



India

THE LOWER GANGES & BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER

KOLKATA - GUWAHATI - 14 NIGHTS

There can be no river in the world as sacred as the Ganges and an expedition on the Lower Ganges or Hooghly is one of the prettiest river journeys imaginable. The river wends its way through the lush countryside of West Bengal with its culturally significant towns crammed with temples and palaces. A rich and vibrant rural life abounds and there is never a dull moment as we sedately ply this pleasant waterway. Combine this with the mighty Brahmaputra river in Northern India which originates high in the Himalayas before flowing through the scenic Assam Valley where UNESCO protected national parks and remote rural communities provide the traveller with the most wonderful and authentic expedition.



[VIEW ONLINE](#)

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ROUTE MAP



ITINERARY



DAY 1 KOLKATA - BARRACKPORE

Transfer from your hotel or airport in Kolkata to embark and sail at noon. Sail past the old Danish colony of Serampore to Barrackpore to land and take a walk through the cantonment - past the Semaphore Tower, Government House, the Temple of Fame and Flagstaff House.

DAY 2 KALNA

After breakfast sail upstream and land at the country town of Kalna and 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. Sail on through the night to a mooring near Matiari.

DAY 3 MATIARI

Visit 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. Continue cruising upstream and time permitting 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 history. Moor close to Murshidabad for the night.

DAY 4 MURSHIDABAD

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. Carry on to visit 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. Moor overnight on the riverbank across from town.

DAY 5 BARANAGAR - AJIMGANJ

Continue up the Hoogly which transforms into a charming waterway twisting and turning between banks lined with mustard fields and mango orchards. Morning 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 and continue downstream.

ITINERARY



DAY 6 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.



DAY 7 CHANDERNAGORE - HOOGHLY

Continue sailing downstream before landing to visit the imposing Imambara at Hooghly. With verses from the Koran written on its walls, the Imambara is an opportunity to step back in time and relive a slice of Islamic history in Bengal. Sail past the old Dutch settlement of Chinsura to Chandernagore, a French possession until 1950. Visit the 18th century church and Dupleix's House, erstwhile Governor-General of French India. Sail into the night to a mooring near Kolkata.



DAY 8 KOLKATA - GUWAHATI

After breakfast, disembark and receive a group transfer to the airport for your onward journey to Guwahati to join The Brahmaputra cruise. Explore this pleasant Assami city visiting the Nilachai Hill temple and Commonwealth Graves. Late afternoon cast off upriver.

DAY 9 SAILING

Sail all day making headway against strong currents through the lush Assami countryside stopping for some exercise in a village of market gardens.



DAY 10 TEZPUR

Exploring the town by trishaw we visit the De Parbatia temple with its richly carved portals and Cole Park with its collection of medieval carvings collected from across the region.

DAY 11 NAMERI NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast, drive for some two hours to the Nameri National Park at the foot of the blue hills of Arunachal Pradesh, the old North East Frontier Agency. Here, we take a float trip of around two hours down the Jia-Bhoreli River through the park. There are excellent bird-watching opportunities here (look out for the great Hornbills) and, perhaps, the chance of sighting wild elephants. After lunch, take a village walk before returning to the ship. Continue upstream, passing below a seemingly endless new bridge across the vast width of the riverbed, to moor at Silghat.



ITINERARY



DAY 12 KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Jeep safari to Kaziranga an area of approximately 430 sq kms, this UNESCO World Heritage is home to the world's largest population of the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros as well as the Indian Wild Water Buffalo. It has the highest density of Royal Bengal Tigers with one every five sq. km. The park an incredibly rich biodiversity hotspot with its marshy swamps and thickets of elephant grass, this park supports large populations of Indian elephants, Indian bison, swamp deer, and capped langurs.



Besides wildlife, Kaziranga National Park is also a birding paradise. A few of the bird species found here are the oriental honey buzzard, black-shouldered kite, white-tailed eagle, himalayan griffon to mention a few.

DAY 13 TEA GARDENS

Return downstream to visit a tea estate and historic plantation house on the way. Learn about the tea production process from start to finish in this idyllic setting.



DAY 14 SUALKUCHI SILK

Sailing down past Guwhati moor here in the afternoon to see silk production from the cocoon, to spinning and weaving to make the typical saree worn by Assami women.

DAY 15 GUWAHATI

Disembark in the morning and transfer to airport.

WHATS INCLUDED & TRANSFERS

Cruise Price Includes: Transfer between meeting point Kolkata, Ship and drop off point Kolkata, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes, domestic flight Kolkata – Guwahati incl 20kg check-in luggage.

