



Ecotourism Geo Mapping Survey Report

Haa Dzongkhag



JIGME KHESAR STRICT NATURE RESERVE

Department of Forests and Park Services

Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

Haa, Bhutan

2023-2024

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 **HELVETAS**
BHUTAN



Ecotourism Mapping Report

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FOREWORD

As the custodian of the pristine landscapes and rich cultural heritage of Haa District, it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present the "Ecotourism Geo Mapping Survey Report." In collaboration with the Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve (JKSNR), Department of Tourism, we embarked on a meticulous endeavor to chart every trail, cultural site, and natural wonder within our region.

This comprehensive mapping initiative not only signifies our commitment to promoting sustainable tourism but also serves as a testament to our dedication to conserving the natural and cultural splendor that defines Haa. Through meticulous data collection and analysis, we have crafted a comprehensive guide that ensures visitors have access to accurate information while treading carefully on our pristine environment.

From the rugged mountain trails to the serene monasteries nestled in the valleys, every corner of Haa has been meticulously documented, including altitude, distance, and estimated travel time. This invaluable resource will not only facilitate tourism but also serve as a tool for conservation, allowing us to protect our cherished landscapes for generations to come.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in this monumental effort, from the dedicated teams at the JKSNR, Department of Tourism, and HELVETAS Country Office for their fund support in carrying out this activity. Together, we have laid the foundation for a more sustainable and responsible approach to tourism, ensuring that Haa remains a beacon of natural beauty and cultural richness for all who seek to explore its wonders.

Tashi Delek!



(Melam Zangpo)
DZONGDAG

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1. Introduction

Haa Dzongkhag, located in the western part of Bhutan, is a relatively small district endowed with rich natural and cultural assets with an area of 1,899.20 square kilometers. Acknowledging the positive impacts of tourism, the Royal Government of Bhutan, in its 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023), recognizes ecotourism as one of the flagship programs with the potential to improve livelihoods, create youth employment and diversify the economy while contributing in preserving Bhutan's rich cultural and natural heritage. It is within this context that the Dzongkhag Administration had developed "Destination Haa – Tourism Action Plan (2018-2023)" to fulfill its vision for developing Haa as a unique tourism destination. Almost all the 20 districts of the country have acknowledged tourism as the most promising path towards improving people's livelihood. Likewise, Haa with its unique culture and rich biodiversity is looking towards tourism development to diversify its economic growth, but very few developments have been made in this regard- the number of visiting tourists remains small relative to the immense potential of Haa as a destination for the forests and nature enthusiasts. Such places of historical, cultural significance and diverse flora and fauna have great potential to draw tourists in the future and attract nature and culture enthusiasts from within and outside the country.

Haa, known for its natural beauty and cultural heritage, was selected for the mapping project. GPS technology was employed to collect precise data on ecotourism sites, ensuring accurate mapping and tracking of potential tourist destinations for Haa. The team was assigned to collect geo points and tracks through GPS and SW Map. The team from JKSNR was deployed in the field for geo data collection on Lhakhang, Goenpa, Chorten, Nye and other religious sites, Gewog Office, VIIC, Hotels, Farmhouse, Ecotourism Trekking Route, Paved and Unpaved Roads.

1.1 Objectives

The purpose of the Geo mapping is;

- ✓ To identify key ecotourism attractions (products), assess accessibility, and provide a comprehensive overview for sustainable tourism development for Haa.

2. Survey Sites

The survey area cover Samar, Eusu, Katsho, Bji, Gakiling and Sangbay gewog to collect geo reference point and track for all Lhakhang, Nye, Chorten, Other religious sites, Gewog Office, VIIC, Hotels, Farmhouse, Eco-trail, Paved and Unpaved roads, other important amenities.

3. Approaches: Survey Modality

Data collected modality was done through GPS and SW Map: The field survey aimed to map ecotourism products under six gewogs, Haa Dzongkhag, utilizing points and tracks through GPS and SW map.

- **GPS Geo Points Collection:** Trained surveyors utilized GPS devices to record ecotourism sites, capturing relevant information such as latitude, longitude, elevation and time.
- **Track Recording:** Tracks were recorded both paved and unpaved roads, Trails, Trekking Route during the survey to analyze travel routes and assess accessibility to ecotourism attractions.
- **Data Validation:** Collected data was cross-verified for accuracy and consistency.



4. Outcome: Mapping

Within given scheduled, the team has conducted Ecotourism Product Mapping for Samar, Eusu, Katsho, Bji, Gakiling and Sangbay gewogs:

GPS Coordinates: [Latitude, Longitude] for all points

Attractions: Ancient monastery, traditional architecture, farmhouse, hotels, scenic landscape.

Accessibility: Paved and unpaved road access, Trail or trekking route. Trekking Route suitable for cultural enthusiasts.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage: Mapping cultural sites helps in the preservation of Haa's rich cultural heritage. By highlighting and promoting these sites, there is an increased awareness of their historical and cultural significance, encouraging both locals and tourists to appreciate and protect them.

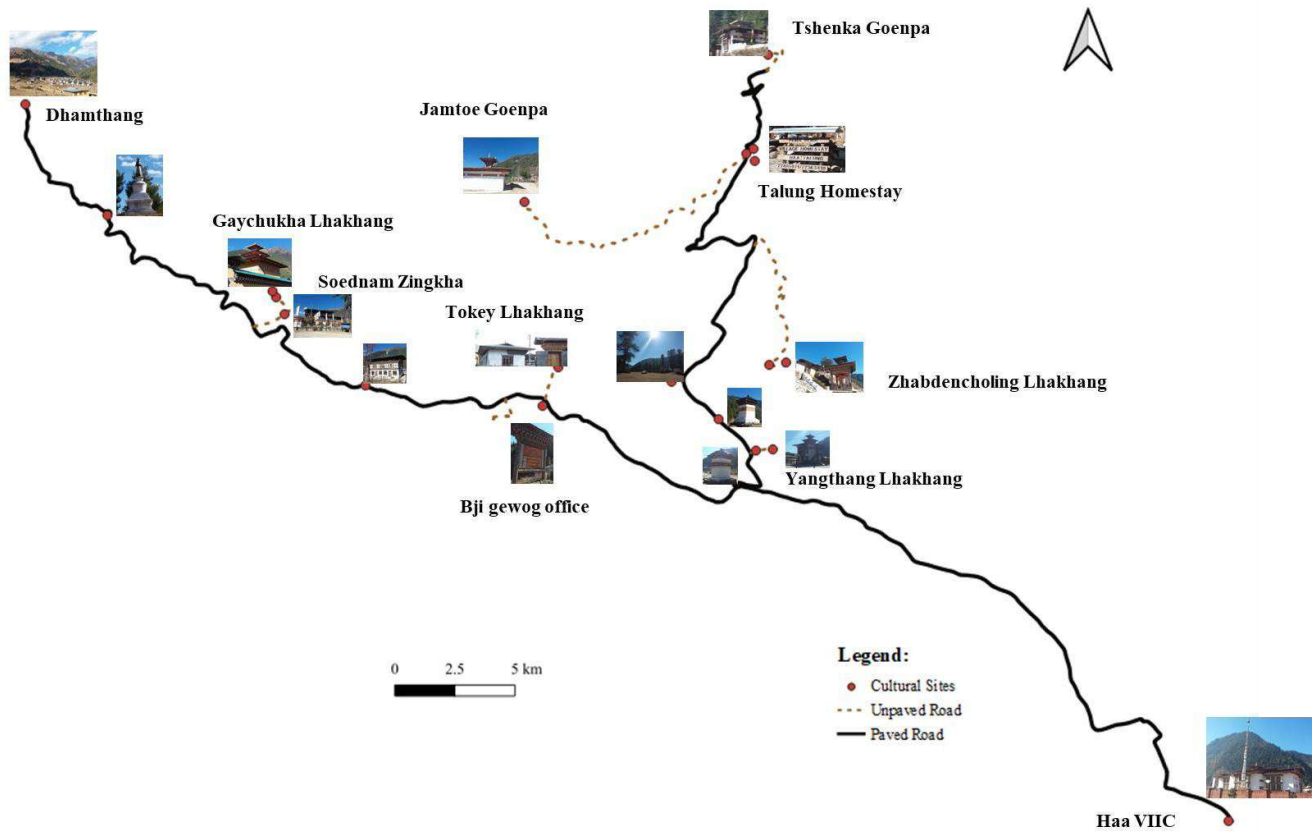
Tourist Engagement and Education: Cultural sites and eco-trail mapping provide a structured way for tourists to explore and understand the local culture, history, and environment. Interpretive signage and information at key points on the map can educate visitors about the importance of preserving the natural and cultural aspects and rich biodiversity of Haa.

Boost to Local Economy: A well-organized ecotourism destination attracts more tourists (national, regional and international), leading to increased economic opportunities for local businesses, such as hotels, restaurants, farmhouse, handicraft shops, and job opportunity to our local guide. This, in turn, can contribute to the overall economic development of the community and as well as Dzongkhag.

Haa Dzongkhag, located in western Bhutan, is renowned for its stunning natural landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and unique historical sites. In this report, we document the record of time taken and kilometer distances to reach various tourism sites within Haa Dzongkhag. This information is crucial for tourists and local authorities to plan journeys effectively and promote sustainable tourism in the region.

