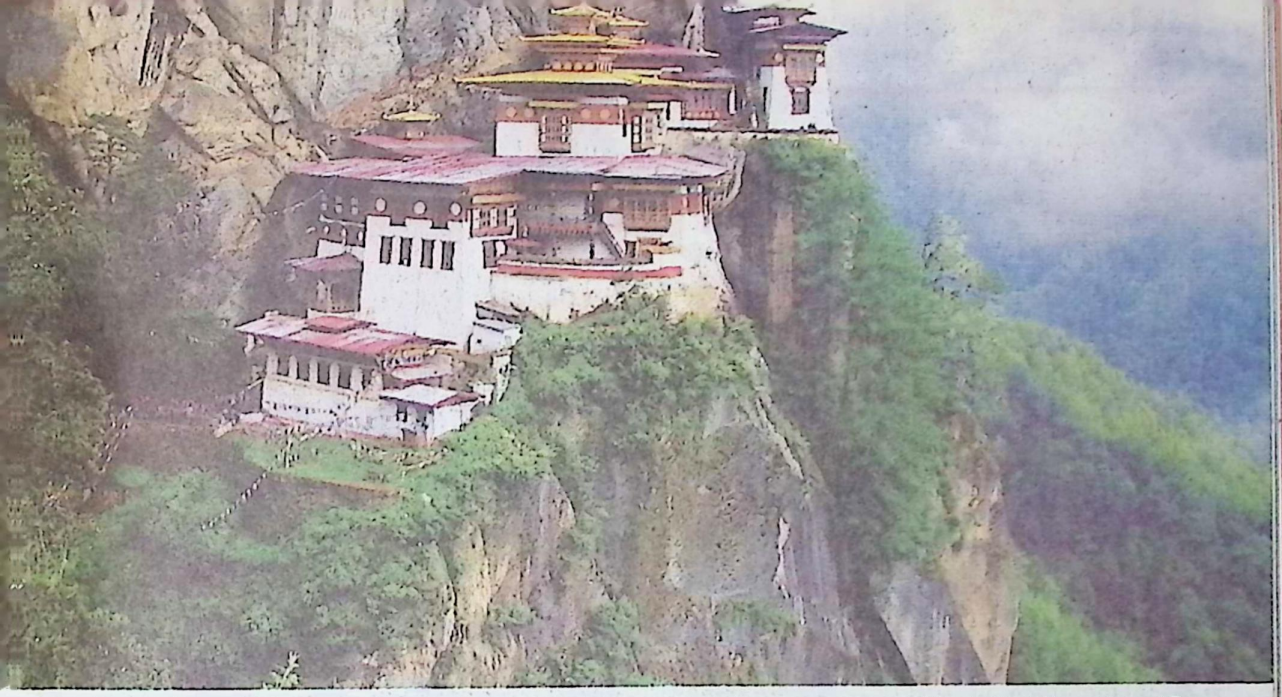


Tiger's Nest Monastery at Paro.

To move further from Dochula tourists require a special travel permit. The next place to see is the Royal Botanical garden. Not only is it a heaven for nature-lovers, it also includes the historic pathways of Buddhist monks from Tibet to Bhutan. This nature park contains all the species of Rhododendron, among them three are endemic. The entire Himalayan flora has been preserved well in this garden. In a section of the park called Lamperi, there is a very charming complex for the tourists including a camping ground, rest room, recreation Park; all are very much in swing with the natural feature of this place. This heavenly nature park is in tune with the wonderful wilderness of all parts of Bhutan. The tourists who will not be able to experience the floral beauty of outlying Himalya will get the chance to have them here. In addition the expert guides will explain the significance and local usage of these plants.

This place is also very famous for bird watching. The natural lake inside the sanctuary is home of many rare bird species like white bellied Heron, Himalayan Monal, Satyr Traggopan, Blood Pheasant and many others. We found an official bird watcher named Togo who can communicate with any bird by blowing their particular whistle. With its picturesque surrounding, the whole place is a bird watcher's paradise.

The exploration of Bhutan will remain incomplete if trekking is not included in your tour plan.

TRAVELLERS TIPS

- While travelling during rainy season tourists should take adequate precaution for land slides.
- There are lots of hotels and tourist cottages in Bhutan. Some of them are specially designed to give tourists the real taste of traditional Bhutanese life with all modern amenities. However anyone can enjoy the luxury of the only five star hotel located at Thimpu.
- Tourists should always carry umbrella.
- To travel beyond Dochula tourists require a special travel permit from the government tourist office.
- There are regular direct flights run by Druk Airways from Dhaka to Paro. Bangladeshi citizens don't require any visa to enter Bhutan.

The most popular trekking site is the Tiger's Nest. The real name of Tiger's Nest is Taktsang Palphug Monastery. It's a very sacred and legendary Himalayan temple complex situated at the peak of Paro Valley.

The legend has it that hundreds of years ago Queen of Tibet Yehshe willingly became a disciple of Guru Rinpoche. The guru turned the queen into a tigress and on the back of this royal tigress he flew to the spot of this monastery and established it.

The trekking to the far north will give the travellers the opportunity to observe the nomadic lives of Yak herders. These yak herders are still maintaining their thousand years old life style. They even use barter system in the market instead of currency. Once accepted, their friendly warm hospitality will make it hard for you to leave these charming people and their heavenly living place.

But in accordance with the universal law that all good things must come to an end, my days in the world's last Shangri-La were over. The time came to say good bye to my Bhutanese friends and all other foreign friends of the South Asia Youth Environment Network. While departing from the Paro Airport it seemed to me that that these Himalayan peaks waved and beseeched me to convey the message to my countrymen that destroying Mother Nature which we unashamedly continue to do is synonymous with suicide. I wonder when we will feel this in our heart. ■