

BOKAR TOURS

... for the ultimate Bhutan Adventure.





Bokar is a monastery in the remote village of Yalang in the eastern border district of Trashiyangtse. It is the place where Karma Chime, the founder of Bokar Tours grew up. The monastery sits on a hilltop and was in the care of my ancestors for many generations. The Yalang village community now looks after the ancient monastery.

In the 12th century when Tibetan saint Khedrup Kuenga Drakpa, a descendent of Tertön Pema Lingpa (Treasure Discoverer), visited Yalang two white vultures appeared and circled the hill top where the monastery is now located. Interpreting this as a good omen, the hilltop was named Goe Kar (White Vulture), where a monastery was eventually built. Goe Kar is today pronounced as Bokar by the people of Yalang village in keeping with the nuances of the local dialect.



KARMA CHIME

WHO IS BHUTAN BOKAR

After completing college Karma Chime chose to part of Bhutan's service and travel industry. He has been a professional guide since 2006.

Today, he manages Bokar Tours and looks after all tour operations. He is a thorough professional with years of experience and abundant international exposure.



Dirk Verboven
(Sales Representative
Europe)



Sangay Wangmo
(Co-founder)



Galey Tshering
(Manager)



Sonam Phuntsho
(Sr. Guide)



Ugyen Drukpa
(Sr. Guide)



Choki
(Driver)

WHY BOKAR TOURS?

Bokar Tours is all about providing authentic experiences of Bhutan's rich culture, tradition, environment, and lifestyles.

We specialise in trekking, mountain biking, motor biking, cultural guiding, river rafting & kayaking, photography tour, birding, meditation, study tour, and wedding arrangements.



AS KARMA CHIME SAYS

We will provide you with the best possible service and offer you a holiday you'll never forget.

Karma Chime
Managing Director

Private & Group Tours / 100% Tailor made tours

BHUTAN

The land of Thunder Dragon

The Buddhist monasteries adorning the valleys, the snow-capped mountains revealing their majestic strength against the sky, and smooth flowing rivers etched along the hills and mountains as they meander to the sea present a picturesque vista that is the kingdom of Bhutan - a hidden of Shangri la.

Walking through this kingdom can be an unforgettable experience. The rich culture, diverse way of life and a virgin environment attract a generation of trekking enthusiasts. In its pristine vegetation one can discover enchanting flora and fauna of a diversity that is rare on this planet. From an idyllic view from the hotel to the symphony of colors presented by mask dances in a tshechu (festival), you will waft into a spiritual and unforgettable journey into the realm of gods and heavens.

"Gross National Happiness" – the development philosophy of Bhutan has differentiated herself from the rest of the world as a nation with a distinctive and unique way of life and what she considers precious.





CULTURAL BEAUTY

Bhutan's unique cultural identity is the soul of its majestic beauty. In this hidden land you will discover an ancient Himayalan Buddhist culture that continues to flourish in the 21st century.

Culture, colors, friendly smiles, easy humor, and warm hospitality are the tenets of Bhutanese lifestyle. Nowhere in the world would you see a people so engaged in the art of living.

Gross National Happiness (GNH) is the development philosophy of Bhutan. GNH encompasses dynamic culture, environmental preservation, good governance, and sustainable economic development. Simply stated, GNH is a common Bhutanese pursuit that mandates the state to create an environment where its citizens can pursue a meaningfully happy life.



THE PEOPLE

Two Portuguese Jesuits, the first Europeans to set foot in Bhutan in the 17th century, spoke of venturing into a land where a sturdy people led a distinctive way of life in perfect harmony with a rich and diverse natural environment.

Most Bhutanese live on subsistence farming, scattered in sparsely populated hamlets across the nation. They are by nature independent but friendly and hospitable, deeply religious and live according to the tenets of Buddhism.

The people speak more than 19 dialects across the country. English is taught in schools and is used as the official mode of communication.

RELIGION



Bhutan is predominantly a Buddhist kingdom. This is reflected in the thousands of monasteries, temples, stupas and prayer flags that mark the country's rugged and beautiful mountainous terrain.

