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## Beyond the Clouds: Bhutan Unveiled

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## Beyond the Clouds: Bhutan Unveiled

*Thimphu - Gangtey - Bumthang - Punakha - Paro District*

*11 Days / 10 Nights*



## Introduction

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Day 1	Six Senses Thimphu	Thimphu	B&B	2 Nights
Day 3	Six Senses Gangtey	Gangtey	B&B	2 Nights
Day 5	Six Senses Bumthang	Bumthang	B&B	2 Nights
Day 7	Six Senses Punakha	Punakha	B&B	2 Nights
Day 9	Six Senses Paro	Paro District	B&B	2 Nights

### Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

### Included

- Accommodation in mentioned hotels or similar for a total of 10 nights in the mentioned category rooms with daily breakfast and inclusive of all currently applicable government taxes in Bhutan.
- Services of air-conditioned vehicle for all airport transfers, intercity transfers, and sightseeing tours as per the itinerary in Bhutan.
- Meeting and assistance upon arrival and departure at airports/border points.
- All sightseeing tours and excursions as mentioned in the above program.
- Unlimited mineral water bottles during long journeys.
- Services of an English-speaking local guide as per requirement. For up to 04 Pax, local English-speaking guide services will be provided, and for 04 Pax onwards, an English-speaking accompanying escort will be provided throughout the tour.
- Rates include entrance fees to all monuments, monasteries, dzongs, and sightseeing places mentioned in the itinerary.

### Excluded

- The cost does not include any airfare, any item not specifically mentioned above, or expenses of a personal nature such as table drinks, laundry, telephone bills, video camera fees, tips to guides/escorts, drivers, porters, bell boys, etc.
- Any International/Domestic airfare, Travel Insurance, or Visa fees are not included. Guests are requested to ensure they carry a valid passport and necessary travel permits/visa for travel to Bhutan.
- Any other expenses of personal nature are also excluded.

## Day 1

### Six Senses Thimphu, Thimphu

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#### Thimphu

Resting in a lush green valley of hills and rice paddies, Bhutan's capital city of Thimphu is the country's commercial and religious hub, and is known for its interesting fusion of ancient and modern elements. Historical architecture and ancient traditional elements juxtapose with contemporary buildings and sensibilities. The imposing, stately 350-year-old Tashicho Dzong Fortress is currently used as the administrative centre of the county, and is also the king's office. Visitors can explore the gold-spired Memorial Chorten, a revered Buddhist shrine; see the intricate frescoes and slate carvings at Simtokha Dzong; and discover the Bhutanese way of life through exhibits and folk dances at the fascinating National Folk Heritage Museum. The city bustles with cafes, clubs and restaurants, thereby offering the best of old- and new-world charms.

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#### Day Itinerary

##### **ARRIVE PARO BY FLIGHT & TRANSFER TO THIMPHU (55KM, APPROX. 1.1/2-HOUR DRIVE)**

Arrive at Paro by one of the most scenic Himalayan flights, offering spectacular views of snow-capped mountains and lush valleys. Upon arrival, meet our representative and receive a traditional Bhutanese welcome with a ceremonial "Tashi Khaddar" scarf.

Proceed on a picturesque drive to Thimphu, passing through beautiful valleys and the scenic confluence of the Paro and Thimphu rivers at Chuzom.

Upon arrival in Thimphu, check-in at the hotel. Bhutan's charming capital beautifully blends ancient traditions with modern lifestyle and is famously known as one of the world's only capitals without traffic lights.

Later, visit the iconic National Memorial Chorten, a revered Buddhist landmark where locals gather for prayers and spiritual rituals.

