



# BHUTAN



## INTRODUCTION

Following Britain's victory in the 1865 Duar War, Britain and Bhutan signed the Treaty of Sinchulu, under which Bhutan would receive an annual subsidy in exchange for ceding land to British India. In 1907, Bhutan became a unified kingdom under its first hereditary king. In 1949, the Treaty of Friendship with India established Bhutanese independence.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

King Jigme Khesar Namgyel WANGCHUCK

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Lotay TSHERING

### Government Type

constitutional monarchy

### Capital

Thimphu

### Legislature

bicameral Parliament consists of the National Council or Gyelyong Tshogde (25 seats) and the National Assembly or Tshogdu (47 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 38,394 sq km  
Land: 38,394 sq km  
Water: 0 sq km

### Climate

varies; tropical in southern plains; cool winters and hot summers in central valleys; severe winters and cool summers in Himalayas

### Natural Resources

timber, hydropower, gypsum, calcium carbonate

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

hydropower investments spurring economic development; Gross National Happiness economy; sharp poverty declines; low inflation; strong monetary and fiscal policies; stable currency; fairly resilient response to COVID-19; key economic and strategic relations with India; climate vulnerabilities

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$8.42 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$10,900 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - cement, wood products, processed fruits, alcoholic beverages, calcium carbide, tourism

**Agricultural products** - milk, rice, maize, potatoes, roots/tubers, oranges, areca nuts, chilies/peppers, spices, ginger

**Exports** \$790 million (2020 est.)

iron alloys, dolomite, refined iron, cement, silicon carbides (2019)

**partners:** India 94% (2019)

**Imports** \$1.19 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, iron products, delivery trucks, cars, wood charcoal (2019)

**partners:** India 85%, Thailand 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

857,420 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

0.99% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Ngalop (also known as Bhote) 50%, ethnic Nepali 35% (predominantly Lhotshampas), indigenous or migrant tribes 15%

### Language

Sharchhopka 28%, Dzongkha (official) 24%, Lhotshamkha 22%, other 26% (includes foreign languages)

### Religion

Lamaistic Buddhist 75.3%, Indian- and Nepali-influenced Hinduism 22.1%, other 2.6% (2005 est.)

### Urbanization

urban population 43% of total population (2021)  
rate of urbanization: 2.52% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

