



Destination Updates as on 6 August 2021

BHUTAN

In an exciting development, Bhutan is all set to welcome its first tourist next week after more than a year of suspending international travel. As per the recent notification from the Tourism Council of Bhutan, international visitors wanting to visit Bhutan will have to apply through a licensed Bhutanese tour operator and they will have to undergo mandatory 21-day institutional quarantine. Guests will also have to pay a mandatory sum of USD 65 per day as sustainable development fee for the period. All costs for quarantine and Covid tests to be borne by the guests.

Bhutan has yet again achieved the remarkable feat of having immunised 90.2 per cent of the total eligible population within a week of receiving the various consignments sent to them by USA, Denmark, China, and other countries under the COVAX arrangement. As on date, 62 per cent of the total population of Bhutan has received both doses of vaccination.

Bhutan has re-emerged as having one of the fastest vaccination campaigns during the pandemic. The success of Bhutan's immunisation drive can be attributed to several factors including low population, home visits for the elderly and people with disabilities. Healthcare workers even trekked up mountains to deliver vaccines to nomadic herders to ensure their health and safety.

The healthcare professionals were joined in their efforts by a large group of civil volunteers who had also played a pivotal role in Bhutan's fast-paced first round of vaccination. Bhutan's King Jigme Namgyel Wangchuk had travelled across the country on foot, horse, and car to raise awareness about the benefits of being vaccinated and to dispel fears and myths. Prime Minister, Lotay Tshering, had also been a vocal advocate of the efficacy of mixing vaccines citing different researches conducted across the world.

There is definitely a lot that we can learn from how Bhutan has successfully run its vaccination campaign despite setbacks that lead to delay in arrival of vaccines. It also shows us the spirit of human kindness in times of need as countries across the world pitched in to help the tiny nation in whichever capacity possible.

Please [click here](#) for the latest updates.