

Things to See and Do

During the Textile tour, visit textile producing communities of Chumey in Bumthang, Khoma in Lhuentse, Radhi and Khalling Handloom in Tashigang. Watch women perform weaving using a simple traditional back-scrap loom and produce astonishingly colorful and complex supplementary warp patterns unmatched anywhere in the world.

Visit textile showrooms available in towns and purchase the products to your liking. Experience eastern Bhutan culture and the way of life by staying in homestays provided in the communities.

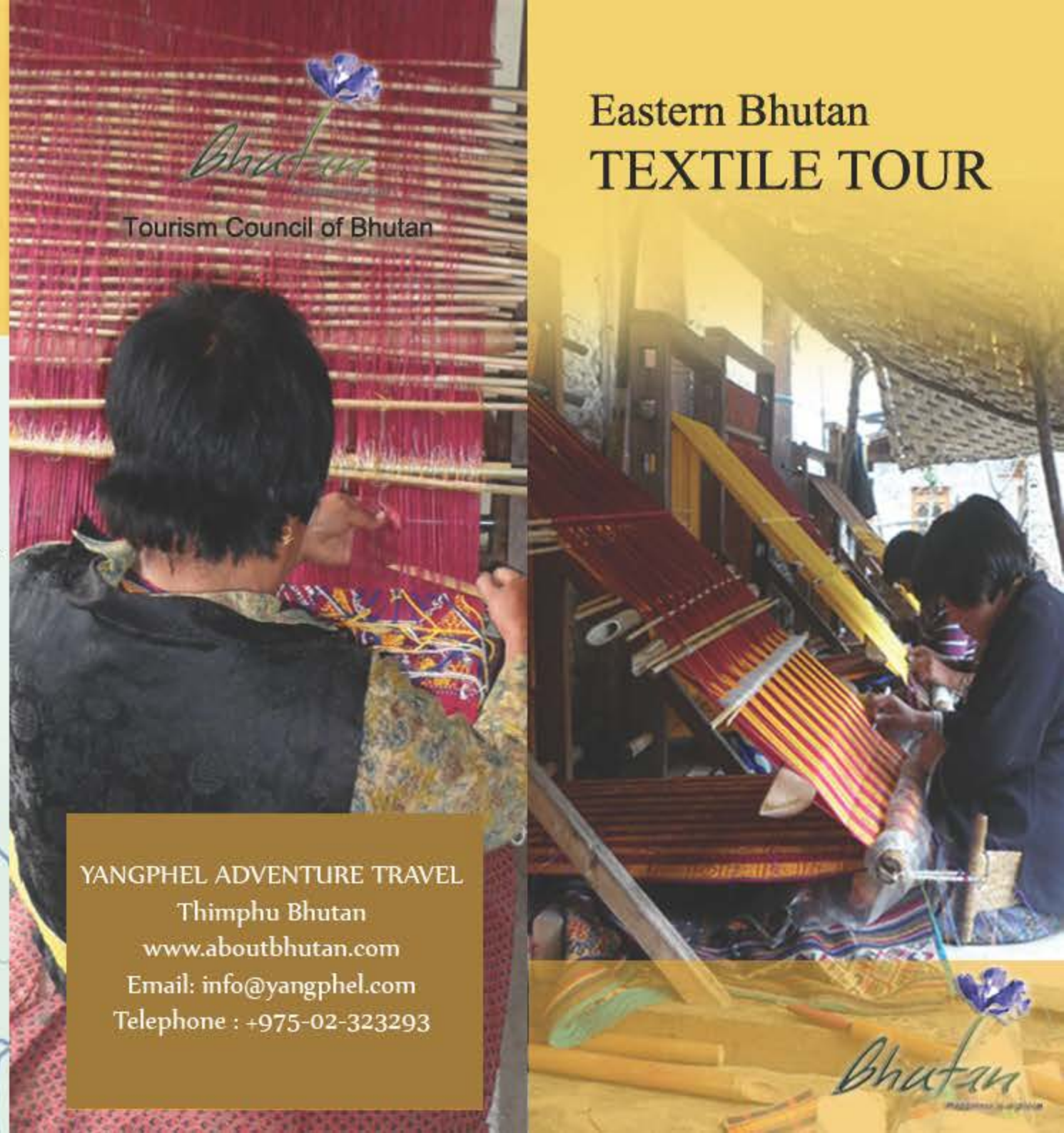
Getting to the communities

After you land at the International airport at Paro, drive to Thimphu, the capital city and visit Textile Museum. Drive to Central Bhutan and pay visit to *yathra* factory at Chumey. Travel to Bumthang. Then drive to Lhuentse via Mongar, hike to Khoma village for famous *Kishuthata*. Drive back to Mongar and travel further east to Tashigang, drive to Radhi for *bura* (raw silk) textiles. Then travel south to Khalling Handloom, an NGO training centre, where women from economically disadvantaged rural families are trained in weaving and textile design.



