

Snowman Trek - 25 days/ 24 nights

Please note: minimum group size 6 people and surcharges apply to undertake this trek.

This trek goes up to the remote Lunana district in northern Bhutan and is considered as the toughest trek in the country owing to distances, altitudes and its remoteness. The best season for Snowman trek is mid October.

Day 01: Snowman Trek:

Paro (Drukgyel Dzong) – Shana Zampa, distance – 17 km, time – 5/6 hours.

The trek starts from Paro valley (Drukgyel Dzong, 2580m), traversing through swaying paddy fields, village houses and small chhortens (stupas). The Pa Chhu (Paro River) snakes along the valley in a placid ribbon of silver and its banks covered with cascade of wild pink and white roses in full bloom. Camp at altitude 2870m near the village of Shana Zampa in meadow surrounded by trees.

Day 02 : Snowman Trek.

Shana Zampa – Soi Thangthangkha, distance – 22 km, time – 7/8 hours.

The trail continues its gradual climb alongside the Pa Chhu (Paro River) through forests of oak, rhododendrons and ferns and breathtaking vistas. The campsite (3,630m) is surrounded with beautiful views and lulled by the Sound of Paro River.

Day 03: Snowman Trek.

Soi Thangthangkha – Jangothang, distance – 19 km, time – 6/7 hours.

This day starts with beautiful landscape reaching to summer pastures of yaks, truly beasts of bounty for herders providing abundant cheese, butter, meat and thick waterproof hair for making tents, caps and blankets. The approach to Jangothang (4,090m) camp site is heralded by prayer walls, chhortens, prayer flags fluttering in the wind and a spectacular view of mount. Chomolhari (7,314m).

Day 04: Snowman Trek.

Exploration in Jangothang. Day for fishing expedition to Tshopu, a high altitude lake in shape of bowl which has good supply of spotted trout.

Day 05: Snowman Trek.

Jangothang – Lingshi, distance – 18 km, time – 6/7 hours.

Jangothang is the last settlement in the valley and ten minutes walk from this place presents spectacular views of Mount. Jichu Drake (6,989m) and further ahead Mount Tserim Kang (6,789m). The final pull enroute is Nyile la pass (4,890m) about 4 hours from Jangothang. The trail later travels above the tributary of Mo Chhu River gradually descending to the campsite at Lingshi (4,010m). There is also the possibility of an excursion from Lingshi to the base camp of Mount Tserim Kang for fishing and encountering enroute blue sheep and musk deer.

Day 06: Snowman Trek.

Lingshi – Chebisa, distance – 10 km, time – 5 hours.

Proceed ahead passing Lingshi Dzong built in 17th century, perched on the hilltop with a commanding view of the green hills, the winding river and magnificent peaks. After an hour from Lingshi, the trail reaches a cairn and prayer flags on a ridge at 4,140m and then makes a long descent to the pleasant settlement of Gayul (3,870m). Leaving this village, after making a short ascent and descent, the route leads to the spectacular Chebisa valley. Campsite on a meadow at an altitude of 3,880m.

Day 07: Snowman Trek.

Chebisa – Shoumuthang, distance – 17 km, time - 7 hours.

On today's early part of the trek, there is the possibility of encountering blue sheep, branded vultures and Himalayan griffons. The route later crosses Gombu la pass (4,500m) and then descends through rhododendrons bushes to a stream at about 4,170m. The trail further climbs over a small ridge through a cedar forest then into the main Jholethang Chhu valley in a deep forest of fir and birch and then onwards to the village of Shakshepasa (3,980m). There are several yak herders huts enroute. The camp is at Shoumuthang (4,200m) in a cluster of brush beside a stream.

Day 08: Snowman Trek.

Shoumuthang – Robluthang, distance – 18 km, time – 6 / 7 hours .

The trek starts with a climb to Jari la pass (4,700m) then descends to the Tasharijathang valley, the summer place of the rare Himalayan Takin. Camp is in Tsheri Jathang valley which has been declared a special Takin sanctuary.

Day 09: Snowman Trek.

Robluthang – Limithang, distance – 19 km time – 7 hours.

Today cross Shinje la pass (4,900m) the last and the highest pass on the trek which is about 5 hours walk from camp. Later the descent is on a rough, rocky trail into a glacial valley, eventually reaching to Kango Chhu, a stream. After that it is a short climb through rhododendron trail and cedar forest interspersed small meadows to Limithang (4,140m), a lovely campsite in a big meadow.