In the evening, explore Thimphu city centre and visit Ka Ja Throm, a vibrant cultural and market hub known for local handicrafts, cuisine, and authentic Bhutanese experiences.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Thimphu. (Altitude: 2,320m)

#### **Overnight: Six Senses Thimphu**

Set in a steep valley flanked by forested mountains in Thimphu, Bhutan, Six Senses Thimphu is surrounded by ancient monasteries and temples. The property offers a perfectly appointed lodge set amidst apple orchards and pine forests. In-room amenities include minibars, tea/coffee-making facilities, espresso machines, TVs, safes, private bathrooms, hairdryers, and workspaces. Additional accommodations include villas with pantries, living areas, and furnished outdoor spaces. Facilities and services include a restaurant, a fitness centre, an indoor swimming pool, a steam room, a sauna, treatment rooms, and Wi-Fi.




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**Basis**

Bed and Breakfast

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**Day 2**
**Six Senses Thimphu, Thimphu**


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**Day Itinerary**
**THIMPHU**

After breakfast, visit the Bhutan Postal Museum, where guests can create personalized Bhutanese postage stamps featuring their own photographs — a unique and memorable souvenir experience.

Continue to the magnificent Buddha Dordenma, one of the world's largest Buddha statues, offering spectacular panoramic views of the Thimphu Valley.

Enjoy a scenic hike through pine forests and colourful prayer flags to Changangkha Lhakhang, one of Thimphu's oldest and most sacred temples.

After lunch, visit Choki Traditional Art School and experience Bhutan's rich artistic heritage through traditional painting workshops, live craft demonstrations, and cultural interactions with local students and artisans.

Later, visit the majestic Tashichho Dzong, the administrative and religious centre of Bhutan and an outstanding example of Bhutanese architecture.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Thimphu. (Altitude: 2,320m)

**Basis**

Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 3

### Six Senses Gangtey, Gangtey

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#### Gangtey

The little village of Gangtey is located in the beautiful Phobjikha Valley, within the Wangdue Phodrang District in Central Bhutan. Set at an altitude of 3000 metres, and tucked away in an ancient glacial valley of lush greenery and cultivated farmlands, it serves as the perfect base from which to explore the spectacular surrounding wilderness. The village is home to several fascinating sites, namely the 17th-century Gangtey Monastery, the only Nyingmapa monastery on the western slopes of the Black Mountains. In winter, visitors can spot endangered black-necked cranes, which migrate from the Tibetan Plateau and the vast plains of Central Asia to this warmer corner of the world. The lucky few can enjoy the famous Tshechu Festival, a lively and colourful annual celebration featuring a vibrant mix of games, costumes, dancing and drumming.

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#### Day Itinerary

##### THIMPHU – GANGTEY (150KM, APPROX. 5-HOUR DRIVE)

After breakfast, drive to the spectacular Dochula Pass (3,088m), renowned for its panoramic Himalayan views and the iconic 108 Druk Wangyal Chortens surrounded by colourful prayer flags.

Enjoy a scenic Royal Botanical hike from Dochula Pass through pristine forests filled with rhododendron, magnolia, oak, and birch trees, offering a peaceful nature experience amidst the Himalayas.

Continue onward to Gangtey, one of Bhutan's most beautiful valleys, known for its breathtaking landscapes and serene atmosphere.

In the evening, take a leisurely walk through the picturesque Phobjikha Valley, surrounded by traditional Bhutanese villages and forested hills.

Later, experience a peaceful meditation session at Gangtey Shedra, offering a glimpse into Bhutan's spiritual traditions and monastic life.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Gangtey. (Altitude: 3,000m)

#### Overnight: Six Senses Gangtey

Located in the town of Gangtey, Six Senses Gangtey overlooks the beautiful views of the Phobjikha Valley and is the ideal spot for bird lovers. The property features eight suites and a two-bedroom villa, all of which are modern in design. The property facilities include a library, movie and games room, a fireplace, wellness centre and offer all-day dining. While staying at the hotel, guests can enjoy hikes along Gangtey Nature Trail to the Gangtey Village or relax during a meditation session in the Pyramid Meditation Room.




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## Basis

Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 4

### Six Senses Gangtey, Gangtey

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#### Day Itinerary

#### GANGTEY

After breakfast, visit the historic Gangtey Monastery, one of Bhutan's most important Nyingmapa monasteries, beautifully overlooking the stunning Phobjikha Valley.

