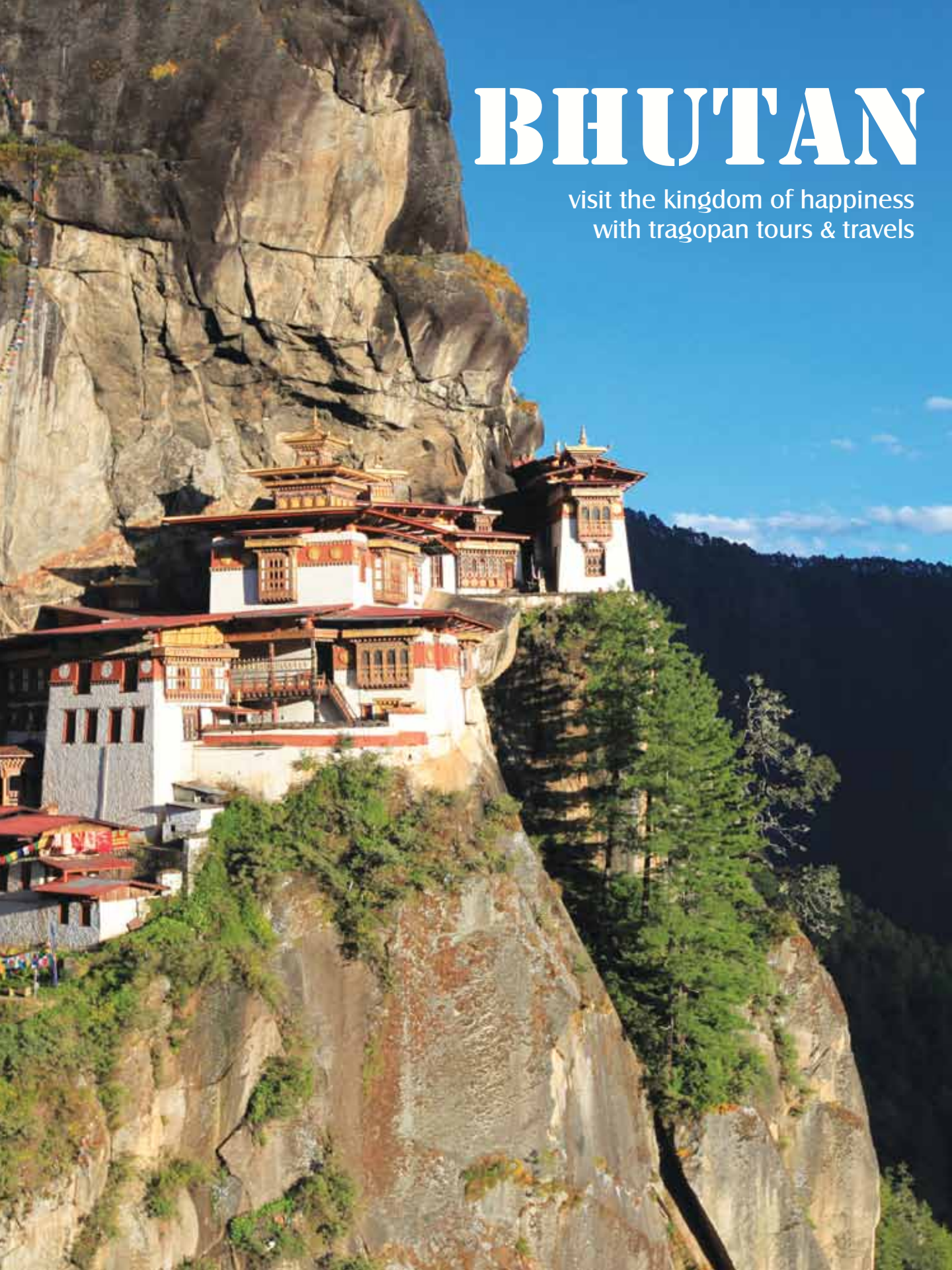


BHUTAN

visit the kingdom of happiness
with tragopan tours & travels





TRAGOPAN TOURS & TRAVELS

Our company's name is inspired by Satyr Tragon, an extremely beautiful bird indigenous to the Himalayas. Elegant, rare and mysterious, the bird exemplifies Bhutan, an ancient Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom, which still remains an enigma to the outside world.

Licensed by the Bhutanese government and registered with the Tourism Council of Bhutan, Tragopan Tours & Travels was started, more than a decade ago, to introduce the "hermit" Kingdom to international travelers through an unforgettable so-journ of discovery and learning.

