



# The Lonesome Traveler

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## MADE IN ENGLAND *What was left of the crown colony* *Legacies in Bangladesh (14 days)*

The United Kingdom was the greatest colonial power in history. In 1922, the British Empire had a quarter of the world's population at that time and spanned a quarter of the earth's land area. This resulted in a widespread political, legal, linguistic and cultural heritage that continues to have an impact in many parts of the world to this day.

This tour is supposed to track down the legacies in Bengal – more precisely in today's Bangladesh – and also provide intensive insights into the lives of people. We will follow the trail of the British East India Company (EIC), which will take us north to the largest tea plantations in the world and *Little London* Sylhet, where the East India Company raised troops. To Comilla in the west, where Queen Victoria stayed several times and also founded a college, and to the south, Chittagong, the maritime gateway to Bengal and the tea plantations.

We visit the British military cemeteries, but we also want to get to know today's Bangladesh and of course we will also get to know another child of the British Empire, the railroad. The roots of the Bangladesh Railway lie in the ABR (Assam Bengal Railway), which laid the first route in what was then British India. We find their headquarters and main station almost in their original condition. Last but not least, our journey will be a journey into the past, as will our visits – better explorations – of the numerous Rajbari and architectural remains of the British Raj will prove...

You will encounter silent witnesses to history as lively and lively 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 craft and trade are still 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.

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

### Highlights

- Old Dhaka as a bubbling juggernaut
- *cosmopolitan* Sylhet, the company's focus is on the extravagance in the north
- tea time in the *Tea Capital* Srimangal, all about tea
- the country's last rainforest, Lawachara National Park
- Queen Victoria's Comilla
- the train as a descendant of the Assam/Eastern Bengal Railway
- visit to Comilla and Chittagong Commonwealth Cemeteries
- Chittagong, maritime gateway to the largest tea-growing region in the world
- boat tour along the Chittagong ship-breaking-yards
- ship passage on the *Rocket* and the largest stream in Asia (Meghna)

## Itinerary

	day/date	stage/services	transport	overnight stay
1	Sunday	arrival Dhaka <b>hotel transfer, Curzon Hall</b>	bus 15km	Marino Hotel ***
2	Monday	Dhaka → Sylhet <b>train trip handluggage!</b>	train 250km/6h	Noorjahan Grand ***
3	Tuesday	Sylhet <b>Sylhet in the focus of the EIC</b>	-	
4	Wednesday	Sylhet → Srimangal <b>adventures on the go...</b>	bus 90km/3h	Hotel Amar Bari ***
5	Thursday	Srimangal <b>Lawachara, all about tea</b>	-	
6	Friday	Srimangal → Comilla <b>adventures on the go...</b>	bus 170km/5h	Hotel Victory Abashik ***
7	Saturday	Comilla <b>Comilla City</b>	-	
8	Sunday	Comilla → Chittagong <b>adventures on the go...</b>	bus 160km/5h	The Alina Hotel ***
9	Monday	Chittagong <b>EIC in Chittagong</b>	-	
10	Tuesday	Chittagong → Dhaka <b>ship breaking yards</b>	plane 200km/1h	Marino Hotel ***
11	Wednesday	Dhaka → Morrelganj <b>Old Dhaka, river trip handluggage!</b>	bus 20km/1h ferry 220km/3h	1st class cabin
12	Thursday	Morrelganj → Jessore <b>(Rocket)-river trip</b>	ferry 220km/14h bus 120km/4h	Iqbal Manzil Apartments ***
13	Friday	Jessore → Dhaka <b>Jessore City handluggage!</b>	plane 150km/1h	Marino Hotel ***
14	Saturday	departure Dhaka <b>airport transfer</b>	bus 5km	-

travel day	itinerary
1 Sunday	<p><b>Welcome to Dhaka!</b> Day of arrival! After the transfer to your hotel, first steps in Dhaka. In the mid-19th century, the British began planning modern Dhaka. Waterworks, mechanical spinning mills, weaving mills, schools, museums and the university were built. The city again became an important trading center and the seat of many authorities. Among other things we visit Curzon Hall, probably the most representative building of the University of Dhaka from the time of the British Raj. The building was originally the town hall and was named after Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, who laid the foundation stone in 1904.</p> <p><i>In Dhaka, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage in the evening of the 2nd day in the hotel in Sylhet.</i></p> <p>Good night in the fastest growing metropolis in Asia, Dhaka.</p>
2 Monday	<p><b>Adventure Bangladesh Railway</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 the perfect Transportation to get in touch with the locals and watch the busy activities at various stops, while rural Bangladesh is passing you by. After our arrival in Sylhet we end the day at the shrine of Hajrat Shah Jalal. The evening hours are the best time to watch the mystical scenery of the <i>sacred</i> place anyway. Sleep well in Sylhet.</p>
3 & 4 Tuesday & Wednesday	<p><b>The East India Company focuses on Sylhet</b> Sylhet describes <i>worldly ambitions meets religious contentment</i> quite well. The townspeople have a very close relationship with England. With the arrival of the EIC, Sylhet increasingly awakened the strategic interest of the East India Company until it made Robert Lindsay governor in 1778. The troops raised here under the company later fought as part of the British armed forces in both world wars, often on the ships of the Royal Navy. Many of the soldiers later settled</p>

