

## Travel Info



### SDF UPDATE

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES TO BOOST THE TOURISM SECTOR.**

**The incentives are:**

- Effective SDF with the discount shall be USD 100 per person per night for USD paying tourists.
- Additional 50% discount on the SDF for children aged between 06-12 years who USD dollars are paying children visiting as tourists.
- 24-hour SDF waiver at border towns shall continue
- The incentives will be effective from September 1, 2023, and remain for 04 years till August 31, 2027.

#### Q&A ON NEW SDF INCENTIVES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

##### 1. IS THE 50% SDF DISCOUNT A REDUCTION IN THE SDF RATE?

Bhutan's SDF remains at USD 200 per person per night. The effective SDF with the 50% discount is USD 100 per person per night for US Dollar paying tourists. This is a time-limited incentive until 2027.

##### 2. WILL PREVIOUS DURATION INCENTIVES (4+4, 7+7, 12+18 NIGHTS PACKAGES) STILL BE AVAILABLE?

No, the incentives introduced in June 2023 (4+4, 7+7, and 12+18 have been revoked and are no longer applicable). However, the 24-hour SDF waiver for border towns in Bhutan remains valid.

##### 3. CAN THE 50% DISCOUNT BE COMBINED WITH THE SDF WAIVER FOR BORDER TOWNS?

No, it cannot be combined. Visitors wishing to explore border towns before or after the SDF discount must apply for another visa.

##### 4. EXPLAIN THE 50% SDF DISCOUNT FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 6 TO 12 YEARS FOR US DOLLAR PAYING CHILDREN VISITING AS TOURISTS?

The 50% discount shall be on the USD 100 rate. Therefore, the effective SDF with the 50% discount for children will be USD 50 per person per night for US Dollar paying tourists. Children who have yet to turn six can visit Bhutan without paying any SDF.

##### 5. HOW LONG CAN I STAY IN BHUTAN WITH A TOURIST VISA?

You can stay for a maximum of 90 nights from the entry date.

##### 6. CAN A REFUND FOR EXCESS SDF PAYMENTS FOLLOWING THE DURATION INCENTIVES BE AVAILABLE?

Yes, with the previous incentives if you've paid for guests arriving on or after September 1, 2023, with the earlier incentives. You can keep it as is or apply for a visa with a 50% discount. Any excess amount can be refunded.

##### 7. WHO RECEIVES THE REFUND FOR EXCESS PAYMENTS DUE TO THE 50% DISCOUNT?

The excess amount will be refunded to the original payment account.

##### 8. WHEN DOES THE 50% SDF DISCOUNT TAKE EFFECT?

It starts on September 1, 2023. Until then, the existing system remains in place.

##### 9. HOW LONG IS THE 50% SDF DISCOUNT VALID?

It's valid until September 2027. Further details post-2027 will be announced one year before the validity ends.

### TAJ TASHI TO PEMAKO THIMPHU



With the recent rebranding of **Taj Tashi to Pemako Thimphu**, effective from 4th July 2023, We are thrilled to announce that going forward, **Pemako Thimphu** will be hosting you with utmost privilege.

The services and amenities that were previously offered under the **Taj Tashi** brand will remain unchanged, including a competitive rate proposal. Their dedicated team is wholeheartedly focused on delivering an exceptional experience for your organization and guests.

We look forward to welcoming you to **Pemako Thimphu** and creating memorable moments for you and your guests.

## UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WITH NORBU BHUTAN TRAVELS

Discover a one-of-a-kind journey with **Norbu Bhutan Travels** and immerse yourself in Bhutan's unique charm as we guide you through Bhutan's natural beauty and vibrant traditions.

Our experienced team unveils hidden stories and cultural treasures, creating an authentic and comfortable adventure. Choose us to explore Bhutan's lesser-known gems and local heritage.

**NORBU BHUTAN TRAVELS:** Your gateway to an extraordinary experience!

### "BLEND YOUR TEA" SESSION



#### Art Of Tea Blending In Punakha, Zomlimithang

Tea blending house in Punakha, Zomlimithang is a hub of tea culture, where the rich heritage and traditions of Bhutanese tea come alive.