Continue on the scenic Gangtey Nature Trail, a pleasant walk through forests, flower meadows, and traditional villages offering breathtaking views of the valley and surrounding landscapes.

Later, explore the charming Gangtey Village, known for its peaceful atmosphere, traditional Bhutanese homes, and authentic highland culture set amidst rolling meadows and pine-covered hills.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Gangtey. (Altitude: 3,000m)

## Basis

Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 5

### Six Senses Bumthang, Bumthang

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#### Bumthang

Dubbed the mini Switzerland of Bhutan, Bumthang is a patchwork of rural farmlands that form a splendid tapestry in the valleys of Bumthang. Forested hills meet the valley floor, offering a lush landscape for exploring the surrounding natural environment. Look out for Burning Lake, a quiet riverside spot offering an ideal opportunity to sit and meditate. Bumthang is made up of four valleys: Ura, Chumey, Tang and Choekhor, each with its own dialect. Ancient temples and monasteries abound in this beautiful environment. Visit Jambay Lhakhang, one of the 108 monasteries built by Tibetan King Gampo to subdue evil spirits in the Himalayan region. Other sights include the Kurje Lhakhang monastery and the local brewery.

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## Day Itinerary

### GANGTEY – TRONGSA - BUMTHANG (153KM, APPROX. 6-HOUR DRIVE)

After breakfast, drive towards Bumthang via the scenic town of Trongsa, crossing the beautiful Pele La Pass (3,300m), traditionally considered the gateway between eastern and western Bhutan.

En route, stop at the historic Chendebji Chorten, a stunning Nepalese-style stupa surrounded by picturesque mountain scenery.

In Trongsa, visit the magnificent Trongsa Dzong, the ancestral home of Bhutan's royal family and one of the country's most impressive fortresses. Also explore Ta Dzong Museum, a beautifully restored watchtower showcasing Bhutanese history and royal heritage.

Continue the journey across Yotong La Pass (3,400m) into the scenic Chumey Valley, known for its traditional wool weaving and beautiful landscapes.

Stop at Chumey Valley to experience the famous Bumthang Yathra weaving tradition and enjoy local tea and snacks with a weaving family.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Bumthang. (Altitude: 2,600m)

### Overnight: Six Senses Bumthang

Nestled among the lush forest overlooking the Bumthang Chhu River, Six Senses Bumthang is a space of tranquillity and remoteness, ideal for guests wanting to unwind from the stresses of city living. The hotel aims to be a forest within a forest, with decor echoing the natural surroundings. The hotel offers eight suites and a two-bedroom villa. The hotel facilities include a library, living room, lounge, all-day dining and a wellness centre.

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## Basis

Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 6

### Six Senses Bumthang, Bumthang

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## Day Itinerary

### BUMTHANG

Bumthang, comprising the valleys of Chokhor, Tang, Ura, and Chumey, is considered the spiritual heartland of Bhutan, renowned for its sacred monasteries, peaceful countryside, and rich cultural heritage.

After breakfast, enjoy a scenic walking excursion along the Bushman Trail, offering panoramic valley views, pine forests, traditional villages, and a visit to the sacred Mebar Tsho, also known as the Burning Lake.

In the afternoon, visit the ancient Jambay Lhakhang, one of Bhutan's oldest and most sacred temples, followed by Kurjey Lhakhang, an important pilgrimage site associated with Guru Rinpoche.

Later, explore the famous Bumthang Brewery, known for its locally brewed Red Panda Beer, Swiss-style cheese, and traditional apple products.

