On the Road





Dhaka

POP 16.9 MILLION / 202

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Best Places to Eat

- → Fakruddin (p48)
- Spaghetti Jazz (p49)
- Holey Artisan Bakery (p49)
- → Dhaba (p49)
- Al-Razzaque (p48)

Best Places to Sleep

- Viator (p47)
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- Hotel Pacific (p45)
- White House Hotel (p45)
- Lakeshore (p47)

Why Go?

Dhaka is not a quiet, retiring place. The city, bursting with nearly 17 million people (most of whom often seem to be stuck in the same traffic jam as you), is a gloriously noisy and chaotic place, bubbling with energy.

It's a city that can sometimes threaten to overwhelm the casual visitor, but once you climb into the back of one of its myriad colourful cycle-rickshaws, Dhaka's charm starts to slowly reveal itself. Life flows from the boats on the Buriganga River to its unexpectedly green parks and university campuses. Mughal and British monuments speak of its history, its mosques and Hindu temples of its spiritual side, and the thriving arts and restaurant scenes – plus the rush to build new roads and a metro railway system – give a glimpse of the direction of future travel.

Dhaka isn't without challenges, but sooner or later you'll start to move to its rhythm and truly embrace this furiously beating heart of Bengali culture.

When to Go

Dhaka *C/*F Temp 40/104 - 30/86 - 20/68 - 0/32 - 0/32 - *C **F Temp Rainfall inches/mm -24/600 -16/400 -8/200

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

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

Monsoon rains are over, temperatures are cooler, and festival time begins.