

# Geography

**Location:** Southeastern Asia, bordering the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Bangladesh and Thailand

**Map references:** Southeast Asia

**Area:**

*total area:* 678,500 sq km

*land area:* 657,740 sq km

*comparative area:* slightly smaller than Texas

**Land boundaries:** total 5,876 km, Bangladesh 193 km, China 2,185 km, India 1,463 km, Laos 235 km, Thailand 1,800 km

**Coastline:** 1,930 km

**Maritime claims:**

*contiguous zone:* 24 nm

*continental shelf:* 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

*exclusive economic zone:* 200 nm

*territorial sea:* 12 nm

**International disputes:** none

**Climate:** tropical monsoon; cloudy, rainy, hot, humid summers (southwest monsoon, June to September); less cloudy, scant rainfall, mild temperatures, lower humidity during winter (northeast monsoon, December to April)

**Terrain:** central lowlands ringed by steep, rugged highlands

**Natural resources:** petroleum, timber, tin, antimony, zinc, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, some marble, limestone, precious stones, natural gas

**Land use:**

*arable land:* 15%

*permanent crops:* 1%

*meadows and pastures:* 1%

*forest and woodland:* 49%

*other:* 34%

**Irrigated land:** 10,180 sq km (1989)

**Environment:**

*current issues:* deforestation; industrial pollution of air, soil, and water; inadequate sanitation and water treatment contribute to disease

*natural hazards:* destructive earthquakes and cyclones; flooding and landslides common during rainy season (June to September); periodic droughts

*international agreements:* party to - Biodiversity, Climate Change, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Tropical Timber 83; signed, but not ratified - Law of the Sea

**Note:** strategic location near major Indian Ocean shipping lanes