



# Khulna & Barisal

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## Best Places for Scenery

- » Sundarbans National Park (p71)
- » Kuakata (p85)
- » Villages around Bagerhat (p76)

## Best Places for Boat Trips

- » Sundarbans National Park (p71)
- » Barisal (p83)
- » Kuakata (p85)

## Why Go?

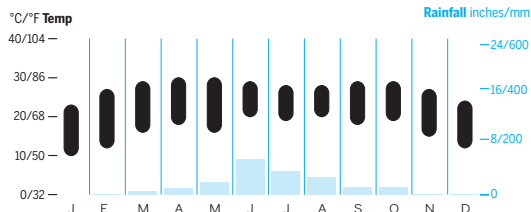
Unexplored jungle swamps teeming with wildlife as dangerous as it is beautiful make this region stand out as the one many people want most to visit. Comprising in large parts of nothing but marshlands, waterlogged jungles and rivers, this archetypal explorer country is not easy to navigate, but it promises to leave you with some of your most abiding memories of Bangladesh.

The star attraction, of course, is the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and home to the largest single tiger population on earth. If you organise only one trip in Bangladesh, make sure it's a trip to the Sundarbans.

Your tiger-tracking tendencies satisfied, don't shoot straight back to Dhaka. There are historic mosques, secluded beaches and a mesmerising network of rivers to explore, as well as the chance to take some of the best boat trips this water-laden country has to offer.

## When to Go

### Jessore



### Oct-Feb

Mildest and most pleasant time to visit the Sundarbans.

### Mar

Thousands of pilgrims descend on Kushtia to pay their respects.

### Apr

Trek through the Sundarbans in honey-harvesting season.



## Khulna & Barisal Highlights

- 1** Float through the forests of the **Sundarbans National Park** (p71) in search of the elusive Royal Bengal tiger
- 2** Visit the magnificent Islamic architecture at **Bagerhat** (p76) before exploring the forested villages
- 3** Ride the **Rocket** (boxed text p71), a paddlewheel steamer and Bangladesh's most famous boat
- 4** Travel to the remote beach of **Kuakata** (p85), on the eastern fringes of the Sundarbans
- 5** Contemplate the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore or the folk songs of the Baul musician Lalon Shah in **Kushtia** (p81)
- 6** Come in winter and hook up with a research boat to go whale-watching at the **Swath of No Ground** (boxed text p77)
- 7** Time your visit for the start of April and join the **honey harvest trail** (boxed text p77) in the depths of the Sundarbans forests