

International Retirement Village/Budget Hotel

The Product

To create retirement villages as per international standard with back up of newly built budget hotels.

1.1 Bengal Shelter Housing Development Limited intends to build a cluster of state-of-the-art International retirement villages on Bengal soil with an objective of attracting international clientele, NRIs and Indian senior citizens of higher income group. The thrust of the project is to create an abode of peace for senior citizens hailing from mostly European countries and United States of America as well as up-market segment of Indian society. All the villages will be at par with the reputed brands of Retirement Villages in USA and England and other countries of European Union. An environment of all embracing care marks the proposed International Village. An added feature of Bengal Shelter's proposed retirement community is the touch of fabled Asian hospitality.

In the context of globalization outsourcing of elderly people is no more a fictional idea as developed by London based Author Deborah Moggach in her famous novel *These Foolish Things*.

These Foolish Things is a brilliant comedy of manners, mixing acute observation with a deeper message about how different cultures cope in the modern world. When Ravi Kapoor, an over-worked London doctor, is driven beyond endurance by his disgusting and difficult father-in-law, he asks his wife: 'Can't we just send him away somewhere? Somewhere far, far away.' His prayer seems to have been answered when his entrepreneurial cousin, Sonny, sets up a retirement home, recreating a lost corner of England in a converted guesthouse in Bangalore. Travel and set-up are inexpensive, staff willing and plentiful - and the British pensioners can enjoy the hot weather and take mango juice with their gin.

Bengal Shelter intends to make International Retirement Village a reality, a landmark in hospitality service on Bengal soil. To realize its dream of "Project Rainbow", Bengal Shelter Housing Development Limited (BSHDL) has engaged Feedback Ventures for the preparation of a business plan for two of its key projects—a proposed chain of budget hotels and a proposed retirement village in West Bengal.

1.2. Proposed budget hotels of 2/3/4 star categories will be built on the same location/site of Retirement Village or nearby urban centers and prominent tourist spots with historical/religious significance as well as in upcoming business/industrial centers. As, it is imperative that the residents will enjoy full privacy and serene life in their villas/dwelling units. Siblings and relatives are always welcome to visit the residents. However,

they should stay in the budget hotels. Certainly, the hotels will be provider of usual hospitality services to the general tourist, business people and other categories of guests.

1.3 A few words on health care will be pertinent in the project proposal. As International clientele will certainly expect to receive finest health-care, a thorough and professional arrangement is to be made for the success of the project. Besides residential doctors/specialists or well-maintained clinic in each village, the company shall strive to make arrangement with superspeciality hospitals/reputed clinics or nursing homes in nearest urban centers. These proposed international villages are to be built in places with excellent road connectivity and proximity to Airport is also taken into consideration. So, there will not be any unnecessary delay or hassle to give health care services to the residents to the Village.

Besides conventional Medical amenities, residents will be provided with Herbal Treatment facilities with special emphasis on Indian School of Medicine. Also Yoga as an effective tool for stress management and general health care will be a feature of every village.

2. Legal Arrangements:

3.1 The tenure should be such that the aged feel convenient and at ease with the arrangement. Particularly, for the senior citizens of other countries some special tenure arrangement is required. Say, the residents who come from foreign countries, the arrangement may be of following nature. That is, for few months in the winter session they may like to stay in the Village. So, appropriate tenure arrangement is to be tailor made for them.

Amenities and Facilities:

Common and individual amenities to be provided. Bengal Shelter's retirement community will provide a range of facilities which are as diverse as they are luxurious. Like a la carte restaurant followed by a trip to local show of folk dance. Or, meeting up with friends for cappuccino in café bar before taking a stroll around the beautifully tended gardens. Bengal Shelter is guided by the axiom, 'Take life at your own pace, it is up to you' while tendering multiple services to its residents.

