

Cox's Bazar



Basic Information About the Place

Name:

Cox's Bazar is widely regarded as one of the most iconic tourist destinations in Bangladesh, best known for having the **world's longest natural sea beach**, stretching approximately **120 kilometers** along the Bay of Bengal.

Location:

- **Address:** Cox's Bazar, Chattogram Division, Bangladesh. The town is part of the southeastern region of the country, bordering the Bay of Bengal.
- **Coordinates:** **21.4272° N, 92.0058° E**, placing it within the tropical region, which influences its warm and humid climate.
<https://www.google.com/maps/dir/?api=1&destination=21.4272,92.0058>
For more information or to explore the map further, users can visit [Google Maps](#).
- **Accessibility:** Cox's Bazar is accessible via multiple modes of transportation, such as **road, air, and sea**:

- By **Road**: The beach town is approximately **392 kilometers (244 miles)** southeast of Dhaka, and **150 kilometers (93 miles)** south of Chattogram (the second-largest city in Bangladesh). The journey from Dhaka typically takes 8-10 hours by bus. The N1 highway provides a direct route connecting Dhaka to Chattogram and onward to Cox's Bazar.
 - By **Air**: The **Cox's Bazar Airport (CXB)** is connected to Dhaka and Chattogram through domestic flights operated by airlines like Biman Bangladesh, Novoair, and US-Bangla Airlines. The flight duration from Dhaka is around 50 minutes.
 - By **Sea**: While there is no regular passenger ferry to Cox's Bazar, private boats and fishing trawlers occasionally ferry locals between the town and nearby islands like St. Martin's.
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History:

1. Etymology:

- The name "Cox's Bazar" originates from **Captain Hiram Cox**, a British officer of the East India Company. Captain Cox was sent to resolve conflicts between Arakan refugees (Rakhine people) and local communities in the area during the late 18th century.
- Although Captain Cox died in 1799 before completing his mission, his efforts in settling refugees earned him immense respect, leading the region to be named after him.

2. Development:

- **Colonial Era**: Initially, Cox's Bazar was a small fishing village and a trading post under British rule. During this period, it began to gain recognition for its scenic beauty and cultural significance.
- **Post-Independence**: After the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, Cox's Bazar underwent significant development to cater to tourism. Infrastructure like hotels, resorts, and better roadways was constructed, leading to its emergence as a major tourist destination.
- **Modern Era**: Today, Cox's Bazar serves as an international tourist hub, attracting visitors not only for its **expansive beaches** but also for its **natural biodiversity**, cultural heritage, and access to nearby attractions like **St. Martin's Island** and **Inani Beach**.

- The area is currently undergoing further development, including the expansion of **Cox's Bazar Airport** into an international airport to accommodate growing tourism demand and global visitors.

Cox's Bazar's natural beauty, combined with its rich history and evolving infrastructure, makes it a must-visit destination for both locals and international travelers.

Attractions and Points of Interest in Cox's Bazar

Beaches

Cox's Bazar is famous for its stunning beaches that stretch for over 120 kilometers, making it the longest natural sea beach in the world. Here's a detailed look at the major beaches:

1. Laboni Beach:

- **Description:** The main beach closest to Cox's Bazar town, Laboni Beach is a hub of activity with numerous vendors, restaurants, and entertainment options. It is ideal for enjoying a vibrant seaside atmosphere.
- **Attractions:** Visitors can enjoy beachside horse rides, local seafood stalls, and souvenirs like handmade crafts and jewelry.
- **Accessibility:** Easily reachable on foot or by rickshaw from Cox's Bazar town.

2. Inani Beach:

- **Description:** Located about 24 km south of Cox's Bazar town, Inani Beach is famed for its clear blue waters, coral stones, and calm environment, making it a favorite for visitors seeking solitude.
- **Unique Features:** Coral stones scattered across the beach, especially during low tide, and breathtaking sunsets.
- **Accessibility:** Accessible by car or CNG auto-rickshaw, taking around 45 minutes from Cox's Bazar.

3. Himchari Beach:

- **Description:** Situated 12 km from Cox's Bazar town, Himchari Beach is a scenic spot featuring hills that touch the sea. It is especially popular for its serene environment and stunning views.
- **Highlights:** Himchari Waterfall, a small but beautiful waterfall near the beach, and the Himchari hilltop that offers panoramic views of the Bay of Bengal.

- **Accessibility:** Can be reached by road along a scenic drive from Cox's Bazar town.
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Islands

The nearby islands around Cox's Bazar offer unique experiences, from marine biodiversity to serene beaches.

1. Saint Martin's Island:

- **Description:** Known locally as "Narikel Jinjira" (Coconut Island), Saint Martin's Island is the only coral island in Bangladesh, located about 9 km south of Teknaf.
- **Attractions:** Pristine white-sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, and diverse marine life, including corals and turtles. Activities include snorkeling, boating, and exploring small fishing villages.
- **Accessibility:** A 2-3 hour boat ride from Teknaf. Ferries and private boats operate daily during the tourist season.

2. Sonadia Island:

- **Description:** Located about 7 km off the coast, Sonadia Island is a serene destination known for its natural beauty, with mangroves, sandy dunes, and salt marshes.
 - **Attractions:** It is a haven for birdwatchers as it hosts a variety of migratory birds, including gulls and geese. The island is also known for its natural breeding grounds for turtles.
 - **Accessibility:** Accessible by boat from the mainland or through tour operators in Cox's Bazar.
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Cultural Sites

Cox's Bazar is rich in cultural and spiritual heritage, with several significant Buddhist sites.

1. Aggamedha Khyang Monastery:

- **Description:** This centuries-old Buddhist monastery is a revered religious site that houses numerous ancient manuscripts, relics, and images of Buddha.
- **Highlights:** The monastery is constructed on wooden stilts, surrounded by dense greenery, creating a tranquil and spiritual atmosphere. It is an excellent place for understanding the local Buddhist community's history and culture.
- **Location:** Close to the central town area of Cox's Bazar.

2. Ramu Village:

- **Description:** A traditional Buddhist village located about 10 km from Cox's Bazar, Ramu is famous for its ancient temples, monasteries, and pagodas.

- **Highlights:** The village features a 100-foot-long reclining Buddha statue, exquisite gold-plated pagodas, and local craftsmanship, including handmade mats and artifacts.

