



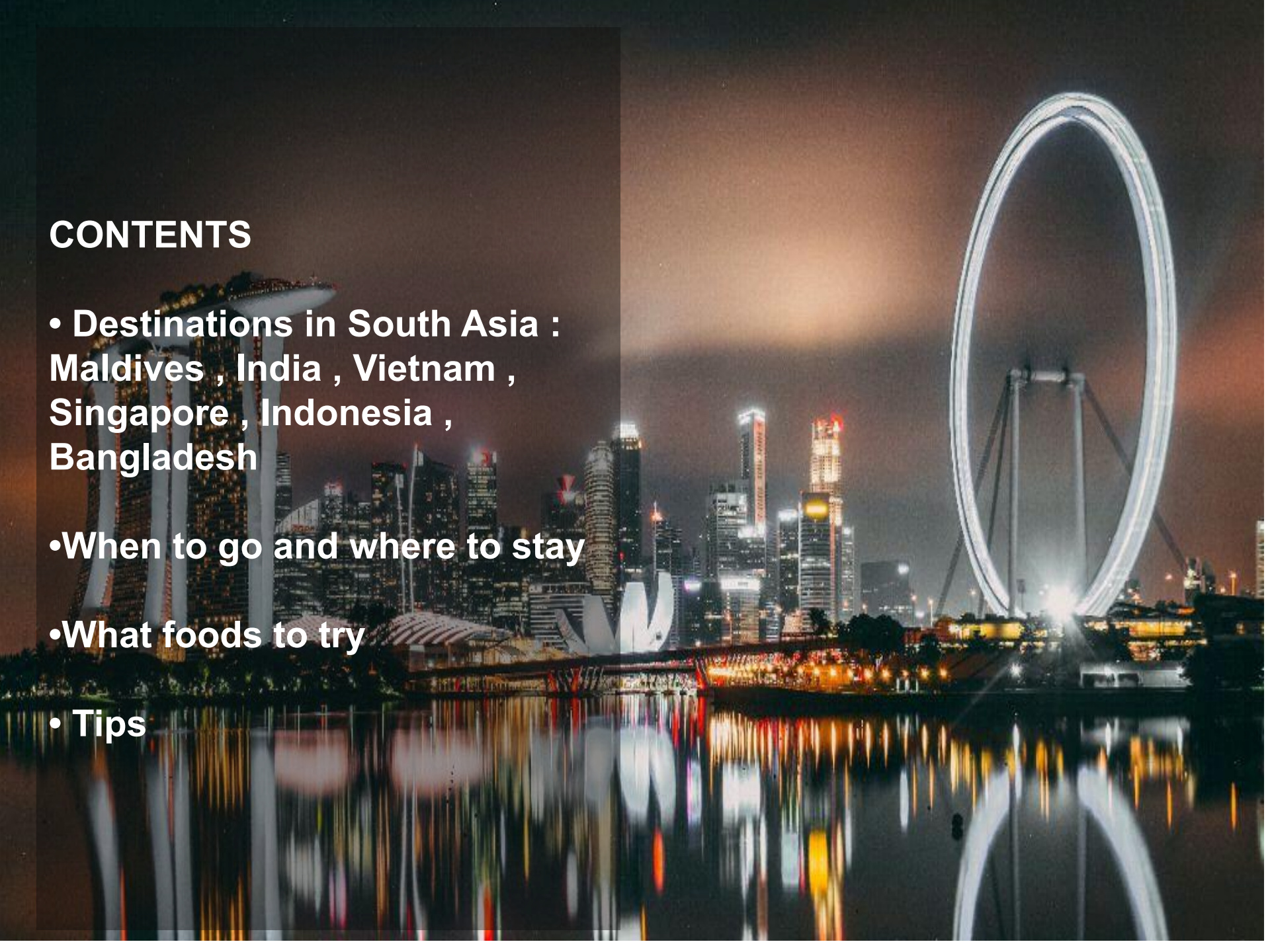
## DESTINATION SOUTH ASIA

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- Destinations in South Asia :  
Maldives , India , Vietnam ,  
Singapore , Indonesia ,  
Bangladesh
- When to go and where to stay
- What foods to try
- Tips



