

#TRAVEL

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Some might compare a mountain's gargantuan beauty with the ocean's ceaseless ripples, forming hauntingly beautiful patterns. But why choose between the two? The distinctive terrain of Cox's Bazar is one feature that makes it stand out. Unbeknownst to seasonal tourists, the undiscovered grassy hills past the Himchori spot, facing the ever-raging waves of the Bay of Bengal on a cloudy day, are something to live for again and again.

The sight of the seemingly limitless body of water stretching out to the horizon is breath-taking, and the sound of the waves breaking on the coast can reset one's perspective of being free. You cannot help but feel at peace and wonder whether you are strolling along the glistening soft, golden sandy beach, basking in the sun, or just gazing out at the water. Then there is the sea breeze, which carries a sense of freedom



wherever it flows. It beckons you to set sail and explore the world beyond as it whispers tales of far-off locations and horizons.

If you traverse beyond the local



tourist spots, there is an entirely different Cox's Bazar waiting for you. Succulent local foods, like mungdi in a local market and various dishes of fish made by fishermen, are within the grasp of anyone willing to explore unconventionally.

Speaking of exploring, lonely beaches are waiting to be explored, with no souls crowding the shimmering sunset. And if you have somehow managed to catch a glimpse of a full moon smiling upon the tranquil sea at night, then the view you experienced is nothing short of a scene straight from a

Studio Ghibli's movie. The bay has faces that change with the season. Whether it is a cold winter night, a stormy early morning, or a calm spring afternoon, Cox's Bazar has something different for every other shade of the day and season.

Such experiences have pushed me far and beyond to get the life I have always wanted; to be free. Free of a cubicle, free to run to heed the enchanting call of the sea. Anyone can experience the instances mentioned above if one is willing to go out of one's comfort zone.

Talk to locals; learn about the unheard places from people who live there besides being glued to Google, and who knows, you might have an enchanting experience of your own. The universe has a way of communicating, whether through a series of fortunate or unfortunate events, ambiguous signs, or sheer raw beauty. If you observe your surroundings, you will know.

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Photo: Mohiuddin Ahmed Sagor

