



འབྲུག་བཟང་བཤམ་ཚོགས་ལྷན། དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།

TOURISM COUNCIL OF BHUTAN
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN



Vision: A green, sustainable, inclusive and a high value tourism destination

6th March 2020

Press Release: COVID-19 Update Notification

We would like to inform all our tourism partners that the Royal Government of Bhutan tried its best to facilitate the entry of tourists into the Kingdom of Bhutan and movement within Bhutan by taking necessary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

However, despite the preventative measures taken, on 5th March the first and the only COVID-19 case was detected in Bhutan. It has now become important to act accordingly and increase the level of the measures while reducing the movement of persons. This is why the Royal Government of Bhutan has decided to temporarily restrict the entry of all tourists for the next two weeks with immediate effect. This will help to better assess the current situation and to ensure the chances of a further spread of COVID-19 is minimized, which severely increases the chances of its containment.

Therefore, in considering the health, safety and well-being of tourists, tourism personnel and the general public at large, the following notice is being issued to all tourism stakeholders:

- ✓ No tourists will be allowed to enter Bhutan for the next two weeks. This will be both for those who intended to enter by air as well as those who intended to enter by land.
- ✓ During this period the Government will monitor the situation and make a re-assessment of the measures in place.
- ✓ Tour operators are requested to keep track of those tourists who are already in the country and advise them to take precautionary measures.
- ✓ Tour operators are requested to inform guides and drivers to be vigilant and monitor the status of tourists, other people at the tourist's sites and of course themselves at all times.
- ✓ Everyone needs to keep record of all the places they visit and those places visited by their guests (tourists). This will allow for a quick and effective response of medical and emergency personnel if there are suspected of new cases.
- ✓ Maintain good personal hygiene, avoid gatherings, wash/sanitize your hands regularly and avoid unnecessary physical contact with others.
- ✓ Minimize service personnel at hotels, resorts, restaurants, and tourist sites.
- ✓ Hotels are to keep record of the contact details of their guests and their next destination.

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✓ All suspected cases are to be immediately reported by phone to one of the following health officials (please do NOT go directly to a hospital):

1. Dr. Chencho Dorji: 17296890
2. Mr. Rixin Jamtsho: 17606098
3. Dr. Kesang Dorji: 77232566
4. Dr. Dorji Tshering: 17517821
5. Dr. Phub Tshering: 17280808
6. Dr. Tandin Zangpo: 17828860
7. Dr. Ugyen Wangdi: 17733500
8. Dr. Tshokey: 17589485
9. Dr. Thinley Pelzang: 77391619
10. Dr. Pelden Wangchuk: 17827843
11. Health Help Centre Toll Number: 112

Please contact the following officials from the Tourism Council of Bhutan for more information:

1. **Mr. Damcho Rinzin.**
Mobile Number: 17122257
2. **Mr. Yeshey Wangchuk.**
Mobile Number: 17124546

Dorji Dhradhul

Dorji Dhradhul
Director General



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