



# THE ALL GANGES

#### VARANASI TO KOLKATA - 12 or 14 NIGHTS

#### DOWNSTREAM

In 2019 we inaugurated an 'all Ganges' voyage of one thousand miles from Kolkata to Varanasi. Due to the challenges of navigation and the obstruction of numerous pontoon bridges it has been decided to sail as far as Patna and then overland to Varanasi.

The sailing does though cover the best of the Ganges from the colonial splendours of Kolkotta, through the enchanting rural arcadia of West Bengal along the Hoogly and the great expanse of the Ganga itself with its pristine bird and wildlife and cultural treasures dotted along the banks. Though in the days of the British Raj paddle steamers plied this route on a regular basis, with the advent of the railways in India river navigation was abandoned and the rivers were allowed to silt up. Now thanks to a multi-million dollar investment from the Indian Government channels have been dredged and buoyed and hi tech GPS based aids installed enabling seasonal navigation.





**VIEW ONLINE** 

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# ROUTE MAP



#### **DOWNSTREAM**







### ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM









#### DAY 1 VARANASI TO PATNA

Depart Varanasi in the morning and head to the train station for your journey to Patna where we meet your Pandaw vessel. Relax onboard and meet your crew and fellow passengers for the next 14 nights.

More about Varanasi

#### DAY 2 BARH

Morning city tour of Patna including a visit to The Golghar, a large stupa styled granary built in 1786. Sail downstream during lunch before arriving to Barh, a town famous for Hindu ritual cremation at Urmanath and the Alakhnath Temple.

#### DAY 3 MOKAMA

Stop at Mokama, once home to Jim Corbett the naturalist and protector of the Indian tigers. Surrounded by farmlands, Mokama has the second hightest production of lentils in the country. Learn about the freedom fighters from Mokama such as Lalldin Saheb, whose during the freedom struggle was sentenced to jail during the British rule.

#### DAY 4 MUNGER

Munger is now a large and industrialised city but has an interesting history. In 1762, Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal, shifted his capital from Murshidabad to Munger, and established a firearms manufacturing centre here. Explore the Mughal fort, East India Company cemetery and step inside the Bihar School of Yoga founded in 1964 by Satyananda Saraswati. One of the leading yoga schools in the country. The institution has developed yogic techniques through a synthesis of traditional yogic, vedantic and tantric practices and contemporary health science.

#### DAY 5 SULTANGANJ

Continue to Jahanigra Island, a place of pilgrimage with many rock carvings in high relief dating from the eighth century depicting aspects of Siva and Vishnu. In the evening moor off Sultanganj, with its pair of great granite rocks, one crowned with a mosque and the other a small temple dating from the 16th century. In the afternoon land at Bhaglapur, a centre of silk production, and visit the 18th century mansion of the Collector, Augustus Cleveland.

# ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM









#### DAY 6 BATESHWARSTAN

Passing the confluence of the Kosi river that flows down from Nepal, moor at the pretty town of Bateshwarsthan to uncover the 8th century Buddhist site of Vikramshila, one of the two most important centres of learning in India during the Pala Empire, along with Nalanda.

#### DAY 7 FARAKKA

Continue sailing along the Ganges before stopping at Rajmahal, a quaint town on the banks of the Ganges for an afternoon walk.

#### DAY 8 FARAKKA BARRAGE

Depart Rajmahal and sail down to cross the Farakka barrage, entering the Hooghly River. In the afternoon take a gentle walk through a local village.

#### DAY 9 MURSHIDABAD

After breakfast, take a walk through the fields of the delightfully sleepy village of Baranagar to visit its three gorgeous miniature terracotta temples. This is rural India at its most idyllic. Visit the Jain temples at Azimganj before continuing our voyage downstream. In the afternoon we enjoy a city tour of Murshidabad, visiting the great Katra Mosque and Nashipara Palace before driving out to see the Katgola Palace. Built in classical Georgian style by rich local merchants, Katgola Palace represents the other side of the coin of the 'White Mughal' period when English and Indian cultures came close to fusion.

More about Murshidabad

#### DAY 10 KUSHBAGH

This morning, walk to the Khushbagh, a peaceful Mughal-style garden that encloses the tombs of Siraj-ud-Daulah - the last independent Nawab of Bengal – and his family. Continue a little way upstream to where the great Hazarduari Palace dominates the waterfront. Built by an English architect in 1837, the palace hosts an extensive collection of pictures, china, weapons and other objects. Continue sailing downstream in the afternoon with onboard activities and wildlife watching on the sun deck.

#### DAY 11 MATIARI

In the morning we visit the battlefield of Plassey where, in 1757, Robert Clive, the Commander-in-Chief of British India, defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, to change the course of Indian his-

### ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM









tory. After lunch we continue downstream to the brass-working village of Matiari, a charming riverside village. Interact with the locals of Matiari and witness the whole primitive process of beating out brass water pots and other vessels.

#### DAY 12 MAYAPUR

Explore the village of Mayapur, the headquarters of the ISKCON movement with a new temple comparable in size to the Vatican and largely funded by Alfred B. Ford, the great grandson of car maker Henry Ford. Meet Krishna followers and walk through the pilgrims' bazaar.

More about Mayapur

#### DAY 13 KALNA

After breakfast visit the country town of Kalna. Take rickshaws to see a group of some of Bengal's most attractive terracotta temples, as well as the unique Shiva temple with concentric rings made up of 108 lesser shrines.

