

SNOWMAN TREK **Bhutan**

Bhutan. The name conjures up images of towering snow-capped peaks, cliff-hanging monasteries, and a government policy of Gross National Happiness (GNH). The country is shrouded in an aura of mystery, in no small part due to the fact that it was largely closed off from the rest of the world until the 1970s—by choice. In more recent times, the “Land of the Thunder Dragon” has permitted a limited amount of tourists to enter. Many travel here for the hiking, with the legendary Snowman Trek representing the longest, highest, and most challenging trekking route in the country.

Taking around 25 days to complete and measuring approximately 322 km (200 mi) in length, the Snowman Trek is regularly described as “the world’s toughest trek.” Such descriptions should always be taken with a grain of salt, but there is no denying that this crescent-shaped trail in northern Bhutan is one of the most exacting ▶



The Bhutanese value happiness over GNP.

Iron chain bridge with colorful prayer flags.

