



*India*

# THE FULL BRAHMAPUTRA

DIBRUGARH TO GUWAHATI - 10 NIGHTS  
DOWNSTREAM

Sailing further into the Assam valley than ever before, Pandaw's new 10-night Full Brahmaputra expedition is a true adventure. Reaching the second largest city of Assam, Dibrugarh, some 450 km up the mighty Brahmaputra from Guwahati we explore several national parks in search of Assam's abundant wildlife as well as discovering the diverse and unique cultures of the people who live along this vast river system. This is a trip unlike any other and only available thanks to Pandaw's ultra low draft vessels.



[VIEW ONLINE](#)

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# ROUTE MAP

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## DOWNSTREAM



# ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM

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## DAY 1 EMBARK SIBSAGAR

Arrive to Dibrugarh airport and transfer to your Pandaw ship at Sibsagar (3 hours). Meet your crew and enjoy a welcome dinner aboard.

## DAY 2 SIBSAGAR

Visit Sibsagar, capital of the Tai-speaking Ahoms who came from Yunan and China in the 13th Century AD. Explore the Shiva Dol, built in 1734 it is the highest Shiva temple in India. We continue our exploration at the Royal Pavilion built by King Pramatta and said to be one of the oldest surviving amphitheatres in Asia.



## DAY 3 JORHAT GIBBON SANCTUARY

Travel 30 minutes from Nemati Ghat to Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, home to India's only ape and gibbon species, the Hoolock Gibbon as well as the Bengal Slow Loris. This protected area has been reserved for preservation since 1881 and is rich in biodiversity.



## DAY 4 MAJULI

Arrive at the ancient town of Majuli on what is the world's largest river island and home to the ethnic 'Mishing' people. We explore the impressive Satras dating back to the 15th century and meet a family who have been making the famous masks of Majuli for over 150 years. After lunch ashore, we travel to Auniati monastery to witness a special drum performance from the monks.



## DAY 5 SAILING

After leaving Majuli, we sail downstream and visit a local village and learn about the Bihu culture. Our chef will entertain us in the afternoon with a cooking demonstration as we continue our sailing before we moor for the evening mid-river.

## DAY 6 BISWANATH

We sail downstream to Biswanath, a charming riverside village where we stop and explore. Of interest is the Bordol Temple, a brick built temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and built in the 1700s. Enjoy a walk through the village and along the riverfront before returning to your ship.



## DAY 7 KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Our expedition continues with a visit to the UNESCO accredited Kaziranga National Park where we enjoy a full day Jeep safari searching for Indian One-Horned Rhinos, Buffalos, Elephants plus a host of birdlife, including hornbills and kingfishers. Tiger spotting at Kaziranga is extremely rare despite having the highest density of tigers in the world.

[More about Kaziranga National Park](#)

# ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM

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## DAY 8 SUTARGAON RIVER VILLAGE

Today we stop at a local village consisting of migrant populations that have settled and been provided with official status by the government. Their charming village is the perfect place to learn about life along such a dramatically changeable river.



## DAY 9 MYSTICAL MAYANG

Stepping ashore in Mayang, a sizeable village along the shores of the Brahmaputra, we learn about the history of magic and sorcery that was prevalent in the region. We visit the fascinating Mayang museum which explains how various mantras were used for anything from curing ailments to identifying a thief. We are then welcomed into the home of a local Mayang resident for a discussion and perhaps demonstration of some tricks.

## DAY 10 GUWAHATI

Enjoy a full day city tour of Guwahati visiting Nilachai Hill, commonwealth graves Kama-Khya temple and the Assam state museum. In the evening our crew will provide a farewell dinner onboard.

[More about Guwahati](#)



## DAY 11 DISEMBARK GUWAHATI

Disembark and transfer to your hotel or airport for your onward journey.



# WHATS INCLUDED & TRANSFERS DOWNSTREAM

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**Cruise Price Includes:** Transfer to/from Ship, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes plus our India complimentary drinks package.

