



India

THE UPPER GANGES RIVER

VARANASI - FARAKKA - 7 NIGHTS

DOWNSTREAM

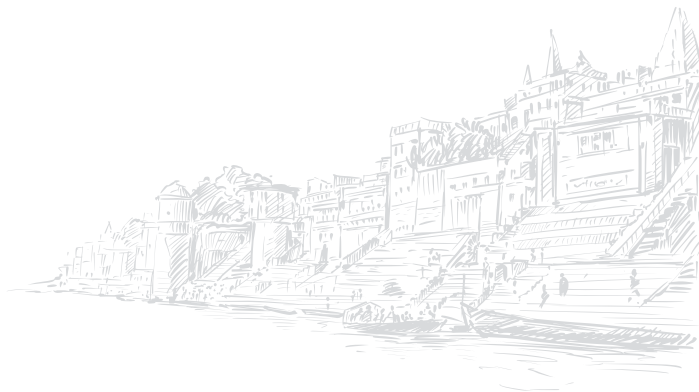
For the first time Pandaw guests will be able to explore the diverse and beautiful Ganges River between Varanasi and Farakka on our new 7 night itinerary. Sailing through the state of Bihar, this splendid journey takes travellers along one of the prettiest sections of the Ganges where Gangeatic dolphins and a host of birdlife and wildlife roam.

Explore the many villages, pilgrimage sites and handicraft havens along the banks of the Upper Ganges as you sail gently aboard Pandaw's specially crafted river vessels. With train tickets included between Kolkata and Farakka and Patna and Varanasi, said to be one of the oldest inhabited cities on the planet, there is no better way to explore the wonders of India than with Pandaw.



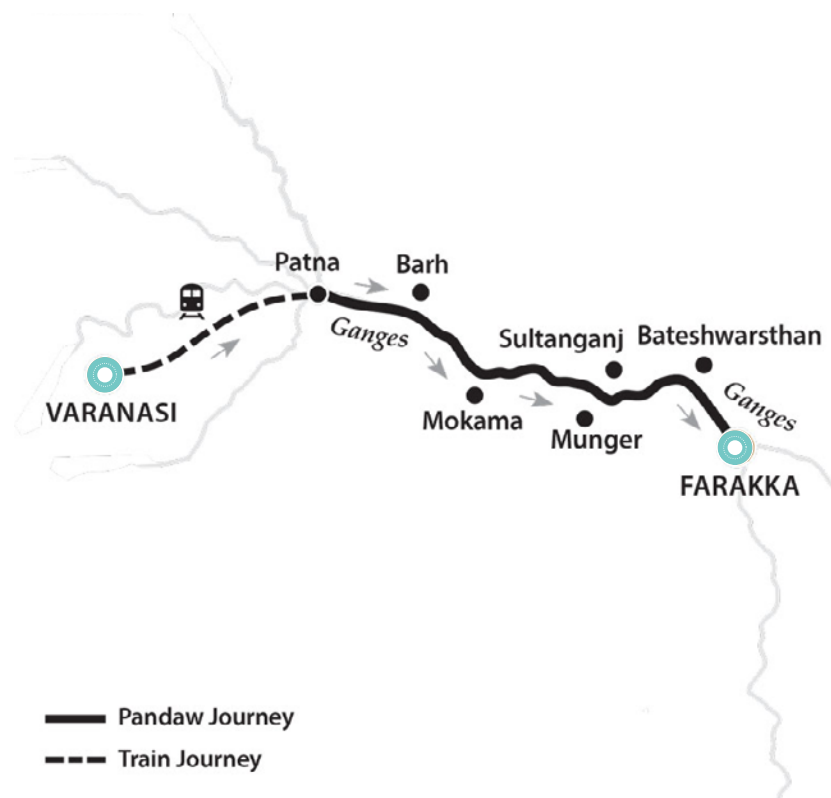
[VIEW ONLINE](#)

CONTENTS



Route Map	p.3
Itinerary Downstream	p.4
Pandaw Stateroom	p.7
Ships - RV Kalaw Pandaw	p.8
Pre & Post Tours	p.9

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 7 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 highest 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 **BATESHWARSTHAN**

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 **DISEMBARK FARAKKA**

After breakfast, depart your Pandaw and transfer to Farakka to your hotel or train journey to Kolkata.