We have organized Bhutan trips for thousands of visitors and, in so doing, accumulated a wealth of experiences. Many have shared with us their boundless joy in having materialized, as they put it, their "lifelong dream" and, gladly for us, we did contribute to it with heart and soul.

Our secret to success is hard work coupled with the wish to excel. With these ethics we have built a flawless credential while, back at home, our team of tour leaders, guides and ground crew are among the finest and the most driven in the industry.

We do offer a wide choice of tour packages. Be it a cultural tour, or a trek high up into the mountains, or to observe a local festival, we are ever raring to go. We also do have specialized packages like filming, bird watching, biking, river rafting, culinary tour, to mention a few.

Welcome to Bhutan with Tragon Tours and Travels.



WHY VISIT BHUTAN?

What makes Bhutan, a tiny Kingdom with a population of under a million people wedged between two gigantic neighbors (China in the north and India in the south), the most sought after destination for high-end international travelers?

Happiness

Bhutan is the only country which is pursuing happiness as a state policy. Under the ambit of what is termed as Gross National Happiness (GNH), Bhutan has debunked the conventional GDP (Gross Domestic product) model of growth and, instead, steadfastly believes that material well-being, important as it is, is not the panacea to creating a happy and contented society. Happiness matters!

Values

In equal measure, Bhutan believes that a society without values is one without a soul and identity, thus the thrust on preserving and promoting the ancient mores, customs, culture, traditions, and etiquettes. Yes, modernization is imperative but what good is it if, on its own and at the end of the day, all you have is a social fabric that is in tatters, a community bereft of vitality, and people who struggle to define and forge an identity for themselves?



Faith

Bhutan believes in a society with a strong spiritual anchor because that is what gives the people the strength and conviction to live a constructive and meaningful life. For Bhutanese, Buddhism is a philosophy, a way of life, the ultimate refuge. The strength of the Buddhist faith is evident in prayer flags, monasteries, temples, stupas, and sacred places that dot the country all over. From the chimes of monastery bells and the chanting of prayers to the surrealistic daily rituals, Buddhism indeed is a living faith.



Environment

However, a strong identity derived from culture and pro-happiness approach to things would be incomplete without protecting and preserving the natural environment. Imagine a place where - as someone wrote - no birds sing, no streams flow, and no flowers bloom. Bhutan is a champion of earth, one of 10 global environmental “hotspots”, has 70% of land under green cover, and one that has unilaterally declared to the world to be a net carbon sink in perpetuity. Bhutan is truly an environment paradise.



Peace

But Bhutan is much more. As its epithet “Land of the Peaceful Dragon” aptly sums it, it is a nation that deeply cherishes peace, so serene and tranquil that one could stop over anywhere within the Kingdom to meditate, contemplate and reinvigorate. It is a land of awe-inspiring castles and fortresses, of people renowned for their simplicity and hospitality, of saints, kings and yetis, of majestic Himalayan peaks that reach for the sky, of a breathtaking natural beauty that is not found anywhere else.



Our Packages

- 1) WESTERN BHUTAN TOUR (5 DAYS)
- 2) MAGICAL BHUTAN TOUR (7 DAYS)
- 3) AMANKORA JOURNEY (7 DAYS)
- 4) CENTRAL BHUTAN TOUR (13 DAYS)

Special Packages

- 1) FAMILY PACKAGE
- 2) HONEYMOON PACKAGE
- 3) MARRIAGE PACKAGE
- 4) FILMING
- 5) PHOTOGRAPHY

CULTURAL TOURS

Culture is Bhutan's biggest attraction for tourists. Indeed to step into Bhutan is to enter a new world of sights, sounds and colours of a uniquely different society. From the way the people dress, eat and conduct themselves in their daily lives to paintings, architecture, art and craft, and Buddhist rituals, the cultural mosaic is as complex and enthralling as it can get. Enter, say, a gigantic 17th century castle-fortress-monastery to feel the sheer weight of the ingenuities of yesteryears that went into making the cultural composite that is Bhutan. Or, watch a spiritually-induced masked dancer move in tandem with religious music to get a sense about practices and beliefs that took centuries to evolve.

FESTIVAL TOURS

Our Packages

- 1) PARO TSHECHU
- 2) THIMPHU TSHECHU
- 3) THE NOMADS FESTIVAL
- 4) MATSUTAKE FESTIVAL
- 5) HAA FESTIVAL

Nothing brings the people together more and with greater zest than the religious extravaganza of masked dances. The occasions come with a profusion of colours with the people dressed in their best clothes and jewellery, children in tow, carrying picnic lunch baskets as they proceed to receive blessings, to rejoice and to be reunited with families and friends.

