

## **BANGLADESH**

Gorgeously green yet swamped with people. Bangladesh is a low –lying rural wonderland with silent rivers and golden paddy fields. Home to fabulous beaches, archaeological sites, historical attractions and diverse flora and fauna Bangladesh is regarded as a favorite destination for those who judge a place in terms of happiness rather than prosperity. Being mesmerized by its natural beauty the famous Bengali poet Jibonanonda Das said, “After death, taking rebirth I shall come back to this country again, may not be as human but as a kite, in order to inhale the beauty from height.”

Modern Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation in 1971, achieving independence from Pakistan through nine month long war of liberation and by the sacrifice of 3 million lives. The vibrant speech of 7<sup>th</sup> March 1971, by the charismatic leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who is also known as the father of the nation, united people from all walks of lives and mentally prepared them for the war of liberation. The international mother language day declared by UNESCO on 1999, is mainly observed for commemorating the historical sacrifice made by some heroic Bangladeshi sons for the sake of preserving Bangla as their mother tongue in 1952 when Pakistan forcefully tried to impose Urdu as the state language. In Bangladesh almost all people speak and understand Bangla, a language which occupies an exalted position because of the richness of its literature.

Bangladeshi culture has its own uniqueness and richness. The traditional native culture is a blender of native and sub continental mixtures. The rich culture of Bangladesh can be experienced in many forms, such as in traditional music, vibrant dance, religion, colorful art and literature. Fish and rice constitute the main diet of the masses, the vast majority of whom live in the country’s villages. A cotton lungi and a jersey called kurta are the common attire for men in rural areas. The urban people have, however, largely adapted to western costume. Sari is women’s universal dress, both in the cities and countryside. The culinary tradition of Bangladesh has close relations to surrounding Bengali North East Indian cuisine. Biryani being one of the country’s most favorite dish, rich with an emphasis on fish, vegetables lentils and sweet-meat makes the traditional platter of Bangladesh.

Cricket being most popular sports in Bangladesh it successfully co-hosted the ICC World Cup 2011 and also hosted ICC T20 World Cup 2014.