

Bhutan's Bumthang Valley

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 19 May 2017



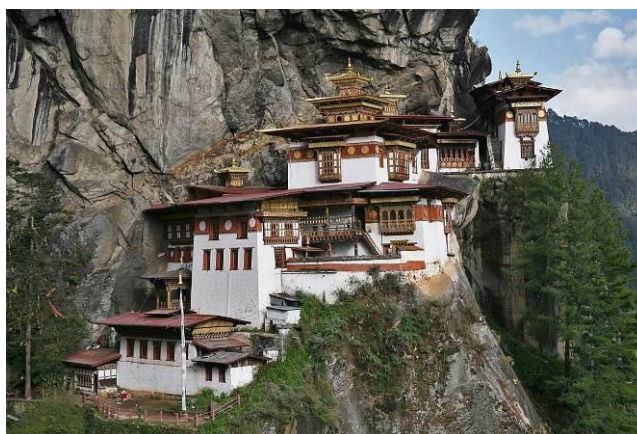
Kiki La



Piptanthus lanuginosus



Rhododendron hodgsonii



Paro Taktsang

Report and images by David Tattersfield



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: David Tattersfield (Leader), Sherab Dorji (Local guide) with six Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Tuesday 2nd May

The group met at Heathrow's Terminal 3 for the afternoon departure on Qatar Airways to Doha.

Day 2

Wednesday 3rd May

After an overnight flight and short stopover in Doha, we arrived in Kathmandu in the late morning and transferred to the Yak and Yeti Hotel. The group split in the afternoon, some visiting the Garden of Dreams, others, the cultural highlights around Durbar Square and the rest relaxing in the hotel garden, watching the antics of the resident Magpie-Robins. After a very filling evening meal, we retired to bed for much-needed sleep.

Day 3

Thursday 4th May

We were up early for breakfast and left at 7.00 am for the airport. During the short flight, we had distant views of the high Himalayan peaks before descending through the clouds and just after Paro Dzong came into view, we were on the runway of one world's most attractive airports. We were met by Sherab, our guide and Khandu, our driver and made the short journey to our accommodation. The attractive old building had been the residence of a former Governor of the district and was situated in a commanding position directly opposite the Dzong. After locating our rooms, we had lunch and set off to visit the National Museum and the Rimpung Dzong.

Day 4

Friday 5th May

In the morning the mountains, at the head of the valleys, were clear, with a dusting of overnight snow. We made an early start for the Chele La, to the west, at 3800 metres, the highest point reachable by road in Bhutan. As we gained altitude, we soon started to encounter some familiar plants. Yellow *Piptanthus nepalensis*, orange-red *Euphorbia griffithii* and *Pieris formosa* with white flowers and colourful young leaves stood out against the Blue Pine *Pinus wallichiana*, and *Primula denticulata* formed huge drifts in the damp meadows. Rhododendrons grew thickly and included *R. arboreum*, *R. triflorum*, the low-growing *R. virgatum* and *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *cinnabarinum*, with striking orange-red bell-shaped flowers. As we neared the pass, we found some lovely colonies of the deep blue *Primula griffithii*, restricted to western Bhutan and the adjacent Chumbi Valley, and the first flowers of *Bryocarpum himalaicum*, another member of the primula family, looking like a large yellow Soldanella.

A chilly wind battered the prayer flags, at the top of the pass, with cloud obscuring the view of the Himalayan peaks to the north-west. We explored the ridge for a short distance, eventually finding a little shelter. A few flowering Rhododendrons were noted, including a deep-purple form of *R. wallichii*, and large specimens of pale-yellow *R. wightii*. Heralding a rich ground flora were the bright-blue stars of *Gentiana pedicellata*, brilliant-yellow patches of *Oxygraphis endlicheri* and the deep-red catkins of *Salix serpyllum*. As we returned, we could not resist stopping for more *Primula griffithii* and a particularly well-flowered stand of lavender-purple *Rhododendron wallichii*.

After lunch we made the steep climb to the Tiger's Nest Monastery. It was a holiday and we shared the walk with many others. We all reached the viewpoint, which looks across to the Monastery and some tackled the steep steps that led over the intervening chasm.

Day 5

Saturday 6th May

After breakfast, we left Paro and drove down the broad Paro Valley. We stopped to walk across the iron suspension bridge, leading to the 15th century Tamchog Lhakhang Temple. The flora here reflects the dry climate of the inner valleys with several Berberis, pink-flowered *Indigofera heterantha*, the yellow-flowered *Lonicera quinquelocularis* and the deep-blue *Ceratostigma griffithii*. We made another brief stop for formalities, where three different chortens mark the confluence of the Paro Chu and Thimpu Chu, before continuing eastwards. We bypassed the urban sprawl of the capital, passed close to Simtokha Dzong and climbed on a good road towards the Dochu La. At the checkpoint we saw our first *Arisaema nepenthooides* and *Paris polyphylla* and as we approached the top of the pass, the endemic *Rhododendron kesangiae* became plentiful. The many chortens, built to commemorate the brief war with Assam in 2003 appeared eerily out of the mist. Following the old trail, our walk through the forest took us under huge specimens of *Rhododendron hodgsonii*, pale-yellow *R. falconeri* and crimson *R. barbatum* and a rich ground flora included *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, *Trillium tschonoskii* and the curious striped spathes of *Arisaema griffithii*. As we descended, the epiphytic orchid *Coelogyne corymbosa* was plentiful on moss-covered tree trunks and our attention was drawn to the beautifully-scented white blooms of *Rhododendron griffithianum*.

We descended through an ever-changing forest to the cultivated landscape of the Punakha Valley, arriving in Punakha, in the late afternoon. The Punakha Dzong, at the confluence of the Mo Chu and Pho Chu is a most impressive structure, lined with Jacarandas and Sherab took us on a tour of its colourful and complex interior. Our accommodation was not far up the hill and afforded us a panoramic view of the valley.

Day 6

Sunday 7th May

Down the valley we passed the new town, built to house the expanding population needed to service the hydro-electric industry. In the old town of Wangdu Phodrang work still continues to restore the fire-damaged Dzong. From here onwards our journey was marred by road works, with frequent delays and limited opportunities for roadside botanising. The red-flowered shrub *Woodfordia fruticosa* was prominent and we caught only glimpses of the attractive Wild Turmeric, *Curcuma aromatica*. As we climbed again, we were lucky enough to spot a Himalayan Black Bear and we enjoyed distant views of the snow-capped Himalayan peaks from Nobding. Approaching the Pele La, we were back in the Rhododendron zone. The large-leaved *Rhododendron falconeri* formed impressive stands but its flowers were past their best. At the top of the pass *Rhododendron hodgsonii* and *R. kesangiae* were in full flower, allowing an easy comparison of these superficially similar species.

Beyond the pass, dwarf bamboo was the dominant plant with extensive drifts of blood-red *Rhododendron thomsonii* in boggy pasture. We broke our journey with a rather late lunch, before moving on to Chendebji and its picturesque chorten. Here were more *Rhododendron griffithianum* and the pendulous white flowers of the palmate-leaved climber *Holboellia latifolia*. Many of the trees, across the valley had *Rhododendron lindleyi* growing epiphytically in their branches and we were fortunate to find some nearby. Closer inspection revealed *Rhododendron edgeworthii* growing together with it.

Beyond here, road conditions were considerably worse and our progress was slow. We stopped to view Trongsa Dzong across the valley, before a final slow section, where the cliffs were being prepared for blasting, and it was almost dark when we reached our guesthouse.

Day 7

Monday 8th May

A bright and sunny day started with a visit to the impressive Trongsa Dzong, a most imposing fortress, overlooking the deep ravine of the Mangde Chu. It now serves as the region's administrative centre, as well as being home to over 200 monks. We rejoined our vehicle and departed for our next high pass, the Yotong La at 3245m. We made roadside stops along the route, finding *Rhododendron grande* with huge rounded leaves and trusses of pink flowers, growing together with *R. falconeri*. As we approached the top of the pass, the hillsides were coloured pink with many superb specimens of *Rhododendron kesangiae* and we stopped to admire them at close quarters, along with *R. hodgsonii*, stands of Himalayan Birch *Betula utilis* and magnificent flowering specimens of *Viburnum nervosum*.

