

Mymensingh's Netrokona is probably not on your mind when picking a travel destination. Sure, names like Cheena Matir Pahar and Birishiri sound enticing; you keep hearing about these from time to time, but what else? Being such an underrated region for tourism, Netrokona is hardly ever in the limelight. But hopefully, after reading this piece, you will be convinced that this district is a gem for travellers! From picturesque scenery to sites of remembrance to an iconic sweet delicacy, Netrokona has a lot to offer.

## Why Netrokona should be your next peaceful travel destination

### Uniquely beautiful

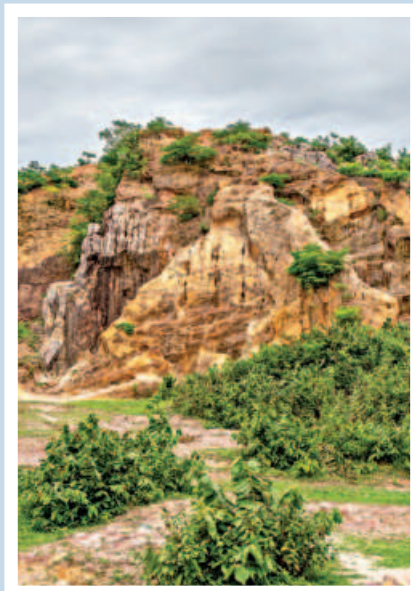
Let's start with a prime attraction. Situated in Durgapur upazila are the China Clay Hills (Cheena Matir Pahar). It is not your usual set of hills, but rather a unique one. The small hills have a rugged outlook, standing brilliantly in whitish, reddish, and yellowish colours. The distinct geology accounts for this striking appearance.

Also striking are the water bodies surrounding it. Commonly referred to as Birishiri Lake, it perfectly complements the surrounding hills. Visitors are awed by the serene bluish-green waters.

To appreciate Durgapur is to cherish its uniqueness. We may see larger hills and lakes in other places of Bangladesh, but those of Durgapur are pleasantly unusual in their appearance!

Meanwhile, the nearby Someshwari River promises tranquillity. With portions of the sky blocked by distant hills, a boat ride offers beautiful views all around — a treat for the eyes!

Netrokona is dotted with a number of tilas, or small hills. For those who are not up for trekking but enjoy greenery and



### Cheena Matir Pahar

hills, Netrokona is a perfect place to visit.

There are "tilas" in Durgapur, but our recommendation would be to visit Momin's Tila in Lengura, Kalmakanda. It is easy to climb, the large trees

provide a beautiful ambience, and from the top, you can see larger hills in the distance. It is peaceful and far from the madding crowd!

Remember, Netrokona is no Cox's Bazar or Sylhet. You will surely find many tourists, but the number is much less compared to the more touristy areas of our country. Therefore, its beauty is still pristine, plus one can find themselves away from chaos.

"Country roads, take me home"

When we speak of scenic roads that offer a pleasant drive in Bangladesh, we usually think of the Marine Drive, the winding ways of Bandarban, etc. However, something that often does not get that much attention but deserves a lot is the roads through Kalmakanda.

In Kalmakanda, particularly in and around Lengura and Panchgaon, you are never far away from the beautiful scenery of larger hills on the horizon, against the backdrop of blue skies and white clouds, rising from

the ground in all its splendour.

You do not need a destination; a carefree and fun ride with friends and family, and a suitable playlist in the background are enough to create memories that will last a lifetime!

### Soaked in history

Mymensingh overall is obviously very rich in history, and Netrokona district surely has a fair share of it as well.

Not far from Momin's Tila, close to the border, is the Tomb of Seven Martyrs, more commonly known as "Saat Shohider Shomadhi". Surrounded by large trees, at the very edge of our country, lies a set of graves of freedom fighters that some of us perhaps do not even know of!

The site pays homage to seven valiant freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives in a historic battle that took place on 26 July, 1971, in Kalmakanda.



Scenic views at Kalmakanda