



Bangladesh



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

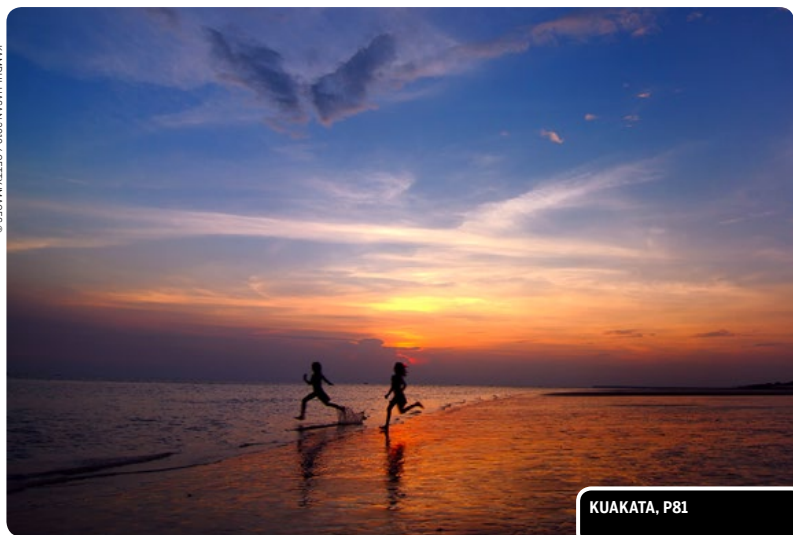
Paul Clammer, Anirban Mahapatra

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Bangladesh	4
Bangladesh Map	6
Bangladesh's Top 10	8
Need to Know	14
If You Like.....	16
Month by Month	18
Itineraries	21
Border Crossings	24
Boat Trips.....	28
Regions at a Glance.....	31

ON THE ROAD

DHAKA.....	34	KHULNA & BARISAL	63
Sights.....	36	Khulna Division.....	65
Activities	41	Khulna	65
Tours.....	43	Sundarbans National Park	69
Festivals & Events	43	Mongla	71
Sleeping.....	43	Bagerhat	73
Eating.....	48	Jessore.....	75
Drinking & Nightlife.....	49	Kushtia.....	77
Entertainment.....	50	Barisal Division.....	78
Shopping	50	Barisal	78
Getting There & Away	52	Kuakata	81
Getting Around.....	54		
DHAKA DIVISION... 55		RAJSHAHI & RANGPUR	82
Sonargaon.....	57	Rajshahi.....	84
Dhamrai	58	Puthia.....	87
Mymensingh	59		
Around Mymensingh.....	61		



Contents

UNDERSTAND

Sona Masjid (Gaud)	88
Bogra	89
Mahasthangarh	91
Paharpur	93
Rangpur	94
Dinajpur	97

SYLHET DIVISION	125
Sylhet	127
Ratargul	130
Sunamganj	131
Srimangal & Around	131

Bangladesh Today	140
History	142
Environment	148
Arts & Literature	152
Bangladeshi Cuisine	155
People & Culture	157

CHITTAGONG DIVISION 100

Chittagong	102
Chittagong Hill Tracts	107
Cox's Bazar	117
St Martin's Island	120
Maheshkhali Island	121
Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary	122
Comilla	122

SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A–Z	160
Transport	168
Health	173
Language	179
Index	187
Map Legend	191