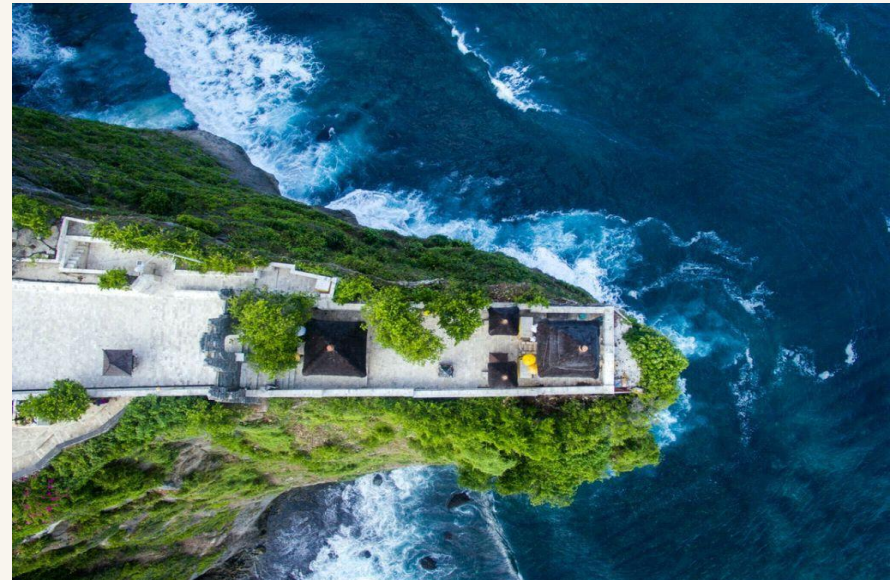


# Introduction

Welcome

South Asia, also known as the Indian Subcontinent is a triangular landmass bordered by the Himalayas in the north, the Indian Ocean in the south, and the Ganges and Indus river valleys in east and west. Home to 1.75 billion people, South Asia has the world's tallest mountains, and is the origin of some of the world's oldest civilizations and the wellspring of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism.

South Asia offers a vast variety of options for travelers who are looking for destinations that are rich in culture and history. South Asia is full of nature, wildlife, beautiful beaches, forest and tropical climate. Southeast Asia offers a vast variety of options for travelers who are looking for destinations that are rich in culture and history.





## . MALDIVES

The Maldives are the perfect place for honeymoons and couples looking for a luxury island vacation. This country of 1,000 islands has everything a person could want in a tropical island — clear water, white sand beaches, palm trees, warm sunny days, and lots of great diving. It's as close to heaven as you can get. While the Maldives have always been thought of as an expensive, honeymoon /couple place to visit, it's actually an incredible budget traveler destination.

### Things to See and Do in the Maldives

#### 1. Explore Male

This relatively small city is host to many interesting mosques, museums. The Hukuru Miskiiy, also known as the Old Friday Mosque, is the oldest in the country, dating back to 1656. Some other interesting places to check out are the National Art Gallery, the National Stadium, and Sultan's Park.

#### 2.Dive the Banana Reef

This is a protected marine area that is known internationally for its beauty and incredible diving and snorkeling. The numerous caves, overhangs, and dramatic cliff lines result in stunning photos with every shot you snap. The brilliant coral growth attracts a huge range of sea life, including grouper, barracuda, morays, jackfish, snapper, and more.

