



NORTE R

Visit Bhutan

The Land of
Happiness



Tashichho Dzong, the seat of the government.

BHUTAN PROFILE

- Land area: 38,394 sq km
- Forest area: 72.5% of land area
- Altitude: 240 to 7,541 meters
- Language: English & Dzongkha
- Religion: Buddhism
- Government: Constitutional Monarchy
- Currency: Ngultrum (par with Rupee)
- Capital: Thimphu
- National Bird: Raven
- National Flower: Blue Poppy
- National Sport: Archery
- National Animal: Takin
- Country code: 975
- Local time: Six hours ahead of GMT
- Total bird species: 800
- Mammal species: 200
- Butterfly species: 850
- Orchid species: 550
- Rhododendron species: 48

Why Bhutan Matters

Bhutan has a worldwide reputation for following the “Middle Path” development policy. About the size of Switzerland sandwiched between China in the north and India in the south, the Himalayan Kingdom’s less than a million people believe that economic growth must not be achieved at the cost of ecology, age-old culture and values. Thus the country has advocated at every global forum that “Happiness is more important than Gross Domestic Product”.

Against this backdrop, a trip to Bhutan is not about indulging oneself in wanton luxury. Rather, it is about discovering a way of life that does not exist anywhere; it is about going back in time and finding out how humans and nature can harmoniously coexist; it is about stepping into a domain of complete peace, tranquility and contentment.

Not many have visited Bhutan, a conscious policy achieved through selective branding and tariff policy. But the few who have been here have all returned home with the feeling that the world out there is totally out of the ordinary.

About Bhutan Norter Adventures

Bhutan Norter Adventures is a tour and trekking company based in Bhutan's capital, Thimphu. Literally, the name "Nor" mean "wealth" and "Ter" means "Hidden Treasure". The idea is to provide our clientele the best that the Kingdom has to offer.

The company was established to provide a glimpse of this Himalayan Kingdom – known as the Land of Happiness – to the outsiders who are increasingly curious about its ancient cultural mores, traditions, spectacular environment and a lifestyle that balances spirituality with material progress.

Apart from the Kingdom's intrinsic attractions, Bhutan Norter believes that the travelers to Bhutan must receive what they seek: a memorable trip handled with professionalism and experience garnered over many years.



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Sonam Phuntsho



Our team at our headquarters in Thimphu, Bhutan



Cultural Tour

Bhutan has one foot in the 21st century and the other planted right back in the medieval ages. As such, the country draws much of its identity from its ancient culture, customs and traditions, the kind of which the rest of the world has lost a long time ago. Culture is Bhutan's biggest tourist attraction.

Starting this year, Norter Adventures has combined its cultural itinerary with other finer aspects of Bhutanese way of life which are enthralling but little known to the outsiders. One such aspect is the ancient wisdom behind phallus symbols and fertility worship. This tour will introduce our guests to this age-old belief and the role it plays in modern-day Bhutan while also providing glimpses into the mainstream Bhutanese culture as in the Buddhist influences, art, craft and architecture, food and cuisine, language, customs, etc.

Visit our website for detailed itinerary or contact us directly for custom-made tour packages

Luxury tours

Norter Adventures combines what Bhutan offers in terms of natural beauty, culture and pristine environment with the most luxurious amenities available in the country. We keep our guests in high-end hotels like Uma and Aman Resorts and five-star luxury hotels like Tashi Taj and Le Meridian. Our fleet of cars and buses are also designed to provide a luxurious ambience and make the travel across the mountainous country as comfortable as possible. The guides who lead our guests are specifically trained to handle any kind of situations besides being equipped with knowledge and skills.



Aman Kora Resort



Uma Resort



Taj Tashi



Zhiwaling



Festival Tours

Bhutan's culture is manifest through religious festivals. These festivals not only showcase the country's Buddhist faith and spirituality but bring together the people of all walks from the far-flung villages and towns to the festival venue, thus providing insights into various ethnicities, customs and lifestyles. While the festivals take place throughout the year in various locations, the biggest ones are the annual Thimphu (capital city) festival, Paro festival, Jambay Lhakhang Drup and the Gomphu Kora festival. Please visit our website and choose the festival of your choice.