A list of such intended facilities

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Restaurant/Bar/ Café Bar • Lounges • Activity Room • Club with music/ recreation room, Gym etc. • Swimming Pool with specific design for aged persons with trainers/ proper life saving arrangement • Tennis Course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangement with reputed clubs in nearby urban centers so that residents can avail the golf course, if possible. • Lounges • Conservatory • Village Shop stocked with local artifacts • Landscaped Garden • Hairdressing Salon • Beautician • Prayer Hall |
|--|--|

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- Walking Trail
- Common stores preferably belonging to international/reputed chain etc.
- Modern Ambulance
- Organised Trips

- Entertainment
- Tailored Care packages
- Peaceful Surroundings

With stunning retirement homes, the residents can keep their independence and be part of a real community, a community brimming with excitement, activity, events, clubs and as much excitement as the residents want. No two days are ever the same...

To Compare The Standard Of Living At Bengal Shelter`s Retirement Village To That On Board A Cruise Liner Would Not Be Far From The Truth!

The unique feature that the Bengal Shelter likes to provide is to unburden the aged residents from most common disadvantage of old age, that is, the feeling of loneliness and boredom. Bengal Shelter will attack the problem with two-pronged strategy:

- By inculcating a renewed interest in life by creating social attachment with the local community/children etc. Say, local village and/ or a nursery/ primary school may be adopted for the interested residents to offer voluntary service in formal/ mass education.
- A sapling will be given to every resident. He/she will take care of the sapling and watch it gradually grow over years into a tree. Residents as per the choice may take up gardening.

Bengal Shelter firmly believes that retirement is likely to be the longest leisure period of someone`s life. So, it should be enjoyed to the fullest with grace, dignity and comfort. Services to be provided viz. routine medical check up, special nursing, regular food, individual domestic assistance, laundry, communication, transportation from/ to rail station/airport/town for the residents and residents and relatives, security, safety etc. Probable Location of the International Retirement Villages/Budget Hotels:

Preferred Locations for International Retirement Villages

- Bolpur
- Mayapur
- Siliguri
- Durgapur
- Chandannagar
- Shankarpur
- Rajarhat

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Preferred Locations for Budget Hotels

- Kalimpong
- Rajarhat/Airport
- Siliguri
- Malda
- Baharampur
- Bishnupur
- Singur
- Chandannagar
- Krishnanagar/Mayapur
- Shankarpur
- Madurdaha

Rajarhat:

Rajarhat New Town is emerging as Bengal's showcase township. It will be the most modern place in India with general and social infrastructure firmly in place along with places for entertainment and world-class office spaces. It has just been five and half years since the launch of the project and the biggest national and international names vying to invest in Rajarhat. The transportation facilities will be excellent with a 10-lane highway, ferry services, metro and buses. Plus nearby Netaji Subhas International Airport and reputed clubs in Kolkata like Tolly, Calcutta and Bengal Club adds further attraction.

Bolpur:

Bolpur is a famous university town in West Bengal. It has become a tourist spot because of its association with Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, one of Bengal's greatest figures. Of course the natural charm of the place is a major draw in itself. Attracted by the beauty of the place, Rabindranath Tagore's father Maharshi Debendranath Tagore established Santiniketan (abode of peace) in 1863. The Visva-Bharati Society was established in 1921. Tagore envisioned a center of learning which would have the best of both the east and the west. Open air education as opposed to being cloistered in the four walls of a classroom became a reality here. Some of the famous students of Visva-bharati include India's former Prime Minister Ms. Indira Gandhi, world famous film director Satyajit Roy and Noble Laureate Amartya Sen. Santiniketan is also famous for its various festivals which mark the changing seasons. The major festivals are Poush Mela (December),

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Maghotsab (February), Basanta Utsab (March), Varsha Mangal (July-August). From Kolkata Bolpur is 136 kms. It enjoys excellent road and rail connectivity.