WHATS INCLUDED & TRANSFERS DOWNSTREAM

Cruise Price Includes: Transfer to/from Ship including one way 1st class train ticket, 1st class express train from Kolata to Farakka (24/25 Upstream), 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.
- 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.

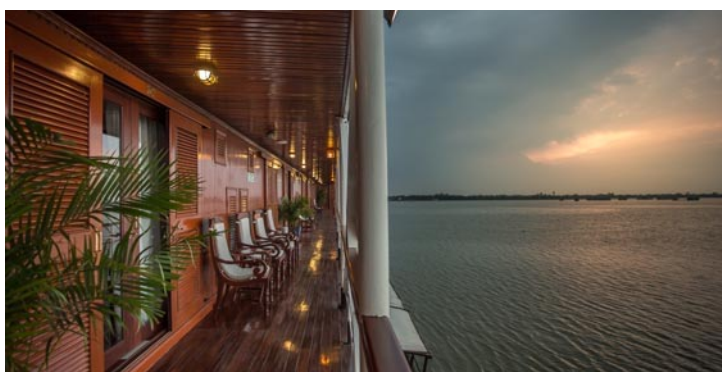
DAY 8 DISEMBARK FARAKKA

After breakfast, transfer to Farakka station for your train to Kolkata. On arrival transfer to any central Kolkata hotel.

PANDAW STATEROOMS

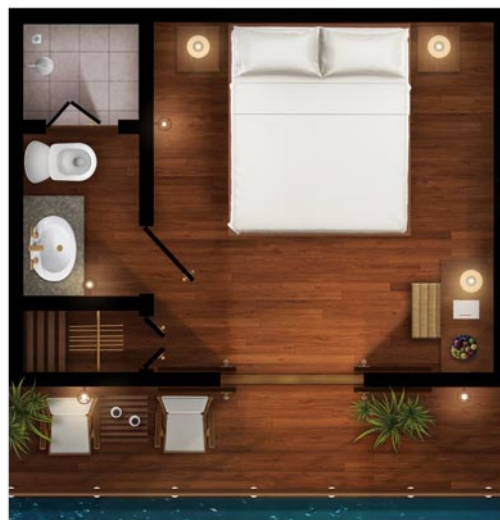
The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

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.

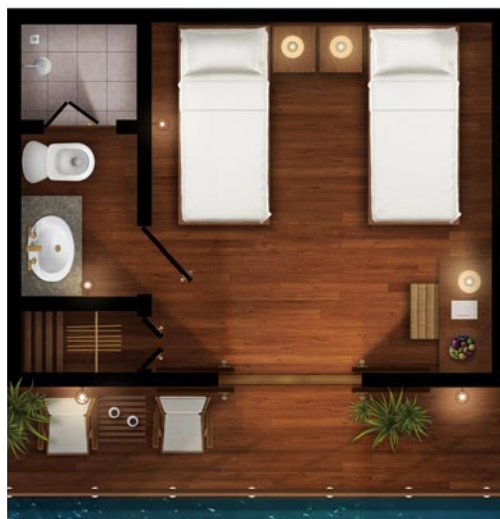


- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

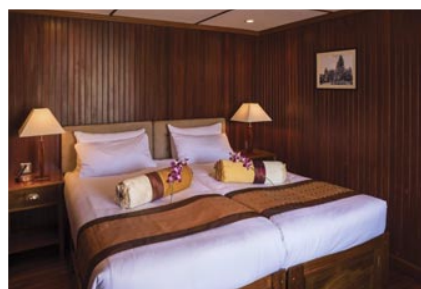
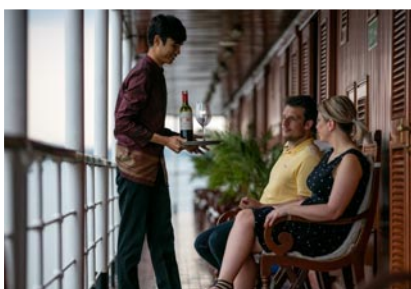
Bedroom	12' x 10'
Bathroom	6' x 4'
Showeroom	2' 8" x 3' 4"
Single Bed	6' 7" x 3' 3"