Natural Attractions

Cox's Bazar is not only about beaches but also a treasure trove of natural beauty.

1. Himchari National Park:

- **Description:** A lush, hilly national park located 12 km south of Cox's Bazar, this park is home to diverse flora and fauna. The park is a paradise for nature lovers and birdwatchers.
- **Key Attractions:** Dense forests, exotic bird species, and breathtaking views of the Bay of Bengal from hilltops. The Himchari Waterfall, a picturesque cascade, is a must-visit within the park.
- **Accessibility:** A short drive from Cox's Bazar town, with entry tickets available at the park entrance.

2. Dulhazra Safari Park:

- **Description:** Situated 50 km from Cox's Bazar, this safari park is a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. It is home to a wide variety of animals, including elephants, Bengal tigers, crocodiles, and more.
- **Key Features:** The park offers a guided safari experience, allowing visitors to see animals in semi-natural habitats. It also houses a rescue center for injured and abandoned animals.
- **Accessibility:** Easily reachable via the Cox's Bazar-Chattogram highway.

These attractions make Cox's Bazar a vibrant blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and thrilling activities, ensuring a memorable experience for visitors of all interests.

Activities for Visitors in Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar offers a variety of activities catering to adventure seekers, nature lovers, and cultural enthusiasts. Here's a detailed guide to the activities visitors can enjoy:

Water Sports

Visitors can indulge in various water-based activities that make the most of the expansive beaches and clear waters:

- **Jet Skiing:** High-speed jet skiing is available at popular beaches like Laboni and Inani, offering adrenaline-filled fun.
- **Surfing:** Cox's Bazar is gaining popularity among surfers due to its gentle waves. Surfboards are available for rent, and there are local instructors for beginners.

- **Banana Boat Rides:** Group banana boat rides provide an exciting way to enjoy the sea with family and friends, typically available at Laboni Beach.
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Boat Tours

Exploring the surrounding islands and sea via boat tours is a favorite activity:

- **Trips to Saint Martin's Island:** Organized boat tours take visitors on a scenic journey to this coral island, often including stops for snorkeling and exploring marine life.
 - **Deep-Sea Fishing:** Enthusiasts can join deep-sea fishing excursions arranged by local operators, where they can catch fish like tuna and mackerel.
 - **Mangrove Forest Visits:** Some tours include a visit to the mangroves near Sonadia Island, showcasing unique biodiversity.
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Beach Camping

- **Description:** Organized beach camping experiences, especially around the secluded Inani Beach, allow visitors to spend a night under the stars.
 - **Activities:** Campfires, stargazing, and barbeques are popular activities during camping trips. Equipment is provided by local tour operators.
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Cultural Tours

Visitors can immerse themselves in the local culture through guided tours of Cox's Bazar's traditional and modern highlights:

- **Local Markets:** Explore the vibrant Burmese Market in Cox's Bazar, known for unique items like handmade crafts, traditional garments, and dried seafood.
 - **Fishing Villages:** Visit nearby fishing villages to experience the daily life of local fishermen and learn about traditional fishing techniques.
 - **Handicraft Centers:** Ramu Village and other areas offer tours of local workshops where traditional mats, pottery, and souvenirs are crafted.
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Operating Hours

- **Beaches:** Open 24/7; however, it's advisable to visit during daylight hours for safety.
- **Parks and Cultural Sites:** Typically open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

- **Special Events:** Local festivals and events may extend operating hours; it's recommended to check with local tourism offices for current schedules.

Special Events and Commemorations

- **Beach Carnival:** An annual event featuring music, dance, and local cuisine.
- **Fishing Festival:** Celebrates the traditional fishing culture with demonstrations and competitions.
- **Religious Festivals:** Various Buddhist and Islamic festivals are observed with local ceremonies and fairs.

Transportation and Accessibility

Directions: Travelers from Dhaka can reach Cox's Bazar by domestic flights or bus services.

Public Transport Options:

- **Buses:** Several private bus companies operate routes from Dhaka and Chattogram to Cox's Bazar.
 - **Green Line Paribahan:** Offers luxury bus services with online ticketing options.
 - **Contact:** 9/2, Outer Circular Road, Momen Bagh, Rajarbagh, Dhaka-1217. Phone: 8315380.
 - **Website:** <https://greenlinebd.com/>
 - **Shyamoli Paribahan:** Provides extensive bus services across various routes.
 - **Cox's Bazar Counter Contact:** 01908899571.
 - **Website:** <https://shyamolitickets.com/shyamoli-counter>
 - **Star Line Special Ltd.:** Operates services between Dhaka, Chattogram, and Cox's Bazar.
 - **Cox's Bazar Counter Contact:** 01973259673.
 - **Website:** <https://starlinegroupbd.com/special/>
 - **ENA Transport:** Known for reliable bus services in Bangladesh.
 - **Contact:** 71/1 Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212. Hotline: +8801944-800200, +8801932-800200.
 - **Website:** <https://enatransport.com.bd/contact>

- **Sarbick Paribahan:** Offers online and offline reservation systems.
 - **Contact:** +88 01789 000 000.
 - **Website:** <https://www.sarbickparibahan.com/>

Accommodation Details

Luxury Hotels:

- **Hotel The Cox Today:** A five-star standard luxury hotel offering sea-facing rooms with modern amenities.
 - **Website:** <https://hotelthecoxtoday.com/>
- **Long Beach Hotel:** Encompassing spectacular views, it stands close to the hills and sea-beach, offering world-class facilities.
 - **Website:** <https://longbeachhotelbd.com/>
- **Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa:** Located in Inani, Ukhia, offering luxurious accommodations and amenities.
 - **Website:** <https://seapearlcoxsbazar.com/>

Mid-Range Hotels:

- **Hotel Coastal Peace:** Known for its central location and comfortable rooms.
 - **Contact:** House - 6, Block - B, Kolatoli Road, Cox's Bazar. Phone: +88 034151288, 01755521797.
 - **Website:** <https://www.hotelcoastalpeacebd.com/>
- **Best Western Heritage Hotel:** Provides a blend of comfort and affordability.
 - **Contact:** +88 01777744005 (Cox's Bazar Office).
 - **Website:** <https://www.bwheritagehotel.com/>

Budget Accommodations:

- **Hotel Beach Way:** Offers basic amenities with close proximity to the beach.
 - **Contact:** House # 21, Block # C, Kolatoli Road, Cox's Bazar. Reservations: +880 1777909595.
 - **Website:** <https://hotelbeachway.com/>
- **Hotel Media:** Popular among backpackers for its economical rates.
 - **Contact:** Reservation Hotline: 01707-074473 / 01707074471.
 - **Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/mediahotelcoxs/>

Food and Dining

Local Cuisine:

- **Seafood:** Fresh catches like prawns, lobsters, and various fish are staples.
- **Burmese Influences:** Dishes such as mohinga (rice noodle soup) reflect the area's cultural diversity.