4.1 Cultural sites mapping under Bji gewog

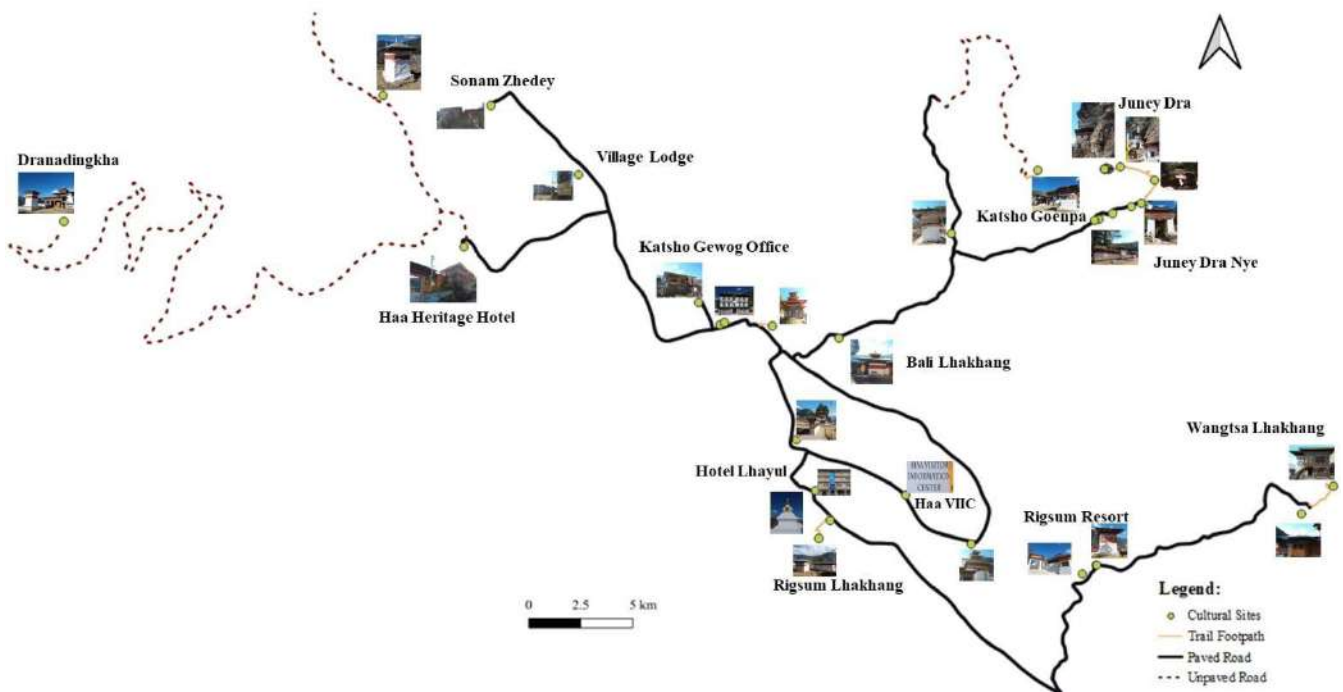
Bhutan is known for its stunning natural landscapes, rich culture, and unique traditions. Bji Gewog under Haa Dzongkhag offers several potential tourist destinations that visitors can explore. Exploring Bji Gewog in Haa Dzongkhag offers visitors a unique blend of spirituality, culture, and natural beauty, making it a memorable destination in Haa. Travelling to a place like Yangthang Lhakhang, Yangtoe Goenpa, Jamtoe Goenpa, Gaychukha Lhakhang under Bji gewog which can offer you unique blend of culture, nature and tradition. Every moment here is a journey worth taking. Situated in different village in Bji, homestays in Talung and Haatoe, once a simple farmhouse, has been transformed to offer additional cozy rooms, welcoming guests to a comfortable haven. They ensure that the guest experience is one of comfort, warmth and authentic connection with farming and Bhutanese culture.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.38460	89.28490	2680
Yangthang Chorten	00:20:00	5.35	27.40990	89.25230	2736
Yangthang Lhakhang	00:02:00	5.48	27.41020	89.25330	2733
Yangthang Chorten	00:02:00	5.66	27.41190	89.24970	2748
Chundu Ground	00:02:00	6.10	27.41490	89.24630	2772
Yanto Goenpa chorten	00:15:00	8.62	27.41580	89.25320	2952
Zhabden Choling	00:15:00	8.74	27.41580	89.25430	2977
Aum Pema Farmhouse	00:20:00	8.79	27.43020	89.25180	2958
Aum Tsheri Farmhouse	00:02:00	8.82	27.42990	89.25190	2941
Aum Kiba Farmhouse	00:02:00	8.90	27.43100	89.25190	2956
Tshenka Goenpa	00:10:00	10.20	27.43720	89.25380	3053
Jamtoe Goenpa	00:22:00	10.90	27.42450	89.23800	3144
Bji gewog office	00:15:00	6.49	27.41320	89.23780	2842
Tokey Lhakhang	00:05:00	6.78	27.41570	89.23860	2809
Aum Tsheri Farmhouse	00:10:00	7.83	27.41430	89.22550	2894
Soednam Zingka	00:15:00	9.17	27.41920	89.21980	2909
Lechuna Heritage	00:03:00	9.35	27.42050	89.21920	2910
Gaychukha Lhakhang	00:05:00	9.42	27.42080	89.21890	2914
Damthang Chorten	00:15:00	10.70	27.42640	89.20730	2981
Damthang Gate	00:05:00	11.90	27.43350	89.20190	3025

4.2 Cultural sites mapping under Katsho gewog

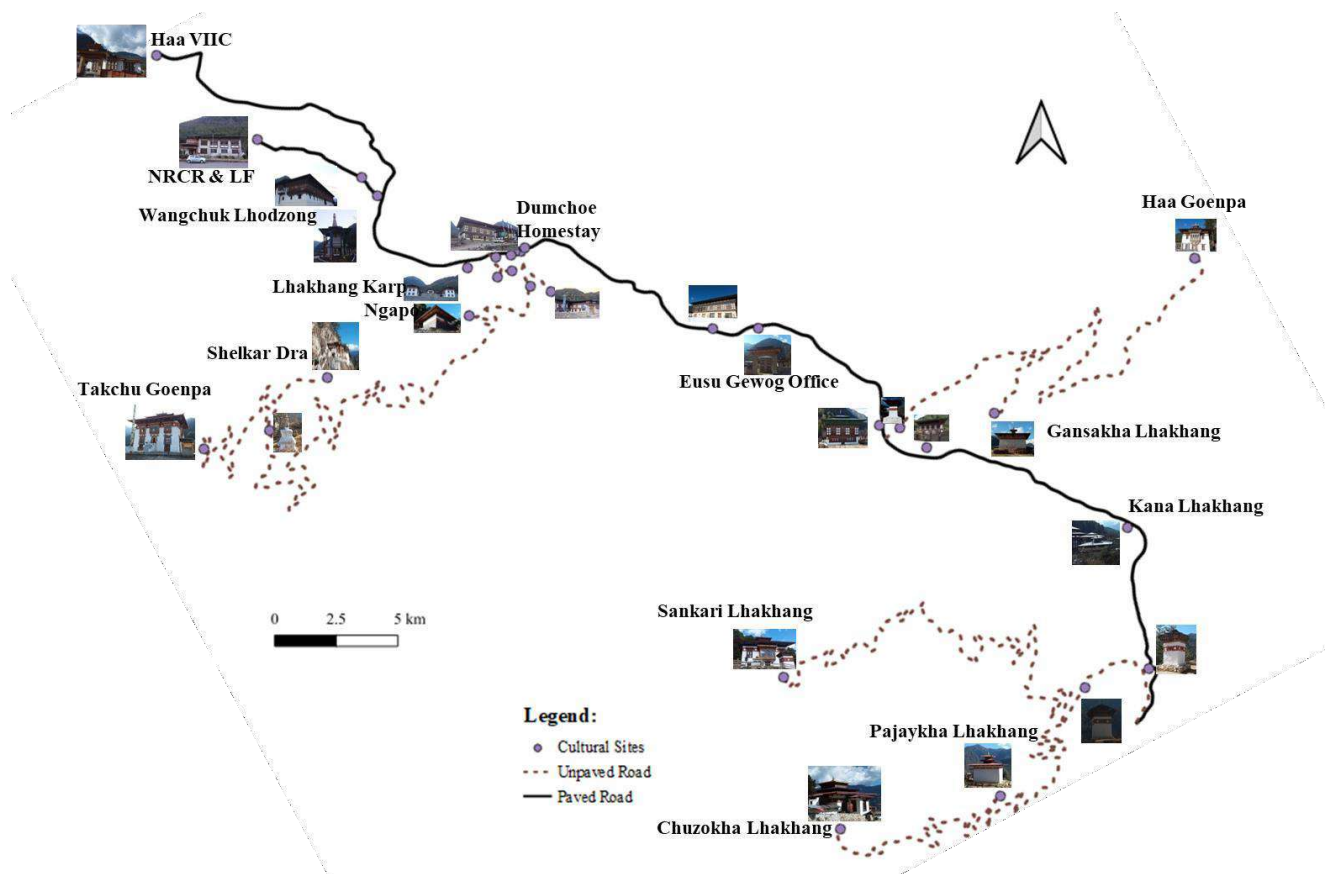
Katsho Gewog in Haa Dzongkhag also offers a range of attractions and destinations that tourists can explore. In addition to its natural and cultural attractions, it also offers accommodation options and opportunities for trekking adventures. With these hotel options, the Katsho Eco Camp, and diverse trekking experiences, visitors to Katsho Gewog can immerse themselves in nature, culture, and adventure while enjoying comfortable accommodations. Katsho gewog can offer many cultural significance Lhakhang and trekking route; Dranadingkha, Wangtsha Lhakhang, the Panorama hiking trail that starts from Yangthang Goenpa passess through Katsho Goenpa and Juney Dra and ends at the Wangtsha village and Lhakhang. Katsho Eco Camp at Domtoe are committed in providing a unique and unforgettable experience for guests, with a focus on sustainability, eco-friendliness, and responsible tourism practices. Eco Camp invite can offer you the experience of natural beauty, tranquility, and healing power from the hot stone bath which has many medicinal values for various ailments..



