



Birishiri is one of the most panoramic tourist spots in Bangladesh, yet to be discovered and explored fully. If a beauty contest is arranged among the destinations of Bangladesh, it is sure to stand proudly amidst the top scorers and perhaps even grab the first prize for the most picturesque scenic beauty. The mountain of ceramic that acts as its landmark the blue water underneath the mountain valley, Shomeshwari River, deserted coalmines and the green countryside - all endow the place with a unique beauty difficult to match.

Shusong Durgapur of Birishiri is located at Netrokona about 170 km north from Dhaka. It's not only blessed by charismatic natural beauty, is also rich in ethnic culture as there are many ethnic groups like – Hajong, Garo, Achik and Mandi etc live here. Many people around the world come here to learn the ethnic culture and livings.

The main attraction of Birishiri is the ceramic hill of Durgapur and the picturesque landscape along the Shomeshwari River. Except the rainy season it's hard to find any water in the river and that's why the river changes its landscape color with the seasons. There is also an ethnic museum at Birishiri. It's a must place to visit while you are in Birishiri.

Attractions:

*Shomeshwari River, Susang Durgapur, Netrokona, Bangladesh:*

Durgapur Upazila falls under Netrokona district in Bangladesh. Durgapur is enriched with versatile topography. This remote area of Bangladesh attracts the outdoor enthusiast from within and outside the country for its mesmerizing natural beauty. The most popular tourist spots of Durgapur include Shomeshwari River, China Clay Hill, China Clay Lake, Ranikhong Church, Hajong Mata Roshimoni Monument, Cultural Academy (Palace of Maharaja Susang), Tribal community of Hazong people, Garo village, Dasha Busha Temple, Ramkrishna Temple, Bijoypur Border, Orange Forest, Kongsha River, Gajarie Forest, etc. Stay with us to know some fascinating details about these places.



Stepping on the soil of Durgapur, the enchanting beauty of Shomeshwari River will steal your mind. Not to mention, it is one of the most stunning rivers of Bangladesh. Originating from Garo Hill, under Garo-Khasi range at Meghalaya in India, this hilly river entered the country through Bijoypur border, Netrokona. You have to cross the Shomeshwari River by boat to explore different places in Durgapur. With the change of seasons, this magical river Shomeshwari brings changes in this landscape. Monsoon rains make this river unruly, but blossoms its beauty in full. The photogenic beauty of this undulating river at the backdrop of Meghalaya hills will remain in your mind forever. However, during the winter the water dries up almost!

## Clay Lake Birishiri Netrokona Bangladesh

Ceramic Hill area is another unforgettable natural treasure of Durgapur. In several places you will find hills built with China Clay soil. Ceramic Hills at Birishiri Union in Durgapur Upazila have acquired a significant reputation among travellers around the world. These clay hillocks are also available around the Limestone Lake at Kulagora union. These hills are also known as China Matir Pahar or China Clay Hills. What makes these hills stand out from general hills is their amazing pinkish colored soil. The secret behind this exclusive appearance is the special chemical composition of the soil. Since 1960, Ceramic companies had been excavating at Birishiri to collect the ingredients for ceramic objects and crockeries. You can hike these Ceramic hills to add some thrills in your trip. What is more? During the rainy season blue water is stored at the valleys of these hills making the whole environment blissfully romantic



Limestone Lake Birishiri Netrokona - Image Credit: Wikimedia Commons

Want to spend some tranquil moments beside a picturesque blue water pond at the backdrop of pinkish hills? You will find such a paradise called 'Limestone Lake' at Kulagora union in Durgapur Upazila of Netrokona District. The heart-touching scenic beauty of this divine blue water will pacify your soul taking you far away from the humdrum of hectic city life. This Limestone Lake is also known as Neel pukur, China Matir Lake, China Clay Lake, etc. The mystery behind its exclusive blue water is the presence of chemical compounds specially Copper Sulphate in the soil. However, being mesmerized by the beauty of this pond, don't try to jump in the water. This Limestone Lake is fairly deep, so any attempt for swimming can cost your life.



While planning your itinerary at Durgapur, don't miss the **BGB camp** located adjacent to the Bangladesh-India border at Bijoypur Netrokona. From this place you can enjoy the mind-blowing cloud-hugging green mountains of **Meghalaya** in India. Not to mention, here you can enjoy the thrill of visiting a foreign land without a passport or visa. As the BGB Camp is standing beside the Shomesshori River, you can take a boat trip to view the surrounding place.



*Hills of Netrokona*

During your journey towards Bijoypur BDR Camp, you will find **Hajong Roshimoni Monument** which was built as a remembrance of the courageous sacrifice of Hajong Roshimoni. Looking back to history during British empires the Zamindar used to own all lands of this area. The poor farmers were permitted to cultivate the lands, but were forced to pay their yield which made them economically handicapped. In 1938 the ethnic farmers of Netrokona and Mymensingh created a collective movement called Tonk Andolon under the leadership of Roshimoni. In 1946, Roshimoni Hajong was mercilessly killed by the dictator. Though looking simple, this monument inspires the people and the tourists to stand against oppression.



*Hajong Roshimoni Monument - Picture Credit: Wikimedia Commons*

Near BGB camp you can visit **Orange hill**, which is another tourist attraction of Durgapur. Moreover, at the vicinity of BGB Camp, you can spend some time at **Ranikhong Church**. This holy place was built around 1910 to 1915. Standing over a small hillock, this historical church attracts both the pious minds and the tourists.

In Durgapur you can observe the lifestyle of two ethnic groups – Hajong and Garo. To know more about the culture and history of these ethnic groups, you can visit the **Tribal Cultural Academy** – former palace of Maharaja (King) Susang – at Birishiri in Durgapur.

How To Go:

Birishiri is a remote place as it is situated at the Bangladesh India border. As a result all modes of transportation aren't available here. So the best way to get in here is by road from Dhaka. You can find direct bus to Birishiri from Mohakhali bus stand at Dhaka. It will take 7 hours to get there and last half an hour may get bumpy as the last 30 km road is not well constructed. When you are there you can go around the town by rickshaws. In fact it is advised to visit the tourists spot in rickshaws as the pullers know all the places very well. For us, It took almost 7 hours to reach YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) Guest house by microbus.

Main Route to Birishiri: Dhaka-Mymensingh-Shamgonj-Jaria-Jhanjail-Birishiri-Durgapur

Where to stay:



There is two way to get yourself accommodate. One is you can camp on the hills if you come here in a group. And the other way is to book rooms of YMCA rest house. However you stay there it will not get in your way of enjoying your stay at Birishiri. The memories you will get on that trip will be unforgettable and magnetic. You can also stay at local hotels near Susong Durgapur town. Hotel fair is Tk.100-200 per night.

### What To Eat:

At YMCA Gust house you may order food to local caretaker. You can also do BBQ at the front side of the guest house.

### Advice for Traverllars:

Rickshaws and boats are only means of transport. We have walked a lot because of broken and muddy roads. You may carry your food as there is no hotel or restaurant out there. Use soft shoes. Don't forget to hire a local guide and be careful while bargaining with guide and rickshaw pullers. Take fresh water and umbrellas with you.