

#TRAVEL

# RAJSHAHI DIARIES: A Day of History, Nature, and Quiet Outings

Known for its unbearable summer heat and abundance of mangoes during the season, it is no secret that the city — one of the oldest in Bangladesh — can be a treat for all travel aficionados. The best thing about Rajshahi is that it is still quiet and most of the points of interest can fit into a day's itinerary if you plan your timetable carefully.

## The Varendra Museum

Officially known as Varendra Research Museum, this is the oldest museum in the country. Managed by Rajshahi University, it is barely a kilometre away from Rajshahi Zero Point. Whether you want to walk or hire a rickshaw, we leave that up to you.



## Rajshahi College

If you are on your way to Varendra Museum from Zero Point, Rajshahi College will be on your left, a few hundred metres before you reach the museum. With its green campus, a large pond, and a combination of modern and old buildings, it's worth a visit.

## Dhokols

Visiting the dhokols will be a different experience. Why? Firstly, there are quite a few of them, and secondly, they are spread out across the city. Built in the early 1900s,

these used to be life-saving as they supplied pure drinking water all over the city. A number of Dhokols are still functional and continue to provide water. Beldarpara Temple, Hetem Khan Medical Road, Betpotti, Raninagar Mor, Kumarpura, and a few other places still have them.



## The Padma River

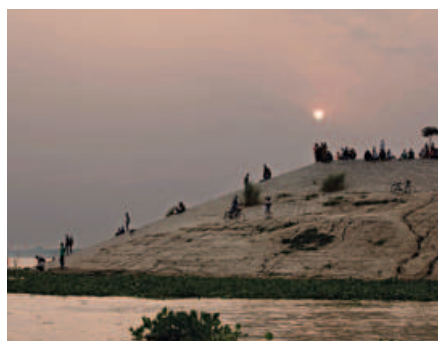
You may see the mighty Padma by going to the T Dam or the I Dam. Both of these places offer a spectacular view of the river.

A few kilometres to the west from the heart of the city, you can go to these places by rickshaw or an auto-rickshaw. If you wish, you can even go to one of the chars by hiring a boat or trawler that is waiting. It will be a memory to cherish for a long time.

## Rajshahi University campus

Less than five kilometres to the east of the heart of the city, the campus offers you a sight of a different life — a beautiful life. From Paris Road to Charukala Road, the placid campus offers a lot for a traveller.

**Just walk around or sit on the grass and you will feel like you are recharging with the spirit of fresh air.** That being said, remember that this is the campus of an educational institution and not a regular



tourist spot. Do not be a mindless tourist; show respect to the campus.

If you are on a tight schedule and can only spend a day or two on vacation, visiting Rajshahi is not such a bad idea. The city itself is calm and less noisy than you would expect. As long as you are not here in the summer, you should have a pleasant time. Still, pack your bags carefully. Do not forget your sunscreen and water bottle!

**By Ashif Ahmed Rudro**  
**Photo: Courtesy**





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