

Meghalaya  
TOURISM



DISCOVER  
**SOUTH GARO HILLS**  
A TOURIST'S GUIDE



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION  
SOUTH GARO HILLS

# MESSAGE

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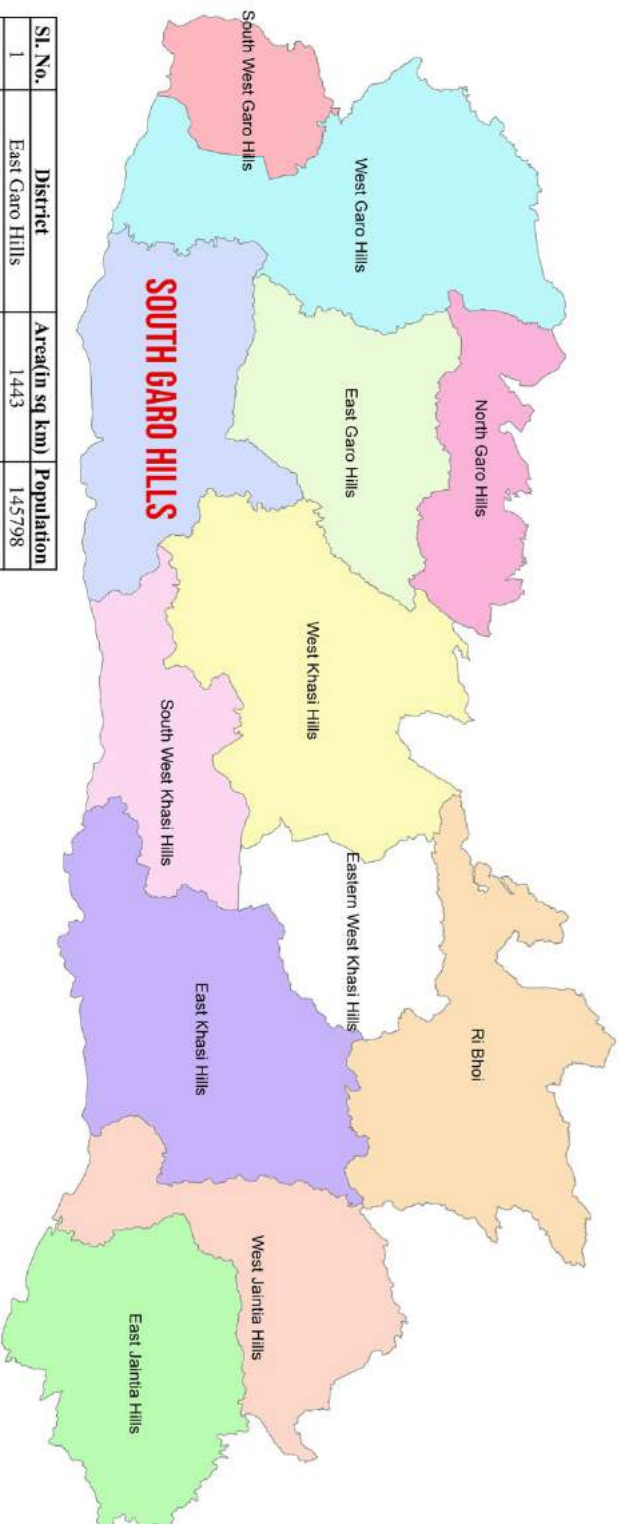


Shri S Awasthi, IAS  
Deputy Commissioner & Chairman  
District Tourism Promotion Society

Nestled in the pristine heartland of Meghalaya, South Garo Hills is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered by intrepid travelers. With its lush green landscapes, rolling hills, and rich cultural heritage, this unspoiled region offers a unique and enchanting experience for tourists seeking an off-the-beaten-path adventure. The District Tourism Promotion Society, South Garo Hills invites you to explore its picturesque villages, where you can immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture, interact with friendly Garo people, and savor traditional cuisine that tantalizes your taste buds with flavors you won't find anywhere else.

For nature enthusiasts, South Garo Hills boasts breathtaking scenery and abundant wildlife. Embark on scenic treks through dense forests, where you might spot elusive wildlife such as clouded leopards, hoolock gibbons, and various species of birds. The crystal-clear rivers and numerous waterfalls, including the stunning Wari Chora and Jadesil Falls, offer a refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. The Balpakram National Park, known as the "Land of the Eternal Wind," is a must-visit destination for wildlife lovers. As you explore this untouched paradise, you'll be captivated by the harmony of nature and the rich tapestry of Garo traditions that make South Garo Hills a truly remarkable destination for discerning travelers seeking an authentic and immersive experience. Come and be enchanted by the unspoiled beauty of South Garo Hills – Meghalaya's best-kept secret.