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.38420	89.28520	2681
Hotel Lhayul	00:05:00	0.64	27.38480	89.28150	2678
Gongzim Chorten	00:01:00	0.76	27.38380	89.28210	2681
Rigsum Lhakhang	00:05:00	0.86	27.38300	89.28160	2690
Rigsum Resort	00:12:00	1.79	27.38150	89.29160	2737
Wangtsha Chorten	00:01:0	1.86	27.38210	89.29210	2749
Wangtsha Lhakhang	00:17:00	3.00	27.38510	89.30100	2887
Kinley Om Farmhouse	00:02:00	2.91	27.38400	89.29970	2859
RBA Chorten	00:01:00	0.33	27.38300	89.28740	2695
Bali Lhakhang	00:07:00	1.72	27.39070	89.28240	2728
Karmapa Chorten	00:10:00	2.94	27.39500	89.29220	2852
Karmapa Zhugthre	00:01:00	2.92	27.39500	89.29200	2854
Guru Nye	00:01:00	3.00	27.39530	89.29270	2860
Nye Deme Ma	00:01:00	3.10	27.39560	89.29330	2868
Kang Ngyem chorten	00:01:00	3.13	27.39560	89.29370	2872
Choepotey	00:08:00	3.25	27.39650	89.29420	2900
Guru Sangchab	00:10:00	3.45	27.39700	89.29300	2946
Chorten Kang Ngyema	00:04:00	3.50	27.39690	89.29250	2965
Guru NgyemSo Zhugsa	00:05:0	3.51	27.39690	89.29220	2978
Guru Auzha	00:01:00	3.51	27.39700	89.29210	2973
Sangaytong	00:01:00	3.52	27.39700	89.29220	2971
Guru Zhabjay	00:0100	3.52	27.39690	89.29210	2974
Juney Dra Nye	00:05:00	3.52	27.39690	89.29200	2965
Juney Dra	00:18:00	3.52	27.39690	89.29230	2969
Yatam Chorten	00:19:00	2.43	27.39450	89.28660	2783
Katsho Goenpa	00:19:00	4.35	27.39690	89.28980	2994
Medicine Bhudda	00:25:00	1.73	27.39110	89.27990	2706
Jigme River Lodge	00:01:00	1.91	27.39110	89.27810	2694
Ingo Chorten	00:01:00	1.84	27.39120	89.27820	2698
Katsho Gewog office	00:04:00	2.00	27.39210	89.27710	2694
Village Lodge	00:08:00	2.88	27.39700	89.27290	2708
Sonam Zhedey	00:07:00	3.36	27.39940	89.26940	2734
Ngatsho Chorten	00:11:00	4.59	27.39970	89.26540	2748
Dranadingkha	00:40:00	7.93	27.39490	89.25330	3232
Haa Heritage Hotel	00:30:00	3.37	27.39420	89.26830	2771
Haa Mini Park	00:10:00	0.52	27.38700	89.28070	2684

4.3 Cultural sites mapping under Eusu gewog

Eusu Gewog under Haa Dzongkhag offers a variety of rich cultural sites that provide visitors with insights into Bhutanese traditions, history, and way of life. Many Lhakhangs like Takchu Goenpa, Shelkar Dra “White Crystal Cliff” seemingly growing naturally from the cliffside, blending with the rocks, Haa Goenpa, Lhakhang Karpo and Ngapo, is a profound history with significant temple with deep cultural and religious significance. Visit local farmhouses or homestay to experience the daily life of Bhutanese families where you can experience comfort, warmth and authentic connection. Visitors can immerse themselves in the warmth of Haa hospitality while experiencing the authentic traditions of this enchanting area. In Haa, where traditional ways of making a living through farming and animals prevail, the homestay becomes a unique opportunity for visitors to share in the rich fabric of the community.

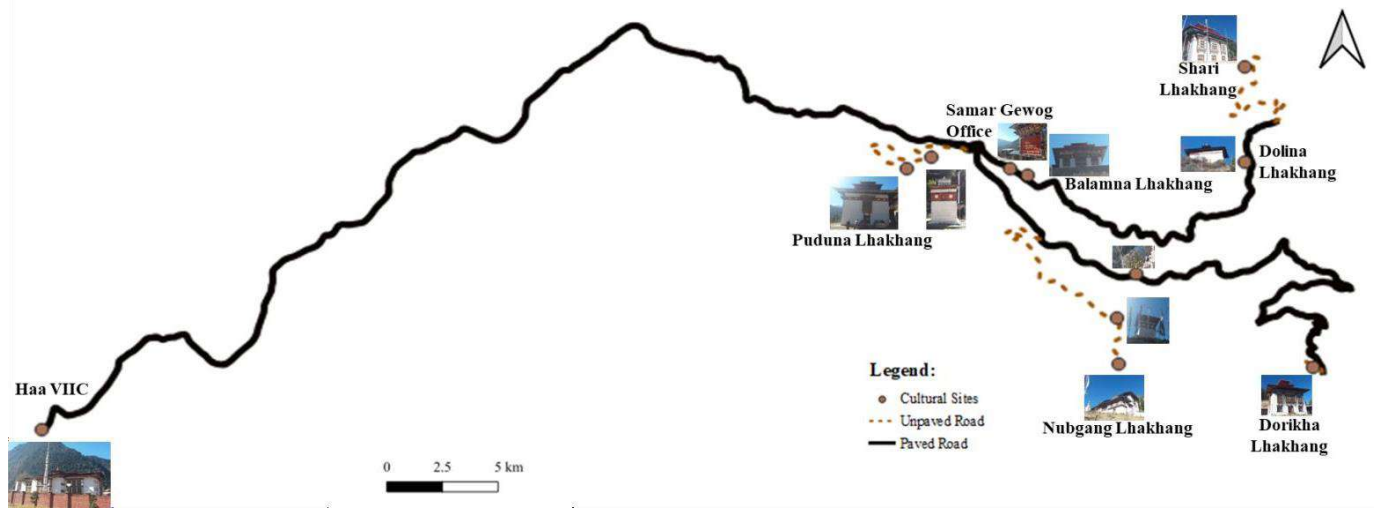


Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.0	27.38440	89.28510	2683
Geyrina Chorten	00:30:00	11.00	27.32090	89.31830	2614
Pajaykha Lhakhang	00:15:00	13.80	27.31720	89.31000	2862
Chuzokha Lhakhang	00:20:00	16.00	27.32020	89.30010	3090
Sankari Lhakhang	01:41:00	16.70	27.33040	89.30170	3125
Geri Chorten	01:00:00	9.67	27.32020	89.32260	2603
Kana Lhakhang	00:06:00	8.63	27.32920	89.32550	2615
Sherab Farmhouse	00:07:00	7.15	27.33900	89.31640	2613
Tshaphel Chorten	00:08:00	6.87	27.34110	89.31570	2626
Haa Goenpa	00:35:00	11.30	27.34180	89.33740	2948
Gansakha Lhakhang	01:00:00	8.87	27.33910	89.32160	2780
Zangmo Farmhouse	00:18:00	6.70	27.34180	89.31480	2609
Eusu gewog office	00:08:00	5.51	27.35090	89.31090	2651
Pema Om Farmhouse	00:03:00	5.11	27.35200	89.30800	2654
Phub Dem Farmhouse	00:15:00	3.96	27.35920	89.30010	2668
Lhakhang Nagpo	00:10:00	4.48	27.36020	89.29480	2727
Shelkar Dra	00:22:00	10.40	27.36120	89.28430	3046
Takchu Chorten	00:08:00	9.73	27.35980	89.28000	3083
Takchu Goenpa	00:12:00	11.80	27.36090	89.27590	3273
Tshewang Choden Farmhouse	00:03:00	3.83	27.36010	89.29890	2674
Dumcho chorten	00:03:00	3.57	27.36220	89.29960	2656
Homestay Choden	00:05:00	3.61	27.36230	89.29970	2659
Chimi Farmhouse	00:01:00	3.55	27.36230	89.29930	2663
Kinley Wangchu Farmhouse	00:01:00	3.59	27.36240	89.29910	2663
Jampelyang Hotel	00:04:00	3.42	27.36300	89.29780	2674
Ingokha Chorten	00:05:00	3.58	27.36170	89.29780	2681
Ugyen farmhouse	00:01:00	3.57	27.36150	89.29830	2677
Lhakhang Karpo	00:06:00	3.29	27.36310	89.29630	2673
NRCR & LF	00:09:00	3.26	27.37640	89.28810	2672
Wangchuk Lho Dzong	00:05:00	2.47	27.37080	89.29300	2688
Lhodzong Chorten	00:01:00	2.31	27.36950	89.29350	2679

4.4 Cultural site mapping under Samar gewog

Samar Gewog, located in Haa Dzongkhag, Bhutan, offers a wealth of cultural and traditional experiences for tourists. From ancient temples to picturesque villages, visitors to Samar can immerse themselves in the unique heritage of Bhutan. Whether exploring ancient temples like Shari Lhajkgang, Dorikha Lhakhang, and Nubgang Lhakhang, interacting with villagers, or participating in local festivals, visitors can create lasting memories while discovering the rich culture of Bhutan.