Cruise Price Excludes: Flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

Transfers & Joining

DAY 1 KOLKATA - BARRACKPORE

Transfer from your hotel or airport in Kolkata at 10:30am to the port to embark the cruise.

DAY 8 KOLKATA - GUWAHATI

Disembark the ship at 08:00 and transfer to Kolkata airport for your onward flight to Guwahati.

Please note that due to water levels, religious festivals, and other situations beyond our control, it is occasionally necessary to change our embarkation / disembarkation jetty. This may result in a longer transfer times and may also require access to / from the ship via a smaller 'country boat'.

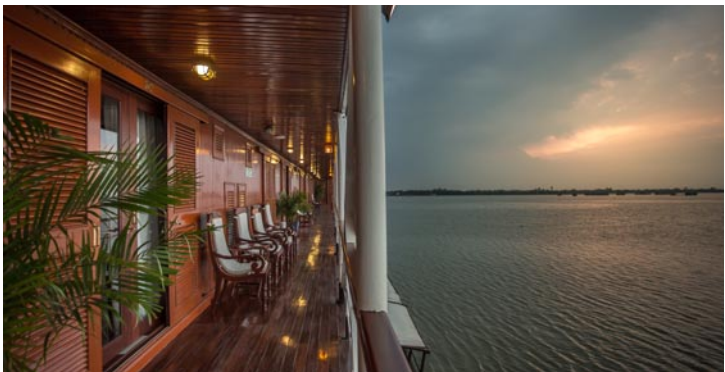
DAY 15 GUWAHATI

Disembark after breakfast 08.30. Transfer to Guwahati airport (15km / 30 min).

PANDAW STATEROOMS

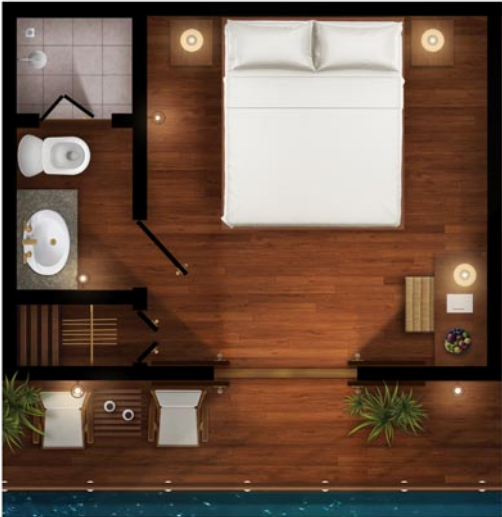
The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

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.

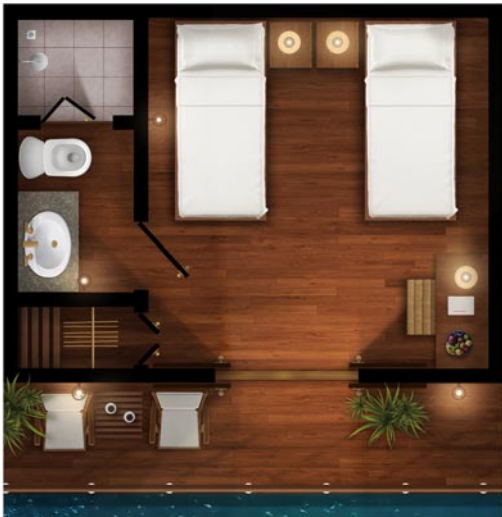


- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

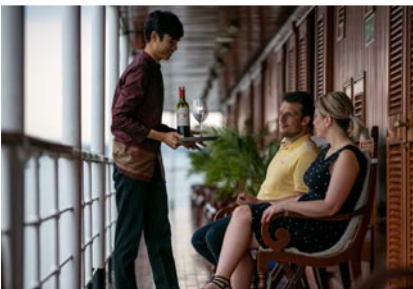
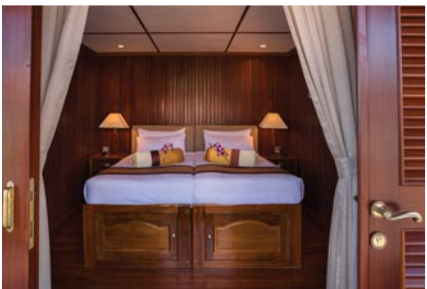
| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Bedroom | 12' x 10' |
| Bathroom | 6' x 4' |
| Showeroom | 2' 8" x 3' 4" |
| Single Bed | 6' 7" x 3' 3" |



