

Nepal Bhutan Tours

Two beautiful Himalayan Kingdom countries with cultural diversity, amazing mountain views



Overview

Nepal and Bhutan are phenomenal Himalayan nations boasting stunning Himalayan ranges coupled with vibrant cultures, traditions, ancient history, architectural wonders, and natural beauty. Nepal Bhutan Tours is a flexible multi-country tour with customizable itineraries with the option of adjusting travel days in each nation. Both Nepal and Bhutan are prime destinations in South Asia for travelers.

Nepal is a land-locked Himalayan nation with a diverse geography, including fertile plains, subalpine forested hills, and eight of the world's ten highest mountains, including Mount Everest. The rich history and culture with vibrant festivals, numerous trekking and hiking destinations, Jungle safari in National parks, and adventure sports are prime attractions for all types of travelers in Nepal. Kathmandu Valley, Pokhara, Chitwan, etc. are some major cities in Nepal.

Bhutan is a land-locked country that is also the only carbon-negative nation in the world. Almost 75% of the Bhutanese practice Buddhism as it is a deeply-rooted religion here. Animal killing is prohibited in Bhutan. The Himalayan ranges, cultural heritages, stunning architectural landmarks, spirituality, green valleys, and happy Bhutanese are major attractions. [Paro](#), Punakha, Thimphu, and Bumthang are prime cities in Bhutan.

Essential Information

1. ?What to expect in Nepal and Bhutan Tour

Travelers often might wonder ‘**What to expect in Nepal and Bhutan Tour?**’ if they are planning for Nepal and Bhutan tour. There are abundant attractions in both Nepal and Bhutan including natural, historical, cultural, and adventurous. Besides this, the diversity in flora and fauna, flavorful cuisines, and vibrant festivals await travelers in these magical nations.

Attractions	Nepal	Bhutan
Himalayan Views	Everest, Lhotse, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, Cho Oyu, Manaslu, Makalu, Kanchenjunga, Ganesh, Langtang, etc.	Great Himalayas, Gangkhar Puensum, Jichu Drake, Chomolhari, etc.
Ancient temples, Stupas, Monasteries	World Heritage Sites, Pashupatinath, Boudhanath Stupa, Swayambhunath Stupa, Durbar Squares, Lumbini, Changu Narayan, etc.	Tiger’s Nest Monastery, Drugyel Dzong, Lungchutse Monastery, Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten, Punakha Dzong, Chhimi Lhakhang, etc.
Festivals	Dashain, Tihar, Lhosar, Buddha Jayanti, Jatras (Bisket, Indra, Rato Macchindranath), Maha Shivaratri, Holi, Eid, Udhauli Parva, etc.	Thimphu Tshechu, Paro Tsechu, Haa Summer, Nimalung, Punakha Tshechu and Drubchen, Ura Yakchoe, Matsutake, The Annual Black-necked Crane, etc.
Flavorful cuisine	Nepali Dal-Bhat, Momo, Samay Baji set, Yomari, Tingmo, Thakali Set, Juju Dhau (King Curd), Dhido, Gundruk, Sherpa Stew, etc.	Ema Datshi, Buckwheat, Red Rice, Khewa Datshi, Jasha Maru, Phaksha Paa, Suja, Ara, Jaju Soup, Momo, etc.
Flora	Sal (Shorea Robusta), Asna (Terminalia tomentose), Pipal (ficus religiosa), Banyan (ficus bengalensis), Picea, Tusga, Larix, Abies spp, Juniper Scrub, Species of oak and rhododendron, etc.	Forest of oak, walnut and sal, birch, maple, magnolia, laurel, spruce, yew, weeping cypress, Himalayan grasses and flowering herbs, etc.
Fauna	Bengal tiger, Red Panda, Asiatic elephant, Himalayan Musk Deer, Wild water buffalo, South Asian River Dolphin, Bengal Florican, White-Rumped vulture, Gharial, etc.	Takin, Blue Sheep, Snow Leopard, Musk deer, Himalayan Black Bear, Red Panda, Asiatic elephant, Greater one-horned rhinoceros, Gaur, Wild water buffalo, Hog deer, Tiger, Clouded leopard, Hornbill, Trogon, etc.
Adventure Activities	Hiking and Trekking, Paragliding, Zip-flyer, Mountain Biking, Bungee Jumping, Rafting, etc.	Fishing, Hiking, Camping, Boating, etc.