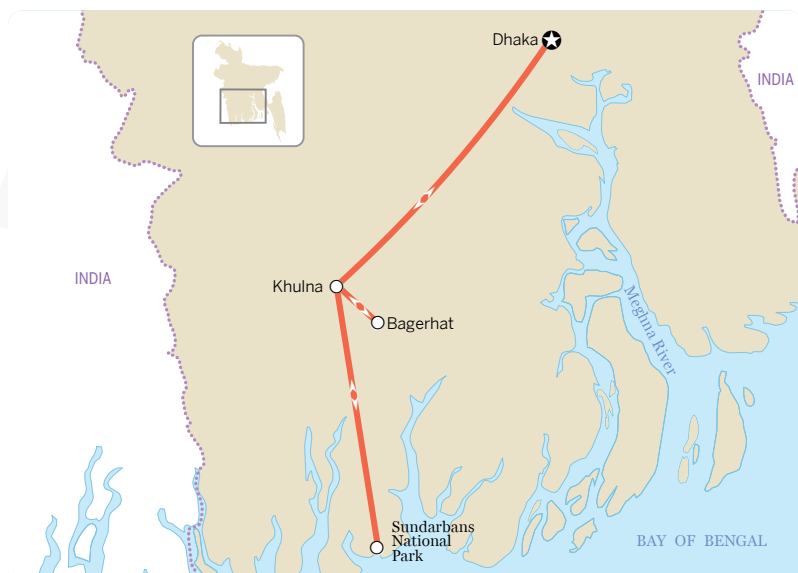


PAINAM NAGAR, P57

SPECIAL FEATURES

Border Crossings	24
Boat Trips	28
Environment	148
Arts & Literature	152
Bangladeshi Cuisine	155

Itineraries



Sampling the Sunderbans

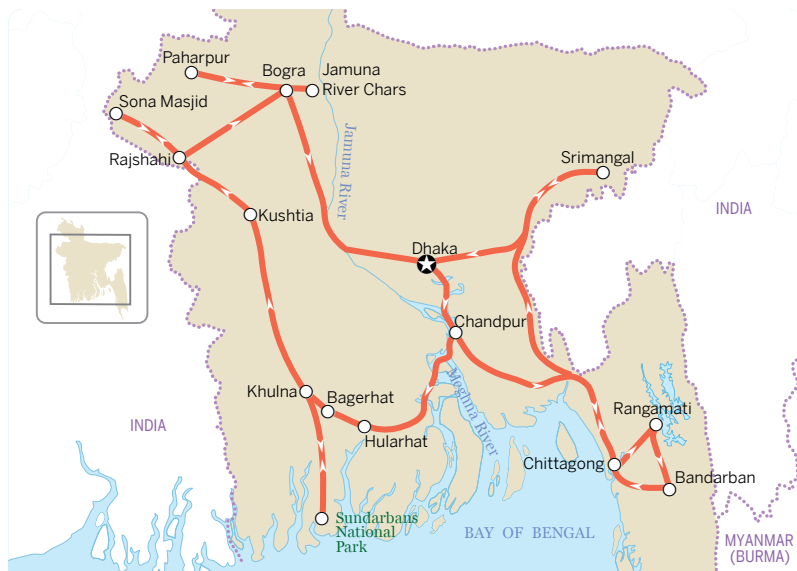
One week is just enough time to dip into Dhaka before going on the boat trip of a lifetime through the tiger-filled mangrove swamps of the Sunderbans.

Ease yourself into **Dhaka** by spending your first day in the more upmarket neighbourhood of Banani before delving into the chaos with a sightseeing tour of Old Dhaka on day two. Don't miss Sadarghat for a rowboat trip on the Buriganga River.

You haven't got time to ride the Rocket paddle-wheel steamer (you'll need an extra two days for that). Instead, take an overnight bus to **Khulna** to meet up with your Sunderbans tour company, which you'll need in order to properly explore the **Sunderbans National Park**. Then relax on the deck of your boat and enjoy three days of tiger-tinged river adventure before floating back to Khulna.

Consider a day trip to **Bagerhat** before taking the bus back to Dhaka for one final day in the capital.

Note that you will need to have booked your Sunderbans trip at least three weeks in advance, so start planning this one from home.



Best of Bangladesh

Bangladesh is relatively small, so if you have a full month you can see pretty much all the main highlights. This tour takes in Dhaka, the Sundarbans and part of history-rich Rajshahi, plus the tea estates of Srimangal and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Your first job when you arrive in **Dhaka** is to book your cabin on the Rocket for your ferry ride the following evening. Tickets in hand, you can spend the rest of that day and the next taking in the sights of Old Dhaka before leaving on the 6pm boat.