The Uttarayan complex where the poet lived consists of several buildings such as Udayana, Konark, Shyamali, Punascha and Udichi which reflect the architectural genius of the poet's illustrious son the late Rathindranath Tagore. In addition there are Kala Bhavan (College of Fine Arts and Crafts), Sangit Bhavan (College of Music and Dance), Vidya Bhavan (College of Humanities), Siksha-Bhavan (College of Science) and Vinaya Bhavan (Teacher's Training College), Cheena Bhavan and Hindi Bhavan. The Shantiniketan campus of Viswa Bharati has grown up to be a centre for learning with a bias towards art, music and humanities. At Shriniketan, mainly a Centre for Rural Service and Studies (Palli Samgathan Bibhaga), there is a college of Agriculture (Palli Siksha Sadan) as well.

The places of interest are mainly on the campus and have a distinctive feature of some of the best in Indian art and culture.

China Bhavan : The Chinese Faculty.

Chhatimtala : Here Maharshi Devendranath, the father of Rabindranath Tagore, used to meditate. Prayers are held usually at Convocation time. Successful graduates of the Vishwa Bharati University are presented a branch of five leaves each from the Saptarni trees which abound in the area.

Kala Bhavan : The College of Fine Arts & Crafts has an museum exhibiting sculptures, frescoes & murals and a library of art books.

Patha Bhavan : Now a secondary school, it is of particular interest as an example of the traditional 'Brahmacharya Ashram'.

Prayer Hall : Founded by the poet's father in 1863, the hall is made of glass. Prayers are held on Wednesday.

Bichitra : Also called Rabindra Bhavan, a Research Centre and Museum where the poet's personal belongings, paintings & various editions of his works are exhibited.

Sangeet Bhavan : College of Dance and Music. The University is replete with works on Art, Music and the Humanities.

Uttarayan Complex : The poet lived and worked in the Northern Complex consisting of several buildings as : Udayana, Konarka, Shyamali, Punascha and Udichi. The Bichitra (or, Rabindra Bhavan) designed by the poet's son Rathindranath Tagore.

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Fullora (40 kms), Nalhati (104 kms), Kankalitala (7 kms), Bakreshwar (58 kms): Nearest railway station Dubrajpur 12 kms. WBTDTC Tourist Lodges & PWD Inspection Bungalows available

Massanjore (78 kms): Mayurakshi Bhavan, Youth Hostel available to stay there.

Kendubilwa (42 kms): Buses ply from Bolpur railway station. Buses also ply or Kenduli from Calcutta for tourists.

Nanoor (23 kms) : Birthplace of the Vaisnava poet, Chandidas (14th century). Buses ply from Bolpur railway station. Traveling time: one hour.

Tarapith (80 kms) : One can reach Tarapith firstly from Bolpur to Rampurhat by train or bus and then 5 kms by bus or cycle rickshaw.

Durgapur:

Durgapur is located in the district of Burdwan, in the state of West Bengal, India, 168 km to the north of Kolkata. It is a well-planned industrial city on the banks of the river Damodar. It lies on the main railway line connecting Kolkata and New Delhi, thus being extremely well connected to both of the above cities. It takes about 2.5 hours by express train to reach Kolkata and an overnight journey to reach Delhi. The G. T. Road (National Highway #2) passes through the middle of the city. One airport is under construction near Steel city, B-zone. It is located very close to India's biggest coalfields in the Raniganj-Dhanbad area. Its surrounding area is very fertile and is one of the biggest producers of rice in the country. The main tourist attraction is the Durgapur Barrage over the Damodar. It is the most beautiful during the monsoons, when the river is swollen. The gardens around it are a nice place to picnic. The Kumarmangalam Park in the steel township with its artificial lakes and small hills is another attraction for picnickers and joggers. About 100 km to north of Durgapur is Bolpur (Shantiniketan), the university town founded by Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Among other places nearby, good for spending a day, are Mayapur (headquarters of ISKCON), Maithon, Tilaiya.

