



India

THE HOOGHLY PANDAW

**KOLKATA - BARANAGAR - KOLKATA - 9 NIGHTS
UPSTREAM**

We are pleased to announce an exciting new expedition on the Hooghly River, that connects Kolkata with the Ganges, starting October 2025. The 18 stateroom Kalaw Pandaw will sail from Kolkata to Baranagar and back on this most enchanting of rivers. This adventure captures the essence of the real India: lovely countryside, magnificent palaces, mystical temples and artisanal villages not to mention very friendly folk.

The itinerary also includes two nights in Kolkata allowing passengers two full days sight-seeing in the former capital of the Indian Raj, with its huge museum, 18th century churches, temples, mosques and architectural splendours from the glory days of the Raj.

Late check out on the 10th day enables passengers to stay on board, with full board, as most international flights from India go at night. Currently with Indian hotels competing with London or Paris in costliness, a ten-day itinerary such as this offers travellers real value as the cruise becomes a stand-alone Pandaw India trip which means that pre and post cruise hotels in Kolkata are not required.



[VIEW ONLINE](#)

CONTENTS

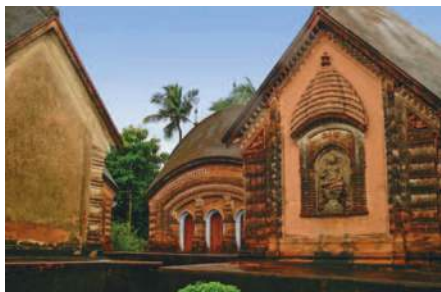
Route Map	p.03
Itinerary upstream	p.04
Pandaw Stateroom	p.08
Ships - RV Katha Pandaw & RV Kalaw Pandaw.	p.09
Pre & Post Tours	p.11



ROUTE MAP



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 1 **EMBARK KOLKATA**

Transfer from your Kolkata hotel or the airport to embark by 1200 for lunch on board followed by city orientation tour with a walk round Dalhousie Square, 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. 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. We take lunch in a local restaurant before enjoying the rest of the afternoon at leisure. On return to ship welcome cocktails and briefing.



DAY 2 **KOLKATA IMMERSION**

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. Step inside and watch men of all ages practice a traditional form of wrestling known as kushti. We return to ship for breakfast.



Afternoon visit to the Indian Museum and then free time in the nearby New Market before returning to ship for dinner.



DAY 3 **KOLKATA - SEREMPORE**

Morning visit to the market and sail at noon to cross the Hooghly to the old Danish colony of Serampore, founded in 1676, and visit the tavern, church, and museum. After, cruise past the iconic landmarks of Kolkata: the Tower, Government House, the Temple of Fame, and Flagstaff House.



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 4 **KALNA**

After breakfast, embark on a scenic cruise upstream, arriving at the charming country town of Kalna. Take a rickshaw ride to explore a group of Bengal's most impressive terracotta temples, culminating in a visit to the unique 18th-century Shiva Temple. This remarkable temple is adorned with concentric rings of 108 smaller shrines, creating a truly awe-inspiring sight.

Sail on through the night, mooring near Maitari.



DAY 5 **MATIARI**

Step ashore in Matiari, a charming riverside village renowned for its brass-working traditions. Engage with the local artisans and witness the fascinating process of crafting intricate brass water pots and other vessels. Time permitting, venture to the historic battlefield of Plassey. Here, in the pivotal year of 1757, Robert Clive, the Commander-in-Chief of the British East India Company, decisively defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last independent Nawab of Bengal, marking a turning point in Indian history.

Moor close to Murshidabad for the night.



DAY 6 **MURSHIDABAD**

Embark on a 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 upstream to witness the grandeur of Hazarduari Palace, an architectural masterpiece built by an English architect in 1837. Explore its opulent interiors, showcasing a fascinating collection of paintings, china, weapons, and other artifacts. Next, visit the magnificent Katra Mosque and the impressive Nashipara Palace, a testament to the wealth and influence of the local merchants during the "White Mughal" era – a period of cultural exchange between English and Indian influences. Finally, we visit Katgola Palace, an exquisite example of Georgian architecture built by wealthy local merchants, further highlighting the unique blend of cultures that flourished during this era.

