

Visa Formalities

Other than Indian, Bangladeshis and Maldivian nationals, all visitors to Bhutan require a visa; all visas are issued from Thimphu; visas are only issued to tourists booked with a local licensed tour operator, directly or through a foreign travel agent. Applications for tourist visas are submitted by the tour operator. Visa clearance from Thimphu must be obtained before coming to Bhutan. Visa clearance takes at least 10 days to process. Air tickets to Bhutan cannot be purchased without visa clearance. At your point of entry the visa will be stamped in your passport on payment of US\$40, two passport photos will also be required. Visas are issued for a 15 day period; extensions can be obtained in Thimphu at a cost of Nu.510.

Cancellations

Tour Programmes booked and subsequently cancelled shall be subject to cancellation charges as follows:

1. Within 30 days of start of programme ~ no charges
2. Within 21 days ~ 10% of rate
3. Within 14 days ~ 15% of rate
4. Within 7 days ~ 30% of rate
5. Less than 7 days or without notice ~ 50% of rate
6. After arrival in Bhutan ~ 100%

Delayed Arrivals

There is no charge for delays in arrival and departure because of weather conditions disrupting flights or road blocks. The tourist must however bear the cost of food, accommodation, transportation, and other services required.

Note: INR (Indian Rupees) denominations of 500 and 1000 are not accepted in Bhutan.

Discounts

- a) With effect from 01/07/2009, the government has revoked the 25% discount on Diplomatic visas.
- b) There shall be no charge for CHILDREN up to the age of 5 years. However, those between the ages of 6-12 years accompanied by elders/ guardians shall be given 50% discount on daily rates.
- c) Full time STUDENTS below the age of 25 years holding valid identity cards from their academic institutions shall also be given a 25% discount on daily rates.
- d) A discount of 50% on daily rates shall be given to one person in a group of 11 to 15 people.

100% discount shall be given to one member in a group exceeding 16 persons.

e) A discount of USD. 20 and USD. 15 shall be provided on Royalty from the 9th night during high season and low season respectively with effect from 01/07/2009.

f) Visitors availing discounts under Sections A, B & C shall not be eligible for discount under E.

Detailed information on Druk Air flights, tour and trekking programmes, festivals, places of interest, hotels etc can be obtained from the tour operators.