Mayapur:

Nestled between the sacred river Ganges, the whispering rice fields and the adjacent Radha Madhab Temple, one of India's most sacred places of worship, Vaishnava Academy, Mayapur is said to be an experience too surreal to be true. The Academy was built as a retreat center for spiritual training and education. A wide variety of seminars and workshops offers relaxation, rejuvenation and inspiration for body, mind and soul. Two hours and a half from the airport, 5 minutes from the famously breathtaking Srila Prabhupada Samadhi (and also the shopping area), stepping foot on Vaishnava Academy

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Mayapur means moving out of the present and entering a new dimension that is quite other-worldly. It is a place where time stops, where the most spiritual tales took place once upon a long time ago.

Shankarpur:

Shankarpur is famous beach resort in West Bengal, adjacent to Digha. About 3 hrs drive from Kolkata is still a virgin beach free from encroachment. Along with Digha, about 10 kms away and neighboring Orissa, this is to be the longest unbroken coastline in the world. Digha was and continues to be West Bengal's favourite seaside haunt, bursting at the seams with a million hotels and restaurants and what seems like entire West Bengal holidaying there, despite an empty Shankarpur next door with a lovely, virgin beach and handful of tourist. The route from Calcutta to Shankarpur was considerably shortened (it took 3- 4 hours instead of the earlier 6 hours).

The foliage grow in wild profusion on either side of the road with none of the symmetry that is so inherent in the deepest of forests in Europe, but no less beautiful.

The greenery is broken at intervals by a shrill flash of colour of a house, the bigger the house, (meaning the more prosperous), the more colourful it is. The architecture too gets more ambitious: cupolas, turrets, green, red, yellow, blue tiled walls; window grills with fantastic work on them.



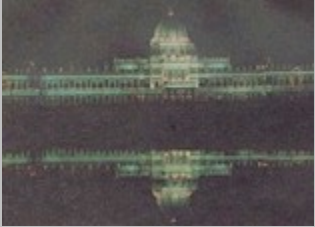
More interesting are the small temples by the roadside at regular intervals, indicating the presence of a village. Mostly these are low roofed one room affairs. But that is the similarity ends. Each and everyone is beautiful and different. If one has large oval platters with Krishna, Subhadra and Balaram's faces painted on them. Another may have a life size Shiva, Parvati seated on a bench under a tiled roof, as if waiting for the next bus! It would be nice to travel the country and photograph these temples.

It is nearly four hours of delightful rural scenery: A women in a red saree, spreading grains on the road to be husked under the tyres of passing vehicles. In places, coconut replaced the grains. Bullock carts ambling by; cowherds leading their skinny cattle somewhere; kids fishing, locals going on their daily lives just as they

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had been for generations, completely oblivious to the huge hoardings dotting the place advertising mobile phones, corn flakes and latest gadgets and ignoring the fancy car loads of tourists whizzing past.

Siliguri

		CONNECTIONS:
 <p>Siliguri is the main commercial city of North Bengal and its importance comes from its strategic location near international and state borders. It is situated on the banks of the river Mahananda. Spretered around the foothills of the eastern Himalayas, the town is an important transportation, trading and educational center.</p> <p>The Kanchanjungha Stadium is one of the important stadiums in West Bengal. Siliguri is a convenient base for travel to the various Himalayan hill stations like Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Gangtok. Several hotels have come up in the city to cater to both the business and tourist needs. Although it's mainly a commercial and business town, Siliguri has quite a few industries. The Bagdogra airport (13 kms from Siliguri)</p>	 <p>A commercial town and the gateway to Darjeeling and nearby hill resorts.</p> <p>The main railway station is at New .</p> 	<p><u>SILIGURI:</u></p> <p>CONNECTIONS :</p> <p>By air/train/bus from Calcutta (585 km).</p> <p>By Road : Siliguri is the main city in the plains by the Tenzing Norgay Road (formerly Hill Cart Road).</p> <p>By Bus: Bus services between Siliguri and Calcutta are frequent.</p> <p>By Rail: New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri Junction stations at the base of the Darjeeling Hill areas have direct railway connections with Calcutta, Mumbai, Guwahati, Madras, Lucknow, and Delhi.</p> <p>Some Important train services connecting New Jalpaiguri/Siliguri with major cities.</p> <p><u>From Calcutta</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darjeeling Mail • Kamroop Exp • New Jalpaiguri

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offers connections to Calcutta, Delhi and Guwahati.