Sit back and enjoy the lazy 16-hour river trip to **Hularhat**. Having disembarked mid-morning, grab a rickshaw to the bus stand, then a bus to **Bagerhat**. Spend the afternoon admiring Islamic ruins before hopping on another bus to **Khulna**, where you'll meet your Sundarbans tour company. Note: you will need to have booked your Sundarbans trip at least three weeks in advance.

The next morning, board your tour boat and enjoy three or four days of unrivalled river adventure as you track tigers in the mangrove forests of **Sundarbans National Park**.

Back in Khulna, take a bus north, pit-stopping in **Kushtia** – the cultural capital of Bengal – before continuing on to **Rajshahi**. Take a day trip to **Sona Masjid** to see the scattered ruins of the ancient city of Gaud before catching a bus to **Bogra**. There's not much to see here – although you could consider an unusual day trip to the sand **chars** on the Jamuna River – but Bogra is only a day trip away from the Unesco-protected Buddhist ruins of **Paharpur**.

Catch a bus from Bogra back to Dhaka, but don't dally; the next morning you'll be river-bound again, this time a morning ferry from Dhaka's Sadarghat to **Chandpur** before catching the train to **Chittagong**.

Sort out your permit for the hill tracts region with a tour company a week ahead of time, then spend four or five days exploring **Rangamati** and **Bandarban** before heading back to Chittagong.

Take the scenic day train to **Srimangal** where you can enjoy the surrounding tea estates, forest reserves and Adivasi villages before catching the train back to Dhaka.



2 WEEKS

The Ruins of the Northwest

This tour points you towards the older side of Dhaka before exploring the dusty ruins of history-rich Rajshahi and Rangpur.

Spend your first day visiting the museums and Raj-era architecture of central **Dhaka** before diving into the living history of Old Dhaka. Try to track down the hard-to-find ruins of Bara Katra and Chota Katra among the chaos of the bazaars. A day trip to **Sonargaon** makes an easy day three before you set off by bus to the temple-strewn village of **Puthia**, en route to **Rajshahi**.

Day trip from Rajshahi to **Sona Masjid**, to see the scattered ruins of the lost city of Gaud, before catching the bus to **Bogra**. The ruined settlement of **Mahastangarh** makes a fun half-day trip before you head to the Unesco-protected Buddhist ruins of **Paharpur**, where you can stay the night.

From Paharpur, take a bus to **Dinajpur** (via Jaipurhat and Fulbari) so you can visit the stunning Hindu temple of **Kantanagar** before heading to nearby **Rangpur**, which has a sprinkling of Raj-era architecture, a top-class guesthouse and a daily train to Dhaka.

2 WEEKS

Chittagong & the South Coast

The most diverse region of Bangladesh, Chittagong has mountains, forests, Adivasi villages, elephants and even beaches. This tour has the lot.

After a day visiting the must-see sights of **Dhaka**, hop on a morning ferry to **Chandpur**, from where you can catch a train to **Chittagong**. Apply for your permit for the hill tracts here before taking the bus to **Cox's Bazar** where you can rest up by the beach and even go surfing – but don't forget to visit **Maheshkhali Island**.

Heading further south, catch a bus to **Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary**, home to some of Bangladesh's few remaining wild elephants, before riding the waves to **St Martin's Island**.

Return to Chittagong to collect your travel permit, then head for laid-back **Rangamati** for a couple of relaxing days by Kaptai Lake. From Rangamati, take a bus to **Bandarban**, the heart of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and the best place to base yourself for hiking.

There are buses from the Hill Tracts direct to **Dhaka**, but we'd suggest taking the scenic route back to Chittagong and then catching a train to Dhaka from there.

