

## Tourism attractions: Eastern Circuit

### 1. General Tourism Product

Product category	Dzongkhag	Specific product name	Brief Highlights of product
Culture (Dzong)	Lhuntse	Lhuntse dzong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lhuntse dzong sits on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Kurichhu valley. There are near vertical drops on all sides of the dzong which makes it a spectacular site. It now houses a body of more than 100 monks</li> </ul>
Culture (Palaces of Bhutan)	Lhuntse	Dungkar Ngagtshang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located on a hill, it is the birthplace of Jigme Namgyal</li> </ul>
Culture (Palaces of Bhutan)	Lhuntse	Khenpajong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hidden place believed to be the palace of King Khikharato. Also believed to be the hidden sacred abode of Guru Rimpoche</li> </ul>
Culture+ Nature (Trek)	Lhuntse	Takila trek route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-day easy trek from Takila to Lhuntse Dzong via Kusumphey, Dormashong, Murmula, Nopsala. Lot of birds and flowers</li> </ul>
Culture (Ruins)	Mongar	Zhongar Dzong ruin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is the old dzong located on a hillock of Zhongar Chhu. It is believed that the area is guarded by snakes</li> </ul>
Culture (Lhakhang)	Mongar	Dunkar Lhakhang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A full day hike from the road head will reach to a small village called Dungkar, the ancestry village of the Kings of Bhutan. The Jigme Namgyal Naktsang and Dunkar naktsang are above the village. Special permission is required to visit the Naktsangs</li> </ul>
Nature (National Park)	Mongar	Thrumshingla National Park + Rodongla trek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open to tourists but not many visitors. Home to flora and fauna including red panda, tigers and leopards.</li> <li>Rodongla trek is within this park</li> </ul>
Nature (Trek)	Mongar	Latongla-Limithang trek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 day trek for November to April and one of the best treks for bird watching</li> </ul>

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Nature +wellness	Mongar+Lhuntse	Bicycling route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75 km bicycling route Mongar to Lhuntse one way.</li> </ul>
Culture (Religious - lhakhang)	Trashhi Yangtse	Gomkora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gom kora is a small temple to the east of the road 13 km north of chazam from Tashigang.Gomkora is a sacred meditation site of Guru Rimpoche where he left a body impression.Gom kora tsechu festival is held in spring and this festival is different from other festivals.People circumambulate the Goemba and sacred rock throughout the night</li> </ul>
Culture (Religious - lhakhang)	Trashhi Yangtse	Chorten Kora	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chorten kora is a large chorten.During the second month of the lunar calendar there is a kora (circumambulate) festival here which last for around 15 days.</li> <li>People come from all over the eastern dzongkhags to gain merit from the kora. People from the community in Arunachal Pradesh,India come all the way to attend the festival</li> </ul>
Culture (Arts and Crafts)	Trashhi Yangtse	Arts and Crafts Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Institute of Zorig Chusum (13 arts and crafts) in Tashi Yangtse strives to produce and train technically proficient crafts people.Products from the institute are available on sale.Tashi Yangtse is also known for producing excellent wooden cups and bowls (Dhapa) using water driven and treadle lathes. It is also a centre for paper making (Desho-traditional Bhutanese paper)</li> </ul>
Culture (Religious)	Trashhi Yangtse	Rigsum Gompa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has a statue of the Jowo (Buddha as a prince) which is a replica of one in Lhasa in Tibet. It is believed that if you cant go to Tibet for pilgrimage then it is an alternative.</li> </ul>
Nature	Trashhi Yangste	Pemaling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trashiyangste to Pemaling lake trek</li> </ul>

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Culture (Dzong)	Trashigang	Tashigang dzong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The dzong is on a high promontory that overlooks the confluence of the Drangme Chhu and the Gamri Chhu. The entire eastern region was governed from this dzong from the late 17th century until the beginning of the 20th century. This dzong is different in that both the administrative and monastic sectors face onto a single dochey. Many lama dances are performed in Tashigang to appease yama, the wrathful aspect of Chenrezig, which makes the annual festival of Tashigang dzong a unique festival. The tsechu is held in winter.</li> </ul>
Culture (Lhakhang)	Trashigang	Series of Monasteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are many Lhakhangs in Trashigang (~&gt;70 monasteries) including Kanglung Zangto Pelri, Yonphula Lhakhang, Rangjung Yoeselcholeing.</li> </ul>
Nature (Trekking)	Trashigang	Yongphula trek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yongphula-Tsaste-Dagor-Khenkhar-Gyelposhing (5 -6 hours for 8 days. Trekking train exists but campsites need to be developed. Private participation can be encouraged as this falls beyond the park area</li> </ul>
Nature (Trekking)	Trashigang, Samarjonkhar	Khengtomani trek route	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old salt route. Campsites identified</li> </ul>
Nature (Trekking)	Trashigang-Khaling	Daling tsho trek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Khaling-Danling-Yonphula (5-6 hours for 4 days)</li> </ul>
Nature (walk and lakes)	Trashigang	Chenla Nye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 days walk from Kangpara, small lakes and good campsite</li> </ul>