2. Nepal and Bhutan Flights

Nepal has 3 International Airports but the most popular and in operation is **Tribhuvan International Airport**. Likewise, **Paro International Airport** is the only international airport in Bhutan. Thus, Nepal and Bhutan flights are inadequate, and regular flights to Bhutan are limited to only 5 nations.

Only 2 local carriers in **Bhutan** are in operation: **Bhutan (Tashi) Airlines** and **Druk Air** which provides regular flight services to **Nepal (Kathmandu), India (Delhi, Bagdogra, Gaya, Guwahati, and Kolkata), Thailand (Bangkok), Singapore, and Bangladesh (Dhaka)**. Travelers must take connecting flights if they are traveling via other nations besides above mentioned.

In the case of Nepal, there are direct flights to Nepal from neighboring countries, South-east Asia and the Middle-east Asia while connecting flights are only options for travelers traveling from Europe, North and South America, Australia, and New Zealand. There are more frequent connecting flights from Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, UAE, Qatar, China and India to Nepal than other nations.

3. Places to visit in Nepal and Bhutan

Nepal and Bhutan are both landlocked Himalayan nations. There are no beaches or seas but abundant cultural and natural destinations. Both nations are geographically diverse and have multiple exciting places that offer diversity such as cultural, natural, and adventurous attractions. In both nations, travelers can sightsee around cultural and historical landmarks, go hiking or trekking, or perform adventurous activities.

Top place to visit in Nepal

- **Kathmandu Valley** (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur)- Sightsee UNESCO Heritage Sites
- **Nagarkot**- Nearest hill station for sunrise views
- **Pokhara**- Tourist capital popular for lakeside, sunrise views, and adventurous activities (Paragliding, Zip-flyer, Hot-air balloon rides, etc.)
- **Lumbini**- Birthplace of Lord Buddha
- **Chitwan National Park**- Popular for Jungle Safari
- **Mustang**- Must Visit Travel Destination in most travel websites list
- **Everest Base Camp**- Popular trekking destination
- **Annapurna Base Camp**- Classic and most visited trekking destination

Top place to visit in Bhutan Tour

- **Paro**- Kyichu Lhakhang, Tiger's Nest Monastery, Drukgyal Dzong
- **Punakha**- Punakha Dzong, Chimi Lhakhang

- **Thimphu**-Buddha Dordenma, Memorial Chorten, Motithang Takin Preserve, Tashichho and Simtokha Dzongs
- **Phobjikha**- 108 Memorial Chorten, Dochula Pass, Gangtey Goempa
- **Wangdi Phodrang**- Radak Neykhang, Archery Ground, Vegetable Market, Army Training Centre, Dzong Gate and Eight Chortens
- **Phuentsoling**- Amo Chuu, Bhutan Gate, Karbandi Monastery, Zangthopelri Lhakhang
- **Bumthang**- Explore Ura, Chumey, Tang and Choekhor valleys

4. ?Accommodation and Meals in Nepal and Bhutan

Accommodation and Meals in Nepal and Bhutan tours are distinct yet unique and satisfactory. Travelers have great choices of accommodation in Nepal and Bhutan tours from budget-friendly hotels to high-end luxury hotels. Likewise, meals in Nepal and Bhutan have some similarities and diversities that are unique and delicious.

Accommodation and Meals in Nepal

Accommodation in Nepal for travelers ranges from budget-friendly hotels to luxury hotels. Travelers can choose the accommodation of their preference but we recommend choosing luxury hotels. There are abundant luxury hotels in Nepal from 3-star to 5-star with the best of the facilities and services. Some popular 5-star hotels in Nepal are The Dwarika's, Kathmandu Marriott, Hyatt Regency, etc. which cater to travelers with premium facilities.