Religion and politics are separate according to the Constitution and religious personalities and people registered with religious institutions do not have a right to vote. This is to ensure that religion is above politics.

More than 70 percent of Bhutanese follow either the Drukpa Kagyu lineage or the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism and the country's monk population of around 8,000 is more than the country's standing army.

According to the Constitution, Drukpa Kagyu is the state religion of Bhutan and Buddhism is the country's spiritual heritage. Religious institutions and personalities bear the responsibility of promoting the country's Buddhist heritage.





FESTIVALS

Bhutan's colourful religious festivals, that continue to be one of the most important community events, pay homage to its deep Buddhist traditions. These festivals that take place with the cobbled stoned courtyard of ancient fortresses have a carnival like atmosphere and provide an opportunity for visitors to get up and close to Bhutan's unique traditions by participating in the festival.

The festivals or Tshechu feature spiritually uplifting masked dances where the omnipresent sad old wise clown interprets life through jokes, banter, and pranks.



Gumpa Khora (Early Spring)



Paro Festival (Spring)



Rhododendron Festival (Summer)



Thimphu Festival (Autumn)



Jambay Lhakhang Drup (Autumn)



Dochula Festival (Winter)

NATURE BEAUTY

Bhutan is an oasis of natural beauty hidden deep in the folds of eastern Himalayas. From the snow-capped peaks in the northern frontiers, the pristine forests that cover two thirds of the country's rugged but beautiful landscape and immense diversity of flora and fauna unmatched anywhere in the world, Bhutan is truly a nature lovers' paradise.

Bhutan experiences four seasons and offers boundless inspiration to write artists, photographers and filmmakers. Spring sings poetry for the visitors: green foliage, blooming flowers, singing birds, blue skies, benign sun, and soft showers. Autumn sings a sublime rhyme: dying hues, blue skies and perfect temperatures. Visit Bhutan preferably during these two seasons.



FLORA & FAUNA

In 1998, Bhutan was named one of the world's top ten biodiversity hotspots. The country's extremely rich flora and fauna boasts hundreds of plant and animals species, including a wide list of endangered species. Bhutan has pledged to maintain 60 percent forest coverage at all times.

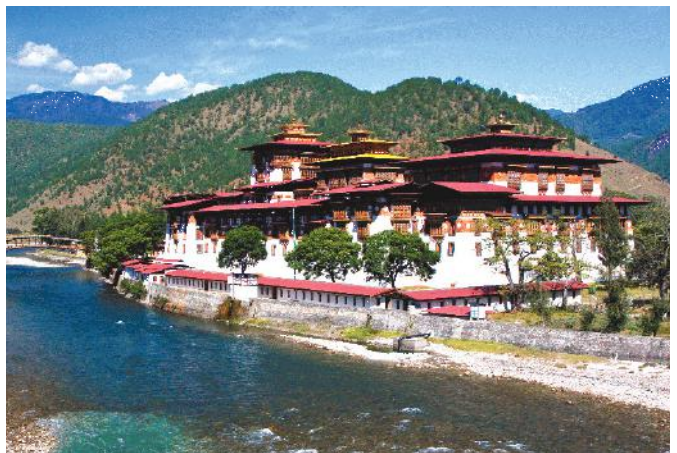
Ours is the only Constitution in the world that specifically features a chapter on environment. Our stringent laws and rules ensure we continue to showcase one of the hottest bio diversities in the world for long time to come.

CULTURAL TOUR

The Bhutan cultural tour offers an opportunity to enjoy an in depth experience of Bhutan, moving from west to east via the central valleys, to discover almost the whole of Bhutan.

The Bhutan holiday includes road trips by car starting from the beautiful Paro valley, through the capital city Thimphu and then to the picturesque valleys of Punakha, Phobjikha, Trongsa, Bumthang and east Bhutan.

You will spend a couple of days in some of these destinations visiting the sacred and ancient old temples and take excursions to villages.





