

The Mer-people's Songs: Mermaid Beach Resort



There I was, my head lying on the most comfortable pillow, my eyes closed and my mind being serenaded by a cool breeze energised by the sea, bringing in the fragrance of an unending ocean. A slightly opened eye revealed a vista where a sky dressed itself in its finest stars for a date with the sea decked out in its partner's reflection. Where the moon shone like a gem on a crown, the many traditional 'sampan' boats dotted the sea.

Where their kiss began and where it ended could not be told.

They were in perfect harmony; made for each other. I was but a silent mystified observer to their encounter, an encounter best witnessed in the lap of luxury known as Mermaid Beach Resort.

Mermaid Beach Resort is perhaps one of the only of its kind to offer an international resort experience right here in Bangladesh. A garlanded welcome is followed by a flurry of unending activities. Have your welcome drink and walk right into Mermaid's private beach, one far away from the maddening crowd, unblemished by the rubbish that marks every tourist spot.

For yards, there are only a few people to be seen. We got the chance to sit with the brains behind it all, Mr Anisul Haque Chowdhury, Managing Director, Mermaid Eco-Tourism Ltd. We first wanted to know the security measures. "The secluded beach is constantly manned by a 40 member security team. There are lifeguards who blend into the background, waiting to be emerge whenever required," he said. Before you can go into your luxurious



choice of room, you cannot help but spy the activity around you. The restaurant is the first place you see and the tantalising smells draw you right in.

Mr Anisul also spoke about the freshness of the food. "The food is prepared using ingredients fresh off the sea or from

Mermaid's very own organic garden, which provides 60 percent of all the vegetables prepared," he informed, guaranteeing the health aspect of everything served.

Here, everything tastes different; fresher, purer and with a much more powerful taste. The food here can be described as having a

soul. Even the fruit cocktails pack a punch. There is a hint of sugar but the sweetness seems natural.

The fish are bigger, the shrimps larger and at a one point you actually begin to judge your own gluttony; but who does not want to celebrate just a little? After all, what happens in Cox's Bazaar stays in Cox's Bazaar, right?

The restaurant proper is located right in front of a lagoon, which is the water body right before the main beach. A lone kayak bumps in the flowing water, moving up and down, slowly, lulling you into a trance which is partly seduction. How can you say no? So you walk up to it and sit down, eyeing the blue before you. Are you ready? Have you ever done this? Do you want to? Those questions do not need answering.

Out of nowhere, a friendly face pops up and tells you exactly what to do and how to row. You cannot swim or cannot swim well enough, but here you are, on a Kayak, channelling your inner Bear Grylls, although you never knew one existed. This of course is only one of the activities Mr. Anisul told us of.