More about Kalna

#### DAY 14 CHANDENAGORE

Continue sailing upstream to Chandernagore, a French possession until 1950. Visit the 18th century church and Dupleix's House, erstwhile Governor-General of French India. In the afternoon we sail toward Barrackpore and take a walk through the cantonment - past the Semaphore Tower, Government House, the Temple of Fame and Flagstaff House. Enjoy a farewell dinner with your crew as we moor in Kolkata for the night.

#### DAY 15 **DISEMBARK KOLKATA**

After breakfast transfer to your hotel or airport for your onward journey. More about Kolkata

# WHATS INCLUDED & TRANSFERS DOWNSTREAM

Cruise Price Includes: Transfer to/from Ship including one way 1st class train ticket, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes, tipping for guide and drivers.

#### Please Note:

- This itinerary passes through the state of Bihar. In this state it is illegal to serve any drinks containing alcohol. For this reason we will not be able to serve alcohol onboard the ship on some days.
- Entry to the Bihar School of Yoga is subject to approval and may not always be possible.
- We suggest to change money at a bank at the international airport before exiting (currently there is shortage of new money bills in India).
- 1st Class train tickets are subject to availability.

#### Weather Condition Warning

River cruising on the Lower and Upper Ganges can be severely affected by fog during the months of December and January. This may impact the sailing schedules and the planned excursions. While every effort will be made to make up time and include all activities this is not always possible. Similarly temperatures can drop significantly overnight and in the early mornings, though during the day warmer temperatures can be expected. Winter temperatures can be below average with many destinations in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh experiencing long spells of cold.

### **Transfers & Joining**

#### DAY 1 VARANASI TO PATNA

Transfer from your hotel or airport in Varanasi in the morning to Varanasi train station. Train to Patna and transfer to your Pandaw ship.

#### DAY 15 DISEMBARK KOLKATA

Disembark the ship at 08:00 and transfer from the port in Kolkata to your hotel. Drop off at the hotel at about 10:00.

# PANDAW STATEROOMS

### The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are a spacious 168 square feet (15.6 sqm), with the exception of the Zawgyi Pandaw which is 150 square feet (14 sqm). As the space is much loved by all our passengers, we have ensured that with each ship we build, the stateroom remains essentially the same. Be advised: our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet access or telephones. Passengers tend to choose Pandaw in order to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.



- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

Bedroom 12' x 10' Bathroom Showeroom 2' 8" x 3' 4" Single Bed 6'7" x 3'3"



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION





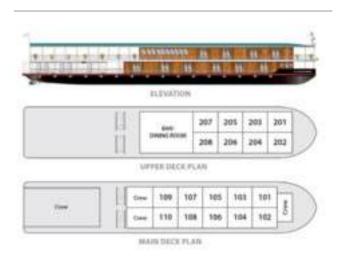




### **RV Kalaw Pandaw**

Sister to the Kindat and identical in design the Kalaw was launched with her in 2014 Kalaw is named after the PS Kalaw launched in 1917 and sunk in 1942 in the War. Paul Strachan witnessed the salvaging of the Kalaw in 1998 and managed to acquire her name plate and bell, the former of which has been reused on her namesake. Again this ultra light ship combines one of the shallowest drafts on the river with one of the highest passenger space ratios afloat.

#### View images of RV Kalaw Pandaw



Build: 2014 in Yangoon Length: 187ft / 57m Beam: 29ft / 8.8m Draft: 3ft / 90cm Berths: 36 pax

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

- 8 upper deck staterooms and 10 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair drver
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Yoga mats in all cabins

#### WINING & DINING

- Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside
- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

#### **ON EXCURSIONS**

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- We give away aluminium water bottles
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

#### **SAFETY & SECURITY**

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendant
- 24 hrs watch on duty

#### **ONBOARD STAFF**

- Captain
- River Pilot
- First Officer
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper
- Chefs
- Local tour guides

#### **PUBLIC SPACES**

- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

### Pre Tour

### VARANASI 2 NIGHTS

#### **DOWNSTREAM**

Gain a deeper appreciation of Varanasi, the spiritual capital of India. From the rituals performed on the banks of the River Ganges to the narrow alleyways and local vendors in the Old City, Varanasi, (or Benares or Kashi as it is also known) promises an unforgettable experience.



#### DAY 1 VARANASI

Our driver will meet you at Varanasi airport and transfer you to your hotel. Rest of day at leisure

Overnight: Taj Ganges Hotel Varanasi Meals: None

#### DAY 2 VARANASI

Take rowing boats for sunrise over the bathing ghats along the Ganges. After breakfast, visit the old city and explore the labyrinth of narrow streets, visiting Kashi Vishwanath temple and witnessing local weavers in action. After lunch, visit Sarnath where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon at the Deer Park. Finish the day with a walk along the Ghats to witness the Aarti rituals before feasting on the local delicacies at the Kebab Factory.

Overnight: Taj Ganges Hotel Varanasi Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### DAY 3 PATNA EMBARK SHIP

After breakfast in your hotel, take a train to Patna for embarkation of your Pandaw expedition.

Meals: Breakfast

#### Rates include

2 night accommodation at Taj Ganges or similar, 2 buffet breakfast at hotel, 1 lunch, 1 dinner, 1 one-way train ticket between Varanasi and Patna per person, English speaking guide, excursions and entry fees as noted in the itinerary and all applicable

Extension Code: LTID-VAR-PRE-2

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

### Pre Tour

### INDIA'S GOLDEN TRIANGLE

We are pleased to present this unique opportunity to combine a fabulous 14-night cruise exploring the Ganges and a 6-night tour of the Golden Triangle visiting most popular cultural gems in historic Delhi, Agra, the Taj Mahal and the imposing capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

This is a private tour.



