



Message from The CEO

Hello Family,

I hope that you, your loved ones, and your colleagues are safe and well.

As I look back at the years gone by, we have had much time to feel what we have gone through, understand people, situations and determine an outlook of a very different future for our business.

In spite of what we have achieved pre covid with our proven track record of quality services, care and satisfaction from our clients, we have new perspectives on how we can appease our guests in the normal now.

Quick adaptation and response is key today with the right team focused on taking care of our guests from the moment they leave home, have a comfortable and stress free vacation overseas until the moment they arrive back home to their families safely with enjoyable experiences to share.

Let us all assure that in these overwhelming times, we love what we do, we care for anyone that comes into contact with us and focus on the wellbeing of the people.

Our top priority is health and safety. We are adapting to the changing environment in the travel sector. Now more than ever, we must do the right things and be prepared to take steps beyond what we're typically required to do.

I am glad to welcome you to our quarterly newsletters.

Stay Safe and Responsibly.

Yeshey Norbu
CEO
Norbu Bhutan Travels

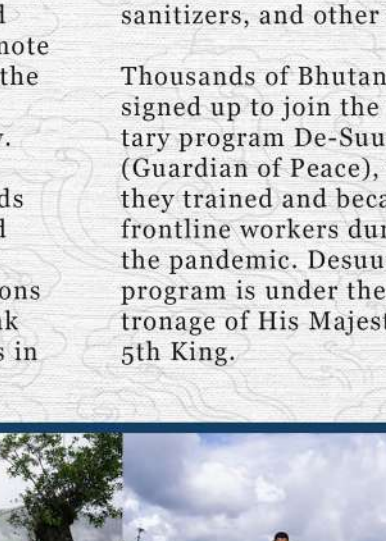


Covid and Related Updates

Covid 19 Updates

It's been an interesting and an emotional year because of the pandemic. As countries slowly begin to open their borders, we are here to give you a brief look at Bhutan and an update on the coronavirus situation in the country.

Bhutan witnessed its first death to the novel Coronavirus in 2021. With only 337 physicians in the country with a population of over 760,000, and only 1 physician skilled and trained in critical care, Bhutan looked like a ripe target.



Although Bhutan had only 1 physician for every 2000 people, Bhutan moved quickly based on the latest science and drafted its National Preparedness and Response Plan, and began screening for symptoms using infrared fever screening at Bhutan's International Airport.

His Majesty The King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck launched a relief fund and handed out over \$19 million to 34,000 Bhutanese whose livelihood was impacted by the pandemic.

His Majesty The King traveled to high-risk areas frequently to monitor measures placed.

Aside from the financial assistance, His Majesty travelled for 14 months through the jungles and trekked mountains to reach remote settlements to oversee the pandemic measures throughout the country.

The Royal Government of Bhutan has sent out over 51,000 free care packages to its vulnerable and elderly population-the care package included vitamins, sanitizers, and other items.

His majesty's wise words and presence resonated with his subjects as he walked through elevations of 4343 meters to thank primary health workers in remote hamlets.

Thousands of Bhutanese signed up to join the voluntary program De-Suung (Guardian of Peace), where they trained and became frontline workers during the pandemic. Desuung program is under the patronage of His Majesty The 5th King.