Index

A

accessible travel 160
 accommodation 160-1,
 180, *see also individual
 locations*
 activities 18-20, 161, *see
 also individual activities*
 Adivasi people 59, 109-10,
 111, 146, 158
 AIDS 175
 air travel
 to/from Bangladesh 168
 within Bangladesh 169
 airports 15, 168
 Akhaura 25
 amoebic dysentery 177
 animals 148-50, *see also
 individual species*
 architecture 39, 84, 95, 97
 area codes 15, 165
 arts 152-4, *see also
 music*
 ATMs 163
 auto-rickshaws 171

B

Bagerhat 12, 73-5, **74**
 baksheesh 163
 Banaripara 80
 Bandarban 111-14, **112**
 Barisal 78-80, **79**
 Barisal Division 32,
 78-81, **64**
 accommodation 63
 climate 63
 food 63
 highlights 64
 travel seasons 63
 bathrooms 165
 Bauls 77, 153
 bazaars, *see markets &
 bazaars*

Map Pages **000**
 Photo Pages **000**

beaches 16
 Cox's Bazar 117
 Kuakata 81
 St Martin's Island 120
 Benapole 25-6
 Bengal tigers 9, 69, 148, **9**
 Bengali language 179-84
 Bengali New Year 19
 Bhawal National Park 62
 bicycle travel, *see cycling*
 birds 149-50
 birdwatching
 books 149
 Sunamganj 131
 Sundarbans National
 Park 69-70
 Birisiri 62
 Bishwa Itjema 18
 boat tours 30, 42, 130
 boat trips 9, 11, 12, 16,
 28-30, 171, **9, 11, 12**, *see
 also Rocket steamers*
 Buriganga River 29-30
 China Clay Hills 30, 62
 Chittagong 106
 Dhaka 42-3
 Dhaka to Hularhat 29
 Fatra Char 81
 Jamuna River 89
 Kaptai Lake 30, 114
 Maheshkhali Island 30, 121-2
 Mongla 71
 Ratargul 12, 130
 Sangu River 30, 111-12
 Sunamganj Wetlands
 30, 131
 Sundarbans National
 Park 29, 69
 Bodo Kuthi 86
 Boga Lake 113
 Bogra 89-91, **90**
 Boisabi 19
 books 140, *see also
 literature*
 birdwatching 149

health 174
 history 142, 145, 147
 border crossings 24-7
 budgeting 15, *see also costs*
 Buriganga River 29-30, 36
 Burimari 26
 bus travel 169-70, 171
 business hours 163

C

 car travel 164, 170-1, 183
 cell phones 14, 165
 cha 156
 Chakma Islands 115
 chars 70, 81, 89
 children, travel with 161
 China Clay Hills 30, 62
 Chittagong 102-7, **104**
 accommodation 103-5
 activities 102-3
 entertainment 106
 food 105
 sights 102
 travel to/from 106-7
 travel within 107
 Chittagong Division 32,
 100-24, **101**
 accommodation 100
 climate 100
 food 100
 highlights 101
 itineraries 23, **23**
 travel seasons 100
 Chittagong Hill Tracts 10,
 107-17, 146, **10**
 Chokoria Game
 Reserve 121-2
 churches
 Armenian Church of the
 Holy Resurrection 38
 St Paul's Catholic
 Church 71
 cinema 153
 climate 14, 18-20
 CNGs 171

Comilla 122-4, **123**
 consulates 161-2
 costs 15
 accommodation 160
 food 162
 Cox's Bazar 10, 117-20, **118**
 craft 58, 153-4
 credit cards 163
 cricket 50, 157
 crime 164
 crocodiles 69, 71, 73
 culture 140-1, 157-8
 currency 14, 163
 customs
 regulations 161
 cycle-rickshaws 5, 13, 41-2,
 54, 154, 171, **5, 13**
 Dhaka 54
 cycling 134-5, 169, 183
 cyclones 149

D

 dangers, *see safety*
 deforestation 151
 dengue fever 174
 departure tax 26
 Dhaka 11, 31, 34-54, **35, 38**,
40, 44, 8, 11
 accommodation 34, 43-7
 activities 41-3
 climate 34
 drinking & nightlife 49-50
 entertainment 50
 festivals 43
 food 34, 48-9
 highlights 35
 history 36
 medical services 52
 orientation 36
 safety 51
 shopping 50-1
 sights 36-40
 tourist information 51-2
 tours 43

