



Country Profile: Bhutan

Bhutan is a small, land-locked Himalayan country that completed its transition from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy in April 2008; the country is now led by a king and a democratically-elected government. The United States has consular, but not full diplomatic, relations with Bhutan. There is no US diplomatic or consular presence in Bhutan. The US Embassy in New Delhi handles assistance to US citizens. Read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Bhutan for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Name:	Bhutan
Continent:	Asia
Capital City:	Thimphu
Boundary Countries:	China, India
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Thimphu General Hospital (Thimphu)
Main Cities:	Thimphu, Paro, Tongsa, Gasa Dzong, Tashigang, Samdrup, Jongkhar, Phuntsholing
Country Size:	47,000 sq km
Population:	2,327,849 note: other estimates range as low as 810,000

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Dzongkha (official), Bhotse speak various Tibetan dialects, Nepalese speak various Nepalese dialects
Currency:	Ngultrum (BTN); Indian rupee (INR)
Predominant Religions:	Lamaistic Buddhist 75%, Indian- and Nepalese-influenced Hinduism 25%
National Holidays:	National Day (Ugyen WANGCHUCK became first hereditary king), 17 December (1907)
Economic Status:	The economy, one of the world's smallest and least developed, is based on agriculture and forestry, which provide the main livelihood for more than 60% of the population.
Security:	Royal Bhutan Army: Royal Bodyguard, Royal Bhutan Police
US Presence:	<p>There is no US Embassy or Consulate in Bhutan. Although no formal diplomatic relations exist between the United States and Bhutan, informal contact is maintained through the US Embassy in New Delhi, India. Updated information on travel and security in Bhutan may be obtained at the US Embassy in New Delhi, at any other US Consulate in India, the US Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal, and the US Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand. US citizens living or traveling in Bhutan are encouraged to enroll through the Department of State's travel registration page, noted above, or with the US Embassy in New Delhi to obtain updated information on travel and security within Bhutan. US citizens without Internet access may enroll directly with the US Embassy in New Delhi or missions mentioned below in person or via mail. By enrolling, US citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency.</p> <p>The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi is located on Shanti Path, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi 110 021, India, telephone +91-11-2419-8000, fax +91-11-2419-8407.</p> <p>Since Drukair, the Bhutanese national carrier and sole regularly scheduled airline to fly to Bhutan, has</p>

	<p>direct flights to and from New Delhi, Kolkata, Kathmandu, and Bangkok, US citizens may also enroll in consular sections in these locations:</p> <p>The U.S. Consulate in Kolkata is located at 5/1 Ho Chi Minh Sarani, Kolkata 700 071, India, telephone +91-33-3984-2400, fax +91-33-2282-2335.</p> <p>The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu is located at Maharajgunj in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Consular Section can be reached through the Embassy switchboard at (977) (1) 400-7200 or directly by fax at (977) (1) 400-7281 or contacted by email.</p> <p>The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok is located at 120/22 Wireless Road, Bangkok, Thailand, telephone +66-2-205-4000, fax +66-2-205-4103.</p>
Major Airports:	<p>Airports: 2, Airports with paved runways: 1</p> <p>Paro Airport (PBH/VQPR)</p> <p>Paro Airport, Bhutan, Druk Air Corporation, Paro, BHUTAN</p> <p>Tel: +975 2 29122</p> <p>Fax: +975 2 29110</p> <p>Email: drukair@druknet.bt</p> <p>Website: www.drukair.bt.com</p>

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