# POPULATION AND AREA MAP OF MEGHALAYA



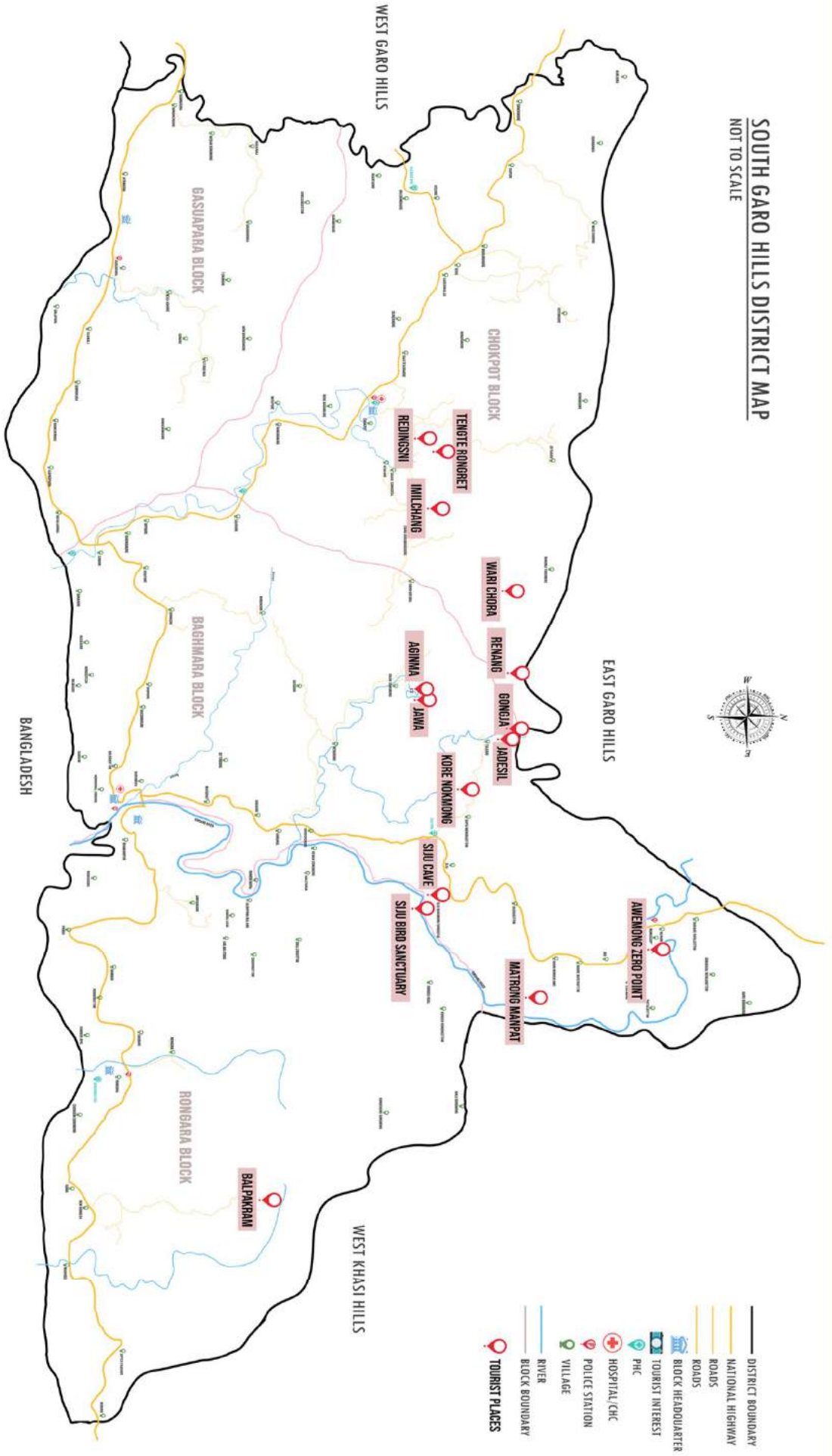
Sl. No.	District	Area(in sq km)	Population
1	East Garo Hills	1443	145798
2	North Garo Hills	1160	172119
3	South Garo Hills	1887	142334
4	West Garo Hills	2811	465735
5	South West Garo Hills	866	177556
6	East Khasi Hills	2748	825922
7	West Jaintia Hills	1779	272185
8	East Jaintia Hills	2040	122939
9	South West Khasi Hills	1401	99171
10	West Khasi Hills	3846	284290
11	Eastern West Khasi Hills		
12	Ri-Bhoi	2448	258840



Source of data: Statistical Handbook Meghalaya 2022, Directorate Of Economics And Statistics

# SOUTH GARO HILLS DISTRICT MAP

NOT TO SCALE



- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- NATIONAL HIGHWAY
- ROADS
- BLOCK HEADQUARTER
- TOURIST INTEREST
- PHC
- HOSPITAL/CHC
- POLICE STATION
- VILLAGE
- RIVER
- BLOCK BOUNDARY
- TOURIST PLACES

BANGLADESH

WEST KHASI HILLS

EAST GARO HILLS

WEST GARO HILLS



## INTRODUCTION

The South Garo Hills district lies in the southern part of the state of Meghalaya, and was created on 18th June, 1992. The district is hilly with difficult terrain with its headquarter at Baghmara, the only town in the district. The district is situated between  $25^{\circ}10'$  and  $25^{\circ}35'N$  latitudes and  $90^{\circ}15'$  and  $91^{\circ}0'E$  longitude. It covers an area of 1887 sq. Km. It is bounded in the North by East Garo Hills, in the East by the west Khasi Hills district, in the West by West Garo Hills district and in the South by Bangladesh.



1,42,574 population  
(Census 2011)



804 villages



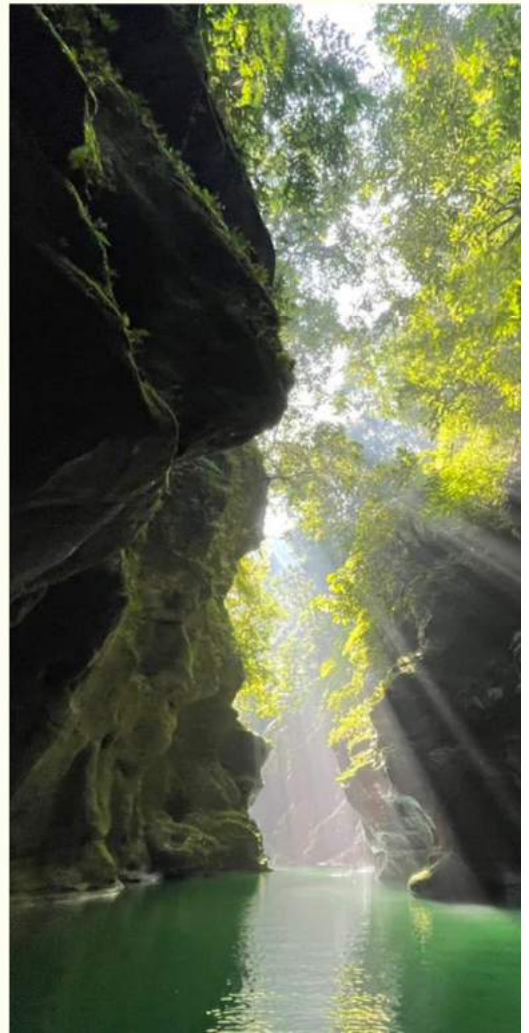
5 blocks



Garo, Hindi & English

# 1. WARI CHORA

One of the most popular destinations in Meghalaya, Wari Chora has gained popularity through travel vloggers. Apparently some videos have garnered about 3 lakh views. Wari chora is a deep riverine system beneath the gorge. Its beauty can only be accessed through rafts/kayak and boats. The boat ride from the entrance to the Parom Dare waterfall takes about 10 mins where one can see the pristine beauty of the cave like rock formations created by nature for over millions of years. It is located in Paromgre A'king land and shares the border with Rekmangre village. One can visit this spot through Chokpot Bazaar traveling from Tura or from Emangre village which has become a transit for visitors coming from Siju and Baghmara



## WARI CHORA

It is popularly known as the land of Seven Serpents which in Garo folklore denotes Sangkni or the mythological serpent known to be huge akin to Loch Ness Monster. Locals narrated the story that during the olden days people would travel to Durgapur now in Bangladesh for trade and there were no any suitable water body to set their trips in the area. They discovered Wari Chora later and started their boat ride through this river Rongdik which joins Simsang river that enters Bangladesh. Hence the places was called Wari Choram meaning a place deep water where one can start their boat journey.

**How to visit:** Emangre village is located 40 kms from the district headquarter Baghmara. If one travels through Siju village it would be about 25 kms through Karukol village and after monsoon the distance can be shorter as one can thtravel from Siju to Emangre via Tolegre village.

### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 40 kms  
Nearest Village: Emangre



## 2. AWEMONG ZERO POINT

Awemong Zero Point: This beach, located on the bank of the Simsang River, offers a variety of adventure activities such as camping, kayaking, river rafting, rock climbing, rappelling and other beach sports. It is also close to other tourist attractions and can serve as a base camp for exploring the nearby abandoned coal mines that have a lot of historical significance.

### *Events during Memang Koksi Festival Annual Event*



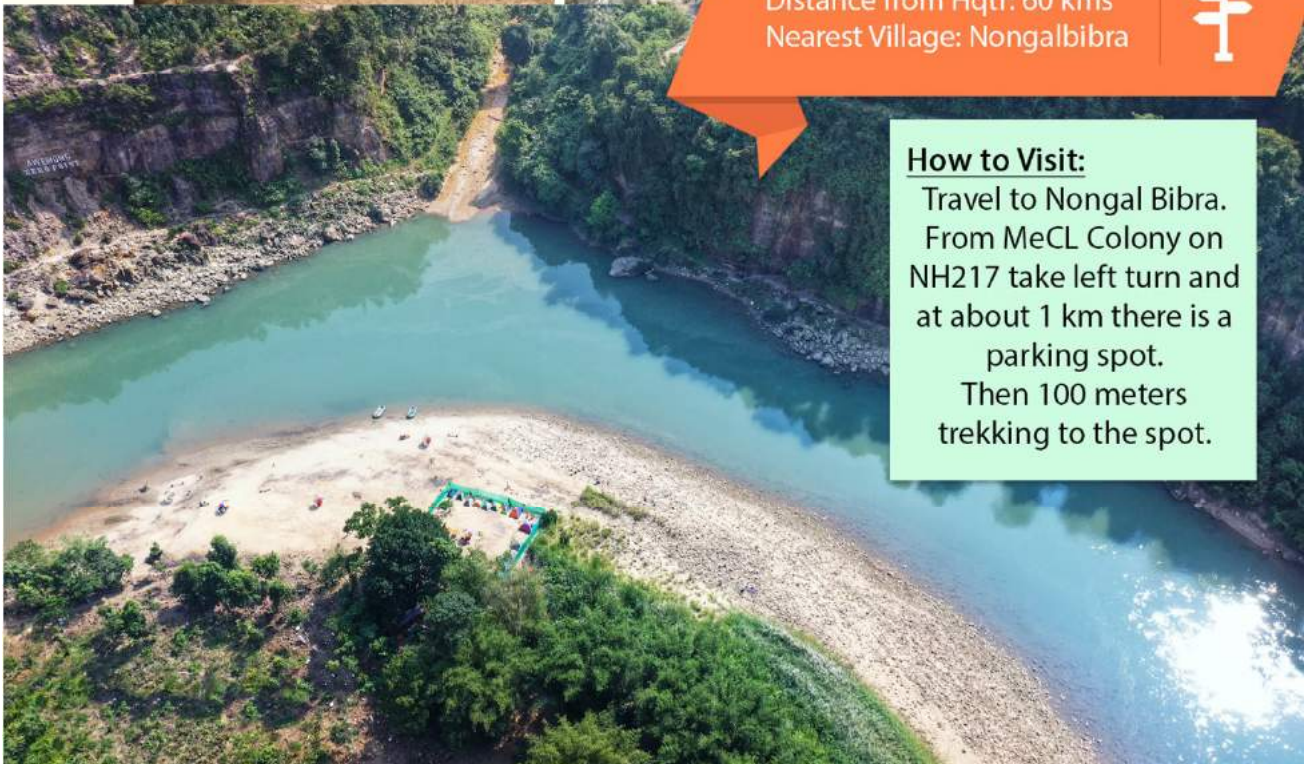
#### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 60 kms  
Nearest Village: Nongalbibra



#### **How to Visit:**

Travel to Nongal Bibra.  
From MeCL Colony on NH217 take left turn and at about 1 km there is a parking spot.  
Then 100 meters trekking to the spot.





### 3. SIJU BIRD SANCTUARY

If you are a fan of birds and nature, you will love the Siju Bird Sanctuary, situated across the Simsang river in South Garo Hills. The sanctuary is part of the Siju wildlife reserve, which boasts of a diverse flora and fauna. The sanctuary welcomes both native and migratory birds, who seek refuge here during the winter months. You can admire many common birds, as well as some rare and protected ones, in this scenic place.

**How to Visit:** Roughly a 4 kms trek from Siju Cave crossing the Simsang River. *Permission has to be obtained from Forest Officials in Siju.*



#### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 35 kms  
Nearest Village: Siju



## 4. SIJU CAVE

Siju Cave, located in Siju Village of South Garo Hills, is one of the longest and most studied caves in Asia. It has limestone formations from the pre-Cambrian era, as revealed by scientific research. The cave hosts a fragile ecosystem with thousands of bats of the species *macro brachia cavernicula*. The locals call this cave Do.bakkol or Siju Do.bakkol

**How to Visit:** The distance from Siju market on NH 217 to this cave is 5kms approx.



### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 35 kms  
Nearest Village: Siju



## 5. BALPAKRAM NATIONAL PARK

Balpakram National Park is a must-visit destination for nature lovers and culture enthusiasts in Meghalaya. Located in the South Eastern part of Garo Hills, 60 kilometers from Baghmara, the park is a biodiversity hotspot that hosts a rich variety of flora and fauna. The name Balpakram means land of the perpetual winds in Garo language, and it is also considered as the final resting place for the souls of the departed by the Garos. The park is also steeped in myths and legends of the Garo warriors who fought against the evil forces that threatened their land.

