



# The Lonesome Traveler

www.lonesome-traveler.de

Copyright © The Lonesome Traveler - We love Bangladesh. We hate prejudices. All rights reserved.

Copyright © The Lonesome Traveler - We love Bangladesh. We hate prejudices. All rights reserved.

## ABOUT KINGDOMS AND SULTANATES

*Bangladesh history and culture tour (14 days)*

Bengal's settlement history goes back to the 6th century. We will follow in the footsteps of former powerful ruling dynasties, which blossomed the Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim empires here in Bengal and left behind a whole series of extraordinary monuments that testify to a time of prosperity and development. But the British East India Company also left behind numerous buildings, as did the last era in the history of historic Bengal, that of the rule of the British crown.

So the country is rich in history and cultural legacies, and they also have a very relaxed relationship with history here. We will encounter living history almost everywhere, which means that historical areas or the half-dilapidated witnesses of times long past are well used or even inhabited. Of course, you also gain an insight into the living conditions of Bengali residents today...

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
- the Kawran Bazar, Dhaka's largest and most original market
- the remains of Bengal's oldest settlement, Mahasthangarh
- perfect terracotta architecture – the Kantaji Temple near Dinajpur
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Somapura Mahavihar near Paharpur
- Puthia, the splendor of the Hindu feudal empires
- Natore, the splendor among the colonial masters
- the City of Silk, Rajshahi
- pure idyll: Naldanga & Bhatnagar Temple Complex
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Bagerhat – the forgotten Kalifatabad
- the Venice of the East, the area around Barisal

### 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 → Mahasthangarh → Bogra <b>Mahasthangarh</b>	bus 180km/5h	Hotel Momo Inn *****

3	Tuesday	Bogra → Dinajpur <b>Sura Masjid, Dinajpur Rajbari</b>	bus 140km/4h	Hotel AFIA Int. **
4	Wednesday	Dinajpur <b>Ramsagar, Kantaji, Nayabad</b>	bus 50km/2h	
5	Thursday	Dinajpur → Paharpur → Rajshahi <b>Paharpur</b>	bus 200km/7h	Warisan Hotel ***
6	Friday	Rajshahi <b>Rajshahi City</b>	-	
7	Saturday	Rajshahi → Natore → Puthia → Rajshahi <b>Natore, Puthia</b>	bus 80km/3h	
8	Sunday	Rajshahi → Jessore <b>Lalon Shah, Naldanga Temple Complex</b>	bus 200km/7h	Iqbal Manzil Apartments ***
9	Monday	Jessore <b>Bhatnagar Temple Complex</b>	bus 70km/3h	
10	Tuesday	Jessore → Bagherhat → Barisal <b>Bagerhat</b>	bus 170km/5h	Hotel Grand Park ****
11	Wednesday	Barisal <b>Venice of the East</b>	-	
12	Thursday	Barisal → Dhaka <b>Mia Bari, river tour</b> <i>handluggage!</i>	bus 20km/1h ferry 170km/9h	riverboat 1st class cabin
13	Friday	Dhaka <b>Old Dhaka</b>	bus 20km	Marino Hotel ***
14	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. Good night in the fastest growing metropolis in Asia, Dhaka.
2 Monday	<b>Holy Land and refreshing settlements</b> In the early morning we leave Dhaka and travel to the archaeologically little-researched northwest. Our destination today is the oldest known settlement in Bengal, Mahasthangarh. Here, on the remains of the citadel, we spend the afternoon taking a long walk through the lively grounds. Excavation finds – the result of excavations to a depth of 17 meters – can be viewed in the associated museum. Pleasant dreams in nearby Bogra.
3 & 4 Tuesday & Wednesday	<b>From pitiable ruins and terracotta architecture to perfection</b> In the morning we travel to Dinajpur. The city, located on the Punarvhaba River, was once part of the ancient kingdom of Pundravardhana. The British administration took over here in 1786. In the old town, with its narrow but lively streets, it is quite easy to walk at any time of the day. We end day 3 at the former royal palace. Originally surrounded by moats and a rampart, it is now a ruin in the advanced stage of decay. Inside, however, there is a Krishna temple and a larger orphanage for little bullies right in the neighbourhood. Day 4 we start with a morning walk in Ramsagar National Park. In the afternoon, the parade example of terracotta architecture in Bangladesh, the Kantaji Temple, built around 1722, awaits us. The temple is considered one of the most beautiful of its kind – worldwide! Every inch of wall, from the foundation stone to the roof, lives from the detailed depictions of Krishna's exploits and contemporary scenes from the life of the land aristocracy. The day ends with a walk through the nearby village of Nayabad. Sleep well in Dinajpur.
5 Thursday	<b>UNESCO World Heritage<sup>2</sup> part 1: Somapura Mahavihar</b> This morning we're going south. Our daily destination is Rajshahi, the so-called <i>City of Silk</i> on the Ganges, within sight of India. The little village of Paharpur is a little less than halfway away, and the Somapura Mahavihar UNESCO World Heritage Site is a little out of the way. We explore the remains of what was once the most important cultural and study center and the largest Buddhist monastery complex south of the Himalayas. Built in the 8th century under King Dharmapala of Bengal, this sacred site influenced Buddhist architecture throughout Southeast Asia and represents two stages of cultural