#### 3. Eat

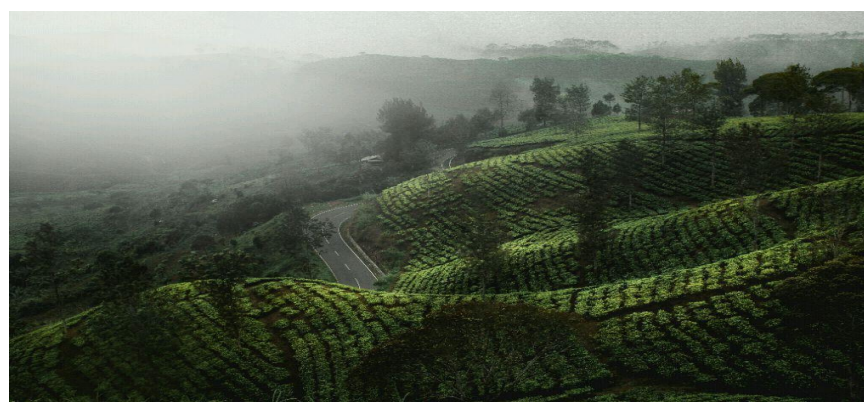
The food here is beyond delicious and incredibly fresh. Most of the restaurants in Male offer outdoor dining areas. Some of the more popular places to go include The Seagull Café, Symphony, Royal Garden Café, and Irudhashu Hotaa (for quick meals).

### Accommodation

Aside from the capital, there are no “hotels” in the Maldives. The cheaper resorts usually start at around 58 USD in the low season. At most resorts, a double room will cost at least 100 USD per day. Air-conditioning and WiFi are relatively standard at most resorts, however, if you want a resort with a swimming pool, expect to pay several thousand MVR per night!

### Money Saving Tips

- Use ferries
- Stay with the locals
- Go on the included excursions





## Singapore

Singapore is a cosmopolitan city-state that became independent from the British in 1965 and is now one of the world's leading economic centers in shipping and banking. Home to the world's best airport, some of Asia's most stunning architecture and a delicious food scene that borrows from its neighbors' top culinary traditions, Singapore offers a complete travel experience disproportionate to its size.

### • Things to See and Do in Singapore

#### 1. Eat at the Boat Quay

Boat Quay is a hive of activity and is the place to go for dining and entertainment. The alfresco pubs and restaurants also make Boat Quay ideal for relaxing after a long day of sightseeing. Be sure to bring a camera to capture the imposing skyscrapers and bizarre statues along the riverside.

#### 2. See the super trees at Gardens by the Bay

Located along Marina Bay, this urban landscaping project is a series of fake "supertrees". At heights of 80-160 feet, the metal structures have roughly 200 species of orchids, ferns, and other tropical plants coating their structure and forming a lush, colorful skin.

#### 3. Visit Singapore Zoo

This zoo is one of the best in the world. Covering an area of 70 acres, this place is huge and has a vast array of animals: over 3,600 mammals, birds, and reptiles. The zoo's night safaris are awesome

### • Accommodation

Accommodation here isn't cheap. You'll pay between 15-17 SGD per night for a bed in a dorm room at a hostel. Most hostels offer free WiFi, free breakfast, and some offer free linens. You can find a room in a 2-star hotel with amenities like air-conditioning, private bathrooms, free WiFi, and a TV starting around 45 SGD per night.

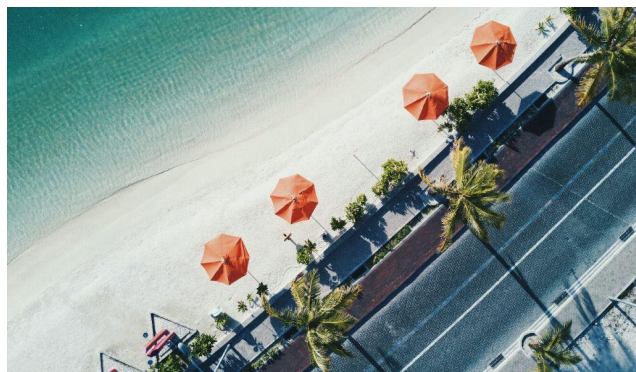
### Food

You'll find all kinds of food from all over the world in Singapore, but especially Chinese and Indian food. Chinese and Indian food is usually around 8-9 SGD per meal. As for Singaporean specialties, try the seafood.

