

Bhutan



Full name: Kingdom of Bhutan

Government: In transition to constitutional monarchy; special treaty relationship with India

Location: Southern Asia, between China and India

Capital: Thimphu

Area: 47,000 sq km (18,146 sq miles); about one-half the size of Indiana

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

Terrain: mostly mountainous with some fertile valleys and savanna

Natural Hazards: violent storms from the Himalayas are the source of the country's name, which translates as Land of the Thunder Dragon; frequent landslides during the rainy season

Natural Resources: timber, hydropower, gypsum, calcium carbonate

Population: 682,321 (July 2008 est.)

Ethnic groups: Bhote 50%, ethnic Nepalese 35% (includes Lhotsampas - one of several Nepalese ethnic groups), indigenous or migrant tribes 15%

Major Languages: Dzongkha (official), Bhotes speak various Tibetan dialects, Nepalese speak Nepalese dialects

Religions: Lamaistic Buddhist 75%, Indian- and Nepalese-influenced Hinduism 25%

Life expectancy: 65 years (men), 66 years (women) (2008 est.)

Currency: ngultrum (BTN); Indian rupee (INR)