

# The Lonesome Traveler

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## FACES OF A NATION *Jam-packed to scrapped. Love at second sight.*

*Circular tour Bangladesh. (21 days)*

Take: enchanting landscapes, deeply rooted traditions, a moving history, everyday life, bizarre happiness, heartbreaking suffering, street chaos and crowds like nowhere else in the world, the complete opposite – secluded ethnic groups in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a tiny coral island in the Gulf from Bengal, crowded trains, wrecked ships, tea plantations that could not be more idyllic and something Ganges Delta. The result is a journey through a country in which time sometimes seems to stand still in order to appear incredibly modern in the next moment. The tour is as diverse as the faces of Bangladesh: abundant life, contrasts, diversity and love – lots of love...

You are not just visiting a country, you will experience it – the plump, colorful life that happens often enough on the street. You will encounter stone witnesses to history like the most vivid of the present. Scenic highlights are paired with religious traditions, the everyday life of the village communities with that of the megacities. You can still find traditional agriculture and fishing everywhere, in the cities crafts and trade are sometimes as public as when the British conquered the country. In other words, there are a myriad of impressions and experiences that are waiting for you and that cannot replace a newspaper report or a television program.

This trip is intended for everyone who wants to get to know an original and fascinatingly different country without prejudice and with an open heart. For everyone who wants to experience firsthand what real problems are and what real love and happiness mean...

Sure, it is exhausting to travel away from touristically developed regions, but Bangladesh will reward you with priceless impressions and experiences!

### Highlights

- bubbling juggernaut Old Dhaka
- the tea capital Srimangal
- the last rainforest in the country – Lawachara National Park
- natural beauty Lalakhal: by boat on the sari, on foot in the lush greenery
- the stone fishermen from Jaflon
- the swamp forest of Ratargul
- cosmopolitan Sylhet – the extravagance in the north
- ship passage on the Meghna, the largest river in Asia
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Bagerhat – the forgotten Kalifatabad
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Sundarbans – Cruise in the Ganges Delta (charter ship)
- boat tour along the Chittagong shipyard
- the Chittagong Hill Tracts: hikes, various ethnic villages, river trips
- the longest beach in the world, Cox's Bazar
- tropical paradise and coral island of St. Martin