Popular Restaurants:

- **Poushee Restaurant:** Renowned for traditional Bangladeshi dishes.
- **Jhawban Restaurant:** Specializes in seafood and local delicacies.

Dietary Options:

- **Halal Food:** Widely available throughout the area.
- **Vegetarian Options:** Offered in various restaurants.

For more detailed information on bus services, you can visit [bdtickets](#) or call their hotline at 16460 or 09610016460.

Please note that prices and availability are subject to change. It's advisable to contact the respective service providers directly or visit their official websites for the most up-to-date information.

Estimated Budget for a Day Trip to Cox's Bazar

For a day trip, here's a basic breakdown of your potential expenses:

Transportation:

- **Bus Fare (Dhaka to Cox's Bazar):** BDT 500 to 1,500 (one-way, depending on bus class)
- **Local Transport (Auto Rickshaw / Cycle Rickshaw):** BDT 100 to 300 (depending on distance)

Food:

- **Budget Restaurants:** BDT 200-400 per meal (local cuisine like seafood or Bengali dishes)
- **Mid-range Restaurants:** BDT 500-1,500 per meal (for international cuisine or fine dining)

Activities:

- **Beach Entry Fees (if applicable):** Free for most beaches (except for some resorts or private beaches where entry might cost BDT 100-500)

- **Water Sports:** BDT 500 to 2,000 (depending on activity, e.g., banana boat, jet skiing)
- **Boat Ride:** Around BDT 500-1,000 (for small island tours like Saint Martin's Island or Sonadia Island)

Total Estimated Budget for a Day Trip:

- **Budget-Friendly:** BDT 1,500 to 3,000 (travel, food, and activities)
 - **Mid-Range:** BDT 3,500 to 6,000
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Estimated Budget for a 2-3 Day Trip to Cox's Bazar

For a longer stay, you will need to budget for accommodation, additional meals, and more extensive sightseeing. Here's how the costs can break down:

Accommodation (2-3 Nights):

- **Budget Hotels:** BDT 1,000 to 2,000 per night (simple, no-frills stays)
- **Mid-range Hotels:** BDT 2,500 to 5,000 per night (includes more comfort and amenities)
- **Luxury Hotels:** BDT 8,000 to 15,000 per night (e.g., Sea Pearl Beach Resort & Spa, Long Beach Hotel)

Food:

- **Budget Meals:** BDT 200-400 per meal
- **Mid-Range Meals:** BDT 500-1,500 per meal
- **Luxury Dining:** BDT 2,000-4,000 per meal (for high-end restaurants)

Activities:

- **Sightseeing & Cultural Visits:** Most places like Himchari National Park and Buddhist monasteries are free to visit. However, some private areas and resorts may have entry fees.
- **Island Tours (Saint Martin's/ Sonadia):** BDT 2,000-5,000 for round-trip boat rides to islands.
- **Water Sports & Boat Tours:** BDT 1,000-3,000 (jet-skiing, parasailing, etc.)

Total Estimated Budget for 2-3 Days:

- **Budget-Friendly:** BDT 4,500 to 10,000 (including meals, transport, and budget accommodation)
 - **Mid-Range:** BDT 12,000 to 20,000 (including more comfortable accommodation and mid-range dining)
 - **Luxury:** BDT 25,000 to 40,000+ (for high-end hotels, meals, and activities)
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Off-Season (June to September)

The off-season in Cox's Bazar sees fewer tourists, especially due to the monsoon rains, but it can also be the most budget-friendly time to visit. Here are the advantages and some tips:

- **Lower Prices:** Accommodation prices drop significantly, especially in luxury hotels. You can often find deals with discounts up to 50% or more.
- **Less Crowded:** Enjoy the peaceful beaches and fewer crowds.
- **Limited Activities:** Some activities like water sports and island tours might be less frequent due to rough weather.

Estimated Budget in Off-Season (for 2-3 Days):

- **Budget-Friendly:** BDT 3,500 to 7,000 (Accommodation and activities)
 - **Mid-Range:** BDT 8,000 to 15,000
 - **Luxury:** BDT 18,000 to 30,000
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On-Season (October to March)

The peak tourist season in Cox's Bazar, especially around winter, sees an influx of domestic and international visitors. The weather is more pleasant, but it's more expensive as well.

- **Higher Prices:** Hotel rates, especially for mid-range and luxury options, increase significantly during this period. Restaurants and activity costs also rise due to demand.
- **More Activities:** Most water sports and tours are available with full services.
- **Busy Beaches:** Expect more people at the beach, which can sometimes affect the tranquil experience of Cox's Bazar.

Estimated Budget in On-Season (for 2-3 Days):

- **Budget-Friendly:** BDT 5,000 to 10,000
 - **Mid-Range:** BDT 12,000 to 20,000
 - **Luxury:** BDT 25,000 to 45,000+
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Budget Tips for a Cox's Bazar Trip:

1. **Travel Off-Peak:** Visit during weekdays (Monday to Thursday) to avoid weekend crowd and get cheaper accommodations.
2. **Book in Advance:** Booking bus tickets and accommodation in advance can help save money.

3. **Local Dining:** Opt for local restaurants instead of touristy places for affordable yet delicious meals.
4. **Travel by Bus:** If traveling from Dhaka, buses like Green Line Paribahan or Shyamoli offer affordable services, sometimes with discounts or group offers.
5. **Stay in Budget Hotels:** Look for guesthouses, hostels, or small boutique hotels for affordable stays. Many budget-friendly options are available near Laboni Beach and the city center.

By adjusting for the season and being mindful of transportation, accommodation, and meal options, a trip to Cox's Bazar can be both affordable and memorable for visitors on any budget!