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION

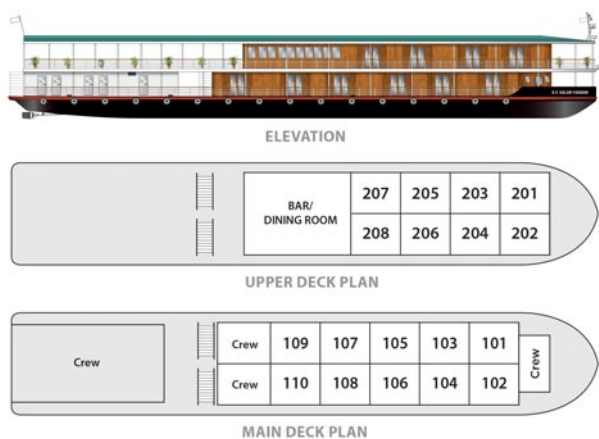


PANDAW SHIPS

RV 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:** Built in 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 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

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 superintendent
- 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

PANDAW SHIPS

RV Kindat Pandaw

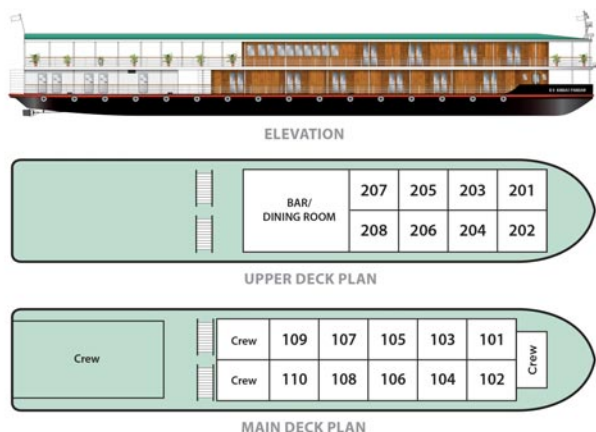
The original Kindat was built in 1886 by Yarrows in London and sank in 1920. She was named after a small Upper Chindwin town. Following experiments with the Katha and Angkor Pandaws, in this build we perfected this concept of a two deck shallow draft vessel and repeated the formula again with her sister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



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PUBLIC SPACES

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- Library with contemporary and classic literature

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

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 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. 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.

CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

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 - KOLKATA

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

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

DAY 7 KOLKATA DEPARTURE

Transfer to your ship.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

5 STAR SELECTION

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.

Imperial Room

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

Tel: +91 11 23341234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



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. There is also an abundance of dining options to delight the epicurean.

Taj East Gate Road, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India, Uttar Pradesh, 282001, India

Tel: +91-562-2335555 / 3545550

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

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](#)



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](#)



OBEROI SELECTION

Oberoi New Delhi

The Oberoi, New Delhi is an iconic luxury 5 star hotel, located in the centre of India's cosmopolitan capital city. The hotel has 220 rooms and suites inspired by Lutyens' New Delhi design, with authentic furnishings and handpicked artwork. All feature large picture windows which frame unmatched views of Delhi Golf Course on one side and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Humayun's Tomb on the other.

Deluxe Room

Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi - 110 003, India

Tel: +91 11 2436 3030

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Oberoi Amarvilas Agra

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra enjoys an unrivalled position amongst luxury hotels in Agra, being located just 600 metres from the iconic Taj Mahal. Each of the rooms have uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendour. The hotel is approached along a sweeping driveway, verdant with native trees and lit by flaming torches. Just inside, a Mughal style quadrant is ornamented with cascading fountains and framed by an arched passageway and gold leaf frescoes.



Premier Taj View Room

Taj East Gate Road, Agra – 282001, India

Tel: +91 562 2231515

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Oberoi Rajvilas Jaipur

The Oberoi Rajvilas is unique amongst hotels in Jaipur; a royal resort set in a breathtaking thirty two acre oasis of beautiful landscaped gardens, filled with beautiful trees and exotic birdlife. Built around an 18th century Shiva temple where guests can experience chanting with a Hindu priest, meditation and morning yoga, The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur is a haven of mystical peace and natural serenity.



Premier Room

Babaji Ka Modh, Goner Road, Jaipur - 302 031, Rajasthan, India

Tel: +91 141 268 0101

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Oberoi Grand Kolkata

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Deluxe Room

15, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 013, India

Tel: +91 33 2249 2323

[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 Delhi – Kolkata including 20kg check-in luggage.

Extension Code: WEBONLY-05

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

DELHI & TAJ MAHAL & KOLKATA

Visit historic Delhi influenced by 1850's British Raj and 1630's Mughal Empire. Continue to Agra to marvel at one of the World's greatest monuments: the Taj Mahal. This tour ends in Kolkata before joining your Pandaw vessel.

