
GEN 1.3 ENTRY, TRANSIT AND DEPARTURE OF PASSENGERS AND CREW

1. Customs requirements

- 1.1 Baggage or articles belonging to disembarking passengers and crew are immediately released except for those selected for inspection by the customs authorities.
- 1.2 Restricted/Prohibited/Dutiable baggage must be declared upon arrival and departure.
- 1.3 Arrival
 - 1.3.1 Passengers with nothing to declare are permitted to pass through Green Channel whereas passengers proceeding through Red Channel should declare their dutiable good.
 - 1.3.2 Baggage inspections by Customs are also carried out randomly for both green and red Channel. Passengers should note that false declaration shall be liable for fines, penalties and prosecution.
 - 1.3.3 Import of following goods are prohibited:
 - a) Narcotics and psychotropic drugs and substances;
 - b) Pornographic Materials;
 - c) Animals and plants classified as endangered species and their parts and products.
 - 1.3.4 Imports of following goods are restricted:
 - a) Arms, ammunitions, explosives and military stores;
 - b) Drugs and pharmaceutical products;
 - c) Used and second hand goods, machinery and equipment;
 - d) Gold and silver in excess of free baggage allowance;
 - e) Live animals and their products or by products;
 - f) Plants and plant materials;
 - g) Chemicals and fertilizers.
 - h) Drones
 - i) Industrial and toxic wastes and residues
 - j) Wireless and remote sensing telecommunication and broadcasting equipment
 - k) Scraps
 - l) Medicinal products
 - m) Plastic packing materials
 - 1.3.4.1 Imports of restricted items should be accompanied by import permit issued by the concerned Authorities.
 - 1.3.5 Bhutanese and resident passengers have the privilege of free allowance of personal effects up to the assessed value of US\$ 1000 or equivalent in Ngultrum subject to the ceiling prescribed below:
 - a) Spirits: 2 bottles, each bottle not larger than 2 litres
 - b) Gold: 50 Grams.
 - c) Silver: 1 Kilogram.
 - d) Perfume: 1 bottle not larger than 2 ounces.
 - e) Clothing items: maximum of 10 pieces each type of clothing whether stitched or unstitched.
 - 1.3.7 A tourist/foreigner shall be allowed to import free of Customs duty and tax, used articles of personal effects and alcoholic beverage of one bottle not larger than one litre.

- 1.3.8 Import of dutiable goods by tourists for personal use should be declared Customs. During their departure these goods shall be verified and the missing goods shall be subject to duty and taxes at the prevailing market rate in Bhutan.
- 1.3.9 Import of tobacco is subject to payment of 100% duty.
- 1.3.10 Import or Export of Indian Rupee is permitted up to Rs.25,000/- only and Bhutanese Ngultrum up to Nu. 5000/- only.
- 1.4 Departure
- 1.4.1 All passengers on their departure from the country should declare to Customs
- a) Exports of restricted/prohibited goods:
 - b) Goods imported on Temporary admission
- 1.4.2 Passengers carrying more than US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent should declare to customs at the entry and exit point.
- 1.4.3 Any imported goods exported out of Bhutan for replacement or repairs shall attract customs duty and taxes on value addition and services charge, provided it was declared to the customs at the time of export.
- 1.5 Re-import of Goods

Any imported goods exported out of Bhutan shall be allowed to be re-imported free from Customs duty and taxes provided that:

1. At the time of export of such articles, a declaration was made to customs authorities in form as prescribed under export declaration form and the same is presented to the customs for clearance on re-importation.
2. The customs officer is satisfied that the same and have not undergone any alteration and repair.
3. Any alteration and repair of such article however shall be liable to customs duty and taxes on the cost of alteration and material used for repair.