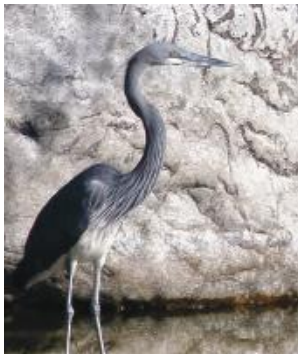
TREKKING

Trekking in Bhutan is a unique experience. With its natural environment pristine and protected and 72 percent of the country under forest cover, Bhutan is a trekkers' dream come true.

Bhutan's terrain ranges from the sub-tropical foothills in the south, the central temperate zone where most of the population, and the alpine zone that is cold for most of the year and stretches to heights of more than 7,300 meters (24,000 feet). Bhutan trekking routes vary from hour long to half-day hikes through pastoral landscapes and forests to month long expeditions that go to the foot of virgin peaks and glacial territory.

At Bokar Tours, we have categorized our treks into easy, medium and hard but please be aware that preparation and being physically fit is a must since all treks take place at high altitudes. Almost all the designated trekking routes go above 3000 meters so acclimatization is strongly recommended before embarking upon a trek.

The best seasons for trekking are in spring when the mountainside are a riot of colours and bursting with wild flowers and in September/October after the rainy season has given way to clear blue skies and plenty of sunshine.



White-bellied Heron



Ward's Trogon



Scarlet Finch



Black-necked Crane

BIRD WATCHING

Buddhist beliefs that propound respect for the natural world, has ensured that the environment has remained intact through the centuries.

Today, the Buddhist principles of living in harmony with nature form the cornerstone of the government's conservation policies, which has declared more than half the country's landmass as protected areas and national parks.

Bokar Tours is a birding specialist with years of experience in field guiding international groups and independent clients. Birders and ornithologists, who have come to this hidden paradise, to experience its astonishing variety of avian species, 702 on last count, are familiar with Bokar Tours.

Our trained and experienced local field guides have garnered the reputation of being amongst the best in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. As keen birders themselves, they know the best locations to view the common, rare and highly endangered species.



Fire-tailed Myzornis



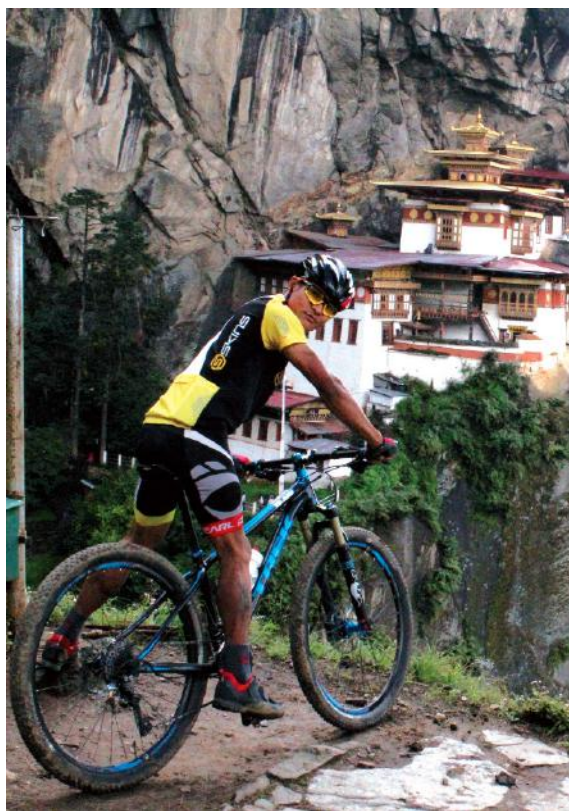
Satyr Tragopan



BHUTAN BIKING TOUR

Bokar Tours offers specialised biking tour packages, which includes professionally trained local biking guides and luxury camping (bed in tent, hot shower tent), besides other standard facilities provided for all tours.

These specialised Biking tour packages come at a higher rate than the normal cultural and trekking packages. The quote for the biking tour packages will be provided along with the detailed itinerary once an enquiry is made to plan a trip.