Day 10: Snowman Trek.

Limithang – Laya, distance – 10 km, time - 5 hours.

Today's walk to Laya is extremely pleasant with wonderful mountain scenery and passing through forests filled with moss and singing birds. The village of Laya is the second highest settlement in the country at an altitude of 3,800m.

Day 11: Snowman Trek.

Laya halt

Day 12: Snowman Trek.

Laya – Rhodophu, distance – 19 km, time – 7 hours.

The trek gradually descends and then climbs through forests of conifers, maple and rhododendrons bushes. Camping site is in a pasture near a stream at an altitude of 4,150m.

Day 13: Snowman Trek.

Rhodophu – Narethang, distance – 17 km, time – 6 hours.

The path leads through rhododendron bushes and crosses Tshomo la pass (4,740m) and then descends to the campsite at Narethang (4,500m), beneath the peak of Gangla Karchung (6,395m).

Day 14: Snowman Trek.

Narethang – Tarina, distance – 18 km, time – 6 / 7 hours.

The trek starts with a climb to Karchung la pass (5,120m) then descends to glacial lakes which feeds the Tang Chhu River. The mighty peaks of Jejekangphu Gang (7,300m) and Tsenda Kang (7,100m) tower above these lakes. The route further makes several steep descents through dense rhododendron tress arriving at the campsite at Tarina (4,020m).

Day 15: Snowman Trek.

Tarina – Woche, distance – 17 km, time – 6 hours. The path leads down through conifer forests following the upper reaches to Pho Chhu River, finally dropping at Woche (3,940m) which marks the beginning of the Lunana region.

Day 16: Snowman Trek.

Woche – Lhedi, distance – 17 km, time – 6 hours.

The trek starts through juniper and fir forests and further ahead passes via rhododendron bushes crossing enroute Kechela pass (4,480m). Camp in Lhedi village at an altitude of 3,700m.

Day 17: Snowman Trek.

Lhedi – Thanza, distance – 17 km, time – 6 hours.

The trail climbs gradually following the main source of Pho Chhu River, to Chozo village. Above Chozo, the valleys opens approaching towards Thanza village, near the base of Zongophu Gang (7,100m) also known as Table Mountain. Camp at Thanza (4,090m), the main village in Lunana district.

Day 18: Snowman Trek.

Thanza Halt. Halt necessary in order to change yaks. Excursion to Lugi Tsho (lake) and other lakes.

Day 19: Snowman Trek.

Thanza – Tsorim, distance – 19 km, time – 8 / 9 hours.

The trek starts by climbing the ridge (4,650m) with great views of the Table Mountain and Thanza valley. After climbing several other ridges, the campsite is at Tsorim (5,125m).

Day 20: Snowman Trek.

Tsorim - Geshe Woma, distance 19 km, 8 / 9 hours.

View of Gangkhar Phuensum (7,561m) on a clear day. Uphill trek for about an hour till Gophula pass and then the trail descends gradually. The trail leaving behind the beautiful mountains follows the Sha Chhu River and descends gradually to the campsite at Geshe Woma at an altitude of 4,200m.

Day 21: Snowman Trek.

Geshe Woma – Warathang, distance – 19 km, time – 8 / 9 hours.

The path continues following the Sha Chhu River then climbs steeply to Sakala pass (4,800m). Later it descends through lakes and to Wartangle pass (4,590m). The scenery enroute is stunning with small lakes and mountain peaks. Camp at Warathang at an altitude of 4,000m.

Day 22: Snowman Trek.

Warathang – Dur Tsachu, distance – 16 km, time – 5 hours.

The trek starts with a short climb to Juele la pass (4,400m) and descends to the riverside through dense forests of rhododendron, juniper and conifers, finally reaching to Dur Tsachu (hot spring).

Day 23: Snowman Trek.

Dur Tsachu – Tsochenchen, distance – 18 km, time – 8 / 9 hours.

From Dur hot spring, it is a long and steady climb with great views of mountains in the Lunana region. Also the route crosses several blue lakes and yak herders camp at an altitude of 3,850m.

Day 24: Snowman Trek.

Tsochenchen – Gorsum, distance – 12 km 4-5 hours.

Trail follows Chamkhar Chhu and gently ascends for half an hour and subsequently descends till Gorsum.

Day 25: Snowman Trek.

Gorsum / Bumthang, distance – 12 km, time – 4 hours.

The path follows the Chamkhar Chhu River, descending gradually and finally ending at Dur village in Bumthang (central Bhutan).