Moor overnight on the riverbank across from town.



ITINERARY UPSTREAM



DAY 7 **BARANAGAR - AJIMGANJ**

Sail upstream along the Hoogly River, a picturesque waterway winding through a landscape of lush mustard fields and vibrant mango orchards. Disembark in Baranagar, a charming village, and enjoy a leisurely walk through its serene countryside. Visit three exquisite miniature terracotta temples, dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries, a testament to the region's rich artistic heritage. Continue sailing downstream, stopping at Azimganj to explore the intricately carved Jain temples. This itinerary offers a glimpse into the idyllic rural life of Bengal and its fascinating cultural and architectural heritage.



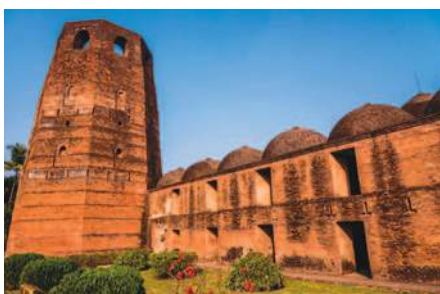
DAY 8 **MAYAPUR**

Immerse yourself in the spiritual heart of the Hare Krishna movement at Mayapur, its global headquarters. Explore the magnificent ISKCON temple complex, a modern marvel comparable in size to the Vatican and generously funded by Alfred B. Ford, the great-grandson of automotive pioneer Henry Ford. Interact with devotees and wander through the vibrant pilgrims' bazaar.



DAY 9 **CHANDERNAGORE - HOOGHLY**

Continue sailing downstream before landing to visit the imposing Imambara at Hooghly. With verses from the Quran 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. Enjoy a TukTuk ride to the Hangseshwari Temple before sailing into the night to a mooring near Kolkata.



DAY 10 **DISEMBARKATION KOLKATA**

Early morning moor in Kolkata Port and transfer to hotels or airport. Passengers with night flights may stay in their cabins and are at leisure during the day with a lunch served on board and a light supper prior to departure.

WHATS INCLUDED

Cruise Price Includes: transfer between meeting point in Kolkata, Ship and drop off point in Kolkata, entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, juggled coffee, teas & tisanes plus our India complimentary drinks package

Cruise Price Excludes: Flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, juggled coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

Weather Condition Warning

River cruising on the Lower and Upper Ganges can be severely affected by fog during the months of December and January. This may impact the sailing schedules and the planned excursions. While every effort will be made to make up time and include all activities this is not always possible. Similarly temperatures can drop significantly overnight and in the early mornings, though during the day warmer temperatures can be expected. Winter temperatures can be below average with many destinations in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh experiencing long spells of cold.

TRANSFERS & JOINING

DAY 1 EMBARK KOLKATA

Transfer from your hotel or airport in Kolkata at 10:30am to the port by group transfer to embark cruise.

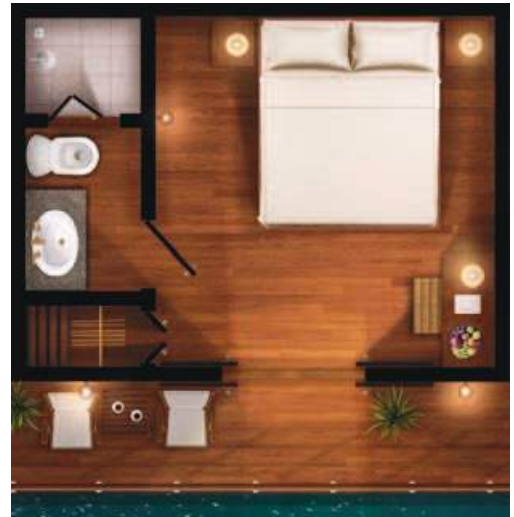
DAY 10 DISEMBARKATION KOLKATA

Disembarkation begins at 9:00am after breakfast, and passengers have free time onboard until midday. Passengers with afternoon flights (departing after 4pm) will be provided with a light lunch onboard, while those with late evening flights (departing after 8pm) will be served a light supper. Extended check-out until midday is available upon request for passengers with afternoon/late flights. Please note that organised tours and guide services conclude at 9:00am, and due to licensing regulations in Kolkata, alcoholic beverages are not available for purchase after this time; we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

