

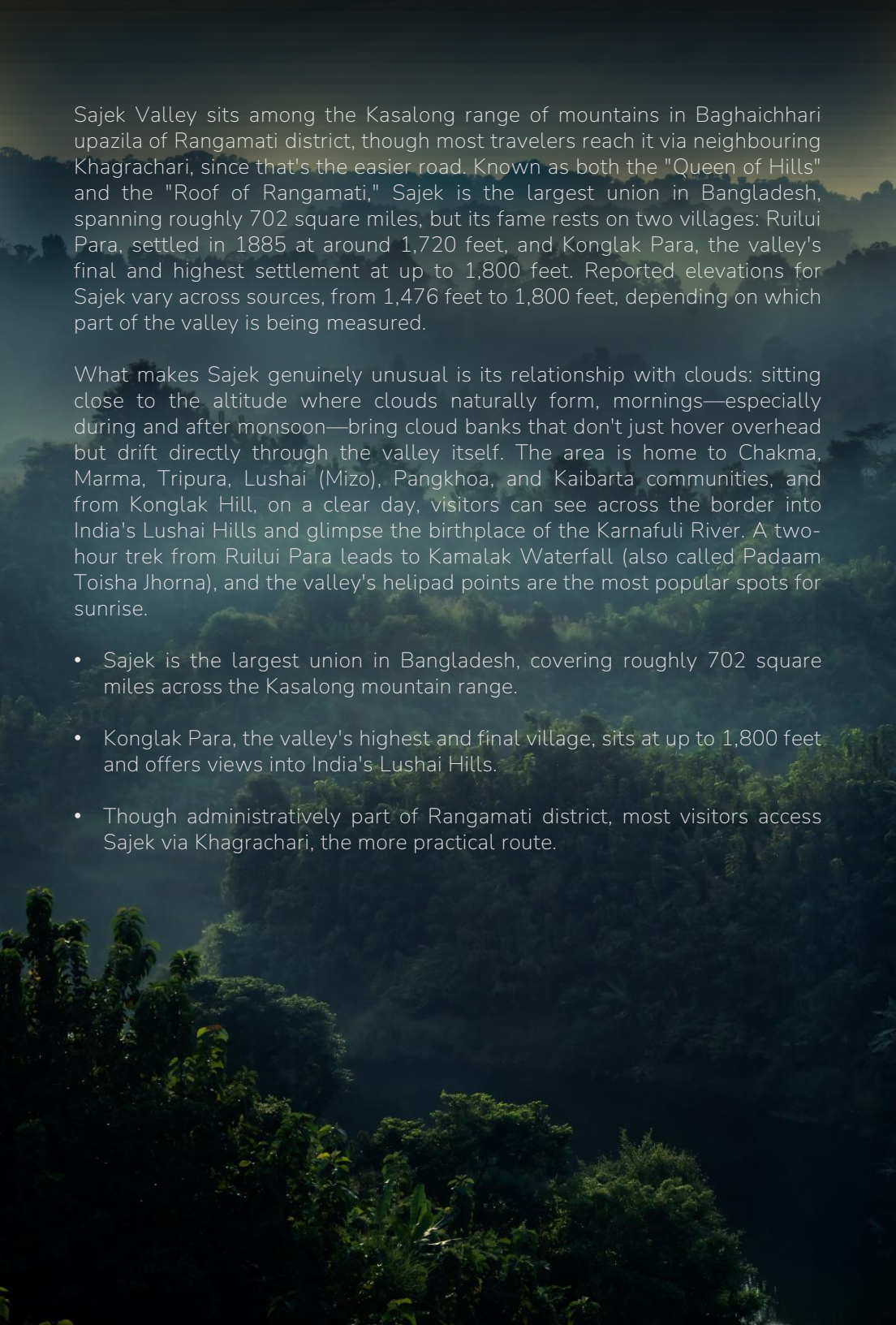
A scenic landscape photograph featuring a calm river or lake in the foreground. Several large, light-colored rocks are scattered in the water. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear, light blue sky. The foreground shows a dark, wet surface with some dry grass and a large, smooth, dark rock. The text "The Hill Tracts" is overlaid in white, bold, serif font.

The Hill Tracts



Sajek Valley

The Queen of Hills, where clouds
move through you



Sajek Valley sits among the Kasalong range of mountains in Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati district, though most travelers reach it via neighbouring Khagrachari, since that's the easier road. Known as both the "Queen of Hills" and the "Roof of Rangamati," Sajek is the largest union in Bangladesh, spanning roughly 702 square miles, but its fame rests on two villages: Ruilui Para, settled in 1885 at around 1,720 feet, and Konglak Para, the valley's final and highest settlement at up to 1,800 feet. Reported elevations for Sajek vary across sources, from 1,476 feet to 1,800 feet, depending on which part of the valley is being measured.

