

Bhutan

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Dzongkha (official), English, Nepali, Sharchhopka

Population: 771,000

Currency: Bhutanese Ngultrum (BTN)

Area: 38,394

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': "Paro Taktsang (Tiger's Nest Monastery)", 'writeup': 'A sacred Himalayan Buddhist site perched on a cliffside, known for its stunning views and spiritual significance.'}
- {'name': 'Punakha Dzong', 'writeup': 'An impressive fortress and monastery located at the confluence of two rivers, serving as an important religious and administrative center.'}
- {'name': 'Bumthang Valley', 'writeup': 'A culturally rich valley known as the spiritual heartland of Bhutan, featuring ancient temples and monasteries.'}

Head of State / Government:

King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Tshechu Festivals', 'writeup': 'Annual religious festivals held in various districts featuring masked dances, rituals, and community gatherings.'}
- {'name': 'Losar', 'writeup': 'Bhutanese New Year celebrated with traditional music, dance, and feasts.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Bhutanese cuisine is characterized by its use of chili peppers and cheese, with dishes like Ema Datshi (chili and cheese stew) being a national favorite.

Brief History:

Bhutan has maintained its sovereignty and cultural identity through a history of isolation and monarchy, transitioning to a constitutional monarchy in 2008.

Important People:

- King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck - current monarch
- Jigme Singye Wangchuck - fourth king, known for introducing Gross National Happiness
- Lopen Tsewang Tamdin - prominent Buddhist scholar

Current Conflicts:

Bhutan currently has no active internal or external conflicts; it maintains peaceful relations with neighboring countries.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Bhutan: The Last Himalayan Kingdom

- Bhutan Travel Guide - Top Places to Visit
- Bhutan's Unique Culture and Traditions
- Gross National Happiness: Bhutan's Development Model
- Bhutanese Festivals and Celebrations Explained