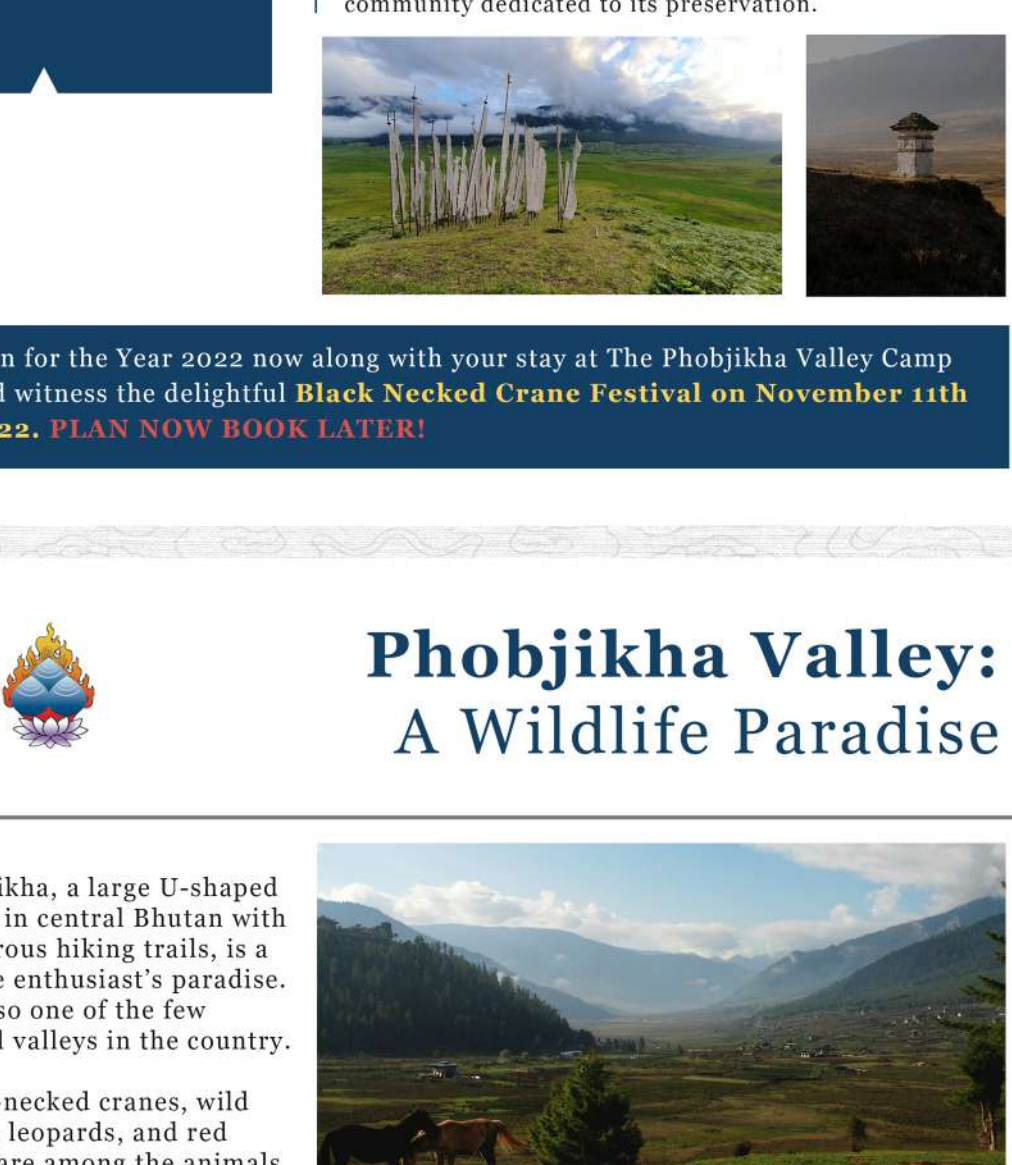
Bhutan's success is a testimony to His Majesty's extraordinary leadership and the government's collective efforts to protect the tiny kingdom and its citizens.

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Phobjikha Valley: The Valley of the Black Necked Crane

The Black Necked Crane Festival



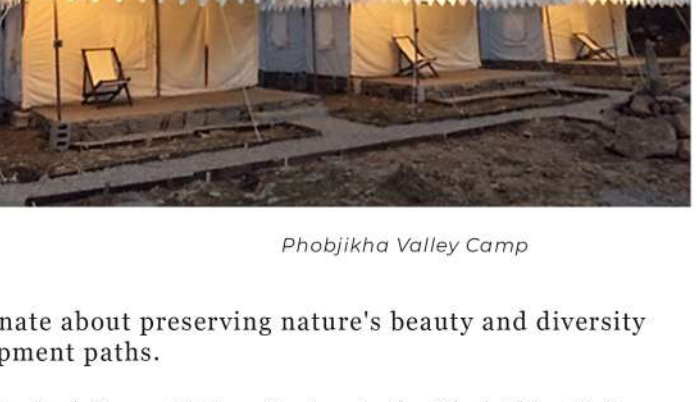
The Black Necked Crane Festival

Black-necked cranes in Bhutan (*Grus nigricollis*) are winter visitors during late October to mid February to the Phobjikha Valley.

Locals and visitors alike gather in the courtyard of Gangtey Goenpa in Phobjikha valley every November to welcome some much-loved visitors: black-necked cranes, the world's only alpine crane species.

During the one-day colorful festival, locals honor the arrival of the world's most beautiful birds by showcasing their cultural heritage through masked folk dances and songs, as well as raising awareness about conservation issues.

It's an opportunity for visitors to not only participate in one of Bhutan's most well-known festivals, but also to honor this sacred bird while supporting a community dedicated to its preservation.



