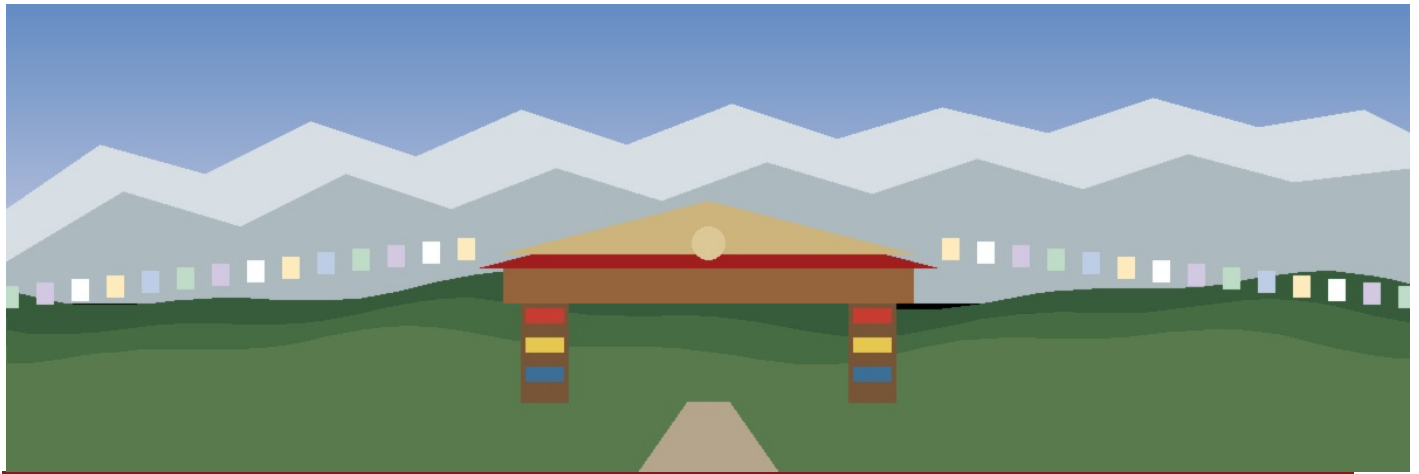




SHANGRILA EXPEDITIONS

BHUTAN FAQ

Everything Travelers Ask Us Before They Book

VISA · SDF · WEATHER · CURRENCY · SAFETY · CONNECTIVITY

contact@shangrilaexpeditions.com · www.shangrilaexpeditions.com

These are the questions we hear most often, from the first email through to the final packing list. Bhutan's travel system is genuinely simple once explained, so here are straight answers from a Bhutanese-based team — no vague generalities, and no upsell. If your question isn't below, that's what our inbox is for.



\$100/night
SDF Rate



~5 Days
Visa Processing



Mar–May, Sep–Nov
Best Seasons



Ngultrum (BTN)
Currency



For the full detail behind any of these answers — visa documents, SDF breakdowns, health precautions — get in touch with us.

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Q
1

Do I need to book through a tour operator?



For most nationalities, effectively yes. A licensed Bhutanese guide is required for travel beyond the immediate Paro–Thimphu corridor, and an operator handles your visa, accommodation, transport, and SDF payment as one package — which is the whole reason Bhutan's system works as smoothly as it does for visitors.

Q
2

Is Bhutan expensive to visit?



The SDF and visa are the highest fixed cost, and they're upfront and transparent. Once in the country, day-to-day costs — meals outside your package, souvenirs, incidental transport — are genuinely modest.

Q
3

How many days do I need in Bhutan?



Four to five days lets you see Paro and Thimphu properly, including Tiger's Nest. A week to ten days adds Punakha and the Phobjikha valley. Anything beyond two weeks starts to open up central and eastern Bhutan — territory very few visitors ever reach.

Q
4

Can I travel independently, without a guide?



No — a licensed guide is a legal requirement for travel outside the Thimphu–Paro area, and for treks and remote regions throughout. This isn't a revenue mechanism; it's core to how Bhutan protects both its culture and its visitors.

Q
5

What's the best time of year to visit?



Spring (March–May) and autumn (September–November) offer the clearest skies and mildest weather, and autumn brings the major festival season. Winter suits travelers hoping to see the black-necked cranes in Phobjikha; summer suits those who prioritize lush scenery and lower prices over guaranteed mountain views.

SAFETY & HEALTH

Q
6

Is Bhutan safe?



Yes — crime against tourists is extremely rare, and Bhutan consistently ranks among the safer countries in the region. The main practical risks are altitude and road conditions in the mountains, both of which your guide manages as a matter of routine.

Q
7

Do I need travel insurance?



Yes — it's a mandatory part of the visa application, not an optional extra, and we'd strongly recommend a policy that covers medical evacuation if your trip includes any trekking.

STAYING CONNECTED & PRACTICALITIES

Q
8

What should I pack?



Layers, always — mornings and evenings are cool even in warm seasons. Modest clothing (shoulders and knees covered) is expected when visiting dzongs and temples, and comfortable walking shoes are worth having even on non-trekking itineraries.

Q
9

Will my phone work in Bhutan?



Yes, with a local SIM or an international roaming plan. Coverage is strong in the main towns and progressively less reliable the further east or the higher into the mountains you go.

Q
10

Is Wi-Fi available throughout Bhutan?



In hotels, yes, almost everywhere on a standard itinerary. On multi-day treks, expect to be offline at camp, which for most guests turns out to be one of the trip's better features rather than a drawback.

WHY ASK US DIRECTLY?

“Most of what gets written about visiting Bhutan online is outdated, half-right, or written by someone who has never actually filed a visa application here. We process these questions every week, for real guests, as part of the job — so when we answer, it's current and it's specific, not a guess.”

- ✓ We handle your visa and SDF as standard
- ✓ Bhutan-based, answering from firsthand experience
- ✓ Straight answers, not sales pressure

- ✓ Fast, direct replies — no call center, no script
- ✓ End-to-end service from first question to farewell
- ✓ Bhutan's High Value, Low Impact philosophy, explained plainly

SHANGRILA EXPEDITIONS · BHUTAN'S GATEWAY TO GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS

contact@shangrilaexpeditions.com · www.shangrilaexpeditions.com · +63 906 019 7601

Still have a question? Reach out directly — we typically reply within a business day.