## 2. Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary

Bumdeling is a two to three hours walk north of Chorten Kora. The sanctuary consists of 3 different ecosystems with home to around 100 species of mammals and 296 bird species. It is the roosting place of a flock of black necked crane in winter. There are a number of nature walk trek routes and bird watching sites within the park.

Product offering:

- Birding tours: 296 species of birds including the black necked crane
- Butterfly tours: 130 species of butterfly recorded
- Trekking (Nature trek for bird watching, vegetation, animals and culture trek):

- Dongla trek (3 days): From Chorten Kora to Menji. (Apr-Oct)
- Iron bridge trek (5 days): Chorten Kora/ Dechenphodrang/ Rigsum Gumpa/ Dungzam to Old Dzong (year around)
- Pangla trek (4 days) Khoma, Tsanggo/ Pangla to Chorten Kora

### 3. Orchid Tours

The eastern districts of Lhuentse, Mongar, Trashiyangtse, Trashigang, Pemagatshel and have about 168 species of orchids. Orchids flower throughout the year but majority flowers in summer (high altitude species) and in spring (low altitude species). The majority of low altitude species are epiphytic and high altitude species are terrestrials (ground). In mid-altitude both species are common. Orchid tour can be divided under trekking and driving orchid tours. Some of these routes are:

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|---|---------------|
| a.Gorgan-Ungar-Rodung La (Lhuntshe to Bumthang)                                   | :6 days trek  |
| b.Gorgan-Zhongmay-Shingmala (Lhuntshe to Bumthang)                                | :5 days trek  |
| c.Tshenkhar-Aaja Nye-Dremetsi (Lhuntshe to Mongar)                                | :5 days trek  |
| d.Khaling-Danling-Yonphula (Trashigang)   | :4 days trek  |
| e.Kharungla-Thrimshing-Kanpara-Chenla-Wamrong (Trashigang)                        | :7 days trek  |
| f.Yadi-Sherimukhung-Aaja-Domkhar-Powan(Mongar-Lhuntshe)                           | :10 days trek |
| g.Limithang-Weringla-Daksa-Yangmari-Norbugang<br>(Mongar-Zhemgang-Pema Gatshel)   | :9 days trek  |
| h.Yongphula-Tsaste-Dagor-Khenkhar-Gyelposhing<br>(Trashigang-Pema Gatshel-Mongar) | :8 days trek  |

### 4. Merak and Sakteng

The Merak and Sakten trek is for 6/7 days depending on the number of days halt at these two communities. Experience includes the unique culture and tradition of Merak and Sakten Community.

The trek includes visit to Chaling-Domnangchu-Merak-Sakten-Joenkhar-Phogmey. It is recommended to start from Chaling entering Merak first because of the steep climb to Nagchungla pass if it starts from Sakteng.



## 5. Textile Tours

Textiles are to Bhutanese culture and a tourist can experience the richness through visits to textile villages in eastern districts of Lhuentse, Mongar, Trashiyangtse and Trashigang

- Trashigang (specialized in bura-raw silk) Radhi, Phongmey, Bidung, Sakteng, Khaling (also has a weaving center)
- Lhuentse (specialized in rawsilk) - Kurtog geog, Gangzur geog, Jaray geog, Tshenkar geog, Menjay, Khoma geog (specialized in kishu thara), Menbi geog
- Trashiyangtse: Tomzhangtshen geog, Jamkhar geog both specialized in bura textile

The textile tours could include visits to select villages in these regions that are accessible by road or are close to select trek route. Tourists might visit these during their drive or trek

## **6. Kayaking and Rafting**

Bhutan offers an opportunity to develop alternate tourist products as kayaking and rafting (adventure tourism).

Some select areas suited for such activity in the East include:

- Tashigang-Gamrichu (class IV), Dangme chu (can lead to manas)
- Lhuntse-tangmachu to horizampa (class IV), khoma zampa to tangmachu bridge (class IV for experts)
- Tashiyangtse-Bumdeling village to Chorten kora (class III and IV)
- Dangme Chu-Manas (class III and IV)