

TRAVEL TIP: FISHING IN BHUTAN



The pristine waters of the rivers that spring from the highest mountain range in the world - the mighty Himalaya - are known to be swarming with fish. Some countries have already realized this and have successfully launched projects for tourists who enjoy fishing. However, in Bhutan, the sport has not been promoted in the same way. Fishing is seen as contravening one of the main principles of Bhuddism; it involves the killing of a living creature. As a result of this, the rivers are full of well-sized trout, asking to be caught.

The trout is not actually native to Bhutan, being introduced here in the 1960s, a period when roads were being constructed across the Indian plains and motor vehicles finally had proper access to Bhutan, with its diverse terrain.

Altitudes here range from 1200m to 3000m, and they say that the fishing experience in such spectacular scenery is close to perfect. Many locals are willing to act as guides. However, tourists are encouraged to pre-pay for all-inclusive trips. The average cost per day reaches about \$220, and includes all the little luxuries, including a personal driver and guide.

To visit Bhutan for the single purpose of fishing would be unwise. The country's ancient culture is very appealing; visiting remote villages, experiencing local traditions and observing the Buddhist temples and shrines is a perfect way to enjoy the country at its best.

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