LUXURY TOUR

You can opt for a Bhutan luxury tour package at an additional cost where accommodation will be arranged in a five star resort/hotel.

Luxury arrangements can also be made for trekking. For a luxury trekking tour, beds are provided in more spacious tents along with separate hot shower tents and dining tents and a more generous and wide menu from the standard fare.

The Bhutan luxury travel package is the ideal choice if you want to enjoy Bhutan's rugged beauty and culture with all the modern comforts and amenities.



SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

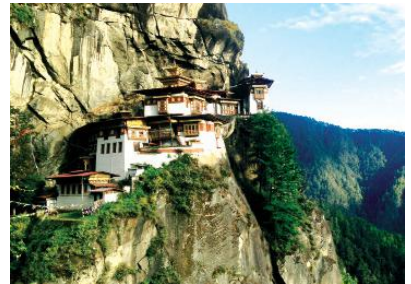
We offer a whole range of special interest tours. Most popular are rafting and kayaking on snow-fed rivers; hiking; pilgrimage to sacred sites and select monasteries; traditional wedding ceremonies; honeymoon packages; fly fishing expeditions; yoga and meditation tours; spiritual tour; photography and motorcycle excursions.



Architecture tour



Helicopter tour



Pilgrimage tour



Rafting tour



Textile tour



Village tour



WHAT IS THE BHUTAN TOUR PACKAGE COST?

Every traveler to Bhutan has to book through a recognized Bhutan tour company such as Bokar Tours. The standard Bhutan travel cost imposed by the Royal Government of Bhutan is US\$250 per person per night for groups of three persons in peak seasons (March, April, May, September, October and November) and US\$200 per person per night for groups of three persons during off seasons (January, February, June, July, August and December).

We also charge US\$50 surcharge to combat the decline in the dollar rate and as bank transfer charges per group to cover for the reduction when exchanged to local currency.

Single travelers and those in groups of two also pay an extra \$40 and \$30 per night respectively by way of a small group surcharge. This determines the basic Bhutan travel cost of your trip. There is also a one time US\$40 visa fee to pay.

The itinerary cost covers practically all the in-country costs for your holiday. You will have a personal guide and driver throughout your Bhutan tour.

BHUTAN VISA

Your passport must have at least 6 months validity at the time of departure. The visa to Bhutan is issued by the Ministry of Home and Culture Affairs within Bhutan, as Bhutan has very few embassies abroad. No foreign missions abroad grant Bhutanese tourist visas.

You may apply in advance through a tour operator, such as Bokar Tours, and receive confirmation that your application has been approved before you travel to Bhutan. The visa is not issued until the TCB (Tourism Council of Bhutan) has checked that the full tour payment has been received into its bank account.

The confirmation and reference number is then sent to Bokar Tours, and a copy will be forwarded to you. You have to show this at the check-in desk for Bhutan Airlines. You cannot board the Bhutan Airlines flight without this document, so it is very important to have it along with your passport.

Please keep in mind that the visa is issued for exactly the same number of days and dates as booked by you. If circumstances arise for a visa extension once you are in Bhutan, it can be arranged.



HOW TO BOOK BHUTAN TOUR?



It is advisable to book your Bhutan Tour several months in advance, in order to ensure the smooth planning of your Bhutan Tour.

Since tourism started relatively recently in Bhutan (1974), tourist infrastructure is still limited. There are also a limited number of regional flights in and out of the country. This means that peak seasons (March, April, May, September, October, November) can be quite busy, so the earlier you book, the better chance we have of securing flights and good hotel rooms for you.

For the festival months, you need to book around four or five months ahead to get flights, especially if you are unable to be flexible and are tied to particular dates. It is not unusual to book your Bhutan tour one year ahead.

You have to tell us number of day you are interested to tour in Bhutan. We will suggest the itinerary based on your travel time frame. Once we set with your itinerary we will ask you email the information which are required for the Bhutan visa application and regional flight booking.





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