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



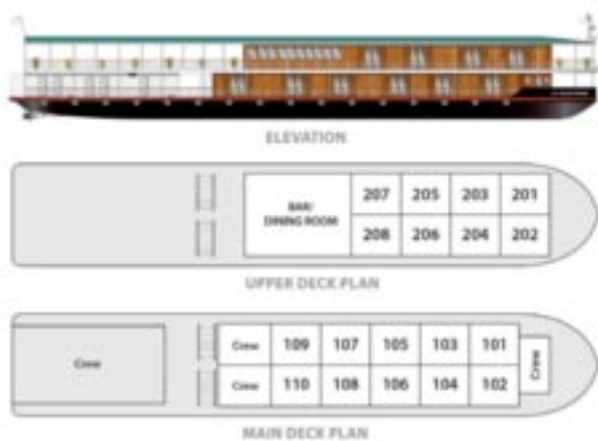
TWIN CONFIGURATION



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 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

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

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 taxes.

Extension Code: LTID-VAR-PRE-2

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 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.

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 - 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.



Heritage Room

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

Tel: +91 11 23341234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

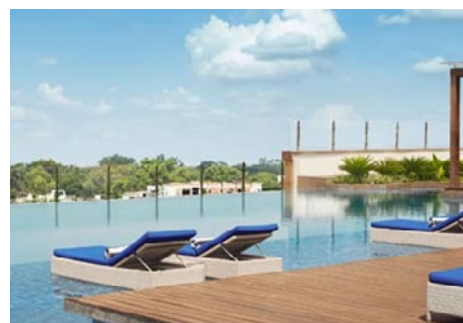
Taj Convention

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.

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](#)



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.

Tel: +919015242000

[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 – Varansi including 20kg check-in luggage.

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

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

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 Buddhist monastic centre of learning at Nalanda during this new pre 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

DAY 4 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

CONT'D ➡

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

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

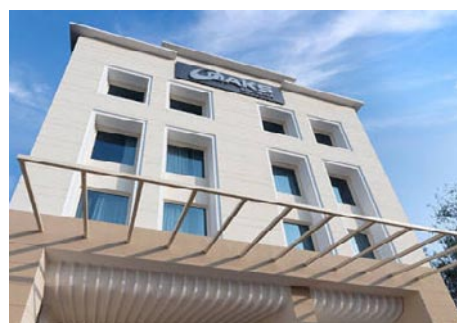
Oaks Bodhgaya

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](#)



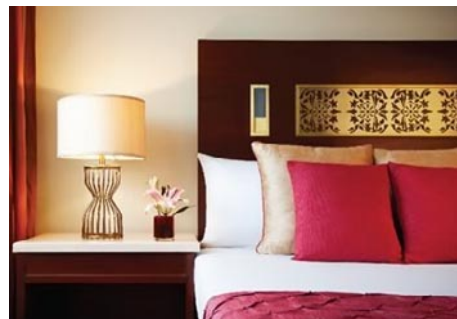
Taj Ganges

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 Varanasi, 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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/pandawriverexpeditions



@pandaw_river_expeditions



@pandaw-river-expeditions



Pandaw Expeditions



PANDAW

UK

 FREEPHONE 0800 038 1029

 uk@pandaw.com

GLOBAL

 +84 (0)28 4458 2618

 information@pandaw.com

NORTH AMERICA

 TOLL FREE 1-877-872-6329

 usa@pandaw.com

AUSTRALIA

 TOLL FREE 1800 207 625

 aus@pandaw.com

NEW ZEALAND

 TOLL FREE 0800 115 250

 aus@pandaw.com

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA

 +49 30 3464981 30

 dach@pandaw.com

P A N D A W . C O M