Birds of Paradise

The sheer diversity of Bhutan's bird species, and the ease of spotting them, should quicken the pulse of any birding enthusiast. The White-bellied Heron is considered critically endangered so rare, in fact, that from the estimated global population of 50 to 200, 32 are believed to be in Bhutan.

Bhutan's has close to 800 bird species of which 26 species are considered globally threatened or vulnerable. Bhutan also has numerous other globally endangered bird species including the Himalayan Monal, Ward's Trogon, Beautiful Nuthatch, Blyth's Tragopan, Pallas's Fish Eagle, Chestnut-breasted Partridge, Wood Snipe, Rufous-necked Hornbill, Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, and Blyth's Kingfisher.

Norter Adventures has specialized in birding tour for over 15 years. Let us know how you want your tour to be customized, including which birds you are interested in sighting, and we will have the itinerary sent to you. Visit our website www.bhutannorter.com for any additional information.



Photography Tours

What is your choice? Name any and we have customized packages on offer, be it birds, flowers, nature, culture or people. To derive the maximum benefits, we also combine all of these into one itinerary. The few international photo enthusiasts who have been to Bhutan have described the country as the dream destination for a serious photography. No! One does not have to wait for months, or even days, to get an excellent shot...it can happen in an instant. Nature together with people and culture makes a trip to Bhutan worthwhile anytime of the year.



Textile Tour

Today, Bhutan's textile tradition has gone international. The patterns, the fabrics that are homespun, and the natural dyes extracted from the forests give these hand-woven clothes a special status among collectors and instantly recognizable anywhere due to its sheer beauty. The Kishuthara from Lhuenste in the east, Bura from Radhi in Trashigang, and the Mathra from Bumthang are highly coveted. Those interested may contact us for the detailed itineraries. We also do arrange live demonstration of the making of dyes, yarns and weaving.



Biking and motor biking

Of late, biking and motor biking are picking up as major touristic interests. The reason: the challenge of travelling on the "roof of the world" - in the high Himalayas - in a pollution-free setting with spectacular landscape, hamlets, various forms of culture, and a plethora of flora and fauna. Norter Adventures has organized motor rallies and biking for sometime and the testimonials from our guests have been excellent. Just tell us what exactly you want and at which time of the year, and we will have things organized for you, down to the last detail.



Self-Driving Tours

Bhutan Norter Adventures takes pride as the sole organizer of trans-Asia 4-WD Expedition. It takes the participants across nine countries – Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, China, Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar – finally ending in Malaysia. Contact us to join this thrilling adventure spanning Asia's most diverse, cultures, nature, cities, farm- lands, and rugged terrains.

- Drive by yourself and explore Bhutan
- Bring your own car or can be locally arranged
- Drive through amazing landscapes, villages and towns
- Meet people along stopovers enroute
- Road generally narrow and challenging.

Horse Riding Tour

In mountainous Bhutan, horses have been the most coveted form of transport. Modern roads have been built but much of Bhutan can be seen and appreciated only on horseback. We arrange horse riding at three points in Bhutan: Paro or Punakha in western Bhutan, Bumthang in central Bhutan and Trashigang in east Bhutan. The idea really is to go beyond what can be seen from the road points - apart from enjoying the ride itself, getting out there in the villages and meeting people and, along the forest and meadow trails, having picnic lunch and really getting in communion with nature.





Spiritual and Wellness Tourism

Visiting Bhutan could in many ways be a spiritual quest. The tranquil and serene ambience, the daily lives interwoven with the rhythm of nature, and the gentle yet positive influence of Buddhism make the country a perfect getaway from the cut-throat routine of a world caught in a mad scramble for materislistic gain.

Our spiritual and wellness packages include visits to ancient temples and monasteries, meditation and retreat, talks by Buddhist teachers, hikes to hilltops dotted with prayer flags to be in complete communion with nature. We also spend a night or two with Bhutanese families in the quiet far-flung villages to get an essence of how the people here achieve their daily balance to reap happiness and contentment.

