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Strong Bookings Fast-Track Second Pandaw Ship for Kerala Backwaters

Kochi, India — Less than a month after launching its first Kerala Backwaters expedition, Pandaw has confirmed a second vessel for the route in India. Set to debut at the end of 2026, the RV Kerala Pandaw will boost capacity on an itinerary that has quickly emerged as one of the company's fastest-selling. Demand has been so strong that sailings aboard the inaugural RV Kochi Pandaw are already close to fully booked through September 2026.

Like the 10-cabin Kochi, the new vessel is designed with Pandaw's ultra-shallow draft, a technical advantage that makes Pandaw the only cruise operator capable of navigating the full 900 kilometres of Kerala's canals, rivers, and backchannels. Until now, these waterways could only be explored in isolated segments by short houseboat tours. Pandaw has enabled the first continuous, multi-day expedition ever offered in the backwaters, opening access to a region no other international cruise line has been able to reach.

"Our vision from the outset was to create a single, uninterrupted journey through the backwaters linking communities and landscapes that travellers have only ever experienced in fragments," said Paul Strachan, CEO & Founder of Pandaw. "Becoming the first cruise line to offer a true expedition in Kerala has been a milestone for us, and the response has been amazing. A second ship will allow us to meet demand while preserving the intimate, small-ship experience that defines Pandaw."

The RV Kerala Pandaw will operate the same seven-night itinerary as its sister ship, bringing together on-board performances such as Kathakali; heritage visits to temples and the ancestral home of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara; village walks in Kainakary and Kumarakom; and tours through landmarks like Fort Kochi and the Munroe Lighthouse. Travellers will navigate narrow canals, palm-lined lagoons, and quiet waterways that reveal the rhythms of daily life across Kerala's fishing, farming, and artisanal communities.

Sailings aboard the RV Kerala Pandaw are already on sale, with departure dates available at: www.pandaw.com/expeditions/the-kerala-backwaters

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About Pandaw Cruises:

Founded in 1995, Pandaw Cruises is renowned for its unique, innovative and immersive river cruise experiences across Asia. With a fleet of 13 beautifully crafted ships, designed with a distinctive colonial charm, Pandaw Cruises provides travellers with intimate access to the heart of Asian culture, heritage and natural beauty.