



Bandarban : Highlands or to be more specific, hills, have always been among the favourite destinations of travellers. Bangladesh with her unique geographical location, that is enclosed by the Bay of Bengal to the hill tracts in Chittagong provides ideal spots for those who yearn for the distance away from the everyday bustle of life and yet well within the proximity of urbanisation. One such destination is the Nilgiri an idyllic resort built in the highland of Bandarban, a district in South eastern Bangladesh and a part of the Chittagong Division and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The hill town of Bandarban is a habitat of about 32,000 people, of which the majority is Marma. The three highest peaks of Bangladesh- Tahjindong, Mowdok and Keokradong -are located in Bandarban

district. Although all of these peaks are unique in their own beauty and nature, the location of Nilgiri has been growing immensely in popularity of late, specially due to the gorgeous and yet serene surrounding of naturally green hills that almost embrace the misty clouds.



One of the most famous tourist spots in Bangladesh is Nilgiri. This place is situated in the heavy high then the sea and for this reason, it always remains cloudy. From the starting of the 21st century this place gaining its fame in the whole Bangladesh as a tourist spot.

Location:

It's a place that controlled by the Army and its position 3200 feet above of the sea. This place is now a very romantic spot for the tourist. It is 47 kilometers away from the city and 26 kilometers from the Chimbuk hill also known as the Darjiling of bengle using the road of Thanchi upazilla. You will have amny amazing things on the way. The whole spot of Nilgiri is directed by the Army but there is nothing to worry for the

visitors. You will have all the facilities to spend night and all sorts of foods are available. There is hardly any place in Bangladesh; like the Nilgiri. If you want to touch the clouds by your own hands then start your journey right now. Your eyes are going to believe the green that this place possesses.

It is located in Thanchi Upazilla at the Chimbuk Range at a height of 2400 feet from sea level and about 48 km away from the Bandarban district, is a beautiful Nilgiri Resort. Maintained by the Bandarban Officers' Club, an extension of Bangladesh Army, reservation for accommodation is arranged through the 69 Infantry Brigade Headquarters in Bandarban Cantonment.

The resort includes a number of well - furnished cottages to accommodate tourist groups ranging from honeymooning couples to a family of four. The fares vary from Tk 5000 to Tk12000. For the more adventurous souls there are tents available for rent. Each tent includes four beds at a cost of Tk 2500 . The tents, however, are limited to Bangladeshi nationals only. The resort has a restaurant of it's own, providing daily meals and snacks.

It takes about eight hours to reach Bandarban from Dhaka by bus. Alternatively you can fly to Chittagong and enjoy an upward drive towards Bandarban. The resort of Nilgiri is reachable front the city of Bandarban within two hours and it is usually recommended to take ones' own vehicle, as the public transportation service in the Hill Tracts is very limited.

In the recent years, the number of tourists to the hill tracts has

increased manifold. It is a place where you can enjoy the beauty and tranquility of nature.



Explore Nilgiri:

As a student, generally, I do not get so much time to travel. When there is less pressure of studies at the university or there is no class at all, I prefer for going out for traveling. winter is the best season for experiencing the beauty of the range of mountains. A few days back, I along with my few friends went to Bandarban Hill Tracts. This is a place where one gets lost in nature. The mountains give a perfect environment to calm down one's mind. There are a few must-visit places in Bandarban. Nilgiri Hill Resort is one of such beautiful places. We hired a jeep which is locally known as Chander Gari to get to this place. This kind of jeep is a reliable means of transportation to travel on the meandering road that leads to Nilgiri. Reaching the top of Nilgiri, we were amazed to see the captivating landscapes all around. We could see the clouds which seemed floating under our feet. We stayed at the resort for a night. Actually, there was not much to see during the night there as this is located in a vast expanse of green hills. On the next day, we left the Nilgiri Hill Resort and returned to Bandarban following the same bumpy road and using the similar Chander Gari. We reached a

hotel there which was booked. On that day, we roamed about the small district town of Bandarban and also visited Nilachal. Nilachal is almost the same as Nilgiri, but there is no place to stay there. We walked around Nilachal; visited some tribal homes, had chitchat with some of the tribal people to have a glimpse in our mind about their lifestyles and witnessed how they lead a life. Other than Nilachal, we also visited the famous Swarna Mandir (Golden temple) - a Buddhist Temple. The original name of this place is Buddhodhatu Ceti. The Swarna Mandir – as the name implies, is fully decorated with golden and maroon colours.

Cottage Information:

There are 6 cottages available in the Nilgiri name as the Akashnila, Meghdut, Nilangona, Hetkora Raicha and Marmaicha. If you choose those cottages to spend time then you have to pay 4000- 10000 taka. Same time, if you eat more than 10 persons at a time in the restaurant of the Nilgiri then they will charge you extra 1000-1500 taka. You have to reserve your sit and food of restaurant of Nilgiri at least 45 days before. You must have a reference of an officer of the Army otherwise there is no rule reserving your place on this spot but on the matter just visit the place then you don't need reserve or reference but you have to pay per-head 50 taka and per vehicle 300 taka.

**How to Reach on the Spot:**

There is non-AC bus service from Bohoddorhat, Chittagong and from kodomtoli BRTC AC bus service is available to the Bandarban. This will cost you maximum 120 taka in the AC bus. Beside these you will also have Bandarban-Keranihat bus service. It is your wish to choose how you want to go. On the side of Nilgiri, there are lot of vehicles which are for your service by the exchange of rent. 4 wheelers are also available but this will cost you heavy.

Where you going to stay:

as you can guess by the above information that there are lot of Resort, Hotel, Motel and Rest houses. In which you can spend your night from 600-3000 taka per night. Where you just have to pay the rent and if you have on vehicle then this will be very easy for you to make a trip on the Nilgiri. The resort of Nilgiri offer both the food and shelter but you must have a reference of an Army officer. We have already mentioned the

reason, you never have any reservation unless you don't have the reference.

According to my viewpoint, Bandarban is an underdeveloped place. The economy of this region has not been flourished as well. Local residents there are very much simple-minded, helpful and hospitable. They are deprived of different kinds of amenities that other people in the plains enjoy.