

Bangladesh Cultural, Wildlife and Beach Tour

Enjoy your tour of Bangladesh and immerse yourself in its rich history, architecture, and natural beauty



Overview

Embark on an enchanting 14-day <u>Bangladesh tour</u> and immerse yourself in the country's rich culture. Explore ancient temples and mosques, and venture into the lush Sundarbans forest on an exciting vessel tour. From the bustling city of Dhaka with its historical landmarks to the serene beaches of Cox's Bazaar, this itinerary offers a diverse range of experiences. Explore architectural wonders in Sonargaon and Bogura, and UNESCO World Heritage sites in Paharpur and Bagerhat. Delve into the vibrant cultural heritage of Rajshahi and Chittagong. A delightful 3-day adventure through the Sundarbans, encountering diverse flora and fauna, in the vicinity of natural surroundings is a major attraction. This complete itinerary blends cultural exploration, natural beauty, and exciting adventures, providing an unforgettable journey through Bangladesh.

Highlights

- **Dhaka:** 3 nights with Dhaka, Old Dhaka, Sonargaun, Panama Nagar, Bahadur Shah Park, Folk Arts and Craft Museum, Dhakeshwari
- Rajshahi & Bogura: 3 nights Mahasthangarh, Gokul Med, Kusumba Mosque and Somapura Mahavihara (paharpur), Puthia Temple
- Sundarbans & Bagerhet: 2 nights in Vessel during Sundarbans trip and 2 nights in Khulna.
- Chittagong: 1 night with Nandan Kanan Buddhist Temple and Chatteswari Hindu Temple



• Cox's Bazaar: 2 nights with Beach activities, Maheshkhali Island and Adinath Temple

Outline

- 1. Choose your own departure date
- 2. Select the comfort level of accommodation
- 3. Adjust activities to cater to special interests
- 4. Modify tour duration and any aspect of the tour as needed
- 5. Flexible travel route (start from Dhaka and end to Dhaka)

Your Journey day by day

Day 01: Flight to Dhaka (Bangladesh)

Upon your arrival at Dhaka Airport, Asia Experiences representatives welcome you and transfer you to the hotel in Dhaka. Take some time to rest before embarking on a half-day tour of the city. Explore the charming Tara Mosque, admired for its exquisite interior and exterior architecture. Continue your visit to the oldest Armenian Church, evidence of the city's rich historical heritage. Visit the Bahadur Shah Park and its monument, offering insights into the region's past. After this delightful half-day tour, return to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Note: If you arrive in the evening or night in Dhaka, the Dhaka tour is on the next day or as per the itinerary.

Day 02: Dhaka to Sonargaon and back to Dhaka, Old Dhaka tour

The Sonargaon Tour begins after breakfast, with a private car and guide taking you on an hour-long drive to Sonargaon. Visit the impressive Goaldi Mosque, known for its pre-Mughal architecture. Take a short tour around Goaldi village. Explore the Folk Arts and Craft Museum, showcasing the rich textile culture from the 17th century onwards. Enjoy a traditional Bengali lunch before proceeding to Panama City/Nagar. The city is famous for its 19th-century mansions. Take a boat tour on the Meghna River, visit Sandbank Island, and experience traditional village life. Return to Dhaka and continue the Old Dhaka Tour. Visit 17th-century Lalbagh Fort, 500-years old Dhakeshwari Temple, and Ahsan Manzil (Pink Palace). Conclude the tour with a boat tour on the Buriganga River. Overnight in Dhaka.

Day 03: Drive to Bogura (Mahasthangarh and Gokul Medh tour)

After breakfast, drive to Bogura. Explore the remarkable archeological site of Mahasthangarh, the oldest in Bangladesh, featuring a Citadel surrounded by ancient buildings and temples. Don't miss the Govinda Bhita Hindu Temple located within the citadel. A short distance away lies Gokul Medh or the Behula Lakshindar Bashor Ghor, another significant archeological site. Lastly, visit Basu Bihar, an ancient Buddhist heritage site. It showcases the architecture, art, and lifestyle spanning from the 3rd to the 12th century. After the Bogura tour, return to Rajshahi for an overnight stay.

Day 04: Drive to Paharpur (Sightseeing World Heritage sites)



Begin the day with a traditional Bengali breakfast and set off for the historical site of Paharpur. En route, take a short break to visit the Kusumba Mosque, showcasing remarkable architecture and stone-carved art from the 14th to the 16th century. Continue your journey to Paharpur and explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Somapura Mahavihara. This significant archeological site houses the remains of walls surrounding a Buddhist stupa at its center. Get a glimpse of ancient statues, inscriptions, coins, ceramics, and terracotta plaques, some dating back to the 4th century or earlier. Additionally, immerse yourself in the local lifestyle by visiting tribal villages in the vicinity. Return to Rajshahi for an overnight stay.

Day 05: Rajshahi Sightseeing (Varendra Research Museum, Puthia Temple, and Bagha Mosque Tour), Drive to Khulna

Amazing Rajshahi sightseeing proceeds with a visit to the Varendra Research Museum. It stands as the country's oldest museum which was established in 1910. Its extensive collection spans archaeology, anthropology, history, and art, providing an inclusive exploration of Bengal's heritage. Next, visit Puthia Temple, a magnificent Hindu temple complex, renowned for its stunning wood and stone carvings. The temple's unique designs, including the remarkable Govinda Temple with intricate terracotta carvings, depict captivating scenes from Hindu mythology, attracting visitors for its cultural and historical significance. End the tour with a visit to The Bagha Mosque. It represents early Islamic architecture with its impressive terracotta ornamentation, single dome, and corner towers, making it a significant archaeological site of cultural and historical value. Drive back to Khulna for an overnight stay.