- **Teesta Torsa**
- **Kunchanjunga Express**

From New Delhi

- **North East**

From Mumbai

- **Bombay Mail**

From Madras

- **Howrah Mail**

From Guwahati

- **Assam Mail**

By Air: By air to Bagdogra (Siliguri) - flight duration is about 45 minutes. Indian Airlines as well as private airlines operate on this route.

LODGING: Plenty of accommodation is available which will suit all budgets.

Singur:

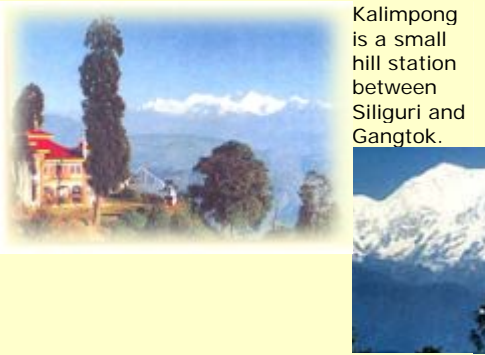
Most upcoming business/industrial center in Eastern India. Singur is a census town in Hoohly district. Singur railway station is 34 km from Howrah Station on Howrah Tarekeswar line. It is just off the Dankuni-Shaktigarh Durgapur Expressway. Tata Motors have planned to constuct their small-car factory at Singur. The car is scheduled to roll out of the factory 2008. The company among six cities offered by the state government made the choice of Singur. The company has made substantial promises. Acording to their claims, Singur would become a mini-auto city and approximately 70 vendors would set shop along with the factory. The total investment planned is to the tune of 1000 crore.

Kalimpong

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KALIMPONG

CONNECTIONS:



Kalimpong is a small hill station between Siliguri and Gangtok.



PLACES OF INTEREST

Gompas

The Tharpa Choeling Gomba, which belongs to the Yellow Hat (Gelukpa) sect of Tibetan Buddhism, is a 40 minute walk from town. Lower down

the hill, the Tongsa Gomba, or Bhutanese Monastery, is the oldest monastery in the area and dates back to 1692.

Zong Dog Palri Fo-Brang Gomba, was built in the mid-70s at Durpin Dara Hill and was consecrated by the Dalai Lama. The gomba is worth a visit for its impressive wall paintings in the prayer room, and a rare three-dimensional mandala upstairs. The mountain views are amazing from Durpin Dara Hill. Flower Nurseries

Kalimpong produces 80% of India's gladioli and is a significant orchid-growing area and it comes as no surprise that flowers are exported from here to many cities in northern India.

Shri Mangal Dham



A lavish tribute would still fall short to a soul so divine. Nevertheless "Mangal Dham" is a memorial built in this divine memory in 1993. Sprawling over an area of two acres, "Mangal Dham" is considered to be one of the most splendid temples in India.

Sericulture Research Institute

At this institute silkworms are bred and silk is produced as well as herbs and plants. Locate on the road to Darjeeling, the institute can be visited between 9.30 am and 4 PM.

Kalimpong's attractions include three Buddhist monasteries, spectacular churches, an excellent private library for the study of Tibetan and Himalayan language and culture, a sericulture centre and a fine view of the surrounding countryside.

Dr. Graham's Home

Less than an hour's walk away from the town centre



The road is one of the most scenic routes in this part of the nation. The swift flowing Teesta river runs by the side of the road adding to the beauty of the scenery.

The name, Kalimpong, has three different origins. One, it means the place where the local tribesmen gathered to organize field sports, second, it takes its name from the Bhutanese king's minister's stronghold and thirdly, it is named after Kaulim, a fibrous plant found in abundance in this region.