As you step through the wooden carved doors, you are greeted by the delightful aroma of freshly brewed teas like cordyceps, lemongrass, hibiscus, and Moringa Oleifera.

The art of tea blending is shared, with visitors having the opportunity to witness and participate in the process. Tea ceremonies and workshops are conducted, where the techniques of brewing tea are showcased. You can observe the tea artisans measuring and blending the ingredients, creating unique flavour profiles and combinations.

After witnessing the tea blending process, visitors taste the tea and enjoy the wonderful flavors.

### VEGETARIAN CUISINE.



#### Cooking The Bhutanese Way With Chef Kencho Bidha

Join Chef Kencho Bidha in Thimphu City for a delightful exploration of vegetarian Bhutanese cuisine. With her expertise and passion for vegetarian dishes, Chef Kencho will guide you through a culinary journey filled with flavorful creations.

Throughout the session, you'll have a front-row seat to Kencho's cooking techniques, as she prepares a variety of vegetarian dishes, from lentil soups to delicious vegetable stir-fries, where each dish showcases the organic flavors of Bhutanese cuisine. Get the opportunity to interact with Kencho, and learn valuable tips and tricks for recreating these delectable dishes in your own kitchen.

Whether you're a seasoned cook or a beginner, this session promises to be informative and inspiring. Discover new tastes, learn about Bhutanese culture, and embrace the joys of vegetarian cooking.

### TRADITIONAL THANGKA PAINTING SESSION

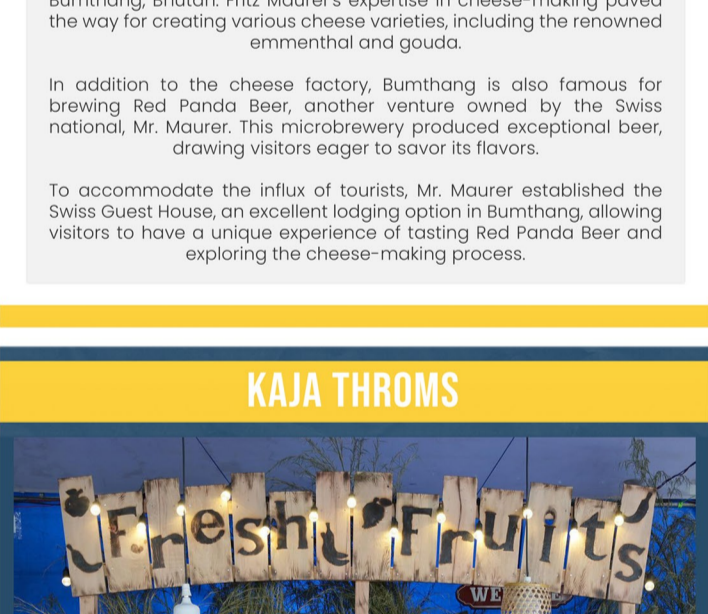


#### Thangka painting, Punakha

Thangka painting is an art form that breathes spirituality and cultural heritage. In a world where materialism overshadows the traditional, this unique experience will connect you with the soul of Bhutan.

The artists will guide you through the process of preparing the canvas, mixing pigments, and applying fine brushstrokes. Learn to paint century-old folktales of Bhutan onto a silk cloth, where every brushstroke iconography makes Thangka a language of its own.

### THREADS OF TRADITION



#### Weaving session, with Aum Kelzang Wangmo, Thimphu

Weaving in Bhutan is a rich and diverse textile tradition practiced by women and passed down from generation to generation. Young girls learn this skill from their mothers or grandmothers, allowing the art of weaving to flourish throughout the country.

Kelzang, a talented weaver from Bhutan, began her craft at 8. She opened her own shop in Thimphu where she uses traditional techniques and dyes her silk yarn at home. A highlight was when the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, wore one of Kelzang's 'Kira' pieces during an audience with the Bhutanese royals in 2016.

This weaving session, with Aum Kelzang Wangmo, will guide you through the intricacies of Bhutanese weaving. Have the opportunity to create your own woven masterpiece as Aum Kelzang Wangmo will provide individualized instruction and support, allowing you to develop your weaving abilities at your own pace.