After another long descent, we stopped for lunch at a guesthouse amid farmland and scattered traditional farmhouses. The Kiki La, festooned with prayer flags, was our final pass before we entered the Bumthang Valley. Here we found good specimens of pink *Rhododendron virgatum*, carpets of *Fragaria nubicola*, *Erigeron multiradiatus* and a number of spikes of Sword-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia*. We stopped by the river to view some large stands of Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis* and the much rarer *Osmunda cinnamomea* and were lucky enough to spot a number of Ibisbill, which were nesting on the islands of boulders and shingle in the river. After shopping for bottled water in Jakar, we drove a little way up the valley to our hotel, where we repacked in readiness for our trek.

Day 8

Tuesday 9th May

Bumthang is richly endowed with historic buildings and we visited the beautiful 7th century temple of Jambay Lhakhang and the impressive monastery complex of Kurjey Lhakhang, on our way up the valley to the start of our trek. The relatively new bridge at Toktu Zampa had been partially damaged and our coach had insufficient clearance to attempt a crossing, so we had a short delay while we transferred our luggage to the vehicle that had brought our camping gear. From here, we set off through fields along the valley of the Chamkar Chu passing Mani walls, small wayside shrines and an operating flour mill, before crossing a suspension bridge and following a trail through the forest. It was good to be unrushed, after all the stop-start travelling and to fully enjoy our surroundings. *Cardiocrinum giganteum* and some fine flowering plants of *Calanthe tricarinata* grew in wet shady areas of the forest and meadows were full of colourful *Euphorbia griffithii*, the orange-brown unfurling fronds of the Interrupted Fern *Osmunda claytoniana*, yellow *Primula smithiana* and a single *Roscoea tibetica*. We reached our campsite at Ngang Lhaktang, by mid-afternoon, with plenty of time to settle in and explore our surroundings.

Day 9

Wednesday 10th May

Today we made steady uphill progress through wonderfully diverse forest, initially of Blue Pine which gradually gave way to towering Hemlock *Tsuga dumosa*, East Himalayan Spruce *Picea spinulosa* and finally East Himalayan Fir *Abies densa*. Beyond wet stands of bamboo and glowing specimens of *Rhododendron thomsonii*, we entered a shady ravine with *Primula geraniifolia*, *Trillium govianum* and *Clintonia udensis*. As we neared our campsite the forest was dominated by *Rhododendron kesangiae* with moss-covered trunks and huge trusses of dark-pink flowers. *Bryocarpum himalaicum* and the rare yellow *Daphne ludlowii* were growing in the deep moss layer and moss-covered logs provided ideal nursery beds for countless seedlings. In damp gullies, patches of pink *Primula gracilipes* caught our eye and blue and white *Anemone obtusiloba* was scattered through the turf. The pink flower buds of *Sinopodophyllum*

hexandrum and its mottled leaves were just emerging, and we admired the magnificent hairy rosettes of *Meconopsis paniculata*. After hot drinks and a lovely evening meal, we retired to our tents as rain began to fall.

Day 10

Thursday 11th May

The trail continued steeply through dense mixed forest filled with deep-red *Rhododendron barbatum* with its characteristic peeling bark. *Primula gracilipes* was abundant on shaded banks and near the top of the pass, under the many colourful prayer flags were many blue and white *Anemone obtusiloba*. *Rhododendron cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon* was in full flower with yellow waxy bell-shaped flowers and there were some fine large trees of *Rhododendron hodgsonii*. At the start of our steep descent, was a very attractive form of *Euphorbia himalayensis* with maroon bracts. More splendid stands of *Rhododendron barbatum* followed, with a few trees of pale-yellow *R. campylocarpum*, before we emerged from the forest. By now, we had had a few rain showers and luckily found shelter under a wayside shrine, where we could eat our lunch in comfort. The gentle stroll through meadows, in the afternoon was rather spoilt by a prolonged spell of steady rain and it was nice to reach our campsite and the usual welcome of tea and biscuits.

Day 11

Friday 12th May

Our day started with a visit to the local primary school and we arrived just before the school day started. It was a fascinating experience and a privilege to be welcomed. We watched the children clean the school grounds before assembly and they were very keen to show us their work in the classrooms. Quite clearly, conservation and care for the environment is an important aspect of the teaching of Bhutan's next generation.

We crossed the river and made our way uphill to Ogyen Choling, where we visited a typical farmhouse and then the former palace and its interesting museum of old Bhutanese artefacts. We had a long climb ahead of us through meadows, forest and dense bamboo. Along the way, we encountered beautiful specimens of *Rhododendron thomsonii*, which seems to prefer very boggy conditions. Higher up, along the edges of the forest, the prominent shrub was *Piptanthus lanuginosus* with the occasional *Clematis montana* growing through it. We took our time on the steeper sections, which were quite muddy, in places, and eventually saw the welcome sight of our tents, in an open meadow, surrounded by dense Fir forest

Day 12

Saturday 13th May

In the morning dense mist drifted up from the valley and then cleared. *Rhododendron succothii* was prominent in the edge of the forest, distinguishable by its tight trusses of deep-red flowers and its short petioles. When the weather looked settled, we set off

on the trail through the forest. Masses of *Primula calderiana* were in flower, their colour an astonishing deep blue to deep purple, with a yellow eye. Where snow had just receded, the large resting buds were just starting to open. Here and there were the yellow flowers of its close cousin *Primula tanneri* subsp. *nepalensis*, which was invariably in much more shaded areas of the forest. Huge specimens of *Rhododendron hodgsonii*, dominated the first part of the trail, with *R. kesangiae* below us.

Further on, *Rhododendron nighatii* appeared and then lots of *Rhododendron flinkii*, with yellow flowers, heavily spotted red, inside the corolla. Dense mist, at times, and light rain made for fairly tough going on the final steep climb to the Rudong La, but it cleared for long enough to allow us to eat our lunch and view the extensive forests below us. One of the highlights was undoubtedly having good views of a Fire-tailed Sunbird, a very colourful high-altitude specialist, feeding on the nectar of the Rhododendrons. Some of us walked down beyond the pass, a little distance, where the pink flowers of *Rhododendron bhutanense* appeared from the mist. With the weather closing in again, it was time to return to the comforts of the campsite and hot drinks. After dinner we warmed ourselves and dried our wet clothing by a hot campfire, until more rain eventually drove us undercover.

Day 13

Sunday 14th May

There was time for a last look round our campsite, before packing for our return to the valley. A wet, boggy area had *Rhododendron anthopogon*, with flowers in various shades of pink. Deep-purple *R. wallichii* grew nearby and above us were plants of paler shades and quantities of *R. cinnabarinum* subsp. *xanthocodon*. We returned down through the forests the same way we had come and then took another path that led in the general direction of our destination. At this point heavy rain started and progress down the steep muddy track became very difficult indeed. We eventually reached the village and took shelter under the roof of a barn, until the worst of the rain passed. We reached the campsite in a rather soggy state and were grateful to change into dry clothes before dinner.

Day 14

Monday 15th May

We said our goodbyes to the camp staff, after they had loaded their ponies for their return home. Our bus arrived and we set off on our journey back to the west. Beyond Jakar we stopped at the weaving cooperative at Zunge for souvenirs before crossing the Yotong La and driving down to Trongsa for lunch. Continuing over the Pele La, once again the road conditions slowed our progress, and it was quite late when we arrived in Phobjika. The open flattish and treeless landscape of the valley was quite a contrast to the dense forest we had become accustomed to. Our hotel was very comfortable, and we were glad of the hot showers and wood-burning stoves.

Day 15

Tuesday 16th May

Our first stop this morning was to see *Rhododendron ciliatum* growing in very boggy conditions, which it shared with *R. thomsonii*. We then visited the huge monastery of Gangtey Gompa, which overlooks the town and marvelled at its richly decorated interior. Leaving the valley over the Lawa La, we did a little roadside walking past fine specimens of the distinctive *Rhododendron keysii* and a range of maples, Hydrangea and other trees, all now with their new leaves. Back on our bus, we resumed our journey with a break at Nobding and continued through Wangdu Phodrang and finally back to Punakha.

Day 16

Wednesday 17th May

We had a long journey back to Paro, which necessitated a fairly early start but, at least the road was much better. We broke the journey at the Botanic Garden, not far below the Dochu La. We had seen a good range of birds during the course of the trip but here we hit a purple patch, with the uncommon Black-tailed Crake, Maroon Oriole, Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker, Rufous-bellied Pied Woodpecker and Black-winged Cuckooshrike, among

others, all new to us. When we reached the Dochu La the weather was clear, so we made a short stop to photograph the chortens, before heading down to Thimpu for lunch. The busy capital was quite a shock after our adventures. Even though captive, we all wanted to see Takin, that strange animal of remote alpine pastures, so we visited the enclosures on the hill, above the town. We were also taken to see the enormous statue of Buddha, on the hill, high above the town. We made the last leg of our long journey to Paro, arriving in the late afternoon.

Day 17

Thursday 18th May

We left for Paro airport early in the morning where we thanked Sherab and Khandu for their help and hard work during the trip and most of all for their good company. During our flight, those of us, lucky enough to have a window-seat, had splendid views of the highest Himalayan peaks and the brown and dry Tibetan plateau beyond. In Kathmandu, we all visited the Garden of Dreams, an ideal place to relax. In the evening we went out for a meal and cultural evening.

Day 18

Friday 19th May

The group left Kathmandu on a mid-day flight to Doha, leaving me to fly on to Kunming, later in the afternoon.

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Species Lists

Plants

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
PTERIDOPHYTA	FERNS AND FERN ALLIES	
Blechnaceae <i>Woodwardia unigemmata</i>	Blechnum Family	Warm broad-leaved forest
Denstaedtiaceae <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken Family Bracken	Frequent
Dryopteridaceae <i>Dryopteris wallichiana</i> <i>Elaphoglossum</i> sp. <i>Polystichum nepalense</i>	A Buckler-fern Epiphytic fern, laminar fronds A Shield-fern	Common. Forests Warm to cool broad-leaved forest Forest banks
Gleicheniaceae <i>Gleichenia volubilis</i>	Gleichenia Family 'Demented Bracken'	Warm broad-leaved forest
Hymenophyllaceae <i>Hymenophyllum</i> sp.	Filmy Fern Family Epiphyte	Damp shady forests
Lycopodiaceae <i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>	Clubmoss Family Stag'shorn Clubmoss	Forests. Widespread
Ophioglossaceae <i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adder's Tongue Family Adder's Tongue	Meadows. Tang Valley
Osmundaceae <i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i> <i>Osmunda claytoniana</i> <i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern Family Cinnamon Fern Interrupted Fern Royal Fern	Bumthang Valley Widespread Bumthang

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Pteridaceae	Ribbon Fern Family	
<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	A Maidehair Fern	Moist Hemlock forest. Below Phephe La
<i>Pteris cretica</i>	Ribbon Fern	Widespread
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS AND ALLIES	
Cupressaceae		
<i>Cupressus cashmeriana</i>	Around monasteries	Cultivated
<i>Cupressus comeyana</i>	Weeping Cypress	Pele La. Endemic. Also cultivated
<i>Juniperus pseudosabina</i>	Black Juniper	Rudong La. Common
<i>Juniperus recurva</i>	Weeping Blue Juniper	Locally common
<i>Thuja orientalis</i>	Chinese Arbor-vitae	Thimpu. Cultivated
Ephedraceae	Joint-pine Family	
<i>Ephedra gerardiana</i>	A joint-pine	Dry slopes
Pinaceae		
<i>Abies densa</i>	East Himalayan Fir	Common
<i>Larix griffithiana</i>	Sikkim Larch	Chele La. Gangtey
<i>Picea spinulosa</i>	Eastern Himalayan Spruce	Common
<i>Pinus roxburgii</i>	Chir Pine	Arid valleys. Low altitude
<i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Blue Pine	Dry valleys.
<i>Tsuga dumosa</i>	Himalayan Hemlock	Common
Taxodiaceae		
<i>Cryptomeria japonica</i>	Japanese Cedar	Cultivated
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS	
	DICOTYLEDONS	
Actinidiaceae	Actinidia Family	
<i>Actinidia callosa</i>	Robust climber.	Cool broad-leaved forest

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
<i>Sambucus adnata</i>	An Elder	Common in pastures
<i>Viburnum cotinifolium</i>	Broad-leaved shrub	Taktsang
<i>Viburnum cylindricum</i>	Evergreen. Flowers cream	Broad-leaved forest. Trongsa
<i>Viburnum erubescens</i>	Pendulous pink flowers	Dochu La
<i>Viburnum grandiflorum</i>	Clustered pink flowers	Chele La. Phephe La
<i>Viburnum mullaha</i>	Leaves narrow, pointed	Dochu La
<i>Viburnum nervosum</i>	Pointed leaves. White flowers	Pele La
Amaranthaceae	Pigweed Family	
<i>Amaranthus hybridus</i>	Leaf and grain crop	Cultivated
Apiaceae	Carrot Family	
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	Weed of cultivation
<i>Sanicula elata</i>	Sanicle	Common in forests
Apocyanaceae	Oleander Family	
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i>	Madagascar Periwinkle	Cultivated
<i>Plumeria rubra</i>	Frangi-Pani	Cultivated. Kathmandu
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Brassaiopsis mitis</i>	Spiny-stemmed tree. Palmate leaves.	Broad-leaved forest. Trongsa
<i>Hedera nepalensis</i>	Ivy	Moist forests
<i>Panax pseudo-ginseng</i>	Small shrub with linear leaflets	Coniferous forests
Aristolochiaceae	Birthwort Family	
<i>Aristolochia griffithii</i>	Very large, spotted flowers (only leaves seen)	Below Taktsang
<i>Asarum himalaicum</i>	Small brown flowers	Hemlock forest.
Asclepiadaceae	Milkweed Family	
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow Wort	Occasional. Pine forest
Asteraceae	Daisy Family	
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i>	Annual. Bluish-white flowers	Roadsides. Alien

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
<i>Ainsliaea aptera</i>	Leafless stem, white flowers	Forests
<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	White everlasting flowers	Grassy clearings
<i>Anaphalis triplinervis</i>	An everlasting. Linear grey leaves	Meadows and forests
<i>Aster albescens</i>	Blue-flowered sub-shrub	Forest margins. Paro Valley
<i>Erigeron multiradiatus</i>	Purple-blue flowers	Grassy slopes and wet Pine forest
<i>Eupatorium adenophorum</i>	Invasive sub-shrub	Roadside alien. Mexico
<i>Pseudognaphalium affine</i>	Jersey Cudweed	Common weed
Begoniaceae	Begonia Family	
<i>Begonia annulata</i>	Variiegated leaves. White flowers	Warm-temperate forest
Berberidaceae	Barberry Family	
<i>Berberis griffithiana</i>	Evergreen. Small spiny leaves	Forest margins
<i>Berberis insignis</i>	Evergreen. Large spiny leaves	Forest margins
<i>Berberis praecipua</i>	As above, but flowers more numerous	Dry hillsides
<i>Berberis virescens</i>	Deciduous. Leaf margins entire. Spines 1-2 cm	Forest clearings
<i>Mahonia napaulensis</i>	Large pinnate leaves	Forest margins
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Alnus nepalensis</i>	Himalayan Alder	Frequent
<i>Betula alnoides</i> var. <i>cylindrostachya</i>	Alder-leaved Birch	Broad-leaved forests
<i>Betula utilis</i>	Himalayan Birch. Brown papery bark	Conifer and Rhododendron forest
Bignoniaceae	Trumpet Tree Family	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	Cultivated. Punakha
Brassicaceae	Cress Family	
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's Purse	Occasional weed
<i>Cardamine griffithii</i>	Petals purplish	Damp banks. Below Phephe La
<i>Cardamine trifoliata</i>	Trailing stems, white flowers	Dochu La
Buxaceae	Box Family	
<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i>	Small evergreen shrub	Shaded damp forest

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Cactaceae <i>Opuntia vulgaris</i>	Cactus Family Prickly Pear	Dry hillsides. Alien
Cannabaceae <i>Cannabis sativa</i> subsp. <i>indica</i>	Hemp Family Hemp	Weed and cultivated for fibre
Caprifoliaceae <i>Lonicera angustifolia</i> <i>Lonicera quinquelocularis</i> <i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Honeysuckle Family Pale pink flowers Yellow flowers Flowering Bamboo	Phephe La Paro Valley Occasional in forest
Caryophyllaceae <i>Stellaria media</i> <i>Stellaria vestita</i>	Pink Family Common Chickweed Grey leaves	Weed of cultivation Dry areas
Celastraceae <i>Parnassia nubicola</i>	Grass of Parnassus Family	Campsite. Phokphey
Coriariaceae <i>Coriaria napalensis</i>	Coriaria Family Shrub. Prominent red styles and stamens	Dry hillsides
Cornaceae <i>Benthamidia capitata</i>	Dogwood Family Large yellow bracts	Thimpu. Cultivated
Crassulaceae <i>Rhodiola himalensis</i> <i>Rhodiola hobsonii</i> <i>Sedum triactina</i>	Stonecrop Family Upright succulent stems Shoots arising from low caudex Sprawling succulent	Among boulders. Rudong La Mossy rocks. Paro Taktsang Mossy rocks in forest
Elaeagnaceae <i>Elaeagnus parvifolia</i> <i>Hippophae salicifolia</i>	Elaeagnus Family Silvery leaves. Cream flowers. Buckthorn	Common in Blue Pine forest and meadows By streams

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Ericaceae	Rhododendron Family	
<i>Agapetes serpens</i>	Epiphyte or lithophyte Red tubular flowers	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Cassiope fastigiata</i>	Dwarf shrub	Chele La, Phokphey, Rudong La
<i>Enkianthus deflexus</i>	Pendulous flowers	Forests
<i>Lyonia ovalifolia</i>	Evergreen. White flowers. Corolla cylindric	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Lyonia villosa</i>	Evergreen. White flowers. Corolla urn-shaped	Conifer/Rhododendron forests
<i>Gaultheria fragrantissima</i>	Large shrub. Flowers white, in racemes	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Gaultheria griffithiana</i>	Large shrub. Flowers greenish-white, in racemes	Moist Hemlock/ Rhododendron forest
<i>Gaultheria nummularioides</i>	Prostrate dwarf shrub. Bristly shoots	Common
<i>Gaultheria trichophylla</i>	Prostrate dwarf shrub. Short bristly shoots	Cliffs. Dochu La
<i>Pieris formosa</i>	Pieris	West of Dochu La
<i>Rhododendron anthopogon</i> subsp. <i>anthopogon</i>	Aromatic dwarf shrub. Pink flowers	Phokphey
<i>Rhododendron arboreum</i>	Flowers red, occasionally pink	Common, middle altitudes
<i>Rhododendron argipeplum</i> (similar to <i>R. barbatum</i> but broader leaf - characters appear to overlap)	Reddish peeling bark	Yotong La
<i>Rhododendron barbatum</i>	Reddish peeling bark	Phephe La
<i>Rhododendron bhutanense</i>	Flowers deep to pale pink	Rudong La. Endemic
<i>Rhododendron camelliiflorum</i>	Usually epiphytic	Forests
<i>Rhododendron campylocarpum</i> subsp. <i>campylocarpum</i>	Corolla campanulate, pale yellow +/- red basal blotch	Chele La. Bumthang
<i>Rhododendron ciliatum</i>	Ciliate leaves. Large campanulate, scented flowers	Gangtey
<i>Rhododendron cinnabarinum</i> subsp. <i>cinnabarinum</i>	Flowers yellow to red. Leaves narrow	Phephe La. Phokphey
<i>Rhododendron cinnabarinum</i> subsp. <i>xanthocodon</i>	Flowers yellow to orange. Leaves broader	Chele La. Phephe La, Phokphey
	(confusion exists between the 2 subspecies - leaves were not examined closely)	
<i>Rhododendron edgeworthii</i>	Rugose leaf. Flowers very fragrant	Taksang to Trongsa
<i>Rhododendron falconeri</i>	Large leaves. Creamy-yellow flowers	Dochu La
<i>Rhododendron flinkii</i>	Yellow flowers, red spotted. Thin rust-brown indumentum	Phokphey. Rudong La. Endemic
<i>Rhododendron grande</i>	Leaves large, prominent veins. Flowers pink to cream.	Below Yotong La
<i>Rhododendron griffithianum</i>	Large scented white flowers	Doch La, Chendebji, Trongsa
<i>Rhododendron hodgsonii</i>	Bark smooth. Flowers pinkish-red or purple	Pele La. Phokphey
<i>Rhododendron kesangiae</i>	Bark with epiphytes. Flowers dark pink	Fir and Hemlock forest. Endemic

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
<i>Rhododendron keysii</i>	Distinctive tubular flowers	Dochu La, Gangtey, Lama La
<i>Rhododendron lanatum</i>	Leaves thickly brown-tomentose beneath. Flowers yellow	Chele La
<i>Rhododendron lepidotum</i>	Aromatic dwarf shrub. Leaves scaly	Chele La to Rudong La
<i>Rhododendron lindleyi</i>	Epiphyte	Chendebji
<i>Rhododendron maddenii</i>	Large white flowers	Botanic Garden
<i>Rhododendron nivale</i>	Dwarf shrub	Mountain slopes. Chele La
<i>Rhododendron succothii</i>	Leaves sessile. Flowers red	Fir forest. Phokphey
<i>Rhododendron thomsonii</i>	Flowers deep red.	Bogs
<i>Rhododendron triflorum</i>	Corolla zygomorphic	Paro. Tang. Gangtey
<i>Rhododendron virgatum</i> subsp. <i>virgatum</i>	Small shrub. Pink flowers	Chele La, Chendebji, Tang Valley
<i>Rhododendron wallichii</i>	Flowers lilac or pink	Chele La. Phokphey
<i>Rhododendron wightii</i>	Yellow flowers, red spotted. Sticky buds	Chele La, Phokphey, Rudong La
<i>Vaccinium dunalianum</i>	Epiphyte. Leaves large, Corolla urn-shaped	Dry Oak/Rhododendron forest
<i>Vaccinium nummularia</i>	Creeping shrub. Young shoots with bristly hairs	Widespread
<i>Vaccinium retusum</i>	Epiphyte. Pink flowers. Young shoots pubescent	Pele La
<i>Vaccinium glauco-album</i>	leaves large, white beneath	Chendebji
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family	
<i>Euphorbia griffithii</i>	Red or orange bracts	Common.
<i>Euphorbia himalayensis</i>	Maroon bracts	Phephe La
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	Poinsettia. Native tropical America	Cultivated
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Weed
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
<i>Albizia chinensis</i>	Flowers yellowish-white	Valleys to 1500m
<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>	Flowers pinkish	Hillsides. Trongsa
<i>Albizia sherriffii</i>	Flowers white	Trongsa
<i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i>	Scrambling shrub. Erect spikes of yellow flowers	Roadsides. Trongsa
<i>Delonix regia</i>	Flame Tree	Kathmandu. Native to Madagascar
<i>Desmodium elegans</i>	Trifoliolate shrub. Pink flowers	Dry hillsides.
<i>Erythrina arborescens</i>	Red flowers	Punakha to Trongsa. Cultivated
<i>Indigofera heterantha</i>	Pink flowers	Dry hillsides. Paro Valley
<i>Parochetus communis</i>	Blue Pea	Occasional. Moist places
<i>Piptanthus nepalensis</i>	Large yellow flowers	Open hillsides

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
<i>Piptanthus tomentosus</i>	Leaves white above	Bumthang
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Occasional roadside weed
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Grassy places. Alien weed
Fagaceae	Beech Family	
<i>Castanopsis hystrix</i>	Spikes of white flowers	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Castanopsis tribuloides</i>	Leaves entire. Fruit spiny	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Lithocarpus elegans</i>	Leaves entire. Acorns in clusters	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Quercus lanata</i>	Evergreen, Leaves serrate, pale beneath	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Quercus griffithii</i>	Deciduous, leaves serrate	Blue Pine forest
<i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i>	Shrub or tree, Leaves entire	Dry slopes under Blue Pine
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family	
<i>Corydalis trifoliata</i>	Blue flowers	Fir forests. Bumthang
<i>Corydalis</i> sp.	Pale yellow.	Forests
<i>Corydalis</i> sp.	Yellow. Orange tip.	Forests
Gentianaceae	Gentian Family	
<i>Gentiana capitata</i>	Annual. Flowers in capitate heads	Widespread in turf
<i>Gentiana pedicellata</i>	Branched annual	Widespread in turf
<i>Gentiana prolata</i>	Low creeping herb	Rudong La
<i>Gentiana thibetica</i>	Broad leaves	Mountain turf
<i>Halenia elliptica</i>	Annual	Open hillsides and pasture
<i>Megacodon stylophorus</i>	Broad-leaved rosette	Meadows. Phokphey
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Geranium donianum</i>	Upright herb	Campsite. Phokphey
<i>Geranium lambertii</i>	Not rooting at nodes	Blue Pine and Fir forests
<i>Geranium nepalense</i>	Sprawling herb	Bumthang
<i>Geranium procurrans</i>	Stems rooting at nodes	Bumthang
Gesneriaceae	African Violet Family	
<i>Briggsia muscicola</i>	Epiphyte. Below Phephe La	Epiphyte. Bumthang
<i>Corallodiscus cooperi</i>	Chendebji and Bumthang	Rock faces

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Grossulariaceae	Currant Family	
<i>Ribes acuminatum</i>	Racemes erect, densely flowered. Flowers green	Taktsang, Phephe La
<i>Ribes griffithii</i>	Racemes long, pendulous. Flowers greenish-yellow	Yotong La
<i>Ribes himalense</i>	Long pendulous racemes. Reddish peeling bark	Bumthang
<i>Ribes laciniatum</i>	Racemes, erect., distantly flowered. Flowers crimson	Yotong La
Hydrangeaceae	Hydrangea Family	
<i>Hydrangea anomala</i>	Climbing shrub	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Hydrangea heteromalla</i>	Shrub or small tree	Hemlock forest
Hypericaceae	St John's Wort Family	
<i>Hypericum choisianum</i>	Leaves with few glands	Paro, Dochu La.
<i>Hypericum uralum</i>	Leaves with dense blackish gland dots	Forest margins
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family	
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	Cultivated
Lamiaceae	Mint Family	
<i>Colquhounia coccinea</i>	Red-flowered shrub	Below Taktsang
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self Heal	Meadows
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	Grassy slopes
Ladizabalaceae		
<i>Decaisnea insignis</i>	Pinnate-leaved shrub. Sepals greenish-yellow	Below Dochu La
<i>Holboellia latifolia</i>	Climber. Pendulous whitish flowers	Frequent
Loranthaceae	Mistletoe Family	
<i>Scurrula elata</i>	Parasitic shrub. Tubular red and green flowers	Dochu La, Pele La
Lythraceae	Loosestrife Family	
<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	Shrub. Tubular red flowers	Wangdue Phodrang
Malvaceae	Mallow Family	
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Red flowers	Cultivated

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	Least Mallow	Weed of cultivation
Magnoliaceae	Magnolia Family	
<i>Magnolia campbellii</i>	Large tree	Hemlock and Fir forest
<i>Magnolia doltsopa</i>		Punakha to Trongsa. Oak forest
<i>Magnolia globosa</i>		Dochu La. Chendebji
<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>	Evergreen	Planted. Punakha Dzong
Meliaceae	Melia Family	
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Indian Bead Tree	Cultivated
Moraceae	Fig Family	
<i>Ficus elastica</i>	Indian Rubber Tree	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Ficus pumila</i>	Creeping Fig	Kathmandu. Cultivated
<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Pipal	Punakha Dzong. Cultivated
Morinaceae	Morina Family	
<i>Acanthocalyx nepalensis</i>		Forest clearings. Bamboo grassland
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family	
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i>	Red Bottle-brush	Cultivated
<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest Red Gum	Punakha. Cultivated
Nyctaginaceae		
<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i>	Bougainvillea	Cultivated. Kathmandu
Oleaceae	Olive Family	
<i>Jasminum humile</i>	Yellow flowers	Forest margins
<i>Osmanthus suavis</i>	Evergreen shrub. Small white, scented flowers	Dochu La
Onagraceae	Willowherb Family	
<i>Circaea alpina</i> subsp. <i>imaicola</i>	An Enchanter's Nightshade	Hemlock forest

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Orobanchaceae <i>Pedicularis</i> sp. <i>Pedicularis</i> sp.	Broomrape Family Dark pink flowers	Above Ogyen Choling Chele La, Rudong La
Oxalidaceae <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> <i>Oxalis leucolepis</i>	Wood-sorrel Family Procumbent Yellow-sorrel Similar to Wood-sorrel	Roadsides. Alien weed Dochu La
Papaveraceae <i>Meconopsis paniculata</i> <i>Meconopsis simplicifolia</i> <i>Papaver somniferum</i>	Poppy Family Large rosettes Opium Poppy	Chele La, Phephe La, Phokphey Chele La, Rudong La Occasional weed
Philadelphaceae <i>Deutzia corymbosa</i> <i>Philadelphus tomentosus</i>	Mock-orange Family	East of Phephe La Dry forest margins
Phrymaceae <i>Mazus surculosus</i> <i>Mimulus nepalensis</i>	Monkeyflower Family Monkeyflower	Grassy places Damp places
Phytolaccaceae <i>Phytolacca acinosa</i>	Pokeweed Family American Pokeweed	Roadsides. Low altitudes
Plantaginaceae <i>Hemiphragma heterophyllum</i>	Plantain and Speedwell Family Creeping herb. Pink flowers, red fruits	Meadows
Plumbaginaceae <i>Ceratostigma griffithii</i>	Plumbago Family Blue flowers	Dry hillsides. Paro valley. Endemic
Podophyllaceae <i>Sinopodophyllum hexandrum</i>	Podophyllum Family Pink flowers	Forest clearings. Phephe La

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family	
<i>Polygala sibirica</i>	Purple flowers	Open slopes
Polygonaceae	Bistort Family	
<i>Aconogonum campanulatum</i>		Common
<i>Aconogonum molle</i> var. <i>molle</i>	Creamy inflorescence	Broad-leaved forest. Common
<i>Bistorta macrophylla</i>	Large-leaved Bistort	Rudong La
<i>Bistorta vacciniifolia</i>	Vaccinium-leaved Bistort	Phephe La. Rudong La
<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	Buckwheat	Cultivated
<i>Oxyria digyna</i>	Mountain Sorrel	Rudong La
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	Weed of cultivation
<i>Polygonum capitatum</i>	Pink spherical flowerheads	Common. Low altitudes
<i>Polygonum viviparum</i>	Alpine bistort	Rudong La
<i>Rheum acuminatum</i>	A Rhubarb	Phephe La
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Pimpernel	Arable weed
<i>Androsace geraniifolia</i>	Small pink or white flowers	Forest below Taktsang
<i>Bryocarpum himalaicum</i>	Corolla yellow, lobes bidentate	Chele La, Yotong La, Phokphey
<i>Lysimachia prolifera</i>	Decumbent herb. Flowers pink or mauve	Pele la. Phephe La
<i>Primula atrodentata</i>	Dwarfer than <i>P. denticulata</i> . Bud scales absent	Chele La
<i>Primula bracteosa</i>	Lavender flowers. Leafy flower scape	Dochu La
<i>Primula calderiana</i>	Farinose. Flowers deep purple with yellow eye	Phokphey
<i>Primula capitata</i>	Narrow-leaved rosettes	Bumthang. Bamboo forest
<i>Primula denticulata</i>	Drumstick Primrose. Persistent bud scales	Common. Paro valley, Gangtey
<i>Primula dickeana</i> var. <i>aureostellata</i>	Pale yellow, with deep-yellow star-like centre	Phokphey. Endemic
<i>Primula erythrocarpa</i> (easily confused with <i>P. denticulata</i>)	Bud scales absent. Leaves pubescent above, margins ciliate	Paro Valley
<i>Primula geraniifolia</i>	Umbels of deep pink flowers	Hemlock forest. Below Phephe La
<i>Primula gracilipes</i>	Rugose leaves. Flowers pinkish-purple	Phephe La and below Phokphey
<i>Primula griffithii</i>	Flowers blue violet, golden eye	Chele La. Endemic western Bhutan
<i>Primula obliqua</i>	Large resting buds	Rudong La
<i>Primula primulina</i>	Dwarf rosettes	Mossy cliff. Rudong La
<i>Primula sikkimensis</i> var. <i>sikkimensis</i>	Not in flower	Wet flushes. Rudong La

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
<i>Primula smithiana</i>	Yellow candelabra	Wet flushes. Common
<i>Primula tanneri</i> subsp. <i>nepalensis</i>	Efarinose. Flowers yellow	Rhododendron forest. Chele La, Phokphey
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Aconitum bulbiferum</i>	Scandent herb	Forests. Bumthang
<i>Actaea acuminata</i>	Short racemes. White flowers	Hemlock and Fir forests
<i>Adonis brevistyla</i>	Leaves much divided	Forests
<i>Anemone demissa</i>	Leaves coarsely-lobed and toothed. Densely hairy	Chele La, Rudong La
<i>Anemone griffithii</i>	Sparsely hairy. White flowers	Dochu La. Phephe La
<i>Anemone rivularis</i>	White flowers in umbel	Cool forests
<i>Anemone obtusiloba</i>	Hairy plant. White or blue flowers	Forest clearings
<i>Callianthemum pimpinelloides</i>	Low herb	Phephe La
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	Wet ground. Fir forests
<i>Clematis montana</i>	Woody climber	Common
<i>Delphinium ludlowii</i>	Leaves deeply lobed, toothed	Shady ravines. Phephe La
<i>Oxygraphis endlicheri</i>	Dwarf herb. Yellow flowers	Alpine turf. Chele La
<i>Paeonia suffruticosa</i>	A Tree Peony	Gangtey Gumpa. Planted
<i>Ranunculus adoxifolius</i>	Leaflets broadly ovate	Alpine grassland
<i>Ranunculus brotherusii</i>	Procumbent herb. Leaflets deeply cut	Meadows to 4000 metres
<i>Ranunculus scleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup. 3-lobed leaves	Weed of cultivation. Paro
<i>Souliea vaginata</i>	White flowers, tinged purple	Fir forest. Phokphey
<i>Thalictrum chelidonii</i>	A Meadow-rue	Fir forests
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Agrimonia pilosa</i>	Narrowly-ovate yellow petals	Occasional. Roadsides
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> subsp. <i>triternatus</i>	Flowers in loose terminal panicles	Conifer/Rhododendron forests
<i>Cotoneaster bacillaris</i>	Small tree	Paro Chu and Bumthang
<i>Cotoneaster microphyllus</i>	Low shrub	Dry banks. Common
<i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i>	Shrub	Dochu La
<i>Duchesnea indica</i>	Yellow-flowered strawberry	Occasional. Clearings
<i>Fragaria daltoniana</i>	A Strawberry. Shiny leaf	Yutong La. Bumthang
<i>Fragaria nubicola</i>	A Strawberry. Edible	Common. Forest margins
<i>Maddenia himalaica</i>	Deciduous shrub. Racemes of creamy flowers	Forest margins
<i>Malus baccata</i>	Siberian Crab Apple	Margins of Blue Pine forest

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
<i>Malus pumila</i>	Apple	Cultivated. Paro
<i>Malus sikkimensis</i>	Leaves densely white-pubescent below	Open Forest
<i>Prinsepia utilis</i>	Tall spiny shrub. Black fruit	Valley bottoms
<i>Prunus cornuta</i>	Bird Cherry. Racemes of white flowers	Bumthang. Open forests
<i>Prunus cerasoides</i>	Large tree	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Prunus rufa</i>	Peeling brown bark. Pendulous white flowers	Phephe La
<i>Photinia integrifolia</i>	Evergreen tree. White flowers	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	Tang Valley. Arable weed
<i>Potentilla microphylla</i> var. <i>achilleifolia</i>	Feathery-leaved herb	Alpine turf. Chele La, Rudong La
<i>Potentilla peduncularis</i>	Pinnate-leaved rosettes	Phokphey. Meadows
<i>Rosa brunonii</i>	Scrambling shrub	Moist forest to 2500 metres
<i>Rosa macrophylla</i>	Erect shrub	Forest margins. Bumthang
<i>Rosa sericea</i> var. <i>sericea</i>	Erect shrub. Cream flowers	Common
<i>Rubus acuminatus</i>	Large climbing shrub. Leaves simple	Warm broad-leaved forest. Trongsa
<i>Rubus biflorus</i>	Orange-fruited bramble	Forest clearings
<i>Rubus fockeanus</i>	Creeping herb. Stems pubescent, not bristly	Mossy ground in forests
<i>Rubus fragarioides</i>	Similar to <i>R. fockeanus</i> but leaves 5-foliate	Trongsa and Bumthang
<i>Rubus hypargyrus</i>	Robust. Leaves white tomentose beneath	Bumthang
<i>Rubus niveus</i>	White stems, leaves pinnate, petals pink	Roadsides and open forest
<i>Rubus paniculatus</i>	Leaves simple. Flowers in broad panicles	Broad-leaved forest margins. Trongsa
<i>Rubus pentagonus</i>	Scrambling shrub. Broad, flat prickles	Cool broad-leaved and hemlock forest
<i>Rubus pungens</i>	Scrambling shrub to 2 metres. Numerous prickles	Dry valleys with Blue Pine
<i>Rubus treutleri</i>	Scrambling shrub. Leaves 3-5 lobed. Petals pink	Cool broad-leaved and Hemlock forest
<i>Sanguisorba filiformis</i>	White flowers	Phokphey
<i>Sorbus arachnoidea</i>	Leaves with 7-9 pairs of leaflets. Stipules large	Yutong La. Bumthang
<i>Sorbus microphylla</i>	Leaves with 9-12 pairs of leaflets.	Fir and Hemlock forest
<i>Sorbus thibetica</i>	Leaf margins serrate, tomentose beneath	Dochu la
<i>Spiraea bella</i>	Leaf margins serrate	Phephe La
<i>Spiraea canescens</i>	Leaf margins entire	Bumthang. Forest margin
Rutaceae	Rue Family	
<i>Skimmia laureola</i>	Laurel-leaved Skimmia	Damp forests
<i>Zanthoxylum armatum</i>	Spiny shrub. Pinnate, aromatic leaves	Dry hillsides. Wangdue Phodrang

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Carpinus vaginea</i>	Tree in cool broad-leaved forest	Dochu La
<i>Carpinus viminea</i>	Tree in warm broad-leaved forest	Punakha
<i>Corylus ferox</i>	A Hazel	Bumthang valley
<i>Populus ciliata</i>	Ciliate-leaved Poplar	Broad-leaved forests
<i>Populus rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Poplar	Common. Blue Pine forest
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Weeping Willow	Cultivated. Paro
<i>Salix obscura</i>	Tree to 6 metres	Streamsides in Blue Pine forest
<i>Salix serpyllum</i>	Dwarf, creeping. Catkins blackish crimson	Chele La. Rudong La
<i>Salix thomsoniana</i>	Dwarf. Long catkins	Chendbji
Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer campbellii</i>	Leaves 5-7 lobed	Oak and Hemlock forest
<i>Acer cappadocicum</i> var. <i>indicum</i>	Leaves large, petioles long, sap milky	Oak and Pine forest
<i>Acer caudatum</i>	Leaves 5 lobed, margin doubly serrate	Phephe La. Fir forest
<i>Acer hookeri</i>	Leaves unlobed, margin serrate	Cool broad-leaved forest
<i>Acer oblongum</i>	Leaves unlobed	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Acer pectinatum</i>	Leaves 3-5 lobed	Widespread. Hemlock and Fir forest
<i>Acer sikkimense</i>	Leaves unlobed	Broad-leaved forest
<i>Acer stachyophyllum</i>	Leaves unlobed, pale beneath	Hemlock forests
<i>Acer sterculiaceum</i>	Leaves 3-5 lobed, hairy	Cool broad-leaved forest
Saururaceae		
<i>Houttuynia cordata</i>	Pungent herb	Open forest. Bumthang
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
<i>Astilbe rivularis</i>	Leaves bi or triternate	Frequent. Damp banks
<i>Bergenia purpurascens</i>	Perennial wth thick rhizome	Rock ledges. Chele La
<i>Chrysosplenium forrestii</i>	Leaves alternate. Bracts bright yellow	Damp forest. Phephe La
<i>Chrysosplenium griffithii</i>	Leaves alternate. Flowers dark green	Phephe La
<i>Chrysosplenium nepalense</i>	Leaves opposite	Phephe La
<i>Saxifraga andersonii</i>	Cushion-forming herb. Petals white to pale pink	Open hillside. Chele La
<i>Saxifraga</i> sp.	Yellow flowers	Phokphey
<i>Tiarella polyphylla</i>	Spike of small white flowers	Frequent. Damp forest

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Schisandraceae <i>Schisandra grandiflora</i>	Climber	Forest
Scrophulariaceae <i>Buddleja asiatica</i> <i>Buddleja colvilei</i> <i>Buddleja crispa</i> <i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Figwort Family Mullein	Dry hillsides. Trongsa Open hillsides. Phephe La Forest below Taksang Waste ground
Symplocaceae <i>Symplocos paniculata</i>	Small tree. Peling bark	Forest and river banks
Theaceae <i>Schima wallichii</i>	Tea Family Tree. Showy white flowers	Warm broad-leaved forest. Punakha
Thymelaeaceae <i>Daphne bholua</i> <i>Daphne ludlowii</i> <i>Edgeworthia gardneri</i>	Daphne Family Scented flowers Yellow flowers Bark used for making paper	Forests Phephe La. Endemic Evergreen forest. Trongsa
Urticaceae <i>Girardinia diversifolia</i> <i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle Family Stinging herb Stinging Nettle	Common Around habitation
Verbenaceae <i>Duranda erecta</i> <i>Lantana camara</i>	Verbena Family Hedge plant. Blue flowers Shrub Verbena	Kathmandu Alien weed
Violaceae <i>Viola bhutanica</i> <i>Viola biflora</i> <i>Viola hookeri</i>	Violet Family Flowers purplish Yellow flowers Stoloniferous	Dochu La Cool forest margins Dochu La

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Amaryllidaceae	Amaryllis Family	
<i>Allium wallichii</i>	Broad leaf	Phephe La
Araceae	Arum Family	
<i>Arisaema concinnum</i>	Radiate leaflets	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Arisaema griffithii</i>	Large striped spathe	Hemlock forests
<i>Arisaema nepenthoides</i>	Tall eared spathe	Locally common
<i>Arisaema propinquum</i>	Striped glossy spathe.	Below Phephe La
<i>Arisaema speciosum</i>	Single leaf, trifoliolate	Warm broad-leaved forest
<i>Arisaema sp.</i>	Radiate leaflets	Wet bog. Phobjika
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i>	Taro	Near villages and cultivated
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family	
<i>Maianthemum oleraceum</i>	White or wine-red flowers	Shaded banks. Dochu La
<i>Ophiopogon wallichianus</i>	Purple flowers	Chendebji
<i>Polygonatum cirrhifolium</i>	Solomon's Seal	Forest
Colchicaceae	Meadow Saffron Family	
<i>Disporum cantoniense</i>	Drooping cream flowers	Banks in mixed forest
Commelinaceae	Spiderwort Family	
<i>Cyanotis vaga</i>	Flowers blue	Pasture and weed of crops
Hypoxidaceae	Hypoxis Family	
<i>Hypoxis aurea</i>	Yellow flowers	Grassy places
Iridaceae	Iris Family	
<i>Iris clarkei</i>	Flowers (not seen) dark blue	Marshes and conifer forest
<i>Iris tectorum</i>	Leaves broad. Flowers lilac-blue	Cultivated. Naturalised
Juncaceae	Rush Family	
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Heath Wood-rush	Moist grassland

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Liliaceae		
<i>Cardiocrinum giganteum</i>	Lily Family Giant Lily	Damp forest
<i>Clintonia udensis</i>	Broad leaves. Pale violet drooping flowers	Damp Forest
<i>Gagea flavonutans</i>	Drooping yellow flowers (only leaves seen)	Wet pasture. Phokphey
<i>Notholirion bulbuliferum</i>	Leaves 7-17 apex acute, 2cm broad. Many bulbils	Phephe La, Rudong La
<i>Notholirion campanulatum</i>	Similar to above. (flowers red)	Rudong La
<i>Notholirion macrophyllum</i>	Leaves 3-6 apex blunt, 0.8cm broad	Chele La to Bumthang
<i>Lilium nanum</i>	Seed capsules	Peaty hillsides among rocks. Rudong La
<i>Streptopus simplex</i>	Leaves finely acuminate. Basal lobes clasping	Rhododendron forest
Melanthiaceae		
<i>Paris polyphylla</i>	Bog Asphodel Family A Herb-Paris	Forests
<i>Paris violacea</i>	Patterned leaf	Forests
<i>Trillium govanianum</i>	Starry purple flowers	Forests
<i>Trillium tschonoskii</i> var. <i>himalaicum</i>	White of pink flowers	Forests
Nartheciaceae		
<i>Aletris gracilis</i>	Bog Asphodel Family Rosettes of leaves with fibrous remains of old leaves	Wet grassy banks
Orchidaceae		
<i>Bulbophyllum rolfei</i>	Orchid Family Epiphyte	Dochu la
<i>Bulbophyllum</i> sp.	Epiphyte	Chendebji
<i>Calanthe tricarinata</i>	Yellow and red flowers	Forests. Bumthang
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Sword-leaved Helleborine	Forest margins
<i>Coelogyne corymbosa</i>	Epiphyte. White flowers	Dochu La, Chendebji
<i>Cypripedium himalaicum</i>	A slipper orchid	Hemlock forest. Below Phephe La
<i>Dendrobium amoenum</i>	Epiphyte. Mauve flowers	Warm temperate forest
<i>Dendrobium densiflorum</i>	Dense pendant spikes of yellow flowers	Punakha Dzong. Cultivated
<i>Dendrobium nobile</i>	Maroon and white flowers	Planted, Gangtey Gompa
<i>Dendrobium</i> sp.	White flowers	Chendebji
<i>Goodyera repens</i>	Creeping Ladies Tresses	Cool forest. East of Dochu La
<i>Listera brevicaulis</i>	Small paired leaves	With mosses on logs. Below Phephe La

Latin name	Common name / Description	Notes
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Arundinaria racemosa</i>	Less than 2 metres. Transparent leaf edge absent	Coniferous forests
<i>Fargesia grossa</i>	Clump-forming to 10 metres. Used for fencing	Wet Hemlock forest
<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Rice	Cultivated
<i>Thamnocalamus spathiflorus</i>	Clump-forming. To 5 metres, above 2800 metres	Sloping sites. Mixed temperate forest
<i>Yushania micropylla</i>	Dominant after grazing. Transparent leaf edge	Subalpine pasture
(After felling or burning of forest its presence prevents regeneration of trees)		
<i>Zea mays</i>	Maize	Cultivated
Smilacaceae	Smilax Family	
<i>Smilax ferox</i>	Climber	Broad-leaved and Oak forest
Zingiberaceae	Ginger Family	
<i>Cautleya gracilis</i>	Shoots to 40cm. Flowers yellow	Moist banks or epiphytic. Oak forest
<i>Curcuma aromatica</i>	Pink bracts. Flowers before levaea	Wangdue Phodrang
<i>Hedychium spicatum</i>	Flowers white, tinged yellow or red at base	Broad-leaved forest
<i>Roscoea tibetica</i>	Purple flowers	Moist meadows