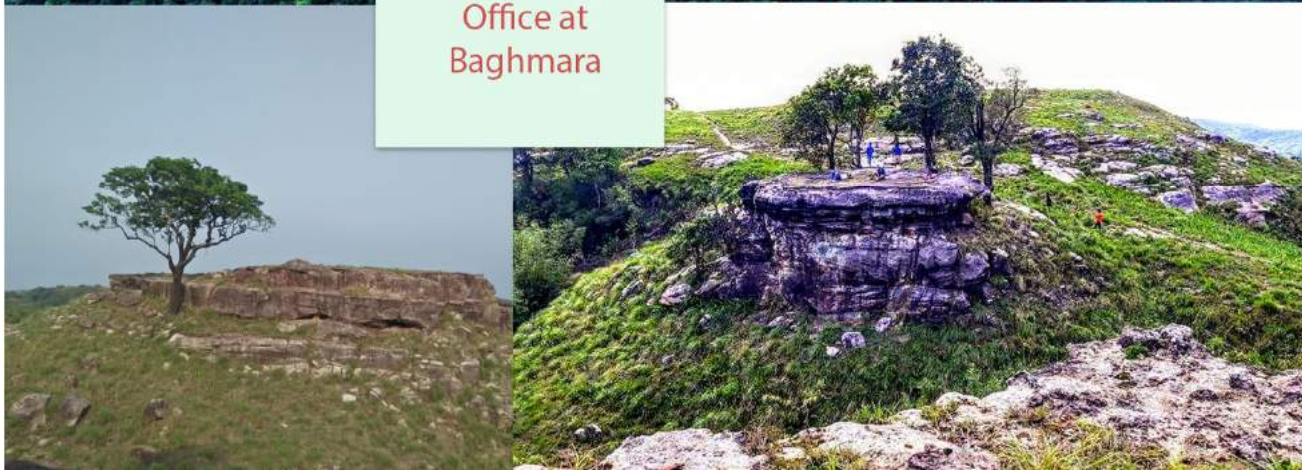
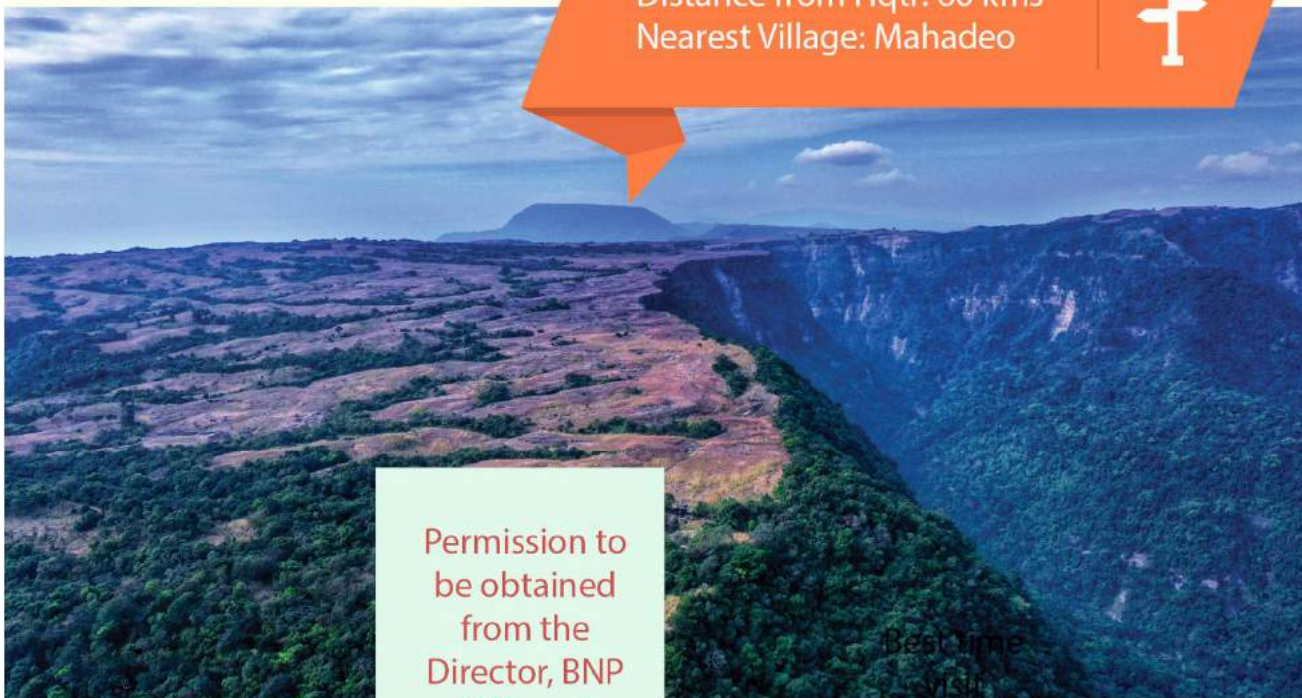
### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 60 kms  
Nearest Village: Mahadeo



Permission to  
be obtained  
from the  
Director, BNP  
Office at  
Baghmara

Best Time  
to Visit



## 6. REDINGSNI WARI

Redingsni Wari, a scenic spot with crystal clear waters, is located 8 kilometers from Chokpot Market. It is one of the most popular tourist attractions in South Garo Hills. The pool is deep and surrounded by rock cliffs on both sides, making it hard to access. However, you can swim and enjoy the water upstream and downstream, where the water remains clear throughout the year, even during the rainy season. It is a trip worth taking for nature lovers.



### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 61 kms  
Nearest Village: Kakija



**How to Visit:** Travel from Chokpot Market to Kakija village of about 8kms and then trekking 2kms to the spot.

## 7. IMILCHANG DARE

This waterfall, located in Eman Asakgre, 16 kilometers from Chokpot Market, is a stunning sight that has been featured in calendars and local magazines. Eman Asakgre was once a cultural hub in this region, where the Nokpante (Bachelor's Dormitory) stood. The Nokpante was a place where young boys learned from grown men about the life, folklore, music and cultural traditions, weaving, carpentry and more.



**How to Visit:** Travel 16kms from Chokpot Market to Asakgre village. Then about 500 meters from the parking area to the spot.