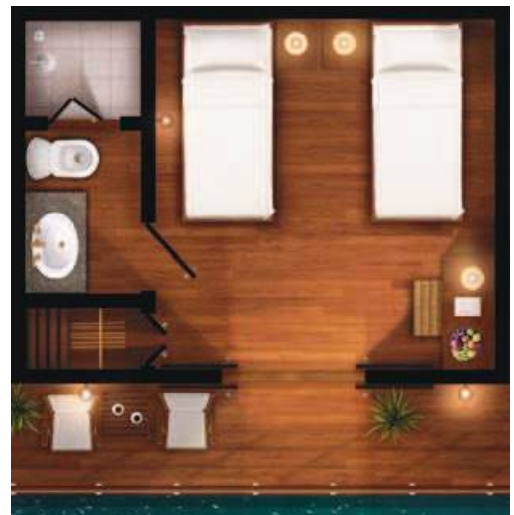
PANDAW STATEROOMS

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

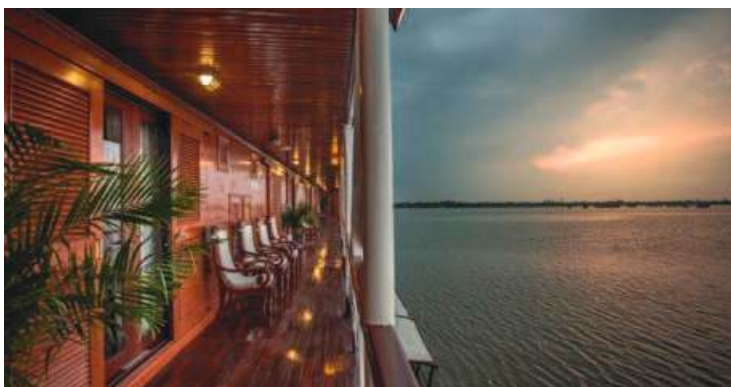
Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are a spacious 168 square feet (15.6 sqm), with the exception of the RV Kindat Pandaw which is 150 square feet (14 sqm). As the space is much loved by all our passengers, we have ensured that with each ship we build, the stateroom remains essentially the same. Be advised: our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet access or telephones. Passengers tend to choose Pandaw in order to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION



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

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



PANDAW SHIPS

RV Katha Pandaw

This was a radical new design, based on the old K class used in Burma from the 1880s on. This ship is the third Katha to run on the Irrawaddy. The first was built at Dalla in 1887 but lost on the Chindwin in 1889. The second was built by Denny of Dumbarton in 1904 and decommissioned in 1937 and the third was built by us in Vietnam in 2012.

We ran her a year on the Mekong before sending to Burma. With only two decks these smaller K class ships have lower air draft so can get under bridges and supposedly a shallower draft, though in fact the Vietnam ship yards were not as successful in achieving this as the Burmese yards and later Burmese-built K class ships achieved remarkable reductions in draft.

The Katha general arrangement was radical in that we eliminated the formal indoor dining room. This led to great protests from regular passengers and indeed our staff. In the end all agree it is far more pleasant to eat outside than in a stuffy, noisy enclosed dining room and the bugs are really not that bad. Up river in Burma it can be a little cold in winter but currently we deploy this ship in Middle Burma where the cold is less of an issue.

Refitted for expedition sailings in India from September 2019, we have reduced the number of staterooms from sixteen to twelve to create an enlarged indoor saloon / dining area as winter cruising in India can be chilly first thing.