One gets to meet people from various backgrounds, to witness customs, traditions and etiquettes from close quarters and, likewise, to see the influence of Buddhism, the significance of the dances and other performing art traditions. A day at the festival allows one to learn about Bhutan in the quickest way possible, up-close and from many dimensions.





NATURE TOURS

Our Packages

- 1) FLOWER TOUR
- 2) BUTTERFLY TOUR
- 3) BIRD WATCHING
- 4) ROYAL SAFARI TOUR

About half of Bhutan is designated as national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and biological corridors, all protected by law and carefully nurtured in order that no species, either flora or fauna, is put on the brink of extinction. A forest cover of 60% of the total land area is in fact enshrined in Bhutan's constitution.

The country has a staggering diversity of flora and fauna - some 800 species of birds, rivalling the total counted in the whole of America - up to 400 species of orchids, 800 species of butterflies, and 120 mammalian species besides an unparalleled floral diversity. The Manas Wildlife Sanctuary in south Bhutan, for example, is the only place in the world where six big cat species are found in the same habitat.

ADVENTURE TOURS

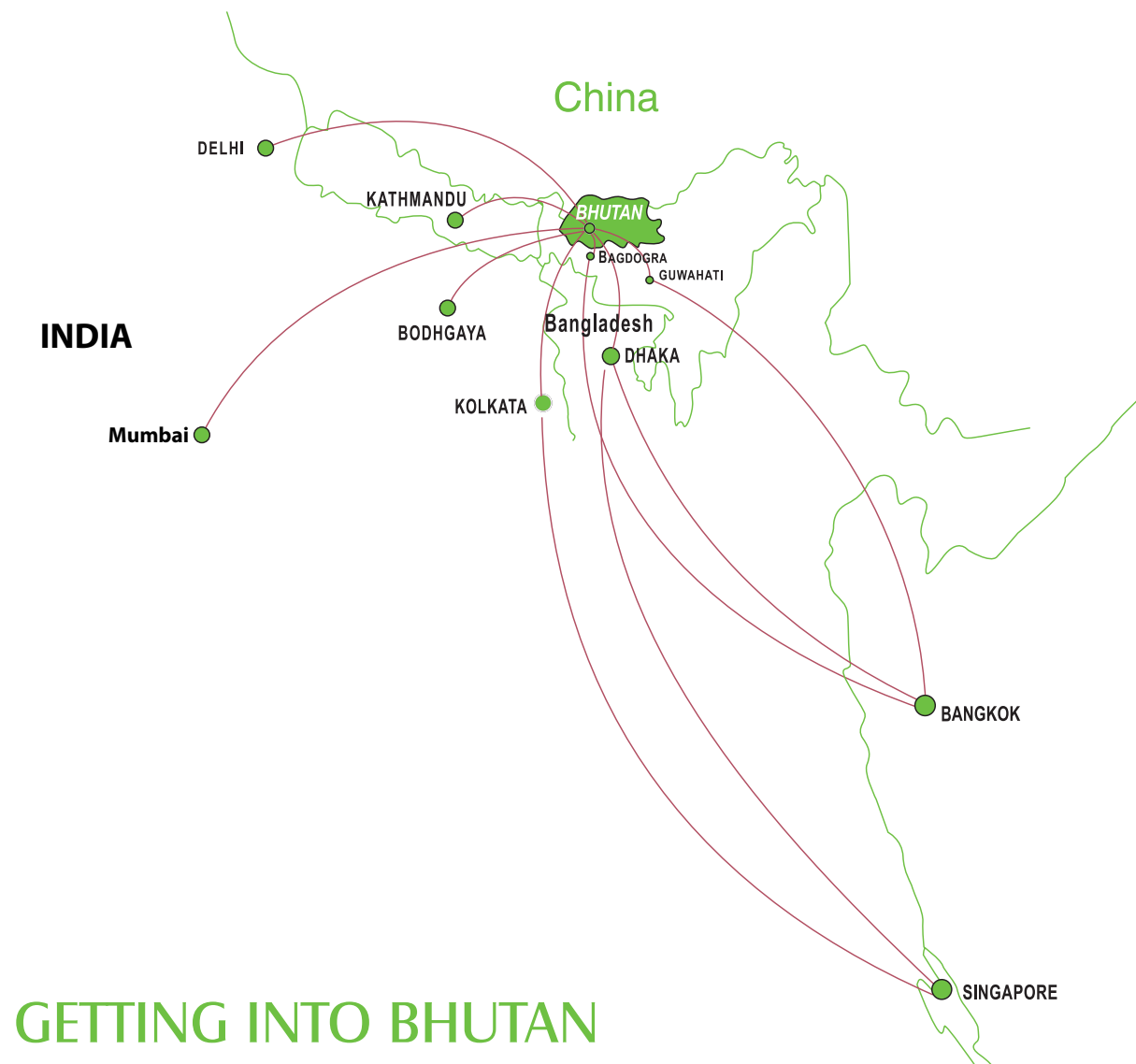
Our Packages

- 1) DRUK PATH TREK (5 DAYS)
- 2) JHOMOLHARI TREK (9 DAYS)
- 3) LAYA-GASA TREK (14 DAYS)
- 4) WHITE RIVER RAFTING
- 5) FISHING
- 8) MOUNTAIN BIKING
- 9) MOTOR BIKING
- 11) BHUTAN CULINARY ADVENTURE

Bhutan has the most rugged of topography - from the steep mountain walls, hair-raising gorges, streams and rivers tumbling out of sheer drops, and impenetrable thickets to the visually stunning valleys, meadows and landscapes. Up north, this tiny country has no less than a dozen peaks above 7,000 meters.

In between the altitude range of 500m to nearly 8,000m, one comes across vegetation zones ranging from the deciduous forests of the sub-tropics to the coniferous to the alpine. The Kingdom's challenging geography coupled with the sheer diversity of nature makes any adventure challenging, be it mountain cycling, motor biking, rafting, kayaking, or treks of all kinds.