Dhaka *continued*
 travel to/from 52-4
 travel within 54
 weather 34

Dhaka Division 31,
 55-62, **56**
 climate 55
 highlights 56
 travel seasons 55

Dhaka
 University 39

Dhamrai 58-9
 diarrhoea 177

Dinajpur 97-9, **98**
 disabilities, travellers
 with 160

diving 120

drinking water 151, 178

drinks 135, 156

driving, *see* car travel,
 motorcycle travel

drugs 162

Dublar Char 70

Dutt, Michael
 Madhusudan 65

E

economy 141

electricity 161

elephants 122

embassies 161-2

embroidery 153-4

emergencies 15, 181

environment 148-51

environmental
 issues 141, 150-1

etiquette 158
 food 156
 mosques 37

events 18-20, 43, 97

exchange rates 15

F

Fakirs 77, 153

Fatra Char 81

ferries, *see* boat trips

festivals 18-20, 43, 97

film 153

floods 150

flu 175

food 111, 155-6, 177-8, 180-1
*see also individual
 locations*

G

gardens, *see* parks &
 gardens

Garo people 59

Gaud 26-7, 88-9

gay travellers 162

geography 148

giardiasis 177

H

Haatibandha 113

Hasina, Sheikh 140

health 173-8
 books 174
 diseases 174-7
 environmental hazards
 177-8
 insurance 173
 internet resources 174
 services 174
 vaccinations 173-4

heatstroke 178

hepatitis 175

hiking 13, 17
 Bandarban 111, 113
 Chittagong Hill Tracts
 108-9, 110, 113
 DC Hill 103
 Fairy Hill 103
 Srimangal 136

Hili 26

history 142-7
 British rule 143-4
 Buddhism 142-3
 Independence 146
 Islam 143
 Partition 144
 War of Liberation 144-5

hitchhiking 171

HIV 175

Holi 18

holidays 164

hoolock gibbons 133, 134,
 136, **13**

hotels 160, *see also
 individual locations*

Hum Hum Falls 136

I

indigo 86

influenza 175

insurance 162, 173

internet access 162

internet resources 15,
 164, 174

Islam 141, 157

Islam, Kazi Nazrul 19, 152
 itineraries 21-3

J

Jamuna River 89

Japanese B
 encephalitis 176

Jessore 75-7, **76**

K

Kahn, Louis 39

Kantanagar Temple 97

Kaptai Lake 30, 114-15

Karamjal Forest Station 71

Khulna 65-8, **66**

Khulna Division 32,
 65-78, **64**
 accommodation 62
 climate 63
 food 63
 highlights 64
 travel seasons 63

Kuakata 81

Kushtia 77-8

kuthis 86

L

lakes
 Boga Lake 113
 Kaptai Lake 30, 114
 Ram Sagar 97
 Sukh Sagar 99

Lalbagh Fort 37

Lalon Festival 18, 77-8

language 14, 157, 179-84

legal matters 162-3

lesbian travellers 162

LGBT travellers 162

literature 43, 152-3, *see
 also books*

Lowacherra National
 Park 133-4

M

Madhu Kunj 65

Maha Raas Leela 97

Mahasthangarh 91-3

Maheshkhali Island 30, 121-2

malaria 176

mangroves 70

maps 163

markets & bazaars 16
 Banaripara floating
 market 80

Banga Bazar 50

Central Bazar 102

Mymensingh 59

New Market 51

Shankharia Bazar 37

Tribal Bazar 111

measles 176

measures 167

media 140

mediac services 174

mobile phones 14, 165

monasteries
 Aggameda
 Khyang 117
 Bana Vihara
 Monastery 115
 Dhātu Jādī 111
 Somapuri Vihara 93

money 14, 15, 163

moneychangers 163

Mongla 71-3, **72**

mosques 37
 Bagerhat 12, 73, 74,
 75, **13**
 Chhoto Sona
 Masjid 88
 Darasbari Mosque 88-9
 Goidal Mosque 57-8
 Khania Dighi Mosque 88

