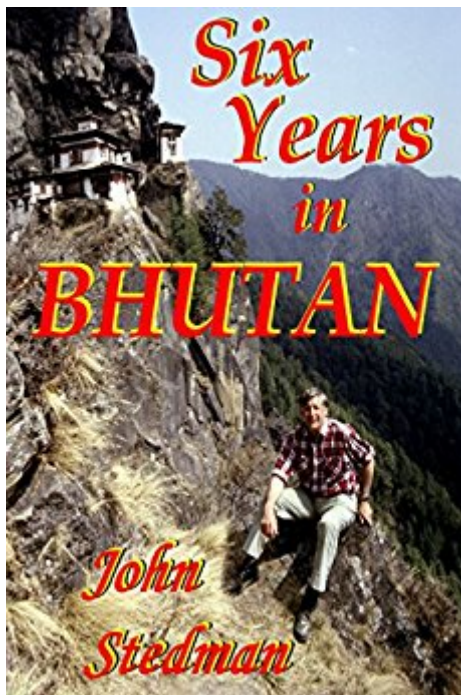


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Six Years In Bhutan



Synopsis

John Stedman gives an unusual perspective on life in this remote and little known country of BHUTAN, based on six years spent living and working in this unique Buddhist Himalayan Kingdom soon after it opened its borders to the outside world. He was able to explore Bhutan widely and shares accounts of his exploration of some of the more remote regions of this unspoilt and spectacularly scenic country. He describes encounters with Bhutan's wildlife indoors and out and delights in seeing some of the world's rarest creatures in their natural habitat. The author gives intriguing insights into the culture and lifestyle of the people, shared in a candid way but with obvious affection for those Bhutanese he gets to know and respect. He recounts with humour and feeling his frustrations, sense of isolation and the physical demands of living in Bhutan at a time when communication with the outside world were difficult. Teaching in Bhutan's only technical college leads to involvement in the work of The Leprosy Mission and takes him back to Bhutan to work for a further three years to oversee the building of a new hospital. The author and his wife live surrounded by sub-tropical jungle in a remote region of Central Bhutan, and supplies including food has to come a considerable distance. To begin with, their nearest telephone is two days drive away! The construction of the hospital is set against a backdrop of ethnic unrest and strife in the south of Bhutan. The book concludes with the author's reflections as to how his experience challenged and modified his views and how Bhutan is now rapidly changing as a result of its exposure to the outside world. He touches on some of the issues that such rapid development raises both for Bhutan's culture and for the continued survival of Bhutan's unique flora and fauna.

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