### TOUR OF BHUTAN'S FLORAL DELIGHTS



#### Connect With Bhutan's Traditions

Bhutan's floriculture tradition dates back centuries, it is an art form that involves the cultivation and nurturing of plants within the fortified walls of dzongs (monastery fortresses) and other historical structures. This unique blend of horticulture and fortification creates a breathtaking fusion of architecture and greenery, adding to Bhutan's charm.

The forticulture tour will take place in various locations within Thimphu and as you traverse these living tapestries, guides share fascinating stories and legends of majestic dzongs, monasteries, and historical structures. This experience connects with Bhutan's traditions, revealing the enduring bond between humans and nature's delicate creations.

### SAVOR AUTHENTIC FARMHOUSE MEALS



#### Ugyen Farm Stay In Paro

Experience the Ugyen Farm Stay in Paro, where authentic farmhouse meals and rich traditions await.

The warm hospitality of the Ugyen family welcomes you, their farmhouse adorned with vibrant decor. The tantalizing aromas of Bhutanese cuisine are lovingly prepared with local ingredients. Each dish tells a story of Bhutan's heritage, from spicy Ema Datshi to soothing Suja.

Explore the farm, engage in hands-on activities, and experience the simplicity of rural life. As you leave, carry cherished memories of flavorful meals and the Bhutanese farmhouse experience.

### BHUTANESE HOSPITALITY AT PUNAKHA



#### Nobgang B&B Farmhouse, Punakha Valley

Nobgang traditional Bhutanese hill house in Punakha Valley is nestled on a scenic hill before Talo.

Upon entering The B&B Restaurant, you are welcomed by the warm smiles and hospitality of the staff. The friendly chatter of fellow diners, the soft lighting, and the peaceful surroundings create a space where conversations flow effortlessly, friendships are forged, and memories are made.

### BHUTANESE TRADITIONAL EMBROIDERY



#### Zorig Chusum The Thirteen Arts And Crafts Of Bhutan

Traditional embroidery opens the door to a world of creativity, beauty, and cultural understanding. The Bhutanese arts and crafts are a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage, where you discover the art of portraying deities, plants, and animals.

Witness first hand the art of thirteen crafts of Bhutan, an ancient art form, and become a part of the living tapestry of Bhutanese arts and crafts, where each stitch tells a story, and each piece of art reflects the soul of a nation.

### DINNER UNDER THE STARS



#### The Rooftop, Thimphu

As the sun sets, the city awakens with a symphony of sights and sounds. The bustling streets, with vibrant flags and fluttering prayer wheels, fill up with the vibrant energy of the evening.

At a local restaurant in Thimphu, plan a memorable dinner under the night sky, making a perfect backdrop for a memorable dining experience. Tables set up with flickering candles arranged on an open-air terrace, with soft ambient music playing in the background.

The aroma of delicious Bhutanese cuisine mingles with the gentle breeze, tantalizing taste buds. The restaurant's ambiance fosters a sense of togetherness, as strangers become friends with a delightful setting.

### TRADITIONAL WOODCARVING WORKSHOP



#### Learn The Artistry

Zorig Chusum, known as the "Thirteen Crafts," is a hands-on experience that offers an opportunity to learn the artistry behind traditional wood and slate carving and connect with the Bhutanese culture profoundly and meaningfully.

Learn the techniques of the diverse wooden masterpieces, from carved masks and auspicious symbols in monasteries and homes to beautifully crafted pillars, beams, and traditional musical instruments.

### SWISS BEER AND CHEESE FACTORY



#### Red Panda and Swiss Brewery

Travel back to the 1960s, when the ambitious Swiss visionary, Fritz Maurer, established a small-scale cheese production in the heart of Bumthang, Bhutan. Fritz Maurer's expertise in cheese-making paved the way for creating various cheese varieties, including the renowned emmental and gouda.

In addition to the cheese factory, Bumthang is also famous for brewing Red Panda Beer, another venture owned by the Swiss national, Mr. Maurer. This microbrewery produced exceptional beer, drawing visitors eager to savor its flavors.

To accommodate the influx of tourists, Mr. Maurer established the Swiss Guest House, an excellent lodging option in Bumthang, allowing visitors to have a unique experience of tasting Red Panda Beer and exploring the cheese-making process.

