

Bhutanese Textiles of Home, Heart and Spirit: **Weaver's Journey East to West** **Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan**

Day1. Guwahati, India drive to Samdrup Jongkhar (3 to 4 hours / 110 kilometers): Leave Guwahati's International Airport, along Assam's plains and enter Bhutan at Samdrup Jongkar. Overnight at hotel.

Day2. Sandrup Jongkhar to Tashigang (6hr / 180 km): Stop at Khaling for National Handloom Development Project. It is one of the several royal government initiatives to stimulate weaving as a national art and a source of livelihood for women. Drive to Tashigang. Overnight at Hotel.

Day3. Tashigang to Radi village: Raw silk (Bura) weavers in Radi are famous for producing beautiful supplementary warp patterned fabrics or "aikapur" the most popular, prestigious textiles made in NE Bhutan. Visit Tashigang Dzong and drive to Mongar. Overnight at Hotel.

Day4. Mongar to Lhuentse to Khurbazam (76 kilometers 3 hrs drive): Hike to Khoma village: 2 hrs. Experience real textile. Overnight at farm house.

Day5. Khaoma Village to Mongar (76 kilometers / 3 hrs drive): Visit Luntshe Dzong and drive to Tangmachu where Giant Guru Rimpoche statue is built. Drive back to Mongar, Overnight at hotel.

Day6. Mongar to Bumthang (7 hours / 193 kilometers): Today's drive is the most spectacular in all of Bhutan crossing Thromsingla Pass, the highest point" altitude: 12,113 ft. Overnight in Jakar, Alt: 8,334 feet.

Day7. Bumthang– day hike to visit ancient temples, picnic, and overnight lodge: Bumthang is the name given to a complex of four valleys: Chumey, Chokhor, Tang and Ura valley. Visit 7th century temple "Jambay Lakhang" and Kurjey Monastery. Over night at guest house.

Day8. Kurjey Tshechu (festival) Bumthang. (July):

A Tshechu is a religious festival and by attending it, it is believed that one gains merit. Everyone is dressed in their colorful, traditional finery and heritage woven kiras and ghos. The mask dances are performed by monks as well as by laymen and folk dances by women. Overnight at hotel.

Day9. Bumthang to Punakha (197 kilometers/ 6hours): At Tsugney village, you'll witness traditional Yathra weaving with the bright geometric patterns distinctive of this area. Drive on to

Yotong La pass at 11,200ft. Drive downhill and continue past Trongsa into Punakha. Overnight at hotel.

Day10. Punakha Dzong to Thimphu (76 kilometers / 3 hours drive): Visit Punakha Dzong, and journey on to Thimphu. The road climbs up to Dochula Pass at 10,142 feet and dropping back down to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, Altitude 7,493ft. Overnight at hotel.

Day11. Thimphu to Paro (53 kilometers/ 1.5 hours drive): Walk to Memorial Chorten, visit to the National Institute for Zorig Chusum (painting school), visit the Textile weaving center at ChangZamtok. Drive to Takin reserve, Traditional paper factory and to Paro for overnight halt.

Day12. Paro/Taksang Hike: The most famous monastery in Bhutan lies 2,700 feet above Paro's valley floor. Break along the way for tea and snacks in small tea house. Overnight at a hotel.

Day13. Paro to Bangkok : Say goodbyes to Bhutan today and board a flight for Bangkok for onward destinations. We hope you'll carry this gentle kingdom in your heart: may it bring peace to you and others. Have a safe journey home.

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