Plan for the Year 2022 now along with your stay at The Phobjikha Valley Camp and witness the delightful **Black Necked Crane Festival on November 11th 2022. PLAN NOW BOOK LATER!**



Phobjikha Valley: A Wildlife Paradise

Phobjikha, a large U-shaped valley in central Bhutan with numerous hiking trails, is a nature enthusiast's paradise. It's also one of the few glacial valleys in the country.

Black-necked cranes, wild boars, leopards, and red foxes are among the animals that call the valley home.



The Picturesque and Peaceful Phobjikha valley is a huge U-shaped glacial valley

The best time to visit Phobjikha Valley is from September to November, when the weather is moderately cold but plenty of sunshine during the day time with clear blue skies. The Black Necked Crane can be seen in abundance as you immerse yourself in the valley's panoramic view.

Phobjikha Valley is truly a wildlife paradise, with sweeping views of flat fields filled with green grass and colorful flowers.



The Phobjikha Valley camp

Become one with nature and take advantage of this "once in a lifetime" opportunity with The Valley Camp. The Valley Camp offers an exclusive retreat with warm and inviting rooms and facilities similar to those found in a luxury resort.



Phobjikha Valley Camp

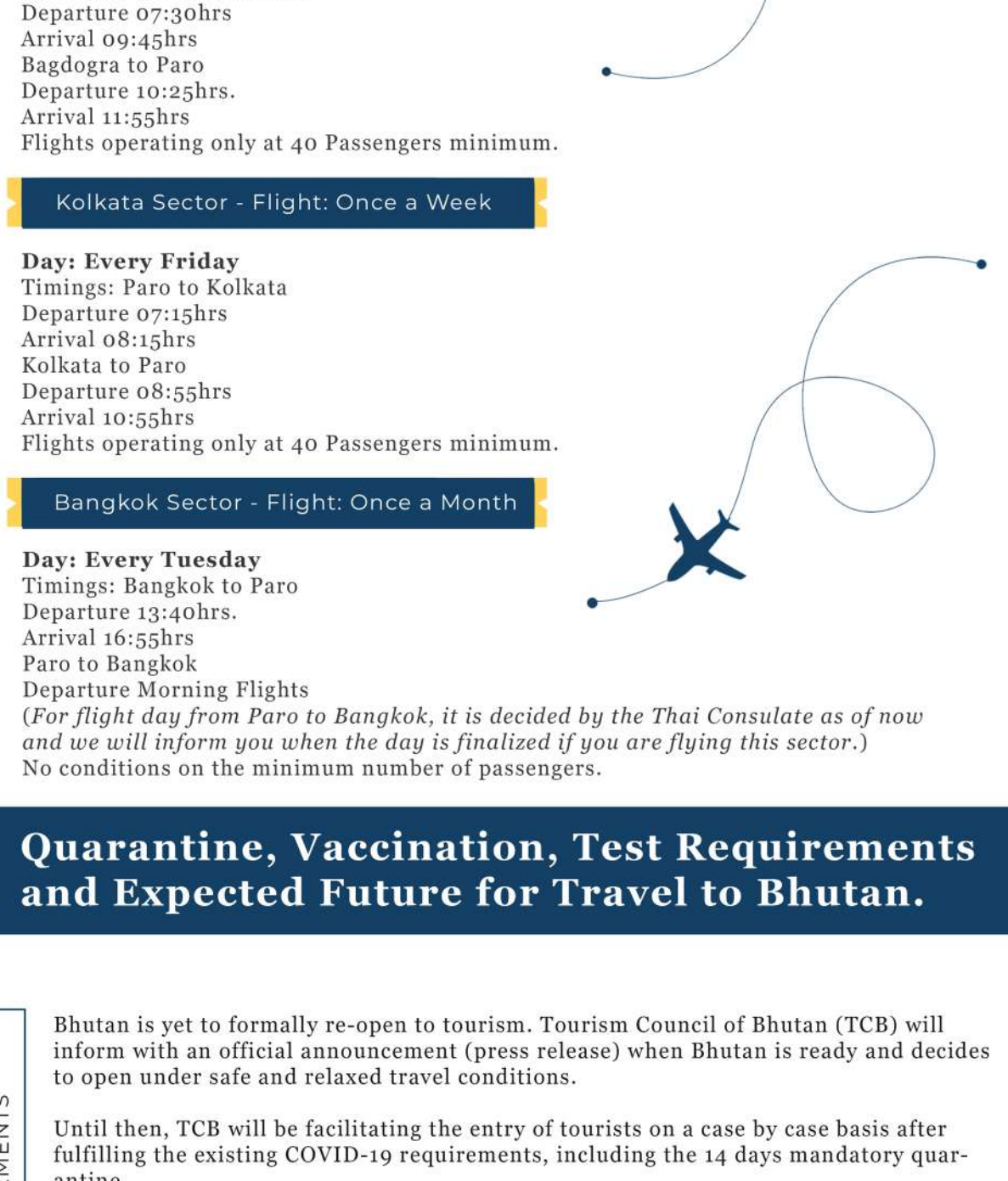
Join individuals who are passionate about preserving nature's beauty and diversity by following sustainable development paths.

