



12 Day Trek to Laya October 14-25, 2026

Royal Highlander Festival

This Trek includes the Royal Highlander Festival which is held in Laya, the northernmost part of Bhutan and is held annually on Oct.23-24th. Laya is also the highest settlement in the world at 3,820 meters. The festival aims to promote the sustainable livelihood of highlanders, showcase highlander's innovation, and exhibit the highlands as a pride of Bhutan. The festival is a landmark activity of Gasa dzongkhag's "Good to Great Gasa", a vision inspired by His Majesty the 5th King of Bhutan.

Detailed Itinerary Day 1: Guni tsawa- Soe Thangthangkha (7-8 hours trekking) Oct.14
The trek starts off slow to acclimatize, it continues uphill through the river valley, gradually becomes narrower and closes in after some distance. The winding trail with frequent climb and the descent leads us to our campsite in a meadow with stone shelter at 3,720m. By then, we will have trekked about 23 km on day 1.

Day 2: Thangthangkha – Jangothang (5-6 hours trekking) Oct.15

We'll continue the trail along the Pachhu and the valley opens again after crossing a small army outpost. Trekking through the open valley gives a great view of the high ridges and the snow-capped mountains with yaks and yak herder's camp on the valley floor. By afternoon we'll reach some ancient fortress at the base of Mt. Jomolhari at 4040m. Camp here for the night.

Day 3: Jangothang to halt. Oct.16

After two long days of trekking, you will have a good chance to relax under the sun just in front of the Jomolhari. But if you are interested you may go further from the base camp and climb to Tsho Phu 4300m. night at camp.

Day 4: Jangothang – Lingshi (5 to 6 hours trekking) Oct.17

Climb gradually toward the pass through a wide pastureland. On your way, depending on the season you are trekking, you will find some yak herder's in their camps. Descending from the pass to Lingshi, you will have a beautiful view of Lingshi Dzong, the Valley, Tserim Kang (Mountain), and its glaciers. At 4150 m, you'll have the option to camp in a stone shelter with built-in-fire pit or in the tent! We'll have covered 19 km of trail on Day 4.

Day 5 : Lingshi – Chebisa (3-4 hours trekking) Oct.18

Today is the shortest of all days on our trip. Upon reaching Chebisa at 3,850 m, having trekked for 3 to 4 hours covering 12 km of trail, camp alongside the village settlement. You can visit the village houses and feel the Bhutanese rural life experiences.

Day 6: Chebisa – Shomuthang (5-6 hours trekking) Oct.19

Trekking through a wide pastureland will lead up to Gobu La Pass. Along the way, you find some Yak herder's. Conquering Gobu La Pass at 4,305 m, descend down to the valley. The campsite will be above a river bank, a tributary of a Mochhu River at the elevation of 4, 260m. By then we will have trekked 17 km in 5 to 6 hours of time.

Day 7: Shomuthang – Robluthang (6-7 hours trekking) Oct.20

We start early because the trek is a little strenuous. Upon crossing the Jerela Pass at 4,600m, descend to Tsharijathang Valley, where you can see the herds of Takin, the National Animal of Bhutan. Camp at Tsharijathang at 4, 390m after having trekked from 15km for 6 to 7 hours!

Day 8: Robluthang – Lingmithang (6-7 hours trekking) Oct 21

Cross the Shingela Pass at 4, 900m, you take a downhill trek following the valley. Lingmithang, a beautiful village under Laya County offers an opportunity to see people dressed in typical Laya costume with long bamboo hats on their head. Camp at Lingmithang at the elevation of 4, 140m after a day long trek of 6 to 7 hours covering 19 km of the trail! A day halt exploring the valley and meeting the people of unique costume and habit will be of unique experience.

3 Nights in Laya

Day 9: Lingmithang – Laya Oct.22 (3-4 hours trekking)

The trek for the day is a downhill walk along the narrow winding river valley. The trail leads you to the west side of the Laya Village. At the elevation of 3 850m, the campsite is on a high flat bench above the village. The trek stretches for about 10 km requiring 3 to 4 hours of normal trekking.

Day 10: Laya **Royal Highlander Festival** Oct.23rd

We will spend the day at the Festival in Laya enjoying the dances, booths, and possibly a visit from His Majesty the King of Bhutan.

Day 11: Laya – Tongshu bja Oct.24 (trekking 5-6 hours) **Royal Highlander Festival**
Oct.24

Day 12: Laya-Oct.25

We will pack up early and head out of Laya on a trail that involves a series of winding rounds to avoid steep cliffs while affording breaking views of crashing rivers, feeder streams and cascades of waterfalls. Covering 15km of trail in 5 to 6 hours, until we meet with our car.