### KAJA THROMS



#### Kaja Throm In Thimphu, Paro, Punakha, and Phuentsholing

Kaja Throm is one of the newest and most happening places in Bhutan, located in different regions Thimphu, Paro, Punakha, and Phuentsholing. It is a testament to Bhutan's commitment to fostering inclusivity and promoting a sense of togetherness among its people.

The architectural design of the space showcases the blend of traditional Bhutanese elements and modern aesthetics, creating an inviting atmosphere for visitors. As you wander through Kaja Throm, the vegetable and fruit stalls stretch as far as the eye can see. The aroma of fresh tropical mangoes from Gelephu and the scent of "zotey" cheese from Merak transport you to the heart of Bhutan.

### Learn The Art of Archery



Archery holds a special place in Bhutan, where it is a sport that represents Bhutanese heritage and identity.

As you step onto the lush grounds, feel the vibrant energy of the local Bhutanese archer. With their guide, learn the art of archery, a cherished tradition still practiced in Bhutan.

Skilled local guides set up targets and with a bow in your hand, you'll feel a profound connection to the past as you draw back the string, aiming for victory.

### HAPPINESS FIELDS HOMESTAYS



#### "Happiness Fields" In Thimphu

Experience the simple joys of rural life with a farm stay called "Happiness Fields" in Thimphu. Wake up to the aroma of freshly brewed Suja (butter tea) and savor hearty, home-cooked meals bursting with local flavors. Feel the warmth and hospitality of your welcoming hosts, who will share their customs, traditions, and stories passed down through generations.

As you explore the surrounding landscapes, discover hidden gems off the beaten path, where ancient monasteries and vistas await. Homestays in Bhutan offer a truly enriching experience, opening a window into the soul of Bhutanese life.

Happiness Fields homestay offers an authentic and heartwarming glimpse into the soul of Bhutanese countryside living.

### UPCOMING FESTIVALS OF BHUTAN



#### JAMBAY LHA KHANG FESTIVAL

Discover the spirit of Bhutan at Jambay Lhakhang Drup festival, hosted within the age-old Jambay Lhakhang temple, tracing its roots to the 7th century.

Central to the festival is the mesmerizing "Ter Cham" or "Fire Ritual," a midnight spectacle featuring the famous naked dance. As the ritual unfolds, locals and tourists converge, sharing in the ethereal ambiance.

Observe Bhutan's revered archery matches and meander through rustic Bhutanese villages and farmhouses. Engage with local residents, absorb awe-inspiring landscapes, explore ancient monasteries, temples, and dzongs.

This festival promises a deep connection to Bhutan's heritage, allowing you to witness its rich cultural tapestry and time-honored traditions firsthand.



#### THE BLACK-NECKED CRANE ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Gather to celebrate the magnificent Black-necked Crane, revered as heavenly birds in local Bhutanese belief. This special event raises awareness, supports local communities, and renews commitment to protect these remarkable creatures.

Witness the dances and costumes inspired by the cranes' elegance and get a chance to participate in the lively festival where you'll be supporting local economies and creating sustainable livelihoods.

Feel the love and excitement to preserve these heavenly birds as this occasion creates a connection between humanity and nature.

Please contact [info@norbubhutan.com](mailto:info@norbubhutan.com) for custom designed fixed departure itineraries and prices for these festivals.

VIEW



#### DRUK AIR

#### BHUTAN AIRLINES

VIEW

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CLICK THE LINKS TO OPEN FLIGHT SCHEDULES.



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#### DRUK AIR PARTNERS WITH TURKISH AIRLINES

Druk Air, Royal Bhutan Airlines, launched a unilateral Interline E-ticketing partnership with Turkish Airlines (TK), making a significant milestone. Customers of Drukair will enjoy connectivity to destinations across the Turkish Airlines network, allowing travelers to book a single-ticket itinerary seamlessly.

Turkish Airlines, the flag carrier of Turkey, operates scheduled flights from its hub in Istanbul, to more than 350 destinations within 126 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Both airlines are already in close cooperation, which would additionally allow our passengers to check in only once at the start of their flight without having to check in their baggage until the end of their destination.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE