

From good to great guides”

Ref No. GAB/Admin’/-2023/01-08

Date: August 18, 2023

NOTIFICATION REGARDING THE STANDARDIZATION OF DSA

Dear Tourist Guides,

We hope this message finds you in good health. Well, this letter serves as a follow-up to the meeting held between tourist guides and officials from the Department of Tourism on June 23, 2023. We highly value your input and insights regarding the standardization of the Daily Sustenance Allowance (DSA) for tourist guides, and we are grateful for the valuable discussions that took place.

During the meeting and among many other discussions, it was brought that the current DSA structure poses challenges, particularly when tours are conducted outside Thimphu. We also acknowledge that most hotels do not provide rooms and meals for tourist guides, leading to difficulties in managing accommodation and meals with the minimum DSA provided. We understand that this issue impacts your confidence and morale in delivering your professional services, despite being recognized as one of the most important components of the tourism industry.

These standardized rates have been thoughtfully devised to consider the varying expenses incurred during different tours. We aim to create a fair and equitable system that appropriately compensates you for your invaluable services.

We deeply appreciate your dedication and contribution to the tourism industry in Bhutan. Your expertise and professionalism play a vital role in creating memorable experiences for visitors to our beautiful country.

After carefully considering the concerns and the rational note provided, we the board directors have come to a conscience and endorsed the DSA as follows. And we also request you all to kindly adhere with the same.

- 1. 1 to 3 Pax (SUV & Small Vehicle): Nu. 3,000/- minimum per day**
- 2. 4 to 7 Pax (Hi-Ace Bus/Mini Bus): Nu. 3,500/- minimum per day**
- 3. 8 to 10 (Toyota Coaster Bus): Nu. 4,000/- minimum per day**
- 4. 11 and above (Toyota Coaster Bus): Nu. 4,500/-**

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We acknowledge the scarcity of Senior Tourist Guides and Tour Leaders, many of whom own tour companies and may not be available to handle tours for others or walk-in tourists. Rest assured, we will explore suitable solutions to address this challenge effectively.

DSA for Trekking Tours:

- 1. Trekking: Nu. 4500/- (Minimum per day, depending on the size of the group)**
- 2. Snowman Trek (Level I, II & III): Nu. 8000/- (Minimum per day, depending on the size of the group)**

DSA for Specialized Language Tours:

- 1. Japanese and Chinese: USD 50 – 100**
- 2. Other Languages: USD 100 and above**

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and continuous support. Together, we can further enhance the tourism experience in Bhutan and ensure the well-being of all involved. Best regards,



(Garab Dorji)
Chairman,
Guide Association of Bhutan