**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:** We suggest to change money at a bank at the international airport before exiting (currently there is shortage of new money bills in India).

## Transfers & Joining

### DAY 1 EMBARK SIBSAGAR

Arrive to Dibrugarh airport and transfer to the ship. To Sibsagar 110km, 3 hours. To Bogibeel bridge 35km, 1 hour (High water).

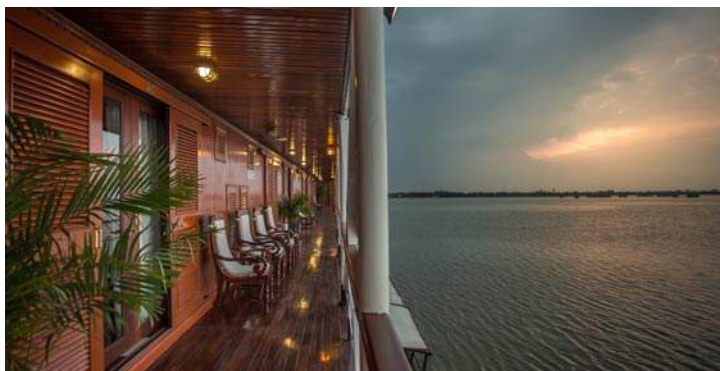
### DAY 11 DISEMBARK GUWAHATI

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to your hotel or Guwahati airport (15km / 30 min). Transfers can be arranged as per your flight details with the latest departure from the ship at 11am.

# PANDAW STATEROOMS

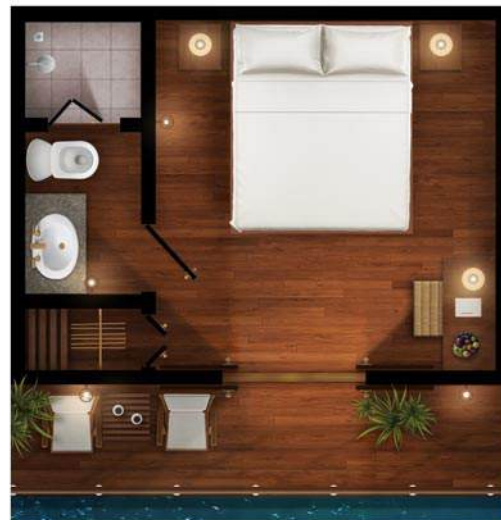
The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

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.

