



Bogakain Lake, also called Baga Lake or Boga Lake, is a lake located in Ruma Upazila in the hill district Bandarban, Bangladesh.^[1] It is a natural sweet and deep water lake. Its height from sea level is nearly 1,246 feet (380 m). Geologists believe that it was created by collection of rain water in summer. The lake is irregular in shape. A team of geologists surveyed this lake in 1973. They found the lake's water to be too acidic for any form of life. By the year 1995, the lake's water became abundant with plants and fish. The local residents culture and gather Tilapia fish in this lake.

People of Bawm tribe migrated from Saikot para to Boga Lake and set up this village.

A local legend tells that the lake was created after the inhabitants of a Khumi village killed and later devoured a deity who later reappeared to them in the form of a dragon. Instantly an earthquake occurred, the hillside caved in, and the village disappeared and formed a deep lake.



Area:

The lake is bounded on three sides by mountain peaks covered with thick bamboo forests. The area of the lake is 18.56 acres (75,100 m²). It is a closed lake and there is a small spring named Boga chhara, which is 153 metres (502 ft) deep. There is no outlet for draining out water from the lake. The lake is composed of the soft rocks of the Bhuban Formation. The main source of water is the rain in summer. The water is greenish due to the abundance of algae. The lake's bed is covered with boulders, like any other hill surface in that area. The lake's water was the only source of water for drinking, washing and bathing until

2012. Later, a pipe network was setup to bring stream water for drinking and household activities.



Tourism:

There is a small village of Bawm tribe located by the lake. The road from Ruma to Boga Lake is still under construction which is accessible by trucks and SUVs only in the dry season. The lake attracts tourists because of its scenery but it is inaccessible by any other means of transport. Local administration and the Army bars the tourists from

hiking through the canyons and hills. The only way to travel to Boga Lake in the summer is by hiking the same under-construction road.

The Army camp placed by the lake prevents tourists from bathing in the lake due to the risk of drowning. The lake is full of underwater kelp-like vegetation that entangle unsuspecting swimmers.

There are around 35 cottages located in the Boga Lake para. Before entering Boga Lake, tourists need to get permission from the army camp situated there. There is also a church for the local people. Most of the Bawm people are Christian. The area also serves as a transit camp for tourists who intend to travel further east, namely to Keokradong.

How to go:

It is no matter where from you come to Boga Lake, you have to come to Bandarban first. From Dhaka city, you will find S. Alam, Saudia, Saint Martin Transport, Unique, Hanif, Shyamoli, Dolphin, etc. for going to Bandarban. The fares of these buses per person are respectively BDT 550 and with AC BDT 950 to 1500. It takes 8 to 10 hours to reach Bandarban from Dhaka.

If you want to go by train, you will need to go to Chittagong from Dhaka. There is some popular train service including Sonar Bangla, Subarna Express, Turna Nishita, Mohanagar, Godhuli, and etc. Depending on the conditions, it will cost you BDT 350 to 1200. Besides, you can go to Chittagong directly by air from Dhaka.



From Chittagong Baddarhat, the two buses go to Bandarban including Pubali and Purbani. From Dhampara Bus Stand of Chittagong, it takes BDT 200 -300 for going Bandarban.

Bandarban To Boga Lake:

If you want to go to Boga lake from Bandarban city, you have to go to Ruma Bazar first. It is 48 KM from Bandarban to Ruma Bazar. You can go Bandarban to Ruma Bazar by Bus, Chander Gari or Jeep. If you want to go by bus, you have to go to Ruma Bus Stand. After every 1 hour, the bus leaves for Ruma. It will cost BDT 120 and will take nearly 3 hours. If you go with a group, it will be perfect to go to Ruma Bazar by Jeep or Chander Gari. It can carry 10 to 15 persons easily. It takes BDT 3000 to 4000 for reaching Ruma Bazar. It will need 2 hours.

After reaching Ruma Bazar, you have to hire a guide from the Ruma Bazar Guide Association. Must be remembered, taking one guide is mandatory. From the registered guide, you can fix one. Now you have to take permission from Army Camp of Ruma Bazar. You will need to submit your identity card for getting permission. The guide will help

you to get the pass. Another key point, you will not get permission from the Army camp after 4 PM.

It 17 KM from Ruma Bazar to Boga Lake. You will get Chander Gari and Jeep to reach Boga Lake. Take the help of your guide. According to your needs, he will manage everything. It will need BDT 1800 to 2000 for going to Boga Lake. If you are in a small group, you will get the shared Jeep/Chander Gari from 8 AM to 4 PM. It will need BDT 100 to go Ruma to Boga Lake.



N.B: Currently, it is possible to go to Boga Lake directly from Ruma Bazar, but if the condition of the road is not well due to the monsoon, then the car cannot take you directly to Boga lake. So, be prepared to reach Boga Lake by walking.

Tips for Traveling Boga Lake:

- There was no electricity in Boga Lake, but there is a system of solar power. Although it is safe to keep the power bank with you to charge your electric devices.

- All mobile networks are not available in Boga Lake. You will get Robi and Teletalk networks. So keep a sim available.
- There have been some accidents in recent time when bathing to Boga Lake. So, be careful while taking a bath in the lake.
- The indigenous people are very helpful, honest and friendly. Don't do anything which will hurt them.
- Take permission before taking photos of indigenous people. They may not like to give you pictures.
- The road from Bandarban to Boga Lake is not straight as it is hilly areas. So, be careful when driving.
- Keep a copy of the national identity card for your safety.
- You have to take permission from Ruma Bazar Army Camp. At the same time, you may take it on Boga Lake also.
- Don't throw any plastic bottles or packets at the side of Boga Lake. Keep it for throwing it in a perfect place