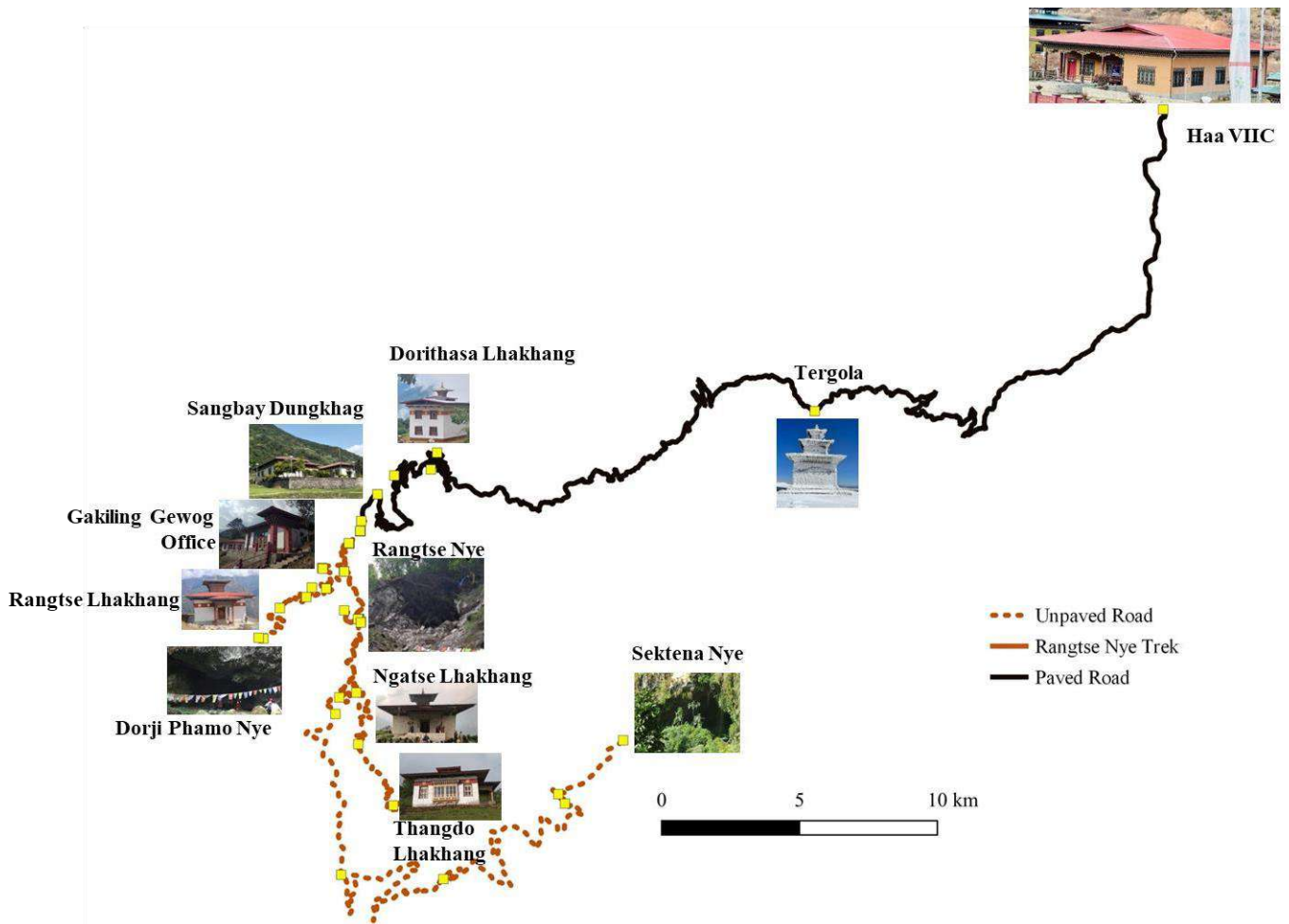
Nestled amidst the verdant landscapes, the Haachu River flowing through Samar Gewog presents an idyllic setting for trout fishing enthusiasts. This serene area not only offers the chance to reel in the prized catch of trout but also provides a profound experience of nature's tranquility and beauty.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longtitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.38470	89.28500	2680
Puduna Chorten	00:50:00	13.60	27.29960	89.31290	2546
Puduna Lhakhang	00:15:00	14.90	27.30200	89.31180	2597
Nubgang Chorten	00:45:00	16.50	27.28210	89.29640	2739
Nubgang Lhakhang	00:07:00	17.20	27.28180	89.29180	2706
Trout Fishing Sites	00:22:00	15.30	27.27650	89.30080	2522
Dorikha Lhakhang	00:25:00	21.60	27.26330	89.29160	2982
Samar gewog office	01:08:00	13.30	27.29240	89.31190	2655
Balamna Lhakhang	00:15:00	13.50	27.29090	89.31090	2656
Dholina Lhakhang	00:15:00	17.40	27.26930	89.31140	2715
Shari Lhakhang	00:23:00	19.90	27.26970	89.32200	2912

4.5 Cultural site mapping under Gakiling gewog

The team has collected geo-coordinates and track route for Gewog Centre, Dorithasa village, Rangtse Nye, Youkha, Rangtse School, Ngatsena, Thangdokha, Sektena and Fentena Lhakhang, Guest house, Chorten, Rivers, bridges, Paved and Unpaved roads and Basic Health Unit under Gakiling Gewog. Gakiling can showcase different religious sites to the visitors to enjoy and draw tourists in the future and attract nature enthusiastic. The most important and frequent visited is Rangtse also known as Sangbe Rinchenling under Gakiling gewog. Therefore, explore yourself the most unique and sacred abode cave of Guru Rinpoche and Khando Yeshey Tshogyal, where you can take memories and leave footprints after visiting Rangtse Nye. Similar to Rangtse Nye on the north, the naturally formed Khandro Dorji Phagmoi cave is found on the base of a hill. The cave is mysterious for number of reasons; no one knows the physical depth and the vastness of it and one can come across a stream as strange as it flows without any source or end in sight.



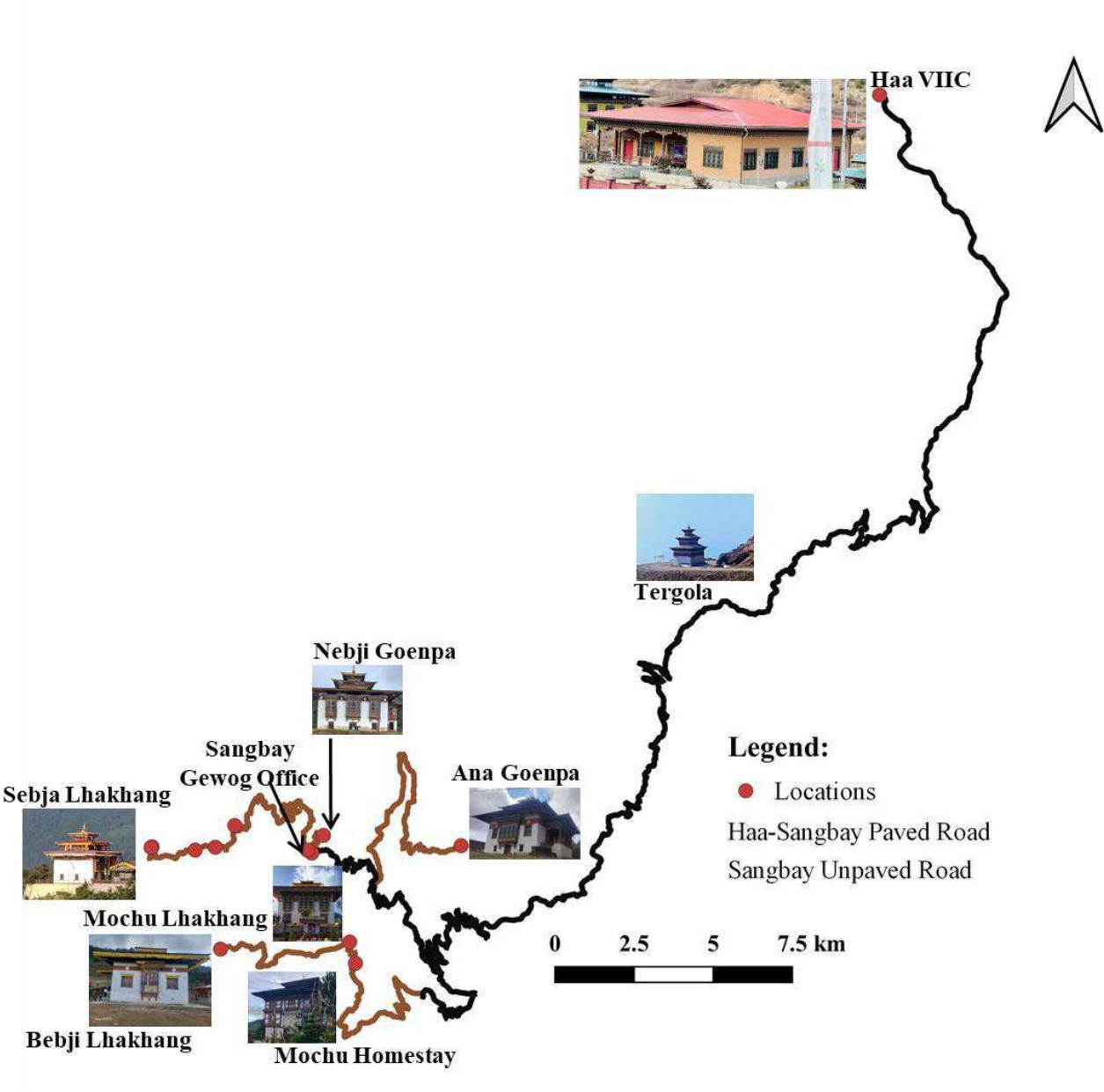
Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.38460	89.28490	2680
Gakiling Range	05:05:00	77.14	27.115249	89.145268	772
Gewog Center	00:45:00	4.30	27.093501	89.148013	1246
Rangtse Lhakhang	00:45:00	0.25	27.093673	89.148018	1246
Youkha Lhakhang	00:35:00	3.93	27.079193	89.138882	1763
Dorji Pham Nye Junction	00:30:00	2.26	27.067984	89.140881	1380
Dorji Pham Nye	00:10:00	0.98	27.067245	89.139334	1342
Rangtse Nye	01:00:00	2.82	27.092176	89.164355	759
Nyechhu	03:55:50	0.83	27.091817	89.165472	684
Putsena Junction	00:20:00	5.10	27.067766	89.176007	861
Ngatse Lhakhang	00:55:00	7.80	27.059354	89.19186	1082
Thangdokha Lhakhang	01:25:00	5.20	27.050383	89.215691	1480
Dorithasa Lhakhang	01:00:00	57.80	27.150869	89.150046	1804
Khamena Junction	00:45:00	64.10	27.136417	89.142701	1301
Amochu Bridge	00:40:00	70.09	27.128174	89.141965	837
Shebjithang Chorten	00:08:00	71.39	27.118039	89.143214	849
Sangbay Drungkhag	03:40:00	71.56	27.115238	89.145068	786
Haa Samtse Boundary	02:10:00	9.89	27.06266	89.178532	866
Sektena Nye	03:05:00	50.69	27.112953	89.268043	1236

4.6 Cultural site mapping under Sangbay gewog

Sangbay geog is so called because there are many hidden treasures to be revealed at fortunate times by enlightened beings in the future. Tergola is known as „*the door to hidden treasure land*“ which is the door towards Sangbay and Sangbay geog is known to be the “*hidden treasure land*”. Sangbay Gewog has provided a comprehensive understanding of the region's potential for sustainable tourism growth. The meticulous use of GPS points and tracks has yielded valuable information regarding the accessibility of ecotourism products and the challenges associated with their promotion. The mapping of cultural sites and eco-trails contributes to the overall branding of Haa as a premier ecotourism destination. This strategic approach has the potential to attract a specific segment of tourists interested in immersive cultural and nature-based experiences, thereby enhancing the destination's reputation. It is also home to the native breed of cattle- **Nublang**. Such places of historical, cultural significance and

diverse flora and fauna have great potential to draw tourists in the future and attract nature enthusiasts.

