



# Rajshahi & Rangpur

## Includes →

Rajshahi	84
Puthia	87
Sona Masjid (Gaud)	88
Bogra	89
Mahasthangarh	91
Paharpur	93
Rangpur	94
Dinajpur	97

## Best Places to Eat

- RDRS Guesthouse (p96)
- Chili's (p86)
- Order's Up (p85)

## Best Places to Sleep

- RDRS Guesthouse (p96)
- Chez Razzak (p84)
- Archaeological Rest House (p94)

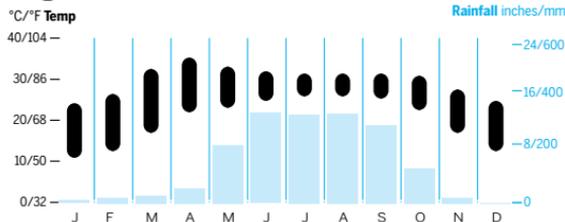
## Why Go?

The vast alluvial floodplains of northwest Bangladesh were a cradle of ancient Buddhist and Hindu kingdoms that held sway over the region for centuries, before eventually succumbing to Islamic conquerors. Modern-day Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions – which cover this heritage-strewn region – are thus rife with the tumbledown walls of many splendidly decaying ruins from these bygone eras. Needless to say, it's enough reason for history and archaeology buffs to visit.

In a nutshell, the area contains some of Bangladesh's finest rajbaris (Raj-era palaces), exquisitely decorated temples and the country's largest and most impressive Buddhist ruins. Small villages, colourful markets and remote communities living on fast-eroding sand islands all add to the allure of a trip to this part of the country. The idyllic rural landscape is stunning to boot, and lends a fantastic backdrop to the decaying, moss-hewn ancient architecture that steals the attention of your camera.

## When to Go

### Bogra



**Oct–May** Dry season; the best time to visit the flood-prone eastern regions.

**May–Jun** Mango season in the western areas between Rajshahi and Sona Masjid.

**Nov–Dec** Maha Raas Leela attracts pilgrims to Kantanagar Temple.



## Rajshahi & Rangpur Highlights

- 1 Paharpur** (p93)  
Exploring this ruined monastery, Bangladesh's standout archaeological site.
- 2 Mahasthangarh** (p91)  
Wandering the ruined remains of the country's oldest known city.
- 3 Kantanagar Temple** (p97)  
Walking through farming villages to this stunning temple, Bangladesh's finest example of Hindu architecture.
- 4 Sona Masjid** (p88)  
Marvelling at the sublime architecture of this mosque, set amid the scattered ruins of the lost Islamic city of Gaud.
- 5 River Chars** (p89)  
Discovering how a million Bangladeshis live on shifting river islands by visiting one of the islands of the Jamuna or the Brahmaputra rivers.
- 6 Ram Sagar** (p97)  
Picnicking on the banks of this serene lake on the outskirts of Dinajpur.