

MINISTRY VISITATION PROGRAM



AIR SFOI



BANGLADESH

DATES TBA

WHAT

Air SFOI's mission is to work with evangelists in other nations. The goal is for 5 - 10 evangelists to travel to the nation and city where the local evangelist lives; work with them to get their open air ministry started; then return home.

WHO

Contact Person: Heath Pucel
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(920) 434-4889

WHERE

Sutrapur, Bogura, Bangladesh

INITIAL POINT OF CONTACT: HEATH PUCEL IN COUNTRY POINT OF CONTACT: RASHAL RANA

What you need to know

Language: Bangla

Airport: Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (DAC)

Currency: Taka

Passport/Entry Requirements: Visa application needed.

Expected Weather: December to February: Generally cool and dry, March to May: Hot and dry, June to October: Heavy rainfall and high humidity, November: Transitioning from wet to dry.

US Travel Advisory Rating: Level 3

Air travel - getting to Bangladesh:

Some of the fastest one-stop routes are:

- EWR → Dubai / Istanbul / Cairo → Dhaka: \$900-1,250
- JFK → Doha / Istanbul / Dubai → Dhaka: \$950-1,350
- IAD → Doha / Istanbul / Dubai → Dhaka: \$950 - 1,400
- DFW → Doha / Istanbul / Dubai → Dhaka: \$1,200 - 1,700
 - with total trip times around 19-30 hours.

Dhaka is approximately 120 miles from Bogura town and will take approximately 5-7 hrs under good conditions or 8-12 hrs during heavy traffic/holidays periods.

Make use of local transport to Bogura, i.e. car, bus or taxi. Avoid very late-night arrivals unless prearranged transport is organized.

Accommodation Information in Bogura town:

- Budget hotel with private bathroom & AC:
 - Approximately \$15 - \$25 per night.
- Mid-Range Hotels:
 - Approximately \$25 - \$45 per night.
- Luxury Hotels:
 - Approximately \$70 and above per night.

Transportation Information:

- Within Bogura area:
 - Uber and ride-sharing is available, starts at \$2
 - Metered Taxis start at \$2
- Trains from airport to Bogura area start at \$5 (book train tickets well in advance because popular routes can sell out.
- Bus from airport to Bogura area start at \$8-\$15.
- The airport railway station is directly near the airport area, making trains especially convenient for arriving international passengers.

Stadiums in the area:

- Shaheed Chandu Stadium
- Arafat Rahman Koko Football
- Stadium
- Bogura Shaheed Chandu Stadium
- Shapla Chattar

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What you need to know

Sports Teams:

- Bogura Cricket Team:
 - The Bogura District Cricket Team represents the district in regional and national cricket tournaments.
- Bogura Football Teams:
 - Local Teams
 - Youth and Community Sports Teams
 - Community Clubs
- Educational Institutions:
 - Many schools and colleges in Bogura have their own sports teams, including cricket, football, and other sports, competing in inter-school and inter-college tournaments.

Ministries, Churches and Other Organizations in the Area:

- Church of Bangladesh
- Evangelical Churches
- Christian Missionary Groups
- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Local Ministries
- Community Outreach Programs
- Faith-Based Schools and Hospitals

People & Culture:

Religion: 91% Islam, 7-8% Hinduism, 0.6% Buddhism, 0.30% Christianity, 0.1-0.2% other

Population: 174 Million

Drives on: Left

Healthcare: Central hospitals, regional and private facilities. Check with your travel insurance for coverage.

Food: Known for dishes made with rice, fish, meat, herbs, and spices.

An average meal costs \$2-5 (local eatery), \$5-12 (mid-range restaurant) or \$8-20+ (hotel restaurant) per person.

Water: Well water is most common. Bottled, boiled and treated water is recommended for drinking.

What to Wear: Modest clothing that covers shoulders and knees, including loose-fitting cotton shirts, long pants, scarf.

What to Bring: Sunscreen, wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, insect repellent, sturdy boots, first aid kit

Banking: 24/7 ATMs are available. Cash is the dominant mode of payment but credit cards (Visa and MasterCard) are accepted too.

Electronics: 240V, various plugs used (type C, D and G)

More info on Bangladesh:

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Bangladesh>
<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/bangladesh>
<https://bd.usembassy.gov/>



Travel Research: Bangladesh

Health and Vaccination Requirements

- Vaccinations: Hepatitis A and Typhoid vaccinations are required. Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis, and Rabies vaccinations are recommended.
- Yellow Fever: There is no risk of Yellow Fever in Bangladesh, but proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is required if you are traveling from a country with a risk of Yellow Fever and are older than one year of age.