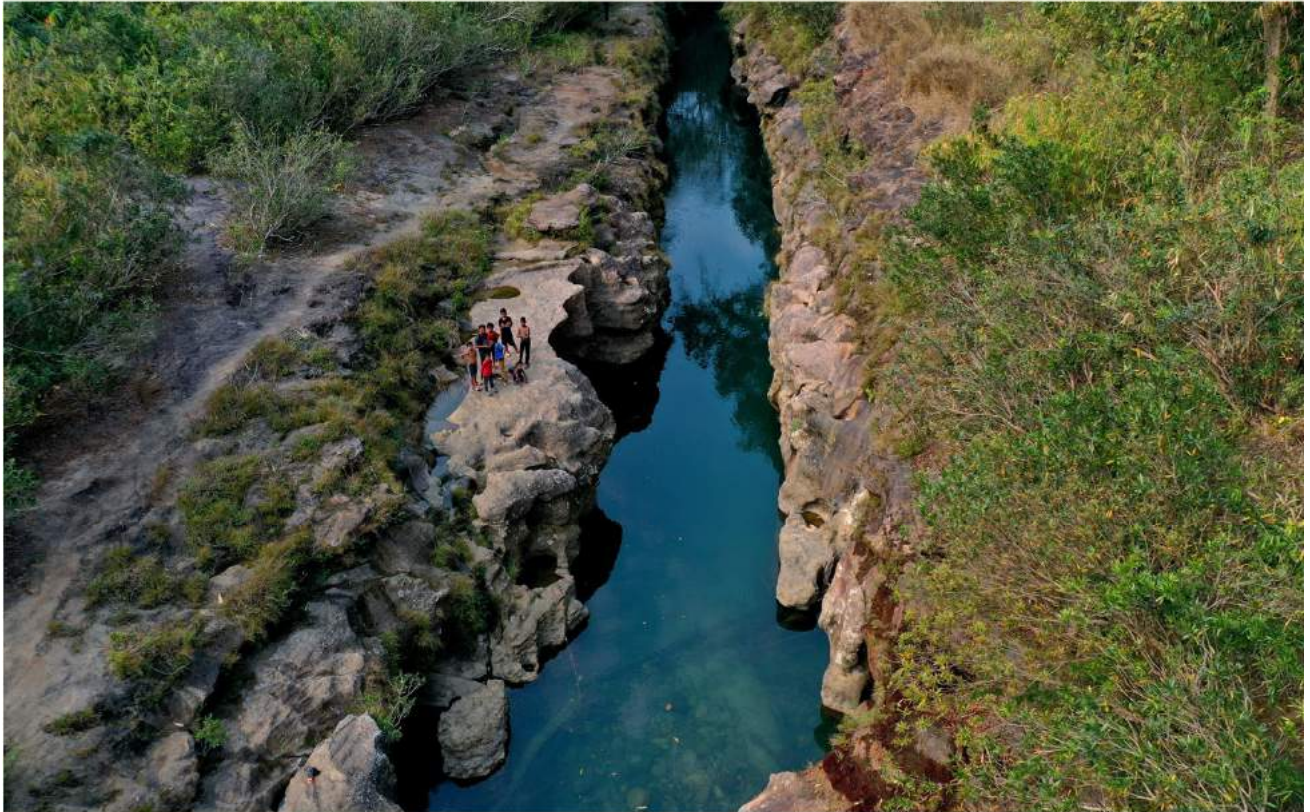
### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 67 kms  
Nearest Village: Eman Asakgre



## 8. AGINMA WARI

If you are looking for a refreshing and scenic spot to enjoy nature, you might want to visit the Rongdik Pool, located near Emangre Village, 42 kilometers from Baghmara, the district headquarters of South Garo Hills. This stunning pool is fed by a perennial stream that is home to many large fishes, some as big as an adult human. You can swim in the crystal-clear water during the summer, or admire the canyon-like formations on both sides of the pool. The pool has attracted many local and foreign tourists, and has been featured in several calendars and magazines for its beauty.



**How to Visit:** Travel 42 kms from Baghmara via Karukol village towards Emangre village.

### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 42 kms  
Nearest Village: Emangre

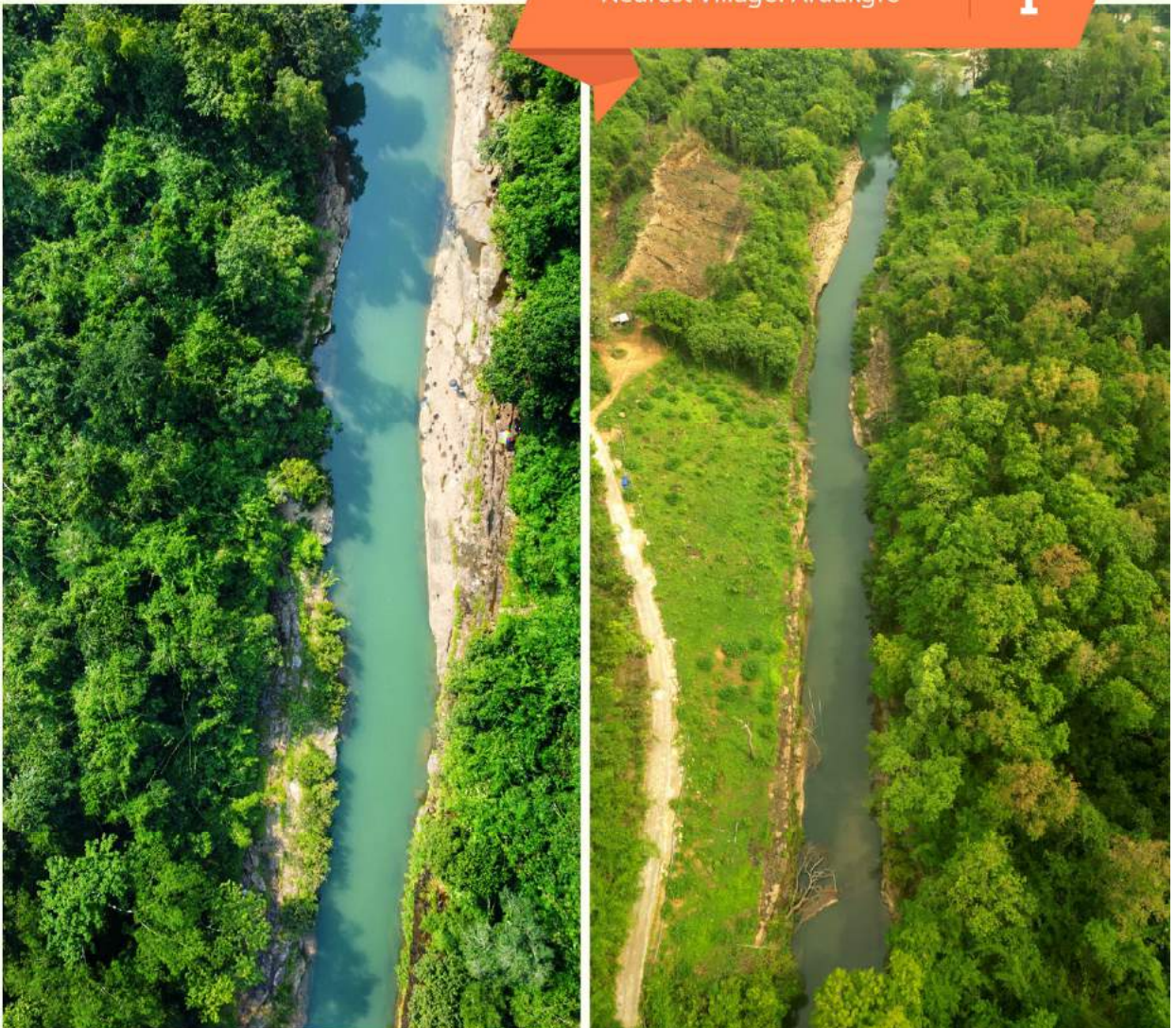


## 9. JAWA WARI

Jawa Wari, a 600-meter pool fed by the Rongdik stream, is a popular spot for swimming, located 2 kilometers from Aginma Wari. It attracts many local and foreign tourists, who also enjoy the local folklore behind its name. According to legend, a fisherman was attacked by a tiger (Jawa in Garo language) while fishing at this spot. He was “Kal’aka by Jawa”, which means he was killed by the tiger. The pool is conserved by the locals, who prohibit fishing. You can see fishes of various sizes in the clear water during the dry season.

### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 44 kms  
Nearest Village: Aruakgre



## 10. TENGTE RONGRET

This waterfall, located near Kakija area of Kantasigre under Chokpot C&RD Block, South Garo Hills, has a connection to the Garo folklore. According to the locals, this area was once inhabited by Tengti Rongret or Teteng, who are elf-like creatures with backward feet. The Teteng are very elusive and only a few people have seen them in the jungles and dense forests of Garo Hills

### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 64 kms  
Nearest Village: Kakija

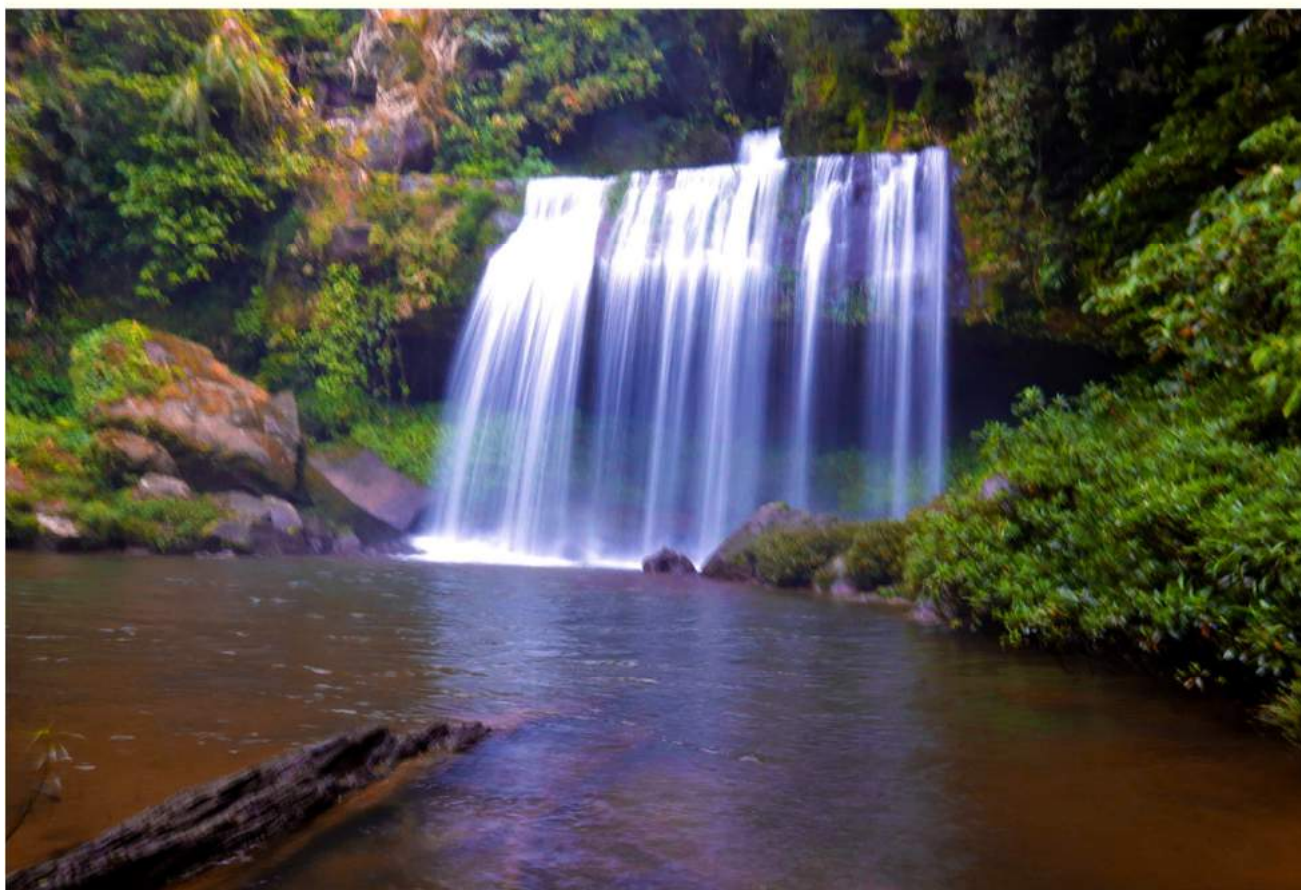


**How to Visit:** To reach this spot, you will have to trek for 3 kilometers from Kakija village, which is located 8 kilometers away from Chokpot Bazaar.



## 11. KORE NOKMONG WATERFALL

Kore Nokmong is located in Jadigindam village which can be accessed through Siju village. Distance from Siju market would be 5 kms approximately



### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 36 kms  
Nearest Village: Jadigindam



## 12. GONGJA WATERFALL

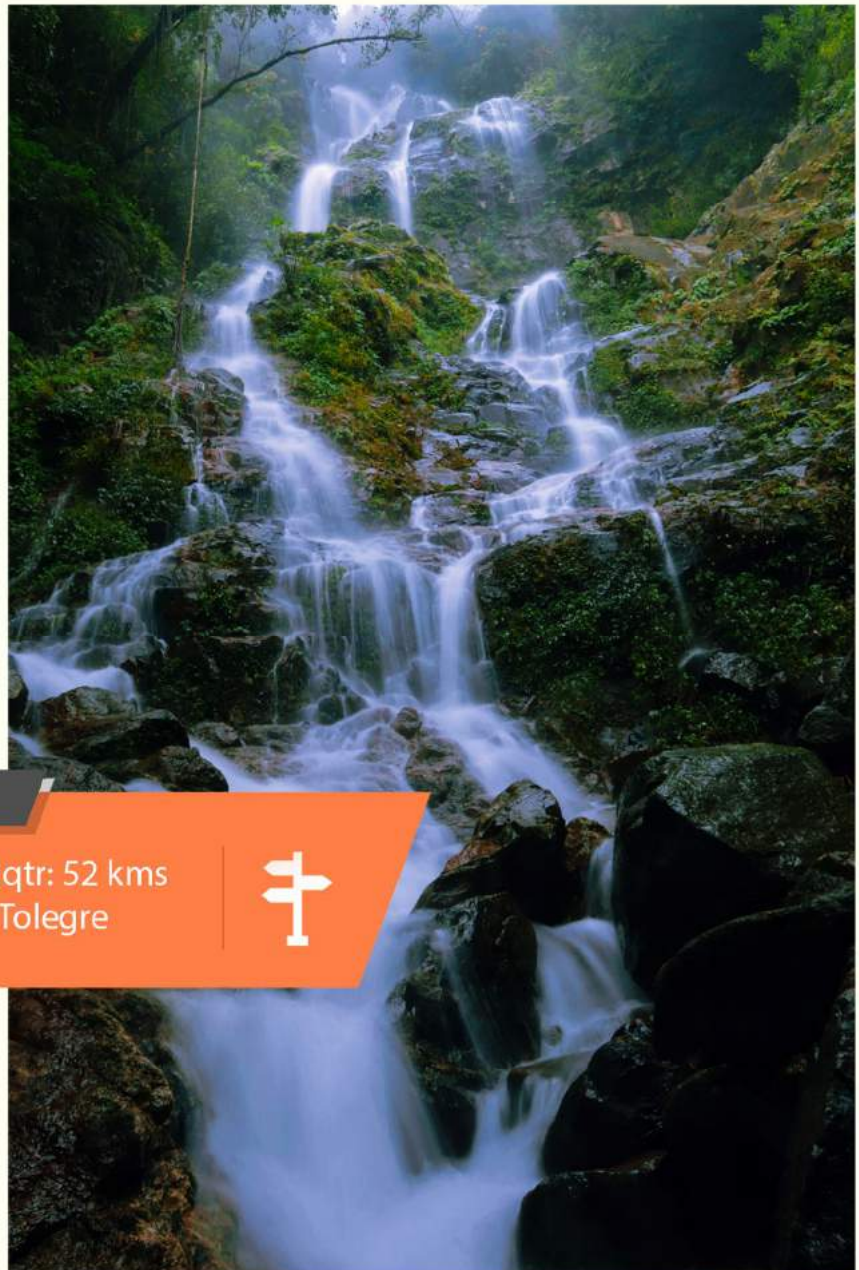
This waterfall, located on a hillock above Tolegre and Nokatgre Villages, has a fascinating story behind it. According to legend, there was once a wicked deity named Dura Mring who was unhappy with the slow and steady flow of the water, which people used to draw with a bamboo pipe. Dura Mring decided to kneel down and chop the water with his/her hand, creating the gushing waterfall that we see today.