### Tips

- Take public transit
- Eat on Smith Street
- Stick to happy hour - stick to the happy hours where you can find buy one, get one free deals to save money





## Vietnam

Vietnam is one of Southeast Asia's most beautiful countries, attracting travellers to its lush mountains, bustling cities and golden sand beaches. Buddhist shrines can be found next to towering skyscrapers, where you can experience vibrant festivals and ceremonies dating back hundreds of years. Long, sandy beaches are home to luxurious resorts and fine-dining venues, making them ideal romantic getaways

### • Things to do in Vietnam

#### 1. Visit Halong Bay's equally spectacular neighbour

With 1,600 limestone towers rising from its turquoise waters, Halong Bay is rightly considered one of Vietnam's most beautiful spots. As a result, it's on every visitor's list – and hundreds of boats offer cruise trips every day. Bai Tu Long Bay, just a few miles away, offers the same jaw-dropping scenery but sees only a fraction of the visitors. Here you can explore uncrowded caves and tiny beaches, and feast on super-fresh succulent seafood.

#### 2. Cruise the Mekong Delta

After travelling over 4,000 kilometres from the Tibetan Himalaya, the Mekong hits Vietnam and slows down to a more languid pace. With islands, rice paddies, stilted villages and a way of life that hasn't changed for centuries, it's as if the river wants to take it easy and soak up the view.

#### 3. Drop into the world's largest cave

#### 4. Visit the coffee-making heartland

#### 5. Go to church Vietnamese-style

### • Accommodation

Hostels start around 100,000 VND (4 USD) per night for the most basic accommodation. For a nicer place, you can pay almost double. Private rooms will cost at least 350,890–425,000 VND (15–20 USD) per night for a double room. While hostels were once scarce, they have started popping up all over the country to accommodate budget travelers. Most hostels will offer free WiFi, and many will also include free breakfast or free beer during certain hours of the day.

### • Food

• **Goi cuon** – Vietnam's most famous dish: translucent spring rolls packed with greens, coriander and various combinations of minced pork, shrimp. • **crab**

• **Banh mi**

• **Banh xeo**

• **Bun cha.**

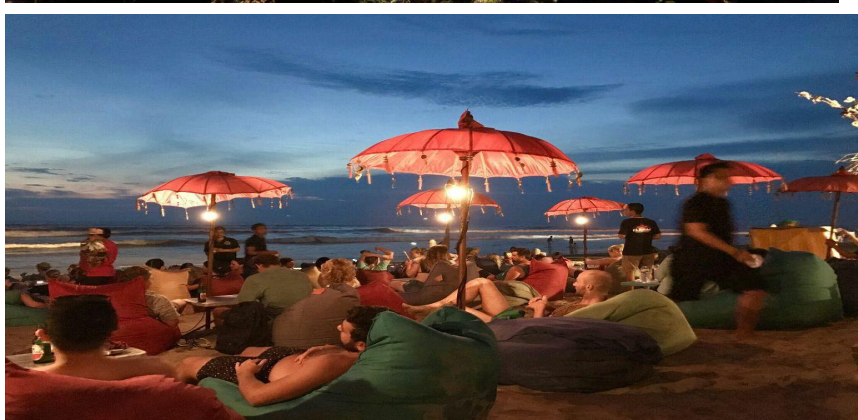
### • Tips

\* **Keep smiling**

\* **Be wary of taxi scams**

\* **Avoid nightlife trouble**

\* **Know your night buses**



## Indonesia

With over 13,000 islands, Indonesia has something unique to offer everyone. From the cool white sands and raucous volcanoes of Bali to the vibrant capital city of Jakarta to the untouched lands of Sumatra, you can always find something different here. Indonesia is home to a vast array of indigenous animals, too (including the Komodo dragon!). With extremely inexpensive local food and reasonably-priced accommodation, it's no wonder Indonesia is a popular destination among so many travelers.