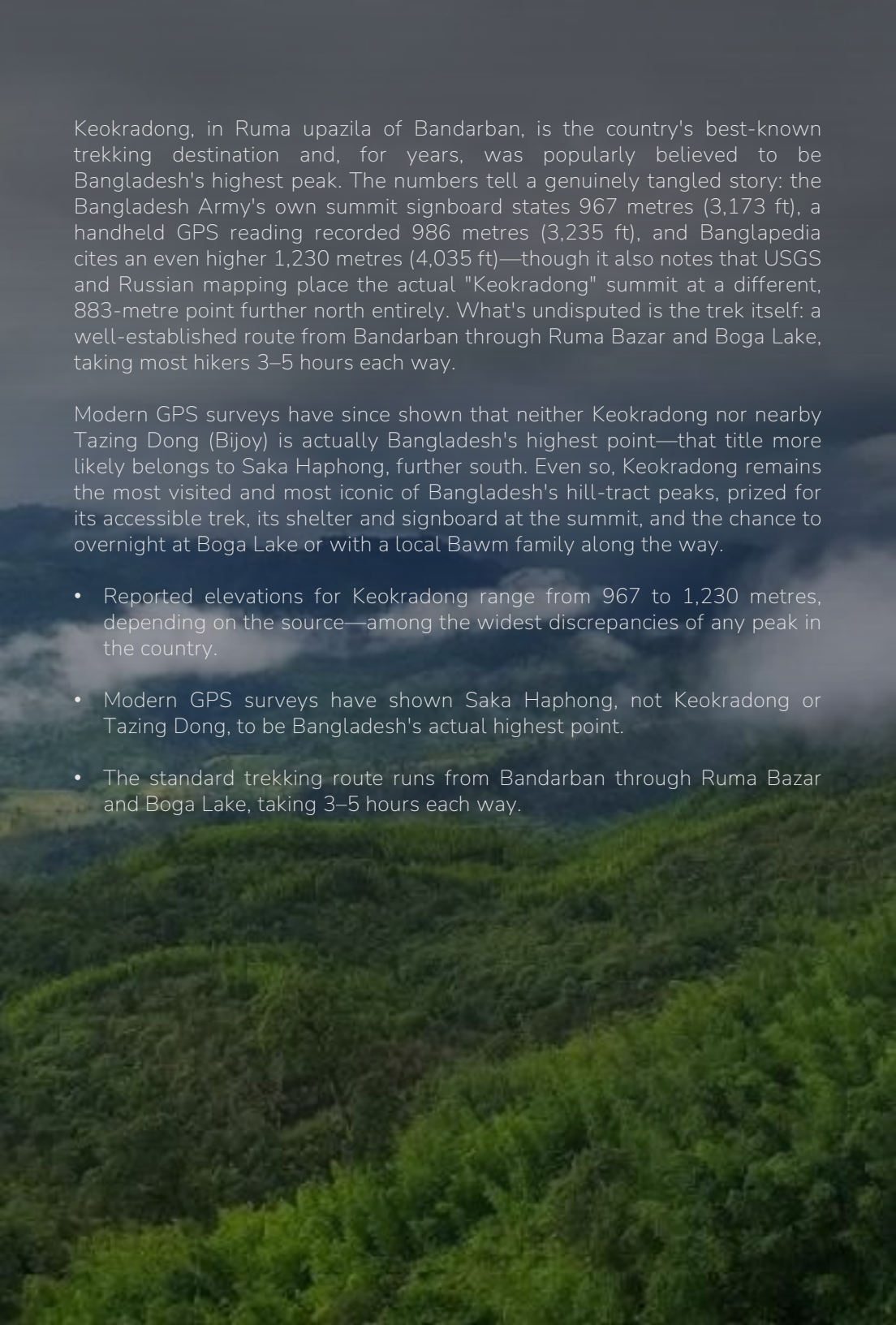
What makes Sajek genuinely unusual is its relationship with clouds: sitting close to the altitude where clouds naturally form, mornings—especially during and after monsoon—bring cloud banks that don't just hover overhead but drift directly through the valley itself. The area is home to Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Lushai (Mizo), Pangkhao, and Kaibarta communities, and from Konglak Hill, on a clear day, visitors can see across the border into India's Lushai Hills and glimpse the birthplace of the Karnafuli River. A two-hour trek from Ruilui Para leads to Kamalak Waterfall (also called Padaam Toisha Jhorna), and the valley's helipad points are the most popular spots for sunrise.

- Sajek is the largest union in Bangladesh, covering roughly 702 square miles across the Kasalong mountain range.
- Konglak Para, the valley's highest and final village, sits at up to 1,800 feet and offers views into India's Lushai Hills.
- Though administratively part of Rangamati district, most visitors access Sajek via Khagrachari, the more practical route.

Keokradong Peak

Bangladesh's most climbed
& most disputed summit





Keokradong, in Ruma upazila of Bandarban, is the country's best-known trekking destination and, for years, was popularly believed to be Bangladesh's highest peak. The numbers tell a genuinely tangled story: the Bangladesh Army's own summit signboard states 967 metres (3,173 ft), a handheld GPS reading recorded 986 metres (3,235 ft), and Banglapedia cites an even higher 1,230 metres (4,035 ft)—though it also notes that USGS and Russian mapping place the actual "Keokradong" summit at a different, 883-metre point further north entirely. What's undisputed is the trek itself: a well-established route from Bandarban through Ruma Bazar and Boga Lake, taking most hikers 3–5 hours each way.

Modern GPS surveys have since shown that neither Keokradong nor nearby Tazing Dong (Bijoy) is actually Bangladesh's highest point—that title more likely belongs to Saka Haphong, further south. Even so, Keokradong remains the most visited and most iconic of Bangladesh's hill-tract peaks, prized for its accessible trek, its shelter and signboard at the summit, and the chance to overnight at Boga Lake or with a local Bawm family along the way.

- Reported elevations for Keokradong range from 967 to 1,230 metres, depending on the source—among the widest discrepancies of any peak in the country.
- Modern GPS surveys have shown Saka Haphong, not Keokradong or Tazing Dong, to be Bangladesh's actual highest point.
- The standard trekking route runs from Bandarban through Ruma Bazar and Boga Lake, taking 3–5 hours each way.



