



Chittagong Division

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Handi (p105)
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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Radisson Blu Bay View (p103)
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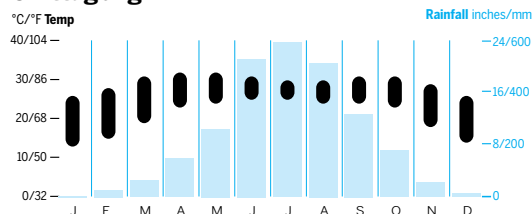
Why Go?

The most diverse region of Bangladesh, Chittagong is a land that stretches from forested hills and scenic lakes to sandy beaches and coral islands. It's a land of off-the-beaten-track adventure, with great hiking and remote boat trips, but also one of cultural contrasts – around a dozen Adivasi groups live here.

Home to Bangladesh's largest port, Chittagong is a place where you can see wooden fishing boats being pieced together on one beach, while disused ocean liners are picked apart on the next. You can trek through forests where elephants roam wild, or walk along the world's longest natural beach before retreating to your hotel's rooftop pool.

Some travellers are put off by the hassles of permits (actually very easy to arrange) or the dangers of social unrest (check the latest before you come). But those who persist are rewarded with experiences you simply can't find in any other region of Bangladesh.

When to Go Chittagong



Oct–Feb Best time for hiking the Hill Tracts.

Oct–March Best time for St Martin's Island, before tropical storms start.

Jun–Sep Rainy season. Quietest and cheapest time to visit Cox's Bazar.



Chittagong Division Highlights

1 Chittagong Hill Tracts (p107) Teaming up with a trusted guide and hiking your way into the depths of the hills.

2 Bandarban (p111) Learning about Adivasi culture by visiting some of the tribal villages around this forested hillside town.

3 Sangu River (p111) Enjoying what's arguably the most scenic river trip in Bangladesh by taking a boat ride along the serene Sangu.

4 Kaptai Lake (p114) Spending a day floating across this enormous lake at Rangamati.

5 Cox's Bazar (p117) Checking out the surf at this epically long beach.

6 St Martin's Island (p120) Enjoying the tropical beach vibe at Bangladesh's only coral island.