



DOT/SCD-17/2026/8206

8th April 2026

Notification

Mandatory Requirement of Certified and Valid Licensed Tour Guides

Guide service is an integral part of ‘High value’ experience for tourists, playing a vital role in ensuring safety of our guests and enhancing their travel experiences. The Tourism Rules and Regulations 2024 (TRR 2024) mandates the requirement of certified and valid licensed guides for all tours except for tours until the first designated check point though it is highly recommended to have a tour guide.

It has come to the notice of the Department of Tourism, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment about various interpretations on the mandatory requirement of certified and licensed guides for travel between dzongkhags, particularly along the Paro to Thimphu route. The Department would like to reiterate that all guests (tourists) must be accompanied by a tour guide(s) bearing valid license at all times, including while visiting monument sites and traveling from Paro International Airport to other Dzongkhags. A licensed trekking guide is mandatory for trekking tours.

This notification is issued for strict compliance by all tourism service providers and our guests. Non-compliance will be dealt with in accordance with the TRR 2024.

We kindly request all tourism service providers and tourists to refer to the Department’s official website www.bhutan.travel for factual information on tourism services and refrain from referring to unreliable online sources.

(Department of Tourism)