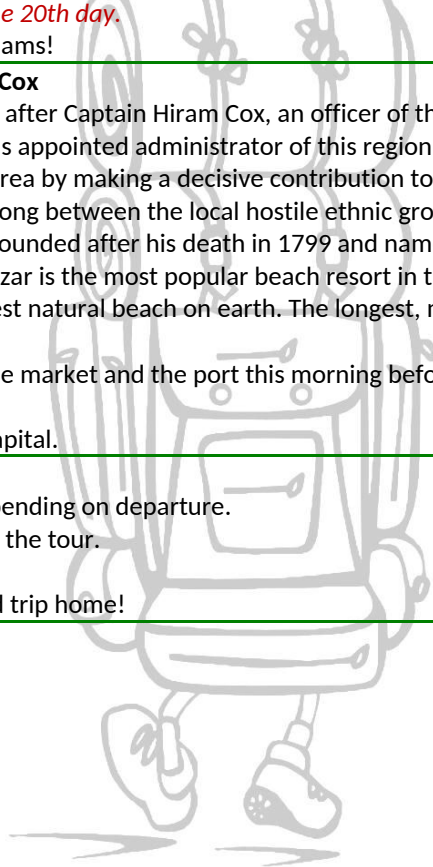
## Itinerary

	day/date	stage/services	transport	overnight stay
1	Sunday	arrival Dhaka <b>hotel transfer, Kawran Bazar</b>	bus 15km	Marino Hotel ***
2	Monday	Dhaka → Srimangal <b>train journey handluggage!</b>	train 200km/5h	Hotel Amar Bari ***
3	Tuesday	Srimangal <b>around Srimangal</b>	-	
4	Wednesday	Srimangal → Lalakhal <b>adventure on the go...</b>	bus 120km/4h	Nazimgarh Wilderness Resort *****
5	Thursday	Lalakhal <b>(river-) walks</b>	-	
6	Friday	Lalakhal → Jafлон → Lalakhal <b>stone fisherman</b>	bus 50km/2h	
7	Saturday	Lalakhal → Sylhet <b>Ratargul, Khadimnagar</b>	bus 50km/2h	Noorjahan Grand ****
8	Sunday	Sylhet → Dhaka <b>Sylhet City handluggage!</b>	plane 200km/1h	Marino Hotel ***
9	Monday	Dhaka → Hularhat <b>Old Dhaka, river trip handluggage!</b>	bus 20km ferry 300km/15h	1 <sup>st</sup> class cabin
10	Tuesday	Hularhat → Bagerhat → Mongla <b>river trip, Bagerhat</b>	bus 100km/4h	cabin
11	Wednesday	Sundarbans <b>Sundarbans</b>	-	
12	Thursday	Sundarbans <b>Sundarbans</b>	-	
13	Friday	Mongla → Jessore → Dhaka → Chittagong <b>adventure on the go... handluggage!</b>	bus 110km/4h plane 2x150km a 1h	The Alina Hotel ***
14	Saturday	Chittagong → Bandarban <b>ship breaking yards</b>	bus 70km/3h	Hill Side Resort **
15	Sunday	Bandarban <b>around Bandarban</b>	-	
16	Monday	Bandarban → Cox's Bazar <b>adventure on the go...</b>	bus 120km/4h	Ocean Paradise *****
17	Tuesday	Cox's Bazar → Teknaf → St. Martin <b>adventure on the go... handluggage!</b>	bus 70km/2h ferry 40km/2h	Sunset Serenity ****
18	Wednesday	St. Martin <b>leisure!</b>	-	
19	Thursday	St. Martin → Teknaf → Cox's Bazar <b>adventure on the go...</b>	ferry 40km/2h bus 70km/2h	Ocean Paradise *****
20	Friday	Cox's Bazar → Dhaka <b>beach handluggage!</b>	plane 200km/1h	Marino Hotel ***
21	Saturday	departure Dhaka <b>airport transfer</b>	bus 5km	-

travel day	itinerary
1 Sunday	<b>Welcome to Dhaka! Crowds and markets</b> Day of arrival! After the transfer to your hotel, first steps in Dhaka. We visit the largest and most traditional market in Dhaka (Kawran Bazar) with handicrafts and trade, sometimes as publicly as when the British ruled the country. <i>In Dhaka, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage in the evening of the second day in the hotel in Srimangal.</i> Good night in the fastest growing metropolis in Asia, Dhaka.
2 & 3 Monday & Tuesday	<b>About rainforest, ethnic groups and tea – and the railroad</b> Today's train journey is one of the most beautiful routes in the country. The State Railways has approximately 34,000 employees and reports to the Ministry of Railways. The train is the perfect