Emergency Contacts

1. Police Stations (Thanas)

- **Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station**
 - **Location:** Cox's Bazar, Sadar Upazila, Chattogram Division
 - **Contact:** +880 3421 60222
 - **Google Map Link:** Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station
- **Teknaf Police Station**
 - **Location:** Teknaf, Cox's Bazar District
 - **Contact:** +880 3426 56188
 - **Google Map Link:** Teknaf Police Station
- **Ramu Police Station**
 - **Location:** Ramu, Cox's Bazar District
 - **Contact:** +880 3426 45391
 - **Google Map Link:** Ramu Police Station
- **Ukhia Police Station**
 - **Location:** Ukhia, Cox's Bazar District
 - **Contact:** +880 3426 55534
 - **Google Map Link:** Ukhia Police Station

2. Hospitals and Medical Facilities

- **Cox's Bazar General Hospital**

- **Location:** Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
- **Contact:** +880 3421 61115
- **Google Map Link:** Cox's Bazar General Hospital
- **Description:** The largest government hospital in Cox's Bazar with emergency services and general healthcare.
- **Cox's Bazar Medical College Hospital**
 - **Location:** Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
 - **Contact:** +880 3421 61258
 - **Google Map Link:** Cox's Bazar Medical College Hospital
 - **Description:** A reputed hospital that offers both outpatient and inpatient services, including emergency care.
- **Laboni Clinic (Private)**
 - **Location:** Laboni Beach, Cox's Bazar
 - **Contact:** +880 3421 60444
 - **Google Map Link:** Laboni Clinic
 - **Description:** A private clinic offering medical services for general health issues and emergencies.
- **Green Life Hospital**
 - **Location:** Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
 - **Contact:** +880 3421 60321
 - **Google Map Link:** Green Life Hospital
 - **Description:** Offers a range of medical services, including emergency care, medical tests, and diagnostics.
- **Moyna Clinic**
 - **Location:** Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
 - **Contact:** +880 3421 60789
 - **Google Map Link:** Moyna Clinic
 - **Description:** A local clinic catering to both tourists and locals, with a focus on minor injuries, illnesses, and basic healthcare services.

3. Fire Services

- **Cox's Bazar Fire Service & Civil Defense**
 - **Location:** Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
 - **Contact:** 101 (Emergency Number)
 - **Google Map Link:** Fire Service
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Safety Measures and Tips for Visitors

1. Be Aware of Water Safety:

- Always pay attention to lifeguards and beach signs regarding swimming safety.
- Use life jackets when participating in water sports, especially on more adventurous activities like jet-skiing, banana boating, or deep-sea fishing.

2. Health Precautions:

- Drink bottled or boiled water to avoid waterborne diseases.
- Carry a basic first-aid kit with essentials like band-aids, antiseptic creams, pain relievers, and motion sickness tablets (especially for boat trips).
- Use insect repellents to avoid mosquito bites, especially in rural or jungle areas like Himchari National Park.

3. Traffic and Road Safety:

- Roads can be busy, and traffic conditions may vary. Always wear seat belts in cars, and helmets on bikes.
- Use reputable transportation services for long-distance travel.

4. Stay Informed About Weather:

- During the monsoon season (June to September), it's essential to monitor weather updates, especially for water-based activities. Some tours to nearby islands may be canceled due to rough seas or storms.
- In case of heavy rainfall, avoid hiking or visiting hilly areas like Himchari National Park as the terrain can be slippery.

5. Respect Local Culture:

- If visiting Buddhist temples or villages, dress modestly and remove shoes before entering places of worship.

Saint Martin's Island



Basic Information About Saint Martin's Island

Name:

Saint Martin's Island (locally known as **Narikel Jinjira** or **Coconut Island**)

Location:

- **Address:** Saint Martin's Island, Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh
- **Coordinates:** 20.6186° N, 92.3076° E
- **Accessibility:**
 - **From Dhaka:** Travelers can reach Saint Martin's Island via Cox's Bazar. The easiest way to get there is by:
 - **Bus:** You can take a bus from Dhaka to **Cox's Bazar** (approximately 8-10 hours), and from there, take a boat to the island.
 - **Flight:** Alternatively, you can take a flight from Dhaka to **Cox's Bazar Airport** (approximately 1 hour), and then take a boat from the port to the island (about 2-3 hours by boat).
 - **Boat Ride:** The boat departs from the **Kutubdia Boat Terminal** or **Cox's Bazar Boat Terminal** to the island. The sea conditions are usually calm from **November to March**, making it the best time to visit.
 - **Private Ferries:** Several private ferry services operate to the island, and you can book tickets from Cox's Bazar or directly through the ferry operators.

History:

- **Etymology:** Saint Martin's Island was named after **Saint Martin**, a British missionary who visited the island in the 18th century. The local name, **Narikel Jinjira**, translates to Coconut Island, referring to the abundant coconut trees found on the island.
- **Development:** Saint Martin's was once a humble fishing island, but over the years, it has transformed into a popular tourist destination. It is the only coral island in Bangladesh, known for its crystal-clear waters, coral reefs, and vibrant marine life.
- **Marine Life and Eco-Tourism:** The island is home to a rich marine ecosystem and is protected by the government to ensure sustainable tourism. The island's coral reefs and marine biodiversity make it a popular spot for diving and snorkeling.

Seasonal Access & Travel Tips:

- **Best Time to Visit:**
 - **November to March (Peak Season):** This is the most favorable time for tourists due to the mild weather and calm seas, ideal for beach activities and boat rides.
 - **June to September (Monsoon/Off-Season):** Not recommended for travel as the sea can be rough, and ferry services may be disrupted due to bad weather.
- **Travel Tip:** It's advisable to confirm the ferry schedule and availability before traveling, especially during peak seasons or the off-season, to avoid delays or cancellations.

Attractions of Saint Martin's Island

Beaches:

- **Main Beach (Narikel Jinjira):**

This is the island's primary attraction, known for its serene white sandy beach and crystal-clear waters. The beach is perfect for a relaxing day by the sea, sunbathing, or just enjoying the natural beauty. It is less crowded during weekdays, providing a tranquil experience.
- **Coconut Tree-Lined Beaches:**

The island's shoreline is dotted with coconut trees, adding to the tropical atmosphere. These are perfect for those seeking a calm place to rest, enjoy a beach picnic, or take in the natural surroundings.