Nilgiri Hills

Bandarban's "Darjeeling,"
where the Sangu River disappears into cloud

Nilgiri sits at roughly 2,200–2,400 feet above sea level along the Bandarban–Thanchi road, and it's the hill most responsible for Bandarban's nickname, the "Darjeeling of Bangladesh." Operated as a military-managed tourist area, Nilgiri is genuinely open on both sides of the ridge, meaning cool, unbroken wind moves through it for most of the day—and on the right morning, clouds settle low enough that visitors can watch them obscure the Sangu River and surrounding villages entirely from above.

The Nilgiri Hill Resort, run by the Bangladesh Army, remains the area's signature overnight stay, with panoramic bungalows and a well-regarded on-site café. The road up is itself part of the experience: winding hill curves locally nicknamed the "Chader Gari" (Moon Car) route for the vehicles that traverse it, with new views revealing themselves at every bend. Most visitors treat Nilgiri as either a sunrise or sunset destination, with the resort's staff recommending arrival before 4pm to allow time to descend safely before dark.

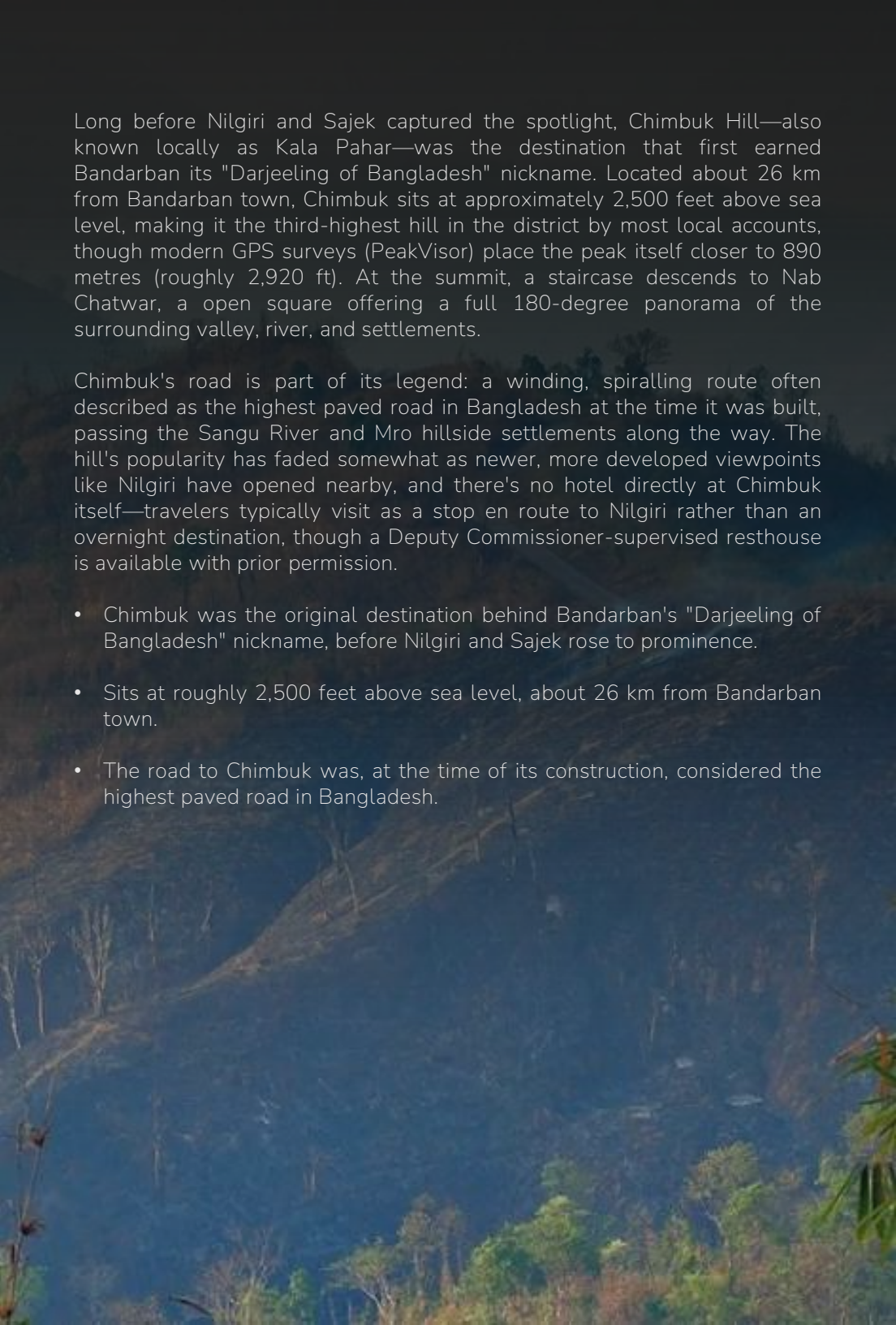
- Nilgiri sits at 2,200–2,400 feet, among the highest points accessible by road in Bandarban district.
- The Nilgiri Hill Resort is operated directly by the Bangladesh Army, which also manages security for the area.
- Nilgiri's open, two-sided ridge position creates near-constant wind and some of the district's most dramatic cloud-level views.



Chimbuk Hill

The original "Darjeeling of Bangladesh"



A scenic view of a steep, forested hillside, likely Chimbuk Hill in Bangladesh. The hillside is covered in dense green vegetation and a winding road is visible. The sky is clear and blue. The foreground shows some trees and foliage, suggesting the viewer is looking down from a higher vantage point.

Long before Nilgiri and Sajek captured the spotlight, Chimbuk Hill—also known locally as Kala Pahar—was the destination that first earned Bandarban its "Darjeeling of Bangladesh" nickname. Located about 26 km from Bandarban town, Chimbuk sits at approximately 2,500 feet above sea level, making it the third-highest hill in the district by most local accounts, though modern GPS surveys (PeakVisor) place the peak itself closer to 890 metres (roughly 2,920 ft). At the summit, a staircase descends to Nab Chatwar, a open square offering a full 180-degree panorama of the surrounding valley, river, and settlements.

