



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 4

BENGAL TO ASSAM AND THE SUNDARBANS

21 NIGHTS

A 21 night reconnaissance expedition on the Kindat Pandaw through India and Bangladesh, between Kolkata to Guwhati via Dhaka

The eighteen cabin Kindat Pandaw will reposition between West Bengal to Assam. Departing between the magnificent former capital of Kolkata (Calcutta), with its outstandingly splendid colonial architecture, the ship crosses Bangladesh in a two-country reconnaissance expedition that explores the Sundarbans, one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the planet and known for its swimming tigers. It is here that the Ganges and Brahmaputra outflow into the Bay of Bengal and has 10,000 square miles of mangrove, the world's largest mangrove forest. Visits will be made to national parks with trips by tender deep into the back waters. The expedition will also explore the wealth of Islamic art and architecture in Bangladesh's delta towns and the rich traditions of weaving and other crafts in the riverine communities of this vast delta that teems with human life and activity. Dhaka with its colonial buildings and excellent museums will be a highlight. Then leaving the delta the expedition will continue up the great Brahmaputra to re-enter India and continue through Assam to the colourful city of Guwhati with its Hindu temples, the country side around filled with tea gardens and plantation houses. Our new downstream departure will travel in the opposite direction.

YOUR SHIP - [RV KINDAT PANDAW](#)

[MORE IMAGES OF THE RV KINDAT PANDAW](#)

Cruise Price Includes: Transfer to/from/between Ship, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes.

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.

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

KOLKATA - ARRIVALS

Embark on the RV Kindat Pandaw. After lunch visit the splendid of the Victoria Memorial in the maidan and then St John's Anglican church, with its splendid 18th century memorials, Zoffany's Last Supper and Job Charnock's mausoleum (1690).

DAY 2

KOLKATA

Visit the National Museum, the largest and oldest museum in India with a cross section of art and archaeology from different eras of Indian history (over 1 million items are in the collection!). After lunch on the ship, visit the house and tomb of the canonized Mother Teresa and learn more about the work of her still active foundation. Then a short walk the the "Sishu Bhawan", a children's home run by the sisters of Mother Teresa's order.

DAY 3**HOOGLIE RIVER AND THE SUNDERBANS: KOLKATA
- NAMKHANA - BHAGABATPUR**

In the morning sail down the Hooglie to the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forests on earth, habitat of the famous royal bengal tiger and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The fishing port of Namkhana is considered the gateway to the Sundarbans. Depending on the tide, crossing the Hatania Doania River and anchoring near Bhagabatpur.

DAY 4**BHAGABATPUR - BANGAR ISLAND**

Early in the morning visit the "Bhagabatpur Crocodile Project", a breeding and protection area of the estuary crocodiles. Continue to Bangar Island.

DAY 5**BANGAR ISLAND - HEMNAGAR - ANTIHARA –
BORDER CROSSING**

Continue through the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans towards the Bangladeshi border. After completing customs formalities in Hemnagar on the India side, proceed downstream to Antihara on the Bangladeshi side of the Sundarbans for further immigration and customs formalities.

DAY 6**ANTIHARA - MONGLA**

Drive to Mongla and visit the Sixty Dome Mosque in Bagerhat (UNESCO World Heritage Site). It is the largest Sultanate-era mosque in Bangladesh and one of the most impressive Muslim monuments in the entire Indian subcontinent. After, visit the museum in Bagerhat.

DAY 7**KOTKA - HARBARIA**

Canoe ride in the mangrove forests. Here you can experience the flora and fauna up close and enjoy the peace and beauty of the sea beach of Kotka Jamtola. Deer and other native animals can be found in the Kotka forest area.

DAY 8**HARBARIA - MORRELGANJ**

Early morning rowing boat ride through the narrow rivers and canals of Harbaria. Return to the ship and during breakfast continue towards Morrelganj.