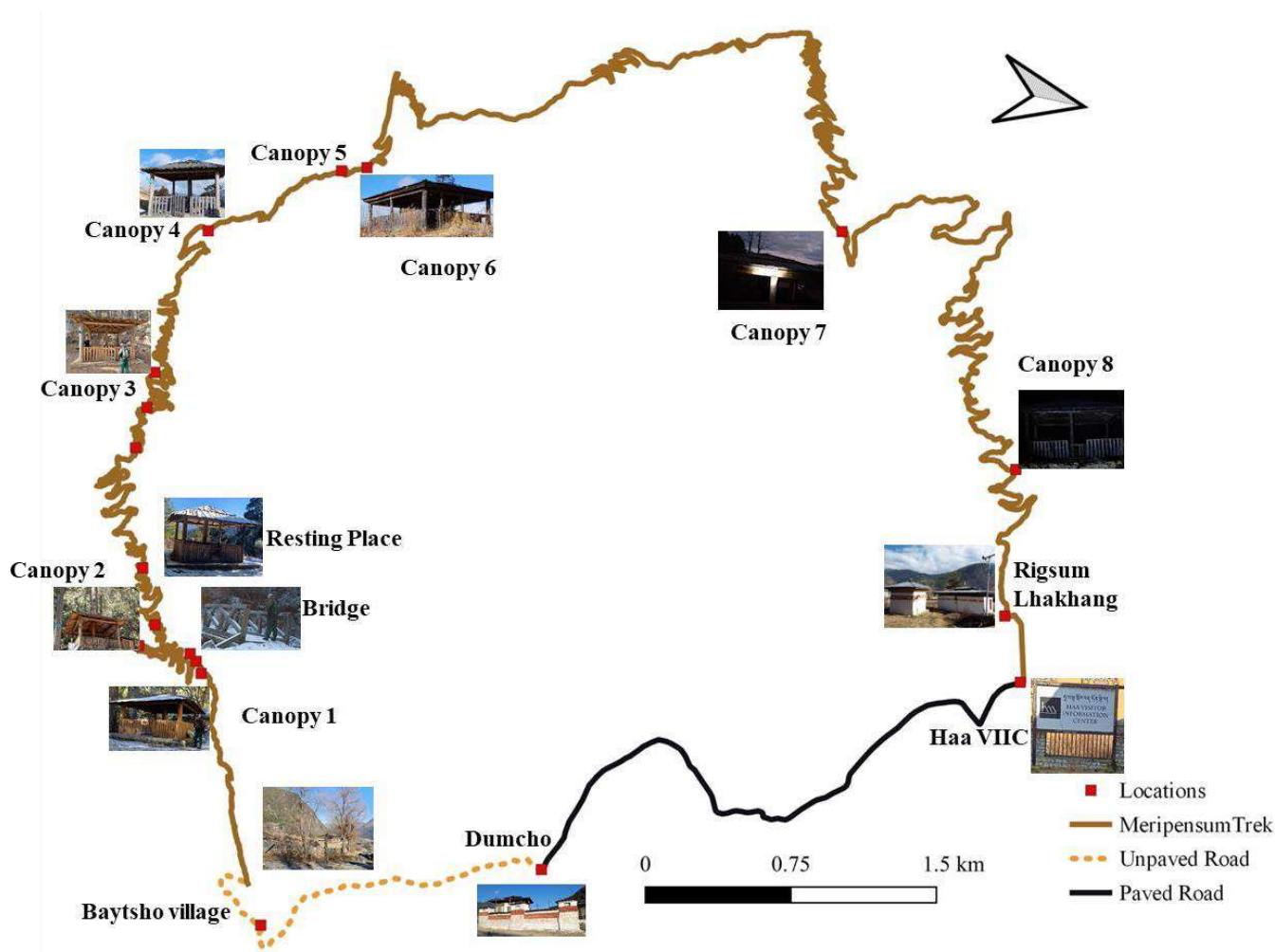
Team visited Sangbay Gewog Centre, Nakha, Mochu, Bebji, Shebji to collect geocoordinates and tracks for Lhaxhang, Nye, Chorten, Other religious sites, Gewog Office, Farmhouse, Eco- trail, Paved and Unpaved roads, and other features like prominent Rufous-necked hornbill sighting sites and Bhutan glory sighting sites under Sangbay Gewog.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.384740	89.284880	2726
Khamena	03:30:00	75.05	27.136421	89.142694	1295
Sangbay Range	01:10:00	82.09	27.167029	89.10557	1879
Bhutan Glory site	00:40:00	10.01	27.174701	89.080933	1962
Nakha Chorten	01:10:00	12.07	27.167602	89.068354	2079
Sebjakha Lhakhang	00:15:00	15.10	27.168254	89.05431	2175
Nebji Goenpa	00:20:00	2.05	27.172062	89.109244	2078
Mochu Farm House	02:00:00	29.10	27.135676	89.119737	1461
Mochu Lhakhang	00:15:00	31.05	27.141689	89.117834	1631
Bebji Lhakhang	03:34:00	37.10	27.139424	89.076689	1766
Ana Goenpa	01:13:00	18.11	27.169402	89.153161	1784
Shebji Village	00:05:00	20.15	27.177726	89.157465	1567

4.7 Meri-Puensum (Rigsum Goenpo) Nature Trek

Nestled in the pristine landscapes of Haa, the Meri Puensum region boasts a unique combination of biking and hiking trails that promise an exhilarating adventure amidst breathtaking panoramas. The trail is a unique landmark of Haa valley and there is a great deal of folklore relating to these three hills. The three brothers (sister) hills of Haa Dzongkhag present a breathtaking view, like heaps of flour in the middle of the valley. Local people pay homage by circumambulating around these mountains for they believe that the three Hill Mountains are embodiments of God as Jampelyang (Manjushri), Chana Dorji (Vajrapani) and Chenrizi (Avalokiteshvara). The trails wind through lush forests, meandering rivers, and charming villages, offering a diverse range of terrains for both biking and hiking activities. A trail begins at Dumcho & ends at the suspension bridge near Haa Town which is almost 37.41 km. You may need to ascend uphill for about 4-5 hours. As you hike you will come across various streams, bridges, wild mushrooms, flowers and birds. And finally, you reach the grand view point from where you can have a spectacular view of Mount Jumolhari, Chelela Pass and Meri Puensum. To endeavor to this hike, you may need to invest one whole day.

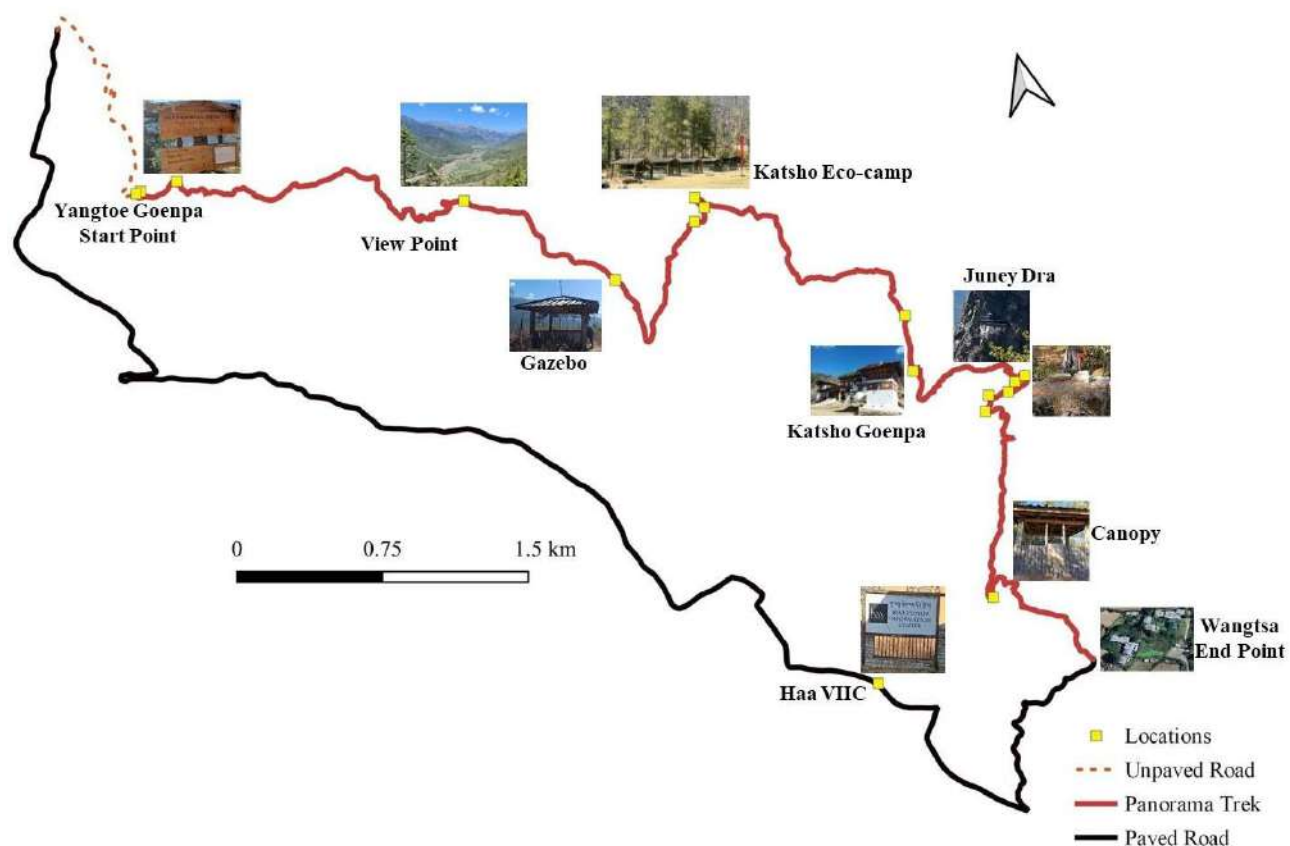


Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longtitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.384740	89.284880	2726
Baytsho	00:23:00	6.13	27.348510	89.305630	2722
Canopy 1	01:27:00	1.20	27.342740	89.293360	2971
Bridge 1	00:10:00	0.80	27.342170	89.292920	2980
Canopy 2	00:32:00	1.26	27.339270	89.292660	3076
Resting place	00:12:00	3.50	27.339880	89.291430	3132
Canopy 3	00:30:00	1.16	27.338520	89.288730	3252
Bridge 2	01:00:00	3.50	27.336800	89.282480	3437
Bridge 3	00:15:00	2.35	27.337180	89.280450	3528
Canopy 4	00:50:00	2.20	27.337070	89.278430	3584
Canopy 5	00:16:00	2.41	27.33832	89.27085	3895
Canopy 6	00:10:00	4.07	27.345600	89.265860	3778
Canopy 7	03:29:00	4.10	27.370510	89.263930	3433

