valid passport or voter I card shall be deported back by the immigrations and not allowed to enter the country.
9. **Dress Code** - Please take off your hats while visiting Dzongs, monasteries and in front of the National Flag. Also ensure that you are properly dressed (such as long sleeves shirts and T Shirts, full pants) while visiting Dzongs, temples and other government offices. Shorts & half pants are not permitted while entering Dzongs, temples and other government offices.
10. **Electrical Plugs** - All major towns are well connected with electricity that runs on 220/240 volts with round hole two-pin and three-pin power outlets. It is recommended that you bring flat-to-round pin converters for your electronics if necessary, however, most hotels offer multi plug sockets.
11. **Gifts** - Do not hand gifts, sweets or money to strangers and children. If you want to present please consult your local guide
12. **Guides** - All guests must follow the instructions of guides. The guides provided are trained and certified by the Tourism Council of Bhutan. **Taking pictures of some parts and items in the Temples and Dzongs are prohibited.** Please follow the instructions from your guide.
13. **Landslides** - Landslides are common occurrence in hilly areas. Any expenses incurred for the modification in the tour shall be directly collected from the guest as per actual expenses.
14. **Language** – Dzongkha is national language of Bhutan. However, English and Hindi are very widely spoken.
15. **Meet & Greet** - In case the guests are arriving by flight at Paro or Bagdogra Airport, our representative shall be waiting outside the exit gate with placard in the hands. In case the guests are **arriving** at NJP Railway station which has O3 entry & exit gate, please inform the guests that our representative shall be waiting at the old exit gate (main gate which houses the Army Counter) holding placard.
16. **Permits** – The holder of the online / tourist permit is not allowed to seek any employment in Bhutan. Misuse of permit is a penal offence and a fine of Nu 3300 along with deportation as per IRR 2015 is applicable.
17. **Personal belongings** - Bhutan is a very safe place. Your belongings are safe in hotel/car but on a BAD day, anything could go wrong so we always suggest you to carry your camera, wallet, passport and your valuable goods with you all the time
18. **Phuentsholing Entry Gate** - The Entry Gate at Phuentsholing closes by 2130 AM (IST) and opens at 0730 AM (IST). In the arrival is late in the evening or departure in early in the morning than it is mandatory for the guests to spend a night in Siliguri. If the guests have not made any arrangements for their stay in Siliguri, then they will have to wait at the Waiting / Retiring Room of the station.
19. **Public display of affection** - Public displays of affection between opposite sex or similar sex are frowned upon. Please refrain from doing that in public places
20. **Road Conditions** - **Please be informed that the condition beyond Punakha is bad as widening works are going on and takes lot more than standard time to reach the destination. If there is any bookings for any place beyond Punakha, please inform the travellers beforehand on mandatory basis about the same so that the travellers come prepared.**

21. **Shopping** - If you buy handicrafts from Bhutan, please ensure that you have valid bills and cash memo for the same. Bhutan has strict regulations for the same. It is illegal to take any plant or agricultural product out of Bhutan. Do not purchase any old household items, antiques, textiles and ritual objects from local people not selling through local shops. Please remember that buying and selling of antiques is strictly forbidden in Bhutan.
22. **Telephone Connections** - International Roaming in Bhutan is very expensive. Please check with your mobile service provider for charges related to Bhutan. If you need, its best to use a local sim. Tourists can easily get the tourists sim in Bhutan. In order to get the connection they have to submit the copy of the voter I card or the passport together with 2 passport size photographs to the vendor. The guide shall assist in getting the sim.
23. **Timing Difference** – Bhutan is half an hour ahead of Indian Standard Time.
24. **Traffic Rules** – Bhutan has strict traffic rules. Only cross the road on zebra crossing.
25. **Travel in Peak Season** - Bhutan has limited infrastructure. The inventory of the hotels are limited. The months of Mar-May and September to November are busiest month in Bhutan. Indian travel during this period coincides with the foreigner travelling. Considering the rush and limited infrastructure it is important that the guests remain calm and follow the instructions of the guide to have a memorable stay.
26. **Twin Bedded Rooms** - **Most of the hotels in Bhutan have twin beds. We will try to give King/Queen beds in case of availability. If the hotels are unable to provide King/Queen beds, than the guests will have to stay in twin bedded rooms only.**
27. **Misc** -
 - a. Urinating along the road side and sacred places are strictly prohibited. Fine of Nu 1000/- is applicable for such act as per Wastes Prevention and Management Regulation Act, 2012.
 - b. In case you are travelling between June – Sept please carry Mosquito and insect repellent

Some Bhutanese Etiquette:

- Always walk in clockwise direction while visiting religious places.
- Please remember not to point with a single finger but use an upturned flat extended hand specially to indicate a sacred object or place.
- Please throw rubbish only in designated areas and do not litter.
- Please refrain from touching any ritual objects or mural paintings.
- Please do not walk over any clothes, books, hearth or materials left open in religious sites.
- Please do not be too close to the lake or river if you wish to avoid any accidents.
- Please ask permission before entering a scared place, homes or private land.
- Please take permission before taking photographs or videos of any person.
- Please maintain silence near monasteries, dzongs and near offices.
- Please note Urinating along the road side and sacred places are strictly prohibited