

ADINA MOSQUE

Adina Masjid, situated in Adina, was built in 1369 by Sultan Sikander Shah. One of the largest mosques in India, it is a classic example of mosque architecture that reached its zenith in that period. Its architectural style is based on that of the Great Mosque of Damascus.



EKLAKHI MAUSOLEUM

Eklakhi Mausoleum is the most elegant monument in Pandua. One of the first square brick tombs in Bengal with a carved Ganesh on the doorway, it is the tomb of the converted son of a Hindu Raja.

CHIKA MOSQUE

This mosque was built by Sultan Yusuf Shah in 1475. And its name originated from the fact that it was a refuge for 'chikas' or bats. It is a single-domed edifice, now almost in ruins.



GETTING THERE

Bagdogra Airport in Siliguri is the nearest one to Malda. It takes around five hours to reach Malda from Siliguri by car. The town is also accessible by railways. Numerous trains can take one to Malda from Howrah and Sealdah. Also, from Delhi one can reach the spot via North Bengal and Assam-bound trains. By road, it takes around seven hours to travel between Kolkata and Malda via NH12.

A DELIGHTFUL STAY

A tourist centre operated by West Bengal Tourism. Several private hotels in and around the town.



TOURISM CENTRE (KOLKATA)

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MALDA

Gateway to Bengal's history

MALDA

Amidst acres of sprawling paddy fields, lies a remnant of history - the town of Malda that was once the capital of 'Gour-Banga.' Despite being a small town, the place is of great historical and archaeological significance, serving as the perfect time portal to Bengal's glorious past. The ebbing and flowing tides of the rivers - Ganga, Mahananda and Fulahar - have witnessed the rise and fall of empires.

It was only during the 18th century that the town flourished because of the emergence of silk and cotton industries. The traditions of those industries exist to this day and have evolved over the years.

However, what presently adds to the fame of Malda is its delicious mangoes which are exported to several parts of the world.

EXPERIENCE MALDA

RAMKELI

Located 14 km south of Malda, Ramkeli is a small village on the way to Gour. It is celebrated for being the temporary home of Sri Chaitanya, the great religious reformer of Bengal, where he had stayed for a few days on his way to Vrindavan. His footprints are preserved in a temple that is flanked by eight 'kundas' or tanks - Rupsagar, Shyamkunda, Radhakunda, Lalitakunda, Bishakhakunda, Surabhikunda, Ranjakunda and Indulekhakunda.



GOUR

Once the capital of ancient Bengal, Gour is located 16 km south of Malda on the Indo-Bangladesh border. The original footprints of Prophet Muhammad are believed to be preserved here.

BORO SONA MOSQUE

Baroduari Mosque, bearing an Indo-Arabic architectural style, is half a kilometre to the south of Ramkeli. A gigantic rectangular structure of brick and stone, the mosque is the largest monument of Gour.

DAKHIL DARWAZA

An impressive gateway built in 1425, Dakhil Darwaza is an important Islamic monument consisting of towers that are five-storeys high. It is made up of small red bricks and terracotta. In the past, cannons would be fired from here. Hence, the gates came to be known as 'Salaami Darwaza'.



LUKO CHURI GATE

Located to the south-east of the Kadam Rasul Mosque, Luko Churi Gate was built by Shah Shuja in 1655, bearing a Mughal architectural style. The name had originated from the royal game of hide-and-seek that the Sultan used to play with his begums.

LATTAN MOSQUE

Legends attribute the building of the mosque to a danseuse of the royal court. The riot of colours found here has led to the mosque being called the 'painted mosque'. Another interesting feature of the mosque is its arched roof, supported by octagonal pillars.

QUTUB SHAHI MASJID

Qutub Shahi Mosque, locally known as Chhoto Sona Masjid, was built to honour the saint, Nur Qutb-ul-Alam. The ruins of his shrine along with that of Hazrat Shah Jalal Tabrizi are found nearby, collectively known as the Bari Darga.

FIROZ MINAR

Located a kilometre away from the Dakhil Darwaza, Firoz Minar was built by Sultan Saifuddin Feroze during 1485 - 89. The five-storey high tower, resembling the Qutub Minar, stands tall at 26 metres. Built in the Tughlaqi style of architecture, the walls of Firoz Minar are covered with intricate terracotta carvings.

KADAM RASUL MOSQUE

'Kadam Rasul' means 'footprints of the Prophet' as the mosque contains the footprints of Hazrat Muhammad on stone.

PANDUA

Located 18 km north of Malda, Pandua boasts of a fine example of quintessential Islamic architecture. If in Malda, a visit to Pandua is a must.

BORO SONA MOSQUE