In the evening, enjoy a leisurely stroll through the local village and market, experiencing the charm and simplicity of traditional Bhutanese life.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Bumthang. (Altitude: 2,600m)

## **Basis**

Bed and Breakfast

## **Day 7**

### **Six Senses Punakha, Punakha**

#### **Punakha**

Located in the Himalayas of Bhutan, the Punakha rests at the confluence of the Puna Tsang Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers. This ancient Bhutanese capital serves as an excellent base from which to explore the scenic temple-dotted Punakha Valley and beyond. The town's star attraction is undoubtedly the incredibly picturesque riverside Punakha Dzong, a 17th-century fortress which plays host to the annual religious Punakha Festival featuring traditional dancing and music. Lucky birdwatchers can spot the critically endangered white-bellied herons. Visitors can enjoy epic views of the Himalayas from the renowned Dochula Pass, explore the Royal Botanical Park, and discover the picturesque mountain-top village of Talo. Other popular activities include: hiking through the valley, visiting the Chimi Lhakhang 'fertility' Temple, and the traditional architecture of Punakha Ritsha Village.

#### **Day Itinerary**

##### **BUMTHANG – PUNAKHA (215KM, APPROX. 6.1/2-HOUR DRIVE)**

After breakfast, drive to Punakha, the former capital of Bhutan, beautifully nestled amidst fertile valleys formed by the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers.

En route, visit the restored Wangdue Phodrang Dzong, a historic fortress dramatically perched above the river valley and renowned for its impressive Bhutanese architecture and rich history.

Upon arrival in Punakha, enjoy the evening at leisure exploring the charming town or relaxing at the hotel amidst serene natural surroundings.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Punakha. (Altitude: 1,300m)

#### **Overnight: Six Senses Punakha**

This beautiful lodge has a rustic feel and is blessed with a warmer climate. Six Senses Punakha offers a choice of suites and villas, pool, library, yoga and meditation huts, and serves as an excellent base from which to visit the majestic Punakha Dzong. This spectacular lodge takes on a more rustic rural feel complementing the warmer climate of its surroundings and offers sweeping views of the valley filled with rice paddy fields and dotted with traditional farmhouses. Guests can start the day with breakfast on the terrace overlooking the rice paddies as the mist clears through the valley, order a poolside barbecue for lunch and sample traditional Bhutanese dishes with a Western twist at Ari for dinner.




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### **Basis**

Bed and Breakfast

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## **Day 8**

### **Six Senses Punakha, Punakha**

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#### **Day Itinerary**

##### **PUNAKHA**

After breakfast, visit the magnificent Punakha Dzong, beautifully located at the confluence of the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers and regarded as one of Bhutan's most stunning fortresses.

Later, walk across the iconic Punakha Suspension Bridge, offering spectacular valley views and a thrilling experience above the river below.

Continue with a short excursion to Chimi Lhakhang, famously known as the Temple of Fertility, reached through scenic village trails and rice fields. Explore the charming local village and traditional shops nearby.

Enjoy a relaxing riverside picnic lunch surrounded by the serene beauty of the Punakha Valley.

In the afternoon, experience an exciting white-water rafting adventure on the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers, passing through scenic landscapes, thrilling rapids, and breathtaking views of the historic Punakha Valley.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Punakha. (Altitude: 1,300m)

### **Basis**

Bed and Breakfast

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## **Day 9**

### **Six Senses Paro, Paro District**

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#### **Paro District**

Sitting pretty at an altitude of 2200 metres above sea level, Paro is the gateway to beautiful Bhutan. Planes make an incongruous sight, flying low as they prepare for landing in this Himalayan oasis, home to many of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries. Resting on the banks of the Paro River, there is plenty to observe in this traditional town,

from quaint farmhouses scattered across the valley to emerald green terraced paddy fields . For outdoor enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike, a great day excursion is to trek to the famous Tiger's Nest Temple, on the face of a sheer 1000-metre-high cliff. This acclaimed temple houses the National Museum, which shows hundreds of ancient Bhutanese artefacts and artwork. It's advised to do this at the end of a trip, once travellers have acclimatised.

## Day Itinerary

### PUNAKHA - PARO (125 KM, APPROX. 4-HOUR DRIVE)

After breakfast, drive to Paro, a picturesque valley renowned for its ancient monasteries, rich culture, and stunning Himalayan landscapes.

