



#HISTORY &amp; HERITAGE

# Tour de DU

University of Dhaka — the name that's uttered with reverence and love all across the country. The gravity of this institution is not to be taken lightly. Which is exactly why every citizen of Bangladesh should visit the Dhaka University campus at least once in their lifetime. The first time I visited the DU campus, I was perplexed. I had no idea where to go, what to do. I was intimidated by its grandeur and exuberance. But after spending five years at the campus, I dare say I have a much better idea about it now and I am here to guide you on a day's tour at DU.

## What to see?

The Dhaka University campus is filled with historical points of interests. We will start from Madhur Canteen. One of the most commonly heard names in our country. Essentially, it is a cafeteria; but its significance needs no explanation. Situated right beside the Social Science faculty and DUCSU, it played a vital role in the Language Movements of 1948 and 1952 and many more movements since then.

Standing right across the canteen, you can see the sign that says Dhaka University Central Students' Union or commonly called DUCSU. It is called the second parliament of Bangladesh. You can ponder on its importance while taking a quick tour of Collection Centre at the ground floor of this building. It's open for all.

Stepping out from DUCSU Collection Centre, you will have to walk for a minute to reach the entrance of the Arts faculty. Here, you will encounter Aparajeyo Bangla. Arguably the most well-known sculpture in the campus (maybe even in the country) right beside Raju vaskorjo or Anti-Terrorism Raju Memorial Sculpture to be exact, which is situated right at the heart of TSC roundabout. Raju Memorial Sculpture has

become a national symbol of movements these days. Take your time at both of these places.

If you step out on the road and walk for another two minutes, you will reach the Memory Eternal under the shade of a great tree facing the VC building. Built on



26 March, 1995 and renovated in 2015, Memory Eternal displays the names of teachers, students and staffs who were killed in the Liberation War. It's a place that will remind you of the heavy cost of our freedom.

Speaking of sacrifice, do not forget the

Shaheed Minar. The history of the language movement is not unknown and as an homage to all languages in the world, one should walk in the premises of Shaheed Minar. The Central Shaheed Minar is right beside Dhaka Medical College Hospital and on your way to the Doyel Chottor, which is another familiar sculpture. Doyel Chottor is facing the Curzon Hall.

**Curzon Hall is the building that** represents the image of Dhaka University. The Burgundy building is an amazing piece of architectural specimen that blends both British and Mughal style. Sitting on the grass in front of Curzon Hall and staring at the magnificence should definitely be on your bucket list.

You can end your tour by quickly popping in Suhrawardy Udyan. Its historical value needs no introduction, the famous speech of 7th March happened right here, in this very ground. You can also visit the Mausoleum of Three Leaders standing next to Suhrawardy Udyan and on your way to Shahbagh, before you pass Charukala, you can walk by Mausoleum of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and master of art, Zainul Abedin.