This is a private tour.



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Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

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Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

DAY 5 KOLKATA DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to ship.

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Imperial Room

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

Tel: +91 11 23341234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



The Radisson Blue, Agra

The Radisson Blu Agra Taj East Gate is within walking distance of the breathtaking Taj Mahal, one of the world's most iconic landmarks. You'll also be close to the red sandstone walls of Agra Fort, the exotic birds of Keoladeo National. Enjoy the refreshing rooftop infinity pool overlooking the Taj Mahal, a rejuvenating spa, a well-equipped fitness center.

Deluxe Taj Facing Room

Taj East Gate Road 28200, Agra, India

Tel: +91 562 2335555

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



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OBEROI SELECTION

Oberoi New Delhi

The Oberoi, New Delhi is an iconic luxury 5 star hotel, located in the centre of India's cosmopolitan capital city. The hotel has 220 rooms and suites inspired by Lutyens' New Delhi design, with authentic furnishings and handpicked artwork. All feature large picture windows which frame unmatched views of Delhi Golf Course on one side and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Humayun's Tomb on the other.

Deluxe Room

Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi - 110 003, India

Tel: +91 11 2436 3030

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Oberoi Amarvilas Agra

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra enjoys an unrivalled position amongst luxury hotels in Agra, being located just 600 metres from the iconic Taj Mahal. Each of the rooms have uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendour. The hotel is approached along a sweeping driveway, verdant with native trees and lit by flaming torches. Just inside, a Mughal style quadrant is ornamented with cascading fountains and framed by an arched passageway and gold leaf frescoes.

Premier Taj View Room

Taj East Gate Road, Agra – 282001, India

Tel: +91 562 2231515

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



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](#)



Rates include

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

Extension Code: WEBONLY-01

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BHUTAN & KOLKATA



Direct flights between Kolkata and Paro make it now possible to 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 5.

DAY 1. ARRIVAL 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 2 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.

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.

CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

DAY 3 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.

DAY4 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 5 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.

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 your hotel.

DAY 6 PARO - KOLKATA

After breakfast transfer Paro International Airport for your flight to Kolkata, followed by a city tour. Join the Heritage Tram Ride across the Old Town to witness the bygone era of charming Bengali colonies, chic cafes and traditional houses. Visit the sacred Hooghly Riverside to witness WWII built Howrah Bridge, 1906 Howrah Junction Railway Station still housing St John Church, Old

CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Court House, and Colonial Secretariat Buildings. Next stop, the riverside located Mullik Ghat to explore some of India's most colourful Flower Bazaar Markets. Continue to Victoria Memorial, a landmark of Kolkata dedicated to UK's Queen Victoria and now serves as a royal museum of British Rule in India. Next, arrive at the country's iconic Eden Garden Cricket Stadium.

Visit Mother Teresa's Mission and House. Later, discover the curious lanes of Kumartuli. The tour ends at Kolkata's New Market area to enjoy novelty of street shopping and bargaining with the locals.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

DAY 7 DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to your ship.

Meals: breakfast at hotel.

4 STAR SELECTION

RKPO Green Resort

RKPO Green Resort in Punakha sits in the heart of the verdant and lush Punakha Valley. Flanked by thick pine forests, it overlooks the Punakha valley and hundreds of paddy fields that stair-step down to the valley floor. It is surrounded by plentiful walking and trekking trails.



Norkhil Hotel

Located thirty minutes from Paro International Airport, Naksel Boutique Hotel & Spa is a luxury retreat where the comforts of man and the presence of nature combine for a peaceful escape in the hills of Bhutan.

Doe Bum Lam, P.O. Box#2011, Thimphu, Bhutan

Tel: +975 (2)330356/57/58

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



The Naksel, Paro

Naksel is a community-based & eco-friendly blending the heritage of traditional Bhutanese architecture and the comfort of modern amenities. Traditional windows, mud-bricks, framework and furniture were locally crafted at in Ngoba Village, connecting Naksel to the surrounding forest.

Superior Room

Ngoba Village, Lango Gewog, Paro, Kingdom of Bhutan

Tel: +975 8 272992

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D ➔

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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](#)



5 STAR SELECTION

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](#)



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](#)



CONT'D ➔

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Le Meridien Riverfront

Le Meridien Paro, Riverfront is the perfect destination which offers life time opportunity to live and experience the country's exotic culture and natural beauty with a mix of luxury and comfort. Located 10 minutes from Paro International Airport, Le Meridien Paro, Riverfront is situated on the edge of the Paro River, offering panoramic views of the Eastern Himalayas, making it a perfect stopover for anyone visiting Bhutan.

