

The Lonesome Traveler

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GREEN AND WILD *Bangladesh nature travel. (21 days)*

Due to its geographical location, Bangladesh has a correspondingly high level of species diversity, for example the amount of bird species present here is almost the same as in all of Europe.

In total, there are 121 species of mammals (including 5 marine animals), 690 bird species (380 inhabitants, 209 winter guests, 11 summer guests and 90 vagabonds), 158 reptile species (including 19 sea species) and 53 amphibian species in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has never lost touch with the mainland, so there are no species that only occur here.

However, the country's rich wildlife is under enormous pressure. Their living space is increasingly being changed or destroyed in order to meet the requirements of the economy and the population. Bangladesh has already lost a few characteristic species – fourteen, mostly large, mammals, to be precise – yet there are a number, but some are on the verge of extinction, both locally and globally. Here, too, the “cognitive process” only started with the “disappearance” of natural habitats and animals. In recent years, government efforts to create protected habitats have increased enormously, but we are still at the very beginning...

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
- ship passage on the Meghna, the largest river in Asia
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Bagerhat - the forgotten Kalifatabad
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Sundarbans. 3 day cruise in the Ganges Delta
- the last otter fishermen in the world
- the largest strangler fig in Asia
- picturesque temples in the villages of Naldanga and Bhatnagar
- Lawachara National Park - the last rainforest in the country
- hiking in the Rajkandi nature reserve
- Chittagong fishing port and market
- the Kaptai National Park and the Kaptai Lake
- the Chittagong Hill Tracts: hikes, various ethnic villages, river trips
- the longest natural beach in the world in Cox's Bazar

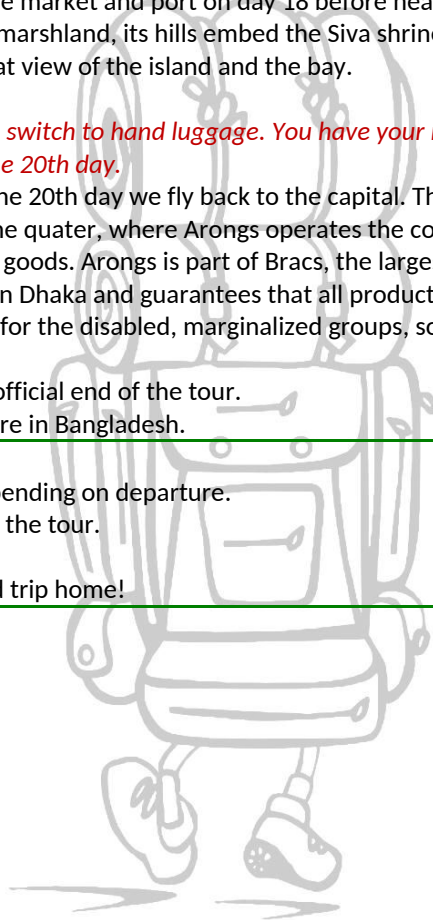
Itinerary

day/date		stage/services	transport	overnight stay
1	Sunday	arrival Dhaka hotel transfer, Kawran Bazar	bus 15km	Marino Hotel ***
2	Monday	Dhaka → Hularhat Old Dhaka, river trip <i>handluggage!</i>	bus 20km ferry 300km/15h	riverboat 1. class cabin
3	Tuesday	Hularhat → Bagerhat → Mongla river trip, Bagerhat	bus 100km/4h	cruiser cabin
4	Wednesday	Mongla → Sundarbans Sundarbans	-	
5	Thursday	Sundarbans Sundarbans	-	
6	Friday	Sundarbans → Mongla → Jessore Bhatnagar Temple Complex	bus 100km/4h	Iqbal Manzil Apartments
7	Saturday	Jessore → Naldanga → Jessore strangler fig, country life	bus 70km/3h	
8	Sunday	Jessore → Narail → Jessore → Dhaka otter-fisherman <i>handluggage!</i>	bus 80km/4h plane 150km/1h	Marino Hotel ***
9	Monday	Dhaka → Srimangal train journey <i>handluggage!</i>	train 180km/5h	Hotel Amar Bari ****
10	Tuesday	Srimangal Lawachara, around Srimangal	-	
11	Wednesday	Srimangal Rajkandi Nature Reserve	-	
12	Thursday	Srimangal → Sylhet → Dhaka → Chittagong adventure on the go... <i>handluggage!</i>	bus 80km/3h plane 2x200km a 1h	The Alina Hotel ***
13	Friday	Chittagong → Rangamati fishery ghat, market, EIC station	bus 80km/4h	Parjatan Complex ***
14	Saturday	Rangamati Kaptai Lake and surrounding area	-	
15	Sunday	Rangamati → Bandarban Kaptai Lake Road	bus 80km/3h	Hill Side Resort **
16	Monday	Bandarban Bandarban and surrounding area	-	
17	Tuesday	Bandarban → Cox's Bazar adventure on the go...	bus 110km/4h	Ocean Paradise *****
18	Wednesday	Cox's Bazar Moheshkhali Island	-	
19	Thursday	Cox's Bazar at your disposal	-	
20	Friday	Cox's Bazar → Dhaka shopping in Uttara <i>handluggage!</i>	plane 350km/1h	Marino Hotel ***
21	Saturday	departure Dhaka airport transfer	bus 5km	-