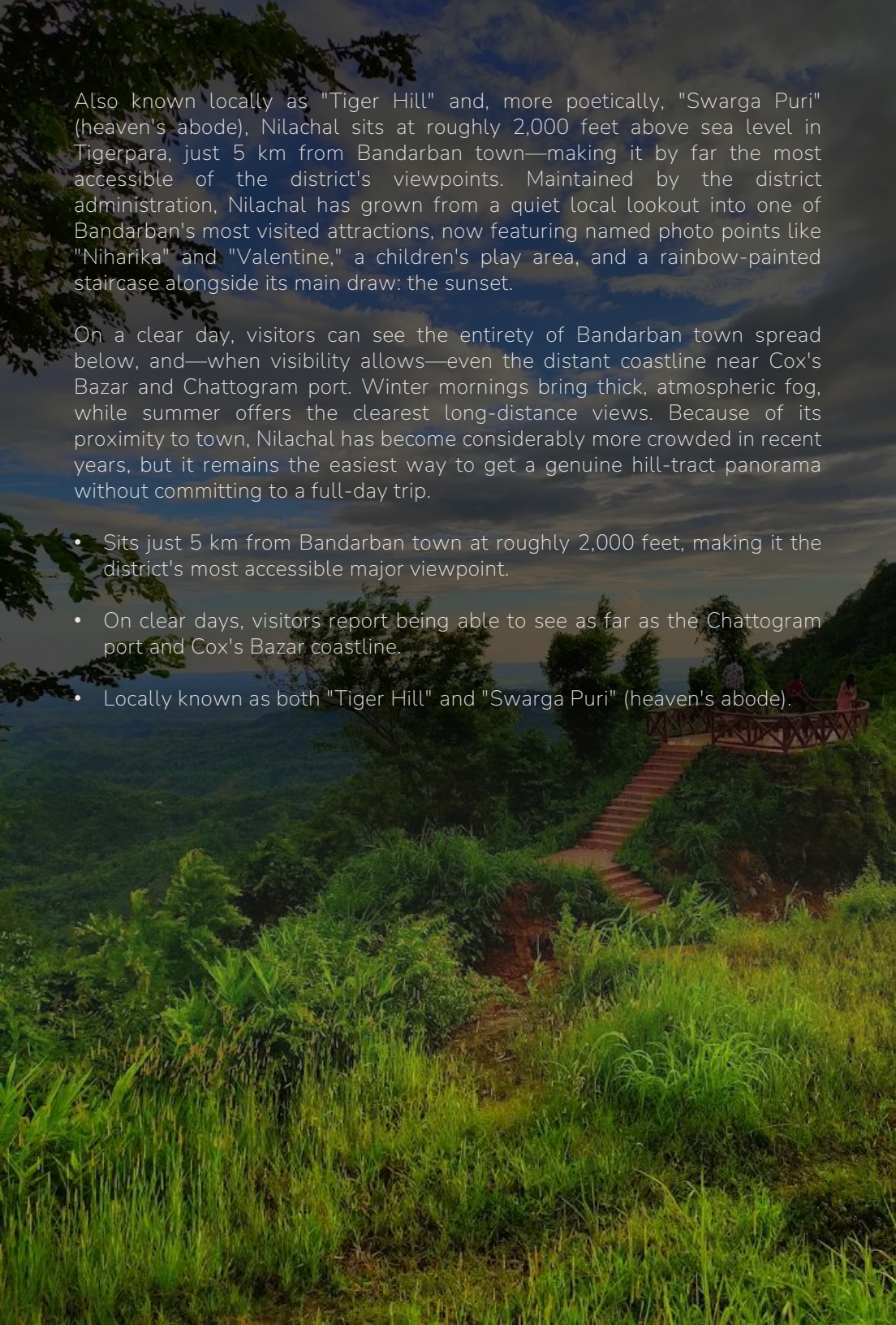
Chimbuk's road is part of its legend: a winding, spiralling route often described as the highest paved road in Bangladesh at the time it was built, passing the Sangu River and Mro hillside settlements along the way. The hill's popularity has faded somewhat as newer, more developed viewpoints like Nilgiri have opened nearby, and there's no hotel directly at Chimbuk itself—travelers typically visit as a stop en route to Nilgiri rather than an overnight destination, though a Deputy Commissioner-supervised resthouse is available with prior permission.

- Chimbuk was the original destination behind Bandarban's "Darjeeling of Bangladesh" nickname, before Nilgiri and Sajek rose to prominence.
- Sits at roughly 2,500 feet above sea level, about 26 km from Bandarban town.
- The road to Chimbuk was, at the time of its construction, considered the highest paved road in Bangladesh.



Nilachal Hill

Bandarban's easiest, most beloved sunset



Also known locally as "Tiger Hill" and, more poetically, "Swarga Puri" (heaven's abode), Nilachal sits at roughly 2,000 feet above sea level in Tigerpara, just 5 km from Bandarban town—making it by far the most accessible of the district's viewpoints. Maintained by the district administration, Nilachal has grown from a quiet local lookout into one of Bandarban's most visited attractions, now featuring named photo points like "Niharika" and "Valentine," a children's play area, and a rainbow-painted staircase alongside its main draw: the sunset.

