



Dhaka

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Best Places to Stay

- » Viator (p45)
- » Sabrina's (p45)
- » Liebenzell Mission Guest-house (p45)
- » Hotel Pacific (p44)
- » White House Hotel (p44)
- » Lakeshore (p45)

Best Places to Eat

- » Haji Biryani (p47)
- » Star Kebab & Restaurant (p49)
- » Spaghetti Jazz (p49)
- » Dhaba (p49)
- » Santoor (p48)
- » Al-Razzaque (p47)

Why Go?

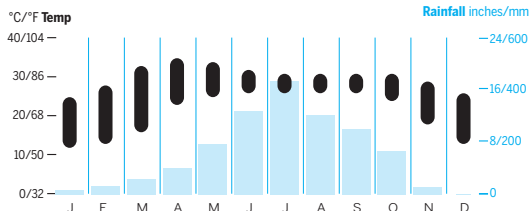
Dhaka is more than just a city; it's a giant whirlpool that sucks in anything and anyone that comes within its furious grasp. Around and around it sends them, like some wildly spinning fairground ride bursting with energy. Millions of individual pursuits constantly churn together into a frenzy of collective activity – an urban melting pot forever bubbling over.

Dhaka is a city in perpetual motion and the glorious chaos is perhaps best viewed from the back of one of the city's half-a-million fabulously colourful cycle-rickshaws, which fight for space on the city's overcrowded streets with taxis, buses, auto-rickshaws and even horse-drawn carriages.

We can't guarantee you'll fall for Dhaka's many charms, but sooner or later you will start to move to its beat and when that happens Dhaka stops being a terrifying ride and starts to become a unique blend of art and intellect, passion and poverty, love and hate.

When to Go

Dhaka



Jan–Mar Dry and cool; evenings can become slightly chilly.

Apr Getting hot now, but Bengali New Year falls on the 14th so cultural events abound.

Nov–Dec Monsoon rains are over, temperatures are cooler and skies are clear.

Dhaka Highlights

- 1 Board a rowboat down at the gritty docks of **Sadarghat** (p37) and cross the manic Buriganga River, the very lifeblood of this enormous city
- 2 Climb aboard one of the city's **cycle-rickshaws** (p56) and watch Dhaka's street life roll by
- 3 Get lost wandering the fascinating, overcrowded alleyways of **Old Dhaka** (Puran Dhaka; p37)
- 4 Tuck into the best biryani in Bangladesh, at **Haji Biryani** (p47)
- 5 Sample some of the country's best kebabs from any streetside kebab stall; or else try the excellent **Star Kebab** (p49)
- 6 Poke around the museum at charming **Ahsan Manzil** (p37), aka the Pink Palace
- 7 Escape Old Dhaka's hustle and bustle and explore the ruins of **Lalbagh Fort** (p38)

