

WANGDUE PHODRANG

Wangduephodrang is one of the largest dzongkhags (districts) in the country. As the district covers 4,308 sq km and ranges from 800-5800 m in altitude it has extremely varied climatic conditions ranging from Sub-Tropical forests in the south to cool and snowy regions in the north.

One of the most notable sites in the district is Phobjikha Valley. This valley is the habitat of rare and endangered Black Necked Cranes that roost there during their annual migrations. The residents of the valley have garnered much acclaim for their conservation efforts to preserve the habitat of these beautiful birds. Every year the Black Necked Crane Festival is held in Phobjikha in order to protect and spread awareness of the cranes. The Festival includes songs, masked dances and plays by the local school children. This event is one of the most unique and popular festivals in the country.



Place to Visit in WANGDUE PHODRANG

I. Phobjikha Valley : The Phobjikha Valley is a vast U-shaped glacial valley, where the graceful black-necked cranes in Bhutan (*Grus nigricollis*) from the Tibetan Plateau visit the valley during the winter season to roost.

ii. Gantey Monastery : Generally known as Gantey Goenpa, is an important monastery of Nyingmapa school of Buddhism, the main seat of the Pema Lingpa tradition. Located in the Wangdue Phodrang District in western Bhutan. The Monastery's history traces to the early 17th century and back to the prophecies made by the well-known Tertön (treasure finder) Pema Lingpa in the late 15th century.

iii. Dargay Goempa : This monastery was built in the spot where Divine Madman Drukpa Kuenley first met Ashi Genzo who was renowned for her beauty. When it was first constructed the monastery was a simple Drubdey or meditation center. Lam Drukpa Kuenley is widely considered to be Bhutan's favorite and most iconic saint due to his unorthodox method of teaching through ribald humor.

Vi. Semchubara : After about 40 minutes from Gantey Gumpa, you reach Semchubara. In the olden days the area was used as a common grazing ground for the cattle owned by the Gantey monastery and the followers of the Truelku from Sha. The people named the place as Sem chen bara which means "the grazing ground for animals". In later years the land was distributed to the community by the second Gantey Truelku.

V. Khewang Lhaxhang

After about an hour's walk you will reach the Khewang village. Traditional lunch will be served upon request with one of the local families at the village. Khewang Lhaxhang is located a few paces away from the cluster of houses.

Vi. Lawog Valley

In the olden days the valley used to be inhabited by the people from Mangde and Ada in summer. When they left their winter homes, the houses were looked after by the people from higher altitude who came down with their yaks and sheep to escape the harsh climate. Later, as the inhabitants found it difficult to manage house and land in different places, they sold their properties to the people looking after their houses.

Vii. Kingathang

It was believed that this village is located in the central part of the world meaning Kilkhor. The village was named Kilkhorhang but people also pronounce it as Kingathang. The beautiful landscapes formed by the glacial monument gives a spectacular sight of the valley. On top of one of the hillocks is a new monastery adding a spiritual ambience to the view

From	To	Distance	Driving Time
Paro	Thimphu	65kms	1hr
Paro	Haa	65kms	1.5-2hrs
Thimphu	Haa	115kms	3-4hrs
Thimphu	Punakha	77kms	3hrs
Thimphu	Wangdue Phodrang	70kms	3hrs
Trongsa	Bumthang	68kms	2hrs
Bumthang	Mongar	198kms	7-8hrs
Mongar	Trashigang	91kms	3-4hrs
Trashigang	Trashiyangtse	55kms	2hrs