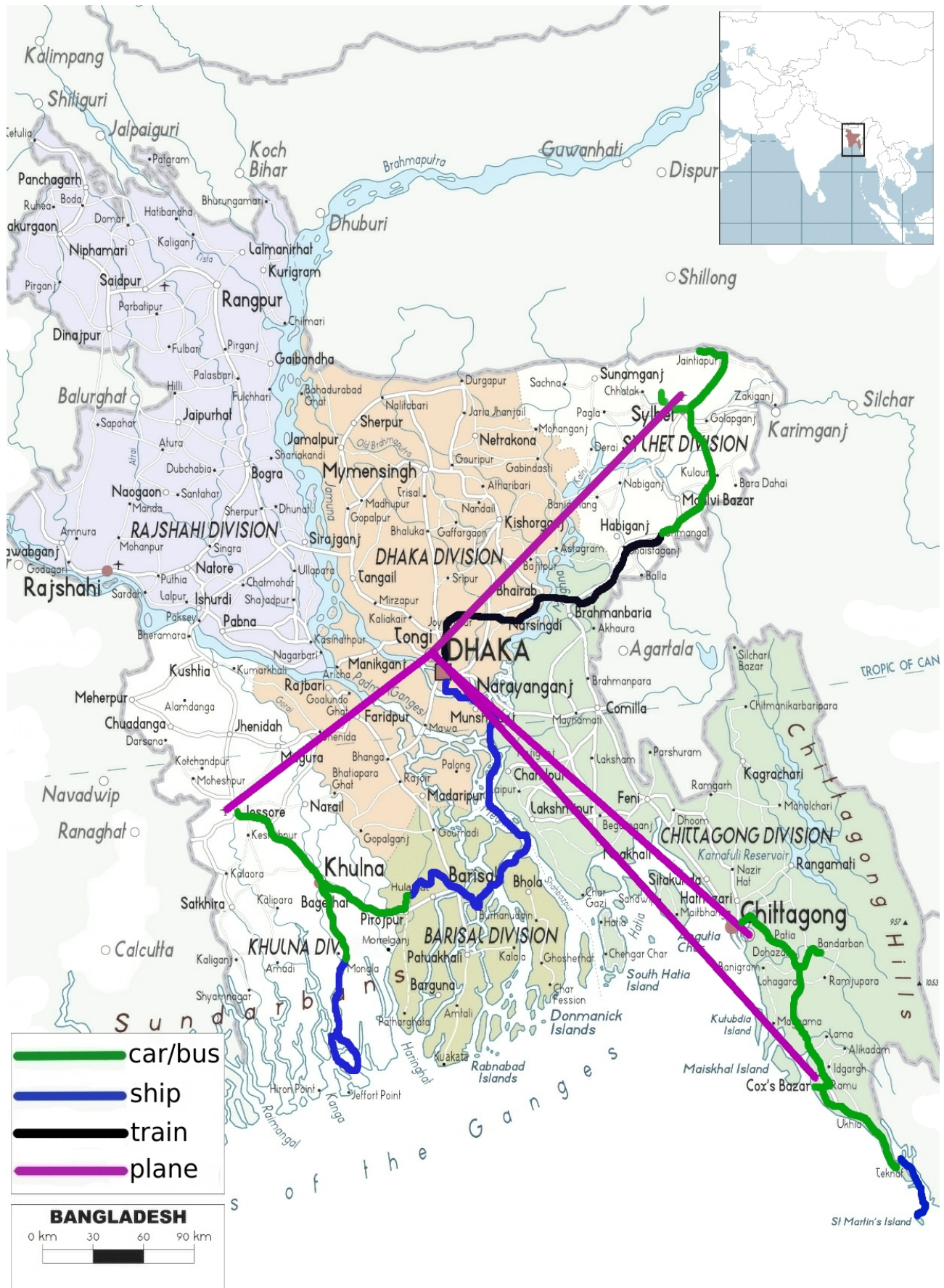
	<p>means of transport to get in touch with the locals and watch the busy activities at the various stops while rural Bangladesh moves past you ...</p> <p>Day 3 we visit Lawachara, the last rainforest in the country, before we look around in the enchanting surroundings.</p> <p>Pleasant dreams in the country's tea capital</p>
<p><b>4 - 6</b> Wednesday - Friday</p>	<p><b>Where Bangladesh is most beautiful...</b></p> <p>Around noon we travel northeast, to the border with India. On the way: Manufactures and markets, schools etc. We reach Lalakhal in the late afternoon.</p> <p>Day 5 we hike through the area, visit a tea factory and take a boat on the azure to emerald green sari.</p> <p>On day 6, an experience of a completely different kind awaits us: a day trip to the stone fishermen of Jaflon.</p> <p>Sleep well in Lalakhal!</p>
<p><b>7 &amp; 8</b> Saturday &amp; Sunday</p>	<p><b>From swamp forest, Londonis and holy men</b></p> <p>In the morning we leave Lalakhal towards Sylhet. The Ratargul Swamp Forest is one of the few freshwater swamp forests in the world and is on the way. A boat tour there and a walk through the Khadimnagar National Park complete our journey to Sylhet.</p> <p>Pleasant dreams in Sylhet.</p> <p>We devote the morning of the 8th day to Sylhet itself. <i>Worldly ambitions meet religious contentment</i> describes Sylhet quite well. The Shrine of Hajrat Shah Jalal has a magical appeal to pilgrims across the country.</p> <p>In the late afternoon we fly back to Dhaka.</p> <p><i>In Sylhet, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage in the evening of the 8th day in the hotel in Dhaka.</i></p> <p>Pleasant dreams in the capital..</p>
<p><b>9 &amp; 10</b> Monday &amp; Tuesday</p>	<p>In the heart of the juggernaut, Old Dhaka &amp; UNESCO World Heritage<sup>2</sup> part 1: Bagerhat</p> <p>In the morning we go straight to the heart of Dhaka, the old town. Dhaka is not a city, it is rather a juggernaut, an alluring and devouring black hole and Old Dhaka is its center. We stroll through Hindu Street and roam through the impenetrable tangle of alleys around the Sadarghat, always accompanied by a sea of 600,000 colorful, deafening rickshaws. At the end of the day, we embark here from the world's largest river port to Hularhat.</p> <p>Good night in your 1st class cabin.</p> <p><i>In Dhaka, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage on the evening of the 10th day on our Sundarbans cruiser.</i></p> <p>In the late morning of the 10th day we reach Hularhat on our tranquil voyage, enough time to be able to observe rural life on board. On the way to Mongla we cross Bagerhat. This is considered <i>an excellent example of an architectural ensemble that illustrates a significant stage in human history</i> and is therefore a World Heritage Site.</p> <p>In the evening we reach the gateway to the Ganges Delta with Mongla.</p> <p>Dinner and overnight camp on our small cruise ship.</p>
<p><b>11 - 13</b> Wednesday - Friday</p>	<p>UNESCO World Heritage<sup>2</sup> part 2: In the largest delta on earth</p> <p>In the late afternoon of the 11th day we reach Kotka, a game station in the southeastern part of the Sundarbans. There should still be enough time for a first shore leave...</p> <p>We end the day with a BBQ dinner on board.</p> <p>On the morning of the 12th day we watch the awakening life from the dinghy, in one of the side arms. After breakfast we hike towards the pristine beach of the Bengal Bay. In the afternoon you cross towards Mongla with the opposite course.</p> <p><i>On our cruiser, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage at the hotel in Chittagong on the evening of the 13th day.</i></p> <p>In the afternoon of the 13th day we reach Jessore. From there we fly via Dhaka to Chittagong.</p> <p>Overnight here in the second largest city in the country.</p>
<p><b>14 - 16</b> Saturday - Monday</p>	<p><b>About iron-eaters and ethnic groups. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts</b></p> <p>Depending on the tides, we start our boat tour around the Chittagong ship breaking yards, which are among the global centers of the scrapping industry. You can expect spectacular Insights into working life.</p> <p>Around noon we travel on to the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a semi-autonomous area with a topography and culture that is decidedly atypical for Bangladesh. We should have reached Bandarban before dark.</p> <p>We spend day 15 on hikes and boat tours through the surrounding area. An idyll: rivers, gentle mountains once covered with dense jungle, steep canyons, dense bamboo and teak forests and settlements of the Jumma tribes.</p> <p>Gentle dreams in Bandarban!</p>