Nine-Domed
 Mosque 74-5

Ronvijoypur Mosque 74

Shait Gumbad
 Mosque 73, **13**

Star Mosque 37-8

mosquitos 176

motorcycle travel 170-1

movies 153

Mowdok Taung 109

Mt Keokradong 108

Muktagacha 61-2

Muktagacha Rajbari 61

museums
 Bagerhat Museum 73-4
 Bandarban Museum 111

Ethnological
 Museum 102

Kuthibari 77

Liberation War
 Museum 38-9

Mahasthangarh
 Museum 92

Mainimati
 Museum 123

Mohammed Ali Palace
 Museum 90

National Museum 38

Paharpur Museum 94

Rabindranath Memorial
 Museum 65

Sadarbari 57

Tribal Cultural Academy 62
 Tribal Cultural Institute Museum 116
 Varendra Research Museum 84
 Zia Memorial Museum 102
 music 77, 153
 festivals 18, 20, 43
 Mymensingh 59-61, **60**

N
 Nafakhum Falls 108
nakshi kantha 153-4
 Nasrin, Taslima 152
 National Assembly Building 39
 national parks, *see also* parks & gardens
 Bhawal National Park 62
 Lowacherra National Park 133-4
 Ramsagar National Park 97-8
 Satchari National Park 134
 Sundarbans National Park 29, 69-71
 news 140

O
 opening hours 163
 otters 67

P
 Paharpur 93-4
 palaces
 Ahsan Manzil 37
 Puthia Palace 87
 Tahkhana Palace 88
 Tajhat Palace 94
 parks & gardens, *see also* national parks
 Baldha Gardens 39
 Botanical Gardens (Dhaka) 40
 Botanical Gardens (Mymensingh) 59-60
 Madhu Kunj 65
 Mohammed Ali Palace Park 90
 Mymensingh 59
 permits 166
 planning
 Bangladesh basics 14-15
 Bangladesh's regions 31-2
 boat trips 28-30

border crossings 24-7
 budgeting 15, 160, 162
 calendar of events 18-20
 health 173-4
 highlights 6-13
 internet resources 15
 itineraries 21-3
 travel seasons 14, 18-20
 plants 150
 political violence 140-1, 164-5
 politics 140-1
 pollution 151, 177
 population 51, 141
 postal services 163-4
 public holidays 164
 Puthia 87-8, **17**

R
 rabies 176-7
 Rahman, Ziaur 146
 Rajshahi 84-6, **85**
 Rajshahi Division 32, 82-99, **83**
 accommodation 82
 climate 82
 food 82
 highlights 83
 travel seasons 82
 Ramadan 19
 Ramnagar 133
 Rangamati 114-17, **115**
 Rangpur 94-7, **95**
 Rangpur Division 32, 82-99, **83**
 accommodation 82
 climate 82
 food 82
 highlights 83
 travel seasons 82
 Ratargul 12, 130-1, **12**
 religion 141, 157
 religious festivals 18-20, 97
 rickshaws, *see* CNGs, cycle-rickshaws
 road safety 164
 Rocket steamers 11, 28-9, 68, **11**
 Royal Bengal tigers 9, 69, 148, **9**
 ruins 16
 itineraries 23
 Mahasthangarh 92-3
 Mainimati 122
 Paharpur 93-4
 Painam Nagar 57

Puthia 87
 Salban Vihara 122-3
 Sona Masjid (Gaud) 88-9
 Tahkhana Palace 88

S
 safaris
 Ratargul 12, 130
 Sundarbans National Park 9, 70-1
 safety 164-5
 Chittagong Hill Tracts 110
 cycling 169
 Dhaka 51
 Dinajpur 97
 ferries 29
 road safety 164
 Srimangal 135
 Sangiya 113
 Sangu River 30, 111-12, 113
 Satchari National Park 134
 scams 164
 Shah, Lalon 77
 Shailapropat Falls 113
 ship-breaking yards 103
 shopping, *see* markets & bazaars, *individual locations*
 shrines & tombs
 Mausoleum of Pari Bibi 37
 Mazhar of Shah Sultan Balkhi 92-3
 Shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal 127
 Shrine of Lalon Shah 77-8
 Tomb of Khan Jahan Ali 74
 Siliguri 27
 smoking 167
 Somapuri Vihara 93
 Sona Masjid 26-7, 88-9
 Sonargaon 57-8, **58**
 Srimangal 131-8, **132**
 accommodation 135-6
 activities 134
 food 137
 shopping 138
 sights 132-4
 tours 135
 travel to/from 1638
 steamers, *see* boat trips
 St Martin's Island 120-1, **17**
 Sunamganj 30, 131