More importantly, we can discuss and come up with a package that best suits your interest and desire.



Honeymoon Tour

How about making your honeymoon a lifetime memory? You can choose to get it done in the premises of a seventh century temple or a 17th century fortress or in an old palace that resonates with amazing stories of yesteryears. How about the rituals: a Buddhist ceremony, in hand-woven Bhutanese dress, Bhutanese attendants, local customs, local artistes to entertain, and an archery match - with traditional bamboo bows and arrows - to complete the nuptial with a flourish? The ceremony will be followed by a romantic three to four days of tour in the countryside.



Traditional Sports Tour

In Bhutan, if you hear unfettered high-pitched shrieks and laughter, then an archery match is underway. Come the festivals or national holidays or even the ordinary weekends, they come with bamboo bows and narrows, about a dozen archers in each team to contest village against village, one town against another and one district versus the other. The stake: pride and ego. Even the gods and deities are invoked to help win the tournament. We arrange such matches combined with the usual other accompaniments for our guests. The experience is enthralling to say the least!



Rafting and Fishing Tour

Apart from the mouth-watering challenges of trekking in the Himalayas, rafting and kayaking have emerged as the reasons for visiting Bhutan these days. The country's streams and rivers - running furiously down mountainsides, through jagged ravines and gorges, across moraine valleys, quaint hamlets on the banks, and other spectacular natural beauties along the way - provide the perfect setting for these water sports. You can combine it with fishing too; the rivers are laden with trout, carp and other local species. Fly fishing is very popular.



Farmhouse Tour

The essence of Bhutan lies in the villages. They preserve much of what Bhutan was in the past, by way of customs, the regimens of day-to-day life as well as the peace and the quiet of a life that has changed very little for over a thousand years. Our guests not only get to observe this lifestyle which has vanished elsewhere but actually partake in the proceedings like cooking and dining, helping on the farms, and sleeping in a mud-rammed house. You will never forget this experience!!!



Helicopter Tour

One can get faster to New York from Bhutan than from one end of the kingdom to the other. It is simply because the roads are long and meandering given the mountainous topography. So it takes days to reach Trashigang in the east from Paro in the west. Helicopter flights enable you to see the entire country in a span of an hour or two – the enigmatic Himalayas, dubbed the abode of the Gods – in a spectacular fashion. The flight is worth every cent you pay. The views are simply awe-inspiring. For the best bargain, you can spend a few days on the road too, seeing the country at close quarters.



Safari Tours

For wildlife enthusiasts, a trip to the Manas sanctuary in the south of Bhutan is a must. The sanctuary is a treasurehouse of threatened wild animals such as the Asiatic elephant, one-horned rhinoceros, the Bengal Tiger, Leopard, etc. In fact, the sanctuary has the largest cat species in the world in one area. It adjoins the Manas sanctuary in the Indian state of Assam which has been declared as a UNESCO heritage site. The best way to scour the area is to take an elephant safari. Manas is also famous for a huge array of tropical and sub-tropical bird species.



Butterfly Tour

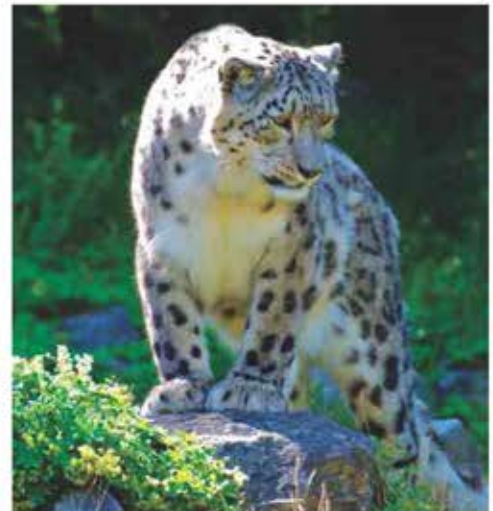
Bhutan ranks in the top 10% of countries in terms of species richness per area unit. With about 900 species, Bhutan has more butterfly species than the whole of North America (679 species) and the whole of Europe (440). Of these, 140 species have been catalogued with photographs. The most popular among these is the Bhutan Glory, the national butterfly.

