



Khulna & Barisal

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Banchte Shekha (p75)
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- ➔ Hotel Grand Park (p79)

Why Go?

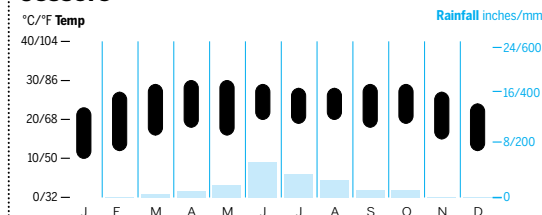
A land of savage beauty where man still battles nature for everyday survival, unexplored Khulna comes top on the bucket list of intrepid adventurers. Comprising in large parts of nothing but marshlands, waterlogged jungles and rivers, this archetypal explorer country is not easy to navigate, but it promises to leave you with some of your most abiding memories of Bangladesh.

The star attraction around here 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.

Jungles apart, the area is also known for its secluded beaches, historic mosques and a mesmerising network of rivers to explore. Talking of rivers, it's also the best place to hop onto a riverine vessel and enjoy some of the most iconic boat trips this water-laden country has to offer.

When to Go

Jessore



Nov–Feb Mildest and most pleasant time to visit the Sundarbans.

Mar Thousands of pilgrims descend on Kushtia to pay their respects at the shrine of Lalon Shah.

Apr Trek through the Sundarbans in the honey-harvesting season.



Khulna & Barisal Highlights

1 Sunderbans National Park (p69) Floating through the forests in search of the elusive Royal Bengal tiger or joining in the seasonal wild honey harvest.

2 Bagerhat (p73) Visiting the magnificent mosques of this sleepy town before exploring its forested villages.

3 Rocket Riverboat (p68) Riding this vintage paddle-wheel steamer, Bangladesh's most iconic riverboat.

4 Kuakata (p81) Travelling to this remote beach on the eastern fringes of the Sunderbans.

5 Kushtia (p77) Contemplating the poetry of Rabindranath Tagore or the folk songs of the Fakir musician Lalon Shah in this teeny cultural town.