### How to Visit:

1 km from Nokatgre Village which is close to Tolegre.

Distance from Baghmara 52 kms approx.

Requires hiking of steep hill roughly a kilometre from Tolegre/ Nokatgre Village.



### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 52 kms  
Nearest Village: Tolegre

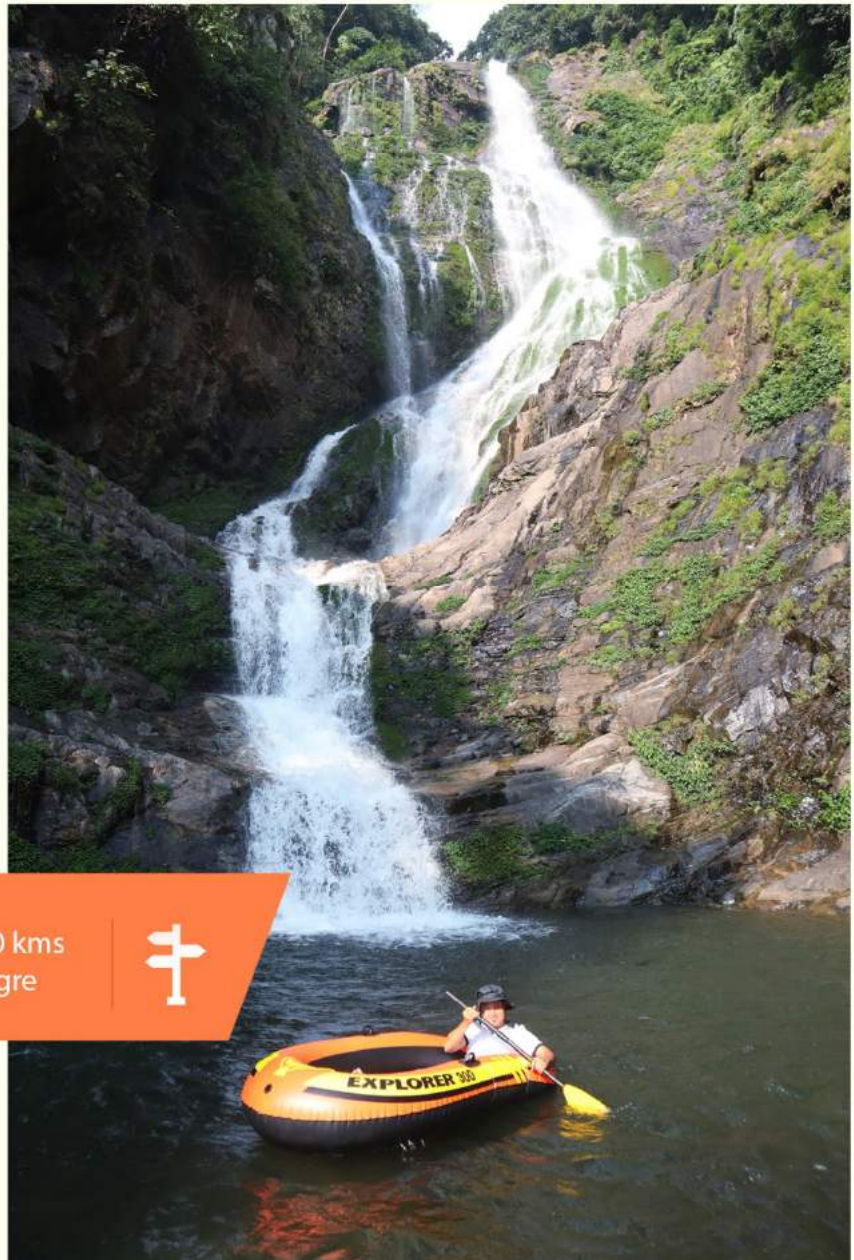


## 13. RENANG WATERFALL

Renang Dare, a waterfall with a thrilling legend, got its name from a daring couple. According to the story, a husband made a wooden boat and wanted to go down the waterfall with his wife. She was afraid and refused, but he threatened to chop her up with the machete he used for his boat. She had no choice but to join him, and they miraculously survived the waterfall. People called them Re'anggaka, which means they were lucky, and the waterfall became known as Renang Dare.

### How to Reach:

From Tolegre one has to travel roughly 7 kms to a village called Dabalgre.



