



Importing Personal Property Into Bhutan

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection. The customer **MUST** be present during Customs clearance. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free for non-diplomats with an Import Permit. Entry is available only via India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Thailand. The border with China is closed. A visa is required for entry into and exit from Bhutan. All visitors, including those on official U.S. Government business, must obtain visas prior to entering the country. There are no provisions for visas upon arrival. More information can be found in the “Notes” section.

All visitors are required to complete a customs form and hand it over to the customs authorities upon arrival. All alcohol, tobacco, electronics, camera & video equipment, instruments and tools of the trade must be declared on the customs form. If these items are disposed of once in Bhutan (either sale or gift), the items become liable for customs duty.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport including photo page, and 2 additional passport photos
- ✓ Visa – obtained through Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Resident Visa
- ✓ Work Visa
- ✓ Import Permit – obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Customs Form
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory including values of items. All electronics and electrical appliances must state serial numbers on the packing list

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their used personal effects and household items with approved Diplomat Status. As a courtesy, diplomatic shipments will not be inspected.

Duty free privileged shipments: Applies to members of government, international organizations or embassy workers with non-diplomatic status. They are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and used household items. These shipments are subject to inspection.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory list in English

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ All electronics including computers are dutiable- a list of the items must be sent to the destination agent in advance to attach the duty amount which varies by item. Electronics must be limited to one of each
- ✓ New items require original receipts
- ✓ Plants – require quarantine
- ✓ Alcohol – allowed 2 bottles, each bottle can not exceed 1 litre
- ✓ Tobacco is strongly discouraged- Customer may bring up to 20 packages of cigarettes into the country for personal consumption however Bhutan recently implemented extremely strict restrictions on the sale or use of cigarettes and other tobacco products. A traveler caught selling tobacco products could be charged with illegal smuggling and fined or imprisoned. Smoking is prohibited in public places.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind - Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Bhutan are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Beef and any product including beef
- ✓ Antiques
- ✓ Communication equipment such as CB's, walkie talkie's and satellite dishes

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Please consult with your destination Agent for regulations and requirements regarding importation of pets as there are limited transportation options. Pets can not be shipped by road for long hauls. Druk Air is the only airline (government run) allowed entry into and out of Bhutan. Pets are allowed as either accompanied or un accompanied baggage.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 30 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated less than 30 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinary Service
- ✓ Name, breed, age and color of pet
- ✓ Addresses of Residence of both the origin and destination of the owner

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are only allowed importation at this time by those with diplomatic status. Diplomats can import one vehicle duty- free. Vehicles must comply with the European II standard of emissions. Vehicles must not be more than three years old.

Please seek the advice of your destination agent prior to consigning a vehicle as requirements change frequently.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original, must state model, engine and chassis numbers
- ✓ Proof of Insurance

NOTES:

Government/Consular Advice: Bhutan is a small land-locked Himalayan monarchy. By treaty, it accepts the guidance of India in foreign affairs. The United States does not have full diplomatic relations with Bhutan and there is no U.S. diplomatic presence there. Consular issues relating to Bhutan, including assistance to U.S. citizens, are handled by the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. Americans living or traveling in Bhutan are encouraged to register through the [State Department's travel registration web site](#) or with the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi to obtain updated information on travel and security within Bhutan.

For additional entry/exit information, please contact [the Bhutan Mission to the United Nations](#)

Health: Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Bhutan. There are no disclosure regulations or restrictions for HIV/AIDS patients who enter Bhutan on a tourist visas for a maximum two week visit. For longer stays applicants must present the results of an HIV/AIDS test completed within the six months prior to their visit.

Typhoid fever is common. Poliomyelitis eradication has begun and is reducing the risk, although it must still be assumed to be a risk. Malaria risk exists throughout the year in the southern belt of the following five districts: Chirang, Samchi, Samdrupjongkhar, Sarpang and Shemgang. Resistance to chloroquine and sulfadoxine/ pyrimethamine has been reported in the malignant falciparum form of the disease. A weekly dosage of 300mg of chloroquine and a daily dosage of 200mg of proguanil is the recommended prophylaxis. Hepatitis A and E occur; hepatitis B is endemic. Giardiasis is common. Meningitis is a sporadic risk and vaccination is advised. TB exists. Visceral leishmaniasis is prevalent and a small risk of Japanese encephalitis exists in southern lowland areas. Altitude sickness may be a problem.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Bhutan does not require ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Department of State

Bhutan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.bt/visa>

Orient Relocations

www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.