#### DAY 1 ARRIVAL NEW DELHI

Welcome to India! Transfer from airport to your hotel. Rest of day at leisure.

Meals: none.

#### DAY 2 CITY TOUR OF DELHI

Today's tour includes heritage rich Old and New Delhi including a Heritage Walk inside India's largest Mosque 'Jama Masjid' built in 1644 AD showcasing finest Islamic style of architecture. Explore real life of Old Delhi through maze like streets of the iconic Ancient Bazaar 'Chandni Chowk' and Asia's largest Spice Market. Experience colonial-era at 'Lutyens Delhi' including Mahatma Gandhi Museum 'Birla House', Temple 'Bangla Sahib Gurudwara' and volunteer inside its holy Community Kitchen that daily feeds over 10,000 devotees, pilgrims and homeless. Visit Ceremonial Boulevard 'Raj Path' to witness 'Sir Edwin Lutyens' finest works from 1920's British Raj Era including Colonial Government Buildings, India Gate, President and Parliament House from outside. Journey to the City Centre Market 'Connaught Place' named after the 'Duke of Connaught' and surrounds the central park of Delhi. Transfer back to your hotel.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### DAY 3 AGRA

Drive to Agra, the Mughal Era city that is home to the wonder of the world 'Taj Mahal'! After check-in at the hotel, continue with a Heritage Walk inside India's finest Mughal fortress The Red Fort of Agra, an acclaimed UNESCO heritage site and the imperial residence of 16th century rulers of the 'Mughal Dynasty'. If time permits, visit marble workshops renowned for finest Mughal artwork. Enjoy traditional Indian Chai Tea prepared and served on-spot along with Indian delights.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### DAY 4 AGRA - JAIPUR

Start the day with a Sunrise Grand Tour of the Taj Mahal, which was built in 1630 by Mughal Emperor 'Shah Jahan' in memory of his beloved wife 'Mumtaz Mahal' who died giving birth to their 14th child. Continue the jewel of India's crown, the royal heritage state of Rajasthan, and arrive in its pink colored capital city 'Jaipur'. Enroute visit spectacular Underground Step-wells 'Chand Baori' that lie hidden deep in the village of 'Abhaneri'. This 10th century built zigzagged stepwells is a geometric wonder where Royals used to picnic, and today a popular spot through the film 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'. Check-in at your hotel in Jaipur.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.



Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### DAY 5 JAIPUR

Begin the day with a morning ceremony of Indian turbans and stoles. Explore the uphill located Amber Fortress, a "must see" of Jaipur. Built in the 16th century by Rajput commander 'Raja Man Singh I', the fortress offers magnificent hilltop views with an intricate Mirror Palace and fine blends of Hindu- Rajasthani architecture. Next a photo-stop outside the Water Palace 'Jal Mahal' located in the center of 'Man Sagar Lake' housing various migratory birds. Arrive in the heart of the Old City to visit the Astronomical Observatory 'Jantar Mantar. Visit the residence of the Royal Family locally called Jaipur City Palace and Museum. Built in 1700 AD by 'Raja Jai Singh II', this Palace is a paradise of Royal heritage history as it houses rare galleries from the British Raj and Rajput Era. Later, take a walking tour through Jaipur's most colorful bazaars. Visit Jaipur's most distinctive landmark: The Palace of Winds, 'Hawa Mahal' built in a unique pink-colored beehive design that is certainly hard to miss.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### DAY 6 JAIPUR - DELHI - VARANASI

Travel back to Delhi (5 hrs) for your domestic flight to Varanasi. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### DAY 7 VARANASI DEPARTURE

Transfer to your ship.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### The Imperial Delhi

Chosen as India's best 'Luxury Historical Hotel' by World Luxury Hotel Awards 2015, The Imperial is an iconic property in Delhi in the heart of the capital, reminiscent of the halcyon days of the Raj. A luxury hotel with an iconic and awe-inspiring heritage interwoven in colonial elegance, it dwells in its modern delivery of old-style class and magnificence. Built in 1931 by Blomfield, one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's associates and inaugurated by Lord Willingdon in 1936, it is New Delhi's landmark Hotel. The Hotel is steps away from Connaught Place, the renowned shopping district and is very close to the city's major attractions.



Janpath Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001, India

Tel: +91 11 23341234 Visit Hotel Website



#### Tai Convention

Agra's newest landmark, the Taj Hotel & Convention Centre, lies a short walk away from the Eastern Gate of this fabled monument. This modern 5 star hotel near Taj Mahal reimagines all that Agra can be. Our luxury hotel in Agra has 239 plush rooms including 12 lavish suites and one presidential suite to whisk guests away into a world of repose. A refreshing rooftop infinity pool with magical views of the Taj Mahal, an invigorating spa and a buzzing fitness centre are at hand to rejuvenate every guest.

Taj East Gate Road, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India, Uttar Pradesh, 282001, India Tel: +91-562-2335555 / 3545550

Visit Hotel Website



#### CONT'D

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### Taj Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur

Step into a 270-year-old Indo-Saracenic architectural masterpiece set amidst landscaped Mughal gardens at Taj Jai Mahal Palace in Jaipur. At this luxury heritage palace hotel, you experience unparalleled opulence with tantalizing comforts. Perfectly located downtown in the heart of the Pink City in Civil Lines, you are close to the main shopping areas and prime historical sites such as Amber Fort, HawaMahal and City Palace.

