



Eastern Bhutan

Includes ➔

Mongar Dzongkhag	138
Mongar	140
Lhuentse	143
Trashigang	146
Far Eastern Bhutan	148
Trashigang Yangtse	
Dzongkhag	149
Trashigang Yangtse	151
Samdrup Jongkhar	
Dzongkhag	153
Samdrup Jongkhar	155

Best Buddhist Architecture

- Lhuentse Dzong (p143)
- Gom Kora (p150)
- Dechen Phodrang (p152)
- Trashigang Dzong (p146)
- Trashigang Yangtse Dzong (p151)

Off the Beaten Track

- Hiking around Mongar (p142)
- Dungkhar (p143)
- Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary (p152)
- Birdwatching around Sengor (p139)

Why Go?

The wild east of Bhutan sees far fewer tourists than the western regions, which is one reason why we like it. Food and accommodation can be simpler here than in the west but in return hardy visitors will be rewarded with group-free dzongs and temples, beautiful silks and embroidery, and lush, bird-filled forests. Despite its relative remoteness, the rugged east is the most densely populated region. Most of the population live in remote settlements; secreted high above the road or in isolated valleys, some are home to minority ethnic groups comprising less than 1000 people.

The east is opening up to tourism at a pace unmatched anywhere else in Bhutan. New hotels, a new airport at Yongphula and several proposed new trekking routes make this the frontier for adventure travel in Bhutan. If you want to get off the beaten track and are up for some exploring, this is your place.

When to Go

- The lower altitudes mean that late spring and summer here are hot, humid and sweaty, with insects aplenty. This is the best time for birdwatching in the lush broadleaf forests.
- Monsoon rains between May and August regularly cause havoc on the fragile roads carved into the steep mountains, so expect delays after heavy downpours.
- Late February to mid-March is a good time to visit for comfortable temperatures, low-season crowds, interesting festivals and spring blooms.
- Snowfalls in winter can also result in temporary road blockages on the high passes.



Eastern Bhutan Highlights

1 Wander the bustling narrow streets of **Trashigang** (p146), one of Bhutan's most attractive and lively towns

2 Fasten your seatbelt for a trip on the dramatic cliff-hugging road over the 3750m **Thrumshing La** (p138)

3 Take the picturesque drive up to **Lhuentse Dzong** (p143)

4 Watch some of Bhutan's finest cloth being woven at the remote weaving village of **Khoma** (p144)

5 Check your sin levels at the serene pilgrimage site of **Gom Kora** (p150)

6 Walk around the tranquil Chorten Kora, and witness

traditional crafts in far-flung **Trashigang** (p151)

7 Explore the remote **Bomdeling Wildlife Sanctuary** (p152), one of the best places to see the black-necked crane