	<p>in England and worked on the London and Liverpool docks. On day 3 we go in search of traces in the most <i>cosmopolitan</i> of all cities, which should have the most pleasant atmosphere in all of South Asia (at least that's what travelers say).</p> <p>In the morning of the fourth day we travel to the so-called <i>Tea capital</i> of the country, Srimangal. Pleasant dreams here.</p>
5 Thursday	<p><b>The last rainforest and all about tea</b></p> <p>The last rainforest and everything about tea</p> <p>In the middle of the largest and most beautiful tea plantations in the world is Srimangal. A walk in one of the more than 47 tea plantations covering a total area of 450 km<sup>2</sup> is a must here, where the air is infused with the scent of tea, pineapple and lemon plantations. Of course we will visit a tea factory and the Research Institute. But in the morning we visit the Lawachara National Park, home to the only great ape species in South Asia, the Hoolock Gibbon.</p> <p>Sleep well, back in Srimangal.</p>
6 & 7 Friday & Saturday	<p><b>In the Tropic of Cancer</b></p> <p>Comilla is warm if not hot all year round. It is the warmest city in Bangladesh, and mercury regularly rises to over 40 degrees in summer. The city was founded in 1864 as a municipality. It grew rapidly and soon housed several libraries, a museum and more than a dozen universities. Queen Victoria visited Comilla several times. A university was named after her (Comilla Victoria Gouvernement College), of which unfortunately only a few entrance buildings remain. Comilla gained fame through its insubordination...</p> <p>Day 6 we will use for the arrival from Srimangal, which will be loosened up by various stops along the way. Day 7 we follow the traces left by the British including the cemetery and the military cemetery.</p> <p>Night's sleep in Comilla.</p>
8 & 9 Sunday & Monday	<p><b>Chittagong, maritime gate of the East India Company</b></p> <p>On the morning of the 8th day we travel south to Chittagong. The country's second largest city, as the most important port in South Asia, has seen many nations come and go. Arabs, Chinese, Portuguese and the English. Today Chittagong is considered to be crucial for the economic development of southern Asia including northeastern India, Bhutan, Nepal and parts of southern China and Myanmar. The metropolis is home to an exchange and tea auction and is a center of logistics and heavy industry.</p> <p>Day 9 we look around the city, visit u.a. the old train station and the Administration building of the East India Company and Assam Bengal Railway.</p> <p>Pleasant dreams in Chittagong.</p>
10 - 12 Tuesday - Thursday	<p><b>Iron eater, in the heart of the juggernaut, paddle steamer and the largest stream in Asia</b></p> <p>Day 10: Depending on the tide situation, we start our boat tour around the ship breaking yards, which are among the global centers of the scrapping industry. You can expect spectacular insights into the working life of the people here before we fly back to Dhaka.</p> <p><i>In Dhaka, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage at the hotel in Jessore in the evening of the 12th day.</i></p> <p>On the morning of the 11th day, it goes 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 ringing rickshaws. At the end of the day we embark here from the largest river port in the world to Morrelganj, which we reach in the afternoon of the 12th day. Sleep well in your 1st class cabin.</p> <p>So on the 12th day we have enough time to watch the passing rural life and to admire the ferry ourselves. The paddle steamer from the 1930s is a real original, a moving shipping museum and 1st class has its own, albeit small, panoramic deck. After arrival in Morrelganj continue to Jessore.</p> <p><i>In Jessore, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage at the hotel in Dhaka on the evening of the 13th day.</i></p> <p>Night's rest here in Jessore</p>
13 Friday	<p><b>Jessore City</b></p> <p>Before our flight to Dhaka takes off, we visit Jessore itself. The administrative center of the region has some very well-preserved British buildings, especially the town hall. The return flight to Dhaka takes place in the afternoon.</p> <p>A pleasant last night in Dhaka.</p>
14 Saturday	<p><b>Back on "Go"</b></p> <p>Depending on the departure time, transfer to the airport, farewell, end of the tour.</p> <p>Thank you and good trip home!</p>

**BANGLADESH**

0 km 30 60 90 km

Legend:

- car/bus
- ship
- train
- plane

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