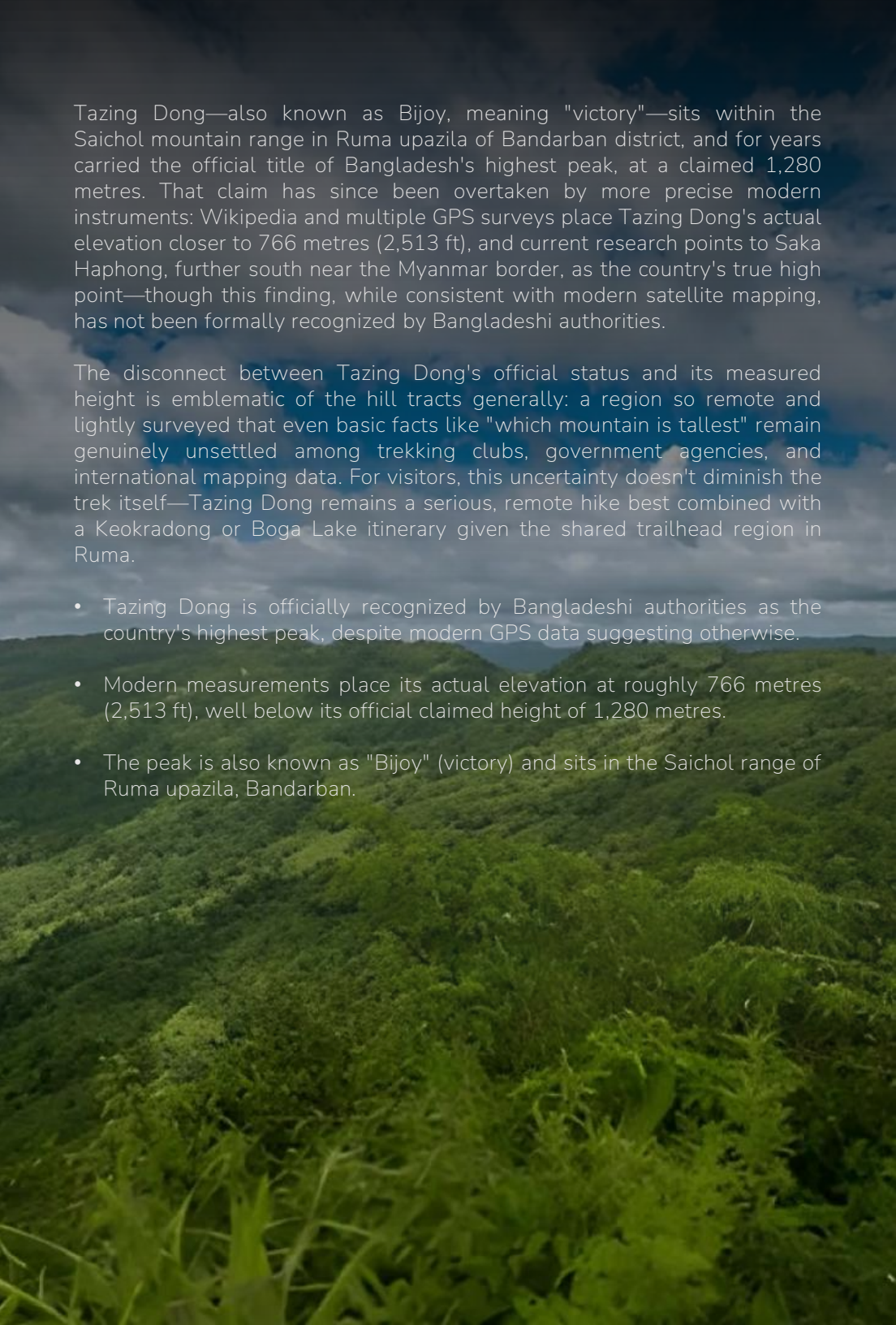
On a clear day, visitors can see the entirety of Bandarban town spread below, and—when visibility allows—even the distant coastline near Cox's Bazar and Chattogram port. Winter mornings bring thick, atmospheric fog, while summer offers the clearest long-distance views. Because of its proximity to town, Nilachal has become considerably more crowded in recent years, but it remains the easiest way to get a genuine hill-tract panorama without committing to a full-day trip.

- Sits just 5 km from Bandarban town at roughly 2,000 feet, making it the district's most accessible major viewpoint.
- On clear days, visitors report being able to see as far as the Chattogram port and Cox's Bazar coastline.
- Locally known as both "Tiger Hill" and "Swarga Puri" (heaven's abode).



Tazingdong Peak

The peak once,
but no longer crowned the highest in Bangladesh



Tazing Dong—also known as Bijoy, meaning "victory"—sits within the Saichol mountain range in Ruma upazila of Bandarban district, and for years carried the official title of Bangladesh's highest peak, at a claimed 1,280 metres. That claim has since been overtaken by more precise modern instruments: Wikipedia and multiple GPS surveys place Tazing Dong's actual elevation closer to 766 metres (2,513 ft), and current research points to Saka Haphong, further south near the Myanmar border, as the country's true high point—though this finding, while consistent with modern satellite mapping, has not been formally recognized by Bangladeshi authorities.