	<p>and historical development.</p> <p>On the one hand, the facility is a milestone in the transition from a local, rather random architecture to a more conscious and symbolic or metaphorical, on the other hand, it symbolizes the transition from a pure state religion to a ritual, philosophical religion that corresponds to the teachings of Buddha, which as Neo-Buddhism or Tantra is known.</p> <p>In the evening we reach Rajshahi. Good night here</p>
<p><b>6 &amp; 7</b> Friday &amp; Saturday</p>	<p><b>The City of Silk and the pearl of the Hindu empires</b></p> <p>We use the 6th day to explore the city, which was once the epicenter of strong Buddhist and Hindu empires. Today, largely detached from the pulse of Bangladesh, its former strength and meaning is still reflected in its name: <i>Raj</i> (Sanskrit) and <i>Shahi</i> (Persian) both mean <i>royal</i>. Unfortunately, a lot of substance was destroyed here during the great earthquake of 1897. We end the day on the banks of the Ganges and on a boat tour.</p> <p>On day 7 we visit the elegant royal palace complex of Natore. This was once the residence of the Rajshahi Raj family. Today the half-dilapidated and overgrown buildings breathe its mystical, mysterious life of its own into the area and give the imagination a lot of space.</p> <p>But the highlight awaits us at the small village of Puthia. The village offers you the largest number of historically valuable Hindu buildings in Bangladesh and bursts at the seams with the abundance of palaces and temples...</p> <p>Night rest again in Rajshahi.</p>
<p><b>8 &amp; 9</b> Sunday &amp; Monday</p>	<p><b>In and around Jessore</b></p> <p>Jessore itself is not a pearl, but neither is it more or less attractive than any other city. The advantage of the city is its surroundings.</p> <p>On the way to Jessore we visit the shrine of the philosopher, poet and baul Fakir Lalon Shah. Without a direct religious background, the shrine, which has since become a pilgrimage site, attracts Muslims and Hindus from all parts of the country. Wandering musicians play the traditional poetry of the Lalon Shah near his final resting place to pay homage to a man who said of himself: <i>When people ask whether the Fakir Lalon is a Hindu or a Muslim, Lalon says that he himself does not know who or what he is.</i></p> <p>The Naldanga Temple Complex follows, it could hardly be more idyllic. Seven out of eight formerly eight temples over 350 years old are still standing and were built from the reign of Maharaj Indranarayan Debroyim. The first temple was built on the Begobati River in 1656, and later, temple by temple followed by other rulers.</p> <p>We spend day 9 in the small town of Bhatnagar with the picturesque Bhatnagar Temple Complex. The temples are arranged in a recognizable geometric pattern and there are only a few such structures left. This, eleven temples dedicated to the god Shiva, is a feast for the eyes and was built in 1740.</p> <p>Good night in Jessore.</p>
<p><b>10 - 12</b> Tuesday - Thursday</p>	<p><b>UNESCO World Heritage<sup>2</sup> part 2: Bagerhat. The Venice of the East: Barisal</b></p> <p>We cross Bagerhat on our way to Barisal. This is considered an <i>excellent example of an architectural ensemble that illustrates a significant stage in human history</i> and is therefore a World Heritage Site.</p> <p>Day 11 belongs to the surrounding area. Our boat tour, through the tangle of canals and rivers, amidst the fruit and vegetable plantations, with landings at various markets, settlements and villages is more than worthwhile. Sleep well in Barisal.</p> <p><i>In Barisal, 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>On day 12 we visit the idyllic Mia Bari Masjid. The picturesque 3-dome mosque, built on a rectangular plan, is estimated to be from the late 18th to the early 19th century. It is enthroned on a man-high platform, under which there are several rooms. In the evening we embark on the ferry to Dhaka.</p> <p>Sleep well on board.</p>
<p><b>13</b> Friday</p>	<p><b>In the heart of the juggernaut, Old Dhaka</b></p> <p>In the early morning hours we moor deep in the intestines of the metropolis. We are in Sadarghat, the immediate clock and center of chaos Old Dhaka. The largest and probably dirtiest river port in the world at Buriganga is one of the most dynamic places in Dhaka. 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.</p> <p>A pleasant last night in Dhaka.</p>
<p><b>14</b> Saturday</p>	<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>



## Travel route



We love Bangladesh. We hate prejudices. **The Lonesome Traveler**