

#TRAVEL

Experience Sylhet like never before during the magical rainy season

Some travellers want comfort, while others want a boat ride through an engulfed haor and a roaring waterfall so close that mist clings to their skin. If you are the second type, Sylhet is your perfect destination. But there is a particular kind of magic that only rain can conjure, and nowhere does it work its magic more completely than Sylhet when it is pouring. Still feeling unsure? Let us persuade you a little more.

EVERYTHING COMES ALIVE

When rain visits Sylhet, something just shifts in the landscape.

You may begin from Ratargul Swamp Forest, where the boat rides through the trees in knee-deep, dark, still water. The swamp forest is so unapologetically quiet that it makes the journey almost unreal. Follow the road to Jaflong, where the Piyain River runs cold and clear, rolling smooth stones down from the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya. When the clouds roll in, those hills disappear into the horizon mysteriously.

While at its scenic best during the rains, tourist spots are often less crowded when it is drizzling, so it almost feels like you have this beautiful place to yourself. The hotels are generally calm, the boat rides are uncontested, and the tea garden paths are empty except for the pitter-patter on broad leaves. There is no one else jostling for the same view, and no one is posing in front of Madhubkunda or Panthumai Waterfall



Ratargul



Sreemangal



Jaflong

when you click the shutter.

EXPERIENCE THE RAIN LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Whether you are sipping hot tea on a plantation porch while the rain drums softly on the roof, or standing at the edge of a misty valley watching clouds roll in as curtains drawn across the sky, Sylhet teaches you to enjoy the rain differently. Not as something to escape, but as something to truly, deeply feel.

Then there is something that Gen-Z calls “sus” about the rain; it just washes away self-control. The moment the sky gives way, ordinary hunger turns absolutely brutal. You would be shocked at how your stomach shamelessly demands more after one portion of khichuri. Even a large plate of rice with a side of spicy shutki bhuna and perfect consistency daal with a squeeze of

lemon from the floating food spots is gone before you can properly sniff it.

THE SUN STEPS BACK — AND THAT IS THE BEST PART

One of the most underrated gifts of rain is simple but elite: the sun has finally clocked out. During this time, you still need sunscreen, but you can comfortably

wander in the Sreemangal Tea Gardens and Lawachara National Park, watching rare birds, riding boats, and exploring outdoors without engaging in a heated debate with summer lovers. Simply, no panic about tanning or a desperate search for shade, and most importantly, not feeling like you are slowly being grilled to perfection. Just grey clouds overhead and a gentle breeze around you.

A FEW THINGS TO REMEMBER BEFORE YOU START

Travelling in Sylhet during the rains is richly rewarding for the prepared and ruthlessly humbling for the overconfident. So, make sure you wear shoes with a good grip to avoid embarrassing moves in public. Keep your phone and camera in waterproof bags even if it is not raining when you are leaving the hotel.

Carry an umbrella at all costs and don't trust “it's just a drizzle”. Be cautious with puddles, as they are often deeper than they appear. It is better to avoid them, even if it takes a few extra seconds.

Now, pack your bags and leave your expectations of staying crisp firmly at home. Though the journey might not promise you comfort, it promises wet shoes, an uplifted mood, and the peace of being somewhere that looks its best when the weather is as gloomy as it could be.

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