The camp is close to the Black Necked Crane Visitor Center in the Phobjikha Valley. As a result, you can expect to see magnificent black necked cranes perched or soaring about, as well as a panoramic view of the valley.



Black Necked Crane Festival in Phobjikha during the month of November

Highlight - A Royal Vision Transforms Paro Airport

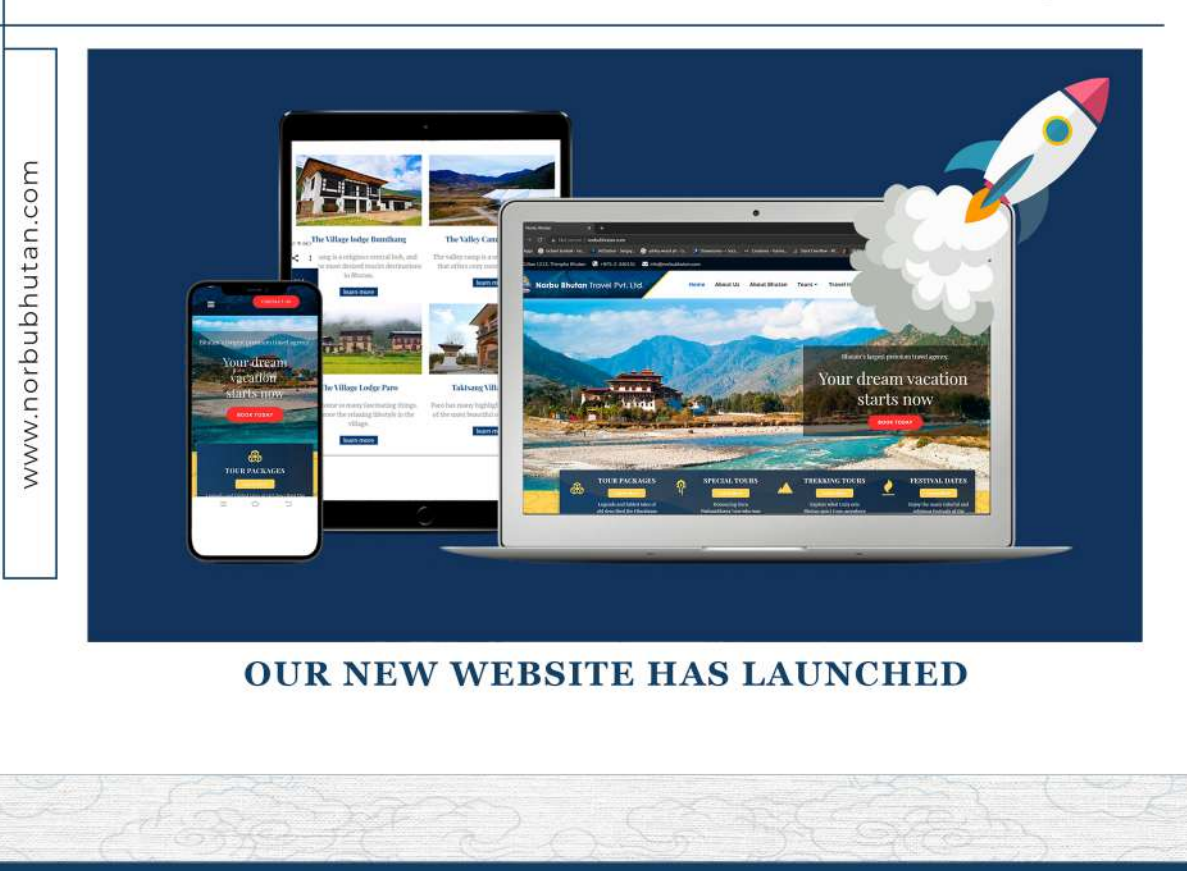


Inspired by a concept commanded by His Majesty The King, Paro International Airport has been transformed into a national aviation facility with a unique identity.