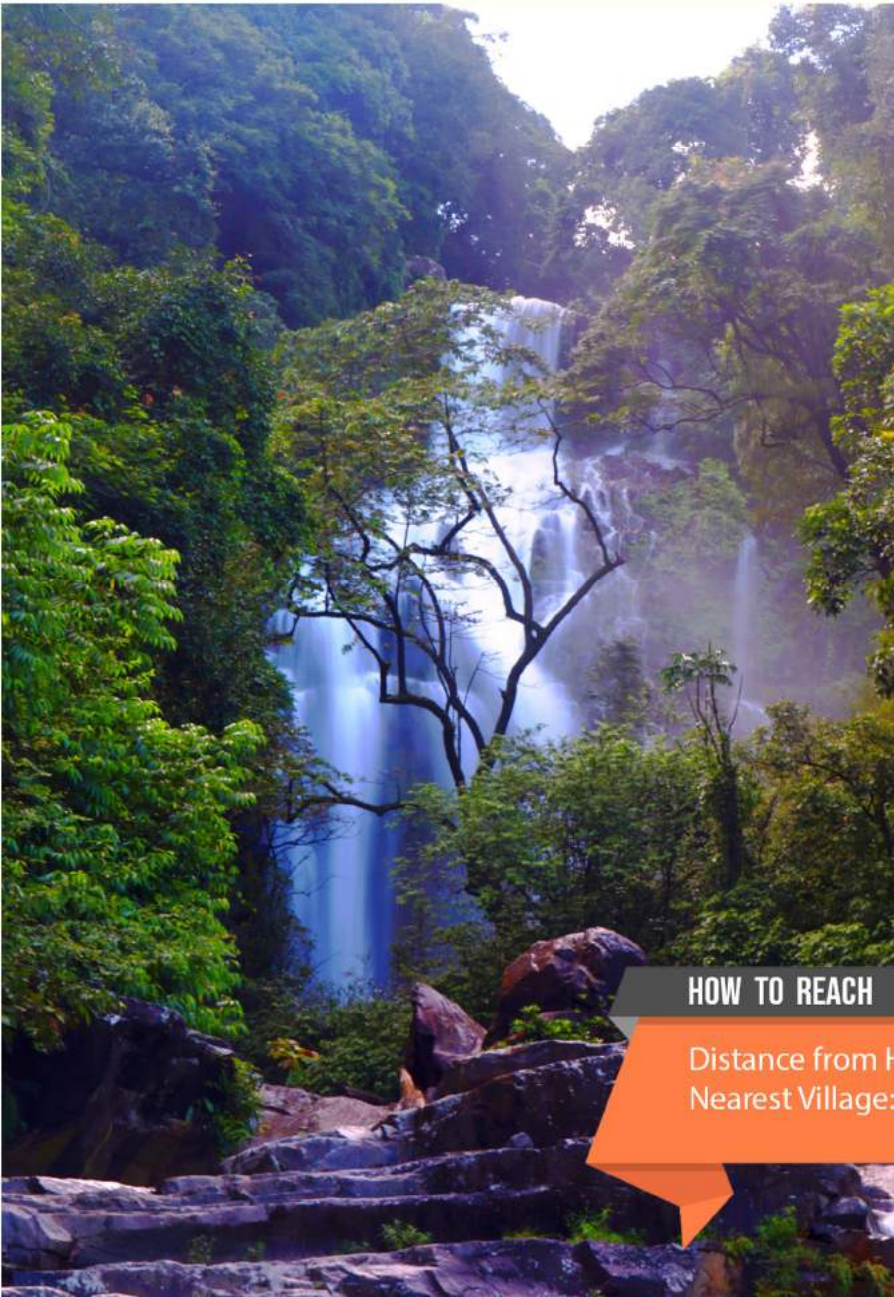
### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 60 kms  
Nearest Village: Dabalgre



## 14. MATRONG MANPAT WATERFALL

This waterfall, located near Rongding Awe area, 2 kilometers from Dangsa Awe on NH217, has a connection to the local wildlife. The waterfall is named after the Matrong, which are mountain goats that used to live in the area. The Matrong are skilled climbers of the steep cliffs near the waterfall, where they would go to find food. The waterfall was named Marong Manpat or Matrong Malbat, which means the waterfall of the grazing animals on the rock cliff.



### How to Visit:

From Dangsa Awe junction on NH217 to Rongding Awe about 1 kms from the junction.

### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 46 kms  
Nearest Village: Dangsa Awe



## 15. JADESIL WARI

Jadesil Wari, located in Tolegre village, 50 kilometers from Baghmara, is a scenic spot with a local legend. It is said that tigers (Matcha Chidual in Garo language) used to train their cubs to jump across the two rocks above the stream, and only then they were deemed ready for the wild. The spot has been developed as a fish sanctuary by the Fishery Department, Government of Meghalaya, and attracts many domestic and foreign tourists who enjoy feeding the fish and capturing the beauty of the place.

### HOW TO REACH

Distance from Hqtr: 53 kms  
Nearest Village: Tolegre



**How to Visit :** Jadesil Fish Sanctuary can be reached from Baghmara as well as from Siju via Nengrugittim. Distance would be 50kms from Baghmara and 10 Kms from Siju Village respectively.



# RUSTIC HOMESTAY



**TYI'MONG HOMESTAY**  
Pymoline Sangma  
7005709613

**CIRCUIT HOUSE**  
Permission needed from  
District Administration

**SARANGDU HOMESTAY**  
Chengreng Sangma  
8414061746  
7005663122

**BAKDIL GUEST HOUSE**  
6909240223

**MICHELLE'S HOMESTAY**  
7005063862

**FOREST GUEST HOUSE**  
9615991316  
9383399077

**BAGHMARA COTTAGES**  
Chuba Marak  
7005380520  
8415099979

**MONDOLI GUEST HOUSE**  
9436986210  
8730080498

**SIJU TOURIST LODGE**  
Plinder Marak  
7005887305  
Christben Momin  
8787408991

**KRIMA GUEST HOUSE**  
9436986210  
8730080498



# RUSTIC HOMESTAY



## EMANGRE HOMESTAYS

Dipak Areng  
6009364083  
8132913510

Rema Homestay  
9362013629

Vishal Areng  
7629926796

Mahan Sangma  
9862679162

Haggai Momin  
8118904834

## NONGAL HOMESTAYS

Mongri Homestay  
9362185942  
8787354926  
6909461722

Nongabibra Tourism Society  
8415037848  
9101081490  
9378003570



# TOUR OPERATOR & GUIDE

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A'CHIK TOURISM SOCIETY  
Dipu Marak  
9862912547

BAGHMARA CAMPERS  
Mark Pantora  
6290979563

SIJU ECO TOURISM SOCIETY  
Plinder Marak  
7005887305

SIMSANG ECO TOURISM SOCIETY  
Prosper Marak  
8413078209

## GUIDE

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MILTON M SANGMA  
7005360688

NONGALBIBRA TOURISM SOCIETY  
Digrose Shira  
8415037848

BRYAN R MARAK  
9862968944

BETLAS SANGMA  
8837472709

NIKJRANG A SANGMA  
9366189943



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## Brief guide to...

- Discover the hidden gems and what makes South Garo Hills so special in this brief but informative guide.
- Relax and savor the authentic homestay hospitality and food.



Dabat Wari

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District Tourism Promotion Society  
South Garo Hills