The diversity of butterfly species can be attributed to the terrain with some flying as high as 5000m above the sea level. Butterflies are indicators of environmental health and diversity. When host plants disappear, butterflies thriving in that habitat also disappear. Therefore the number of species of butterflies in Bhutan makes the Himalayan kingdom an ecological hotspot.



Trekking Routes of Bhutan

Trek	Days	Maximum Elevation	Difficulty
Bumthang Cultural trek	3	3360M	Easy-Medium
Dagala Thousand Lakes treks	6	4520M	Medium
Druk Path Trek	6	4200M	Easy-Medium
Duer Hot Spring Trek	9	4700M	Medium-Hard
Gangtey Trek	3	3480M	Easy
Gasa Hot Spring Trek	5	2430M	Easy
Jomolhari Trek I	9	4930M	Medium
Jomolhari Trek II	8	4890M	Medium
Laya Gasa Trek	14	5005M	Medium-Hard
Punakha Winter Trek	4	3400M	Easy-Medium
Rodung La Trek	10	4160M	Medium-Hard
Samtengang Winter Trek	4	2000M	Easy
Snowman Trek I (to Sefhu)	25	5320M	Medium-Hard
Snowman Trek II (to Bumthang)	25	5320M	Hard
Merak Sakten	6	4100M	Moderate



Back to the Nature

Bhutan is the only country which has a clause in its Constitution stating that 60% of the total area should be kept under forest cover for all times. It is also the only country that has stated to the world that it will remain a net carbon sink in perpetuity.

A recipient of numerous environmental awards, Bhutan is blessed with abundant bounties of nature. It has over 800 known species of butterflies, yet another 800 species of birds, more than 5,00 species of orchids, and and 50 species of rhododendron alone. For a tiny country, it has more than 200 species of mammals not to mention other plants and animals that are yet to be discovered.

The whole country indeed is one big park. As a conscious policy, Bhutan has dedicated one-third of its area as national parks and biological corridors to benefit mankind as a whole.

Norter Adventures believes that there is so much the outside world can learn from Bhutan as far as environment is concerned. That is why we organise birding tours, butterfly tours, alpine flower tours, rhododendron tours, orchid tours, treks to national parks, etc. Let's know what your personal choice is.



Vital Information

Visa:

All foreign nationals must obtain visa clearance through us before travelling to Bhutan. The actual visa is stamped upon your arrival. The Tourism Council of Bhutan approves your visa clearance only after receiving the full tour payment including the visa fee of USD 40 along with a scanned colour photocopy of your passport which should be at least six months valid. Nationals of India, Maldives and Bangladesh do not need visa.

Entry points

Take a flight to Paro, Bhutan, anywhere from Kathmandu, Nepal, New Delhi/Kolkata/Guwahati/Bagdogra, India, Bangkok, Thailand, or Singapore. Or take the road through the India-Bhutan border at Jaigaon-Phuentsholing, Dadgari-Gelephu, Guwahati-Samdrup Jongkhar.

Tariff

The tariff for group of 3 or more:

- USD \$200 per person per night for January, February, June, July, August, December.

- USD \$250 per person per night for March, April, May, September, October, November.