PO Box 1265, Shaba, Paro, Bhutan

Tel: +975-8-270360

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Oberoi Grand Kolkata

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Deluxe Room

15, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 013, India

Tel: +91 33 2249 2323

[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 flight Paro – Kolkata including check-in luggage of 20kg, Bhutan visa and permit fees.

Extension Code: WEBONLY-03

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Post Tour

DELHI & TAJ MAHAL 3 NIGHTS

Visit historic Delhi influenced by 1850's British Raj and 1630's Mughal Empire. Continue to Agra to marvel at one of the World's greatest monuments: the Taj Mahal.

This is a private tour.



DAY 1. ARRIVAL NEW DELHI

Transfer to airport for your flight Kolkata - New Delhi, followed by 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.

DAY4 AGRA - NEW DELHI AIRPORT

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. Transfer back to Delhi airport (4 hrs).

Note: We advise to book flights out of Delhi 17.00 or later for international, or 16.00 or later for domestic.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

5 STAR SELECTION

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.

Imperial Room

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

Tel: +91 11 23341234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



The Radisson Blue, Agra

The Radisson Blu Agra Taj East Gate is within walking distance of the breathtaking Taj Mahal, one of the world's most iconic landmarks. You'll also be close to the red sandstone walls of Agra Fort, the exotic birds of Keoladeo National. Enjoy the refreshing rooftop infinity pool overlooking the Taj Mahal, a rejuvenating spa, a well-equipped fitness center.

Deluxe Taj Facing Room

Taj East Gate Road 28200, Agra, India

Tel: +91 562 2335555

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



OBEROI SELECTION

Oberoi New Delhi

The Oberoi, New Delhi is an iconic luxury 5 star hotel, located in the centre of India's cosmopolitan capital city. The hotel has 220 rooms and suites inspired by Lutyens' New Delhi design, with authentic furnishings and handpicked artwork. All feature large picture windows which frame unmatched views of Delhi Golf Course on one side and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Humayun's Tomb on the other.

Deluxe Room

Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi - 110 003, India

Tel: +91 11 2436 3030

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D 

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Oberoi Amarvilas Agra

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra enjoys an unrivalled position amongst luxury hotels in Agra, being located just 600 metres from the iconic Taj Mahal. Each of the rooms have uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendour. The hotel is approached along a sweeping driveway, verdant with native trees and lit by flaming torches. Just inside, a Mughal style quadrant is ornamented with cascading fountains and framed by an arched passageway and gold leaf frescoes.



Premier Taj View Room

Taj East Gate Road, Agra – 282001, India

Tel: +91 562 2231515

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

Rates include

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

Extension Code: WEBONLY-09

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Post Tour

EXPLORING KOLKATA 2 NIGHTS

Kolkata is locally regarded as India's cultural capital and where India and British Raj collide. Visit the city's highlights before or after the cruise.



DAY 1 ARRIVAL KOLKATA

Welcome to Kolkata! Transfer from ship to airport for your domestic flight to Kolkata. After arrival, check-in at your hotel. Rest of day at leisure. Meals: none.

DAY 2 CITY TOUR OF KOLKATA

In the morning, join the Heritage Tram Ride across the Old Town to witness the bygone era of charming Bengali colonies, chic cafes and traditional houses. Visit the sacred Hooghly Riverside to witness WWII built Howrah Bridge, 1906 Howrah Junction Railway Station still housing St John Church, Old Court House, and Colonial Secretariat Buildings. Next stop, the riverside located Mullik Ghat to explore some of India's most colourful Flower Bazaar Markets. Continue to Victoria Memorial, a landmark of Kolkata dedicated to UK's Queen Victoria and now serves as a royal museum of British Rule in India. Next, arrive at the country's iconic Eden Garden Cricket Stadium.

Visit Mother Teresa's Mission and House. Later, discover the curious lanes of Kumartuli. The tour ends at Kolkata's New Market area to enjoy novelty of street shopping and bargaining with the locals. Transfer back to your hotel. Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

DAY 3 DEPARTURE KOLKATA

After breakfast transfer to the airport. Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

Oberoi Grand Kolkata

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Deluxe Room

15, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 013, India

Tel: +91 33 2249 2323

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Rates include

Transfer airport to hotel v.v., two nights accommodation at Oberoi Grand Kolkata (or similar), deluxe room including breakfast, excursion including entrance fees as per itinerary, one domestic flight after the cruise from Guwahati or Jorhat to Kolkata with 20kg check-in luggage.

Extension Code: LTID-KOLBRA-POST

OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

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

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

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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