### Things to do in Indonesia

- Relax in Bali

Bali is probably the most famous of Indonesia's islands. Although often crowded with travelers, there is no escaping the fact that this place is beautiful. Try some surfing at Bingin Beach or visit the Pura Besakih, the Mother Temple, which is a truly stunning building.

- Dive in the Gili Islands

For a true sense of an island paradise, head to the Gili Islands. You won't find any cars on these islands; bike travel or horse and cart are the ways to see all that Gili has to offer. You'll find excellent scuba and snorkel facilities, as well as nightlife, on the party island of Gili Trawangan.

- Amaze yourself in Borobudur

Borobudur is a huge Buddhist temple complex dating from the 9th century, making it older than Cambodia's Angkor Wat.

- See Komodo dragons

### Accommodation

Hostels usually cost around 120,000 IDR for a dorm. For a private double, prices start around 200,000 IDR. Free WiFi and free breakfast are quite common. Generally, prices will be significantly lower outside of the major cities.

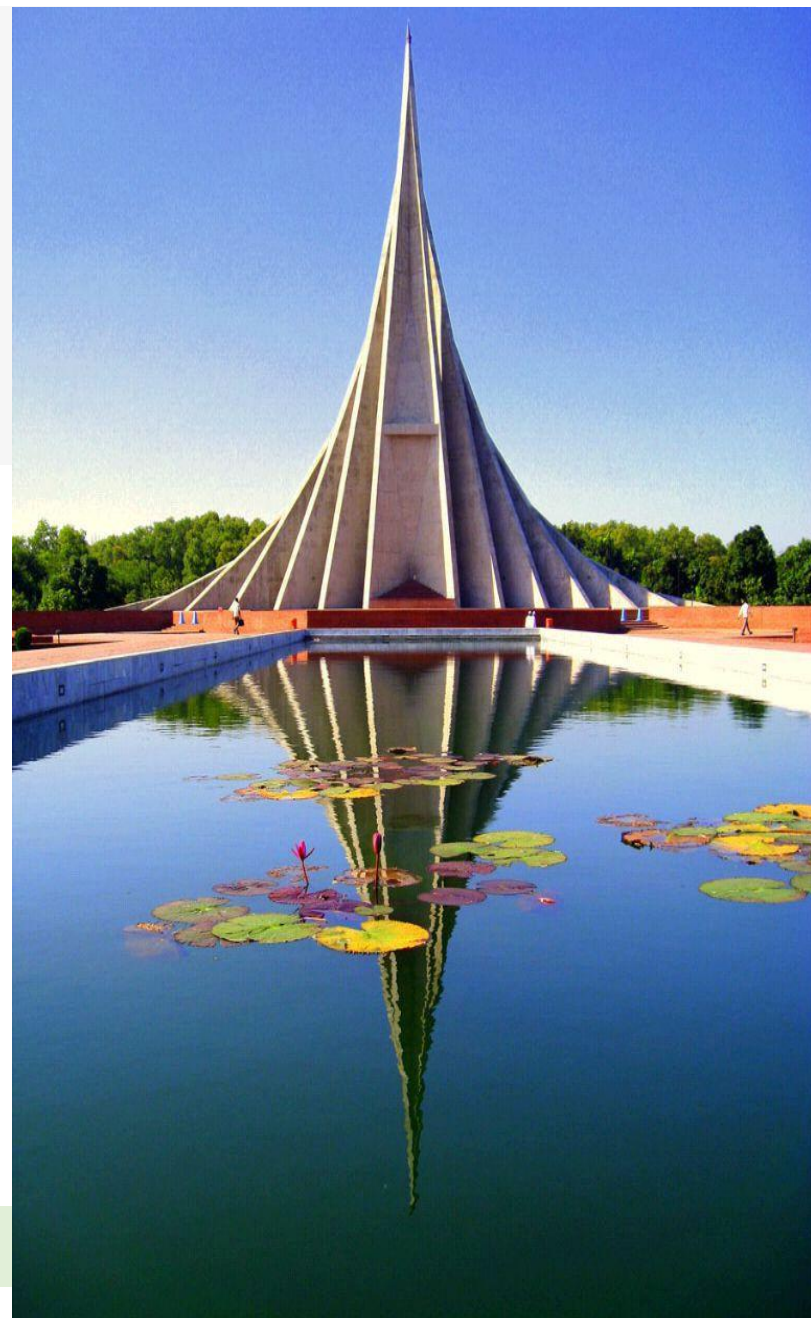
### Food

Local food is extremely cheap, with street food costing under 10,000 IDR. For an inexpensive meal at a local restaurant, prices start around 14,000 IDR. For a meal at a mid-range restaurant for a nicer meal, drinks, and table service, expect to pay as much as 80,000 IDR.

### Tips

- Eat on the street to save money
- Bargain hard







## India and Bangladesh

India is everything, and more, all at once. It's a visual explosion of bright saris, lumbering cows, marigolds and bursts of sunlight. A melange of smells – of incense, spices and, ahem, more human smells.

Nestled between India, Nepal and Myanmar, lies the unique country of Bangladesh – a country that very few tourists know about. It's the land of smiles, the land of the royal Bengal tiger, the season of kites battling each other in the sky, the paradise waiting for bird-watchers to visit, the acres and acres of tea gardens mingling with waterfalls nearby, the numerous tribal villages with their unique customs and way of life, the longest beach in the world – the list goes on and on.