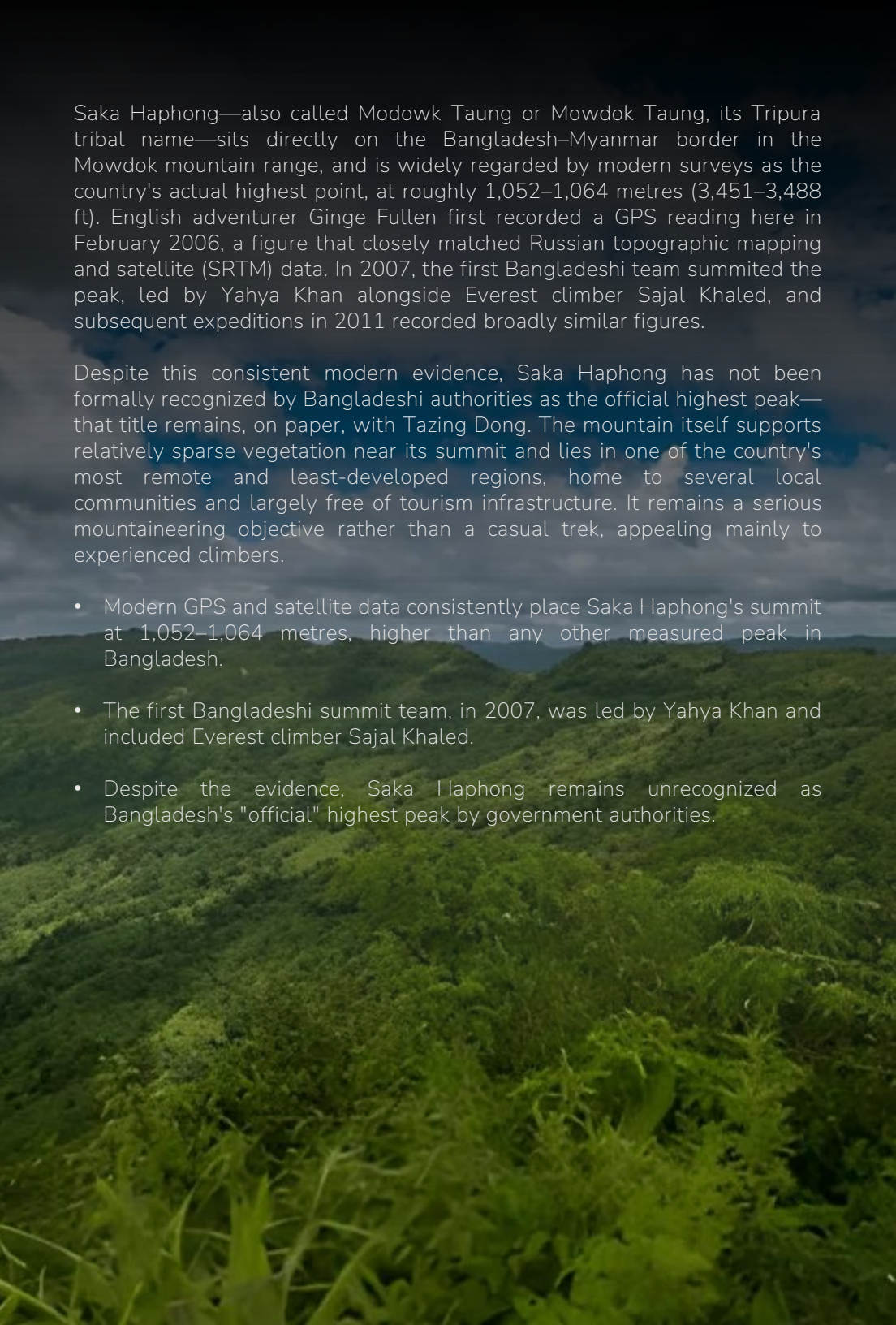
The disconnect between Tazing Dong's official status and its measured height is emblematic of the hill tracts generally: a region so remote and lightly surveyed that even basic facts like "which mountain is tallest" remain genuinely unsettled among trekking clubs, government agencies, and international mapping data. For visitors, this uncertainty doesn't diminish the trek itself—Tazing Dong remains a serious, remote hike best combined with a Keokradong or Boga Lake itinerary given the shared trailhead region in Ruma.

- Tazing Dong is officially recognized by Bangladeshi authorities as the country's highest peak, despite modern GPS data suggesting otherwise.
- Modern measurements place its actual elevation at roughly 766 metres (2,513 ft), well below its official claimed height of 1,280 metres.
- The peak is also known as "Bijoy" (victory) and sits in the Saichol range of Ruma upazila, Bandarban.



Saka Haphong Peak

Unofficially, Bangladesh's true rooftop



Saka Haphong—also called Modowk Taung or Mowdok Taung, its Tripura tribal name—sits directly on the Bangladesh–Myanmar border in the Mowdok mountain range, and is widely regarded by modern surveys as the country's actual highest point, at roughly 1,052–1,064 metres (3,451–3,488 ft). English adventurer Ginge Fullen first recorded a GPS reading here in February 2006, a figure that closely matched Russian topographic mapping and satellite (SRTM) data. In 2007, the first Bangladeshi team summited the peak, led by Yahya Khan alongside Everest climber Sajal Khaled, and subsequent expeditions in 2011 recorded broadly similar figures.

Despite this consistent modern evidence, Saka Haphong has not been formally recognized by Bangladeshi authorities as the official highest peak—that title remains, on paper, with Tazing Dong. The mountain itself supports relatively sparse vegetation near its summit and lies in one of the country's most remote and least-developed regions, home to several local communities and largely free of tourism infrastructure. It remains a serious mountaineering objective rather than a casual trek, appealing mainly to experienced climbers.

- Modern GPS and satellite data consistently place Saka Haphong's summit at 1,052–1,064 metres, higher than any other measured peak in Bangladesh.
- The first Bangladeshi summit team, in 2007, was led by Yahya Khan and included Everest climber Sajal Khaled.
- Despite the evidence, Saka Haphong remains unrecognized as Bangladesh's "official" highest peak by government authorities.