After lunch, visit Ta Dzong National Museum, home to an impressive collection of Bhutanese art, textiles, weaponry, and historical artifacts.

A short walk leads to the magnificent Rinpung Dzong, famously known as the “Fortress of the Heap of Jewels,” admired for its rich history and exquisite Bhutanese architecture.

Later, visit a traditional Bhutanese farmhouse to experience authentic local hospitality, savour traditional tea and delicacies, and enjoy an exciting archery session using Bhutan’s traditional bamboo bow and arrow.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Paro. (Altitude: 2,280m)

### Overnight: Six Senses Paro

Designed to maximize what is surely one of the most scenic settings within the Six Senses Bhutan journey, Six Senses Paro is known as Stone Ruins – and guests will understand why when dining among them. The generous suites are designed with large windows and awe-inspiring valley views in mind. Neutral, relaxing tones are complemented by the simple lines of natural timber furniture and the presence of local touches such as Bukhari's (traditional wood-burning stoves) and vegetable-dyed, antique-washed Himalayan rugs. Eat With Six Senses is the guiding philosophy for tasty and wholesome dishes created from organic local produce. Guests can head back in time for a feudal dinner set among 12th-century ruins or visit a local farmhouse for a truly authentic Bhutanese dining experience.



## Basis

Bed and Breakfast

## Day 10

### Six Senses Paro, Paro District

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#### Day Itinerary

##### PARO

After breakfast, embark on a memorable hike to the iconic Paro Taktsang, famously known as the Tiger's Nest Monastery. Perched dramatically on a cliffside overlooking the Paro Valley, this sacred monastery is one of Bhutan's most revered landmarks and offers breathtaking views along the scenic trail.

In the afternoon, enjoy leisure time exploring the charming Paro city centre and local market. Also visit Ka Ja Throm, a lively marketplace where visitors can experience authentic Bhutanese culture, local handicrafts, fresh produce, and traditional flavours.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Paro. (Altitude: 2,280m)

##### Basis

Bed and Breakfast

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## Day 11

### End of Itinerary

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#### Day Itinerary

##### DEPART PARO

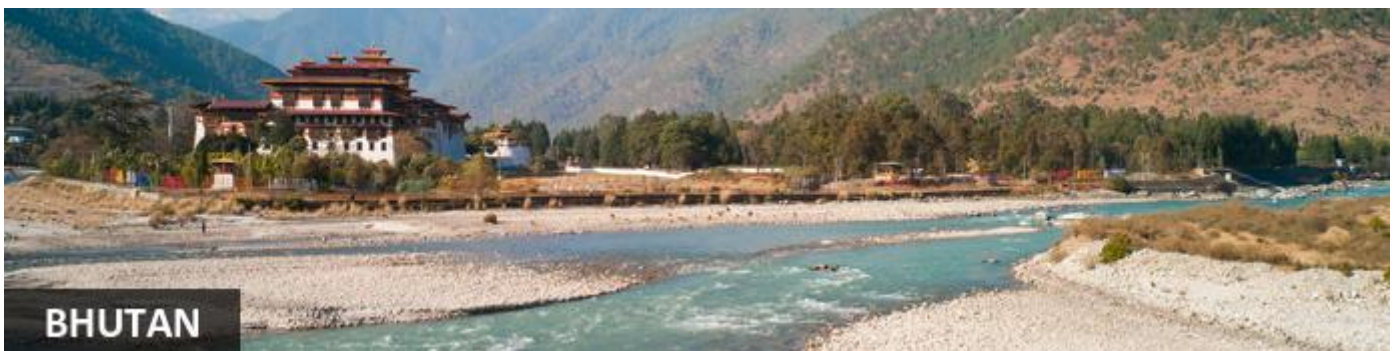
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your onward journey, carrying with you unforgettable memories of Bhutan, its breathtaking landscapes, vibrant culture, and warm Bhutanese hospitality.