### Things to do in India and Bangladesh

#### \* Visit Taj Mahal

Poet Rabindranath Tagore described it as 'a teardrop on the cheek of eternity'; Rudyard Kipling as 'the embodiment of all things pure'; while its creator

#### \* Meenakshi Amman Temple

The colourful abode of the triple-breasted warrior goddess Meenakshi ('fish-eyed' – an epithet for perfect eyes in classical Tamil poetry) is generally stunning

#### \* Golconda Fort

Hyderabad's most impressive sight, this monumental fort lies on the western edge of town. In the 16th century the Qutb Shahs made this.

#### \* Golden Temple

The legendary Golden Temple is actually just a small part of this huge gurdwara complex, known to Sikhs as Harmandir Sahib

#### \* Sundarbans Mangrove Forest

Sundarbans is the largest mangrove forest on earth and a UNESCO world heritage site. Sundarbans is located in between two neighboring countries – Bangladesh and India. Majority of the forest is located in Bangladesh. It is home of the last remaining Bengal tigers in the world and many other wildlife. Environment of Sundarbans is tranquilizing and visiting this forest could be an once in a lifetime experience.

#### \* Srimangal

Srimangal is the tea capital of Bangladesh, located in the north-eastern part of the country. You'll find lush green tea gardens anywhere you go here.

#### \* St. Martin's Island

St. Martin's Island is a beautiful coral island of Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh. For the beach lovers, this is the best place to visit in Bangladesh.

#### \* Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar is the longest unbroken sandy beach in the world, 125 km in length. It is the most popular tourist spot among the locals in Bangladesh. Perfect place to relax in the end of a long trip.

### Food

#### \* Butter Chicken. ...

#### \* Tandoori Chicken. ...

#### \* Chicken Tikka Masala. ...

#### \* Rogan Josh. ...

#### \* Malai Kofta. ...

#### \* Chole (Chickpea Curry) ...

#### \* Palak Paneer (Spinach and Cottage Cheese)

#### \* Kaali Daal (Black Lentils)

### Tips

#### \* Be flexible about plans and expectations

#### \* Plan in advance

#### \* Learn bargaining

#### \* Get ready for lots of staring and questions