#### Luxury Room

Jacob Road, Civil Lines, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 302006, India Tel: +91 141 6601111 Visit Hotel Website



#### Tree of Life Resort & Spa

Unlike many of the popular tourist destinations that you may have visited, this city goes on in spite and not because of its visitors. It is a city that requires you to be sensitive, spiritual, careful, and open-minded – even if the experience is not quite the one you expected. So plunge in; cruise the river, visit the temples, go for a live sarod concert, attend the evening Aarti (prayer), walk the small lanes which go back a thousand years and make the most of each and every moment because such experiences rarely come your way.





#### Rates include

Six nights accommodation at advertised hotels (or similar), including breakfast, excursion and entrance fees as per itinerary, one domestic flight Delhi – Varansi including 20kg check-in luggage.

Extension Code: LTID-GT-VAR-PRE-1

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### Pre Tour

### THE LAND OF BUDDHA: VARANASI, **GAYA AND** NALANDA 4 NIGHT

#### **DOWNSTREAM**

Visit the places where Buddha was born, attained enlightenment and taught his disciples on this 4 night spiritual adventure. Explore the ancient city of Varanasi, the pilgrimage site of Bodh Gaya and the Buddist monastic centre of learning at Nalanda during this new per or post cruise tour combined with your Pandaw expedition on the Ganges.



#### DAY 1 ARRIVE VARANASI

Our driver will meet you at Varanasi airport and transfer you to your hotel. Rest of day at leisure.

Overnight: Taj Ganges Hotel Varanasi Meals: None

#### DAY 2 VARANASI

Take rowing boats for sunrise over the bathing ghats along the Ganges. After breakfast, visit the old city and explore the labyrinth of narrow streets, visiting Kashi Vishwanath temple and witnessing local weavers in action. After lunch, visit Sarnath where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon at the Deer Park. Finish the day with a walk along the Ghats to witness the Aarti rituals before feasting on the local delicacies at the Kebab Factory.

Overnight: Taj Ganges Hotel Varanasi Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### DAY 3 VARANASI TO GAYA

After breakfast in your hotel, take a train to Bodh Gaya. Check in and relax at the hotel.

Overnight: Oaks Bodh Gaya Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY4 BODH GAYA

Today we visit the UNESCO world heritage site of Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, one of the main pilgrimage sites in the Buddhist world. See the famous Bodhi tree where Lord Buddha attained enlightenment and explore the many temples and monasteries. Return to your hotel for the evening.

Overnight: Oaks Bodh Gaya Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### DAY5 NALANDA

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and travel overland to Nalanda. Dating back to the 5th century CE, this ancient university and Buddhist monastic centre was noted as among the greatest centres of learning in the ancient world. Continue onwards Patna for embarkation of your Pandaw expedition.

Meals: Breakfast

#### Oaks Bodhgaya

Located in the heart of Bodhgaya, Bihar, Oaks Bodhgaya is an excellent base for visitors discovering the destination's sacred Buddhist heritage or for business travellers who seek out a tranquil home away from home.

Gaya-Dohbi GT Road (Main Road) Tel: +91 0631 2200019 Visit Hotel Website



#### Taj Ganges

The ancient temple city of Varanasi has yet another landmark in The Taj Ganges Hotel Varanasi. Featured among the top 5 star hotels in the city, The Taj Ganges Hotel Varanasi is nestled amidst 40 acres of lush gardens at a convenient distance (about 45 minutes drive) from the airport. It is also located just 6 km from the commercial hub of Vanarasi, also known as The Chowk. The spacious rooms complemented by efficient service makes it one of the best hotels for business and leisure.

Nadesar Palace Ground, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh - 221002 INDIA Tel: +91 542 6660001

Visit Hotel Website



#### Rates include

4 nights accommodation at Taj Ganges Varanasi and Oaks Bodh Gaya or similar, 4 buffet breakfast at hotel, 2 lunch, 1 dinner, 1 one-way train ticket between Varanasi and Gaya per person, English speaking guide, excursions and entry fees as noted in the itinerary and all applicable taxes.

Extension Code: LTID-VAR-4-PRE-1

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### Post Tour

### INDIA'S GOLDEN TRIANGLE

We are pleased to present this unique opportunity to combine a fabulous 7-night cruise exploring lower Ganges and a 6-night tour of the Golden Triangle visiting most popular cultural gems in historic Delhi, Agra, the Taj Mahal and the imposing capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

This is a private tour.



#### DAY 1 KOLKATA - NEW DELHI

Transfer to Kolkata airport for your domestic flight to New Delhi. After arrival, transfer to your hotel. Rest of day at leisure. Meals: none.