Canopy 8	01:50:00	3.20	27.382020	89.274180	2917
Rigsum Lhakhang	00:35:00	1.53	27.383090	89.281780	2727

4.8 Panorama Hiking Trail

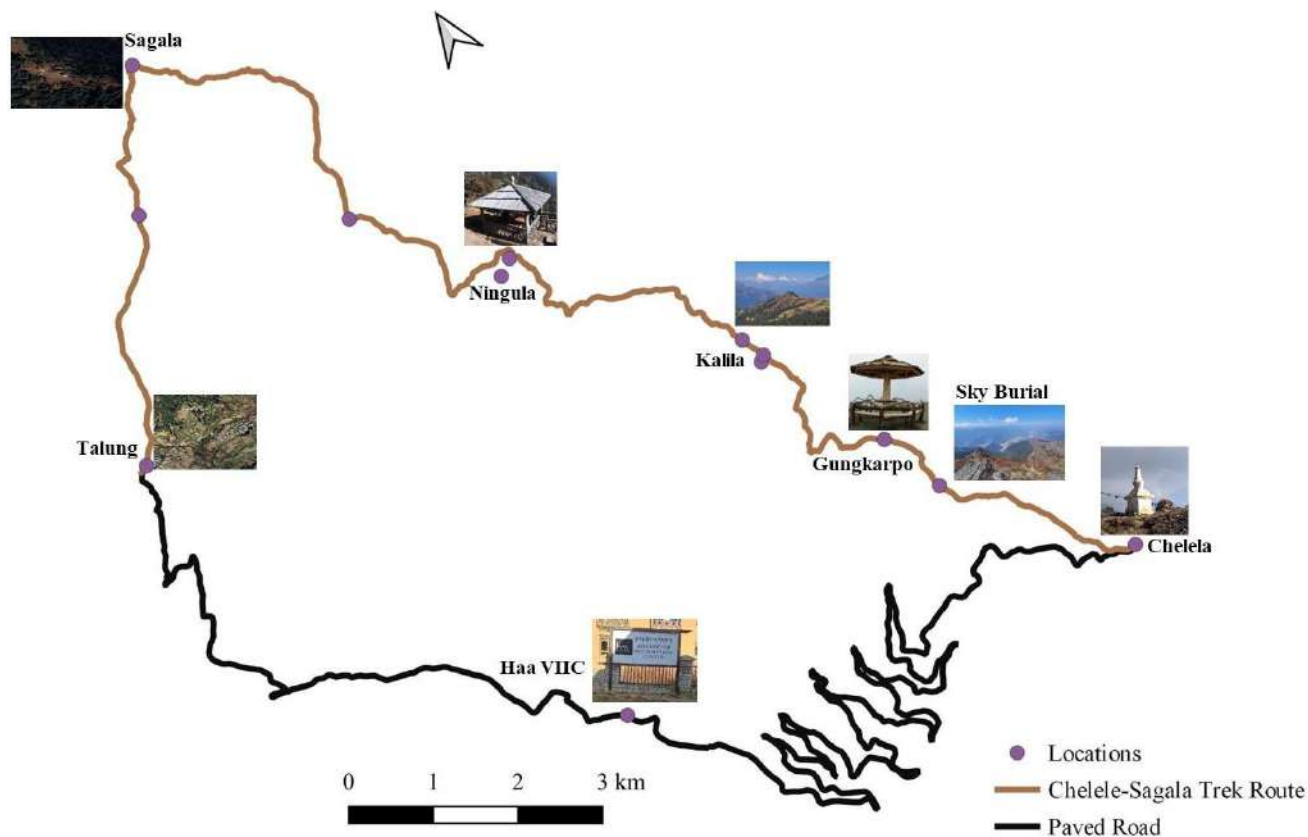
The “Haa Panorama Hiking Trail” was developed to showcase the pristine beauty and the intact environment of the bucolic Haa Valley. The route begins from Yangthang Lhakhang (2893m) and provides panoramic views of Haa valley, the sacred Meri Puensum and distant peaks, whilst immersing in the pristine pine forests. The scenic trail gently ascends to 3106m and passes through pine forests, pastures, and intact environment and traverses the monasteries of Yanthang (2700m), Katsho Eco-Camp (2994m) and Juneydrak (2908m) before descending into Wangtsa village (2850m). This enchanting trail covers a distance of 18.4 kilometers and takes about 8 hours to complete, at a leisurely pace. The panoramic hike offers the hikers a life time breath taking experience by simply defeating the art of a good photographer.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.384740	89.284880	2726
Yangto Goempa	00:30:00	7.40	27.42397	89.25223	2893
Canopy	01:30:00	3.50	27.40613	89.27703	3164
Eco-camp	00:45:00	1.20	27.40837	89.28244	2994
Katsho Goempa	01:00:00	2.80	27.39853	89.29091	3106
Juney Dra	00:36:00	0.45	27.39588	89.29393	2908
Canopy	01:47:00	2.00	27.3873	89.29184	3022
Wangtsa village	00:40:00	1.05	27.38332	89.29601	2850

4.9 Chelela-Sagala Trek

This Sagala Trek usually called as Chelela Trek combines an in-depth appreciation of the country's cultural attractions with a moderate to strenuous two days trek along a mountain ridge dividing the Paro and Haa Valleys of western Bhutan. Chelela-Talung trek route known as “**Twin valley trekking route or Sagala Trek**” located between two dzongkhags, Haa and Paro. The trekking route of 22.68 km from Chelela till Talung village provides immense potential of scenic beauty and one of the main highlights of the trek is the absolutely gorgeous 360-degree view from the Pass with Mount Jhomolhari, Kangchenjunga, mountain ridges of JKSNR, Haa valley and Paro valley along with diverse flora and fauna diversity. This trek offers scenic panoramic vistas of sacred Jomolhari and other Himalayan peaks plus views of the valleys themselves. Your trek begins from the Haa Valley (2726m) through a paved motor road till Chelela for less than hour. Taking the trail along the rightline, you will climb up gradually, then descending few minutes down were making several ascents and descents, walking through the trails of alpine meadows and rhododendron, you can come across the yak herders camp, and you will be more stunning views of the Himalayas and surrounding landscape.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.384740	89.284880	2726
Chelela	00:45:00	26.00	27.369956	89.34669	3890
Sky Burial	01:00:00	3.00	27.386768	89.33113	4090
Gungkarpo	01:00:00	0.52	27.394095	89.32869	4071
Kalila Canopy	00:40:00	2.30	27.411308	89.32115	3893
Ningula Camp	02:20:00	3.40	27.432315	89.30342	3847
Sagala	05:00:00	7.56	27.471722	89.27873	3733
Talung Village	02:30:00	5.90	27.435358	89.25361	3014
Haa VIIC	00:20:00	9.50	27.384740	89.284880	2726

4.10 Red Panda Trek (Haa-Tergola-Gakiling)

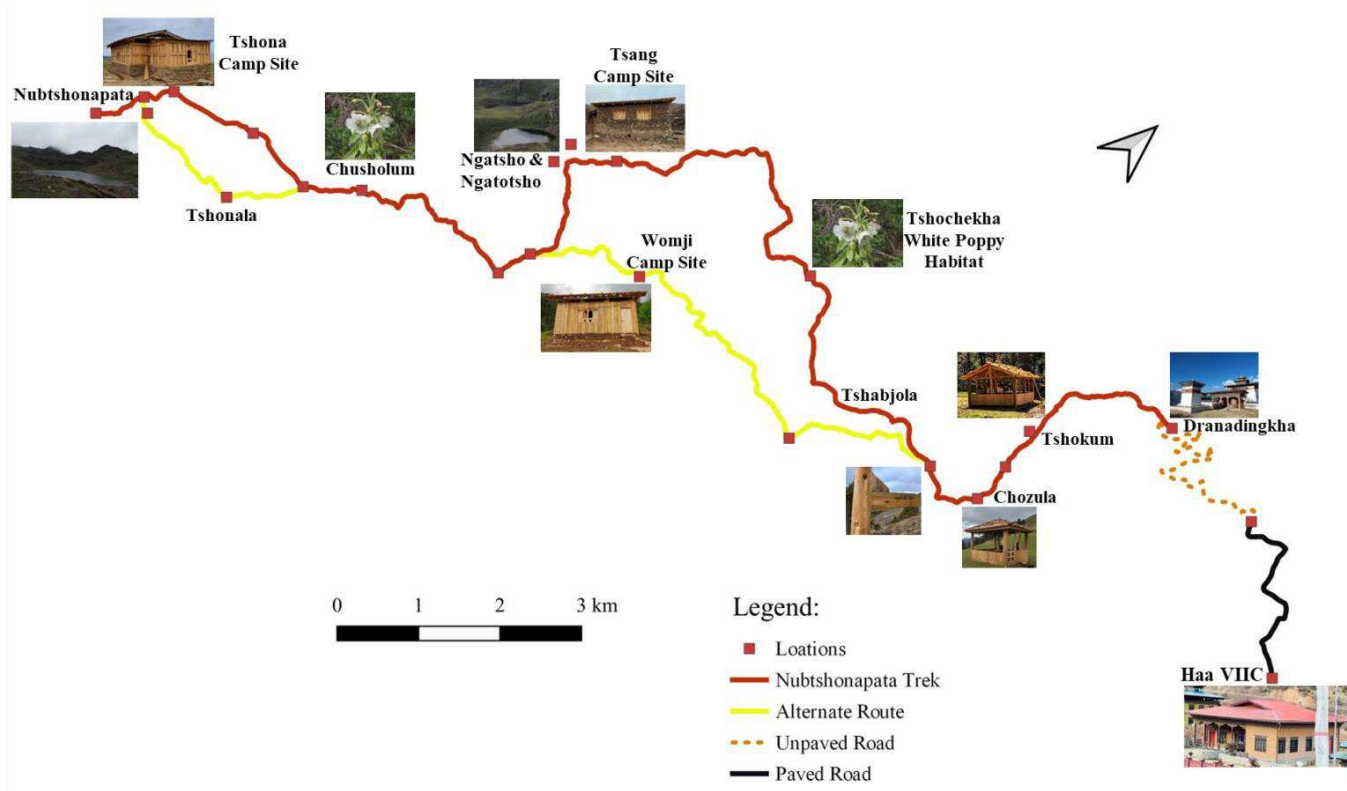
The **Haa Red Panda Trek** is located under Gakiling gewog, Sangbay Dungkhag, with an altitudinal range from 3700m to 800m with diverse flora and fauna. One can have direct sighting of red panda along the trek and overnight at Gakiling can go for the pilgrim at popular **Rangtse Nye**. The trek starts from Jilam (Red panda Trek Start Point), 3487m and it is almost 14.62 km till Legoten road point. Highly sought after by explorers, naturalists and scholars and popular among tourists, the shy, charismatic and endangered Red Panda can be found along tis trail. Such places of diverse flora and fauna have great potential to draw tourists in the future and attract nature enthusiastic from within and outside the country. The Haa Red Panda Trek will offer many scenic and pristine sites of tourist interest and moreover it will give you the test of different Rhododendron Forest and one can witness a patch garden of Himalayan Red Poppy.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0.00	27.38460	89.28490	2680
Jankana Junction	00:35:00	12.06	27.29764	89.31424	2699
Dorikha	00:15:00	8.46	27.26231	89.29116	3031
Tergola	00:35:00	10.00	27.23691	89.25083	3788
Red panda Trek SP	00:15:00	5.71	27.21717	89.21932	3487
Meripang	02:25:00	6.40	27.16703	89.20821	3018
Lhatshona	00:45:00	1.47	27.15587	89.20424	2850
Lhatshona Stream	10:10:00	0.90	27.14929	89.19992	2850
Pula Stream	01:10:00	1.38	27.14361	89.19209	2855
Phenlakha	02:35:00	0.91	27.14437	89.18528	2838
Legoten Road	01:10:00	3.25	27.14667	89.15972	2281
Dorithasa	00:10:00	5.28	27.14922	89.14760	1738
Khamena	00:16:00	6.12	27.13639	89.14286	1308
Amochu Bridge	00:50:00	6.83	27.12816	89.14199	851
Gakiling End Point	00:05:00	1.70	27.11505	89.14519	811

