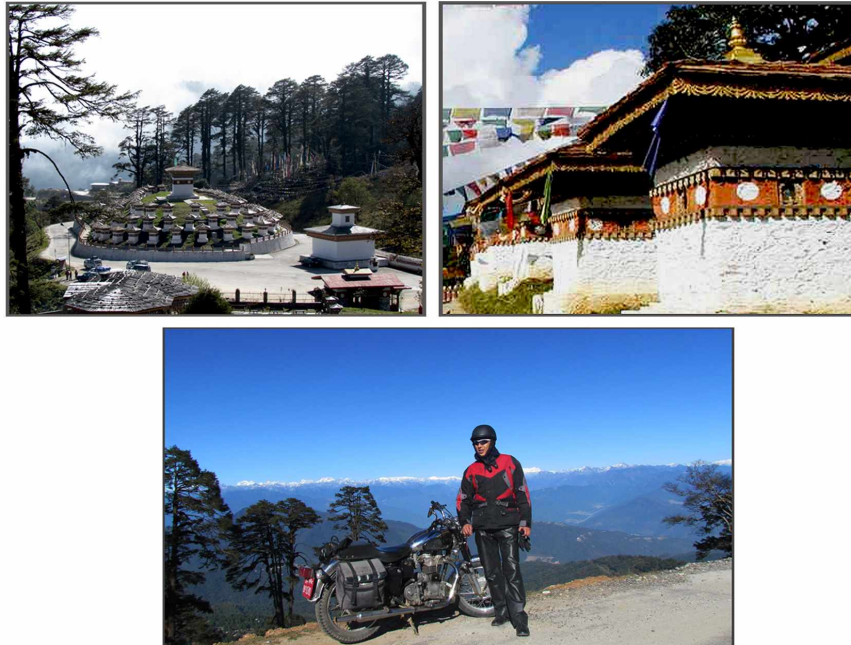


# PUREBIKETOURS



## Bhutan

### Myth magic and enchantment...

Nestling between Nepal, India and Tibet and the size of Switzerland, Bhutan is in itself a fascinating country, where up until 1974 visitors were not allowed access, and even nowadays the number of visitors are limit to a minimum. The reason behind it is to preserve a unique way of life. Consisting predominantly of Buddhist culture - this gem of a location far off in the Himalayas means no over-crowded places, no traffic jams, no pollution. Just Bhutan's charm and unspoilt beauty.

Your journey starts through plantations and the tea capital of the world Darjeeling. What better place to commence your Himalayan adventures, then with the best cup of tea anywhere.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Awesome views of Himalayas
- Tiger's Nest Monastery
- Tranquil atmosphere
- Ancient Monasteries
- Hidden villages
- Ancient customs and cultures
- Unpolluted environment
- Unbelievable roads
- Famous Toy train with steam engine



## ROUTE INFORMATION:

- Distance:** 1300km approx  
**Number of riders:** Min 6 - Max 10  
**Days:** 14 days - 11 days riding  
**Accommodation:** Good Hotels  
**Riding Conditions:** Moderate  
**Meals:** All Meals  
**Distance per day:** 100/200 km  
**Altitude:** 3700m  
**Hazards:** Good road with lots of curves and Himalayan scenery.

### Day 1 Fly into Delhi/Kolkata

**Flight to** Delhi or Kolkata with connecting flight to Bagdogra. On arrival you will be greeted by one of our staff members and transferred to Mirik.



### Day 2 Mirik - Darjeeling

Known popularly as the "*Queen of the Hills*", you will find one of the world's finest teas here and is home to the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a World heritage site. But the most fascinating thing you will see from here is the vast Himalayan range. Stay – hotel.

### Day 3 Darjeeling - Kalimpong

During the British Raj, Kalimpong was a haven for relaxation. Here was also the gateway for trade between India and Tibet before being annexed by the Chinese. Home to ethnic Nepalese, indigenous ethnic groups and non-native migrants from other parts of India, the town is also a religious centre for Buddhism, with the monastery at Zang Dhok Palri Phondang housing a number of rare Tibetan Buddhist scriptures. Stay – hotel.

### Day 4 Kalimpong - Phuntsholing (Bhutan)

Phuntsholing is a border town in southern Bhutan and cross-border trade has resulted in a thriving local economy and the town also serves as headquarters for the bank of Bhutan.



### Day 5 Phuntsholing - Paro

Riding through the most beautiful of all Bhutan's valleys – we head towards Paro, which was once the centre of two of the most important trade routes to Tibet. Nowadays the new road from Phuntsholing runs amid paddy fields and scattered hamlets. Stay – hotel.

### Day 6 Paro - Thimphu

Established in 1955, Thimphu is the Capital of Bhutan and is home to the revered Bhutan Royal family. This bustling town on the banks of the Thimpu Chuu and is set gloriously in the hills of Thimpu valley. Stay – hotel.