#### DAY 2 CITY TOUR OF DELHI

Today's tour includes heritage rich Old and New Delhi including a Heritage Walk inside India's largest Mosque 'Jama Masjid' built in 1644 AD showcasing finest Islamic style of architecture. Explore real life of Old Delhi through maze like streets of the iconic Ancient Bazaar 'Chandni Chowk' and Asia's largest Spice Market. Experience colonial-era at 'Lutyens Delhi' including Mahatma Gandhi Museum 'Birla House', Temple 'Bangla Sahib Gurudwara' and volunteer inside its holy Community Kitchen that daily feeds over 10,000 devotees, pilgrims and homeless. Visit Ceremonial Boulevard 'Raj Path' to witness 'Sir Edwin Lutyens' finest works from 1920's British Raj Era including Colonial Government Buildings, India Gate, President and Parliament House from outside. Journey to the City Centre Market 'Connaught Place' named after the 'Duke of Connaught' and surrounds the central park of Delhi. Transfer back to your hotel.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### DAY 3 AGRA

Drive to Agra, the Mughal Era city that is home to the wonder of the world 'Taj Mahal'! After check-in at the hotel, continue with a Heritage Walk inside India's finest Mughal fortress The Red Fort of Agra, an acclaimed UNESCO heritage site and the imperial residence of 16th century rulers of the 'Mughal Dynasty'. If time permits, visit marble workshops renowned for finest Mughal artwork. Enjoy traditional Indian Chai Tea prepared and served on-spot along with Indian delights.

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Meals: breakfast at your hotel.



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Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### DAY 6 JAIPUR - DELHI

Travel back to Delhi (5 hrs) for a last overnight near Delhi airport.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### DAY 7 DELHI DEPARTURE

Transfer to Delhi airport.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

#### The Imperial Delhi

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Janpath Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi, 110001, India

Tel: +91 11 23341234 Visit Hotel Website



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#### Luxury Room

Jacob Road, Civil Lines, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 302006, India Tel: +91 141 6601111 Visit Hotel Website



#### Pullman, Delhi Airport

The upscale hotel is located adjacent to both international & domestic airport terminals and is well connected through the Airport Express Line which is just 5 minutes away. The Pullman New Delhi Aerocity is near the business hubs of Gurgaon, New Delhi and Cyber City. It is also located close to Delhi's shopping malls including DLF Promenade, Emporio and Worldmark. A big complex of 670 rooms, Pullman and Novotel New Delhi Aerocity is a preferred destination for both business & leisure travelers.

#### **Deluxe Room**

Asset No 2, Aerocity Hospitality District, IGI Airport New Delhi, 110037 India Tel: +91 114 6080808 Visit Hotel Website



#### Rates include

Six nights accommodation at advertised hotels (or similar), including breakfast, excursion and entrance fees as per itinerary, one domestic flight from either Kolkata, Varanasi or Guwahati to Delhi including 20kg check-in luggage.

Extension Code: WEBONLY-06

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

### **Post Tour**

### **KOLKATA 2 NIGHTS**

#### **DOWNSTRFAM**

Experience Indian life at full pace in Kolkata, this colourful and cultural city, perhaps India's most soulful city and certainly the most over looked. Discover the legacy of British Raj, stroll through India's largest flower market and sample some of the city's cuisine after your Pandaw adventure.



#### DAY 1 KOLKATA

Following breakfast on board your Pandaw ship, disembark and transfer to the meeting hotel where your river cruise adventure ends. Sbagata and welcome to Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal. Experience Indian life at full pace in this colourful and cultural city, perhaps India's most soulful city and certainly the most over looked. During the British Raj, Calcutta as it was known, was the Jewel of the East and the capital until 1911. Discover Tagore, India's greatest poet, Victorian buildings, an ancient potters village and sample some of the city's best food.

If your room is available, check-in and freshen up before travelling to North Calcutta. Passing several universities and academic institutions stop off at the Marble Palace one of the more unusal Bengali mansions of this area. Built by a wealthy Bengali merchant, Raja Rajendra Mullick, in 1835, still today some family members reside here. With a Neoclassical style, this fascinating and ornate home, houses an eclectic mix of statues, porcelain, Belgian glass chandeliers and English, Dutch and Italian paintings.

Continue on to the home of the multi-talented poet, novelist, musician, painter and playwright, the famous Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore. His grandfather Dwarkanath Tagore built this grand mansion in the 18th century, and the museum showcases the life of the family in 19th century, and their involvement in the Bengali Renaissance.

Head into the artisan hub of Kumartuli or the Potters' Market. Wander the winding lanes and watch as idols of Hindu gods and goddesses are created out of river clay, bamboo and straw before being painted and elaborately dressed for the city's numerous festivals.

Return to your hotel where the afternoon is at leisure. You may choose to step out to explore the lively atmosphere of New Market with its many vendors and shops; visit CIMA, the Centre for International Modern Art and admire the latest exhibition or take High Tea at Flurry's, an old Calcutta institution on Park Street.

Meals: none

Accommodation: The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel / Premier Room

#### DAY 2 KOLKATA

Immerse yourself in city life with an early morning visit to the vibrant flower market, one of Asia's largest. Wind through the mountains of marigolds and jasmine and watch as people buy flowers for temple offerings and prayers. Stroll down to the river to witness a traditional Akhara (subject to timing). Step inside and watch men of all ages practice a traditional form of wrestling known as kushti or pehlwani.

Follow in the footsteps of the British Raj with a walking tour of colonial Kolkata. See Dalhousie Square, now known as B.B.D. Bagh, in the political heart of the city. Admire the colonial buildings, including the prominent Writers' Building the former HQ of the East India Company, and step inside St John's Church with its painting of The Last Supper, with the city's

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

residents dressed as the apostles. In the gardens discover the monument built by Lord Curzon to the Black Hole of Calcutta.

Sample traditional recipes from both sides of the border as wella s Anglo-Indian and colonial cuisine with lunch at Oh! Calcutta.