GETTING INTO BHUTAN

Visa

Tourists must obtain visa clearance before travelling to Bhutan. The actual visa is stamped upon arrival. The Tourism Council of Bhutan approves the visa clearance only after receiving the full tour payment including the visa fee of USD 40 along with a scanned colour photocopy of the passport which should be at least six months valid.

Booking Procedures

To book the trip, 100% advance tour payment must be made via bank transfer

preferably six months in advance. Services are confirmed subjected to advance payment only.

Entry points

One can take a flight into Bhutan anywhere from Kathmandu (Nepal), New Delhi/Kolkata/Guwahati/Bagdogra (India), Bangkok (Thailand), or Singapore. The road access is from the India-Bhutan border at Jaigaon-Phuentsholing, Dadgari-Gelephu, Guwahati-Samdrup Jongkhar.

TARIFF POLICY

Daily Tariff

The minimum daily cost of stay in Bhutan is fixed by the Bhutanese government through its “high value, low impact” tourism policy.

The minimum tariff for tourists visiting in a group of three person or more are as follows:

High Season Tariff

US\$ 250 per person per night halt for the months of March, April, May, September, October and November.

Low season Tariff

US\$ 200 per person per night halt for the months of January, February, June, July August & December.

Visa Fee

US\$ 40.00 (a one time payment). A Tourism Development Fund (TDF) contribution of US\$ 10.00 per person (a one time payment) is charged.

Surcharge

Individual tourist and smaller groups of less than three persons are subject to surcharge over the minimum daily rates as follows:

Single Individual

US\$ 40 per night halt. A group of two persons - US\$ 30 per person per night halt.

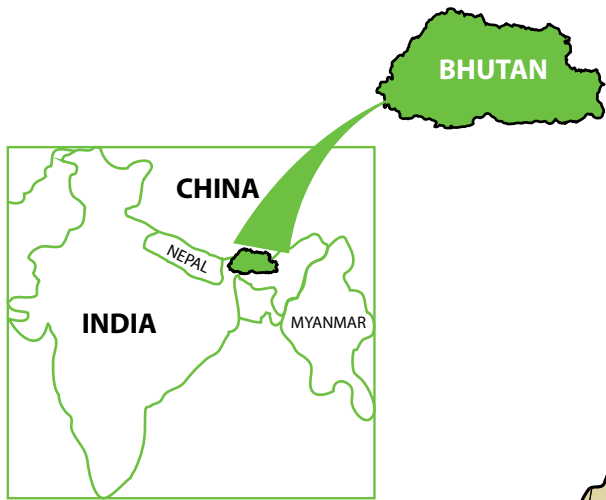
Single room supplement charge is US\$ 35.00 per person per night halt.