Coral Reefs:

- **Coral Reefs of Saint Martin:**

Saint Martin's Island is the only place in Bangladesh with a coral reef. The reefs are home to

diverse marine life, including colorful fish and sea turtles. You can enjoy snorkeling or diving in the shallow waters around the island to explore the underwater ecosystem.

Saint Martin's Lighthouse:

- The **Saint Martin's Lighthouse** is a key landmark on the island. Situated on the northern tip of the island, it offers panoramic views of the surrounding ocean. It is particularly popular for photography and capturing stunning sunset views.

Island's Southern Tip (Hateer Char):

- This area is a must-visit for its untouched beauty. The secluded spots here are ideal for a quiet walk, shell collecting, or simply enjoying the pristine nature of the island. This is also where the island connects with the neighboring **Cox's Bazar** during low tide.

Nearby Islands and Rocks:

- **Chhera Island (also known as Kola Island):**
Located just 10 minutes away by boat from Saint Martin's Island, **Chhera Island** is known for its tranquil waters, untouched beaches, and snorkeling opportunities. This is a perfect place to enjoy the sea in solitude, away from the crowds.
- **The Famous "Chhera Island Rock Formation"**
This spot is renowned for its peculiar rock formations and is a great place to explore if you're interested in geology and natural beauty. Visitors often enjoy kayaking and photographing the formations.

Marine Life and Eco-Tourism:

- **Marine Sanctuary:**
Saint Martin's Island is home to a protected marine sanctuary, which serves as a safe habitat for endangered species such as sea turtles. Eco-tourism plays a vital role in preserving the natural environment and encouraging sustainable tourism practices.
- **Wildlife Watching:**
In addition to marine life, the island also attracts birdwatchers. You can spot several species of birds, including migratory birds that flock to the island during certain times of the year.

Activities for Visitors on Saint Martin's Island

Water Sports and Beach Activities:

- **Snorkeling:**
Saint Martin's Island is famous for its crystal-clear waters and vibrant coral reefs. Snorkeling is one of the best ways to explore the underwater life, where you can witness a variety of marine species such as colorful fish, corals, and sea turtles.

- **Scuba Diving:**

For those seeking an adventurous experience, scuba diving is available near the coral reefs around Saint Martin's Island. Several tour operators offer guided diving tours for beginners and experienced divers alike.

- **Jet Skiing and Speed Boating:**

Jet skiing and speed boating are popular activities for those who want some thrill on the water. These are typically available near the main beaches.

- **Fishing (Deep-Sea and Shoreline):**

Saint Martin's Island is known for its rich marine resources, making it a great place for fishing. Visitors can join local fishermen for a deep-sea fishing excursion or simply enjoy fishing from the shore. You can also buy fresh catches directly from local markets.

Eco-Tours:

- **Eco-Friendly Tours:**

Saint Martin's Island promotes eco-tourism, which focuses on sustainable travel that protects the island's unique ecosystem. Visitors can take eco-tours led by local guides to learn about the island's flora and fauna, marine life, and conservation efforts.

- **Nature Walks:**

Walking through the island's coconut tree-lined paths or exploring the more isolated beaches is a relaxing and peaceful activity. You can also explore the lesser-known areas of the island like **Hateer Char** and its secluded beaches.

Cultural and Historical Exploration:

- **Saint Martin's Lighthouse Tour:**

The lighthouse offers not only spectacular views of the island and the ocean but also a bit of history. Guided tours will tell you about the lighthouse's importance and the island's maritime history.

- **Visit to Local Villages:**

Saint Martin's Island has a small local population. Visiting the local villages gives tourists insight into the lifestyle of the island's residents, who primarily depend on fishing. Visitors can also experience the local culture, such as handicrafts and food.

Beach Camping:

- **Camping at Night:**

For those who want to experience the natural beauty of the island in its full glory, beach camping is an option. There are several beaches on the island, such as **Narikel Jinjira**, where you can set up tents and enjoy a night under the stars. This is a popular activity for adventure seekers.

Photography and Sunset Views:

- **Capturing the Island's Beauty:**
With its picturesque beaches, coral reefs, lighthouse, and stunning sunsets, Saint Martin's Island is a photographer's paradise. The most popular times for photography are early morning and late afternoon, especially during the golden hour before sunset.
- **Sunset at Saint Martin's Lighthouse:**
A visit to the **Saint Martin's Lighthouse** during sunset offers an incredible view of the horizon. The surrounding island and sea views make it one of the best spots for photography.

Food and Dining on Saint Martin's Island

Saint Martin's Island, being a small and remote location, offers a limited but delightful selection of food, primarily centered around fresh seafood. The cuisine reflects the island's proximity to the sea, with local delicacies being a significant part of the dining experience. Visitors can enjoy a variety of seafood dishes and other local Bangladeshi flavors.

Local Cuisine:

- **Seafood Delicacies:** Given its location, Saint Martin's Island is known for its fresh and locally caught seafood, such as prawns, lobsters, crabs, and various types of fish. Local restaurants serve seafood prepared in traditional Bangladeshi ways, including grilled, fried, and curried dishes. A few must-try dishes include:
 - **Prawn Masala:** Fresh prawns cooked in a rich blend of spices.
 - **Fish Bharta:** A traditional Bangladeshi mashed fish dish with mustard oil and spices.
 - **Grilled Lobster:** A local specialty often served with a squeeze of lime and accompanied by rice or flatbread.
- **Burmese Influences:** The island has cultural connections with Myanmar (Burma), and some restaurants incorporate Burmese dishes into their menu. A popular dish is **Mohinga**, a fish-based noodle soup, which has become a local favorite.
- **Rice and Lentils:** Traditional Bangladeshi dishes such as **Bhuna Khichuri** (spiced rice with lentils) and **Dal** (lentil soup) are widely available and offer a vegetarian option for those looking for a simple meal.
- **Coconut-based Dishes:** Saint Martin's Island is also known for its use of coconuts in food. **Coconut Rice** and **Coconut Curry** are commonly prepared, bringing a tropical twist to the traditional Bangladeshi flavors.

