

Kushtia : Soul of mysticism, literature

- A Monitor Special

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Kushtia : Kushtia, the place where the timeless melodies of Lalon Shah once echoed, carries his message of spirituality across Bengal. It is here that Rabindranath Tagore found inspiration, weaving words that would later transcend borders and generations.

Nestled in the heart of Khulna division in southwestern Bangladesh, Kushtia is more than just a city - it is a living canvas of cultural heritage and natural beauty, a place that calls out to every wanderer. From its sacred shrines to its serene riversides, every corner whispers stories waiting to be discovered.

Below are some of its most captivating sites that no traveler should miss.

Lalon Shah Bridge, Hardinge Bridge

The Lalon Shah Bridge is one of Bangladesh's largest, stretching 1.8

kilometers in length and 18.10 meters in width, its two lanes divided with precision. From this vantage point, you can feel the rush of the wind as you witness the mighty Padma River flowing beneath, framed by the serene beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Running parallel to the Lalon Shah Bridge stands the Hardinge Bridge, a century-old steel railway bridge still in use today. A relic of the British era, it endures as a symbol of history and heritage, while the Lalon Shah Bridge rises beside it as a testament to modern engineering excellence. Together, these two bridges-past and present-create a truly spectacular sight.

Located just 13 km from Kushtia town, this wetland is a haven for nature lovers, offering an endless panorama of water and sky. Formed by the confluence of two canals and three rivers, it transforms with the seasons.

In summer, the water recedes so low that the muddy floor of the beel emerges, while in the rainy season, the waters swell and flow, painting the landscape in vibrant, lush beauty. The monsoon is the perfect time to witness this breathtaking scenery at its best.

Tagore lodge

This is the very place where Rabindranath Tagore once stayed, drawing inspiration that gave birth to timeless masterpieces such as "Sonar Tari", "Chitra", and many others.

Situated just seven kilometers from Kushtia Sadar in Milpara, the two-storied edifice rests on nine kathas of land. At its entrance stands a bust of the Nobel Laureate, welcoming visitors into a space steeped in history. Inside, the spacious ground-floor hall and an upper-floor room preserve copies of Tagore's works, accompanied by twelve evocative paintings that honor his literary legacy.



Lalon Fakir rests in a serene shrine in Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia

With its graceful twisted iron staircase tucked into the west corner and a courtyard carpeted in green grass, the building exudes quiet charm. Outside, a small open platform adds to the tranquil atmosphere -- so serene that you just might find yourself inspired to pen a few verses of your own.

Lalon Akhra, shrine of Lalon Fakir

The revered spiritual leader who guided his disciples to live free of greed, hatred, and all negative emotions, Lalon Fakir, rests in a serene shrine in Kumarkhali upazila of the district. Rows of graves encircle the striking all-white central mausoleum where Lalon is buried. Visiting this sacred site offers a profound sense of peace, inviting you to connect with your own spiritual self.

With the Lalon Mela approaching in Kartik (October), it is the perfect time to visit the shrine and witness the vibrant celebration of Lalon Fakir's legacy. Devotees gather to both mourn and honour their spiritual leader, while the air comes alive with the soulful strains of Baul songs throughout the night. The shrine itself is illuminated with colorful lights, creating a mesmerizing and unforgettable atmosphere.

Jhaudia Shahi Mosque

Located in Jhaudia village, 22 km from Kushtia Sadar, this mosque is an architectural and archaeological marvel. Elegantly crafted, it features three prominent domes, intricately designed doors, and well-organized prayer spaces. From above, five stunning domes rise gracefully, complemented by two slender minarets within. One of its most unique qualities is the cool, tranquil interior - a soothing retreat, thanks to its construction with earthen tally.