4.11 Nubtshonapata Trek

This adventure **Nubtshonapata** Trek known as the „Great Lake of the West“ is nestled in the heart of the Jigme Khesar Strict Nature Reserve, Bhutan“s only strict nature reserve with altitudinal range from 2700m to 4200m. This trek offers a unique opportunity to explore the habitat of the elusive Snow leopard and endemic white poppy with diverse flora and fauna which covers 21.3 km from Haa Dranadingkha. Hidden in the folds of the Himalayas, Nubtshonapata or the Great Lake of the West is considered sacred by Bhutanese people and the trek is the popular trek under Haa Dzongkhag. Historically, the trek dates back to biography of Terton Sherab Mebar (religious treasure revealer) and the mythical breed of cattle “Nublang”. Such places of historical, cultural significance and diverse flora and fauna have great potential to draw tourists in the future and attract nature enthusiastic from within and outside the country. The Trek will offer many scenic and pristine sites of tourist interest and the best time to trek is in spring and autumn.



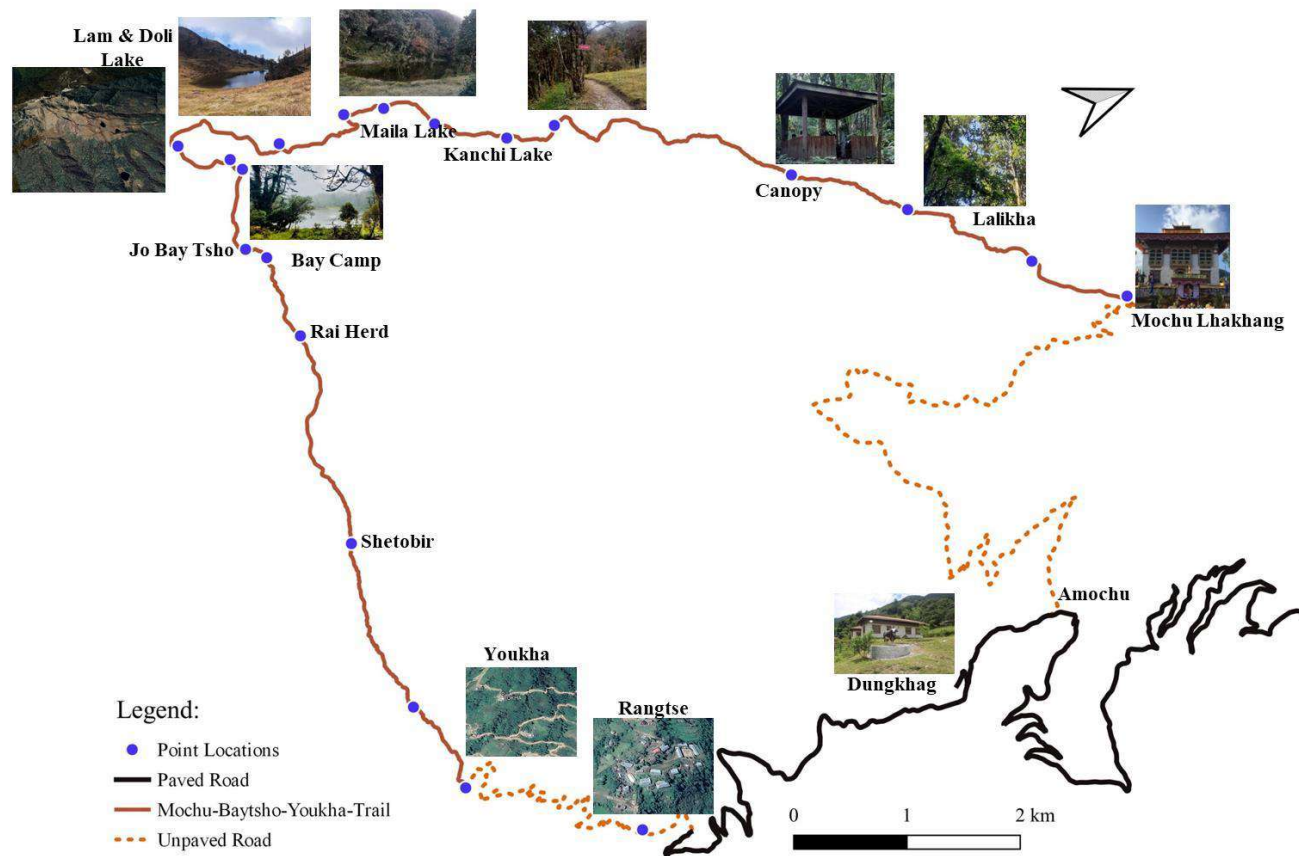
Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	00:00:00	0	27.384740	89.284880	2726
Dranadingkha	00:40:00	7.23	27.394456	89.253281	3256
Tshokum	01:00:00	2.2	27.382253	89.242042	3607
Chozula	01:00:00	1.1	27.372942	89.244107	3902
Tsang Camp	05:00:00	8.87	27.36692	89.18324	4105
Gongchela	01:00:00	2.7	27.349015	89.184225	4188
Chosholum	00:40:00	1.5	27.347458	89.170179	4029
Tshabji	01:30:00	1.6	27.33883	89.160315	4303
Nubtshonapata	01:30:00	3.3	27.326688	89.136579	4109
Womji	03:00:00	5.47	27.360828	89.196064	3752

4.12 Jo Bay Tsho - “The Hidden Lake”

Nestled within the picturesque landscapes of Sangbay Dungkha under Haa Dzongkhag, the Eco Trail of Jo Bay Tsho, also known as “**The Hidden Lake**”, promises an unforgettable journey through thick broadleaved forests, stunning ridges, and serene meadows. This trail, rich in biodiversity and natural beauty, offers a glimpse into the hidden treasures of Bhutan's wilderness. A 75 km car drive from Haa VIIC would deliver you first to Amochu bridge, and yet another 20 km drive will reach to Mochu Lhakhang. Before making journey, visit Mochu Lhakhang of high cultural significance, get blessing from 1,000 statues of Guru Rinpoche, setting the stage for a spiritually enriching experience. As we set foot on the trail, we are immediately enveloped by the scent of wildflowers and the chirping of birds flitting among the trees. The path meanders gently upward, winding through a dense canopy of broadleaved forest. As we ascend higher along the ridge, the forest begins to thin, offering glimpses of the stunning landscape beyond. The trail hugs the edge of the ridge, providing panoramic views of rolling hills and distant peaks.

After a rewarding trek of 30 km along the ridge, we will finally arrive at our destination: Jo Bay Tsho, “The Hidden Lake” which is beautiful lake that spans an area of 1.82 hectares. Nestled in a serene valley surrounded by gentle slopes and Fir and Rhododendron Forest, this hidden gem takes our breath away. The lake shimmers like a sapphire in the sunlight, its clear waters reflecting the azure sky above. We will find a peaceful spot along the shore of Jo Bay Tsho, where we can rest and take in the tranquil beauty of this hidden oasis. Your adventure does not end at Jo Bay Tsho – the surrounding meadows beckon us to explore further. As we walk few 40 minutes up hill, you will be greeted by the sight of other stunning lakes nestled in open meadows nearby each with its own unique charm. Some are small and secluded, hidden among the grassy knolls, while others are larger, reflecting the towering peaks that loom in the distance.

