



**Wanderlust**  
Somen Sengupta

## Gaur: Ruins of romance

**I**F history thrills you then Gour and Pandua, the seat of the kings of Bengal, should be your destinations. The name Pandua is derived from Pundru, the rich capital city of king Pundrak who ruled Bengal. Gour was the capital city of Hindu rulers like the Palas and the Senas. Old gates, dilapidated palaces, mosques, majestic towers, cemetery, etc make Gour and Pandua coveted tourist spots.

Take any overnight bus from Esplanade and reach Malda town early morning. Hire an

ambassador and go to Pandua which is 18 km north on NHW 18. See all the historic spots, come back to Malda for lunch and go out for Gour. Three hours among the historic ruins and then you can catch the night bus back to Calcutta. While touring definitely visit Adina Masjid, the world's third biggest mosque. It was built by Sultan Sikandar Shah by demolishing a Hindu temple named Adinath. But you can still see many Hindu architecture and arts and even images of Saraswati and Shiva lingam in this mosque.

Feroz Minar, a watch tower constructed by Saifuddin Feroz Shah, is

84 ft high with 73 steps while Kadam Rasul is a sacred place where you will see the footprints of Prophet Mohammad. Bari Dargah, constructed by destroying yet another Hindu temple, Lukochuri Darwaza, a majestic gate to enter the old city, Saalami Darwaza, Choti Dargah, Qutub Shahi Mosque, Chika Mosque, Tatipara Mosque etc. are some of the other worth visiting places. Needless to say, all these priceless monuments are in a dilapidated state thanks to limitless negligence by WBTDC. We would advice you to visit the two places before such historic ruins totally vanish.