The town is 1250 m above sea level and offers excellent views of the Mt Kanchenjunga and the other Himalayan peaks. The popular view points are Durpin Dara and Deoro Hill.



Kalimpong has several monasteries and also a Kali temple. The Tibetan Monastery and curio center and Dr Graham's home are important tour stops.

KALIMPONG:

CONNECTIONS :

By Road: Kalimpong is approachable by roads from Siliguri (66kms), Darjeeling (51kms) and Gangtok (79 kms; Sikkim).

LODGING: Kalimpong has a wide variety of hotels ranging from luxury to moderately priced.

HOW TO GET THERE :

By road from Darjeeling (3 hours).

From Calcutta by rail to Siliguri / New Jalpaiguri.

From there by road to Kalimpong.

Kalimpong Map

Trips to make
Sandakphu
Phalut
Takdlas
Mirik
Kurseong
Kalimpong

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Lava (32kms), a small village is another picturesque place. Lava is also the base for trekking to the Neora National Park. Lolegaon is 25 kms from Lava and one can see the Singalila ranges from here.

Quickfacts:

Population: 40,000;

Language: Gorkha, Nepali, Hindi, Bengali, English.

Weather:

Summer:

Mar to Jun 15°C -25°C.

Monsoons:

Jul to Aug. Rainfall: Average Annual 2030 mm (80 inches)

Autumn & Winter:

Sep to Feb 7°C -15°C.

is Dr. Graham's Home, which was founded in 1900 on the lower slopes of Deolo Hill. The chapel above the school dates from 1925 and features beautiful stained-glass windows. Tourists can also visit the fine turn-of-the-century school building, and many people often picnic on the school grounds. From the school building, it is a further 40 minute walk to the summit of Deolo Hill, where there is a Tourist Bungalow and one can enjoy fine views of Kalimpong from here.

Kalimpong has a well laid-out golf course near the Durpin Dara Monastery. The monastery was built in the mid-1970s at Durpin Dara and consecrated



by the Dalai Lama. The view from here is breathtaking. The nine-hole golf course at Senchal (near Darjeeling) is one of the highest in the world.

Nature Interpretation Centre

Located on Rinkingpong Rd, this centre consists of a number of well-organized dioramas, which depict the effects of human activity on the environment. The centre is open to visitors from Friday to Wednesday from 10 am to 4 PM and admission is free.

MALDA

The town rose to prominence as the river port of the Hindu capital of Pandua. During the 18th century it was the seat of prosperous cotton and silk industries. It remains an important distributing centre for rice, jute, and wheat. Historical monuments include the mosque Jami' Masjid (1566) and the landmark Nimasari tower across the river. Constituted a municipality in 1867, it has several colleges affiliated with the University of North Bengal. Rice, jute, legumes, and oilseeds are the chief crops in the surrounding area. Mulberry plantations and mango orchards occupy large areas; mango trade and silk manufacture are the main economic activities.

Baharampur (also spelled Berhampore or Berhampur) is a city in the West Bengal state of India. Baharampur is the administrative headquarters of the Murshidabad district. It is located about 200 Km from Kolkata. Its well connected by train and bus service. Nearest station is Berhampore court

Baharampur was founded and fortified in 1757 by the British East India Company and continued as a cantonment until 1870. The cantonment was constituted as a municipality in 1876. In 1857 the first major armed battle of the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 took place in Baharampur. Then Berhampur was ruled by Raja Krishnath and his ancestors.

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Bahrampur is a famous place for tourist under tourist map of West Bengal. It gets tourist flow from local and foreigners. As it is the the first East India Company head quarter and got a long history enriched by the Nawabs. People generally come to see Hazardwari (1000 Door) Palace, Imambara, Katra Mosque, Moti Jhil and etc.

Bishnupur



Driving distance fromKolkata,151 Km (approx)

Driving time fromKolkata, +4 hours.