Nepal has a diverse ethnic group and hence, there is a diversity of meal options from different ethnic groups which is a unique treat for travelers. We recommend choosing a **breakfast-only meal plan** for travelers in Nepal as there is abundant availability of restaurants and hotels nearby and are reasonable with a variety of meal options. Some popular meals in Nepal are Nepali Dal-Bhat, Momo, Samay Baji set, Yomari, Tingmo, Sel Roti, Thakali Set, Jaju Dhau (King Curd), Dhido, Gundruk, Sherpa Stew, etc.

Accommodation and Meals in Bhutan

Bhutan Tourism believes in delivering quality services to its travelers. Thus, accommodations in Bhutan are top-notch, and 4-star and 5-star luxury hotels are means of accommodation during Bhutan tours. All hotels are luxury that are well-equipped and provide premium facilities. Como Uma, Amankora, Le Meridien, etc., are some popular 5-star luxury hotels in Bhutan.

Bhutan also has some unique and tasty meals and spicy meals are the specialty of Bhutan. We suggest travelers go with a **full-board (B,L,D) meal plan** in Bhutan considering the cost and location factors. This option is convenient and cost-effective for travelers during the tour. Ema Datshi is the national dish of Bhutan which is very spicy yet mouth-watering. Buckwheat, Red Rice, Khewa Datshi, Jasha Maru, Phaksha Paa, Suja, Ara, Jaju Soup, Momo, etc. are some popular meals in Bhutan.

5. Bhutan vs Nepal

Similarities

- Both are landlocked nations
- Culturally and historically Rich and Diverse
- Numerous monasteries
- Beautiful Mountain Ranges
- Multiple Vibrant Festivals

Getting There

Visas And Permits

Trekking Experience

Cultural Attractions

- | Nepal | Bhutan |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous direct flights from the Middle East and South Asia to Nepal such as Delhi, Doha, Dubai, Bangkok, etc. • There are connecting flights to Nepal from nations worldwide. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are limited direct flights to Bhutan. • Flights to Bhutan are from Kathmandu, Kolkata, Delhi, Dhaka, Singapore, and Bangkok. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is easy and quick to get an on-arrival visa at the Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, as well as at all land border crossings open to foreigners. • Travelers require a valid passport, 2 passport-size photos, and preferably some US dollars for payment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelers must apply in advance for Bhutan Visa through the tour operator. • Travelers must bring the printed copy and present it before flying to Bhutan along with the valid passport and flight ticket. • A Visa is issued once you arrive in Bhutan. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal is a trekker's paradise and abundant trekking destinations are here suitable for all age groups of travelers. • For mountaineering, 419 peaks are opened. • Travelers can also go for short hikes in the vicinity of Kathmandu Valley. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are limited trekking destinations in Bhutan and trekking in Bhutan means Camping. • In camping, travelers spend a night in tents and eat local foods. • Mountaineering in Bhutan is not allowed as they consider the mountains as holy. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal has abundant cultural attractions that are aesthetic, and architecturally impressive and hold | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan has also abundant cultural attractions that display the cultural beauty of Bhutan. |

Travel Cost	<p>historic and cultural significance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some cultural attractions are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Durbar Squares, Lumbini, Swayambhunath Stupa, etc. • Nepal is one of the most affordable nations to travel to. • Travelers have the flexibility to select their accommodation, transportation, and food according to their spending capacity. • There are options available for travelers from budget-friendly to luxury. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paro Taktsang, Buddha Dordenma Statue, Punakha Dzong, Thimphu Dzong, etc. are some impressive attractions in Bhutan. • Bhutan’s tourism policy includes paying daily SDF Fees which is USD 100 per person per night. • Besides SDF Fees, additional costs for accommodation, meals, transport, and entry fees to monuments make traveling to Bhutan very expensive.
Environmental policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal has no strong environmental policies which is why air quality in Nepal is poor. • But slowly some proper waste management is in operation to keep the cities clean but there are no strict rules and regulations to manage it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan’s strict environmental policies are praiseworthy and safeguard the landscapes of Bhutan with strict implementation of its policies. • Only with special permission, trees are allowed to be cut, and trekking is allowed on only some specific trails that ensure the preservation of wildlife.
Outdoor Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal is one of the most loved nations for Outdoor activities and a variety of options are available for all age groups of travelers. • Some popular outdoor activities in Nepal are White-water rafting, Paragliding, Bungee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan is not so popular for outdoor activities and very limited outdoor activities are here in Bhutan. • Outdoor activities in Bhutan are not so adventurous but light and gentle. • Fishing is one outdoor

Jumping, Zip-flyer,
Mountain Biking, Rock
Climbing, etc.

activity that is relaxing
but requires a permit to
do it.