Later, experience the serenity of the Victoria Memorial with a stroll through the splendid gardens. Admire the domed white marble hall built in memory of Queen Victoria and discover Victorian memorabilia and British Raj-era paintings. End the day in the Maidan, the city's largest urban park and the "lungs of Kolkata", watching as people come together over a game of cricket.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel / Premier Room

#### DAY 3 KOLKATA

Following a leisurely breakfast, relax before transferring privately to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: Breakfast

#### The Lalit Great Eastern

The LaLiT Great Eastern Kolkata was built in 1841 as the "Auckland Hotel" and is the longest continuously operating luxury hotel in Asia with 165 years of operation until its renovation in 2006, according to the CRISIL Report. The architecture at this hotel is a combination of Victorian, Edwardian and contemporary styles. The LaLiT Great Eastern Kolkata is centrally located in close proximity to key commercial and business locations. It operates 215 rooms and suites and offers over 13,000 square feet of conference and banqueting space. The spa at this hotel is spread over 13,000 square feet and includes a salon. The LaLiT Great Eastern Kolkata operates two restaurants, namely, Alfresco and The Legacy Grill. The hotel also operates a tea lounge, a bakery and a bar.



1,2,3 Old Court House Street, Dalhousie Square, Kolkata, 700069, India

Tel: +91 33 4444 7777 Visit Hotel Website

#### Rates include

2 nights accommodation, departure transfer with assistance, one half day North Kolkata tour, one full day exclusive city tour with English speaking guide and entry fees (Central Kolkata and walking tour), mineral water with transfers and during sightseeing, lunch at Oh Calcutta with soft drinks / mineral water / tea or coffee

Extension Code: LTID-ITS-KOL-POST-1

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

### **Post Tour**

### DARJEELING 3 NIGHTS

#### **DOWNSTREAM**

Nestled high in the Himalayas in the north of West Bengal, Darjeeling, the crown jewel of British colonial hill stations is rightly known as the "Queen of Hills". Spend time soaking in the views and learn the secrets to producing that famous cup of tea.



#### DAY 1 ARRIVAL BAGDOGRA

Following breakfast transfer privately for your flight to Bagdaogra. Receive a warm Pandaw welcome on arrival into Bagdaogra Airport, and journey by road to your accommodation. Spend the rest of the day easing into your magical surroundings or step outside and stroll the main square and mingle with Nepalese, Bhutanese, Tibetan people and domestic Indian tourists.

Meals: Dinner. Accommodation: The Elgin Darjeeling / Deluxe Room

#### DAY 2 DARJEELING

Darjeeling's rich tapestry of cultures is yours to explore today. Hop aboard the UNESCO World Heritage-listed small-gauge Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, or "Toy Train", for a breathtaking ride to Ghoom, the world's second highest railway station. The toy train is a marvel of engineering passing through many small towns and is India's oldest mountain railway route. Explore Ghoom Monastery, with its colourful prayer flags fluttering in the wind before returning to town.

Continue to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, founded in 1954, just after Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first scaled Everest. Visit the Darjeeling Zoo, home of the Snow Leopard Breeding Centre. Then see locals making handicrafts and carpets at the Tibetan Refugee Centre.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner. Accommodation: The Elgin Darjeeling / Deluxe Room

#### DAY 3 DARJEELING TEA ESTATE

Depart early by road, through lush tea gardens to the sublime Glenburn Tea Estate situated on a hillock above the banks of the River Rungeet. Unwind on the the 1,600-acre private estate before an introduction to the specialised art of growing and crafting Glenburn Tea. Visit the tea fields, interact with the tea pickers and follow the journey of "two leaves and bud" into the tea factory, ending with a tea tasting session to discover the incredible variety of flavours and aromas that come from a single bush through the different seasons. Learn why this region is home to almost a quarter of India's tea production.

Enjoy a lunch at the Bungalow followed by a gentle afternoon hike or some down time on one of the peaceful verandas soaking in the views. In the evening take drinks by the bonfire, followed by a sit-down four course dinner with your hosts and other guests in residence.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Accommodation: Glenburn Tea Estate / Suite

#### DAY 4 DEPART BAGDOGRA

Following a leisurely breakfast, leave the snow-tipped peaks and terraced tea plantations of Darjeeling behind and transfer privately to Bagdogra Airport for your onward journey.

Meals: Breakfast



Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### The Elgin Darjeeling

Over 125 years old and once the summer residence of the Maharaja (King) of Cooch Behar, The Elgin Darjeeling is now a luxury Heritage Hotel. The hotel is situated in the heart of Darjeeling town, 6,000 feet up in the Himalayas. A celebration of the elegance and grace of the Colonial Era in the Queen of Hill Stations, located in the majestic Himalayan ranges, the Elgin is very much a part of Darjeeling's colonial history.

18, HD Lama Rd, Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101 Tel: +91 33 4064301

Visit Hotel Website



#### Glenburn Tea Estate

Stunning scenery, old fashioned elegance and the opportunity to see the rituals of tea production make Glenburn Tea Estate a compelling blend.

Tel: +91 98 300 70213 Visit Hotel Website



#### Rates include

Accommodation on Twin Sharing, 2 nights accommodation in Darjeeling (New Elgin / Deluxe Room) on MAP (Room with breakfast and dinner), 1 night at Glenburn Tea Estate (Suite) on AP (Room with breakfast, lunch and dinner), one way transfer from Kolkata Airport to Kolkata Hotel, one way flight from Kolkata to Bagdogra with 20kgs of checked luggage, arrival and departure transfers from Bagdogra Airport and local sightseeing as per itinerary by exclusive Innova / Scorpio / Xylo, English speaking escort at Darjeeling on Day 1 & Day 2, mineral water throughout tour, all entry fees as per itinerary, Toy Train ride tickets (subject to availability at the time of booking), all parking & porter charges.