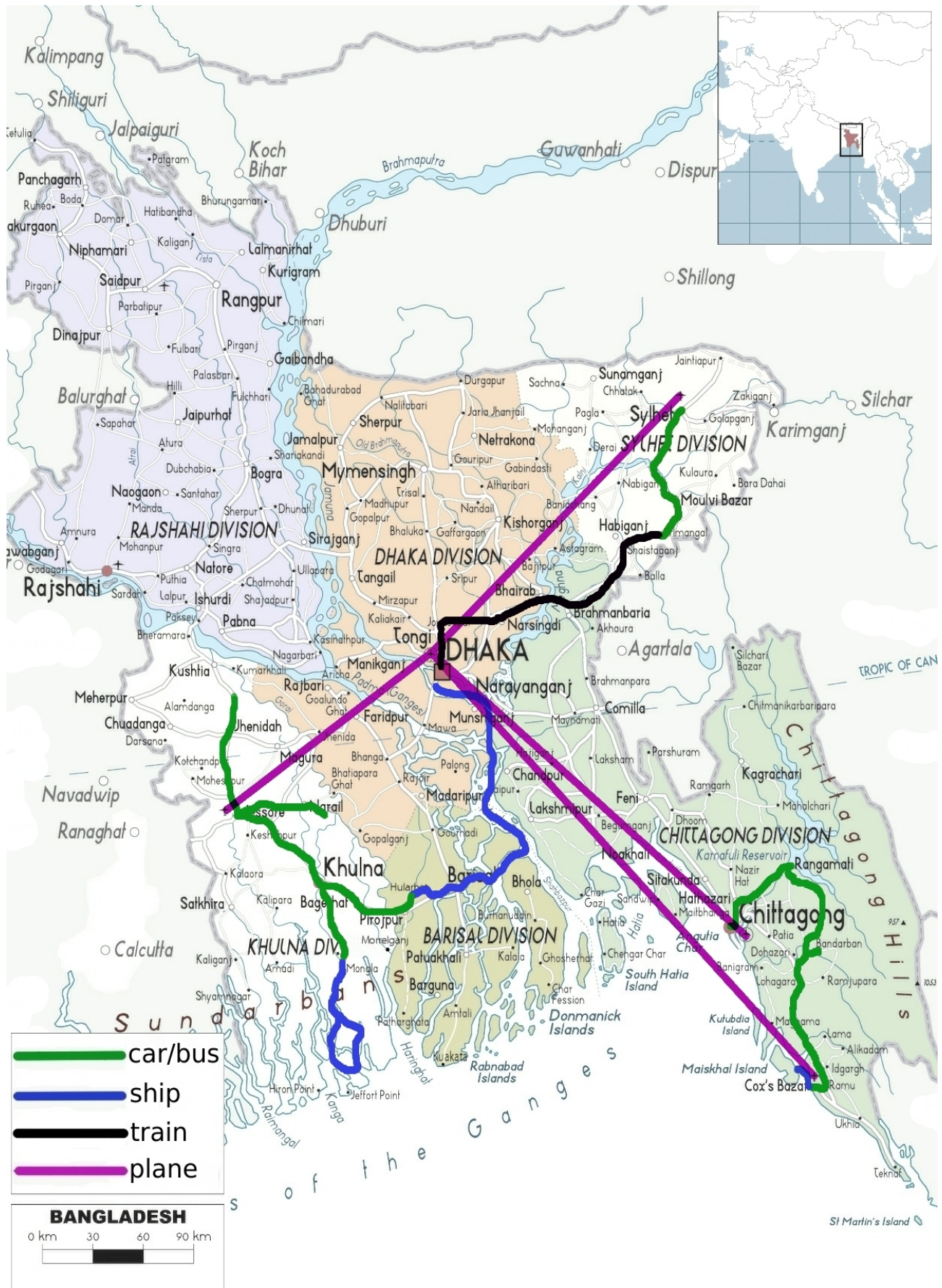
travel day	itinerary
1 Sunday	Welcome to Dhaka! Crowds and markets Day of arrival! After the transfer to your hotel, first steps in Dhaka. We visit the largest and most traditional market in Dhaka (Kawran Bazar) with handicrafts and trade, sometimes as publicly as when the British ruled the country. Good night in the fastest growing metropolis in Asia, Dhaka.
2 Monday	In the heart of the juggernaut, Old Dhaka 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><i>In Dhaka, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage on the evening of the 3rd day on our Sundarbans cruiser.</i></p> <p>Fair wind and good night in your 1st class cabin on the ferry.</p>
3 Tuesday	<p>UNESCO World Heritage² part 1: Bagerhat</p> <p>In the late morning we reach Hularhat on our leisurely trip, enough time to observe rural life from our small promenade deck. On the way to Mongla we cross Bagerhat. This is considered an "excellent example of an architectural ensemble that illustrates a significant stage in human history" and is therefore a World Heritage Site. In the evening we reach the gateway to the Ganges Delta: Mongla.</p> <p>Dinner and overnight camp on our small cruiser.</p>
4 & 5 Wednesday & Thursday	<p>UNESCO World Heritage² part 2: In the largest delta on earth</p> <p>In the late afternoon of the 4th 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... We end the day with a BBQ dinner on board.</p> <p>On the morning of the 5th 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. Arrive the next morning.</p> <p>Fair wind and good night in your cabin.</p>
6 & 7 Friday & Saturday	<p>Country life and strangler figs</p> <p>After an early lunch we disembark and continue towards Jessore. Country life is as important today and tomorrow as the Bhatnagar temple complex on the banks of the Bhairab.</p> <p>On day 7 we also stroll through the villages and admire, among other things, the largest banyan tree in Asia, Ficus bengalensis. This Bengali fig is approx. 35 meters high and has approx. 1,500 brace roots. In the idyllic Naldanga on the small river Begobati We end the day in idyllic Naldanga on the small river Begobati.</p> <p><i>In Jessore, 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 night's sleep in Jessore!</p>
8 Sunday	<p>About otters and accomplices</p> <p>Our return flight to Dhaka takes place in the early evening. Until then we will discover a unique spectacle in the last foothills of the Sundarbans: otter fishermen. Fish don't have it easy either, at least around here. Their predator no.1 the human being has entered into an ominous alliance with another, for them not exactly more pleasant contemporaries, with the smooth coated otter. The fishermen breed and raise them, train them and with a lot of patience the otters grow to be excellent accomplices of the fishermen...</p> <p><i>In Dhaka, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage at the hotel in Srimangal on the evening of the 9th day.</i></p> <p>Good night in the capital.</p>
