

# Bhutan



## **Climate:**

The climate is best in autumn, from late September to late November, when skies are clear and the high mountain peaks are visible. This is the ideal time for trekking and for traveling throughout the country. You're likely to get wet no matter what the season, but avoid the monsoon, June-August. In the central belt, including Paro and Thimpu, expect sunny skies and temperatures ranging between daytime highs of 50' F and nighttime lows of 32' F from November to April. Late spring and fall have average temperatures ranging between 60' F and 30' F. In summer daytime highs will reach about 70' F, and there will be light periods of rain. The best times to visit the high mountains of the north are in late spring, fall, and early summer. Temperatures will range between highs in the 50s or 60s F, and nighttime lows in the 40s. Winters are below freezing.

**Currency:** The local currency is the Ngultrum. Bhutan has two banks, with branches throughout the country. You can cash travelers checks at any bank and most hotels, but you should only carry well-known brands such as American Express. *Don't plan to use your credit card in Bhutan and there are no ATMs.* Some places take visa, but that is all. We recommend taking a combination of travelers checks and bills - usually in \$20 and \$100 denominations. It is best to be sure and get your banking done in the morning. Plan ahead and change money in the larger cities before heading out to more remote areas. Go to [finance.yahoo.com/currency?u](http://finance.yahoo.com/currency?u) for current exchange rates.

**Visas:** Bhutan requires that all visitors to the country apply for a visa PRIOR to arrival. We will arrange for your visa approval ahead of time so that your visa can be stamped upon arrival. It is important that you send us your passport details, along with a CLEAR passport copy well ahead of time in order for us to process the approval in time. Once we have your passport copy, and at least two weeks prior to your arrival in Bhutan, we forward the details to our local staff for your visa approval. Visa is then granted upon your arrival in Bhutan, at the airport.

**Immunizations:** *Yellow Fever and Cholera vaccinations are required to enter Bhutan if you are traveling from an infected area.* Check directly with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a traveler's clinic or other medical authority. Visit <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/Travel/destinationList.aspx#P>

**Tipping Guideline:** Drivers - \$5-\$8 pp per day

Guides - \$10-\$20 pp per day

*For trekking trips:*

Cook - \$4 pp per day

Porters and other trekking staff - \$3 pp per porter per day

**Budget:** You will need to analyze your spending habits and decide how much extra money to bring for alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, gratuities, souvenirs, and laundry. For a ten day trip, budget at least \$200 - \$300pp for additional expenses. A rule of thumb: take half the clothing and twice the money you thought you would need!



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**Dialing Code:** 975

**Time Zone:** GMT/UTC + 6

**Electricity:** 230V ,50Hz

**Departure Tax from Paro:** \$12 pp

**Additional Country Information:** More country specific information can be found on our website. Go to the Travel Center page (<http://www.mythsandmountains.com/2000/travel/center.cfm>) and then scroll down to the bottom of the page. There you will find links to various websites from the CIA Factbook to travel films.

**Dzongkha: The official Language:** Bhutanese learn English in school which makes it very easy to get around. If you are interested in basic phrases, you can start with the phrases below.

Hello - kuzuangbo la

Goodbye - lazhimbe jon

Thank you - kadriche

Yes - ing/yo

No - me

How are you? - chogadebe yo?

What's your name? - cho meng gaci mo?

My name is... - nge meng ... ing

What is the time? - chutsho gademci mo?

"A mind that is stretched by a new  
experience can never go back to its  
old dimensions."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes

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See the Longitude Books website: <http://www.longitudebooks.com/> for more book ideas.

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