

Welcome to Bhutan.

Bhutan is known as the “**Land of the Thunder Dragon**”, Bhutan is a remote Himalayan Kingdom located east of Nepal and west of Burma, Between Tibet and India. On its Northern border, Bhutan is flanked by some of tallest mountains in the world.

Unified in the 1600s, Bhutan is the only existing vajayana Buddhist kingdom in the world. It is also one of the few countries in Asian that was never colonized. The vajrayana branch of Buddhism dates back saint Padmasambhava, known in Bhutan famous today for the preservation of its traditional culture, its pristine Environment, and its official policy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) in contrast to other countries focus on Gross National product(GNP).

Travel ahead of the masses and let yourself be immersed in a bath of beauty and wonder in the world’s last **Shangri-La**.

Places to Visit in Bhutan

- 1) Paro
- 2) Thimphu
- 3) Punakha
- 4) Wangduephodrang
- 5) Trongsa
- 6) Bumthang
- 7) Mongar
- 8) Trashigang
- 9) Trashiyangtse
- 10) Haa



MONGAR

The road approaching Mongar is one of the most spectacular journeys in the country. It passes over sheer cliffs and through beautiful fir forests and green pastures. Travelers passing this way will have the opportunity to visit the Rhododendron garden. There are countless varieties of rhododendrons here and on clear days you can even catch a glimpse of Gangkhar Puensum (7541 meters), the world's highest unclimbed mountain.

Mongar, one of the six districts that make up eastern Bhutan borders Bumthang, Lhuntse, Pema Gatshel and Trashigang. The district covers an area of 1,954 sq.kms with elevations ranging from 400m to 4,000m and has a population of about 38,000. The landscape is spectacular with stark cliffs and deep gorges set amidst dense conifer forests. The region is known for its weavers and textiles and fabrics produced here are considered some of the best in the country.

In the past this region was known as the bastion of the Zhongarps as it produced some of the finest administrators in the country whose descendants still continue to play an active part in the political scene of Bhutan.



Place to visit in Mongar

i.Mongar Dzong

Although built in the 1930s and one of Bhutan's newest Dzong's, it was constructed in the same way as all earlier dzong's, without plans or nails.

However unlike the earlier Dzong's, that are located in strategic positions, Mongar Dzong is located on a small gently sloping area just above the town. A visit to Mongar Dzong demonstrates how traditional Bhutanese architecture has continued to thrive through the centuries.

ii.Zhongar Dzong

The ruin of Zhongar Dzong endures to this day as a testimony to the skill of its builders, most notably the renowned master craftsman, Zowo Balip. It is located on a hilltop overlooking the village of Themnangbi and is visible as one descends to Lingmethang from the highway. Constructed in the 17th century, the Dzong is believed to have been built at a site where the master architect Zow Balip saw a white bowl. A visit to the ruins can be a memorable experience and will give you a sense of medieval Bhutanese administration.

iii. Dramitse Lhakhang

One of the most notable religious sites is Dramitse Lhakhang. It was built in the 16th century by Ani Cheten Zangmo, the daughter of the renowned Terton (religious treasure seeker) Pema Lingpa. The Dramitse Ngacham or the “Dance of the Drums of Dramitse,” was created in this Lhakhang in the 16th century. Today, it is a popular dance performed at all major festivals. It is also on the esteemed UNESCO World Heritage list.

iv. Aja Ney

Another sacred site in the district is the renowned Aja Ney. Pilgrims from all other parts of Bhutan converge here to receive blessings and wash away their sins. A rock that bears 100 renditions of the sacred syllable “Aa,” is said to have been discovered by Guru Padmasambhava. It is located at an altitude of more than 3,500 meters and falls under Ngatsang geog. It is located approximately a two day trek from Serzhong village.

v. Yagang Lhakhang

The Yagang Lhakhang in a small village next to the town is another sacred monument in the Dzongkha. It was built in the 16th century by Sangdag, the youngest son of Terton Pema Lingpa. It was built after the Kupijigtsam Lhakhang in Yangneer village in Trashigang was completed. Today, the Lhakhang plays an important role in the religious life of the people.

Vi Jarung Khashor Choeten

The Jarung Khashor Choeten is located in Lingmethang, next to the bridge over the Kurichu River. It is modeled after the Jarung Khashor Choeten in Nepal and definitely worth visiting when in the area.

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