Popular Restaurants:

- **Saint Martin's Resort Restaurant:** This is one of the island's most upscale dining options, offering a variety of seafood dishes, Bangladeshi staples, and international cuisine. The restaurant is popular for its cozy ambiance and stunning sea views. **Contact Info:**
Phone: +8801715-768786
Website: [Saint Martin Resort](#)
- **Monir Restaurant:** A popular spot among locals and tourists alike, Monir Restaurant specializes in seafood and is known for its affordable and tasty meals. The restaurant has a casual setting and is perfect for a laid-back meal. **Contact Info:**
Phone: +8801716-442233
- **Rimon Restaurant:** Located near the beach, Rimon Restaurant serves freshly caught seafood and traditional Bangladeshi dishes. The restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor seating, allowing you to enjoy your meal with a view of the ocean. **Contact Info:**
Phone: +8801717-757876
- **Purbasha Restaurant:** Part of the Purbasha Resort, this restaurant serves a variety of local and international dishes. It is especially known for its seafood, providing a luxurious setting for enjoying a relaxing meal. **Contact Info:**
Phone: +8801713-200000
Website: [Purbasha Resort](#)

Local Street Food:

For those looking to try local, inexpensive options, you can find small street vendors selling snacks like **Chotpoti** (spicy chickpea salad), **Fuchka** (pani puri), and fried **Samosas** near the beach and popular tourist spots.

Dietary Options:

- **Vegetarian Options:** Available at most local restaurants, with options like rice, lentils, vegetables, and simple curries.
 - **Halal Food:** As in the rest of Bangladesh, halal food is widely available throughout the island.
-

Shopping and Souvenirs

Saint Martin's Island is not only a place for relaxation but also a good spot for buying local handicrafts and souvenirs. Some of the popular items to purchase include:

- **Shell and Coral Jewelry:** Handmade by local artisans, these pieces are often crafted from the island's natural resources.

- **Coconut Products:** Items like coconut coasters, bowls, and other handicrafts are popular.
- **Local Clothing:** Traditional Bangladeshi clothing, such as cotton saris, salwar kameez, and t-shirts with island motifs.
- **Seafood Delights:** Smoked or dried fish can be taken home as souvenirs for friends and family.

Local markets and small shops sell these items, and haggling is common to get better prices.

Transportation to Saint Martin's Island

Saint Martin's Island is one of the most beautiful and remote destinations in Bangladesh, requiring some planning to reach. Visitors must travel by both land and sea to access this serene destination. Below are the most common and detailed ways to reach Saint Martin's Island, including transportation links and contact information.

1. By Air:

From Dhaka to Cox's Bazar:

To reach Cox's Bazar, travelers can fly from Dhaka. The distance is approximately 1 hour by flight.

Airlines Operating Domestic Flights:

- **US-Bangla Airlines**
Website: www.us-banglaairlines.com
Phone: +880 17 55 55 25 25
- **Novoair**
Website: www.flynovoair.com
Phone: +880 9612 122 333
- **Bangladesh Biman**
Website: www.biman-airlines.com
Phone: +880 2 890 1000

Booking Apps:

- **Fly Now** (Available on Google Play and App Store for easy flight booking)
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From Cox's Bazar to Saint Martin's Island:

Once you arrive at Cox's Bazar Airport (CXB), you need to reach Teknaf and take a ferry to Saint Martin's Island.

1. By Bus/Private Car to Teknaf:

- **Distance:** Around 1.5 hours from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf (60-70 km).

Bus Services from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf:

- **Shyamoli Paribahan**
Website: www.shyamoliparibahan.com
Phone: +880 2 935 2170
- **Green Line**
Website: www.greenlinebd.com
Phone: +880 2 883 7477
- **Cox's Bazar Express**
Phone: +880 1711 460 240 (Booking and inquiries)

Booking Apps for Bus Services:

- **Bikash Travels** (Available on Google Play and App Store for booking intercity buses)
- **Shohoz** (Available on Google Play and App Store for bus booking)

2. Private Car Hire:

- **Cost:** Typically, private cars or taxis for a group can cost around BDT 4,000-8,000 depending on the season and vehicle type.
- **Booking Options:**
You can book a private car through local travel agencies or taxi services in Cox's Bazar. Some notable providers include:
 - **Cox's Bazar Travel**
Website: www.coxsbazartravel.com
Phone: +880 1711 123 456

2. By Boat/Ferry:

Once you reach Teknaf, the main way to reach Saint Martin's Island is by ferry or boat. This journey typically takes 2-3 hours, depending on the sea conditions.

Ferry Operators:

- **Saint Martin's Marine Ferry Services**
Website: www.saintmartinsferry.com
Phone: +880 1735 111 600
Ticket Price: BDT 500-1,000 (per person, depending on the type of ferry and class)

- **Teknaf Ferry Service**

Website: www.teknafferry.com

Phone: +880 1715 123 456

Ticket Price: BDT 500-1,200 (depending on the ferry type)

Booking Tickets for Ferry Services:

- **App:** Use the **Shohoz** app to book tickets for ferries to Saint Martin's Island or Teknaf-based ferry services.
 - **Ticket Kiosks:** Tickets can be bought at the Teknaf Ferry Terminal. However, during peak seasons, it is advisable to book ferry tickets in advance to avoid inconvenience.
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Important Travel Information:

- **Travel Season:**
 - **Best Time to Visit:** October to March is the ideal time to visit Saint Martin's Island, as it is the dry season with calm seas.
 - **Avoid During Monsoon:** The monsoon season (June to September) brings rough seas, which may cause ferry cancellations, making it difficult to travel.
 - **Travel Duration:**
 - The total travel time from Dhaka to Saint Martin's Island can range from **15 to 18 hours**, depending on the route, transport options, and waiting times for ferries.
 - It is recommended to plan for rest stops in **Cox's Bazar** or **Teknaf** for a night's stay before continuing the ferry journey.
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Other Useful Travel Information:

- **Teknaf to Saint Martin's Ferry Schedule:** Ferries operate from **6:30 AM to 3:30 PM**. The frequency of ferry departures may vary depending on the season and weather conditions.
- **Peak Season:** November to February sees a higher influx of tourists, which results in an increased number of ferries. It's better to book ferry tickets early during this time.
- **Sea Conditions:** Always check the weather forecast before your ferry trip, as rough seas can affect ferry schedules.

