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THE FIRST EVER

# BHUTAN International Festival

FEB 14-23, 2015

## First Ever International Festival In The Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan – Feb 14-23, 2015

**The first ever annual festival in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan brings together 10 days of arts, film, music, a TEDx and TEDx Youth event, a full and half marathon, the 35<sup>th</sup> birthday of the King of Bhutan, Bhutanese New Years and love and happiness will all take place within a 10-day period February 14-23, 2015.**

**THIMPHU, BHUTAN, August 18, 2014** – The beautiful and remote Kingdom of Bhutan, where “Happiness Is A Place,” hosts the first ever Bhutan International Festival, February 14<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2015.

“This first ever annual festival brings together great talent from Bhutan and around the world for 10 days of arts, film, music, culture, education, fitness, happiness and love.” said Festival Director, James H. Fitzgerald.

“We’re also very excited about the new appointment of our Festival Coordinator, Ms. Tashi Ongmo, stationed locally in Thimphu, Bhutan. Her experience with global organizations will help us make this a great first time event.” added Fitzgerald.

In addition to festivals celebrating the arts, music and film, there will be an annual TEDx event, focusing on topics important to Bhutan and the world, and for the first time, a TEDx Youth event designed to engage young people from abroad and within Bhutan.

The 35<sup>th</sup> birthday of the King of Bhutan, Bhutanese/Tibetan New Year Celebrations (Losar) and the second annual Bhutan International Marathon, which includes a full 26-mile marathon and a 13-mile half marathon, will all take place during the festival period. The festival calendar also coincides with Valentine’s Week, which makes it an even more enticing destination for couples looking to experience the magic of Bhutan. To help make it easier for families to bring their children, the festival takes place during the winter break/recess period for most primary, secondary schools and colleges around the world.

Featuring some of the planet’s best and least known talent, world class Bhutanese and international artists will create an intoxicating mix of art, music, film, dance, and theatre, at multiple indoor and outdoor venues across the ancient capital of Thimphu, for 10 continuous days of festivities.

For more information about the festival visit us at [www.BhutanInternationalFestival.com](http://www.BhutanInternationalFestival.com)

**For further information contact:** James H. Fitzgerald in New York at 1-877-4-Bhutan or 1-877-424-8826. Email: [Info@BhutanInternationalFestival.com](mailto:Info@BhutanInternationalFestival.com)

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# BHUTAN *International Festival*

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The Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan brings together 10 days of arts, film, music, culture, education, happiness and love through its first ever International Festival.

NOW WILL NEVER COME AGAIN...

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2015

	Sat 14	Sun 15	Mon 16	Tue 17	Wed 18	Thu 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22	Mon 23
Bhutan & Himalayan Regional Arts Festival	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●
Bhutan International Film Festival	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●
Bhutan International Marathon	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●
Bhutan International Music Festival	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●
Losar - Bhutanese Lunar New Year	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●
HRM's King's 35 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●
TEDxThimphu - TEDxYouth	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●
Valentines Week	●	●	●	●	●	H	H	H	H	●

● EVENT DATES

● NON-EVENT DATES

H HOLIDAYS

Thu Feb 19 Dangpa Losar Lunar New Year's Eve (year of the Wood female sheep)

Fri Feb 20 Losar Lunar New Year's Day

Sat Feb 21 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday of His Majesty The King

Sun Feb 22 Holiday in honor of the birthday of His Majesty The King



# BHUTAN International Festival

## WHERE IS BHUTAN? BASIC FACTS

Up until the last decade, the tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan remained tucked away in total isolation from the rest of the world. Its segregation has helped it to preserve its deep Buddhist traditions, close families and its pristine landscapes.



- Bhutan is the only country in the world that measures their progress in terms of GNH (Gross National Happiness) versus the rest of the world, which measures progress in terms of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
- 1 of 43 landlocked countries in the world, Bhutan is about the size of Switzerland which has adopted Bhutan as a sister country because their cultures and landscapes have so much in common.
- The word “Bhutan” translates to “Land of the Thunder Dragon.” It earned the nickname because of the fierce storms that often roll in from the Himalayas.
- Bhutan is the first country in the world with constitutional laws to protect the environment and requires at least 60 percent of the nation must remain under forest cover at all times.
- One-third of Bhutan’s population is under the age of 14; its median age is 22.3 years.
- Bhutan does not have one single traffic light.
- Bhutan is the only nation in the world where the sale of tobacco is banned.
- At 24,840 feet above sea level Gangkhar Puensum is the highest point in Bhutan – and the highest unclimbed mountain in the World.
- Anyone found guilty of killing a highly endangered and culturally sacred black-necked crane could be sentenced to life in prison.
- Bhutan is one of the last countries in the world to introduce television to its people. The government lifted a ban on TV – and on the Internet – in 1999.

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## IMAGES OF BHUTAN



View of the Himalayas in Bhutan



Mountainside Tiger's Nest Monastery



Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan at night



Poppy, the national flower of Bhutan



The national flag of Bhutan



The King and Queen of Bhutan, 2012