DAY 9**MORRELGANJ - BARISAL**

Sail to Barisal and visit the Anglican Oxford Mission Church. It is said to be the second largest church in Asia and one of the oldest.

DAY 10**BARISAL - MEGHNA GHAT (DHAKA)**

In the morning visit the floating market in Barisal. Continue to Dhaka via Chandpur. Afternoon fishing by local boat for hilsha.

DAY 11**DHAKA**

Panoramic tour of the capital of Bangladesh with its sights and monuments such as Dhaka University and Curzon Hall, the National Assembly and the Old High Court. You will also visit the Dhakeswari Temple, which is considered the center of the Hindu faith and the National Museum.

DAY 12**PAGLA TO SONARGAON**

Visit the lost city of Sonargaon exploring Galdi mosque then on to the Painam merchant village, with its museum and bamboo school. Lunch at a local restaurant then drive to Jamdhani village to see weaving, visiting houses, interacting with the artisans and visiting the Murapara Zaminder's house.

DAY 13**RIVER DAY TO ARICHA**

Full day sailing upstream on this bustling waterway to Aricha Port which is a major river port.

DAY 14**ARICHA - TANGAIL – SIRAJGANJ ON THE BRAHMAPUTRA**

Sail to Sirajganj. En route visit the 17th century Atia Mosque in Tangail. The mosque features architectural elements from the pre-Mughal and Mughal eras.

DAY 15**SIRAJGANJ**

Explore Sirajganj, a city known for hand weaving and the Bangabandhu Bridge (Jamuna Bridge) the longest bridge in Bangladesh. Visit the unique Hatikumrul Navatna Temple with its nine towers in Navaratnapara village. After will visit the weaving villages and learn about the production of traditional Bangladeshi clothing such as gamchas (cotton scarves), lungis for men and saris.

DAY 16**RIVER DAY SIRAJGANJ - CHILMARI**

River trip along beautiful shore landscapes to Chilmari to do the customs and border formalities in Bangladesh. Chilmari is a major river port near the border with India and is also known for its mid-river sandbars (chars) where many Bengalis farm peanuts on this fertile ground.

DAY 17**CHILMARI TO DHUBRI AND BORDER CROSSING
BACK INTO INDIA**

Sail upstream to the Indian border. Stop at Dhubri for Indian customs and immigration formalities. Dhubri has long been a centre of the jute trade with connections to Dundee. In the afternoon explore the city and visit the Gurdwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Temple and the marble statue of Queen Victoria on a walk through the Victoria Park of the same name. Then visit the village of Asharikandi, where traditional terracotta and ceramics are made.

DAY 18**DHUBRI - GOALPARA**

Boat trip to Goalpara at the foot of the Garo hills. Visit Sri Surya Pahar, an important archaeological site with valuable cultural remains from Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism. The archaeological finds confirm the long-standing assumption that a thriving civilization existed around Sri Surya Pahar several centuries ago.

DAY 19**GOALPARA - SALKUCHI**

Sail on to Sualkuchi known for its silk weavings, particularly muga silk, pat silk and eri silk, which have a lustrous and delicate texture and are used to make traditional Assamese dresses and sarees.

DAY 20**SALKUCHI - PANDU PORT**

Continue upstream to Pandu Port in Guwahati. Late afternoon visit Pandunath Temple.

DAY 21**PANDU PORT - GUWAHATI**

Morning excursion to Nilachal Hill and visit to Kamakhya Temple, a Hindu temple in Guwahati dedicated to the mother goddess Shakti. Afternoon boat trip to Peacock Island in the Brahmaputra River, a tranquil place whose Umananda Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati.

DAY 22**DEPARTURES**

Transfer to Guwhati airport for flights to Kolkotta or Delhi.

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 NEW DELHI

Welcome to India! Transfer from airport to your hotel. Rest of day at leisure.

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 - 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.



DISCOVER

India's Golden Triangle 6 Nights Pre 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 Delhi – Kolkata including 20kg check-in luggage.