6. ?Culture and festivals of Nepal and Bhutan

Both Himalayan nations Nepal and Bhutan are rich in culture, tradition, and festivals. The religious diversity in both nations is praiseworthy. The diverse ethnic group celebrates multiple festivals in Nepal whereas Bhutan also organizes vibrant grand festivals which are major attractions for travelers.

Culture and Festivals of Nepal

Nepal is a small landlocked country in South Asia having cultural and ethnic diversities. As per the 2021 census, it comprises **124 languages, 142 ethnic groups, and 10 religions**. More than 50+ festivals are celebrated throughout the year. Hinduism and Buddhism are major religions in Nepal. Dashain, Tihar, Lhosar, Buddha Jayanti, Holi, Rato Machhindranath Jatra, etc. are some prime festivals in Nepal.

Popular Festivals in Nepal

- Dashain- Longest Festival in Nepal (15 days)
- Tihar- Festival of lights
- Holi- Festival of Colors
- Lhosar- Tamu, Gyalpo, and Sonam Lhosar (New Year of 3 different ethnicities)
- Rato Machhindranath Jatra- The longest Chariot festival of Nepal
- Buddha Jayanti- Birth anniversary of Lord Buddha
- Maha Shivaratri- Biggest festival for Hindu devotees

Culture and Festivals of Bhutan

Bhutan is also a landlocked country where 75% of the Bhutanese follow Buddhism. Bhutan is highly influenced by Buddhism and they host Tsechu festivals throughout the year in different parts of Bhutan. Bhutan's modern culture is greatly influenced by the ancient culture and still are in practice. The festivals in Bhutan are grand and a pleasure to witness. Some major festivals in Bhutan are Thimphu Tsechu, Paro Tsechu, Haa Summer, Jambay Lhakhang Drup Tsechu, Black Necked Crane Festivals, etc.

Popular Festivals in Bhutan

- Paro Tsechu- Most popular mask dance festival
- Haa Summer Festival- Traditional display of Culture, heritage, sports, and religion
- Thimphu Tsechu- Grand festival commemorating the birth of Guru Rinpoche
- Wangdue Phodrang Tsechu- To celebrate the life and great deeds of Guru Rinpoche
- Black-necked craned festival- Creating awareness on protecting the endangered black-neck cranes

7. Dos and Don'ts in Nepal Bhutan Tour

Both Nepal and Bhutan hold great cultural significance. They respect their religion, culture, and tradition extremely. So, travelers should show gratitude and respect and strictly follow some guidelines while traveling to these nations.

- Use both hands while showing gratitude and respect.
- Ask permission before touching, and taking photographs of people and objects.
- Dress appropriately while visiting monasteries, temples, stupas, and village areas.
- Only use your right hand while eating in Nepal.
- Remove shoes and caps/hats while visiting monasteries or temples.
- Do not climb over historical and cultural monuments, chortens, etc.

8. ?Wildlife in Bhutan and Nepal

Wildlife is the beautiful attraction of any nation. Nepal and Bhutan are also rich in wildlife and boast diverse species of flora and fauna including endangered species. Both Bhutan and Nepal have done tremendous jobs in protecting and preserving wildlife in their respective nations.

Wildlife in Nepal

Nepal's 23.39% of the land is approximately protected where they have established 12 National Parks, 1 Wildlife Reserve, 1 Hunting Reserve, 6 Conservation Areas, and 13 Buffer Zones. It extends from lowland Terai to high mountains which has greatly contributed in-situ conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity across Nepal. It shelters 30,167 living species; comprising 17,097 animals and 13,067 plants. Almost 10% of the world's bird species are found in Nepal. Chitwan, Bardia, and Sagarmatha are some popular national parks of Nepal. Some popular protected species are the Bengal Tiger, One-horned rhino, Pangolin, Snow Leopard, Red Panda, Asian elephant, etc.