Marayan Thong Hill

Alikadam's hidden Buddhist summit

Marayan Thong (also spelled Marayong Taung, Marayan Dong, or Merai Thong)—the naming varies considerably across sources—rises to roughly 1,640–1,680 feet within the Mirinja Hill Range of Alikadam upazila, Bandarban, and is the highest point in that particular corner of the hill tracts. At its summit sits a Buddhist shrine housing a large Buddha statue, undergoing renovation in recent years, set within open, unobstructed views over the Matamuhuri River winding through the valley below and crop fields stretching toward the horizon.

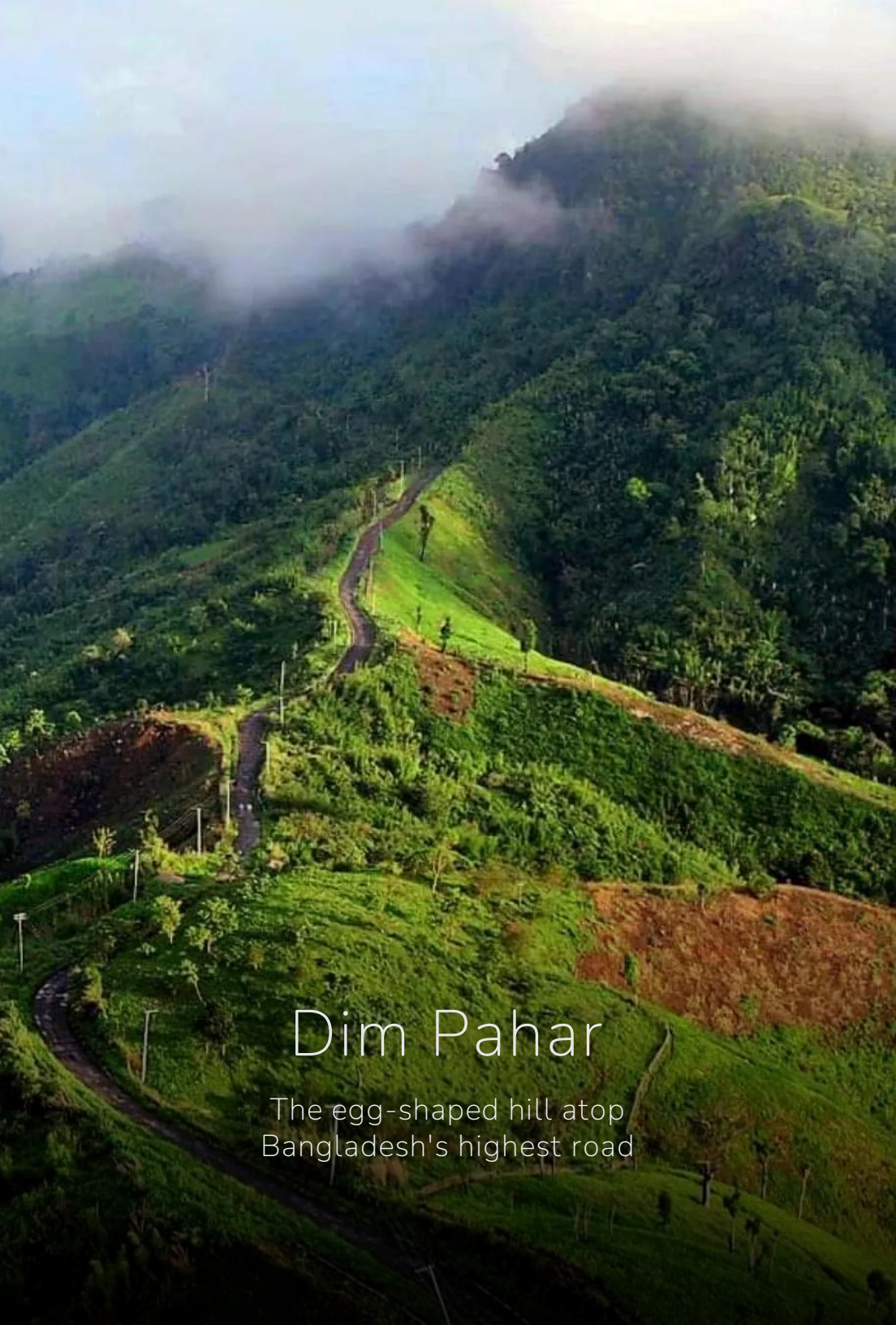
Less developed and far less visited than Nilgiri or Sajek, Marayan Thong is a genuine off-the-beaten-path trek through Tripura, Marma, and Mro villages, with no hotels or restaurants at the summit—visitors camp overnight, cook their own food, and carry in all water and supplies. The climb itself is notably steep in sections, described by trekkers as sharply angled rather than a gentle rise, and local Karbari (village heads) require visiting groups to hire a guide before setting out.

Rises to roughly 1,640–1,680 feet, the highest point within Alikadam upazila's Mirinja Hill Range.

A Buddhist shrine with a large Buddha statue sits at the summit, undergoing periodic renovation.

No hotels or restaurants exist at the top—visiting groups must camp and carry in their own food and water.





