# Welcome to Presentation on *Cox's Bazar: Unique Blending of Natural & Cultural Tourism'*

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- Introduction
- Natural beauty of Cox's Bazaar
- Cultural heritage
- Direction of future development
  Conclusion

### Introduction

Cox's Bazar, having the world's longest unbroken sea beach is a major tourist destination in the region. It is unique because it combines natural and cultural attractions for the tourists.

# **Natural Beauty**

In one side there is unending sea beach along with many rivers and water bodies. Among the rivers, Matamuhuri, Bakkhali, Reju Khal, Naf Rivers, Maheshkhali channel and Kutubdia channel are important.

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On the other hand hills located on the other side of the sea beach have added additional beauty. During the rainy season many water falls including the Himchhari water fall provide an unending beauty. In the neighboring hilly districts of Bandarbans and Rangamati one can enjoy the beauty of lakes and water falls throughout the year. Still many tourist spots are unexplored.

## Cox's Bazar Sea Beach





#### Cox's Bazar Sea Beach: Traditional Fishing Boat



#### Cox's Bazaar- Himchhori Water Fall



#### Cox's Bazar: Marine Drive





### Bandarban- Boga Lake & Nilgiri Hill





# **Cultural Attractions**

Cultural tourism refers to the 'movement of people to cultural attractions away from their normal place of residence'. According to WTO cultural tourism accounted for 37% of global tourism and forecasts its grow at 15% per year.

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Diverse population lives here. In addition to Bangalese, in an around Cox's Bazar, there are 14 ethnic minorities including Marmas, Chakmas, Mros, Tripuras, Khumi, Rakhaines, Khiang, Bawm, Chak, Tanchangya, etc. Their total number was about 2.5 million in 2010 in the country.

As a whole the people are friendly and accommodative. Their lifestyle and culture is rich. Their festivals and religious rituals are different. Some of the cultural programs observed are secular, while some are religious participated by people from all walks of life.

# **Cultural Attractions**

- Pohela Boishak: The first day of Bangla New Year (14 April)
- International Mother Language Day: 21 February
- Maharram: Shia Muslim religious program
- Durga Puja: Observed by Hindus generally in October
- Kothin Chibor Dan Utsab: Buddhist religious program.

These are some of the issues in which the tourists could be easily attracted. There are actually many more.

#### Bangla New Year's Festival: Mongol Shovajatra





### Durga Puja





### **Buddhist Statue in Ramu**





# Adinath Temple- Moheshkhali

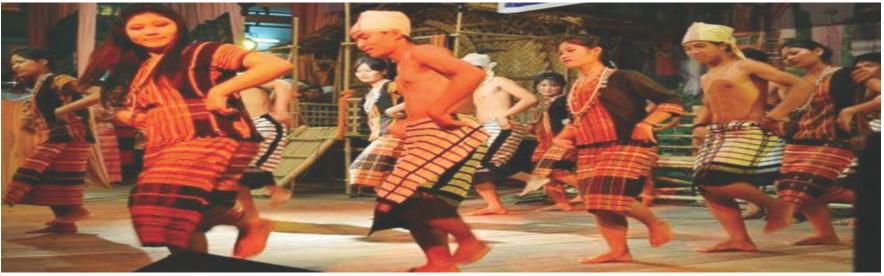


### Kite flying in Cox's Bazar Sea Beach



### Boishakhi Festival among ethnic minorities





# Weaving of traditional cloth.



# **Direction of Future Development**

Tourism development depends on socio-economic overall development. The country with a 7+ economic growth has huge potential for tourism development. The number of middle class and upper middle class is increasing sharply. So is the demand for tourism.

A number of mega projects are being undertaken in and around Cox's Bazaar. Some of them are:

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• In Cox's Bazaar districts, 6 Special Economic Zones will be established, of which 'Sabrang' and 'Jaliadeep' will be two exclusive tourism zones (Prefeasibility going on).

- 3 big Power Power Plants are being implemented in & around Maheshkhali Island along with road connectivity;
- LNG Terminal and related gas transmission line;
- Railway line from Dohazari to China via Cox's Bazaar as part of Trans Asian Railway;
- A 4 lane road from Chittagong to Cox's Bazaar to be a part of Asian Highway;

# Conclusion

All these projects to be implemented in the next 10-15 years, will further boost up tourism in form of building infrastructure, creating employment, enhancing income & improving standard of living. These, at the same time, will create new challenge for protecting the nature, safeguarding the heritage, sustainable water supply, sanitation/sewerage system, solid waste management, etc. These are not easy work. Integrated approach is needed under a Plan.

# Thank You