Visitors flying into the folds of the Himalayas are introduced to a Bhutan that balances the best of tradition and modernity and an experience that symbolises a people in change.

The concept is an experience of hospitality served in an exquisite setting which merges into the pristine landscape that is Bhutan.

The stimulation for what is obviously a dramatic change in output and morale among the airport staff comes from the fact that the new energy is inspired by His Majesty The King's encouragement for all Bhutanese to make every effort to achieve their best.



Highlight - His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced the formal inauguration of Druk Air's fifth aircraft - A5-JKW - on October 12.

The National carrier, Drukair, welcomed the landing of the biggest aircraft, a new Airbus A320neo this month, to its existing fleet of 3 Airbus A319 and One ATR 42-600.

The airbus was registered as A5-JKW, in honour of His Majesty The King.

Chief Executive Officer of Drukair, Tandi Wangchuk said that A5 represented the country's code and JKW was in honor of His Majesty The King.

Although such airbus could accommodate 180 economy class, he said that the Airbus A320 neo would have 140 seats with 20 business class and 120 economy class considering the comfort of the passenger.

Druk Air - Royal Bhutan Airlines

Delhi Sector - Flight: Once a Week

Day: Every Monday

Timings: Paro to Delhi

Departure : 07:40hrs.

Arrival 09:50hrs

Delhi to Paro -

Arrival 13:20hrs

Flights operating only at 40 Passengers minimum.

Bagdogra Sector - Flight: Once a Week

Day: Every Monday

Timings: Paro to Bagdogra

Departure 07:30hrs

Arrival 09:45hrs

Bagdogra to Paro

Departure 10:25hrs.

Arrival 11:55hrs

Flights operating only at 40 Passengers minimum.

Kolkata Sector - Flight: Once a Week

Day: Every Friday

Timings: Paro to Kolkata

Departure 07:15hrs

Arrival 08:15hrs

Kolkata to Paro

Departure 08:55hrs

Arrival 10:55hrs

Flights operating only at 40 Passengers minimum.

Bangkok Sector - Flight: Once a Month

Day: Every Tuesday

Timings: Bangkok to Paro

Departure 13:40hrs.

Arrival 16:55hrs

Paro to Bangkok

Departure Morning Flights

(For flight day from Paro to Bangkok, it is decided by the Thai Consulate as of now and we will inform you when the day is finalized if you are flying this sector.)

No conditions on the minimum number of passengers.

Quarantine, Vaccination, Test Requirements and Expected Future for Travel to Bhutan.

COVID 19 REQUIREMENTS

Bhutan is yet to formally re-open to tourism. Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) will inform with an official announcement (press release) when Bhutan is ready and decides to open under safe and relaxed travel conditions.

Until then, TCB will be facilitating the entry of tourists on a case by case basis after fulfilling the existing COVID-19 requirements, including the 14 days mandatory quarantine.

In addition, the tourist wanting to visit Bhutan must also meet the following conditions:

- Interested inbound tourists to apply through a licensed Bhutanese tour operator.
- Entry will be facilitated only for those coming via air.
- Minimum Daily Package Rate (MDPR) and associated exemptions will be applicable for the entire tour duration after the mandatory quarantine.
- Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) per person per night will be levied during the quarantine period.
- The Royal Government of Bhutan will bear the cost for all tests as per the COVID-19 requirement.
- Strictly follow prevailing National COVID-19 protocol and TCB guidelines.
- Need to have COVID-19 insurance coverage.
- Produce a COVID-19 negative certificate issued by a laboratory certified to carry out RT-PCR test, not earlier than 72 hours before embarking or the initiation of a journey from the country of origin.
- It is mandatory for Interested inbound tourists to have taken both the doses of vaccination.
- At any given time, the National COVID-19 protocol may be enforced.

The Royal Government will bear the food and room charges during the 14 days quarantine period in Government-authorized hotels.

We are hopeful that we will be able to re-open soon to tourists with more relaxed travel conditions.

Stay in touch with Norbu Bhutan and read more fascinating, inspiring stories from Bhutan and find out soon when Bhutan finally opens to the world. Will keep you posted.

WE HAVE LIFT OFF!

OUR NEW WEBSITE HAS LAUNCHED

www.norbubhutan.com

News Letter

Want to learn more about Bhutan? Sign up for the newsletter and join our family.

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