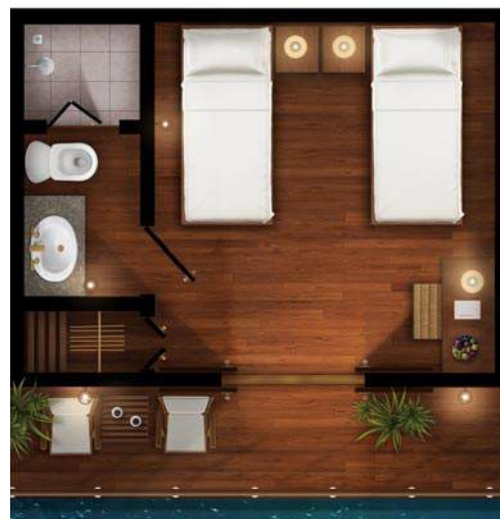


- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

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



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION



# PANDAW SHIPS

## RV Kindat Pandaw

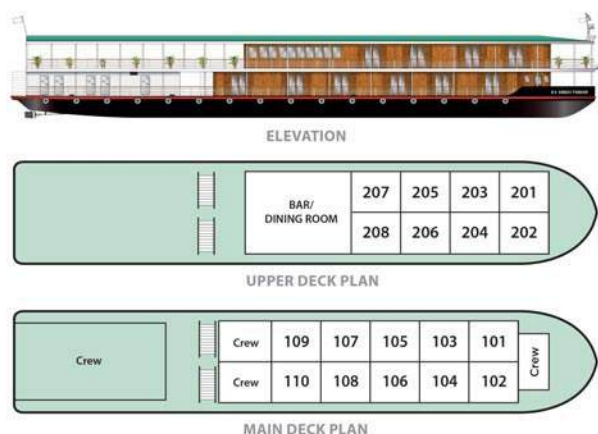
The original Kindat was built in 1886 by Yarrows in London and sank in 1920. She was named after a small Upper Chindwin town. Following experiments with the Katha and Angkor Pandaws, in this build we perfected this concept of a two deck shallow draft vessel and repeated the formula again with her sister the Kalaw.

What we managed to produce in 2014 was a very shallow draft vessel that could go just about anywhere anytime that was big enough to carry 30-40 passengers with lots of outdoor deck space. We did this by reducing weight and stripping both hull and superstructure down to the bare essentials.

We had found with the experimental Katha that about half our passengers want to eat outside and the other half inside so we created a flexible bistro space offering passenger indoor or outdoor dining depending on inclination, often prompted by the season. This makes for a very happy ship!

The ship has quality mountain bikes for your independent exploration.

[View images of RV Kindat Pandaw](#)



- **Build:** Built in 2014 in Yangon
- **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 dryer
- 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, juggled 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
- Quality mountain bikes available for independent exploration

## 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 EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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## 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.

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.

CONT'D ➡

# PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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## 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

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.

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## 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.



### Heritage Room

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

Tel: +91 11 23341234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

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## Taj 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](#)



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# PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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: LTID-GT-POST7

# PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

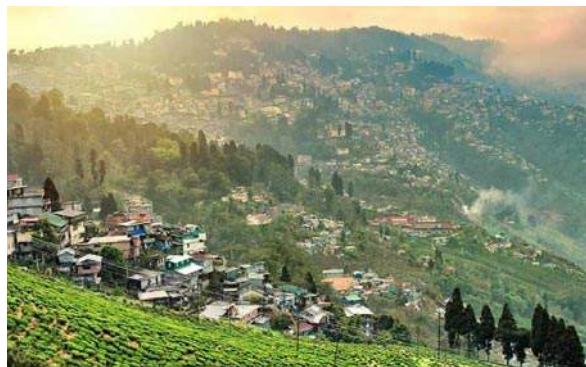
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## Post Tour

### DARJEELING 3 NIGHTS

#### UPSTREAM

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 Bagdogra. Receive a warm Pandaw welcome on arrival into Bagdogra 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: Glenburn Tea Estate / Suite

#### 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: Glenburn Tea Estate / Suite

#### DAY 3 DARJEELING TEA ESTATE

Today 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

CONT'D ➔

# PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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## 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), airport transfer and one way flight 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-2

# PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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## Post Tour

### GUWAHATI & ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BHUTAN 6 NIGHTS



Combine your 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 ARRIVAL GUWAHATI

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 GUWAHATI 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 EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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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.

CONT'D 

# PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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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.

## Radisson Blu Guwahati

Set in a tranquil sector of Assam, the elegant Radisson Blu Hotel Guwahati offers stellar amenities and a peaceful location a short drive from the city center. Located on NH-37, our hotel provides easy access to Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (GAU) and the nearby railway station.

National Highway 37, Gotanagar, Tetelia, Guwahati, Assam 781033, India

Tel: +91 1800 108 0333

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



## Le Meridien, Thimphu

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 spaciouly 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](#)



CONT'D ➡

# PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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## 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## Rates include

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

Extension Code: LTID-GUW-BH-POST-1

# OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

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## Optional cruise add ons

**PRE-BOOKABLE HOUSE WINE PACKAGE INDIA** CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

**FREE FLOW DRINKS INDIA** CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

**FREE FLOW DRINKS & WINE PACKAGE INDIA** CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

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## 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!

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## Useful Links

**BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS** CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

**GENERAL INFORMATION & LIFE ON BOARD** CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

**VISA INFORMATION** CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

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