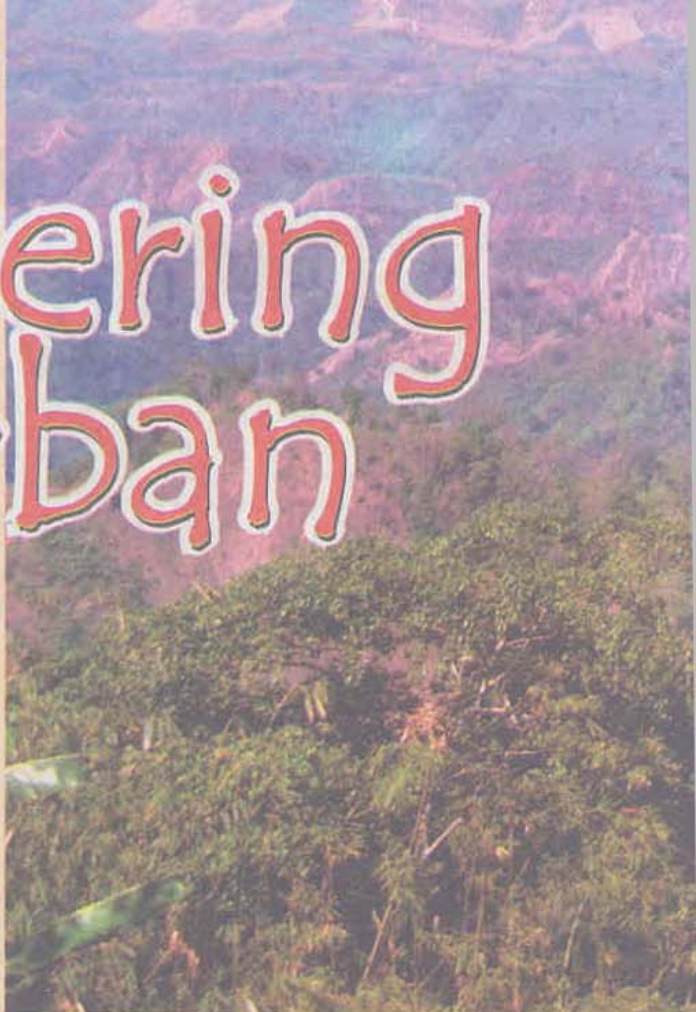


Discovering Bandarban

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People discover different things in Bandarban. Some come here to get lost in the splendour of nature at its best while others come here to trek. Still others come to discover new species of flora and fauna while enjoying the beauty of the woodlands. Among the three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bandarban is the most popular place because of its panoramic beauty, its vibrant Indigenous people, beautiful hills and valleys. It has its own personality. For a first timer like me, a hill side resort called Milonchhori on Chimbuk Road under Guide Tours Ltd, is the best way to start the adventure.



The Guide Tours Ltd. is a private tour operator and has been around for nearly 17 years. The business took shape in April 1989 when Hasan Mansur, the founder and present Managing Director of the company, started giving tours with the aid of just three people. Currently, there are over 60 people employed in The Guide Tours Ltd. and over the years, they have grown strong in logistics in the form of transports, boats and branch offices. They are currently in operations in the Sundarbans Forest and in Bandarban.

There are a number of ways one can get to Bandarban. One can go from Dhaka to Chittagong by air and then drive to Bandarban. Dhaka to Chittagong air tickets are about Tk 3000 for flying with Biman Bangladesh and Tk 4500 for taking GMG Airlines. One can also take a train from Dhaka to Chittagong. First class non-air conditioned sleeping train service comes to Tk 550 while the sitting service comes to Tk 350. If you're by Shovan class sitting, the cost is Tk 200 upto Chittagong. One can take the bus from Chittagong to Bandarban or hire a micro or taxicab. The trip from Chittagong to the Hillside Resort is only 2 hours. The fare is subject to bargain but it is best if one asks the tour operators about an estimate. The adventurous ones can even take a direct bus service