[view images of RV Katha PANDAW](#)



- **Build:** Built in 2014 in Yangon
- **Length:** 187ft / 57m
- **Beam:** 29ft / 8.8m
- **Draft:** 3ft / 90
- **Berths:** 48 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 8 upper deck staterooms and 10 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window, leading to personal deck space
- New bathrooms with natural stone shower and branded quality fittings
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- Central AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Convertible bed configuration
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Yoga mats in all cabins

WINING & DINING

- Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside
- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, Semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- Sundeck bar
- Pool table on sundeck
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- We give away aluminium water bottles
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- Full-size motor coach on all excursions
- Deluxe sampans with cold towel service, fresh fruit, and tea/coffee
- Comfortable "Pandaw Explorer" excursion boat
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards (VIREs)
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendent
- 24 hrs watch on duty

ONBOARD STAFF

- Captain
- First Officer
- River Pilot
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer
- Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper
- Chefs
- Local tour guides

PUBLIC SPACES

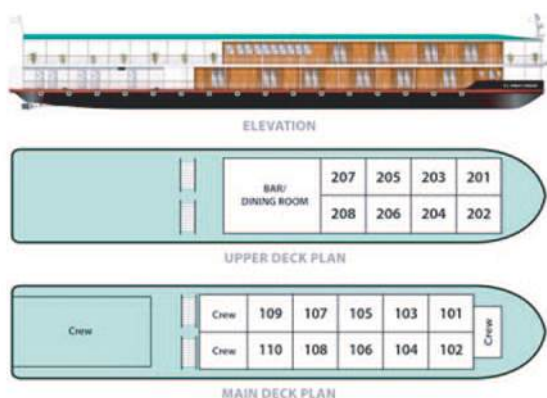
- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature

PANDAW SHIPS

RV Kalaw Pandaw

Sister to the Kindat and identical in design the Kalaw was launched with her in 2014 Kalaw is named after the PS Kalaw launched in 1917 and sunk in 1942 in the War. Paul Strachan witnessed the salvaging of the Kalaw in 1998 and managed to acquire her name plate and bell, the former of which has been reused on her namesake. Again this ultra light ship combines one of the shallowest drafts on the river with one of the highest passenger space ratios afloat.

[view images of RV Kalaw PANDAW](#)



- **Build:** Built in 2014 in Yangoon
- **Length:** 187ft / 57m
- **Beam:** 29ft / 8.8m
- **Draft:** 3ft / 90
- **Berths:** 48 pax

ACCOMMODATION

- 8 upper deck staterooms and 10 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window, leading to personal deck space
- New bathrooms with natural stone shower and branded quality fittings
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- Central AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Convertible bed configuration
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Yoga mats in all cabins

WINING & DINING

- Bistro style dining room with outside seating and air-conditioning inside
- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, Semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- Sundeck bar
- Pool table on sundeck
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- We give away aluminium water bottles
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- Full-size motor coach on all excursions
- Deluxe sampans with cold towel service, fresh fruit, and tea/coffee
- Comfortable "Pandaw Explorer" excursion boat
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards (VIREs)
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendant
- 24 hrs watch on duty

ONBOARD STAFF

- Captain
- First Officer
- River Pilot
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer
- Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper
- Chefs
- Local tour guides

PUBLIC SPACES

- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BHUTAN & KOLKATA 6 NIGHTS

UPSTREAM

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.



DAY 1 ARRIVAL PARO

Welcome to Bhutan! Upon arrival you will be met by your local guide and offered a Tashi Khaddar – a traditional way to greet guests to Bhutan. We then drive to Thimpu, the capital city of Bhutan through the scenic Paro Valley, around 4 hours total. Upon arrival to Thimpu, check into your hotel before beginning your Bhutan adventure with a visit to the National Memorial Chorten. This prominent landmark serves as an ideal spot for engaging with locals who flock here to circumambulate the chorten, spin the large red prayer wheels, and offer their prayers at a small shrine within the complex. Before heading back to your hotel, take a leisurely stroll around Thimpu's main street and markets soaking in the vibrant atmosphere.

DAY 2 THIMPU

Following breakfast, make a brief drive north of the town to reach Buddha Dordenma, situated atop a hill within the serene Kuenselphodrang Nature Park. This remarkable statue brings to life an ancient prophecy originating from the 8th century A.D., which was unearthed by Terton Pema Lingpa, a discoverer of religious treasures. It is believed that this statue emits an aura of tranquillity and joy, extending its influence to the entire world. Afterwards we take a short hike to Changangkha Lhakhang, an easy walk of around 1.5 hours where you will be greeted by a magnificent sight of hundreds of prayer flags waving in the breeze, creating a colourful and spiritual welcome. After visiting the temple at the end of the hike, we head towards The Postal Museum to see Bhutan's collection of rare and unique stamps. After lunch we continue on the highlights tour of Thimpu with visits to the Textile Museum, Centenary Farmers Market and Zilkha Nunnery before ending the day at Trashichhoedzong, often referred to as the 'fortress of the glorious religion.' This remarkable edifice serves as the heart of both government and religion in Bhutan, housing the monarch's throne room and serving as the seat of the Je Khenpo, or Chief Abbot. Return to your hotel to unwind for the evening.

CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

DAY 3 THIMPUTHIMPU - PUNAKHA

Following breakfast, we will journey up to the picturesque Dochu-la pass, standing at an elevation of 3,088 meters. Here, we'll pause briefly to relish the panoramic views and appreciate the adorned chorten, mani wall, and fluttering prayer flags that adorn this high-altitude vantage point. We will witness a traditional prayer flag hoisting ceremony at Dochula before continuing our journey towards Punakha.

After a delightful lunch, we will visit the majestic Punakha Dzong, often referred to as the 'Palace of Great Happiness.' Following the dzong visit, we'll embark on a short excursion to Chimi Lhakhang, perched on a hillock in the heart of the valley and widely known as the "temple of fertility." It's believed that couples seeking to conceive a child can receive blessings here, often resulting in the fulfilment of their wish. The trail takes you across rice fields to the charming settlement of Pana, which translates to 'field.' Exploring the village near the temple offers unique glimpses into the daily life and traditions of the local villagers.

In the evening, enjoy a leisurely stroll in and around Punakha town.

DAY 4 PHUNAKA – PARO

After breakfast drive along the scenic highway to Paro before checking into your hotel. In the afternoon we will visit Ta Dzong, initially constructed as a watchtower and now housing the National Museum. The museum boasts an extensive collection that includes antique thangkha paintings, textiles, weaponry and armor, household artifacts, and a diverse assortment of natural and historical treasures. The Ta Dzong visit will be immediately followed by a short walk along the trail leading to Rinpung Dzong, also known as Paro Dzong, which translates to the "fortress of the heap of jewels." This dzong boasts a long and captivating history. Along the wooden galleries that line the inner courtyard, you'll find exquisite wall paintings depicting Buddhist tales, such as the four friends, the old man of long life, the wheel of life, scenes from the life of Milarepa, Mount Sumeru, and cosmic mandalas.

In the evening, we'll head to Dema Farmhouse for a delightful dinner. At the farmhouse, you'll have the opportunity to experience Bhutan's national sport, archery, and immerse yourself in the local rural culture. Bhutanese farmhouses are renowned for their vibrant colors, intricate decorations, and their traditional construction methods, which eschew the use of a single nail. The majority of Bhutan's population still maintains a way of life that has endured for centuries, residing in modest, secluded farms and hamlets, enveloped by terraced fields of rice, maize, and buckwheat.

DAY 5 TAKTSANG MONESTARY

Drive to Satsam Chorten for a soft hike to Taktsang Monastery, also known as 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. Recognized as one of the most hallowed places, it was visited by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal in 1646 and is a must-visit for all Bhutanese at least once in their lifetime. The hike takes 4-5 hours round trip. While en route back to Paro town, make a stop at the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples constructed in the Himalayas by Tibetan King Songtsen Gampo. The establishment of this temple marks the introduction of Buddhism in Bhutan.

This evening, take part in a traditional blessing & butter lamp ceremony at a village monastery. This is a sacred and deeply spiritual practice that holds significant importance in the country's Buddhist culture. Such ceremonies are often conducted in monasteries, temples, and sacred sites, attracting devotees seeking blessings, protection, and spiritual guidance. During the blessing ceremony, Buddhist monks, adorned in their vibrant robes, recite powerful prayers and mantras, invoking the blessings of Buddha and other enlightened beings. While lighting of butter lamps is a symbolic act representing the illumination of wisdom and dispelling darkness or ignorance.

CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

DAY 6 PARO - KOLKATA

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

DAY 7 DEPARTURE

After breakfast, transfer to your ship.