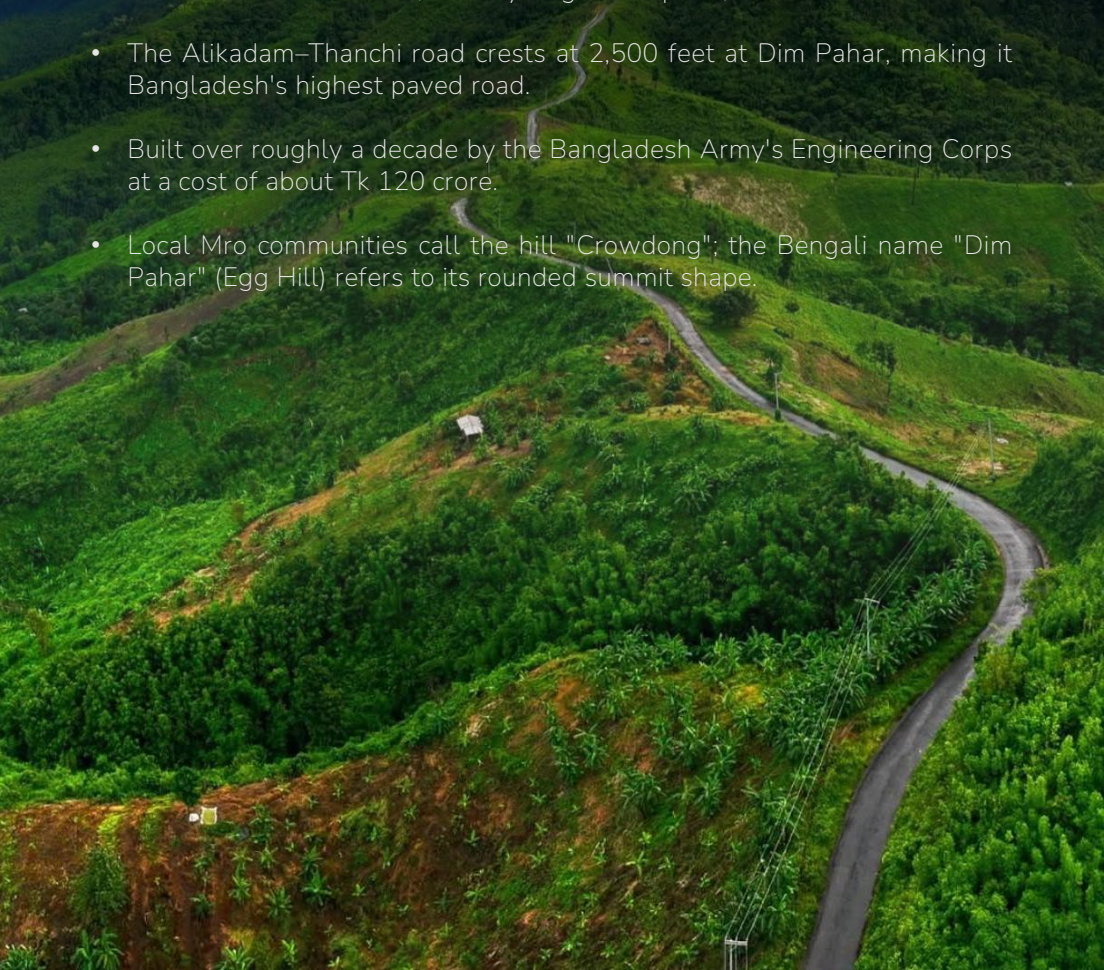
Dim Pahar

The egg-shaped hill atop
Bangladesh's highest road

Dim Pahar—literally "Egg Hill," named for its distinctive rounded summit shape—marks the boundary between Alikadam and Thanchi upazilas in Bandarban, and carries a claim more remarkable than the hill itself: the 33–35 km Alikadam–Thanchi road that crosses it, built by the Bangladesh Army's engineering corps over roughly a decade at a cost of around Tk 120 crore, is widely cited as the highest paved road in Bangladesh, and reportedly the second-highest in South Asia, cresting at 2,500 feet at Dim Pahar itself.

Before this road existed, Dim Pahar was effectively inaccessible—locals in the area, primarily Mro communities who call the hill "Crowdong," lived largely cut off from the district's other hill settlements. Three members of the Army's Engineering Corps reportedly died in accidents during the road's decade-long construction, a detail that underscores just how difficult this terrain genuinely is. Today, the road itself is the destination: a winding 33 km spiral through green hills, popular with motorcyclists and adventure travelers who treat the ride, not any single viewpoint, as the main event.

- The Alikadam–Thanchi road crests at 2,500 feet at Dim Pahar, making it Bangladesh's highest paved road.
- Built over roughly a decade by the Bangladesh Army's Engineering Corps at a cost of about Tk 120 crore.
- Local Mro communities call the hill "Crowdong"; the Bengali name "Dim Pahar" (Egg Hill) refers to its rounded summit shape.





Alutilla Hill

Khagrachari's highest point,
hiding a mysterious cave

Alutila—formerly known as Mount Arbari, and "potato hill" in local usage—is the highest point in Khagrachari district, reported at up to 1,000 metres (roughly 3,000 feet) above sea level, just 7 km from Khagrachari town in Matiranga upazila. Its main draw isn't the summit view, though that's considerable, but what lies inside it: Matai Hakor, known to visitors as Alutila Cave, a naturally formed tunnel running through the hill's base. Reported lengths for the cave vary from 100 to roughly 280 feet across different sources, with a cold underground stream flowing through its floor.

Reaching the cave mouth involves descending 266 steps from the hilltop, after which visitors—guided only by rented bamboo torches, since the passage is otherwise pitch dark—walk through a slippery, low-ceilinged tunnel that requires crouching at points. Locals refer to it as "Matai Hakor" (Bengali: house of the gods), and it remains one of Khagrachari's most consistently popular picnic and day-trip destinations, drawing visitors year-round.

- Alutila is Khagrachari district's highest point, reported at up to 1,000 metres (roughly 3,000 feet) above sea level.
- Matai Hakor (Alutila Cave), formed inside the hill, requires a 266-step descent and is explored entirely by rented bamboo torch.
- The cave's cold underground stream and low, narrow passages mean visitors must crouch at points along the route.





Bangladesh Tourism Board

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