Wildlife in Bhutan

Bhutan has 5 national parks, 4 wildlife sanctuaries, and 1 nature reserve which comprises of Bhutan's 43% of the land. A biological corridor is designed that links all 9 protected areas which add to 52% of areas under the protection. A wide variety of flora and fauna are there in Bhutan which includes 770 bird species, 200 mammal species, and 5,500 plant species. The protected areas stretch from the subtropics in the south to the constantly frozen regions in the north. Various types of wildlife and plants are protected including endangered species. Jigme Dorji, Royal Manas, and Wangchuk Centennial are some popular national parks of Bhutan. Some popular protected species in Bhutan are the Royal Bengal Tiger, Snow Leopard, Asiatic Elephant, White Bellied Heron, Black-necked Cranes, etc.

9. ?Ultimate Bhutan and Nepal tourist maps

NEPAL

- Country: Nepal
- Official Name: Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Area: 147,516 sq. km
- Province: 7
- District: 77
- Latitude: 26°N and 31°N
- Longitude: 80°E and 89°E
- Population: 2, 91, 64, 578
- Language: Nepali
- Religion: Hinduism, Buddhism, and others
- Currency: Nepalese Rupee (NPR) [130 NPR= 1.00 USD approx.]
- Time Zone: NPT (UTC+5:45)
- Dial code: +977
- Government: Parliamentary republic with a multi-party system

BHUTAN

- Country: Bhutan
- Official Name: Kingdom of Bhutan
- Capital: Thimphu
- Area: 38,394 sq. km
- District: 20
- Latitude: 26°N and 29°N
- Longitude: 88°E and 93°E
- Population: Over 788,615
- Language: Dzongkha
- Religion: Vajrayana Buddhism (state religion)
- Currency: BTN Ngultrum (Nu) [100 Nu= 1.25 USD approx.]
- Time Zone: BTT (UTC+6)
- Dial code: +975
- Government: Constitutional monarchy

10. ?Weather and climate in Nepal and Bhutan

Nepal and Bhutan are both landlocked Himalayan nations that have diverse geography. The topographical differences, lowland elevation, and highland elevation in both nations vary which impacts the weather and climate of these nations. Both nations have four main seasons: Spring (Mar-May), Autumn (Sep-Nov), Summer (Jun-Aug), and Winter (Dec-Feb). Throughout the year,

traveling in both nations is possible. But **spring and autumn are considered the best seasons to travel in both nations.**

Weather and Climate in Nepal

Spring is the best season to travel to Nepal as the weather is stable, flowers blossom, and the temperature is warm. The temperature is generally between **16°C to 23°C in the lower regions like Kathmandu Valley, and Pokhara, and slightly warmer in Chitwan.**

Autumn is the second-best season to travel to Nepal due to warm and pleasant weather with temperatures between 13°C to 20°C. The skies are also clear offering phenomenal views.

Summer is very sunny and warm and expect heavy rainfall from mid-June to August. **Winters are very cold but the day views are clear.** In the morning there is fog, and evening also gets colder. Wear appropriate clothes to protect yourself from cold.

Weather and Climate in Bhutan

Autumn is the best time to travel to Bhutan as the weather is warmer with clear blue skies. **Spring** is the second best season to travel because of the blooming seasonal flowers. But, the weather can be cloudy, and expect more rain. Several vibrant festivals also occur in this season. During the autumn season, the temperature of Bhutan is **15°C to 22°C** while in Spring season, the temperature is between **15°C to 25°C.**

Winter is very cold but the skies are clear and suitable for beautiful scenery. In Jan and Feb months, there is a high chance of heavy snowfall which can create a blockade for hiking or trekking. The nights are colder as the temperature drops. **Summer is also a monsoon season in Bhutan, so expect light rainfalls.** But, the weather is pleasant and warm.