Day 06: Drive to Bagerhat (world heritage site), Bagerhat tour, and Return to Khulna

Embark on a private vehicle tour to Bagerhat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, after breakfast. Formerly known as Khalifabad, Bagerhat is a 15th-century Muslim city. Marvel at the magnificent Shait Gumbad Mosque, famously known as the '60 dome mosque', along with other historical mosques in the vicinity. Explore the tomb of Mazar Khan Jahan Ali, a revered holy figure in the country. End the tour and return to Khulna for an overnight stay.

Day 07: Start Sundarbans Tour (Kotka Forest Station)

Embark on an early morning tour to Sundarbans from the ship harbor in Khulna. Enjoy a three-day journey on the ship, immersing yourself in the natural beauty of the Sundarbans forest. Arrive at the renowned eco-tourism center of Harbaria, where you obtain permission from the forest department. Explore the area with a guide and security gunman. Witness diverse flora, tiger footprints, bird species, forest deer, cats, crocodiles, and monkeys. Visit the first watchtower for breathtaking views of the forest and a freshwater pond adorned with floating water lilies. Return to the ship, continue the journey through a narrow canal, and spend the night at Kotka Forest Station.

Day 08: Sundarbans tour continues (Karamjol Forest Station)

Begin an early morning exploration of Kotka in Sundarbans, where diverse flora and fauna await. Spot monkeys, deer, and a variety of bird species amidst the lush greenery. Climb the watchtower for panoramic views and trek through the dense forest to reach the picturesque Kotka Sea Beach. Keep an eye out for tiger footprints during winter. Visit Hiron Point Forest station for more breathtaking views and continue to Dublar Char, known for fishing and wildlife sightings. Finally, head to Karamjol Forest



Station for an overnight stay on the ship, surrounded by the beauty of Sundarbans.

Day 09: Sunderbans tour complete, Return to Khulna

Begin the day by exploring Karamjol, a captivating wildlife sanctuary, and deer breeding center. Encounter a diverse array of wildlife, including mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, and fish. Keep an eye out for fascinating creatures such as saltwater crocodiles, Gangetic River Dolphins, snakes, foxes, monkeys, deer, and if fortunate, the majestic Royal Bengal Tiger. Enjoy the tranquility of the forest and cherish the unique experiences. After an unforgettable tour, return to Khulna by ship and spend the night at a hotel.

Day 10: Drive to Dhaka and rest

After breakfast, embark on a picturesque 4-5 hour journey back to Dhaka. Upon arrival, check into the hotel and take some time to rest and rejuvenate. Use the rest of the day to explore nearby attractions, indulge in shopping, or simply unwind in the comfort of your hotel. Enjoy a leisurely day, making the most of your time in Dhaka.

Day 11: Drive to Chittagong (Chattogram) and tour around

Drive from Dhaka to Chittagong (Chattogram) and delve into a diverse range of captivating attractions. Begin with a visit to the Nandan Kanan Buddhist Temple and Chatteswari Hindu Temple, immersing yourself in their spiritual atmosphere. Explore the Ethnological Museum to delve into the cultural heritage of the region. Admire the stunning architecture of the Court Building. Pay homage to history at the 2nd World War Cemetery and find solace at the honored Shrine of Bayezid Bostami (Rah.). Finally, relax at Patenga Beach, enjoying the picturesque views and serene surroundings. Overnight in a hotel.

Day 12: Drive to Cox's Bazaar and enjoy beach activities

Embark on a picturesque drive to Cox's Bazaar, a bustling fishing port and district headquarters in Bangladesh. En route, explore the ancient capital of the Rakhain tribal community, prominent for its Buddhist ruins and vibrant Burmese crafts. Marvel at the largest bronze Buddha statue in Bangladesh, standing at 13 feet tall on a 6-foot pedestal. Immerse yourself in the vibrant workshops, where skilled artisans showcase their weaving and handmade cigar-making techniques. End the day with a relaxing overnight stay in Cox's Bazaar.

Day 13: Maheshkali Island and Sonadia Island tour

Embark on a fascinating tour of Maheshkhali Island and Sonadia Island, near Cox's Bazar. Maheshkhali Island is popular for its vibrant Hindu temples, including the famous Adinath Temple. It offers a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage and religious traditions of the local community. Next, head to Sonadia Island. Immerse yourself in the serenity of its pristine beaches and breathtaking views of the Bay of Bengal. Explore the diverse marine life, and indulge in activities like swimming and sunbathing. If not swimming then simply enjoy a leisurely walk along the sandy shores. This tour promises a delightful blend of cultural exploration and natural splendor. Return to Cox Bazaar for an overnight stay.



Day 14: Fly back to Dhaka and return to your home (or next destination)

Fly back to Dhaka from Cox's Bazaar and then continue your journey to your next destination via an international flight. If there is extra time and your flight schedule allows, you can explore some shopping options in Dhaka.

Note: If your flight is scheduled for the next day, we will provide your transportation to the airport for your departure.

Cost & Inclusion

Bangladesh:

- Airport pickups and drops service.
- Private ground transportation with A/C.
- Breakfast in Bangladesh.
- Twin-sharing hotel accommodation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.