Sundarbans National Park 9, 69-71
 boat trips 29, 70
 itineraries 21, **21**
 tours 70-1
 surfing 10, 117
 Swatch of No Ground 30
 Sylhet 127-30, **128**
 Sylhet Division 32, 125-38, **126**
 accommodation 125
 climate 125
 food 125
 highlights 126
 travel seasons 125

T
 Tagore, Rabindranath 19, 77, 152, 153
 Tamabil 27
 tap water 151, 178
 taxis 171-2
 tea 134, 135, 156
 tea estates 132, 134, 135
 Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary 122
 telephone services 14, 165
 temples
 Adinath Temple 121
 Chachra Shiv Mandir 75
 Dhakeshwari Temple 37
 Durga Temple 98
 Govinda Bhita Hindu Temple 93
 Govinda Temple 87
 Kali Temple 94-5
 Kantanagar Temple 97
 Krishna Temple 98-9
 Shiva Temple 87, **17**
 tempos 172
 textiles 153-4
 tigers 9, 69, 148, **9**
 time zones 14, 165
 tipping 163
 toilets 165
 tombs, *see* shrines & tombs
 tourist information 165-6
 tours, *see also* safaris
 Dhaka 43
 boat tours 30, 42, 130
 rickshaw tours 41-2
 Srimangal 135
 Sundarbans National Park 70-1
 walking tours 43
 train travel 172

transport 168-72, 182-3,
 see also boat trips,
 cycle-rickshaws
 travel to/from
 Bangladesh 168
 travel within
 Bangladesh 168-72
 trekking, see hiking
 tribes, see Adivasi people,
 Garo people
 tuberculosis 177
 typhoid 177

V

vacations 164
 vaccinations 173-4
 vegetarian travellers 156
 visas 14, 166
 visual arts 154
 volunteering 166-7

W

walking, see hiking
 waterfalls
 Hum Hum Falls 136
 Nafakhum Falls 108

Shailapropat Falls 113
 Shuvalong Falls 114
 weather 14, 18-20
 weaving 153
 websites, see internet
 resources
 weights 167
 wi-fi 162
 wildlife 17, 70, 148-50, see
 also individual animals
 wildlife-watching
 Karamjal Forest
 Station 71

Satchari National
 Park 134
 Sundarbans National
 Park 69-70
 Teknaf Wildlife
 Sanctuary 122
 women in
 Bangladesh 157-8
 women travellers 165, 167
 work 167

Z

Zia, Khaleda 140

Lonely Planet

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- Subway station
- Taxi
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing, Dublin and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Paul Clammer

Paul has contributed to over 25 Lonely Planet guidebooks, and worked as a tour guide in countries from Turkey to Morocco. In a previous life he may even have been a molecular biologist. For Lonely Planet he's covered swathes of the sub-continent from both sides of the Khyber Pass to Rajasthan and Kashmir, so was pleased to finally add Bangladesh to his tally. Follow @paulclammer on Twitter.



Anirban Mahapatra

A Bangla speaker by birth, a folk music aficionado by taste and a *kachchi* biryani lover by choice, Anirban has made repeated forays into the green landscape of Bangladesh. He has experienced its amazing variety, from riding a boat into tiger territory in the Sundarbans and socialising with wandering Bauls in Kushtia, to sipping aromatic tea in Sylhet and exploring ancient citadels in Rajshahi and Rangpur. Anirban has also written for multiple editions of Lonely Planet's *India* guidebook.

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

CRN 554153

8th edition – December 2016

ISBN 978 1 78657 213 4

© Lonely Planet 2016 Photographs © as indicated 2016

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: lonelyplanet.com/ip.

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'