Note

- Please advise 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
- Oberoi Amarvilas Agra, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 332
- Oberoi Rajvilas Jaipur, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 903

* 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.

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 - NEW DELHI - KOLKATA

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 for your flight to Kolkata. At arrival, transfer to your hotel for the final night before your cruise.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.

DAY 5

KOLKATA DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to ship.

Meals: breakfast at your hotel.



DISCOVER

Delhi & Taj Mahal & Kolkata 4 Nights Pre Tour

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.

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.

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 Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 68 per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 156 per

person

- Radisson Blue, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 99
- Oberoi Amarvilas Agra, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 332

* 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.

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. 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.

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.

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. 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 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 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 hotel.

DAY 7

DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to your ship.

Meals: breakfast at hotel.



DISCOVER

Ancient Kingdom of Bhutan & Kolkata Pre Tour 6 Nights

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.

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.

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

KOLKATA

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 and some of the country's best food. Receive a warm Pandaw welcome and transfer privately to your hotel.

Spend the rest of the day easing into your magical surroundings, or step outside and explore the neighbourhood. Time permitting you may want to take High Tea at Flurry's, an old Calcutta institution on Park Street or indulge in a more luxurious version at The Penthouse, high above the streets of Kolkata overlooking the Victoria Memorial (additional charge).

Meals: none

Accommodation: The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel / Premier Room

DAY 2

KOLKATA

Unpeel the layers of this amazing city with a choice of touring of Central Kolkata with a walking tour or North Kolkata and modern art.

Central Kolkata and Walking Tour

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.

Enjoy Bengali hospitality in the home of Bonti Iyengar, a charming art collector and bon vivant who lives in a great heritage building. Join him for lunch and share fascinating stories, surrounded by his eclectic art collection.

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.

North Kolkata and Modern Art

Start your morning driving to North Calcutta, passing several universities and academic institutions and stop off at the Marble Palace, one of the more unusual 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.

Enjoy Bengali hospitality in the home of Bompti Iyengar, a charming art collector and bon vivant who lives in a great heritage building. Join him in his home for lunch and share fascinating stories, surrounded by his eclectic art collection.

Discover a more serene side of Kolkata with a visit to CIMA, the Centre for International Modern Art and admire the latest exhibition before joining Hindu devotees from around the world at Birla Mandir. Built by the Indian industrialist Birla family, the white marble structure features intricate details, including stone engravings that depict scenes from the holy Bhagavad Gita text.

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Accommodation: The Lalit Great Eastern Hotel / Premier Room

DAY 3

KOLKATA

Following breakfast, head to the meeting point hotel to complete registration before a short journey to embark on your Pandaw ship for your river cruise adventure.

Meals: Breakfast



DISCOVER

Kolkata Pre 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 before your Pandaw adventure.

Rates include:

2 nights accommodation, arrival transfer with assistance, one full day exclusive city tour with English speaking guide and entry fees (Central Kolkata and walking tour or North Kolkata and Modern Art), mineral water with transfers and during sightseeing, lunch at Bonti Iyengar (subject to availability) with soft drinks / mineral water / tea or coffee

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

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.



DISCOVER

Exploring Kolkata 2 Night Post Tour

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.

This is a private tour.

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.

Note

- Please advise 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

* 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.

OBEROI GRAND KOLKATA

15

Jawaharlal Nehru Road

Kolkata - 700 013

India

Tel: +91 33 2249 2323

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL NEW DELHI

Transfer to airport for your domestic flight to 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.

DAY 4

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.



DISCOVER

Delhi & Taj Mahal 3 Night Post Tour

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.

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.

Note

- Please advise 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 Compulsory meals: Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 68 per person and New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 156 per person
- Radisson Blue, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night USD 99
- Oberoi Amarvilas Agra, peak surcharge 20DEC-05JAN per room per night

USD 332

* 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](#)