2. Immigration requirements

2.1 Visa

- 2.1.1 All foreigners must hold valid passport and it should be valid for minimum period of six months beyond the date of intended departure from the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 2.1.2 The Visa clearance alone does not guarantee the right to entry or stay in the Kingdom of Bhutan unless the entry/landing permission is granted by the immigration officer in the form of entry/landing seal in the passport.
- 2.1.3 The information/details furnished in the visa clearance must match with the passport details. If any information is found to be withheld or incorrect, the visa, if granted, may be cancelled at any time.
- 2.1.4 All foreign national entering Bhutan on visitors or tourist permit are prohibited for employment in Bhutan.
- 2.1.5 All foreign nationals working or residing in Bhutan holding Non Bhutanese Identity card, Residence permit etc shall not claim these documents (irrespective of its validity) for proof to enter Bhutan without valid Passport or Visa. Such Identification cards issued to foreigners should be surrendered to immigration counters during exit and reclaimed on the arrival.

2.2 Extension of visa

- 2.2.1 Extension of visa may be granted only on the ground of illness as an exceptional case for a period not exceeding 14 days at a time.

2.2.2 Extension of visa can be obtained on payment of Nu.1000, Nu.2000 or Nu.4000 depending on the duration of extension from Department of Immigration, Thimphu.

2.3 VISA Exemption

2.3.1 National of India are exempted from visa requirement for entry into the Kingdom of Bhutan and shall be issued with entry permit on arrival.

2.3.1.1 Indian National holding Diplomatic, Official or Ordinary passport shall be endorsed with entry permit and entry seal in their passport with validity depending on their duration of stay in Bhutan not exceeding 30 days.

2.3.1.2 Indian national who are not in possession of national passport shall carry voter card issued by State/Central government of India. Such document holders will be issued with entry permit in lieu of visa at the entry point depending on their duration of stay in Bhutan but not exceeding 30 days. Such permit should be surrendered to immigration counter at the exit point. Extension of stay if required will have to be obtained from Department of Immigration, Thimphu.

2.3.1.3 As for Bangladeshi and Maldivian nationality, their passport will be issued with visa on arrival and entry seal with validity maximum up to 30 days from the entry point.

2.3.2 Thai & Swiss national holding Diplomatic/Official Passport will be issued with visa on arrival for 90 days from the date of entry, provided they shall not take up any employment, be it self or otherwise, in Bhutan. Such period of stay shall, upon the request of Thai consulate office in Thimphu, be extended until the end of their assignment.

2.4 All foreign national flight crew members are required the following:

- i. Valid passport issued by their respective countries;
- ii. Foreigners working as crew or pilot in Bhutan must possess a valid multiple visa and work permit issued by the Department of Immigration after an approval to this effect has been accorded by the Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour & Human Resources, Thimphu; and
- iii. Indian nationals working as crew or pilot members are required to obtain valid work permit subject as above.

2.5 National Flight crew member required the following

2.5.1 National carrier flight crew or pilot members are required to sign in at the disembarking airport and sign out at the embarking airport. They should carry valid passports and must be produced on demand, failing to which penalty as per the immigration rule will be imposed.

2.5.2 National carrier flight carrying passenger without valid passport and visa will be responsible for deportation of the same to the port of embarkation with immediate effect and also bear the penalty for carrying such passenger as per the immigration rule.

2.5.3 All departing passengers are required to produce valid passports and documents to the immigration counters.

3. Public health requirements

3.1 COVID-19 Test protocol

3.1.1 There will be NO COVID-19 testing requirements for inbound travellers. However, all individuals (12 years and above) entering Bhutan may be subjected to random RT-PCR testing at the point of entry to maintain Covid-19 surveillance for new variants.

3.1.2 Individuals who tests positive shall follow the isolation protocol.in case of non-Bhutanese who test positive, they must pay for isolation and treatment, if needed.

3.1.3 No fee shall be charged for the RT-PCR Testing for surveillance.

3.1.4 There will be no requirement for a full vaccination certificate.

3.2 Yellow Fever Vaccination

3.2.1 Vaccination against yellow fever may be required of any traveller leaving an area where the Organization (WHO) has determined that a risk of yellow fever transmission is present.

- 3.2.2 Yellow Fever vaccine must be Vaccinated minimum 10 days prior to travelling.
- 3.3.3 Children younger than 9 months of age are exempted from vaccination.