

## 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



## **TRASHIGANG**

The Jewel of the East. Trashigang spans the easternmost corners of the kingdom, skirting up to the edge of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. It is the country's largest district, with an altitude ranging from 600m to over 4000m.

Bhutan's largest river, the Dangmechu, flows through this district. Trashigang town is set on a scenic hillside and was once a bustling trade center for merchants looking to barter their goods in Tibet.

Today it is the junction of the East-West highway, with road connections to Samdrup Jongkhar and then into the Indian state of Assam. Trashigang town is also the principle market place for the semi-nomadic people of Merak and Sakteng, whose unique way of dress stands out from the regular Bhutanese Gho and Kira.

### **Trashigang Dzong**

Trashigang Dzong or 'The Fortress of the Auspicious Hill' was built in 1659, to defend against Tibetan invasions. This imposing fortress is strategically situated high atop a spur overlooking the Dangmechu River. According to legend it is said that upon seeing the Dzong, invading Tibetan armies remarked that the Dzong was "not on the ground. It is a Sky Dzong" before retreating. It has been the political stronghold of Eastern Bhutan for over 300 years.

Mount Meru is the site of the palace of the Druk Chhoglay Namgyal (victory of Bhutanese Over enemies in all directions). It is accessible only from the north, via a narrow road, paved by blasting through the cliff-side. Due to its location Trashigang Dzong is one of the most strategically placed Dzongs in Bhutan. The present Dzong was enlarged by Dzongpon Dopola, in 1936.



## PLACE TO VISIT IN TRASHIGANG

### I.GOM KORA:

Gom Kora is one of the ancient Lhakhang which is famous for its rock garden situated at the small alluvial plateau 24 kms away from Trashigang. The Gom Kora Monastery was built during the 17th century by Minjur Tempa and is famous for its old paintings. The monastery is surrounded by rice fields and the clumps of banana trees. It is said to be the place where Guru Rinpoche had meditated to chase the demon dwelling in a huge black rock. This monastery lies in the way to Trashiyangtse from Trashigang. Saints from different places across the country as well as from foreign countries come to meditate in this religious and sacred monastery. The Gom Kora monastery is situated in a peaceful location with a beautiful view of the surroundings. Most of the local people from the nearby surrounding areas come here to offer their prayers. The monastery consists of large numbers of religious paintings and texts along with the statue of Guru Rinpoche. During the festival times the wall sized paintings are kept for the display. The monastery complex is also used as a house for monks. The annual festival of three days attracts a huge number of tourists from different places and the Dakpas of Arunachal Pradesh visit this festival yearly.

### ii. SAKTENG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:

Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the ten protected areas of Bhutan and is one of the youngest protected areas declared as Sanctuary in 2003. It is the most visited tourist spot in Trashigang. It is also listed in World Heritage sites of Bhutan. The Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary covers a total land area of 740.60 square kilometres at an altitude ranging from 1700m to 4100m above the sea level located at the eastern most corner of Bhutan. One of the major aims of Sanctuary is to conserve 'Yeti' the monstrous snowmen commonly known as 'migo' by the local people. The sanctuary consist almost 35 species of rhododendron. In its flowering season the forest looks beautiful and is also known as the 'Paradise of rhododendrons' in Bhutan. The Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary also constitutes of more than 200 species of trees, shrubs, small plants which also includes the medicinal plants. Globally threatened endangered species like red panda, Himalayan black deer, Himalayan serow, musk deer, common leopard, capped langur, jungle cat, etc are found here. More than 200 species of birds are seen in the Sanctuary. Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary represents the diversity of eastern Himalayas and its terrestrial ecosystem.

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

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