



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 39

THE FULL BRAHMAPUTRA & SUNDARBANS AND LOWER GANGES

21 NIGHTS

Join Pandaw for this one off special combo cruise taking guests further up the Mighty Brahmaputra than previously offered before embarking on a 10 night Sundarbans and Hooghly expedition exploring the world's largest mangrove forest. This unique 21 night combo expedition is offered once only sailing April 2024 and cabins are already limited.

From September 2024, Pandaw is happy to announce that our India expeditions will be all-inclusive, with complimentary local beers, spirits, mixers and soft drinks for all guests. Also included free of charge is select house wines during lunch and dinner only. Subject to availability.

Cruise Price Includes: Transfer to/from/between Ship, 1 night accommodation onboard ship in Kolkata, 1 way domestic flight Dibrugarh to Kolkata, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes plus our India complimentary drinks package

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).

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

EMBARK GUWAHATI

Transfer to your Pandaw vessel via a visit to the 'Kama-khya Temple', devoted to the goddess of desire. Set sail passing Peacock Island, famous for the endangered Golden Langur. Enjoy an evening welcome dinner and talk.

DAY 2

SAILING TOWARDS SILGHAT

Spend the day enjoying the stunning natural scenery and wildlife of the Brahmaputra River. Observe river dolphins and birds of prey as we pass uninhabited islands and the fragile communities that live here. After tea enjoy a talk on 'The River Brahmaputra and the tribal life that exists alongside'.

DAY 3

SILGHAT

Pass Tezpur and a gigantic 3 Km long arched bridge arriving at Silghat, where we take an excursion through stunning countryside to a tea estate and factory producing the famous Assam tea.

DAY 4

KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Our expedition continues with a visit to the UNESCO accredited Kaziranga National Park where we enjoy a safari searching for the elusive Greater One-Horned Indian Rhinoceros and Indian tiger. We continue to Bagori, where by open jeep we further explore the wildlife of this magnificent park. We also travel to Biswanath Ghat and discover the charming village by small boat where women weave colourful traditional handicrafts by the riverside.

DAY 5

RIVER SAFARI

After more dramatic scenic cruising, we take a boat safari on the Eastern range of Kaziranga where River Dhansiri and River Brahmaputra meet. Here, observe wildlife at its most natural including pied kingfishers, eagles, vultures, water buffalos, monitor lizards and otters. Dinner is enjoyed al fresco on a deserted island.

DAY 6

TOWARDS MAJULI

Visit a local village on what is the world's largest river island and home to the ethnic 'Mishing' people. Here, women weave on hand-loom to create characterful costumes and we enjoy a demonstration of a Dhoti & Chaddor - traditional dresses for the men and women of the Mishing communities. It is a pleasant place to explore.

DAY 7

MAJULI, NEAMATI GHAT AND SIBSAGAR

Arrive at the ancient town of Majuli, where we explore the impressive Satras dating back to the 15th century. We continue to 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, the highest Shiva temple in India. Our day is completed with an insight into the making of Assam tea from a tea estate family.

DAY 8

SAILING

In this remote section of the river where no other river cruise vessels ply, great vistas un-fold and bird life is prolific. Village stop for a walk about and then pass Dibrugarh heading for the Dibru Saikowa island to moor for the night.

DAY 9

DIBRU SAIKHOWA NATIONAL PARK

This less well-known park has an area of 765 square miles and is at the meeting place of three rivers and is mainly evergreen forest and is very lovely. It is a haven for endangered species with thirty-six recorded mammals including leopards, jungle cats and tiger. All very elusive and unlikely to be seen. More evident are an incredible profusion of bird life. Sail back to Dibrugarh and afternoon visit to the Jokai Botanical Cum Germplasm Centre which showcases quite extraordinary flora, in particular orchids and medicinal and aromatic plants.

DAY 10

JEYPORE DIBRUGARH

Travel by car to the Namphake Tai village where there is an ethnic Tai (as in Thai) community maintaining their distinct Thai costume and culture around a Buddhist monastery. Also of interest is an Ashokan pillar situated nearby. After lunch, continue to the Jeypore rain forest area where several types of wildcat, leopards and the Royal Bengal Tigers survive in good strength in this hill country of great beauty. In Jeypore we visit the Royal Palace, lake and other attractions and then continue after lunch to the picturesque hill station of Margherita, so named by an Italian railway engineer after the Queen of Italy. Here the Ledo Road to Burma, famed from the last war, begins. Return by car to Dibrugarh.

DAY 11**DIBRUGARH TO KOLKATA**

Disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight to Kolkata. Upon arrival, transfer to your next vessel and meet your new crew for the next ten nights.

DAY 12**KOLKATA - THE SUNDARBANS**

In the morning we 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 13**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 14

SUNDARBAN TIGER RESERVE - DOBANKI DEER REHABILITATION CENTRE - BARREN ISLAND

Early rise to travel by country boat to the Sudhanyakhal Watch Tower which is also located in the Sudhanyakhal 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 15

KOLKATA – BARRACKPORE

Dock at Kolkata before continuing upstream in the afternoon. 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 16

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 17

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 18

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 19**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.

