



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 5

THE SUNDARBANS

3 NIGHTS

The Sundarbans, where the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers outflow through a vast delta into the Bay of Bengal, consists of 10,000 square kilometres of mangrove, part in West Bengal and part in Bangladesh, and declared as National Parks and World Heritage Sites in each country. This is the largest mangrove forest on the planet. The excitement of any Sundarban exploration is the sighting of an often-swimming great Bengal tiger.

Sailing from Kolkata down the Hoogly River we enter the Sundarban park area and over two days explorations are made by smaller country boats accompanied by experienced park rangers on the West Bengal side. There are 453 fauna in the Sundarban, not to mention varied bird and reptilian life with lots of crocodiles. Treks on foot are offered and village visits offer an insight into life in the Sundarban. In the evening locals come on board to perform folk theatre.

Cruise Price Includes: Main meals, coffee, tea and mineral water, entrance fees, excursion costs and entertainments on board.

Cruise Price Excludes: Transfers at the beginning and end of the cruise, drinks at bar, wines and personal laundry.

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

KOLKATA - THE SUNDARDANS

11:00am embarkation at Kolkata Botanical Garden to cruise through the splendours of riverside Kolkata and down the Hoogly River to enter the Sunderbans and explore the mangrove forested back waters. During the cruise lunch will be served and afternoon activities include yoga classes, local speciality cooking demonstrations, a lecture by our on-board naturalist and after dinner a cultural dance programme.

DAY 2

BHAGABATPUR ISLAND - JHARKHALI TIGER REHABILITATION CENTRE

Moor off the Bhagabatpur Island to visit the crocodile project there. These are the largest estuarine crocodiles in the world. After lunch travel by country boat to the Jharkhali Watchtower and on to Jharkhali Tiger Rehabilitation Centre. It will be possible to trek into the Sunderban Tiger Reserve from here accompanied by a park ranger.

DAY 3**SUNDARBAN TIGER RESERVE - DOBANKI DEER
REHABILITATION CENTRE - BARREN ISLAND**

Early rise to travel by country boat to the Sudhanyakhalı Watch Tower which is also located in the Sudhanyakhalı camp of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve. Return to ship for breakfast and later visit the Dobanki deer rehabilitation centre travelling by country boat through swamps. Visit a local village for a walk ashore to see the unique way of life in the Sunderban and go ashore on 'Barren Island' with its white sandy beaches for an evening barbeque and cocktails. Return to Kolkata sailing through the night.

DAY 4**KOLKATA**

After breakfast disembark by 09:00am at the Botanical Garden Jetty, Kolkata.

STATEROOM

The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are very spacious at 168 square feet (15.6 sqm). Much loved by all our passengers we have ensured that with each ship we build the stateroom remains the same. Our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet or phones. Pandaw passengers usually want to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.

Many passengers describe life on board a Pandaw more like being a guest on a private motor yacht than a cruise ship. Where we go and what we see is intrepid in extreme. What you come back to is a floating base of discreet comfort, caring service and all the good things one looks for in life. All our cabins have the same size and Pandaw signature amenities. Choose from Main Deck, Upper Deck or Premium Upper Deck (Mekong only).

Special to Your Stateroom

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

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

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[General Information & Life on Board](#)

[Visa Information](#)