Bishnupur in the Bankura district is like a breath of fresh air after Kolkata's heat and dust. Verdant fields surround Bishnupur which is filled with treasures of the most astounding kind – terracotta temples like you have never seen before. Since Bishnupur had no stone for construction, the Malla kings built exquisite terracotta temples to celebrate their love for Krishna, the Blue God. Bishnupur beckons you to a quick getaway with a difference.

Activity

Bishnupur is very well known for its terracotta temples. Some of the temples you must visit in Bishnupur are the Shyam Ray Temple, the twin shrines of Jorbangla, the Radhey Shyam Temple, the Sarbamangala and Chinnamasta. The Rass Mancha, built like a step-pyramid, is Bishnupur's most famous temple dedicated to Vishnu. Another attraction in Bishnupur is the embellished Dol Madol cannon, constructed in 1742 by Raja Gopal Singh to keep the Maratha troops at bay. Also visit the Jogesh Chandra Archaeological Centre in Bishnupur to see Malla dynasty relics. Besides temples, Bishnupur is known for its pottery, especially the lovable terracotta horse called Bankura who is the mascot of Indian handicrafts. You can pick up some exquisite products - Baluchari and tussar silk sarees, bell metal and shell handicraft and the quaint circular playing cards called ganijifa. The Baluchari sarees are truly unique – they have entire scenes from the Mahabharata and the Ramayana woven in the borders and 'aanchal'. The Vishnupur gharana (school) of music is said to have originated here. In the month of August, Bishnupur resounds with the mesmerizing lilt of the snake charmer's pipes. The annual festival of Jhapan is celebrated in Bishnupur with snake shows and snake fights, to revere Goddess Manasa, the dominant deity of the snake-worship cult. The week long Bishnupur Mela brings the entire town alive with a cultural retrospective towards the end of December.

Accommodation Options

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Low and medium budget accommodation abounds – from a number of private hotels to West Bengal Tourism lodges, a Municipal Tourist Lodge and the PWD Inspection Bungalow.

Things to Pack

Carry light cotton clothes and sun protection.

Getting There

There are regular buses from Kolkata's Esplanade and Shahid Minar Bus Terminus. There are direct trains from Howrah to Bishnupur.

HAZARDUARI PALACE



The *Hazarduari Palace*, or the palace with a thousand doors is the chief tourist attraction of Murshidabad. This three-storey palace was built in 1837 by Duncan McLeod for the Nawab Najim **Humaun Jah**, descendent of Mir Zafar. It has thousand doors (among which only 900 are real) and 114 rooms and 8 galleries, built in European architectural style. The total area of Hazarduari Palace is 41 acres. It is now a **museum** and has an exquisite collection of armoury, splendid paintings, exhaustive portraits of the Nawabs, various works of art including beautiful works of ivory (Murshidabad school) of China (European) and many other valuables. The Armoury has 2700 arms in its collections of which only few are displayed. Swords used by Shiraj-ud-Daulla and his grandfather, Nawab Alivardi Khan, can be seen here. The other attractions in this floor are Vintage Cars and *Fittan Cars* used by the Nawabs and their families.

The library containing rare collections is not accessible to the public unless special permission is obtained. The building, rectangular on plan (424 feet Long and 200 feet broad and 80 feet high). The Palace was used for holding the "*Durbar*" or meetings and other official work of the Nawabs and also as the residence of the high ranking British Officials.



Between the palace and the *Imambara* is a small mosque, '*Madina*', with colourful tiled verandahs. The Mosque has an ornamented replica of Hazrat Muhammad's tomb at Madina.



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Around the palace are other attractions like the [Wasef Manzil](#) (the New Palace) by the bank of the Ganga, Tripolia Gate, the Dakshin Darwaza, the Chak Darwaza, the [Imambara](#), the Gharighar (the Clock Tower), the Bachchawali Tope (a canon) and the Madina, the only surviving structure built by Siraj-ud-Doula. The Bachchawali Tope (canon) was made between the 12th and the 14th century, probably by the Mohammedan rulers of Gour, and requires about 18 Kg of gun powder for a single shelling.