##### Basis

Bed and Breakfast

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## Travel Information



Consistently voted the happiest country in the world, the little nation of Bhutan is set at the far eastern end of the Himalayas, between India and China. Bhutan only began to open its doors to outsiders in the 1970s and still has a strict sustainability policy regarding tourism. As a result, it has retained a deep cultural authenticity and has preserved its environment admirably, making it one of Asia's most beguiling and unforgettable destinations. Highlights include incredible forts and temples perched on sheer mountain cliffs, a rich (predominantly Buddhist)

culture, and spectacular scenery – ranging from temperate sub-tropical plains and valleys cloaked with dense forest to lofty sub-Alpine mountains capped with snow.

### ***Banking and Currency***

#### **Currency**

Local currency: Bhutanese Ngultrum

Symbol: Nu.

ISO code: BTN

Subunit: Chhertum

Banknotes: Nu.1, Nu.5, Nu.10, Nu.20, Nu.50, Nu.100, Nu.500, Nu.1000

Coins: Ch.5, Ch.10, Nu.25, Nu.50

#### **Banking**

Card Transactions: Limited

ATMs: Yes

Mastercard: Limited acceptance

Visa: Limited acceptance

American Express: Limited acceptance

Diner's club: Limited acceptance

#### **Banking Hours:**

Weekdays: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Weekends: Limited

Public Holidays: Limited

Foreign exchange services: Limited

### ***Travel, Transport and Getting Around***

#### **Air:**

Main airlines: Druk Air, Bhutan Airlines

International Airports: Paro International Airport (PBH)

Domestic Airports: None

#### **Road:**

Driving on the: Left

Tar roads: Yes

Gravel roads: Limited

Valid International Driver's License needed: No

Car hire available: Limited

Taxis: Yes

E-hailing services: No

#### **Bus:**

Inter-city bus services: Yes

Local city bus networks: Limited

#### **Rail:**

Railway system: No

Subway System: No

**Water:**

Ferries: No

Water taxis: No

Leisure cruises: No

***Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice*****Food and water safety:**

Can you drink the tap water: No

Fresh fruit and veg: Yes

Ice: Use bottled or purified water

Meat: Yes, but prefer well-cooked

Street food: Exercise caution

**Local cuisine:** Bhutanese cuisine is characterized by spicy flavors and typically includes dishes like Ema Datshi (chili and cheese stew), Phaksha Paa (pork cooked with chilies), and Momos (dumplings). Butter tea (suja) is a popular local drink.

**Drinks:** Butter tea (suja), Ara (locally brewed rice wine)

**Tipping:** Tipping is not expected but appreciated.

***Climate and Weather***

**Annual rainfall:** Varies by region

**Average temperature:** 10°C to 25°C

**Summer:**

Average highs: 24°C to 28°C

Average lows: 15°C to 18°C

**Winter:**

Average highs: 12°C to 16°C

Average lows: -1°C to 5°C

**Best time to visit:** The best time to visit Bhutan is during the spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November) seasons when the weather is mild, and the skies are clear, offering ideal conditions for trekking and sightseeing.

***Clothing and Dress Recommendations*****Spring and Summer**

Cool, light, breathable and comfortable: Yes

Lightweight warm clothes: Yes

**Winter and Autumn**

Jerseys, cardigans, sweaters, jackets: Recommended

Heavyweight clothing and boots: Yes

**General**

Umbrella and raincoat: Yes

Warm gloves, hat and scarf: Yes

Swimming costume (bathing suit): Yes (for hot springs)

Hat, sunglasses and sunblock: Yes

Walking shoes: Yes

Casual: Yes

Smart-casual attire: Yes

### ***Internet Availability***

Internet cafes: Limited

Accommodation options: Yes

Restaurants: Yes

Cafes: Yes

Shopping malls: No

Public parks: Yes

Libraries: Limited

### ***Electricity and Plug Standards***

Plug Type: Type D, Type F

Voltage (V): 230

Frequency Hertz (Hz): 50

\*Travel plug adapter and voltage converter might be necessary depending on your appliances.

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