Surcharges

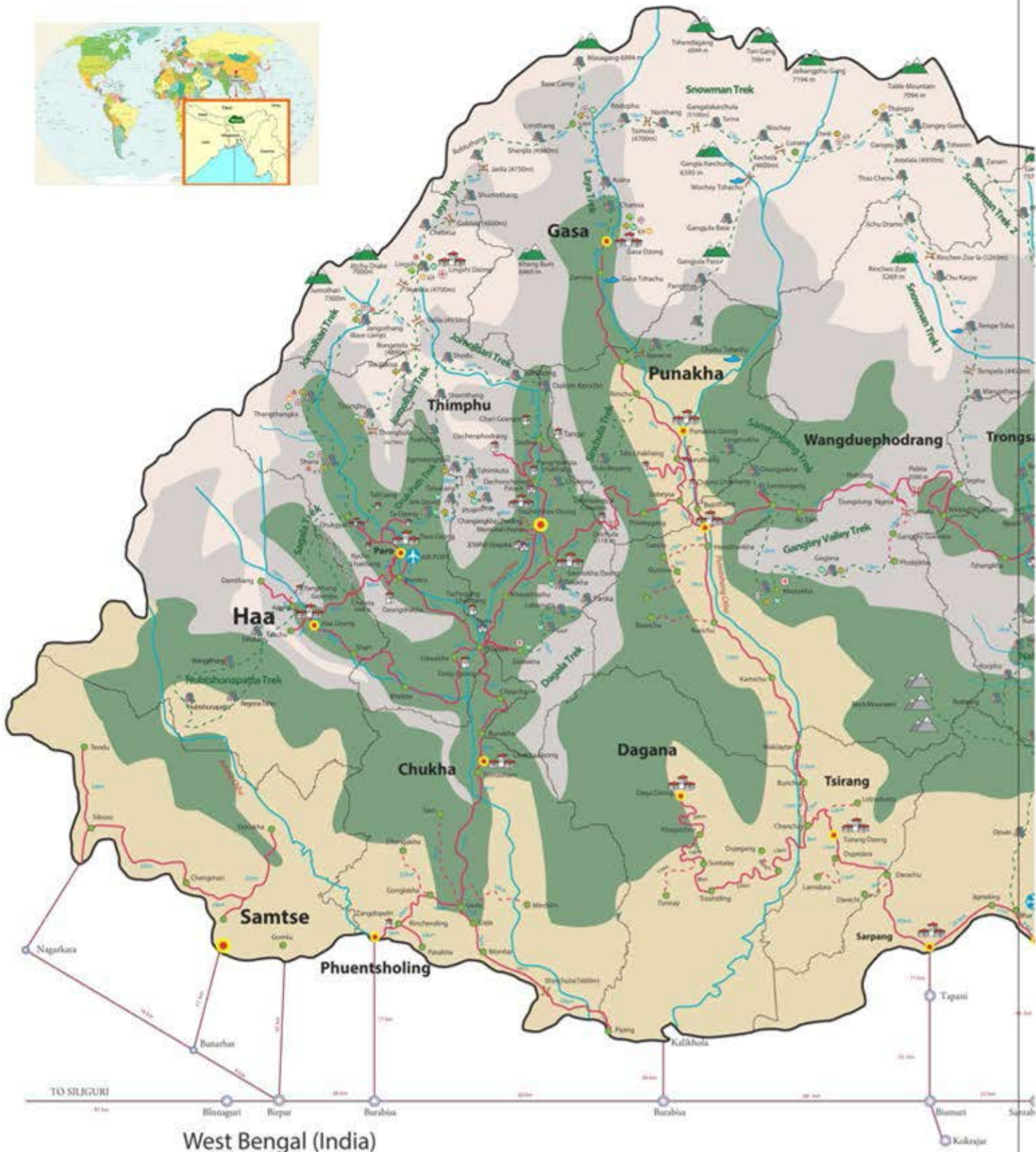
- For a single person, a surcharge of USD 40 per night will be added; for a group of two persons a surcharge of USD 30 per night per person will be added; for a single supplement, USD 40 a night will be added.

Tariff includes

- A minimum of 3-star accommodations, one room sharing basis (4 & 5-star require an additional premium).
- All meals
- Guide services
- All internal transport/sightseeing
- Camping equipment and haulage for trekking tours.
- All internal taxes, fees and charges
- Tourism royalty of USD 65.