IMAMBARA



Click to Enlarge..

Parallel to the north face of the Hazarduari Palace, stands the Nizamat Imambara, built in 1847 AD. by Nawab Nazim Mansoor Ali Khan [Feradun Jah](#), son of Humayun Jah, at a cost of more than 6 lacs, after the Imambara built by Siraj-ud-Doula had been destroyed by fire. It took only eleven months to construct this Imambara. The Imambara, which is the largest in Bengal, is perhaps the largest in India.

CHANDANNAGAR



Unlike the rest of India which had been a British colony for two hundred years, Chandannagar was ruled by France. So she had an interesting history and identity which had fascinated the historians throughout the world.

Chandannagar (Chandernagore) is a small city located 30 kilometers north of Calcutta, in West Bengal, India. Situated along the banks of River Ganges, the city has been able to keep herself separated from all other cities and abide by her own characteristics.

Education

It is heard that there was a small school founded by the missionaries for the Bengali boys on the south of Chandannagar where there is a convent now. Bengali and French were freely taught there. The former Duplex college was also established by the missionaries.

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Places to visit at Chandannagar

Chandannagar Strand : A beautiful tourist spot along the banks of the river Ganges. It is a superbly decorated pavement studded with lights surrounded by lushy green trees. It is about 1 km in length and 7 m in width, and many buildings with historical importance surround the spot. It is very popular visiting spot of the local people and the tourists



would love to stroll along enjoying the mild breeze and watching the small boats sail by. Along the strand are present Vivekananda Mandir (a meditation center) and a protruding structure into the river Ganges. This is supposed to be the best decorated bank of the river along its entire length of 2500 km.



Chandannagar Museum and Institute (*Institute de Chandannagar*): One of the oldest and finest museums of the entire region. It boasts a beautiful collection of French items (e.g cannons used in Anglo - French war, wooden furniture of the 18th century, etc.) which are difficult to find anywhere else in the world. The institute still teaches French through

regular classes.



Chandannagar Church : The beautiful church stands over for two centuries to mark the beauty of the architecture during the French period - a good place to visit for the historians and tourists. The remains of the church at St. Louis is also an attractive tourist spot.

The Underground House (Patal Bari) : The building is another beautiful example of the advancement in the knowledge of architecture and the aesthetic sense of the people of those earlier days. Its lowest floor is



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submerged in the river Ganges. The great social reformer Iswar Chandra VidyaSagar and Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore stayed in this house during their visits to Chandannagar.



Ancient Temples: Nandadulal temple, built in 1740 by IndraNararayan Choudhury presents an excellent example of ancient Indian Sculptures. There are many fascinating temples devoted to Kali, Siva and other deities which show marks of brilliant craftsmanship and artistic taste.



Residence of famous personalities : The place hosts a galaxy of famous personalities . The revolutionary leader Rashbehari Bose, Kanailal Dutta and the great social reformer Sri Harihar Seth belonged to the place.



The knowledge about Chandannagore is incomplete without the mention of its mouthwatering sweets especially-the 'Jalbhara Sandesh' . 'Jalbhara' literally means - 'filled with water' and it is exactly so. It is a sweet made from chana and sugar which has rose



water in its core. It is a marvellous sweet because the water inside it remains as it is for a couple of days without drying.It was first discovered by Late Surya Kumar Modak about 100 years back. Surya Kumar Modak was asked to make some new sweets for the new bridegroom of the local zaminder. He agreed to do it and after several experiments he invented the famous 'Jalbhara Sandesh'. Nobel laureate Rabindra Nath Tagore often visited Chandannagar and he was an ardent admirer of 'Jalbhara'. Many other renowned persons e.g. Mahatma Gandhi, Rashbehari Bose, Shyama Prasad Mukhopadhyay also appreciated the speciality of Chandannagar.Apart from 'Jalbhara' another famous sweet ofChandannagar is 'Motichur' .

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