Le Meridien, Thimpu

Located in the heart of the capital city, Thimphu, the Le Méridien Thimphu invites the discerning guest to engage and discover the legendary 'Land of the Thunder Dragon', Bhutan. The 78 spaciouly appointed guest rooms & suites are culturally inspired, yet decidedly chic and contemporary. With cosmopolitan surroundings amidst the bustling commercial streets of the city-centre, and a convenient location to many of the city's myriad attractions, the Le Méridien Thimphu is the perfect jumpstart to that long awaited leisurely holiday.

Classic Room

Chorten Lam, P.O. Box 01286, Thimphu, Kingdom of Bhutan

Tel: +975 2 337788

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Dhensa Resort, Punakha

Dhensa Boutique Resorts sits in the heart of the verdant and lush Punakha Valley. Flanked by thick pine forests, it overlooks the Punakha river and hundreds of paddy fields that stair-step down to the valley floor. It is surrounded by plentiful walking and trekking trails. From Dhensa Punakha, it is just a five-minute trek up the mountain to the magnificent Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang Nunnery, which houses one of the biggest bronze statues of Chenrigzig (Avalokiteshvara) in the country. Dhensa Punakha marries contemporary design with this Himalayan Kingdom's ancient and alluring ways. At the core of the Dhensa Punakha philosophy lies the sense of innocence and peace that permeates everything about Bhutan.

Suite Room

Wolakha, Punakha, Bhutan

Tel: +975 2 337788

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Zhiwaling Heritage, Paro

Escape the ordinary and immerse yourself in the genuine warmth and comfort of Zhiwaling Heritage, a 5-star hotel seamlessly integrated with nature, culture, and tradition. Nestled in the charming valley of Paro, Zhiwaling Heritage offers a truly exceptional experience, enhancing every aspect of your trip.

Satsam Chorten, Paro, Kingdom of Bhutan

Tel: +975 2 336486

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Taj Bengal Hotel

Located within walking distance of the Victoria Memorial and the Zoological Gardens, the elegant 5* Taj Bengal Hotel is the perfect base to start your India adventure.

Your Hotel

One of the best places to stay in Kolkata. Public areas include several superb restaurants, outdoor swimming pool, spa and elegant lounges where you can relax after a days sightseeing.

Your Deluxe Room

The beautifully appointed deluxe en suite rooms include mini bar, tea/coffee making facilities, safe and wireless internet.

34B, Belvedere Road, Alipore – 700 027, Kolkata (Calcutta), India
Tel: +91 33 66123939



Rates include

Bhutan tourism visa, Bhutan Sustainable Development Tax, Six nights accommodation at advertised hotels (or similar based on availability), including breakfast and meals as advertised, excursion and entrance fees as per itinerary, one flight Paro – Kolkata including check-in luggage of 20kg, entrance fees and taxes. Transportation by 7 seat Hyundai Sante Fe or similar

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 1: Dinner at your hotel, Day 2: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 3: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 4: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 5: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 6: Breakfast at hotel, Day 7: Breakfast at hotel.

CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Pre Tour

INDIA'S GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Explore India's 'Golden Triangle,' three of the most iconic cities in India on this curated 6-night extension tour to your Pandaw Expedition. Taking in the delights of India's capital, New Delhi, the unmissable Taj Mahal at Agra, and the pink city of Jaipur, this is the perfect tour to complement a Ganges or Brahmaputra river expedition and complete your grand tour of India.



This is a private tour.

DAY 1 ARRIVAL NEW DELHI

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

Rest of day at leisure.

DAY 2 CITY TOUR OF DELHI

We start our exploration in India with a Heritage Walk around Delhi with a twist. The tour will be guided by former street children who have overcome adversity thanks to the work of Salaam Baalak Trust. We visit India's largest Mosque 'Jama Masjid' built in 1644 AD showcasing finest Islamic style of architecture and explore real life of Old Delhi through maze like streets of the iconic Ancient Bazaar 'Chandni Chowk' and Asia's largest Spice Market before saying goodbye to our morning guides from the Salaam Baalak Trust.

In the afternoon, we experience colonial-era Delhi at Lutyens Delhi including the Mahatma Gandhi Museum - Birla House and the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara temple. At the temple we also volunteer inside its Holy Community Kitchen that daily feeds over 10,000 devotees, pilgrims and homeless. We then visit the ceremonial boulevard Raj Path to witness Sir Edwin Lutyens' finest works from 1920's British Raj Era including colonial government buildings, India Gate, President House and Parliament House. We end the day at Connaught Place named after the Duke of Connaught and surrounds the central park of Delhi.