Package cost includes:

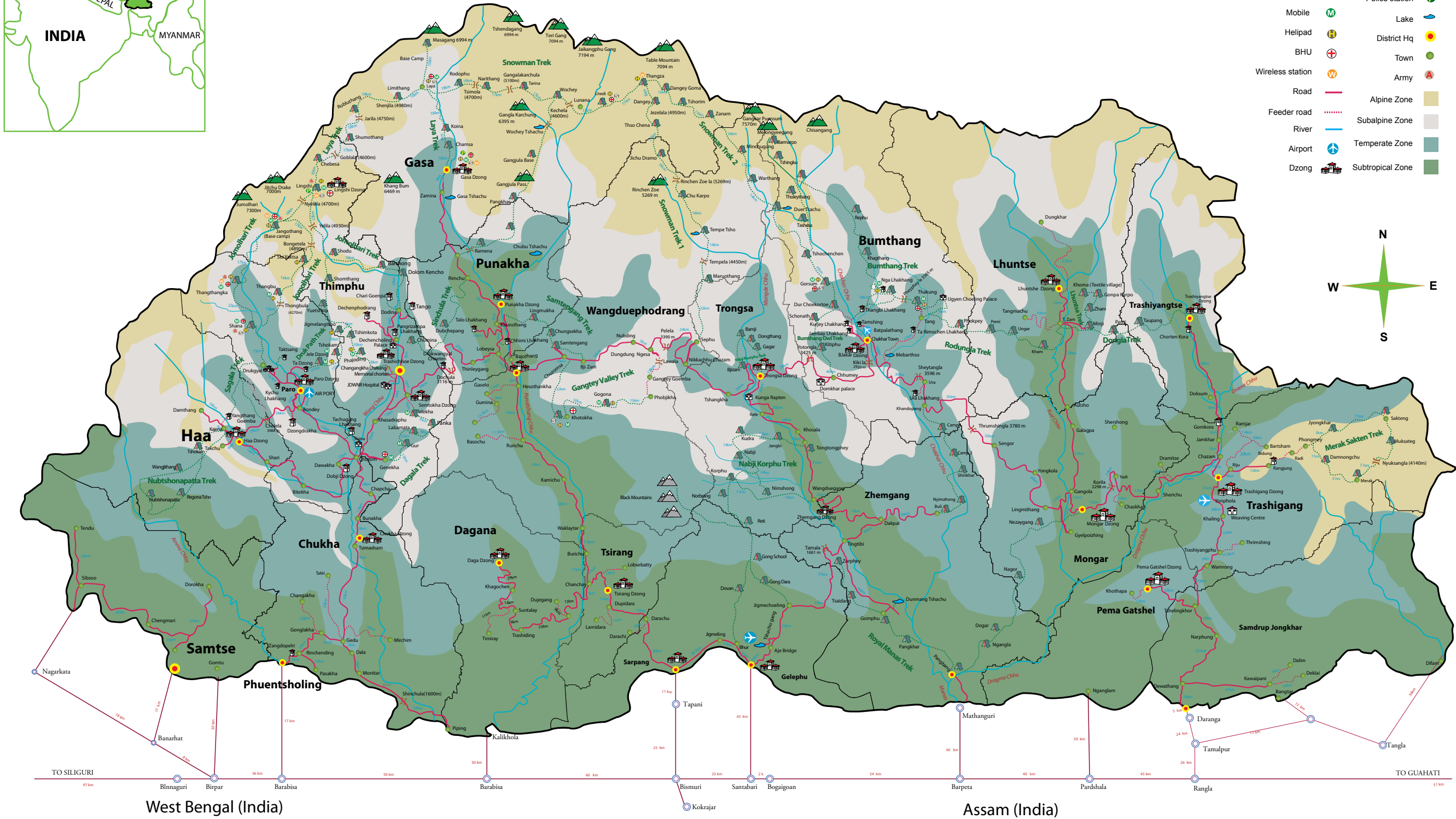
- 1: Best Accommodation (3* & 4* hotels) on twin-sharing basis
- 2: All meals
- 3: Land transport within Bhutan
- 4: Services of a professional tour guide
- 5: Supply of pack ponies, yak, trekking crews and porters for trekkers
- 6: All necessary camping equipment for treks (excluding sleeping bags)
- 7: All entrance fees
- 8: Bhutan visa
- 9: 37% government tax
- 10: Tea & snacks

Packages cost does not include

- 1: Airfare
- 2: Laundry
- 3: Private calls
- 4: Beverages or drinks
- 5: Travel insurance & other contingencies
- 6: Expenses at luxury hotels



BHUTAN TOUR MAP





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