Tourism Council of Bhutan

Eastern Bhutan TEXTILE TOUR



YANGPHEL ADVENTURE TRAVEL
Thimphu Bhutan
www.aboutbhutan.com
Email: info@yangphel.com
Telephone : +975-02-323293



Introduction to Eastern Bhutan

Eastern Bhutan is a relative undiscovered region of Bhutan, intact and rich in its unique culture and tradition. It is also rich with natural and environment endowments providing for great scenery and natural wonders. Traditional Bhutanese textiles are produced from communities in eastern Bhutan. The eastern Bhutan textile tour provides wonderful insights into the age-old tradition of Bhutanese weaving.



Textiles of Bhutan

Textiles play an important role in the Bhutanese society, both through its cultural values and economic significance. The practice of weaving, its knowledge and skills required have been passed down through generations. Most of the design and patterns of the weave are unique to Bhutan. Bhutanese weaving and textiles attract attention from scholars and collectors all over the world due to its complexity in pattern and designs. These elaborate weavings are mainly for traditional dresses of Bhutan, gho and kira. Weaving is closely associated with women and is the only traditional arts and crafts dominated by women. It provides the means of livelihood to many women in Bhutan. Many new designs and patterns are on unspringing due to the change of the demand in the market. These new designs in the traditional weaving culture are fast growing and resulting in the emergence of Bhutanese textile as one of the greatest textile tradition in the world.



Chumey - Yathra producing community

Chumey is located in the blue pine valley in central Bhutan. It is famous for the production of unique *Yathra* textile. *Yathra* is a hand woven fabric made from wool of yak and sheep, a specialty of the region. Various designs of *Yathra* are woven using both the simple traditional back-strap loom and the chair-positioned modern loom called three-tha. Other specialties include the popular Bumthang-mathra and new development such as the weaving of *drumzeedhen* (Mattress made from wool).

Things to See and Do

Watch women weave *Yathra* textile near a shop in Chumey at a shelter constructed beside the road. Many designs of *Yathra* textile are in display in the shops in Chumey including *gho* and *kira* (traditional Bhutanese dress) Coats, bags, pen-holders, etc. Purchase textiles here satisfying your interest. Drive down about 9 kms to Chungphel to view the activities of the Chungphel *Yathra* Tshogpa (Chungphel Community *Yathra* Committee). See women weave *Yathra* and other textiles at the sale counter and purchase *Yathra* textiles from here at your taste. Visit a weaving center at Choekhor where women from economically disadvantaged families are trained at weaving and related activities which with further their income generation capacities.

Getting there

It is about 10 hours' drive from Thimphu crossing the Dochula, Pelela and Yotongla passes to reach Chumey. If you start your journey from Bumthang, its 24 kilometers and takes around half an hour to reach here.



Khoma - Kishuthara producing community

Khoma is a nucleated village in Lhuntse famous in the country for its weavers of silk, the extraordinary detailed patterned textiles called *Kishuthara*. Almost all of the women from this community weave. Weaving has become one of the main sources of income for the people in Khoma.

Things to See and Do

See women weave the intricate *kishuthara* in the extended sheds made out of their houses. You will be glad to visit the houses where the magnificent textiles will be displayed, if you will purchase some of them. Stay in homestays and experience the rural Bhutanese way of life. You will also see the traditional dying process using various plants, leaves, barks and flowers and produce lasting and colourful textiles.



Getting there

Khoma is about five kilometers from the bridge taking you to other side of the river at a distance three kilometers before reaching the Lhuntse Dzong. It is little less than two hours' walking distance on a relatively gentle slope with broad unpaved road. It takes less than 30 minutes by vehicle.



Radhi - Bura producing community

Radhi is a well-known community in the east for the production of *bura* (raw silk) textiles. It is located 24 kilometers east of Tashigang. About 200 households here fully depend on *bura* weaving in off-agricultural seasons. Textile production has become one of the main sources of income to the people of Radhi. All weavers here use the simple traditional back-strap loom. The Constitutional Development Grant (CDG) for the *Gewog* is also used for upholding weaving culture.

Things to See and Do

View women in the *bura* weaving in progress. Women here will also show you the dying process involved in raw silk weaving. Visit the weaving centres developed from the Constitutional Development Grant (CDG) for women coming from non-weaving sections of the community to improve their livelihood through provision of training and equipments.

Getting there

Radhi is 24 kilometer east of Tashigang. It takes about half an hour to reach Radhi from Tashigang by Vehicle. The road distance of 16 kilometers from Tashigang to Rangjung is black-topped. The rest is a farm road.

