

Tinap Saitar Waterfall Travel Guide: Visit a pristine natural fountain in Bandarban

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Online Desk: In the timeless melody of nature's composition, waterfalls stand as the ethereal crescendos. These are instinctive artistry, where clear streams, passing through rugged terrain, surrender to gravity's gentle embrace. Bangladesh is enriched with spectacular natural cascades. Considering the flow of water, **Bandarban's Tinap Saitar** is considered the **largest waterfall in Bangladesh**. Let's take a look at the detailed **travel guide to the Tinap Saitar waterfall** to experience the grandeur of this pristine natural fountain.

The Origin of Tinap Saitar's Name

Tinap Saitar derived its name from the Bom language, in which "Tinap" translates to nasal congestion, and "Saitar" means spring or waterfall. The enigmatic juxtaposition of such a name with the breathtaking beauty of this natural wonder remains a mystery. Locals also refer to this hidden gem within the Paindu Canal as "Paindu Saitar."

Location of Tinap Saitar Waterfall

This impressive waterfall is situated within the Pindu Canal under Pindu union, under Rowangchhari upazila of Bandarban. The closest locality is Roninpara, which is located approximately 13 km away from the falls.

Best Time to Visit the Tinap Saitar Waterfall

This waterfall reveals its grandeur during the monsoon season, when the rains swell its magnificence. Furthermore, for those seeking the rainbow's dance upon the water on sunny days, the only hope lies in the rainy season. Hence, the ideal time to visit this waterfall is between July and September, during the rainy season.

However, this adventure comes with challenges – a treacherous, slippery mountain path and waist-deep waters of the Pindu Canal. For non-swimmers, it's advisable to avoid crossing the canal.

What to Experience while Visiting Tinap Saitar

This trail is a test of resilience and endurance, reserved for those with strong willpower. It leads through Keplong Para, Paikhong Para, Ronin Para, and finally Devachara Para, culminating at Tinap Falls. Enriched with spectacular natural views, the path is adventurous and can bewilder travellers. From the huts atop the hills in Roninpara, travellers can spot the distant 2,940 ft Sippi Arsuang, often shrouded in clouds during winter. Descending from Debachhara village, a mossy, damp path meanders between forested hills. The tourists should be mentally prepared for surprises like snakes or crabs, as this is not uncommon there. As the journey reaches its end, the Pindu Canal unveils its unparalleled beauty, albeit with increased peril. Tinap plunges from a height of about 150 ft, following a winding course through various hills. The clear waters below reveal trees and massive rocks adrift in the stream. The lush green hills on either side create a natural bathing haven. It invites trekkers to stand on midstream rocks or bathe in the chilly spring waters beneath the falls. With each splash, a tingling sensation washes away the fatigue of the adventure.

How to Reach the Tinap Saitar Waterfall from Dhaka?

Dhaka to Rowangchhari, Bandarban

Various buses bound for Bandarban depart from Dhaka's Kalabagan, Fakirapool, or Syedabad bus terminals. Non-AC bus fares range from BDT 850 to 900, while AC buses cost between BDT 1200 and 1800. These transports take a travel time of around 9 to 12 hours to reach Bandarban Sadar. From Bandarban Sadar, a tomtom ride for BDT 15 will take travellers to the Rowangchhari-bound bus stand. Hourly departures to Rowanchari, costing BDT 80 per person, will take approximately one and a half hours. For larger groups, car rentals are also available, ranging from BDT 1000 to 1200 and saving about half an hour.

Rowangchhari to Tinap Saitar Waterfall

Upon disembarking from the Rowangchhari, securing a guide is the first step. Sharing the itinerary with the guide, including the duration and destinations, is crucial for proper preparation. The journey commences with a drive to Roninpara, with Chander Gari rentals ranging from BDT 4000 to 5500. The vehicle will drop travellers near a steep hill, followed by an hour's trek to reach Roninpara. After resting here, reporting to the army camp is essential, facilitated by the chosen guide. To reach Tinap waterfall, it would be wise to start early from Roninpara, as it's a minimum four-hour hike from this point. After an hour and a half of walking, tourists will reach Debachharapara, and from there, the trail leads through mountain ridges with steep inclines and breathtaking views of the vast Pindu Canal. However, be prepared for a steep descent before reaching the canal. The visitors can choose between two paths, both leading to the resonating sound of Tinap's cascading waters.

The Return via Ruma

While travellers opt to exit through Ruma, the trek will come full circle after enjoying the waterfall. A stop at Attapara, via Notun Para, is included in the itinerary, via Chander Gari. The fares vary from BDT 4000 to 6000 for the journey to Bandarban Sadar through Ruma the next day.

Travel to Tinap via Ruma

For a quicker journey to Tinap through Ruma upazila of Bandarban, tourists can reach Ruma from Bandarban Sadar by bus or Chander Gari. After obtaining permission at Ruma's army station, the trip continues to Attapara. The car rentals here range from BDT 2200 to BDT 2500. At Attapara, visitors should report to the BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) camp with their required identification card. The following day, guided by the chosen guide, they can explore the Tinap waterfall through a two-hour trek. Captivating small streams and springs along the way will be in sight. To return directly to Bandarban Sadar from Attapara, a Chander Gari ride costs approximately BDT 5000.

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The guide can assist with accommodation arrangements at various points on the itinerary. Roninpara offers lodging, bathing, and dining facilities, with some houses equipped with solar-powered lighting. Room rates for an overnight stay in Rowanchari and Roninpara vary from BDT 150 to 200 per person. Higher-quality hotels offer non-AC rooms for BDT 500 and AC rooms for BDT 1500. Moreover, the guide can arrange stays at the homes of locals like Bom or Tanchangyas in the Ronin neighborhood. Accommodation costs in Attapara typically range from BDT 100 to 150 per person. In Roninpara, meals are available for BDT 150 per person, including rice, eggs, lentils, and potatoes. Chicken, lentils, and rice can be enjoyed for BDT 200. In Attapara, dining costs approximately BDT 80 per person.

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Adequate rest and timely meals are vital for this demanding journey. Therefore, the trekkers can make the most of breaks in Roninpara and Attapara. Prioritise a good night's sleep and an early start the next morning. Tourists should avoid trekking on a full stomach, as it can be challenging. It is recommended to consume light snacks before embarking on the trek. Carry an ample supply of water, dry food, medicine, and leech and mosquito repellents. When packing for the tour, choose clothing wisely to keep the bag lightweight. Do not forget to bring an umbrella and raincoat for unexpected weather changes. Each tourist should carry

photocopies of his or her national ID card along with the original for reporting purposes. It would be wise to opt for biodegradable paper bags over plastic ones to preserve the beauty of the surroundings. It is recommended to treat locals with respect and friendliness; they may offer assistance when needed.

In a Nutshell

Bandarban's Tinap Saitar Waterfall, the **largest waterfall in Bangladesh**, considering waterflow, captures the essence of the untamed beauty of nature. Nature lovers can explore this natural cascade to experience a challenging trek. Besides this, on the trekking paths, every moment can become a priceless memory for outdoor enthusiasts. Gazing upon the Sippy Arsuang hill from the huts of the Bom community can shift a person's perspective towards life and existence. This is not just a destination; it's a revelation of the transformative power of pure embrace.