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Latin name	May															
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	✓														✓	✓
2	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	✓															✓
3	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>					✓											
4	Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>															✓	
5	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>															✓	
6	Himalayan (Griffon) Vulture	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>														✓		
7	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>									✓							
8	Hill Partridge	<i>Arborophila torqueola</i>				H	H					H	H					
9	Blood Pheasant	<i>Ithaginis cruentus</i>			✓								✓					
10	Satyr Tragopan	<i>Tragopan satyra</i>													✓			
11	Kalij Pheasant	<i>Lophura leucomelanos</i>		✓	✓													
12	Himalayan Monal	<i>Lophophorus impejanus</i>			✓													

	Common name	Latin name	May															
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
13	Black-tailed Crake	<i>Porzana bicolor</i>															✓	
14	Ibisbill	<i>Ibidorhyncha struthersii</i>		H				✓										
15	River Lapwing	<i>Vanellus duvaucelii</i>				✓												
16	Red-wattled Plover	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>																✓
17	Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenurus</i>															✓	✓
18	Speckled Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba hodgsonii</i>				✓	✓											
19	Laughing Dove	<i>Spilopelia senegalensis</i>																
20	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>				✓	✓	✓										✓
21	Oriental Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	□	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22	Barred Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>															✓	✓
23	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	✓					□					□			□		
24	Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			H	H	✓	H	H	H		✓			✓	H	H	
25	Himalayan Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i>																✓
26	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>																H
27	Lesser Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus poliocephalus</i>							□	✓								
28	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococyx sparverioides</i>			H	H												✓
29	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopaceus</i>				✓												
30	Grey Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus jotaka</i>							✓	✓				✓	✓			
31	Himalayan Owl	<i>Strix nivicolum</i>									✓							
32	Himalayan Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus brevirostris</i>						✓										
33	Little Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>	✓															
34	Fork-tailed Swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>			✓		✓								✓	✓	✓	□
35	White-throated Needletail	<i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i>					✓											
36	White-throated (White-breasted) Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>					H											
37	Crested Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle lugubris</i>													✓			
38	Great Barbet	<i>Psilopogon virens</i>															✓	
39	Blue-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>															✓	
40	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		H				✓	✓	✓	
41	Darjeeling Pied Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos darjellensis</i>																✓
42	Rufous-bellied (Pied) Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos hyperythrus</i>								H								✓
43	Yellow-rumped Honeyguide	<i>Indicator xanthonotus</i>																✓
44	Maroon Oriole	<i>Oriolus traillii</i>																✓

	Common name	Latin name	May															
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
45	Oriental Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>												✓				
46	Nepal House Martin	<i>Delichon nipalensis</i>				✓	✓								✓			
47	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓	✓		
48	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
49	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
50	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>													✓			
51	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa flavirostris</i>			✓			✓								✓	✓	
52	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓			
53	Grey Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta formosae</i>															✓	
54	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				
55	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
56	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	✓	✓			✓										✓	✓
57	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
58	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina melaschistos</i>															✓	
59	Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>														✓		
60	Long-tailed Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus ethologus</i>							✓									
61	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		
62	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
63	Rufous-winged Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe castaneiceps</i>				✓												
64	White-browed Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe vinipectus</i>		✓									✓					
65	Red-tailed Minla	<i>Minla ignotincta</i>								✓		✓		✓				
66	Blue-winged Minla	<i>Minla cyanouroptera</i>					✓											
67	Bar-throated (Chestnut-tailed) Minla	<i>Minla strigula</i>				✓												
68	White-throated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax albogularis</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	
69	Spotted Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax ocellatus</i>			H					H		H	✓	H				
70	Striated Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax striatus</i>															✓	
71	Black-faced Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron affine</i>			✓					H	✓		H					
72	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	<i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i>			✓		✓										✓	
73	Rufous-bellied Niltava	<i>Niltava sundara</i>												✓				
74	Dark-sided Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa sibirica</i>							✓								✓	
75	Ultramarine Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula superciliaris</i>							✓									
76	Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula strophiatea</i>								✓	✓							

	Common name	Latin name	May															
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
77	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>				✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓	
78	Yellow-bellied Fantail	<i>Chelidorhynch hypoxanthus</i>							✓	✓	✓	✓						
79	Whistler's Warbler	<i>Seicercus whistleri</i>							☐	✓	☐	☐						
80	Brown-flanked (Strong-footed) Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis (Cettia) fortipes</i>													✓		✓	
81	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus reguloides</i>								✓								
82	Large-billed Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus magnirostris</i>															✓	
83	Buff-barred Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus pulcher</i>											✓					
84	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>												✓				
85	Grey-sided Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia brunnifrons</i>											✓					
86	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	✓		✓		✓								✓	✓	✓	✓
87	Indian Blue Robin	<i>Larvivora brunnea</i>				✓			✓									
88	White-capped (Water) Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>		✓			✓				✓	✓					✓	
89	Plumbeous Water Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fuliginosus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
90	Brown Dipper	<i>Cinclus pallasii</i>																
91	Grey Bush Chat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>		✓				✓		✓								
92	Blue-capped Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola cinclorhyncha</i>					✓	✓										✓
93	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola rufiventris</i>					✓											
94	Blue Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓	
95	Alpimne (Plain-backed) Thrush	<i>Zoothera mollissima</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	☐	☐	☐	✓	✓		
96	Scaly Thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>							✓									
97	White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>										✓		✓				
98	White-collared Blackbird	<i>Turdus albocinctus</i>			✓												✓	
99	Grey-winged Blackbird	<i>Turdus boulboul</i>				✓												✓
100	Rufous-vented Yuhina	<i>Yuhina occipitalis</i>								✓	✓							
101	Stripe-throated Yuhina	<i>Yuhina gularis</i>								✓								
102	Grey Crested Tit	<i>Parus dichrous</i>									✓							
103	Green-backed Tit	<i>Lophophanes monticolus</i>				✓	✓		✓			✓					✓	✓
104	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
105	Rufous-fronted Bush Tit	<i>Aegiothalos iouschistos</i>							H					✓			✓	
106	White-tailed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta himalayensis</i>											✓					
107	Hodgson's Treecreeper	<i>Certhia hodgsoni</i>											✓					
108	Rusty-flanked Treecreeper	<i>Certhia nipalensis</i>								✓	✓							

	Common name	Latin name	May																
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
109	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>					✓										✓		
110	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓			✓	
111	White-browed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>																	
112	Green-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga nipalensis</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	☐	☐	✓	✓				
113	Mrs Gould's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga gouldiae</i>											✓						
114	Fire-tailed Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>											✓						
115	Rufous Sibia	<i>Heterophasia capistrata</i>				✓	✓												✓
116	Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i>					✓												
117	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>		✓			✓	✓											✓
118	Grey-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>		✓	✓	✓		☐	✓	✓	✓	☐	✓				✓	✓	
119	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											✓
120	Russet Sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>							✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			
121	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓	☐															
122	Plain Mountain Finch	<i>Leucosticte nemoricola</i>															✓		
123	Red-headed Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula erythrocephala</i>										✓	☐						
124	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>										✓	☐						
125	Collared Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas affinis</i>			✓														
126	Spot-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas melanozanthos</i>					✓												
127	White-winged Grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>					☐				✓	✓							
128	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>				✓													

Mammals

1	Himalayan Black Bear	<i>Selenarctos thibetanus</i>					✓	☐											
2	Assam Macaque	<i>Macaca assamensis</i>				☐	✓	✓											
3	Grey Langur	<i>Presbytis entellus</i>					✓	☐										✓	
4	Takin	<i>Budorcas taxicolor</i>					☐	☐										✓	
5	Northern Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus pennantii</i>	✓																✓
6	Hoary-bellied Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus pygerythrus</i>				✓													
7	Large-eared Pika	<i>Ochotona macrotis</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓										✓