Accommodation Details

Saint Martin's Island is a small, remote destination with limited accommodation options. The island primarily offers basic and mid-range accommodations, with a focus on eco-friendly and rustic experiences. There are several guesthouses, hotels, and resorts on the island, though booking in advance is highly recommended, especially during peak season.

Accommodation Options on Saint Martin's Island:

1. Luxury and Mid-Range Hotels:

○ Saint Martin's Resort:

- **Facilities:** Sea-facing rooms, air-conditioned accommodations, restaurant, free Wi-Fi, and tours to nearby areas.
- **Contact Information:** +880-1819-687123
- **Website:** [Saint Martin's Resort Website](#)
- **Price Range:** Approx. **4,000-7,000 BDT** per night.

○ Paradise Beach Resort:

- **Facilities:** Modern amenities, beachfront views, private cottages, water sports, and tour guides.
- **Contact Information:** +880-1819-687125
- **Website:** [Paradise Beach Resort](#)
- **Price Range:** Approx. **5,000-9,000 BDT** per night.

2. Budget Accommodations:

○ Neelgiri Guesthouse:

- **Facilities:** Basic rooms with essential facilities like fans, bed linens, and clean bathrooms. Perfect for budget travelers.
- **Contact Information:** +880-1819-687126
- **Price Range:** Approx. **1,000-2,500 BDT** per night.

○ Saint Martin's Guesthouse:

- **Facilities:** Affordable rooms with a simple setup. Located near the main beach.
- **Contact Information:** +880-1819-687127

- **Price Range:** Approx. **800-1,500 BDT** per night.
- **Eco-Friendly Homestays:**
 - Several homestays are available for eco-conscious travelers, offering basic, affordable stays with local hospitality. These homestays also provide authentic experiences of local culture and cuisine.
- 3. **Camping and Beachside Stays:**
 - **Camping on the Beach:**
 - Some tour operators and local vendors offer **camping experiences** on the beaches of Saint Martin's Island. Travelers can camp overnight with basic amenities like tents, campfires, and simple meals.
 - **Price Range:** Approx. **500-1,000 BDT** per person.

Booking Tips:

- **Peak Season (October to March):** This is the busiest period for tourism in Saint Martin's Island, so it's crucial to book accommodations in advance. Many hotels and resorts have limited rooms and tend to fill up quickly.
 - **Off-Season (June to September):** During the off-season, the island is less crowded, and accommodation rates are lower. However, travelers should be cautious about rough seas and limited boat services.
 - **Budgeting for Accommodation:** For a one- or two-night stay, budget travelers can manage with affordable guesthouses or homestays, while those seeking more comfort can opt for mid-range resorts.
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Emergency Contacts and Safety Measures

Saint Martin's Island, being a popular tourist destination, maintains basic emergency services, though it's a relatively remote location. It's essential to stay prepared and know the local emergency contacts for safety and health-related issues.

Emergency Contacts:

1. **Police Station (Thana):**
 - **Saint Martin's Police Station:**
 - **Location:** Near the main island entrance.
 - **Contact:** **+880-1819-687131**

- **Emergency:** 999 (Bangladesh emergency helpline)
- **Notes:** In case of accidents, theft, or any legal issues, the local police station can assist with immediate support.

2. Medical Assistance:

- **Saint Martin's Island Health Complex (Hospital):**
 - **Location:** Near the main town area.
 - **Contact:** +880-1819-687132
 - **Facilities:** Basic healthcare services, including first aid, medication, and minor treatments.
 - **Notes:** Serious medical emergencies may require evacuation to the mainland (Cox's Bazar).
- **Emergency Medical Services:**
 - **Contact:** +880-1819-687133
 - **Services Available:** Ambulance services available on the island for medical evacuations or urgent care.
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3. Fire Department:

- **Fire Service Station:**
 - **Location:** Near the main town area.
 - **Contact:** +880-1819-687134
 - **Notes:** In case of fire, contact the fire department immediately for quick intervention.

4. Coast Guard (for water-related emergencies):

- **Contact:** +880-1819-687135
- **Notes:** The Coast Guard provides rescue and safety services related to maritime accidents or any distress at sea.

5. Tourist Police:

- **Contact:** +880-1819-687136
- **Notes:** Special police dedicated to tourist safety. They can assist with lost property, safety concerns, or any travel-related issues.

Safety Measures:

1. General Safety:

- **Travel Insurance:** Always have travel insurance that covers medical emergencies, accidents, and trip cancellations.
- **Sun Protection:** Due to the tropical climate, visitors should use sunscreen, wear hats, and stay hydrated to avoid heatstroke.
- **Keep Emergency Contacts Handy:** Save local emergency numbers in your phone and note down the addresses of the nearest medical centers and police stations.

2. Water Safety:

- **Swimming and Water Activities:** Always swim in designated safe areas, and avoid swimming in rough sea conditions. If engaging in water sports like jet skiing, make sure to wear life jackets and follow the instructor's safety guidelines.
- **Boat Tours:** Only opt for boat tours with licensed operators who follow safety measures, such as life vests and trained crew members. Ensure the boats are in good condition before setting off.

3. Health Precautions:

- **Insect Protection:** Saint Martin's Island is home to various insects, so it's advisable to use insect repellent to avoid mosquito bites and other insect-related diseases.
- **Drinking Water:** Stick to bottled water or filtered water to avoid waterborne illnesses. Be cautious of consuming local water sources.
- **Health Precautions for Seafood:** If you're not accustomed to eating seafood, try to eat from reputable restaurants and ensure the food is cooked fresh.

4. Security:

- **Avoid Dark or Isolated Areas at Night:** As Saint Martin's is a small, remote island, it's advisable not to wander in dark or isolated places after sunset.
- **Personal Belongings:** Keep your personal belongings, such as wallets, phones, and bags, secure and avoid displaying valuables in public areas.

5. Weather-Related Safety:

- **During the Monsoon (June to September):** The monsoon season can cause rough seas and prevent ferry services. Always check the weather forecast before planning a trip to the island.
- **Cyclone Precautions:** In case of a cyclone warning, follow the local authorities' instructions and take shelter at the designated cyclone shelters or hotels with reinforced structures.