Extension Code: LTID-ITS-DEEJ-POST-1

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### Post Tour

### **KOLKATA & ANCIENT** KINGDOM OF BHUTAN 6 NIGHTS

#### **DOWNSTREAM**

Combine a Pandaw river expedition with a visit to the ancient Kingdom of Bhutan, one of the world's most intriguing countries. Discover Bhutan's famous cliff-top monasteries, soaring mountain peaks and unique way of life.

This is a private tour.

Medium fitness is required for a soft hike on day 6.



#### DAY 1 ARRIVE KOLKATA

Disembark from your Pandaw ship and transfer to the hotel for the last overnight in India. Rest of the day free to relax. Meals: no meals

#### DAY 2 KOLKATA TO PARO

Transfer from your hotel to the airport for your flight to Paro.

Welcome to Bhutan! Pick up at Paro international airport. After Lunch in the city, drive on a winding road to Thimphu (one hour), the capital of Bhutan.

Visit Tashichho Dzong, Bhutan's most impressive building. It has traditionally been the seat of the Druk desi or 'Dharma Raja', the head of Bhutan's civil government, an office which has been combined with the kingship since the creation of the monarchy in 1907. It houses the throne room of His Majesty the King of Bhutan and is the summer residence of the venerated monastic community. The current Dzong is the impressive result of a redesign of the original medieval structure sanctioned by the Third King, His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, when he moved the capital to Thimphu from Punakha. Meals: lunch depending on arrival time

#### DAY 3 THIMPU

After breakfast visit the Memorial Chorten, also known as the Thimphu Chorten, a large Tibetan-style Buddhist Monastery with golden spires and bells. It was built in 1974 to honor the memory of the third King, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck.

Continue to the Folk Heritage Museum: A three storied traditional building houses this museum. Established in 2001, the museum provides a glimpse into the traditional Bhutanese material culture and way of life. The artifacts remind the visitors about how the rural Bhutanese live today.

Visit National Institute of Zorig Chusum and the National Library of Bhutan which was first established in 1967 under the patronage of HM Queen Ashi Phuntso Choden (1911–2003), with a small collection of precious texts. Learn about how handmade paper from plants at the Junghi Paper Factory. The traditional handmade papers are widely used for religious scripts, packing materials, hand-carry bags, lampshades, envelopes and calendars.

The National Institute of Traditional Medicine strives to merge the allopathic and traditional systems of healing. A large laboratory and a production facility inside the institute monitor and ensure the quality of the components like the plants, minerals, precious metals etc. The institution also produces Bhutanese medicines and they have a plot inside their premise where they grow different herbs and plants.

#### CONT'D

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Visit the Bhutan Postal Museum which was established in November 2015 to celebrate the 60th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck. The main objective of the museum is to tell the story of Bhutan's progress and development through the lens of the evolution of communications and postal system in the country. Meals: breakfast at hotel

#### DAY 4 THIMPU - PUNAKHA

After breakfast, we take the Dochula pass, located 30 km from the capital, on the way to Punakha which offers a 360-degree of beautiful panoramic view of the Himalaya mountain range. The 108 chortens that adorn the beauty of this place were built by Queen Mother to commemorate the Bhutanese soldiers who were killed when fighting the Indian rebels in 2003. The pass is also popular spiritual place for both locals and tourists because of an important temple that is located on the crest of Dochula pass.

Visit Chimi Lhakhang: located near Lobesa, Punakha stands on a round hillock and is flanked by hundreds of prayer flags. Built in 1499, this monastery is dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kinley or 'the Divine Madman'. An accomplished master of Mahamudra Buddhist Tradition, he is also known as the 'Mad Saint' for his unorthodox ways of teaching Buddhism by singing, humor and outrageous behavior.

Continue to Drukpa Kinley, also a cultural icon in Bhutan around whom countless yarns, fictions, stories and legends have been spun. In founding the site, it is said that Lama Kunley subdued a demon of Dochu La with his "magic thunderbolt of wisdom" and trapped it in a rock at the location close to where the chorten now stands. Meals: Breakfast at hotel and lunch box

#### DAY 5 PHUNAKA - PARO

After breakfast, visit the Punakha Dzong, also known as Pungtang Dechen Photrang Dzong (meaning 'the palace of great happiness or bliss'), the administrative centre of Punakha dzongkhag. Constructed in 1673, it is the second oldest and second largest dzong in Bhutan and one of its most majestic structures. Punakha Dzong was the administrative centre and the seat of the Government of Bhutan until 1955, when the capital was moved to Thimphu.

Drive to Paro then and visit the National Museum and Paro Dzong.

The National Museum of Bhutan is housed inside the revamped circular Ta-dzong building, an ancient watchtower above the Paro Dzong. This unusual round building is said to be in the shape of a conch shell. The original building was constructed in 1656 and then converted into a museum in 1968, housing some of the finest specimens of Bhutanese art, including masterpieces of bronze statues and paintings gathered from different parts of the country.

