

3. Radhi – Bura producing community

Radhi is a well-known community in the east for the production of bura (raw silk) textiles.

Textile production has become a major income source for the people of Radhi, especially in the off-agricultural seasons.

Around 200 households here are dependent upon bura weaving and all use the traditional back-strap loom.



Things to See and Do

View women weaving beautifully patterned bura. They will even demonstrate the dying process involved in weaving raw silk.

Visit the weaving centers developed for women coming from sections of the non-weaving community to improve their livelihood through provision of training and equipment.

Getting There

Visitors can now easily visit eastern Bhutan by taking a domestic flight to Yongphula Airport in Trashigang. Radhi is 24 km from Trashigang and requires approximately half an hour of travel time.

Around 16 km of the road is black-topped and the rest is an unpaved farm road.

The Age-old Art of Bhutanese Weaving.



Eastern
Bhutan

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Textile
Tour





An Introduction to Eastern Bhutan

Eastern Bhutan is a relatively undiscovered region of the kingdom. It is a land blessed with a rich natural environment and a unique cultural heritage. Small, self-sufficient rural communities lie scattered amidst pristine forests of blue pine, fir, and mixed coniferous trees.

This region of the country is famous for the high quality textiles it produces through the age-old art of Bhutanese weaving. We invite you to join us on this journey to celebrate the textile legacy of our kingdom.

Bhutanese Textiles

Weaving in Bhutan is closely associated with and is the only traditional Bhutanese art that is dominated by women. Woven textiles play an important role in terms of cultural values and economic significance and provide many women with a source of income. The knowledge and skills required to produce these marvelous fabrics has been passed down through the generations, preserving countless designs unique to the country.



Bhutanese textiles attract attention worldwide due to their complex patterns and designs and their unparalleled beauty.

Recently traditional designs are being complemented by an upsurge in the number of new patterns and designs due to an increase in demand. These new designs are helping to grow Bhutanese textiles into one of the greatest textile traditions in the world.

Textile Producing Communities

Each of the communities listed here specialize in producing their own unique textile material.

1. Chumey – Yathra producing community

The village of Chumey is located in a blue pine valley in Central Bhutan. Here the women weave yak and sheep wool into the beautiful fabric known as *Yathra*. Both traditional back-strap and modern chair-positioned looms are used in the production of various designs of *Yathra*.

In addition to *Yathra*, *Mathra* a fabric native to Bumthang Dzongkhag (province) and *Drumzeeden*, woolen mattresses are also produced here.

Things to See and Do

Specific structures have been constructed in Chumey where visitors can view the local women practicing the age-old art of weaving *yathra*.

The fabric is made into numerous items such as *ghos* and *kiras* (traditional Bhutanese clothes), coats,



bags, pen-holders and more, all of which are available for purchase.

Approximately 9 km from Chumey is another community known as Chungphel where you can visit the ‘Chungphel Community Yathra Committee’ and purchase their handmade Yathra products.

There is also a weaving center at Choekhor where economically disadvantaged women are trained at weaving and other related activities to supplement their incomes.

Getting There

Chumey is approximately 24 km from Bumthang and takes around half an hour to arrive. To arrive there visitors can either fly to the *Bathbalathang* Domestic Airport in Bumthang or enjoy a long, scenic journey by road (approximately 10 hours) from Thimphu.

2. Khoma – Kishuthara producing community

Khoma is a nucleated village in Lhuntse Dzongkhag, famous for its silk weavers and the extraordinarily detailed textile known as *kishuthara*. Weaving has become one of the main sources of income in Khoma and nearly all the women are weavers.

Things to See and Do

You can watch the women of Khoma weave silk into the intricate designs of *kishuthara*.

Khoma is also one of the few locations where you can observe silk being dyed using the traditional method. This ancient process uses various types of plants, leaves, tree bark and flowers to produce colorful and long lasting dyes.

Several houses have set up attractive displays showcasing textile products for sale.

There are also several households where you can arrange a homestay for a true taste of Bhutanese hospitality and the authentic rural lifestyle.



Getting There

To arrive at Khoma village visitors must travel along the highway from Mongar Town and then divert onto an easily visible feeder road about 4 km from Lhuntse town.

Visitors can shorten the journey to Lhuntse by flying to Yongphula Airport in Trashigang.

The journey from Trashigang to Khoma village will take around 5 hours.