Currency Restrictions

- **Entry:** You must declare amounts over \$10,000 USD
- **Exit:** You cannot depart with more USD than you declared upon entry. You also cannot take more than 5,000 Bangladeshi taka (approximately \$58.82 USD) out of Bangladesh without a declaration.

Passport Requirements

- **Validity:** Your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your planned stay.
- **Blank Pages:** You need at least one blank page in your passport.

Tourist Visa Requirement (valid for 30-90 days)

- For tourism, you would normally need a Bangladesh Tourist Visa ("T" Visa) to enter Bangladesh.
- The U.S. State Department and Bangladesh authorities strongly recommend obtaining the visa before travel.
- Application processing time: 5- 15 days
- Cost for visa application: \$160

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Travel Research: Bangladesh

Additional Requirements

- Health Declaration: Complete an online health declaration before arrival.
- Covid-19: As of February 2025, all COVID-19 restrictions on foreigners' travel to Bangladesh have been lifted. Travelers no longer need to show proof of vaccination or negative test results.

Source Links:

<https://bd.usembassy.gov/visas-for-bangladesh>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Bangladesh.html>

<https://evisa.express/en/bangladesh/entry-requirements>

Safety and Security

- Travel Advisory: The U.S. Department of State advises reconsidering travel to Bangladesh due to political protests and civil unrest, crime, and terrorism. Some areas have increased risk.

Travel Information for U.S. Citizens Visiting Bangladesh

Visa Requirements

As a U.S. citizen, you are required to obtain a visa prior to entering Bangladesh. You have several options for obtaining a visa:

- Tourist Visa
- Business Visa
- Student Visa
- Transit Visa
- Employment Visa

Visa Application Process

Online Application (e-Visa)

You can apply for a visa online through the Bangladesh Electronic Visa System: <https://visa.gov.bd>

Here are the steps:

1. **Check Eligibility:** Ensure you are eligible for an e-Visa. Tourist visas are commonly available online.
2. **Fill Out the Application Form:** Complete the online visa application form at www.visa.gov.bd. You will need your passport details, contact information, and travel itinerary.
3. **Upload Required Documents:**
 - A valid U.S. passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
 - Two recent passport-sized photographs (size 45x35mm, white background, JPEG format, not older than six months, maximum size 300KB).
 - Proof of accommodation (hotel reservation).
 - Proof of financial means (bank statements, employment evidence, etc.).
4. **Pay the Visa Fee:** The visa fee for U.S. citizens is \$160. Payment can be made online using a credit card.
5. **Submit the Application:** After completing the form and uploading documents, submit the application. You will receive a confirmation page with an application ID number.
6. **Wait for Processing:** The processing time is typically faster than applying through an embassy, usually around 10-14 business days. You can check the status of your application using the application ID number.

Application through Embassy or Consulate

Alternatively, you can apply for a visa through the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, D.C., or a consulate (New York / Los Angeles).

The process includes:

1. Gather Required Documents:

- A valid U.S. passport with at least six months of validity remaining.
- Two recent passport-sized photographs (size 45x35mm, white background).
- Proof of accommodation (hotel reservation).
- Proof of financial means (bank statements, employment evidence, etc.).

2. **Complete the Application Form:** Fill out the visa application form available on the embassy's website or obtained from the embassy.

3. **Submit the Application:** Submit the completed form and required documents to the nearest Bangladesh embassy or consulate.

4. **Pay the Visa Fee:** The visa fee for U.S. citizens is \$160. Payment can be made in person at the embassy or consulate.

5. **Attend the Interview:** You will need to attend an in-person interview with a Bangladeshi Embassy or Consulate representative.

6. **Receive Your Visa:** Once approved, the embassy or consulate will issue the visa and return your documents by mail or for pick-up in person.

Additional Information

- Visa on Arrival: U.S. citizens can also obtain a visa on arrival at Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet international airports. However, this option is generally not recommended due to potential delays, uncertainties and refusal.

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What you need to know

Travel Information for U.S. Citizens Visiting Bangladesh

By following these steps and providing the necessary documentation, you should be able to obtain a visa for your trip to Bangladesh. Safe travels!

Source Links:

<https://visarequirements.info/countries/united-states/bangladesh/>

<https://www.uscisguide.com/visas-for-us-citizens/visa-requirements-to-visit-bangladesh-as-a-u-s-citizen/>

<https://www.bdvisa.com/visa-requirements.html>

<https://www.bdvisa.com/preparing-visa.html>

<https://visa-to-travel.com/bangladesh/get-bangladesh-visa-online-or-through-embassy/>