### Day 7 Thimphu - Punakha/wangdi

Within sight of the alpine snows is a magnificent canvas of colour - a profusion of red, pink, white, yellow and purple rhododendron blossoms splashed amongst the soft green of wild herbs, and forest trees and the roads wind through pine forests and through small villages before mountains miraculously come into view - Stay - hotel.

### Day 8 Punakha/wangdi - Trongsa

Trongsa in the centre of the Bhutan and four hours ride from Wangdi Phodrang. The royal family's ancestral home is Trongsa. Both his majesty king Ugyen Wangchuk, the Penlop of Trongsa, who was elected the country's first hereditary monarch, and his successor king Jigme Wangchuk, ruled the country from Trongsa's ancient Dzong. Stay – hotel

**(Trongsa festival takes place in December, a colourful extravaganza making this a great Christmas alternative)**



### Day 9 Trongsa - Bumthang (December has a festival)

Bumthang is one of the 20 dzongkhag (districts) comprising Bhuta. It consists of the four mountain valleys of Ura, Chumey, Tang and Choekhor (also known as Bumthang valley). "*Bumthang*" directly translates means "beautiful field". "*Thang*" means field or flat place, and "Bum" is said be an appreciation of either "*bumpa*" (a vessel for holy water, thus describing the shape and nature of the valley), or "*bum*" ("girl", indicating this is the valley of beautiful girls). Stay – hotel.

### Day 10 Bumthang - Rest day...

Explore the beautiful Bumtang valley and some spectacular sight seeing.

### Day 11 Bumthang - Mongar

Perched on a hill, the old bazaar in Mongar has been expanding extensively in recent years, making the town one of the region's largest settlements. Stay – hotel.



### Day 12 Mongar - Tashigaang

Just a tiny percentage of visitors to Bhutan make the journey to Tashigang in the far east, you cross the 3,800 metre Thrumshing Pass and ride through villages clinging to steep hillsides. The bustling town was once the centre for trade with Tibet and is the principal market place for the semi-nomadic people of Merak and Sakteng who come to trade their yak butter for other provisions to take back to the mountains. Stay – hotel.

### Day 13 Tashigaang - Samdrupjongkhar (Bhutan – Assam border)

Samdrupjongkhar is situated at the south-eastern part of Bhutan and borders with the Indian state of Assam. Stay – hotel.

### Day 14 Samdrupjongkhar - Guwahati & flight to Delhi/Kolkata

Guwahati is a major city in eastern India and is situated between the southern bank of the Brahmaputra river and the foothills of the Shillong plateau with LGB International airport to the west of the city. Stay – hotel.



### Optional extra:

**Day 15 can be arranged for clients who fancy visiting the Taj Mahal. More information at time of booking. Cost £200 per person - includes transport, all meals and extra night in Delhi.**

**Acknowledgement:**

In order for Bhutan to preserve its unique Way of life – each season, limited number of visitors are allowed into this fascinating Himalayan Kingdom. Travel companies outside of the Kingdom are restricted in as much they need to work in association with a Bhutanese partner company and we are absolutely delighted to be associated with Tenzin (please see PBT team) and Happy Bhutan.

**Cost**

**Rider** £2,499  
**Pillion** £2,230  
**Single Supp** £300

**Dates 2012**

15th - 28th May  
 05th - 18th November

**Further Information...****INCLUDED IN THE EXPEDITION:**

- All internal transfers
- All accommodation - on twin sharing bases
- All Meals
- Team Leader/Guide
- Royal Enfield Bullet
- Royal Enfield mechanic
- Fuel
- Medic/First aider
- Support vehicle for luggage and spare parts

**Visa:**

Visa for Bhutan is collected at the bordertwon of Phuntsholing before crossing into Bhutan and the cost is \$20. Indian visa is necessary for the first and last part of your journey and to apply, you can now do it online or by contacting the Indian Embassy/High Commission in your country of residence who will help with your application. UK clients can contact [www.in.vfsglobal.co.uk](http://www.in.vfsglobal.co.uk) or Travcour 020 7223 5295 [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) for further help and assistance.

**Money Exchange:**

As the Indian Rupee is a protected currency, it can only be gotten hold of once in the country. With a number of outlets offering different rates on arrival, if you ask at your hotel reception, they will offer you favourable exchange rates.

**Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO):**

The FCO website is a Governmental travel advice unit that highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad. We make the safety and security of our clients our first priority, and therefore, given the nature of some of the destinations offered by Purebiketours. Some of our itineraries will contravene some of the advice offered by the FCO, and we recommend that clients do check the advice offered before booking and contact us if they have any queries or concerns.