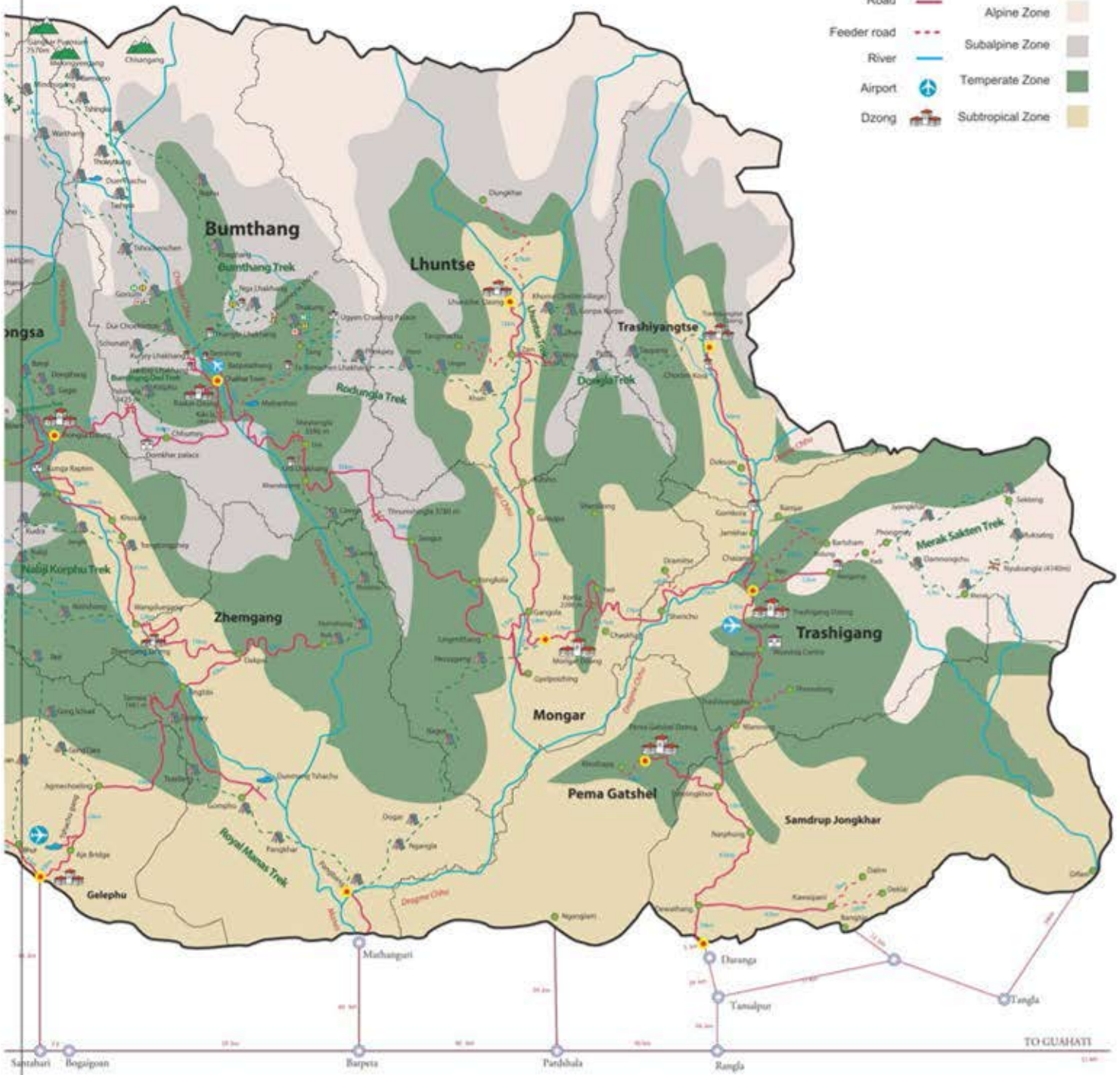
MAP OF BHUTAN



TIBET (china)

LEGENDS

Trek route	- - -	Monastery	
Camp site		Manor house	
Pass		School	
Mountain		Police station	
Mobile		Lake	
Helipad		District Hq	
BHU		Town	
Wireless station		Army	
Road		Alpine Zone	
Feeder road		Subalpine Zone	
River		Temperate Zone	
Airport		Subtropical Zone	
Dzong			



Assam (India)

Santahri Begajoon Barpeta Parbhala Rangla Dibranga Tamulpur Tangla TO GUAHATI



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