



Government Regulations – In Short

The government wants to establish high quality tourism. They would like foreign guests to feel welcome, happy and secure in the country.
There are some regulations which protect the country and the foreign guest.

A) Tourism in Bhutan is regulated by the Royal Government of Bhutan represented by the Department of Tourism.

In order to achieve regulation, the government has developed a license system: only the most reliable and trustworthy hotels, restaurants and travel agencies have the right to offer services to the foreign guest.

For the foreign guest this means that he/she may not come to Bhutan spontaneously: A visa is required. This visa can be obtained only in Bhutan and with the aid of a Bhutanese Travel Agency.

Whether you travel with a foreign agency (the Bhutanese Agency working undercover) or a Bhutanese one (dealing directly), the visa application can be forwarded only after tour payment is transferred. The Bhutanese Ministry of Tourism monitors adherence to all contractual agreements. Only travel costs authorized by the ministry are paid - by bank transfer - to the corresponding contractor. Any refund (should you be unable to come to Bhutan for any reason) is effected by the Department of Tourism according to trade conditions set up by the government.



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For visa processing no vaccinations are needed (unless you come from infected areas.) Apart from this special license system and the visa procedure there is not much that you need to know. Bhutan is a safe, clean and friendly country, where you will feel secure, happy and well cared for. (for further information on these topics see DOWNLOADs Trade Conditions and Travel Informations)

All other travel preparations should be completed in the usual way. Nevertheless you are strongly advised to subscribe to an all-inclusive travel insurance. (for information see DOWNLOAD Books and Links)

B) A journey to Bhutan must be pre-planned and pre-paid. An all-inclusive service is provided.

And here the procedure:

- ✿ You choose a time
- ✿ You choose a journey
- ✿ You check your passport
- ✿ You book your journey
- ✿ You transfer the total tour price to the DoT
- ✿ You receive a visa in form of a visa clearance number
- ✿ We send your Druk Air ticket to your home address
- ✿ You come to Bhutan



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C) The Royal Government of Bhutan prescribes an “entry fee” although it is not a fee in the usual sense. It covers the costs of your stay in Bhutan.

When you come to Bhutan you will be welcomed as a valued guest. Tours and treks in Bhutan are of a high standard. A fixed daily all-inclusive service fee covers the costs of:

- ❁ High quality sleeping accommodation
- ❁ Delicious meals in inviting, clean and cosy restaurants
- ❁ Transport in high-standard air-conditioned cars
- ❁ Tour guidance with a certified English speaking guide
- ❁ Entry to the most interesting festivals, antique temples and museums
- ❁ High standard trekking equipment on treks
- ❁ Not included in this fee are the air fares, neither with Druk Air nor with other airlines.

The Royal Bhutanese Government has calculated that for the cost of these services an average daily fee of 200 US Dollar (for an adult travelling in groups of three or more persons) is reasonable and fair.

There are reductions of the service fee for

- ❁ children, students, Indian citizens and diplomats.
- ❁ A discount of 50% on daily rates applies for one person in a group of 11 to 15 persons.
- ❁ A discount of 100% for one person applies for every 15 full paying persons.

This means that you can take the opportunity of gathering a group together and travelling free of charge.

Please book 9 weeks in advance for the high-season festival events in autumn and in spring as hotels are in high demand at that time.

Remember: a journey to Bhutan may be the best investment in your life.

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D) Tours and treks in Bhutan must be guided by a licensed Bhutanese Travel Agency such as Bhutanpilgrimage.

Any foreign agency offering journeys to Bhutan has to book the journey with a Bhutanese travel agency. For the foreign guest this means paying double travel agency fees and having no contact with the Bhutanese agency that actually plans and guides the tour.

Communication between the two travel agencies can lead to delays and complications. Bhutanpilgrimage is a licensed Bhutanese Travel Agency This means you will receive higher quality for a better price because there is no middleman commission.

The Government of Bhutan (Department of Tourism) supervises the implementation of the travel agreement. The tour payment remains in the department's account at the National Bank of Bhutan and may only be transferred by cheque to cover the following payments:

- ❁ Druk air ticket
- ❁ Entry-fee due to the National Fund of the Department of Tourism
- ❁ Tour price

For detailed information on government regulations please refer to the DOWNLOAD Trade Conditions.



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