Some of the handicrafts items cover the history and cultural heritage of more than 1500 years. The National Museum has in its possession over 3,000 works of Bhutanese art, rich holdings of various creative traditions and disciplines that represent a remarkable blend of the past with the present. Paro Dzong is one of the most impressive and well-known dzongs in Bhutan. One of the finest examples of Bhutanese architecture, it is also known as the Ringpung Dzong, which means 'fortress on a heap of jewels'. It is the administrative seat of the district of Paro. The dzong was built in the 16th century and was used on numerous occasions to defend the Paro Valley from invasions by Tibet. Unlike most of the other dzongs in Bhutan, it survived the massive 1897 earthquake mostly unscathed, though it was almost burnt to the ground by a fire in 1907. All-important relics were lost to the fire and nothing could be salvaged except for the Thongdrol, a 20x20 meter-wide Thangka. The Thangka is displayed annually during a ceremony called Paro Tshechu. The Dzong was however rebuilt the following year. Meals: breakfast at hotel and dinner with local family

#### DAY 6 PARO TAKTSANG SOFT HIKE

Drive to Satsam Chorten for a soft hike to Taktsang Monastery. The name Taktsang means "Tiger's Nest". The monastery is perched on a rocky ledge with a sheer drop of nearly 800m, overlooking the Paro Valley and the river. It is said that in the second half of the 8th century, Guru Padma Sambhava known as the second Buddha in Bhutan, meditated at the spot where the monastery is situated having alighted there on the back of a flying tigress.



Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

The hike takes about 4 hours back and forth. Once you reach the view point of the monastery you have the option to visit the monastery which takes another hour hike.

The first monastery was constructed 1694, but in 1998 a tragic fire destroyed most of the original buildings - which have since been painstakingly restored to their former glory.

Later visit Kyichu Lhakhang, a Buddhist temple in Paro. It is one of the oldest monasteries in the country built in the 7th century by the Tibetan King Songsten Gampo.

After visit a Farm House where your dinner will be arranged with the local family. Meals: breakfast at hotel

#### DAY 7 **DEPARTURE**

After breakfast transfer Paro International Airport. Meals: breakfast at hotel

#### Oberoi Grand Kolkata

Fondly known as The Grande Dame of Chowringhee, The Oberoi Grand is situated in a prime location, unrivalled by other luxury hotels in Kolkata, near the central business district, bustling markets and cultural landmarks of the city. Dating back to the late 1880s, The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata was frequented by the country's leading figures during colonial times.

**Deluxe Room** 15, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 013, India Tel: +91 33 2249 2323 Visit Hotel Website



#### Le Meridien, Thimpu

Located in the heart of the capital city, Thimphu, the Le Méridien Thimphu invites the discerning guest to engage and discover the legendary 'Land of the Thunder Dragon', Bhutan. The 78 spaciously appointed guest rooms & suites are culturally inspired, yet decidedly chic and contemporary. With cosmopolitan surroundings amidst the bustling commercial streets of the city-centre, and a convenient location to many of the city's myriad attractions, the Le Méridien Thimphu is the perfect jumpstart to that long awaited leisurely holiday.

Classic Room Chorten Lam, P.O. Box 01286, Thimphu, Kingdom of Bhutan Tel: +975 2 337788 Visit Hotel Website





Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### Dhensa Resort, Punakha

Dhensa Boutique Resorts sits in the heart of the verdant and lush Punakha Valley. Flanked by thick pine forests, it overlooks the Punakha river and hundreds of paddy fields that stair-step down to the valley floor. It is surrounded by plentiful walking and trekking trails. From Dhensa Punakha, it is just a five-minute trek up the mountain to the magnificent Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang Nunnery, which houses one of the biggest bronze statues of Chenrigzig (Avalokiteshvara) in the country. Dhensa Punakha marries contemporary design with this Himalayan Kingdom's ancient and alluring ways. At the core of the Dhensa Punakha philosophy lies the sense of innocence and peace that permeates everything about Bhutan.



Suite Room Wolakha, Punakha, Bhutan Tel: +975 2 584434 Visit Hotel Website

#### Zhiwaling Heritage, Paro

Venture beyond the empty beauty of a hotel chain and experience the warmth and comfort of Zhiwa Ling Heritage - a 5 star hotel living in harmony with nature, culture and tradition. Zhiwa Ling Heritage is set on 10 acres in the Paro Valley, within easy reach of Bhutan's most revered temples and monasteries. The hotel was envisioned by a local Bhutanese businessman and handcrafted by local Bhutanese artisans. To this day, Zhiwa Ling Heritage is wholly Bhutanese owned and staffed.

Junior Suite Room Satsam Chorten, Paro, Kingdom of Bhutan Tel: +975 2 336486 Visit Hotel Website



#### Rates include

Six nights accommodation at advertised hotels (or similar), including breakfast and meals as advertised, excursion and entrance fees as per itinerary, one domestic flight Guwahati or Jorhat to Kolkata including check-in luggage of 20kg and one flight Kolkata – Paro including check-in luggage of 20kg, Bhutan visa and permit fees.

Extension Code: LTID-KOL-BH-POST

# OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

### Optional cruise add ons

PRE-BOOKABLE HOUSE WINE PACKAGE INDIA - UPPER GANGES READ MORE

FREE FLOW DRINKS INDIA - UPPER GANGES READ MORE

FREE FLOW DRINKS & WINE PACKAGE INDIA - UPPER GANGES) READ MORE

### **River Conditions Warning!**

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

### **Useful Links**

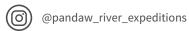
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