the attitude and culture of Bangladeshis so warmly remarkable and amazingly memorable.

And now I know I'm not alone in that conclusion.

"Looking at the news media in Britain, there seems to be very little that features Bangladesh," said UK-based travel writer Nick Redmayne. "When Bangladesh is headlined it's usually for the wrong reasons. It's quite heartening to come to the country and find there are good news stories in Bangladesh. It's quite pleasantly surprising to find people so welcoming, their approach is so relaxed. One of the pleasures I have from this trip is that I can go back to the UK and write positively about the experiences foreigners can have in Bangladesh."

"It seems to me the best thing is the people," added Canadian travel journalist Nicole Kobie.

"That everyone is so friendly, and no one is trying to go out of their way to rip you off. It helps because they're trying to help you find your way. Transportation can be a bit tough, but the people are great fun to be with."

Yet the undeniable fact remains: Despite these positive reflections, Bangladesh is still one of the least travelled places in the world and there are a few reasons for this that are well beyond the control of Bangladeshis or the people who write about them.

Firstly, the country isn't on the "hippie trail," as are its more well-travelled neighbours; Nepal and India scoop the bulk of the sub-continent's tourists. Secondly, there is no overland route between Thailand and India, facilitating backpacker travel, although a land crossing between Myanmar and Bangladesh is apparently in the works.

Finally, there is no Taj Mahal or Angkor Wat, and although a tiger-infested mangrove and the world's longest sea beach are fascinating, both are not stand-alone destinations grand enough to bring in tourists by the boatload. But one person on the trip believed that could change.