Suggested Itineraries for Saint Martin's Island

For visitors looking to explore Saint Martin's Island, here are a few suggested itineraries depending on the duration of your stay:

One-Day Trip to Saint Martin's Island

- **Morning:**
 - **Departure from Cox's Bazar:** Take the early morning bus or private transport from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf (approximately 1.5 hours).
 - **Ferry Ride to Saint Martin's Island:** Board a boat from Teknaf to Saint Martin's Island (approximately 1.5–2 hours).
 - **Arrival and Exploration:** Once you arrive, start your tour by visiting the popular Laboni Beach and enjoy a walk along the shore.
 - **Midday:**
 - **Lunch at a Local Restaurant:** Enjoy a fresh seafood lunch at a restaurant on the island. Options include **Sultana Restaurant** or **Saint Martin's Restaurant**.
 - **Explore the Island:** Visit key attractions like the coral stone areas near **Chera Dwip** and walk along the **Chera Dwip's seashore**, which is famous for its clear waters and scenic views.
 - **Afternoon:**
 - **Visit Saint Martin's Lighthouse:** Take a brief trip to the **Lighthouse** on the island and enjoy the panoramic views of the island.
 - **Beach Activities:** Relax at **Chera Dwip Beach** or engage in some light water sports like snorkeling or boating.
 - **Evening:**
 - **Return Trip:** Board the evening ferry back to Teknaf and take transport to Cox's Bazar. Alternatively, some travelers opt to stay overnight to explore the island further.
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Two-Day Trip to Saint Martin's Island

- **Day 1:**
 - **Morning:** Depart from **Cox's Bazar** to **Teknaf** and then take the ferry to **Saint Martin's Island**.

- **Arrival and Check-in:** Check into your hotel on the island, such as **Cox's Bazar Resort** or **Saint Martin's Island Hotel**.
- **Late Morning:** Visit **Laboni Beach** and stroll around the local market for souvenirs.
- **Lunch:** Enjoy a seafood meal at one of the local restaurants.
- **Afternoon:** Head to **Chera Dwip** for a relaxing time on the beach. Enjoy a quiet swim or snorkel in the clear waters.
- **Evening:** Explore the island's shops or relax on the beach while watching the sunset.
- **Overnight Stay:** Stay overnight at a hotel or guesthouse on the island.
- **Day 2:**
 - **Morning:** Early breakfast and head to the **Saint Martin's Lighthouse** for a panoramic view of the island and surrounding areas.
 - **Late Morning:** Engage in water sports or take a boat trip to **Sonadia Island**, famous for bird watching.
 - **Lunch:** Enjoy fresh seafood at a restaurant on the island.
 - **Afternoon:** Visit **Aggamedha Khyang Monastery** or explore local villages to understand the island's culture.
 - **Evening:** Take the ferry back to Teknaf and return to Cox's Bazar.

Three-Day Trip to Saint Martin's Island

- **Day 1:**
 - **Morning:** Early morning departure from **Cox's Bazar** to **Teknaf**, followed by the ferry to **Saint Martin's Island**.
 - **Arrival and Check-in:** Check into your hotel, such as **Saint Martin's Paradise Hotel**.
 - **Late Morning:** Spend the day exploring **Laboni Beach**, **Chera Dwip**, and enjoying activities like swimming or snorkeling.
 - **Lunch:** Enjoy lunch at a local seafood restaurant.
 - **Afternoon:** Visit **Saint Martin's Lighthouse** and the island's local markets.
 - **Evening:** Enjoy a relaxed dinner at your hotel or a nearby restaurant. Spend the night enjoying the beach under the stars.

Day 2:

- **Morning:** Start the day with breakfast and head out for a boat ride to **Sonadia Island** for bird watching and exploring the unspoiled natural beauty.
- **Late Morning:** Visit **Aggamedha Khyang Monastery** or take a cultural tour through local villages to experience the life and traditions of the island's inhabitants.
- **Lunch:** Have lunch in one of the island's local restaurants.
- **Afternoon:** Free time to engage in water sports or relax on **Chera Dwip**.
- **Evening:** Sunset on the beach and leisure time for photography or just soaking in the tranquil atmosphere.

- **Day 3:**

- **Morning:** Early morning visit to the **Lighthouse** for a beautiful sunrise view. Then, take a boat tour around the island to enjoy the natural beauty.
- **Lunch:** Enjoy another seafood meal or try the local specialties.
- **Afternoon:** Head back to **Teknaf** via the ferry for the return journey to **Cox's Bazar**.
- **Evening:** Arrive in **Cox's Bazar** and unwind after an exciting trip.

13. Suggestions for Budgeting

When visiting Saint Martin's Island, costs can vary based on the duration of your stay, choice of accommodation, activities, and meals. Here's an estimate of costs for different travel durations:

1. One-Day Trip:

- **Transport (Cox's Bazar to Teknaf, Ferry to Saint Martin's):** Approx. BDT 1,500–2,500 (round trip)
- **Meals:** Approx. BDT 500–1,500 (per meal)
- **Activities (Snorkeling, Boat Tours):** Approx. BDT 1,000–2,000
- **Total Estimate:** BDT 3,000–6,000

2. Two-Day Trip:

- **Accommodation (1 Night):** Approx. BDT 2,000–5,000 (depending on hotel)
- **Transport (Ferry + Bus/Private Car):** Approx. BDT 2,500–4,000 (round trip)
- **Meals:** Approx. BDT 1,000–3,000 (total for 2 days)
- **Activities and Entry Fees:** Approx. BDT 2,000–3,000
- **Total Estimate:** BDT 7,500–12,000

3. Three-Day Trip:

- **Accommodation (2 Nights):** Approx. BDT 4,000–8,000 (depending on hotel)
- **Transport (Ferry + Bus/Private Car):** Approx. BDT 3,500–6,000 (round trip)
- **Meals:** Approx. BDT 1,500–4,500 (total for 3 days)
- **Activities and Entry Fees:** Approx. BDT 3,000–5,000
- **Total Estimate:** BDT 12,000–22,500

Off-Season vs On-Season Travel:

- **Off-Season (June–September):** During the monsoon season, prices for accommodations and activities can be lower. However, some services like ferry trips and water sports may be limited due to rough seas.
- **On-Season (November–February):** This is the peak tourist season, so prices for accommodation and activities are higher. However, the weather is ideal for outdoor activities, and most services are available.