

Archeological sites and monuments of Bangladesh

Archeology

- The systematic Study of past human life and culture by the recovery and examination of physical remains such as graves, buildings, tools and pottery.

Archeological sites and Monuments

- Bangladesh is a country considerably rich in archaeological wealth, especially of the medieval period both during the Muslim and pre-Muslim rules, though most of it is still unexplored and unknown.
- In archaeological fieldwork and research this area was very much neglected for a long time for various reasons, not the least of which are its difficult geography and climate and remoteness from the main centres of the subcontinent.

Paharpur- Largest Buddhist Seat of learning:

- Paharpur is the largest monastery and temple
- Paharpur is a small village 5 km. west of Jamalganj in the greater Rajshahi district where the remains of the most important and the largest known monastery south of the Himalayas has been excavated.
- This 7th century archaeological find covers approximately an area of 27 acres of land.
- A small site-museum built in 1956-57 houses the representative collection of objects recovered from the area. The excavated findings have also been preserved at the Varendra Research Museum at Rajshahi.
- The antiquities of the museum include terra-cotta plaques, images of different gods and goddesses, potteries, coins, inscriptions, ornamental bricks and other minor clay objects.

Mahasthangarh-The oldest archaeological site

- Mahasthan, the oldest archaeological site of Bangladesh is on the western bank of river Karatoa 18 km, north of Bogra town beside Bogra-Rangpur Road.
- It was the capital of Kingdom of the Mourjo, the Gupta and the Sen Dynasty.
- The spectacular site is an imposing landmark in the area having a fortified. oblong enclosure measuring 5000 ft. by 4500 ft. with an average height of 15 ft. from the surrounding paddy fields.
- Several isolated mounds, the local names of which are Govinda Bhita Temple, Khodai Pathar Mound, Mankalir Kunda, Parasuramer Bedi, Jiyat Kunda etc. surround the fortified city.

Mahasthangarh-The oldest archaeological site

- This 8th century archaeological site is still held to be of great sanctity by the Hindus.
- Every year (mid-April) and once in every 12 years (December) thousands of Hindu devotees join the ceremony on the bank of river Karatoa. A visit to the Mahasthangarh site museum will open up for you wide variety of antiquities, ranging from terra-cotta objects to gold ornaments and coins recovered from the site.
- Mahasthangarh stands on the red soil of the [Barind Tract](#) is slightly elevated within the largely alluvium area.
- Mohasthan Buddhist Stambho is another attraction for the tourists; it is locally called as Behula's Basar.

Mainamati

- **An isolated low, dimpled range of hills. dotted with more than 50 ancient Buddhist settlements of the 8th to 12th century AD known as Mainamati-Lalmai range are extended through the centre of the district of Comilla.**
- **Salban Vihara, almost in the middle of the Mainamati-Lalmai hill range consists of 115 cells. built around a spacious courtyard with cruciform temple in the centre facing its only gateway complex to the north resembling that of the Paharpur Monastery.**

Mainamati

- The Mainamati site Museum has a rich and varied collection of copper plates, gold and silver coins and 86 bronze objects. Over 150 bronze statues have been recovered mostly from the monastic cells, bronze stupas, stone sculptures and hundreds of terra-cotta plaques.
- Mainamati is only 105 km from Dhaka city and is just a day's trip by road on the way to Chittagong.

Shait-Gumbad Mosque, Bagherhat

- In mid 15th century, a Muslim colony was founded in the inhospitable mangrove forest of the Sundarbans near the sea coast in the Bagherhat district by an obscure saint-General, named Ulugh Khan Jahan.
- He was the earliest torch bearer of Islam in the south who laid the nucleus of an affluent city during the rule of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah (1442-59), then known as 'Khalifatabad' (present Bagherhat). Khan Jahan adorned his city with numerous mosques, tanks, roads and other public buildings, the spectacular ruins of which are focused around the most imposing and largest multidomed mosques in Bangladesh, known as the Shait-Gumbad Masjid (160'x 108').

Shait-Gumbad Mosque, Bagherhat

- In Bengali Shait means the number 60. Though it is called Shait Gambuj Mosjid, actually the numbers of Gamboj in the mosque are 77.
- The general appearance of this noble monument with its stark simplicity but massive character reflects the strength and simplicity of the builder.
- This is one of the most beautiful archeological and historical Mosque in Bangladesh made by red burn mud.

Sonargaon, Old Capital of Bangladesh

- About 27 km. from Dhaka. Sonargaon is one of the oldest capitals of Bengal.
- It was the seat of Deva Dynasty until the 13th century.
- From then onward till the advent of the Mughals, Sonargaon was subsidiary capital of the Sultanate of Bengal.
- Among the ancient monuments still intact are the Tomb of Sultan Ghiasuddin (1399-1409 AD). the shrines of Panjpirs and Shah Abdul Alla and a beautiful mosque in Goaldi village.

Kantanagar Temple, Dinajpur

- The most ornate among the late medieval temple of Bangladesh is the Kantanagar or Kantaji temple near Dinajpur town, which was built in 1752 by Maharaja Pran Nath son of Maharaja Ram Nath of Dinajpur.
- It was originally a navaratna temple, crowned with four richly ornamental corner towers on two floors and a central one over the third floor.

Kantanagar Temple, Dinajpur

- Every inch of the temple surface is beautifully embellished with exquisite terracotta plaques, representing flora fauna, geometric motifs, mythological scenes and an astonishing array of contemporary social scenes and favorite pastimes.
- The beautiful wall paints of this temple tell us the story of Ramayan-Mohabharat, Krishna-Lila and Dev-Devies. There are another interesting places to visit in Dinajpur which are Dinajpur Rajbari and Rajbari Kali Temple.

Lalbagh Fort

- **Lalbagh Fort** (also known as "Fort Aurangabad") is an incomplete Mughal palace fortress at the Buriganga River in the southwestern part of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Construction was commenced in 1678 by Prince Muhammad Azam during his 15-month long vice-royalty of Bengal, but before the work could complete, he was recalled by Aurangzeb. His successor, Shaista Khan, did not complete the work, though he stayed in Dhaka up to 1688. His daughter Iran Dukht nicknamed Pari Bibi (Fairy Lady) died here in 1684 and this led him to consider the fort to be ominous.

Lalbagh Fort

- The fort was long considered to be a combination of three buildings:
- the mosque;
- the tomb of Bibi Pari; and
- the Diwan-i-Aam, comprising two gateways and a portion of the partly damaged fortification wall.

Ahsan Manzil

- **Ahsan Manzil** was the official residential palace and seat of the Dhaka Nawab Family. This magnificent building is situated at Kumartoli along the banks of the Buriganga River in Bangladesh.
- The construction of this palace was started in the year 1859 and was completed in 1869. To preserve the cultural and history of the area, the palace became the Bangladesh National Museum on 20 September 1992.