	<p>Around noon on the 16th day we travel south to Cox's Bazar.</p> <p><i>In Cox's Bazaar, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage here on the evening of the 19th day.</i></p> <p>Good night on the longest beach in the world.</p>
<p><b>17 - 19</b> Tuesday - Thursday</p>	<p><b>Beach, sea, palm trees, turtles, corals – St. Martin</b></p> <p>This morning we continue to the southernmost point in the country, Teknaf. On the way to St. Martin Island we embark from here and leave for St. Martin about 2.5 hours later. It is time to process the experiences of recent times and to recharge your batteries. Where could this be better than on the country's only coral island. Let your mind wander, there is nothing to disturb and St. Martin serves absolutely every tropical cliché but do not expect taxis, paved roads or electricity (except our top resort), the island consists only of sun, sea and palm trees.</p> <p>Day 18 is at leisure. Beach walks, swimming, a tour of the island (8 km<sup>2</sup> at low tide, 5 km<sup>2</sup> at high tide), a visit to the local market or the sea turtle station or a hike (at low tide) to the neighboring island Chera Deep. Snorkeling is also good here (depending on the weather), but you should bring your own equipment. We end the day with a campfire and barbecue right on the beach.</p> <p>Sweet dreams on St. Martin.</p> <p>Day 19 it goes in the opposite direction back to Cox's Bazar. In the early afternoon we leave the island and are back in our hotel in Cox's Bazar in the evening.</p> <p><i>In Cox's Bazaar, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage at the hotel in Dhaka on the evening of the 20th day.</i></p> <p>Here too: sweet dreams!</p>
<p><b>20</b> Friday</p>	<p><b>Allow me, Himram Cox</b></p> <p>The city was named after Captain Hiram Cox, an officer of the East India Company, who served only in India and was appointed administrator of this region. Captain Cox contributed to the pacification of the area by making a decisive contribution to resolving conflicts that had been smoldering for too long between the local hostile ethnic groups. As a thank you, a fishing port with a market was founded after his death in 1799 and named after him.</p> <p>Nowadays, Cox's Bazar is the most popular beach resort in the country and, with a length of 125 km, offers the longest natural beach on earth. The longest, mind you, which says nothing about its beauty.</p> <p>We will visit both the market and the port this morning before flying back to the capital in the early afternoon.</p> <p>Good night in the capital.</p>
<p><b>21</b> Saturday</p>	<p><b>Back on "Go"</b></p> <p>Airport transfer depending on departure.</p> <p>Farewell and end of the tour.</p> <p>Thank you and good trip home!</p>





## Travel route



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