After a restful night spent in the serene beauty of Jo Bay Tsho, we awaken to the soft light of dawn illuminating the shimmering waters of the Hidden Lake. Refreshed and invigorated, we have to prepare for the next leg of journey – a return trek that will take us through rhododendron and bamboo forests, along the ridge line of Youkha, and culminate with a stunning view from the Shetobir Rocky Cliff. And so, the trek from Mochu to Youkha village, making a loop trail to Jo Bay Tsho, will end at Youkha and travelling back to Sangbay Dungkha which covers 43.64 km distance. At the end of the day, a treasure will be cherished forever, carry the beauty of wilderness and your hearts will full of memories and gratitude for this unforgettable adventure.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	0:00:00	0.00	27.384740	89.284880	2726
Sangbay Dungkhag	5:00:00	75.00	27.116870	89.144494	824
Mochu village	0:40:00	14.53	27.141124	89.117707	1636
Lalikha Herd	0:21:00	2.10	27.127063	89.102845	2169
Canopy	2:15:00	1.20	27.119369	89.096349	2435
Tintokey Herd	3:00:00	2.99	27.102833	89.084456	2999
Kanchi Pokhari	0:15:00	0.55	27.098978	89.084342	3020
Maila Pokhari	0:20:00	0.70	27.094014	89.080951	3021
Bulbuli Pokhari	0:30:00	0.91	27.090644	89.078134	3101
Bulbuli Herd	0:10:00	0.10	27.087669	89.077626	3108
Ningalley Kharka	0:40:00	1.03	27.081892	89.077609	3277
Saili Pokhari	0:50:00	1.32	27.074284	89.074470	3426
Dry Pokhari	0:15:00	0.40	27.076617	89.076650	3396
Lam Pokhari	0:10:00	0.10	27.078114	89.076165	3379

Doli Pokhari	0:12:00	0.20	27.078548	89.078633	3359
Dry Pokhari	0:10:00	0.10	27.076941	89.076941	3348
Jo Bay Tsho	0:20:00	0.80	27.076346	89.085493	3244
Bay Tsho Camp	0:15:00	0.23	27.077915	89.086855	3194
Rai Kharka	0:30:00	0.83	27.078099	89.094103	3071
ShetoBir	1:50:00	1.84	27.076181	89.113239	2771
Dabdabey	1:40:00	1.80	27.076170	89.128775	2223
Youkha	1:00:00	1.10	27.077873	89.137283	1870
Rangtse	0:28:00	4.82	27.089030	89.143436	1437
Dungkhag	0:30:00	5.99	27.116870	89.144494	824

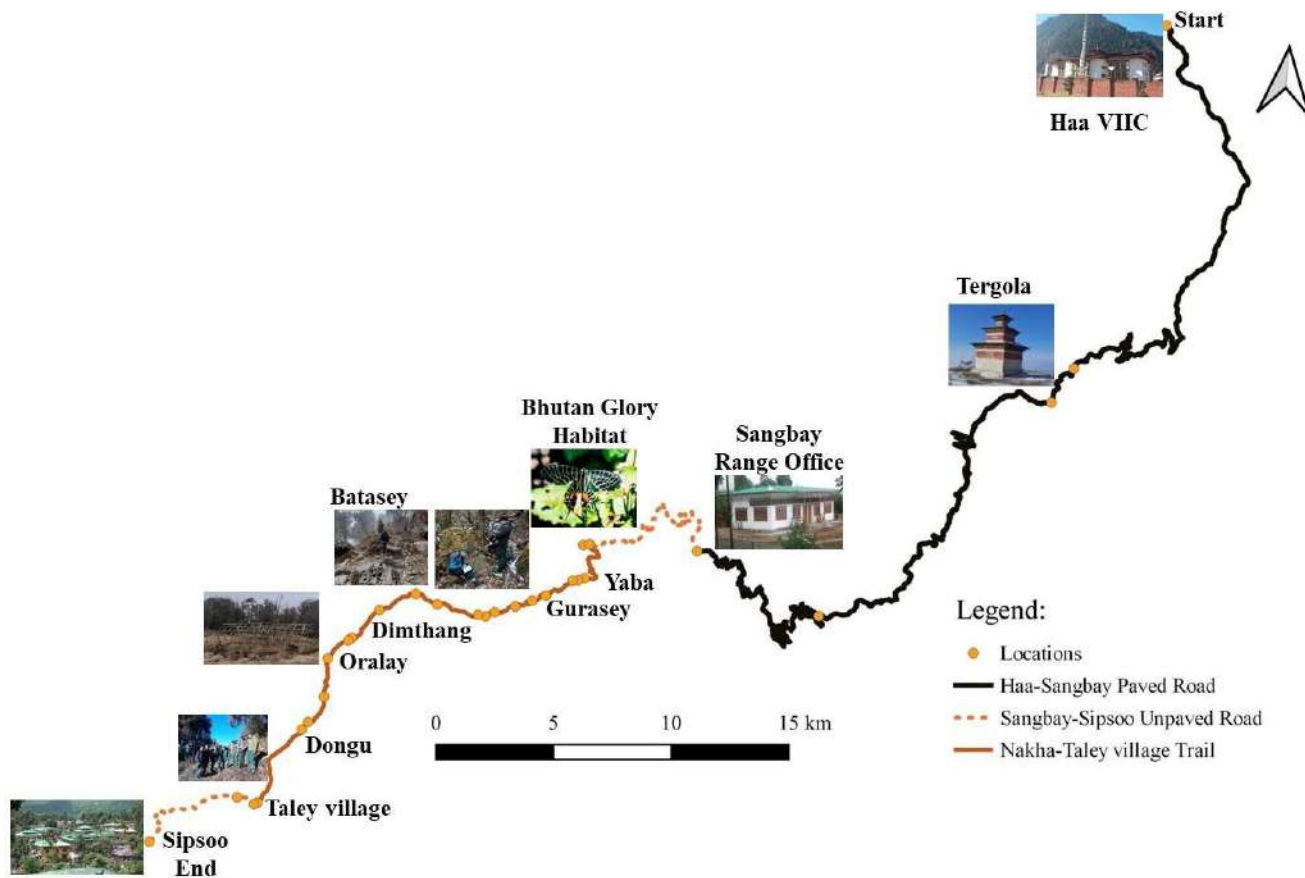
4.13. Yaba-Sipsoo Trek

In the western reaches of Bhutan, nestled within the pristine landscapes of Haa and Samtse Dzongkhags, lies an ancient trail that winds its way through dense forests, quaint villages, and breathtaking vistas. This trail, steeped in history and natural beauty, offers a glimpse into the timeless charm of olden days trade route of Sangbay community. Let us embark on a journey along this path, starting from Sangbay in Haa and ending in Sipsoo under Samtse Dzongkhag.

An 80.59 km car drive from Haa VIIC would deliver you first to Sangbaykha Gewog Office, and another 13.43 km drive will reach to Nakha village. The walking journey begins from Nakha village, a tranquil village in the Sangbay gewog. As you start gradually descending down and ascending up trail of 6.30 km, we will reach at Yaba which is far flung village under Sangbay gewog. Leaving Yaba Village behind, the trail will lead us deeper into the heart of the forest. The chirping of birds and the occasional rustle of wildlife will remind us that we are guests in their natural habitat. Continuing the journey, we will leave Gurasey and Batasey behind and will enter the enchanting landscape of Oralay after tiring walk of 12.44 km. Here, the forest gives way to rhododendron dotted with wild bamboo of every hue. The air is filled with the hum of insects and the distant call of birds of prey. We have to pause ourselves to take in the beauty of Batasey ridge, a place untouched by time, where the modern world feels a world away.

Then the final leg of the journey will take us from Oralay to Sipsoo a walk of 17.32 km, a village nestled in the Samtse Dzongkhag. The trail winds its way through rugged terrain, crossing babbling brooks and ancient trail. With each step, we are reminded of the countless travelers who have

trodden this path before us, their stories woven into the fabric of the landscape. The journey along the ancient trail from Sangbay to Sipsoo has been nothing short of magical.



Location	Time Record	Distance (km)	Latitude	Longitude	Elevation (m)
Haa VIIC	0:00:00	0.00	27.384740	89.284880	2726
Sangbay Range	5:00:00	80.59	27.167289	89.105293	1883
Nakha village	0:40:00	13.43	27.164631	89.053743	2069
Yaba village	5:00:00	6.3	27.144891	89.042505	1607
Gurasey	3:00:00	3.1	27.13669	89.021275	2557
Batasey	5:00:00	4.8	27.140798	88.986851	3101
Dimthang	0:55:00	1.9	27.133327	88.972032	2977
Oralay	1:45:00	2.64	27.120521	88.959861	2631
Dongu	2:00:00	3.83	27.08487	88.943674	1999
Taley village	3:30:00	5.99	27.054684	88.926388	1322
Sipsoo	0:30:00	7.49	27.036391	88.883274	574

5. Conclusion & Recommendations

The mapping of ecotourism products in Haa Dzongkhag through GPS points and tracks provides valuable insights for tourism development. The field data collection highlights that, with strategic planning and sustainable practices, Haa has significant opportunities for ecotourism destination. These opportunities can contribute not only to economic growth but also to the conservation of the region's natural and cultural heritage. From pristine temperate forest and ancient monasteries to wildlife, the area offers a plethora of attractions that can cater to a wide range of tourists, including nature lovers, adventure seekers, and cultural enthusiasts. The field data collection for ecotourism mapping in Haa has provided a comprehensive understanding of the region's potential for sustainable tourism development. The meticulous use of GPS points and tracks has yielded valuable information about ecotourism products, their accessibility, and the challenges associated with their promotion. Cultural sites and eco-trail mapping contribute to the overall branding of Haa as an ecotourism destination. This can attract a specific segment of tourists interested in cultural and nature-based experiences, enhancing the destination's reputation.

The record of time taken and kilometer distances to reach various tourism sites in Haa Dzongkhag provides valuable information for tourists and local authorities alike. With easily accessible distances and reasonable travel times, visitors can plan their itineraries efficiently to explore the cultural and natural wonders that Haa has to offer. This data also supports sustainable tourism practices by promoting responsible travel and minimizing environmental impact. Haa is slowly emerging into ecotourism destination with rich natural resources and diverse wildlife, the tiny valley is a haven for cultural and nature enthusiasts. The promotion of ecotourism in Haa reflects Bhutan's commitment towards protecting its rich biodiversity and ensuring a harmonious balance between people and the environment. If you are seeking an authentic and immersive travel experience, Haa is the right destination. Travelling to a place like Haa, you can't help but appreciate its stunning natural beauty and the spiritual pull it has on its visitors. Haa valley has a unique charm that fascinates those who have visited and calls those who haven't.

Addressing challenges and implementing recommendations will contribute to sustainable ecotourism, benefiting both tourists and local communities. We extend our gratitude to the local communities, surveyors, and authorities who supported this mapping initiative. Thank Helvetas Bhutan, Department of Tourism and Dzongkhag Administration, Haa for fund support.

“Every moment here is a journey worth taking”

Recommendations:

- ✓ Develop infrastructure for improved accessibility to remote ecotourism sites. While some areas have relatively better road infrastructure, others require more attention and development.
- ✓ Implement sustainable tourism practices to preserve cultural heritage and natural beauty.
- ✓ Provide information centers with maps and guidance for tourists through different media.
- ✓ Collaborate with stakeholders and local communities for community-based tourism initiatives.
- ✓ Community engagement and awareness cum training for sustainable tourism practices.

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- | | |
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“Life is about exploration and Haa welcomes you to discover its unique blend of culture, nature and tradition”

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