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. In late afternoon we visit Mehtab Bagh or moonlit garden where some of the best views of the Taj Mahal can be found without the crowds. Built in the traditional Charbagh style of Mughal gardens by Emperor Babur, the first emperor of the Mughal dynasty.

DAY 4 TAJ MAHAL - 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. Combining Islamic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian design elements, it's an awe-inspiring structure of elegant domes and white marble, which changes colour along with the light – pink at sunrise, pearly white in the afternoon and silver-gold in the full moon. Return to the hotel for breakfast before checking out.

CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Continue the jewel of India's crown, the royal heritage state of Rajasthan, and arrive in its pink coloured 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 stepwell is a geometric wonder where Royals used to picnic, and today a popular spot thanks to the film Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. Check-in at your hotel in Jaipur.

DAY 5 JAIPUR

We begin the day early with a visit to the flower market before breakfast. Travel by electric tuk tuk operated by another local NGO The Pink City Rickshaw Company who provide employment and training to women from low-income households in Jaipur.

After breakfast at the hotel we visit some of the most famous sport in Jaipur, including Jaipur City Palace, Palace of Winds, Jantar Mantar Observatory, Amer fort plus spend some time roaming the local bazar. Following a full day of adventure, return to your hotel and enjoy the evening at leisure.

DAY 6 JAIPUR - DEPARTURE

Check out of your hotel and transfer for your domestic flight to your departure point. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure before you join your expedition in the morning.

DAY 7 PANDAW EMBARKATION

Check out of your hotel and transfer for your domestic flight to your departure point. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure before you join your expedition in the morning.

5 STAR SELECTION

The Imperial Delhi

Chosen as India's best 'Luxury Historical Hotel' by World Luxury Hotel Awards 2015, The Imperial is an iconic property in Delhi in the heart of the capital, reminiscent of the halcyon days of the Raj. A luxury hotel with an iconic and awe-inspiring heritage interwoven in colonial elegance, it dwells in its modern delivery of old-style class and magnificence. Built in 1931 by Blomfield, one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's associates and inaugurated by Lord Willingdon in 1936, it is New Delhi's landmark Hotel. The Hotel is steps away from Connaught Place, the renowned shopping district and is very close to the city's major attractions.

Heritage Room

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

Tel: +91 11 23341234

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Tajview, Agra-IHCL SeleQtions

Experience the famed splendor of The Taj Mahal at Tajview, Agra. Spread over six acres of manicured gardens and equipped with smart rooms, our hotel near Taj Mahal Agra offers the finest amenities alongside hassle-free services. With friendly staff that are ready to offer impeccable service and hospitality, our 5 star hotel in Agra blurs the lines between business and pleasure.

Taj Ganj, Fatehabad Road, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, 282001

Tel: +91 562-6602000

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Raj Palace

The Raj Palace is an extremely convenient place to stay during your visit to Jaipur. Being in the middle of four main palace complexes of Jaipur (Amer, Jaigarh Fort, Nahar Garh Fort and the City Palace complex), it is located at a short distance from all sightseeing and shopping places. Moreover, the fact that it is situated on the main Jaipur-Delhi Road and is only about half a kilometre away from Jaipur-Agra Highway also makes The Raj Palace an ideally located tourist stopover.

Jorawer Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur (302002)

Tel: + 91-141-2634077 / 2634078/ 2634011

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Hotel Near Departure Point

Depending on the embarkation point of your Pandaw expedition, you will stay in a 5 star hotel located close to your Pandaw ship for an easy embarkation the following day.



OBEROI SELECTION

Oberoi New Delhi

The Oberoi, New Delhi is an iconic luxury 5 star hotel, located in the centre of India's cosmopolitan capital city. The hotel has 220 rooms and suites inspired by Lutyens' New Delhi design, with authentic furnishings and hand-picked artwork. All feature large picture windows which frame unmatched views of Delhi Golf Course on one side and the UNESCO World Heritage site of Humayun's Tomb on the other.

