

# Hindustan Times

## Quiet Flows The River

**Somen Sengupta**

A SLENDER river, a green border of trees, a small solitary island and a delicate atmosphere — all these are at your doorstep at Dabu, a place yet unexposed to the touristy cacophony of popular destinations.

Situated on the bank of the Matla river, Dabu is a nice spot to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family. The clear sky and fantastic greenery are balm for tired eyes and mind.

A boat ride in the river is an additional attraction of the place. A small island in the river is safe enough to land in and have a picnic.



PHOTO: SOMEN SENGUPTA

The Matla river makes Dabu a lovely spot for a day trip

A farmhouse owned by Port Canning Company once stood here. Today, there is a bungalow owned by the irrigation department of the state government. The garden surrounding the bungalow is the best spot to enjoy the riverside. Rare birds and small country boats lend a picturesque touch to the landscape. However, one has to obtain permission to get in here.

To reach Dabu, catch a train from Sealdah to Canning, a journey of 45 minutes. From Canning, it's another 10 minutes in auto- or cycle-rickshaw. One can also go via Baruipur, two hours from Esplanade by bus. From there, Dabu is another one-hour drive. Overnight stay is possible if the irrigation bungalow is booked in advance from the Sech Bhavan in Kolkata.