DAY 20**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 21**CHANDERNAGORE - HOOGLY**

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 22

DISEMBARK KOLKATA

After breakfast, disembark and receive a group transfer to the disembarkation point hotel for your onward journey.

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

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

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 and seat of the Druk desi or 'Dharma Raja', the head of Bhutan's civil government 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, National Institute of Zorig Chusum and the National Library of Bhutan, Junghi Paper Factory, National Institute of Traditional Medicine and Bhutan Postal Museum.

Meals: breakfast at hotel

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. Visit Chimi Lhakhang, a monastery 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 4

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.

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.

Meals: breakfast at hotel

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.

After visit a Farm House where your dinner will be arranged with the local family.

Meals: breakfast at hotel and dinner with local family

DAY 6

PARO - GUWAHATI

After breakfast transfer Paro International Airport for your flight to Guwahati. Free time in the evening to relax.

Meals: breakfast at hotel

DAY 7

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to your ship.

Meals: breakfast at hotel



DISCOVER

Ancient Kingdom Of Bhutan Pre Tour 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 5.

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 – Guwahati including check-in luggage of 20kg, Bhutan visa and permit fees.

Note

- Please advise arrival/departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- The Bhutan visa is included in the price, please send us your passport scan for the application
- If you are staying in India before and after Bhutan then a multiple entry visa is required for India
- Check in time 14.00 / Check out time 11.00

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

Passport Information

Please ensure you send Pandaw a copy of your passport at least 50 days prior to your travel date. Your passport must be:

- Ensure that it is the same passport that was used for the Bhutan visa application
- The passport validity can't be less than six months
- All passport will require at least 2 blank pages in their passport for Bhutan entry and exit stamp

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

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.

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 - GUWAHATI

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

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

DAY 7

GUWAHATI DEPARTURE

Transfer to your ship.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.



DISCOVER

6 Night India's Golden Triangle Pre Tour

We are pleased to present this unique opportunity to combine a fabulous 7-night cruise exploring the Brahmaputra 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.

Rates include:

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

Note

- Please advice arrival/departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Apply for Indian visa before departure
- Check in time 14.00 / Check out time 11.00
- Radisson Blue Agra Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 68 per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 156 per person
- Radisson Blue Agra, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 99
- Taj Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 212 per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 283 per person
- Taj Jai Mahal Palace Jaipur, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 216

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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.

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.



DISCOVER

India's Golden Triangle 6 Nights Post Tour

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.

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.

Note

- Please advice departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Apply for Indian visa before departure
- Check in time 14.00 / Check out time 11.00

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

KOLKATA

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

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

chandeliers and English, Dutch and Italian paintings.

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

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

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

Meals: none

Accommodation: The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel / Premier Room

DAY 2

KOLKATA

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

Follow in the footsteps of the British Raj with a walking tour of colonial Kolkata. See Dalhousie Square, now known as B.B.D. Bagh, in the political heart of the city. Admire the colonial buildings, including the prominent Writers' Building the former HQ of the East India Company, and step inside St John's Church with its painting of The Last Supper, with the city's residents dressed as the apostles. In the gardens discover the monument built by Lord Curzon to the Black Hole of Calcutta.

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

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

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel / Premier Room

DAY 3

KOLKATA

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

Meals: Breakfast



DISCOVER

Kolkata Post Tour 2 Nights

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

Rates include:

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

mineral water / tea or coffee

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL BAGDOGRA

Following breakfast transfer privately to Kolkata Airport for your flight to Bagdaogra. 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: The Elgin Darjeeling / Deluxe Room

DAY 2

DARJEELING

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

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

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Accommodation: The Elgin Darjeeling / Deluxe Room

DAY 3

DARJEELING TEA ESTATE

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

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

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Glenburn Tea Estate / Suite

DAY 4

DEPART BAGDOGRA

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

Meals: Breakfast



DISCOVER

Darjeeling Post Tour 3 Nights

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.

Rates include:

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

Note

- Additional nights can be added at The Glenburn Estate

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVE KOLKATA

Disembark from your Pandaw ship and transfer to the hotel for the last overnight in India. Rest of the day free to relax.

Meals: no meals

DAY 2

KOLKATA TO PARO

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

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

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

Meals: lunch depending on arrival time

DAY 3

THIMPU

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

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

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

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

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.

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



DISCOVER

Kolkata & Ancient Kingdom of Bhutan 6 Nights Post Tour

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.

Note: medium fitness is required for a soft hike on day 6.

Rates include:

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

Note

- Please advise departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly

- The Bhutan visa is included in the price, please send us your passport scan for the application
- If you are staying in India after Bhutan then a multiple entry visa is required for India
- Check in time 14.00 / Check out time 11.00

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

Passport Information

Please ensure you send Pandaw a copy of your passport at least 50 days prior to your travel date. Your passport must be:

- Ensure that it is the same passport that was used for the Bhutan visa application
- The passport validity can't be less than six months
- All passport will require at least 2 blank pages in their passport for Bhutan entry and exit stamp

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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

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



DISCOVER

The Golden Triangle - 6 night Post Tour

We are pleased to present this unique opportunity to combine a fabulous 7-night cruise exploring lower Ganges 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.

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.

Note

- Please advice departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Apply for Indian visa before departure
- Check in time 14.00 / Check out time 11.00

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

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**](#)