9 - 11 Monday - Wednesday	<p>Adventure Bangladesh Railway</p> <p>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 passes by...</p> <p>Day 10 we visit Lawachara the last rainforest in the country, before we look around in the magical surroundings. Day 11 we visit the Rajkandi Reserve and take a shower under one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the country.</p> <p><i>In Srimangal, please switch to hand luggage. You have your main luggage at the hotel in Chittagong on the evening of the 12th day.</i></p> <p>Pleasant dreams in the tea capital of Srimangal.</p>
12 & 13 Thursday & Friday	<p>From the north to the south</p> <p>In the morning we drive to Sylhet Airport and fly via Dhaka to the south of the country, the second largest city, Chittagong. From the late afternoon there should be enough time to visit the fishing port.</p> <p>Good night in Chittagong.</p> <p>Day 13 we start early in the morning and visit the fish market, a must and the old EIC train station, before heading towards the Chittagong Hill Tracts.</p> <p>Sleep well in Rangamati, on the shores of Kaptai Lake.</p>
14 - 17 Saturday - Tuesday	<p>The other, autonomous Bangladesh</p> <p>Day 14 we are around and on the largest lake in the country, Kaptai Lake. We experience a dreamlike backdrop, ethnic villages, Buddhist monasteries...</p> <p>Day 15 we travel to Bandarban with many interruptions on the most beautiful road in the country, the Kaptai Lake Link. Among other things, the golden pagoda of Bandarban awaits us,</p>

	<p>where we will end the day.</p> <p>We spend day 16 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 17th day we travel south towards the Gulf of Bengal. On the way we visit trades, settlements and markets.</p> <p>Pleasant dreams in Cox's Bazar.</p>
<p>18 - 20 Wednesday - Friday</p>	<p>Allow me, Himram Cox</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>In today's times, Cox's Bazar is the most popular seaside 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 port on day 18 before heading to Moheshkhali. 268 km² of mangrove-covered marshland, its hills embed the Siva shrine of Adinath and a Buddhist pagoda and also offer a great view of the island and the bay.</p> <p>Day 19 is at leisure.</p> <p><i>In Cox Bazar, 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>Around midday of the 20th day we fly back to the capital. Those interested can spend the afternoon here in the quater, where Arongs operates the country's flagship of its chain with high-quality handcrafted goods. Arongs is part of Bracs, the largest NGO in the world, which has its headquarters here in Dhaka and guarantees that all products offered here have a social background (workshops for the disabled, marginalized groups, socially disadvantaged etc.)</p> <p>Closing dinner and official end of the tour. A good last night here in Bangladesh.</p>
<p>21 Saturday</p>	<p>Back on "Go"</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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