



THE 6TH UNWTO ASIA/PACIFIC EXECUTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM ON TOURISM POLICY AND STRATEGY

25th-28th June 2012, Paro, Bhutan

General Information Note

1. Venue

Paro

Tashi Namgay Resort

Damsebu, Paro

Post Box: 1238

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www.tnr.bt

Located on a rocky hill overlooking the Drukair airport and the pa chu river below, the resort would be one of the first glimpses of Bhutan for visitors to this small and beautiful kingdom. The resort is set amidst five acres of lush foliage and sprawling green lawns and has 39 spacious rooms housed in 15 cottages and bungalows. Located outside Paro town, it offers a calm and peaceful environment that merges traditional Bhutanese and modern architecture in its own unique style that incorporates its concern for the environment as seen through the use of solar lights, wooden shingle roofing and mud walls.

2. Transport Arrangement and Airport Meeting Service

One round trip economy class air ticket will be booked and provided by UNWTO for one participant from each country.

Round trip transport will be provided to participants from the airport to the hotel. Transport will also be provided for participants to attend social functions and technical tours.

3. Registration and Badges

Once on site, please register and collect your delegate badge and bag. Our registration is open on Monday June 25, 2012 from 0830-0900 hrs.

4. Visa Requirements

All participants must be holders of a valid passport with minimum 6 months validity.

Participants must send their scanned passport copy, visa application form along with the completed registration form to UNWTO (Ms. Jiawei JIANG, Tel: (34) 91 5679317, Fax: (34) 91 5713733, Email: asia4@unwto.org), which will help the participants in applying visa of Bhutan along with Tourism Council of Bhutan.

Please be reminded that all delegates must pay a USD20 visa fee in cash to the immigration officer on arrival at Paro International Airport.

5. Customs Regulations

Foreigners are not required to pay any airport tax at Paro International Airport.

Upon arrival, foreign visitors are advised to fill in Baggage Declaration form before disembarking.

Please note on Tobacco Control Act in Bhutan as per below information:

The Tobacco Control Act now allows tobacco consumers to import 300 sticks of cigarettes instead of 200 sticks as prescribed in the earlier Act and 400 sticks of beedi (tobacco flake wrapped in a tendu leaf tied with a string at one end), instead of 200 sticks. Similarly, a person can now bring in 50 pieces of cigar instead of 30 and 250 grams of other tobacco and its products instead of 150 grams. However, these are subject to 100% customs duty and 100% sales tax. A person who carries more than these prescribed quantities will be liable to pay fine as determined by the tobacco control board if nabbed carrying tobacco and its products within permissible limits but without a proof of tax and duty payments to show.

Visitors are permitted to bring 1 bottle of spirits not larger than one litre. Any excess in quantity will be subject to confiscation.

6. Practical Information

➤ Exchange Rate

The Bhutanese unit of currency is the Ngultrum (Nu). Notes are available in denominations of Nu1, 000, Nu 500, Nu 100, Nu 50, Nu 20, Nu 10 and Nu 5.

One US dollar equals approximately to Nu 50.5, and one Euro equals approximately to Nu 67.05 and one Pound equals approximately to Nu 80.25

Please check latest rates before leaving for Bhutan. International credit cards and travelers cheques are accepted in major establishments. Most banks open from 9:00 hrs to 16:00hrs from Monday to Friday and from 9:00hrs to 11:00 hrs on Saturday. Banks are closed on Sunday.

➤ Climate and Clothing

The temperature in the valley ranges from 12.9 – 24.7°C; one can also expect rainfall around this time of the year.

Participants are advised to bring warm clothing wear for mornings and evenings. A pair of casual shoe is recommended for the technical tour. Please check temperature under the General Information (15).

➤ Time Zone

Bhutan is 6 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT + 6.00).

➤ **Mobile Phone**

Bmobile and Tashi Mobile Sim cards are available and the delegates are required to bring their mobile phone if they wish to use these services, however, you will need to present a proper identification such as a passport.

Rental services of mobile phone are not available.

For more information for Bmobile services please visit <http://www.druknet.bt> and for Tashi Mobile please visit <http://www.tashicell.com>

➤ **Credit Card**

Visa, Master Card and American Express are accepted only in some hotels, shops and restaurants

Most of the hotels have currency exchange facilities. However, for better rates, it is advisable to go to bank.

➤ **Voltage and plug type**

Electricity in Bhutan is 230 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second. If you travel to Bhutan with a device that does not accept 230 Volts at 50 Hertz, you will need a voltage converter.

Outlets in Bhutan generally accept 3 types of plug:

- Three round pins arranged in a triangle
- Two round pins
- Two parallel flat pins with ground pin

If your appliances plug has a different shape, you may need a plug adapter. It may be worthwhile to get a combination voltage converter and plug adapter.

➤ **Business Hours**

Government offices open at 9:00 hrs and close at 17:00hrs, Monday to Friday. Offices are closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Shops are usually open from 9:00hrs to 21:00hrs

7. Bhutan Information

The land of the thunder dragon is a trekker's paradise and an environmentalist's dream. With 72 percent of the country under forest cover, Bhutan's pristine ecology is home to rare and endangered flora and fauna.

This spiritual land is the last bastion of the Vajrayana school of Mahayana Buddhism which provides the essence of a unique identity for the 750,000 people.

Bhutan is a unique blend of the old and new. Here is a country that is slowly opening up to the modern world in a fine balance with its ancient traditions. Those fortunate enough to visit Bhutan describe it as a unique, deeply spiritual and mystical experience. This kingdom is an adventure like no other.

Paro: The valley of unsurpassing beauty

The cultural highlights of Paro resemble so much the intricate and beautiful textiles worn by the people during the valley's annual festival. Here we take you through the rice fields, orchards, farmhouses and temples of various ages. The pride of Paro is the hanging temples on the cliffs from the legendary Taktsang to Kila Gompa and Dzongdrakha. Let your muscles baffle your spirits as you climb the rocky stairs of these medieval temples.

To complete your tour of Paro, take an opportunity to time yourself with the Grand Festival of Paro. If you are looking for a quite visit then choose one of the village festivities or be a guest of the annual family ritual. The farmers of Paro will be too happy to have you join them during plantation or harvest.

For more information please visit the link <http://www.tourism.gov.bt/where-to-go/paro.html>

Thimphu: Cruising the capital's cultural core

Thimphu, situated at an altitude of 2400m, is the centre of government, religion and commerce. The capital has an interesting combination of tradition and modernity, and includes some of the most advanced and remotest parts of the kingdom. It is home to the Kings and the Royal family members, civil servants, expatriates, politicians, business persons and monks. Enjoy this cultural mix based on livelihood. Of culture we will take you through temples, dzongs, chortens, museums, handicraft stores, nunneries, parks and many more. Allow yourself to meet both traditional and contemporary artist. For more information please visit the link <http://www.tourism.gov.bt/where-to-go/thimphu.html>

8. Safety and Security

The Tourism Council of Bhutan will facilitate every necessary measure to ensure the safety and security of the delegates participating in the event. Participants for the meeting will find the easy following manual for the fire, emergency exits etc in each room of the official hotels.

9. Accommodation and Food

Accommodation during the training programme will be provided to the participants. UNWTO will cover the single room cost for one participant from each country.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner for the international participants will be provided by the host organizers UNWTO and Tourism Council of Bhutan. The local participants will be invited for the Lunch and Cocktail receptions.

10. Organization of the training programme

➤ **UNWTO Secretariat**

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➤ **Bhutan Secretariat**

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