Deluxe Room

Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi - 110 003, India

Tel: +91 11 2436 3030

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

Oberoi Amarvilas Agra

The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra enjoys an unrivalled position amongst luxury hotels in Agra, being located just 600 metres from the iconic Taj Mahal. Each of the rooms have uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendour. The hotel is approached along a sweeping driveway, verdant with native trees and lit by flaming torches. Just inside, a Mughal style quadrant is ornamented with cascading fountains and framed by an arched passageway and gold leaf frescoes.

Premier Taj View Room

Taj East Gate Road, Agra – 282001, India

Tel: +91 562 2231515

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



OBEROI SELECTION

Oberoi Rajvilas Jaipur

The Oberoi Rajvilas is unique amongst hotels in Jaipur; a royal resort set in a breathtaking thirty two acre oasis of beautiful landscaped gardens, filled with beautiful trees and exotic birdlife. Built around an 18th century Shiva temple where guests can experience chanting with a Hindu priest, meditation and morning yoga, The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur is a haven of mystical peace and natural serenity.

Premier Room

Babaji Ka Modh, Goner Road, Jaipur - 302 031, Rajasthan, India

Tel: +91 141 268 0101

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Hotel Near Departure Point

Depending on the embarkation point of your Pandaw expedition, you will stay in a 5 star hotel located close to your Pandaw ship for an easy embarkation the following day.



CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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.

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 1: Dinner at your hotel, Day 2: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 3: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 4: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 5: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner, Day 6: Breakfast at hotel, Day 7: Breakfast at hotel.

CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

3 NIGHT DARJEELING POST TOUR

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.

This is a private tour.



DAY 1 ARRIVAL BAGDOGRA

Following breakfast transfer privately for your flight to Bagdogra. 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.

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.

DAY 3 AT LEISURE

Today unwind at your hotel and enjoy the breath-taking scenery on offer or partake in the variety of experiences available from your accommodation.

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.

CONT'D

PRE & POST EXTENSIONS

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

HOTEL OPTION 1

Glenburn Tea Estate

Stunning scenery, old fashioned elegance and the opportunity to see the rituals of tea production make Glenburn Tea Estate a compelling blend.

Tel: +91 98 300 70213

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



HOTEL OPTION 2

The Elgin Darjeeling

Over 125 years old and once the summer residence of the Maharaja (King) of Cooch Behar, The Elgin Darjeeling is now a luxury Heritage Hotel. The hotel is situated in the heart of Darjeeling town, 6,000 feet up in the Himalayas. A celebration of the elegance and grace of the Colonial Era in the Queen of Hill Stations, located in the majestic Himalayan ranges, the Elgin is very much a part of Darjeeling's colonial history.

18, HD Lama Rd, Chauk Bazaar, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734101

Tel: +91 33 4064301

[Visit Hotel Website](#)



Rates include

Accommodation option as selected, meals as specified in the itinerary, airport transfer and one way flight 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, 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.

Meals included

Land tour includes meals as follows; Day 1: Dinner, Day 2: Breakfast & Dinner, Day 3: Breakfast & Dinner, Day 4: Breakfast.

CONT'D

OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

Free Drinks On Board

Pandaw is happy to announce that our India expeditions are now all inclusive experiences, including local soft drinks, mixers, spirits and beers free of charge. Also included free of charge is our onboard house wine during lunch and dinner only. Onboard purchases of alcoholic beverages will not be possible.

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

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS [CLICK HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

GENERAL INFORMATION & LIFE ON BOARD [CLICK HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

VISA INFORMATION [CLICK HERE](#) TO FIND OUT MORE

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/pandawriverexpeditions



@pandaw_river_expeditions



@pandaw-river-expeditions



Pandaw Expeditions



UK

+44 (0)208396 7320

uk@pandaw.com

GLOBAL

+84 (0)28 4458 2618

information@pandaw.com

NORTH AMERICA

TOLL FREE 1-877-872-6329

usa@pandaw.com

AUSTRALIA

TOLL FREE 1800 207 625

aus@pandaw.com

NEW ZEALAND

TOLL FREE 0800 115 250

aus@pandaw.com

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA

+49 30 3464981 30

dach@pandaw.com

P A N D A W . C O M