

## 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

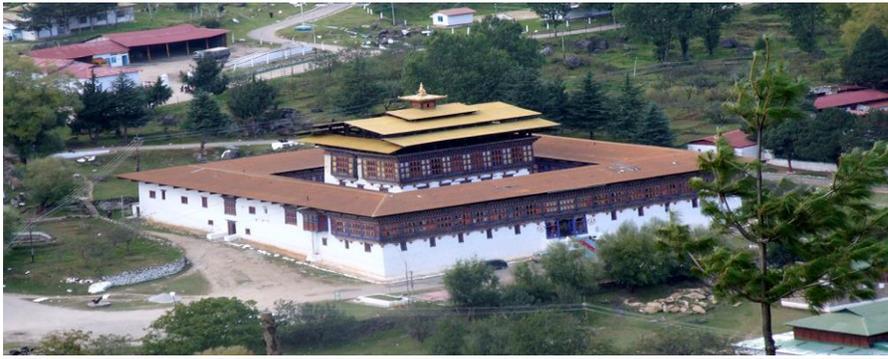


## TRASHIYANGTSE

One of the newest dzongkhags (district) in the country, Trashiyangtse was established as a distinct district in 1992 and spans 1,437 sq km of sub-tropical and alpine forests. With its wealth of natural, historical and cultural resources Trashiyangtse is destination that visitors to Bhutan will never forget.

Trashiyangtse: Elevation 1750-1880m

A 2 hour drive from Trashigang is Chorten Kora, modeled after Boudhanath stupa in Nepal, where local people and Dakpa people from Arunachal Pradesh (India) gather in February/March for a festival to circumambulate the chorten. A similar festival in Gom Kora takes place 10 days later. Bumdeling to the north is home to wintering black-necked cranes and to Ludlow's Bhutan Glory, the national butterfly of Bhutan. Important religious sites are found all over the Dzongkhag and include Pemaling in the alpine area; Rigsum Gonpa, Dechenphodrang ney and Omba ney (the Taktshang of East Bhutan) between 2000 and 3000m, and Gongza ney and Gom Kora along the Drangme Chu (800-900m).



Place to visit in Trashiyangtse

### i. Tshenkharla Ruins

Khamdang, Trashiyangtse. These are 9th century ruins of the very first Dzong that was built in Bhutan. A king from Tibet who was named Lhasey Tsangma settled in this region following his exile from his kingdom and built this Dzong. There is also a 15th century bridge near the ruins that was built by the spiritual guru Yogi Dulthop during the 15th century.

ii. **The Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary** is one of the most well-known natural reserves of Bhutan and it shares border with the Tibetan province and Arunachal Pradesh. The Bomdeling sanctuary spans more than 1520 sq. km and encompasses Trashiyangtse, Lhuntse and Mongar. You can enter the sanctuary from Trashiyangtse side after procuring permits from the Forest Department. There are wood snipes, grey headed prinias and white tailed eagle inside the sanctuary. Trekking routes inside the sanctuary include the Aja Valley Trek, Singye Dzong, Phuningla etc. along with the Dongla and Pangla Treks.

A standard trekking route will be to go North east from Trashiyangtse and then on to the eastern side of Kulong Chu and the Wnang Chu to Solomang. Next you will cross over to Denchenphodrang Gompa and then north west to Jingbu Gompa and Rigsum Gompa before crossing the Kulong Chu to Bumdeling.

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The second leg of the trek commences at bridge below the Trashi Yangtse Dzong and then goes south along the Kulong Chu river while crossing Tokaphu and ends its course at Torma Jansa. The trek is moderate with only a few steep parts near the Rigsum and Tokaphu. At night, there are options for camping and bonfires would be lit.

### **iii. Prayer Wheel Trashigang Town**

The wheel is the social hub of the town and you will find couples, old men, monks and tourists all engaged in gossip, photography or simply soaking in the ambience of this beautiful spot. This is where the taxis congregate and this is also where the vegetable sellers stand selling heaps of organic produce.

### **iv. National Institute for Zorig Chusum**

Open from 9am-noon & 1-3.30pm Mon-Fri and 9am-12.30pm on Saturday  
Sunday Closed. Phone: 04-781141

### **v. Ugen Ngag Choling Goempa**

This beautiful temple is located right next to the domestic Airport Yonphula. The temple was built in 1941 by Dasho Trashigangpa who was the forefather of the present Queen of Bhutan. About 90 monks stay around this temple and on May 3rd of each year tsechu is performed by the monks and locals.

### **vi. Rangjung Woesel Choeling Monastery**

Trashigang District 16 km away from Town

### **vii. Chorten Kora**

The Chorten Kora is a spiritually and historically significant stupa that stands next to the Kulong Chu River in Trashiyangtse district. This is a beautiful Stupa surrounded by acres of verdant rice fields, that was built in the 18th century by the nephew of the revered Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal.

Lama Ngawang built the Chorten to pacify and then vanquish a powerful demon. The Chorten is built at the exact spot where the demon was vanquished. The Stupa is modelled along the lines of the revered Boudhanath Stupa in Nepal that's known as Jarung Khashor. A popular Bhutanese film called Chorten Kora has been filmed here.

In fact, the purpose of building this Chorten was to facilitate pilgrims and tourists who were unable to journey to Nepal.

A ritual called the Dakpa Kora is held each year and scores of people from the state of Arunachal known as Dakma come here to perform circumambulation and earn some good Karma (most Bhutanese are staunch believers in the concept of Karma). The Drukpa Kora occurs every third month of the Lunar Calendar.

### **vii. Yonphu Lhakhang**

According to legends the area around the Yonphu Lhakhang was inhabited by a 9 headed demon who had appeared in the form of a vicious snake. The demon was pacified by the local lama and it immediately turned into a beneficial deity called Gonpo Maning Nagpo who is an incarnation of the Mahakala. A 3-day festival named Yonphu Choedpa happens in the temple compound every year.

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### **viii.Rangshikhar Village and Goempa**

You can choose to hike from Trashigang town to the quaint village of Rangshikhar (about 2.5 hours of walking). There is a little Goempa presiding on the top of a small hillock in the village that the locals love coming to. The walk around the village and to the top of the Goempa is quite pleasant. The Rangshikhar Tsampa owns the Goempa and there is a lovely park that contains statues of the various stages of the Buddha's life.

### **ix.Thekchok Choden Monastery**

A mere 12 km away from the monastery is the Pakaling Nunnery (established in 1993) that was established to accommodate the growing number of nuns. Another goal of the Nunnery is to provide education and the hope of decent living to kids of poor families and single parents. Both the Nunnery and Monastery operate under the Rangjung foundation and it's a strictly non- profit organization.

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

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